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311 Swimming Cool Spaces Near You Make the Right Call All Ferry Schedules Respiratory Viruses COVID-19 Vaccines Mental Health Child Vaccinations Toronto's been on the international travel map long before Drake started from the bottom here, but its definitely evolved since he introduced the 6ix to the world. Today, the city is blanketed with construction cranes as its downtown core undergoes rapid development, including building burgeoning new neighborhoods and sites such as a newly opened, design-forward 320,000-square-foot retail space, The Well. Aside from the iconic CN Tower that stands proud before Lake Ontario, the city's skyline has been transformed and redefined to meet the needs of an ever-evolving population. Roll through the 6ix for the best ethnic eats in one of the world's most diverse cities (more than half its population of 3 million was born outside of Canada, and upward of 180 languages are spoken here). And stay for its urban green spaces, world-class museums and family-friendly attractions. Below, the best things to do in Toronto for tourists and locals alike. This guide was updated by Toronto-based writer Charmaine Noronha.At Time Out, all of our travel guides are written by local writers who know their cities inside out. For more about how we curate, see our editorial guidelines. RECOMMENDED: The best restaurants in TorontoWhere to eat the best brunch in TorontoThe best bars in TorontoThe best attractions in TorontoThe best hotels in TorontoBy entering your email address you agree to our Terms of Use and Privacy Policy and consent to receive emails from Time Out about news, events, offers and partner promotions.Awesome, you're subscribed!Thanks for subscribing! Look out for your first newsletter in your inbox soon!Discover Time Out original videoBy entering your email address you agree to our Terms of Use and Privacy Policy and consent to receive emails from Time Out about news, events, offers and partner promotions.Awesome, you're subscribed!Thanks for subscribing! Look out for your first newsletter in your inbox soon!Discover Time Out original videoBy entering your email address you agree to our Terms of Use and Privacy Policy and consent to receive emails from Time Out about news, events, offers and partner promotions.Awesome, you're subscribed!Thanks for subscribing! Look out for your first newsletter in your inbox soon!Geography & Travel Cities & Towns Cities & Towns T-Z Toronto, city, capital of the province of Ontario, southeastern Canada. It is the most populous city in Canada, a multicultural city, and the countrys financial and commercial center. Its location on the northwestern shore of Lake Ontario, which forms part of the border between Canada and the United States, and its access to Atlantic shipping via the St. Lawrence Seaway and to major U.S. industrial centers via the Great Lakes have enabled Toronto to become an important international trading center. Moreover, the city is positioned on the edge of some of the best farmland in Canada, with a climate favorable to growing a wide range of crops, thereby making Toronto a transportation, distribution, and manufacturing center. Most importantly, its central location, along with a host of political policies favoring international trade, places this city with the greatest economic ties to, and influence from, the United States. Since the second half of the 20th century the city has grown phenomenally, from a rather sedate provincial townToronto the Goodto a lively, thriving, cosmopolitan metropolitan area. Area 244 square miles (632 square km); metro, area, 2,280 square miles (5,905 square km). Pop. (2011) 2,615,060; metro, area, 5,583,064; (2021) 2,794,356; metro, area, 6,202,225. The melting of ice from the past glacial age altered the Toronto regions landscape profoundly. Approximately 11,000 years ago a body of water much larger (about 130 feet [40 meters] higher) than the present-day Lake Ontario was in existence therea glacial lake referred to as Lake Iroquois. With the opening up of the St. Lawrence River, the lake waters receded, dropping in excess of 300 feet (90 meters) below the present level. Over time, the water levels rose to the present condition, leaving a marshy shoreline but a fine natural harbour. The site of the city is almost uniformly flat, although 3 to 4 miles (5 to 6 km) inland there is a fairly sharp rise of some 40 feet (12 meters)the shoreline elevation of the former glacial lake. The resources of the surrounding land were also important to Torontos development. The rich sedimentary soils of southern Ontario provided excellent farmland, and the ancient rock of the Canadian Shield to the north not only was a source of valuable mineral wealth but also was endowed with forests of spruce and pine. Another physical feature is Torontos location at the mouth of the Humber River, a river that facilitated a trade route north to Lake Simcoe and a shortcut to Georgian Bay on Lake Huron. Snow removal near TorontoTruck removing snow on a road near TorontoToronto has a continental climate that is modified considerably by the proximity of the Great Lakes. Average temperature for January is in the low to mid-20s F (about 4.2 C), but the wind chill factor can decrease this temperature considerably. In summer, the average July temperature is in the low 70s F (about 22.2 C); however, it is not unusual to