

A TASTE OF TORONTO



A Time Out guide from Jessica Davey-Quantick

Brought to you by

Toronto has been described as 'New York without the stuff'... to which we have to politely (in the most extremely Canadian way possible) disagree. Toronto is Ontario's capital, the most populous city in Canada and the fourth most populous city in North America. Plenty of stuff. And more than half of Torontonians were born outside the country, meaning Toronto has some of the most diverse stuff in North America.



DISCOVER MORE WITH TIME OUT

With more than 140 languages spoken inside the city, no matter who you are or where you're from, you're going to find something to love about Toronto. Whether you're looking for a trendy bar, a chic hole-in-the-wall restaurant, exhibitions by up-and-coming artists or places to experience some of Canada's vibrant heritage, Toronto's got you covered.

And when you're in Toronto you're never far from the banks of Lake Ontario: a jaunt through the city can take you from downtown commotion to serene wilderness all in one day. And don't worry about the weather; while it's true that in Canada Halloween costumes are traditionally designed to be worn over a snowsuit, autumn in Toronto is a gorgeous blend of colours, sights and sounds.

Our guide will take you all over the city, with our top picks of where to eat, where to drink, where to let your hair down and what to see. Still need more? We've rounded up some of the weirdest things that truly set Toronto apart, so there's never a dull moment. So welcome to Toronto: you're going to be very busy!

Bars and pubs



THE LOVELESS CAFE

This sneaky hideaway is so local, it doesn't even have a sign. This cosy pub offers a secluded patio, friendly service and a comfy decor. The staff are very friendly – the kind of people who will recommend a drink, charge your iPhone and chat about politics without missing a beat. This is a great option if you're flying solo but don't want to bask in your alone time.

* 1430 Dundas St West
(+1) 647 346 2404

THE QUEEN AND BEAVER

There's no better way to get in touch with Toronto's Upper Canada heritage than a pint at The Queen and Beaver Public House. This is a grown-up pub: you won't be rubbing elbows with students. With a menu designed to reimagine traditional British fare with a seasonal Canadian twist, they also have a range of cask beers from local purveyors, a classy wine list and ciders on offer.



* 35 Elm St. (+1) 647 347 2712
* www.queenandbeaverpub.ca



SNAKES AND LAGERS

Fancy a game of chance? Snakes and Lagers is the place to go: with an unorthodox bar menu (they have a drink that tastes like a creamsicle... And deep-fried pickles!) what they're really known for is their huge board game selection. Pick a game or let their game concierge recommend one. There is no such thing as 'stranger danger' when you need just one more person to make your game of Cards Against Humanity extra awesome.

* 488 College St. (+1) 647 748 4004
* www.snakesandlagers.com

VICTORY CAFÉ

Part restaurant, part bar, part art gallery, the 'Vic' is an Annex staple, filled to the brim with the eclectic mix of people Mirvish Village is known for. They may come for the leafy garden patio, but they stay for the craft ale, micro brew and tasty food. They host trivia nights, poetry readings, book launches, art shows, you name it. There's always something fun going on.



* 581 Markham St, Mirvish Village.
(+1) 416 516 5787
* www.victorycafe.ca

COMMUNIST'S DAUGHTER

Don't be confused if you can't find this hidden gem: that's kind of the point. The outside looks like a convenience store, with the signage from the space's previous incarnation as Nazare Snack Bar more visible than its actual name, written on a chalkboard in the window. This is the spot if you want live jazz, pickled eggs and community-bar shenanigans like when they invite patrons to bring vinyl records to play on the bar's turntable – and the whole bar will vote on whether or not to play the B side after hearing the A. The place is seriously small, so you'll be packed in with the 30-plus other patrons, so it's easy to make friends!

* 1149 Dundas St West. (+1) 647 435 0103



Eat like a Canadian

Let's get some Canada inside you, shall we? Try one of these Canadian taste sensations!

BEAVER TAILS

The beaver is a proud and noble animal (and Canada's national mascot), so we wouldn't dream of actually eating its tail... but we will name a pastry after it. Long, flat pieces of dough shaped like - you guessed it. Deep-fried and coated in everything from sugar and whipping cream to maple syrup or Nutella. Dream big kids.

