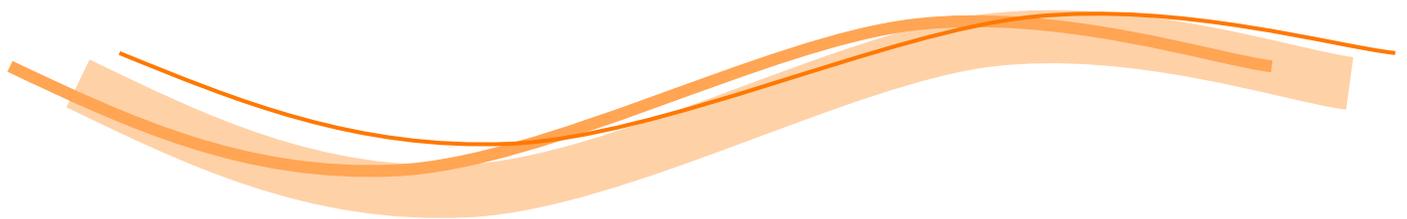




**CHELSEA HOTEL
TORONTO &
ART GALLERY OF
ONTARIO**





CHELSEA HOTEL, TORONTO

The hotel you've always loved is now called the Chelsea Toronto .

As part of the prestigious Langham Hospitality Group it has been refreshed by a multi-million dollar refurbishment over the last few years with refurbished rooms and updated restaurants.

The Chelsea Toronto is Canada's largest hotel and centrally located just steps from the city's best shopping districts, world-class theatres, vibrant nightlife and exciting attractions.

As Toronto's self-proclaimed "Entertainment Hotel", the Chelsea Toronto also offers an on-site ticket office where guests can book their attraction, concert and theatre tickets when they book their room.

An extra perk for guests staying at the Chelsea Toronto are special partnership discounts available through the hotel's "SHOW YOUR KEY AND SAVE" program. This includes some of the best attractions Toronto has to offer such as the Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Casa Loma and many more. And when you stay at the Chelsea Toronto you will earn DOUBLE Aeroplan miles and be part of Langham's celebrated 1865 loyalty program.

A full-service urban resort, the Chelsea Toronto has room types to suit everyone and the hotel offers four restaurants and lounges plus separate adult and family recreation areas and pools. As a premier family destination, the hotel offers a full range of services including the Family Fun Zone with Camp Chelsea supervised activities program, Kid Centre and Club 33 Teen Lounge. Plus take an exhilarating ride on downtown Toronto's only indoor waterslide, "Corkscrew".

One universal amenity is the free WiFi available throughout the hotel. And with a choice of 1,590 rooms the Chelsea Toronto is sure to have a configuration to match your needs. Many rooms feature balconies where guests can enjoy exceptional views of the downtown area and kitchenette rooms are also available.

The Chelsea Toronto also boasts 34 ultra-spacious suites that start from 450 ft², welcoming guests with the perfect balance of comfort, convenience and personal space. Each suite features a separate living area and bedroom for added privacy and flexibility. Suites also include self-contained kitchenettes.

The spacious and inviting two-bedroom Family Fun Suites provide the perfect solution for families looking for convenient all-in-one

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	<p>accommodation. The family-friendly extras include a kids' creative corner, DVD and Xbox with free access to games and movies. Additional bedding is provided with bunk beds and a pull-out sofa while the generously-sized suites ensure larger families can stay in comfort.</p> <p>The Chelsea Toronto's four restaurants and lounges invite guests to indulge in world-class cuisine, relax in a comfortable setting and unwind after a day of shopping or sightseeing. From casual, convenient snacks to international dishes the Chelsea Toronto offers a range of authentic dining experiences.</p> <p>Lively and energetic, Monarchs Pub is downtown Toronto's must-visit live music venue. And Monarchs Pub's menu is as enticing and diverse as its musical selection. The extensive à la carte menu features contemporary pub fare including delicious starters, hearty mains and tempting desserts, plus a special late-night menu is available.</p> <p>The Market Garden and Express o Coffee Bar, is the solution for diners with little time to spare. Browse the market-style aisles stocked with grab-and-go items, create a salad or watch chefs prepare hot and cold dishes.</p> <p>T Bar is a new, vibrant lobby lounge which celebrates the classic Canadian Caesar with its own new twist. T Bar also features an authentic Indian lunch buffet on weekdays and a mouthwatering Brunch every Sunday.</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>As Canada's largest hotel with 1,590 guest rooms, Chelsea Hotel, Toronto is centrally located and just steps from the city's best shopping districts, world-class theatres, vibrant nightlife and exciting attractions.. Address: 33 Gerrard Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z4 Tel: 416-595-1975 Fax: 416-585-4375 Reservations: 1-800-243-5732 www.chelseatoronto.com</p>
<p>Special Offer</p>	<p>The Chelsea Toronto - official hotel partner of the AGO – has a special Anniversary Offer as at October 2015 - 3rd night at \$19-75.</p> <p>The Chelsea Hotel in downtown Toronto is celebrating its 40th birthday with a very special offer: Book two nights and get the third night at \$19.75!</p> <p>To enjoy this special deal, you need to arrive on a Thursday before January 7, 2016 for a minimum three night stay. Kids 17 and under stay free in parent's room and children 6 and under eat free. You even</p>