have summer days where the temperature exceeds 90 F (32 C) and the humidity is 100 percent. The prevailing westerly winds and the Great Lakes also influence precipitation, which is relatively even year-round, amounting to about 33 inches (834 mm) annually. In winter, though, this precipitation is in the form of snow and totals in excess of 4 feet (131 cm). Latitude plays a role in Torontos relatively mild climate (as well as that of the farming region of southern Ontario): at 4340 N (with much of the farmland to the south of this latitude), Toronto is located only slightly north of Californias northern boundary (42 N). However, this location can subject the city to hurricanesuch as Hurricane Hazel in 1954, which caused approximately one billion Canadian dollars (in todays terms) in damage and took 81 lives. Toronto's CN TowerCN Tower, Toronto, viewed from below.A major increase in the population of Toronto (nearly fourfold expansion, from 1.3 million in 1951 to over 5 million by 2006) and national economic growth influenced the city skyline, which is dominated by the CN Tower (a communications and observation spire 1,815 feet [553 meters] high) as well as by the First Canadian Place (Bank of Montreal), Scotia Plaza, Canada Trust Tower, Manulife Centre, Commerce Court, Toronto-Dominion Centre, and Bay Adelaide Centre, each of which is more than 50 stories high. Other prominent buildings include City Hall (1965), Eaton Centre (a large indoor shopping complex), the gilded Royal Bank Plaza, the Toronto Reference Library, the Ontario Science Centre, the Royal Ontario Museum, with its crystal-shaped facade, and Roy Thomson Hall, noted for its excellent acoustics. The city also features an extensive system of underground tunnels and concourses lined with shops, restaurants, and theaters. Through the construction of new housing and mixed-use projects, together with the restoration and rehabilitation of heritage buildings, an extraordinary vitality has been brought to the urban core. Guess the City by Its River Quiz The citys lakefront is separated from the downtown area by railway tracks and the Gardiner Expressway. However, there are many points of access to the waterfront, which is almost entirely public space and includes Sunnyside Pool, Balm Beach Park, and the Waterfront Bike Trail. East of downtown, surrounding Kew Gardens, the area known as the Beach (or the Beaches) appears more like a resort town than a neighbourhood in a big city. In the Harbourfront neighbourhood, ferry service connects the dock area to the Toronto Islands, about half a mile (four-fifths of a kilometer) offshore, which have yacht clubs, an airport, recreational facilities, and a residential community. Toronto is a city with scores of neighborhoods, some of which have identities that have been imposed upon them by realtors, whereas others are of much longer standing and have a more distinctive character. West of the central business district, following Queen Street W, is West Queen West, once a trendy bohemian section, now a more mainstream shopping district. Northeast of this area are two of Torontos best-known neighborhoods, Chinatown and Kensington Market, the latter of which features an eclectic mix of shops and restaurants that reflect the citys multicultural diversity. Still farther north, beyond the campus of the University of Toronto, is the Annex, a residential area that is home to many students and is the site of a number of attractive 19th-century homes. North of the Annex, on a hill overlooking Davenport Road is Casa Loma, the turreted castlelike mansion built in 191114 for \$3.5 million (Canadian) by Sir Henry Pellatt. East of the Annex is the fashionable Yorkville-Cumberland boutique shopping area, to the south of which are Queens Park and the Ontario parliament building. Large expanses of grass and tall shade trees make this a pleasant area, complementing the ravines that form so important an element in the metropolitan parks system. To the northeast of Queens Park is Rosedale, one of the most attractive residential areas in Toronto. It is an older neighborhood of dignified houses and winding tree-lined streets quite close to the downtown center, which itself contains many attractive streets of modest well-designed houses. South of Rosedale and bounded on the north by St. James Cemetery and on the east by the Don River is Cabbagetown, which takes its name from the cabbages that were once grown on lawns in this neighborhood that is now the site of many beautifully restored vintage residences. Farther south, abutting the Gardiner Expressway, is the Distillery District, where brick-paved pedestrian walkways wind through architecturally significant Victorian-era industrial buildings that house restaurants, shops, and theaters. Immediately to the west, at the core of Old Town Toronto, is the St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood, a district of red and yellow brick Georgian structures centered on the historic market building (founded 1803) that gives the area its name. Torontos growth and demographic makeup were influenced by many political and economic events that affected the whole province of Ontario. After the American Revolution, Ontario was referred to as a loyalist creation because of the influx of English-speaking Protestants (and a number of First Nations) that chose to live in British North America. Immigration continued, slowly to begin