BUTTERS TARTS

This is a tart. Stuffed with a buttery, caramelly centre, sometimes also loaded with raisins. Think somewhere between pecan pie and treacle tart - then jack the sweetness up about 200 per cent.

DOUBLE DOUBLE

A double double is a coffee with two milk, two sugars, and while we suppose you could acquire one at any coffee shop, go full Canada and get one from Tim Horton's, the ubiquitous chain of coffee shops that are so wrapped up in the Canadian identity their sappy commercials define our nationalism.

NANAIMO BARS

Named after a town in British Columbia, these are a layer of coconut and chocolate, topped with a layer of vanilla pudding frosting and covered in chocolate. You will get diabetes. You will not care.

POUTINE

The unholy offspring of French fries, cheese curd and gravy. Tastes like bad choices but is a Canadian staple. Available everywhere, including fancy restaurants. But our favourite? From the back of a 'chip truck', one of the many roving food trucks where the gravy is brown, the fries are hot and the cheese is squeaky.

Restaurants



FAT PASHA

The newest trendy darling in a city full of trendy darlings, Fat Pasha holds up if for no other reason than what it manages to do to a chickpea. Fat Pasha is all about good food, shared: this is a family style Israeli eatery. The menu designations ("eat something" and "eat some more") should give you an idea of what you're getting into, if their liberal use of pita bread did not. And if all else fails, tuck in to one of their arak cocktails.

* 414 Dupont St. (+1) 647 342 0356 www.fatpasha.com

THE BURGERNATOR

There's something deeply humorous about venturing into the heart of hippy vegan territory for a seriously good piece of cow. The Burgenator, tucked into Kensington Market, is all about fresh food made well: which you can see because this tiny space includes an open kitchen where you can watch the staff mix and make your burger fresh. They also have no qualms about deep-frying a piece of cheese and sticking it on a bun. Yes, oh god, yes.

* 269 Augusta Avenue. (+1) 647 748 0990

* www.theburgernator.com



LAHORE TIKKA HOUSE

Gerard Street is packed with South East Asian restaurants, but this is where you go if you want to feel like you're taking a bite out of Pakistan. This isn't Indian food: this is Pakistani food, done right (and also halal). From the outside in, it's held on to that authentic vibe that keeps expats and immigrants rubbing elbows with everyone else to get a taste of their lamb biriyani. No, it's not fancy: it's just really, really good.

* 1365 Gerrard St East. (+1) 416 406 1668

* www.lahoretikkahouse.com

SCARAMOUCHE

Fancy trends may come and go, but Scaramouche's coconut cream pie is forever. This upscale eatery somehow combines classic elegance with a comfortable feel, maybe because they've been doing it for 30 years and have become a staple of the fine dining landscape in Toronto. Mixing contemporary European favourites with excellent views of the city, they might not be trendy, but they don't have to be. This is always a solid, impressive choice: it's fine dining that makes you want to lick the plate.

* One Benvenuto Place. (+1) 416 961 8011 www.scaramoucherestaurant.com

“Come hungry. And don't make eye contact with the alligator hanging from the ceiling.”

GRAND ELECTRIC

This is a little piece of Mexico in the middle of Toronto, with a slamming backyard patio to match. There's a communal atmosphere about it all, which is good because you're going to want to steal bites from your neighbours' plates: they're known for their tacos, for good reason. Their Baja fish tacos are out of this world, with the beef cheek not far behind. Come hungry. And don't make eye contact with the alligator hanging from the ceiling.

* 1330 Queen St West. (+1) 416 627 3457

* www.grandelectrictoronto.com



Clubs and music venues

THE EVERLEIGH ▶

"Not quite a nightclub but not just a bar." this is somewhere in between, in a hipster-drenched flood of Canadiana. There are geese on the ceiling and Muskoka-themed bathrooms. But the drinks and staff are great, and the crowd is a young-professional group, grooving to music that dips towards the early 2000s. Take note: they like their guest lists and dress codes here.

- * 580 King St West.
(+1) 647 907 6673
- * www.theeverleigh.ca



PARTS AND LABOUR

Upstairs, it's a low-key restaurant and pub-style atmosphere. Downstairs, it's the coolest basement in town. The Shop, as the basement party space is known, hosts touring bands and hot new DJs in a DIY atmosphere that's... OK, so it sort of feels like someone's mom should be coming down with snacks. But in a really, really good way!

- * 1566 Queen St West. (+1) 416 588 7750
- * www.partsandlabour.ca

REVIVAL BAR

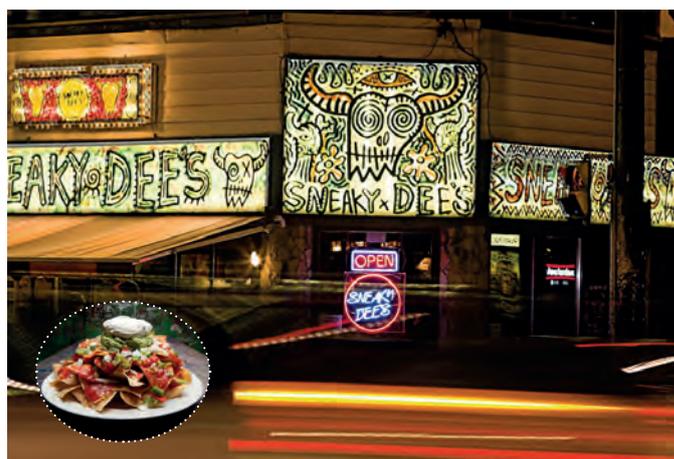
This is a three-story behemoth on the Toronto nightlife field, known for hosting the likes of Justin Timberlake, Black Eyed Peas, Kid Rock, Nelly Furtado and more. But what do we love it for? Their theme nights! Check out their calendar and hit up one of their burlesque shows, come to dance, or rock the stage at hip hop karaoke. Toronto's hip hop scene is more than just Drake (we promise).

- * 783 College St. www.revivalbar.com (+1) 416 535 7888

SNEAKY DEE'S ▶

This place is all about the nachos. Seriously. Get the nachos. It's a poor-man's delight, full of greasy food, cheap drinks and walls of graffiti but it's also seen the start of some of Canada's biggest indie rock bands (alumni include Arcade Fire, Broken Social Scene, Fucked Up and Fiest). The music space upstairs only holds 200 people but you never know: you may be getting up close and personal with tomorrow's big star.

- * 431 College St. (+1) 416 603 3090
- * www.sneaky-dees.com



CREWS AND TANGOS

This is the Queen (yes, we did that) of Toronto drag bars. It's everything you want in a gay club: fantastic music and a dance floor that's sticky with good tunes and glitter. The Victorian house hosts regular drag shows and has a charmingly seedy vibe about it. And don't be scared off by its location in the heart of Toronto's happening-est gaybourhood: that charming seediness extends to a 'come as you are' atmosphere that includes everything from guest list to dress code!

- * 508 Church St. (+1) 647 349 7469 www.crewsandtangos.com

Sights and attractions



◀ KENSINGTON MARKET

The beating heart of Toronto's eclectic hippy community is Kensington Market, an area roughly bordered by College Street, Spadina Avenue, Dundas Street West and Bathurst Street. Designated a National Historic Site of Canada, it's a weird and wonderful jumble of historic Victorian buildings, bohemian restaurants, vintage shops, record stores and pubs, all strewn together with street vendors international food stands. This is where you'll find a Hungarian Thai fusion restaurant next to an anarchist bookstore, across the street from a vegan bakery.

- * www.kensington-market.ca



THE KING OF KENSINGTON

Wander Kensington and you might catch a glimpse of Al Waxman, or at least his statue. The Canadian actor and director was involved in more than 1,000 productions, but is most famously known for his roles in Cagney and Lacey and King of Kensington. The statue was erected after his death, with an inscription at the bottom that reads, "There's a lot to do down the road, there's always more. Trust your gut instincts. In small matters trust your mind, but in the important decisions of life – trust your heart."

DANCE

The National Ballet of Canada, under artistic director Karen Kain, produces some amazing shows, but why stop at just watching? Join the core and try a class in ballet, jazz and contemporary dance from absolute beginner to advanced. They offer drop-in classes all week



long. But the Toronto dance landscape doesn't stop on toe: Culture Shock

Toronto offers drop in classes in all urban dance styles, including Toronto's latest obsession: waacking.