with but then much more rapidly through transportation improvements that placed Toronto as a key transportation and industrial center. Many of the immigrants were from across Europe as well as the United States. Still the population remained largely English-speaking and Protestant. Following World War II, Toronto was a magnet for thousands of new immigrants, many coming from Europe during the 1950s and 60s. Immigration laws had become more flexible by the 1970s, thus opening the door to a flood of new arrivals, particularly South Asians and Chinese. By the time of the 2006 census more than half of the Toronto metropolitan area was made up of visible minorities, making Toronto a truly cosmopolitan city. What is Travellers Choice Best of the Best?This award is our highest recognition and is presented annually to those businesses that are the Best of the Best on TripAdvisor, those that earn excellent reviews from travellers and are ranked in the top 1% of properties worldwide.Learn moreCanadas largest city is a fast-paced metropolis of nearly 3 million people, with world-class restaurants, shopping, theatre, and more scattered throughout different neighbourhoodseach with their own vibe. No matter where you end up, the best place to start is at the top (literally) at the CN Tower, the tallest freestanding structure in the Western Hemisphere.Revenue impacts the experiences featured on this page, learn more.Pick a category to filter your recsProperties ranked by TripAdvisor data including reviews, ratings, and number of page views.Flea & Street Markets, Farmers MarketsArchitectural Buildings, Observation Decks & Towers\$\$\$\$\$ Mexican, Mediterranean, Seafood\$\$-\$\$\$ Japanese, Bar, Sushi\$\$-\$\$\$ American, Healthy, Canadian\$\$-\$\$\$ Indian, Asian, Healthy\$\$-\$\$\$ Dessert, Canadian, Vegetarian friendlyA bohemian market, quaint neighbourhoods, and international restaurantsRead onA locals favourite Toronto restaurantsGrowing up in Toronto, I was spoiled for choice. From bang-for-your-buck Greek food in the Danforth (frequented often in my high school days) to splurge-worthy French meals, Toronto has many restaurants for every flavour and budget. Ill let you in on a little secret: These are my favourite local spots that showcase Torontos thriving multicultural food scene.jennifercruzguyen, Toronto, CanadaAs a kid, I spent weekends accompanying my dad on his quest to find Vietnamese food that tasted as good as it did back in Nha-Trang. Mi Mi earned his approval, and we quickly became regulars. From warm bowls of pho to refreshing mango shakes, this no-frills family-owned business doesnt skimp out on quality. You should absolutely order the crispy spring rollstheyre the best!The brainchild of Canadian restaurateur Jenn Agg, Le Swan is a romantic date night destination, with cosy red booths, dim lighting, and swan motifs. Ambiance aside, the food steals the show. In the winter, I love warming up with the French onion soup and beef Bourguignon, then finishing the evening with the delightful bananas foster. Le Swan is a love-at-first-bite affair.After a trip to Greece, I can confirm that Torontos Messini rivals the eateries in Athens. Its \$19 pita plate is packed with juicy tomatoes, tangy tzatziki, crispy fries, and a choice of protein (I adore the pork). Plus, it includes hearty sides like salad, potatoes, and rice. For dessert, swing by Athens Pastries for loukoumadeshoney-drenched dough, topped with a sprinkling of cinnamon.Attention to detail is everything at this omakase spot. From tableware created by Japanese potters to the extensive sake selection, Chef Takeshi Sato and his team dont miss a beat. The main reason to snag a seat? Besides its Michelin stars, Kappo Sato incorporates a range of cooking methods such as grilling and broiling to elevate the dishesstraying away from the focus on raw fish often offered at other omakases.Nestled in a Victorian home in King Wests entertainment district, Sara is a fusion of Torontonian and Asian cuisine. I recommend starting with the ikura lakas adorned with salmon roe, followed by an impeccably cooked steak with miso bearnaise and whiskey jus sauce. The unexpected standout? My vegetarian companion tried the chopped salad with cashew cheese, which left us both surprisingly satisfied.Craving some carbs? Sugo is popular for its Italian-American (or should I say Canadian?) recipes. Heaping plates of pasta, crispy mozzarella sticks, and fluffy tiramisu are highlights. And yes, you can order all three without worrying about your wallet. Note: Its walk-in only, and seatings typically take an hour. While you wait, browse the vintage shops on Bloor (Lucky Tiger Vintage is great!) or grab a pint at Burdock Brewery.Mexican street food comes to trendy Kensington Market at Birria Catrina. My favourite meal is combo #1: crispy tacos and cheesy quesadillas with a side of savory birria broth, lime, and salsa. It is my go-to for lunch, and thanks to its generous portions, I often have leftovers for dinner. Despite the crowd, service is surprisingly quick, but pro tip: order ahead. These authentic Mexican tacos are a must-try.More places to feel the bright lights, big city energyExplore more from our sponsorsThese questions and answers were created by AI, using the most common questions travellers ask in the forums.What are family-friendly activities in Toronto?According to forum posts, Toronto offers numerous family-friendly