- * <http://national.ballet.ca>
- * www.cultureshockcanada.com

ST LAWRENCE MARKET

Toronto's other major public market, St Lawrence Market has been going strong since 1803. Today, the market is made up of three buildings: The South Market is where you'll find 120 specialty vendors selling fruit, veg, meat, fish baked goods and more, as well as the Market Gallery exhibition space. The North Market is known for its Saturday Farmer's Market, and Sunday antique market, while St Lawrence Hall houses retail businesses. A great place to pick up locally made treats.

- * 92-95 Front St East.
- (+1) 416 392 7219
- * www.stlawrencemarket.com

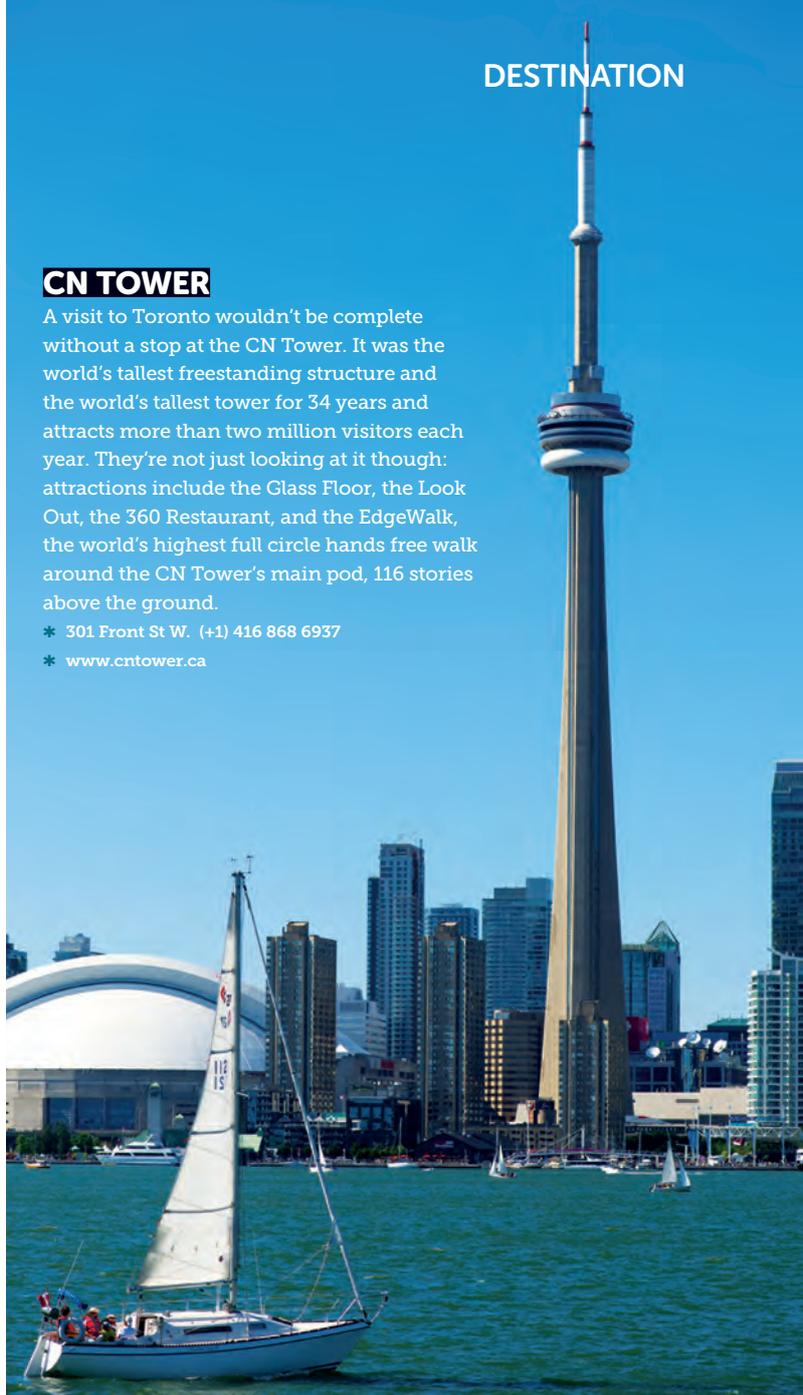
TORONTO has had many a facelift in its nearly 300-year life. It started out in 1787 as the Town of York, before being renamed Toronto in 1834, which comes from the Mohawk word for 'trees standing in water'. But how do you say it? Don't be distracted by that sneaky second "T": locals tend to drop it, pronouncing Toronto more like TRON-oh or TRON-toh, with a soft T. You may even hear the nasal "Tarana" but that's mostly coming from Canadians outside Toronto, mocking the accent. But they're just jealous...



CN TOWER

A visit to Toronto wouldn't be complete without a stop at the CN Tower. It was the world's tallest freestanding structure and the world's tallest tower for 34 years and attracts more than two million visitors each year. They're not just looking at it though: attractions include the Glass Floor, the Look Out, the 360 Restaurant, and the EdgeWalk, the world's highest full circle hands free walk around the CN Tower's main pod, 116 stories above the ground.

- * 301 Front St W. (+1) 416 868 6937
- * www.cntower.ca



THEATRE

If you're looking for a show, head for Mirvish Productions. Canada's largest commercial theatre production company, with five theatres in Toronto within their purview, including the historic Royal Alexandra Theatre. But don't go for the real estate: in October they've got productions of Kinky Boots, Motown the Musical and Upside Dnwnnton. Not your thing? Toronto is also home to loads of independent theatre: if you're looking for a taste of up-and-coming Canadian playwrights, check out Tarragon: An Enemy of the People takes the stage in October.

- * www.mirvish.com
- * www.tarragontheatre.com





Take a break with the Alliance for Audited Media

Join us around AAM's campfire in the Beaver Lodge. Enjoy a fresh s'more and good company while we share stories, talk new ideas and snap photos of the fun at FIPP.

***Follow us on Twitter @auditedmedia
to see the photo stream.
#AAMatFIPP #FIPPCongress***

Museums and galleries

BATA SHOE MUSEUM

Yes, a museum about shoes. Dedicated to footwear from around the world, the collection includes more than 13,000 items on display, with shoes from the ancient world to the present day. Turning 20 this year, the shoebox-shaped building was designed by renowned architect Raymond Moriyama, and includes three changing exhibitions and one semi-permanent exhibition.

- * 327 Bloor St West.
- (+1) 416 979 7799
- * www.batashoemuseum.ca



▲ HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

Come bask in the warm glow of the Stanley Cup and Canada's singular sporting obsession, in a city whose team, the Toronto Maple Leafs, are deep into the longest dry spell in National Hockey League history (they haven't won the cup since 1967). Despite that, hockey is a quintessential Canadian experience, and Toronto fans are die-hard: we assume they console themselves by watching the soothing hypnosis of the Zamboni (the little truck that resurfaces the ice), sure that this year, at last, will be the year.

- * 30 Yonge St. (+1) 416 360 7765
- * www.hhof.com

ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO

The AGO is a work of art in itself. In its latest renovation, Toronto-born global starchitect Frank Gehry redesigned the space with sculptural elements. But the collection itself is magnificent: it includes more than 80,000 exhibits across many mediums.

- * 317 Dundas St West. (+1) 416 979 6648
- * www.ago.net



CBC MUSEUM

Look up, look waaaay up, and see the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Museum, going strong after 70 years on the air. Snag an insight into the Canadian psyche and our creepy obsession with children's programming involving puppets. Casey and Finnegan's tree house from Mr Dressup is on display, but alas, no sign of the puppets themselves. We can only assume they've been struggling to escape that tickle trunk since the mid-'80s.

- * 250 Front St West. (+1) 416 205 3311 www.cbc.ca/museum

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM ▶

Among the world's leading museums of natural history and world cultures, the ROM has been a cultural staple in Toronto since 1912. Alongside its standing galleries and exhibitions, they also host a revolving door of special exhibitions. Currently open is Pompeii, but don't miss their dinosaurs...