attractions. The Ontario Science Centre and the Toronto Zoo are highlighted as exciting destinations, providing educational and interactive experiences suitable for children. Additionally, the Royal Ontario Museum and Casa Loma offer cultural insights with fun, kid-friendly exhibits. These venues are appreciated for their engaging content that caters to younger audiences.Travelers have called out the Toronto Islands and High Park as excellent spots for families looking to enjoy the outdoors. The Toronto Islands offer beautiful parklands and recreational activities, including bike rentals and beaches, accessible via a short ferry ride. High Park provides a large green space with playgrounds, a small zoo, and splash pads, making it a perfect venue for children to play and explore.Some users have recommended specific experiences like the Ripleys Aquarium, which is adjacent to the CN Tower, and Little Canada, featuring animated miniature displays of Canadian landmarks. These attractions provide unique and immersive experiences that are both entertaining and educational for families.This summary was generated by AI from TripAdvisor forum posts. What are popular walking tours in Toronto?According to forum posts, Tour Guys are frequently recommended for their walking tours of Toronto. Travelers have also mentioned self-guided tours, which can be found on the City of Toronto's official website. Additionally, the Toronto Society of Architects and Heritage Toronto offer themed walking tours, which are popular among those interested in architecture and city history.Some travelers have highlighted unique walking tour experiences such as the Toronto Crime Tours, which provide insights into the city's darker history. This tour has been described as well-received and offers a different perspective on Toronto's usual tourist spots.During specific events like the Doors Open festival, numerous special tours are available around the city. These tours provide access to buildings and areas that are not typically open to the public, offering a unique way to explore Toronto during the festival dates.This summary was generated by AI from TripAdvisor forum posts. What are recommended activities for solo travelers in Toronto?Some travelers recommended exploring non-touristy attractions such as local neighborhoods, markets like Kensington and St. Lawrence, and attending local festivals. Museums and galleries offering free admission on certain evenings were also suggested.For solo travelers interested in group activities, it was suggested to join various meetups through platforms like meetup.com, which cater to diverse interests. Engaging in community events or group tours can provide both social interaction and deeper insights into the city.Checking local event listings on websites like blogto.com and toronto.com was advised to stay updated on current happenings around the city. These sites often list daily or weekly events that could be of interest to solo travelers.For those who enjoy the outdoors, visiting the Toronto Islands, walking tours of the city, and exploring the beach areas were highly recommended. These activities allow solo travelers to enjoy Toronto's natural landscapes and urban environment.This summary was generated by AI from TripAdvisor forum posts. What are the best hotel options in Toronto?According to forum posts, the Sheraton Centre Toronto, Hilton, Doubletree by Hilton, Marriott at Eaton Centre, The Pantages, and One King West are popular choices located close to shopping, restaurants, and transit in downtown Toronto. Prices vary, but many users find these options offer a good balance of comfort, convenience, and access to city attractions.Some travelers have recommended boutique hotels such as Le Germain, either at Mercer or Maple Leaf Square, for their unique charm and excellent service. These hotels offer a more personalized experience and are still well-located for exploring downtown Toronto.For those on a budget, travelers have suggested looking at university residences during the summer months, as they often convert to hotel accommodations. These are generally more affordable and centrally located, providing a good base for city exploration without the higher costs of traditional hotels.Travelers have called out the area bordered by Bloor Street, Lake Ontario, Jarvis Street, and Bathurst Street as ideal for staying in Toronto. This area is central, safe, and provides easy access to public transportation, making it a convenient choice for visitors.During specific events like TIFF, forum posts suggest that while hotels like the Marriott Downtown at CF Eaton Center might be busier, they often provide easier access to event venues. For quieter options during such times, the Westin Harbour Castle might be a less hectic choice, although slightly removed from the main action.This summary was generated by AI from TripAdvisor forum posts. What are the public transportation options in Toronto?According to forum posts, Toronto offers a comprehensive public transit system managed by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), which includes buses, subways, and streetcars. The system is accessible and economical for getting around the city. Travelers can plan their routes using the TTC website or Google Maps.Some users have highlighted that the Presto card is widely used for fare payment on the TTC, as well as on the GO Transit system. The