- * 100 Queens Park. (+1) 416 586 8000
- * www.rom.on.ca



FIPP LONDON START-UP TOUR

16-18 November

In partnership with
THE ACCELERATOR NETWORK



Understand the future and meet those at the cutting edge of media innovation and technology

It's not only crucial to understand how your relationships with audiences – consumers, customers and advertisers – can be enhanced across multiple platforms in the immediate term, but also to know the future thinking of those at the cutting edge of media innovation and tech.

This is why FIPP, in partnership with The Accelerator Network, has put together the **London Start-up Tour**.

Join the Tour this November and seize the opportunity to see some of the best emerging media solutions London - one of the world's top start-up hubs - has to offer.

All participants will:

- **Get up close and personal** with the London media and digital start-up scene
- **Meet the founders** and brightest minds across a variety of start-up stages: established, emerging and future
- **Gain insights** into how **new technologies** and trends are impacting the magazine media business
- Learn which **solutions** will keep their business ahead of the curve
- **Network** with a group of like-minded colleagues – from **diverse international markets** – to consider, dissect and discuss what they've seen.

Visit www.fipp.com/learn to find out more and download the full programme.

BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN – places are limited



Got a question? Email **Christine Huntingford** (christine@fipp.com) and/or **Jenny Stubbs** (jenny@fipp.com)

Weird and wonderful



HAUNTED WALK

Toronto may be a young city compared to the rest of the world, but its 300 year history is drenched with blood, horror and terror, according to the guides from Haunted Walk. Their tours take you from the old military town of York and haunted theatres to public hangings, hidden graveyards and more. Oooooooo...

- * 305A-56 The Esplanade. (+1) 416 238 1473
- * www.hauntedwalk.com/toronto-tours



ARCHERY DISTRICT

Ever wonder how you'd fair in a post-apocalyptic world where disputes are settled in a bloody arena? No? Well clearly you haven't experienced archery tag, a team-based archery combat game. Don't worry, no one actually has to volunteer as tribute: the game uses foam-tipped arrows, and combines elements of paintball, archery, and your most vivid flashbacks to elementary school dodgeball.

- * 77 Birchmount Road.
- (+1) 647 955 3111
- * www.archerydistrict.com



URBAN CAPERS

You know what most tourism is missing? Scavenging! Urban Capers offers puzzle adventures to add a little more competition to your casual meander through Toronto neighbourhoods, with themes like Haunted Toronto, Murder at the ROM, and Kensington and Chinatown Caper. Working in teams of two to six, you get a clue sheet with riddles and puzzles that guide you around Toronto. At the end of the game, the team with the most correct answers wins. Pre-booking is essential.



- * (+1) 647 852 6444
- * www.urbancapers.com



GOING, GOING... GET TO HONEST ED'S WHILE YOU STILL CAN

Honest Ed's is a landmark discount store, opened in 1948 by Ed Mirvish who ran it for 60 years. It's a weird throwback full of random stuff and covered in hand-painted signs and pithy slogans. It's such a part of the landscape it's featured prominently in many television shows and movies, including both the comic and movie versions of *Scott Pilgrim vs the World*. Alas, it's scheduled to close on 31 December 2016: although its iconic sign, featuring 23,000 light bulbs, will stay up.

- * 581 Bloor St West. (+1) 416 537 2111



SPIN TORONTO

Grab a paddle and head to SPiN, Toronto's first ping pong pub! Based on the New York Club, the space includes 12 ping pong tables, two bars and a full food and cocktail menu: but it's really all about the ping. They offer nightly events, tournaments and private instruction from professional players should you need a little reminder of how this is done.

- * 461 King St West. (+1) 416 599 7746
- * <http://toronto.wearespin.com>



AXE THROWING

Excuse me? Yup - try your hand at axe throwing at the Backyard Axe Throwing League (BATL). They offer group bookings, where they'll teach you the basics before starting a tournament. Extra points if you don't chop off your foot.

- * Toronto East: 33 Villiers St;
- Toronto West: 213 Sterling Road.
- (+1) 647 703 6410
- * www.batlgrounds.com

PHOTOS: All Jessica Davey-Quantick, except: (Clubs) The Everleigh, from The Everleigh; Sneaky Dee's, from Sneaky Dee's. (Weird Stuff) Haunted Walk, from Haunted Walk; Archery, from Archery District; Axe Throwing, from BATL; SPiN, from SPiN



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