card can be loaded with funds for multiple rides and is convenient for both residents and visitors. It is available at various locations, including the airport.Travelers have called out specific transit routes such as the UP Express train from Pearson Airport to downtown Toronto, which connects easily with the TTC subway at Union Station. For regional travel, GO Transit provides bus and train services linking Toronto to surrounding areas.For those visiting attractions like the Toronto Zoo, forum posts suggest that while public transport is available, the journey might be lengthy and could involve multiple transfers. A combination of GO Train and a short taxi ride is recommended for a more efficient trip to places like the Toronto Zoo or Niagara Falls.This summary was generated by AI from TripAdvisor forum posts. What are some road trip routes starting from Toronto?According to forum posts, popular road trip routes from Toronto include traveling east to cities like Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec City. These destinations offer a mix of urban and nature experiences and are accessible by trains and buses, which can be more convenient due to city traffic and expensive parking.Some travelers suggested driving along Highway 17 for a more scenic route, described as more picturesque than southwestern Ontario's farmland. This route passes through small towns and continues from Sudbury down to Toronto, providing a continuous scenic drive.For those looking for a unique cultural and historical experience, destinations like Niagara Falls and the 1000 Islands are recommended. These spots are known for their stunning natural beauty and are within a reasonable driving distance from Toronto, making them perfect for shorter road trips.This summary was generated by AI from TripAdvisor forum posts. What can I do during a layover at Toronto Pearson Airport?For travelers with a layover at Toronto Pearson Airport, some users suggested heading to downtown Toronto, particularly if the layover is overnight. The UP Express train provides a 20-minute ride to Union Station, from where attractions like the CN Tower and numerous downtown restaurants are accessible.For those facing an overnight layover, it's advised to book a hotel as Pearson Airport does not permit overnight stays aside. The Alt Hotel and Sheraton Gateway are directly accessible from the airport, offering convenient lodging options.If remaining at the airport, Pearson offers a variety of dining experiences within its terminals. Travelers have mentioned that there are sufficient eateries in Terminal 1 where one can comfortably wait for their next flight.If time permits, some travelers recommend a short trip to the Toronto Christmas Market or the Distillery District, especially during the holiday season, to experience festive shopping and dining.This summary was generated by AI from TripAdvisor forum posts. What are some recommended restaurants in downtown Toronto?According to forum posts, downtown Toronto offers a variety of dining options, including Pai, Gusto 101, Chubbys, Cibo, and Wurst. Yueh Tung is noted for its Chinese dishes, particularly the fry chili chicken. Travelers have also recommended the Butter Chicken Factory for Indian cuisine, highlighting its unique flavor and pleasant dining experience.Some users have pointed out specific dishes at these restaurants, such as the dry chili chicken at Yueh Tung and crispy pork at Hong Fatt. Additionally, Miku near Union Station is highly recommended for sushi and sashimi, praised for providing an exceptional dining experience.For those seeking a more upscale dining experience, George Restaurant has been mentioned as a Michelin-starred option that offers a tasting menu with wine pairing, located on Queen St E. Canoe, another upscale choice, provides a quality dining experience with scenic views from the 54th floor of a downtown building.This summary was generated by AI from TripAdvisor forum posts. Ever wonder what it feels like to stand inside a real-life fortress, bristling with history and breathtaking views? Get ready, history buffs and adventure seekers, because VisitCanada.com is about to take you on an exciting journey inside one of North Americas most incredible military masterpieces: the Quebec Citadel! Perched majestically Read More Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains,British Columbia (BC)is Canadas westernmost provincea land of lush rainforests, rugged coastlines, and vibrant cities. It joined Confederation onJuly 20, 1871, becoming Canadas sixth province. Today, BC is celebrated for its stunning natural beauty, diverse culture, and thriving economy. With appopulation of Read More Alberta is a land of rugged mountains, rolling prairies, and vibrant cities. It became a province onSeptember 1, 1905, the same day as Saskatchewan, marking its official entry as Canadas 9th province. Today, its one of the countrys most dynamic regions, known for its natural beauty, economic strength, and spirited Read More New York Post The Montreal Journal Pheonix Daily Las Americas Narcity Toronto Independent Travelvooz The New York Times AFAR Barron's Time Out Esquire Time Out Time Out The New York Times AFAR Cond Nast Traveler Travel + Leisure Travel Awaits Lonely Planet Esquire Vogue Narcity Essence AFAR Cosmopolitan Forbes New York Times New York Times Cuisine Noir ELLE

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