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	<p>get free WiFi and Aeroplan miles. For full details check out www.chelseatoronto.com .</p> <p>This fantastic Anniversary rate is valid from October 16, 2015 until January 7, 2016.</p>
NEW	<p>The former Delta Chelsea has recently been re-branded as the Chelsea Hotel Toronto, The Langham Hospitality Group's first hotel in Canada. The Langham Hospitality Group, a subsidiary of Hong Kong-based Great Eagle Holdings Limited, officially assumed management of the hotel in 2013 and unveiled the first stage of renovations, including a refurbished lobby, updated food and beverage offerings, and an overall refresh to the building's exterior. This is the first hotel in the Eaton brand to open in North America, with other Eaton Hotels located in Hong Kong, Shanghai and New Delhi.</p>
Langham Hospitality Group	<p>As the wholly-owned subsidiary of Great Eagle Holdings, Langham Hospitality Group encompasses a family of distinctive hospitality brands which include hotels, residential serviced apartments, restaurants and spas, located on four continents. The Group currently owns and/or manages 29 hotels under The Langham, Langham Place, and Eaton brands with more than 20 hotel projects currently either confirmed or in a developed stage of negotiation from China through Asia and India to the Middle East.</p> <p>www.langhamhotels.com .</p>
Families	<p>The Chelsea is the first choice for families in Toronto. Firstly, it's great value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free accommodation for children under 18 when staying with a parent or guardian. - “Eat for free” from the special children's menu for children six and under. - For children ages seven to 12 years, “eat for half price” from the regular menu, or at list price from the special children's menu. <p>Nice family-friendly touches include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual check-in cards are given to children to complete upon arrival. - An age-specific “Kids' Essentials” kit for infants to seven years is given upon check-in. - Front desk provides information on family attractions. - Pagers are available for parents and wristband policy always matches the child to the parent. - Strollers and wagons are available for a deposit. - The Chelsea has been recognized as the “Best Family Hotel” from the readers of City Parent in the 11th Annual Readers Selection Awards. Being chosen five times by the readers they have become a Gold

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member of the Hall of Fame.

Then there's all the family focused services specifically at Eaton Chelsea:

- **Theatre babysitting** for children between the ages of three and twelve is available during daily matinees and Friday and Saturday evening performances.
- The Chelsea's **Starcade Games Room** is catered to teens. Complete with a pool table, air hockey and a great selection of video games.
- **Camp Chelsea** offers a complete line-up of activities for children ages five to twelve. Fully qualified camp counselors will keep your children well entertained. Camp Chelsea operates on weekends throughout the year and every day during the summer.
- **Kid Centre:** The Kid Centre is filled with exciting and entertaining activities to keep any child busy for hours! With painting, crafts, PlayStation, cooperative play, colourful fish and a bunny named Brownie, it's only the beginning to the endless fun. The centre also offers pagers, strollers and wagon rentals. Supervised childcare, theatre babysitting, (during daily matinees and Friday and Saturday evening performances) and a strict wristband policy set in place to match child to parent.
- **Webkinz** are an exciting addition to the Kid Centre. Webkinz pets are lovable plush toys that come with a unique secret code. With it, you enter Webkinz World where you care for your virtual pet, answer trivia, earn Kinzcash and play the best kids games on the net!
- **Teen Centre – Club 33:** Club 33 is an exciting addition to the Chelsea Hotel! Equipped with a Ping-Pong table, big screen LCD television with Blue Ray player, brand new HP Touch screen computers with internet, XBOX 360 featuring RockBand and IPOD docking stations, the entertainment is endless. This centre is for ages 12-19 years. Catering to the entire family, Bingo, movie nights and Family Fear Factor, there's something fun for everyone.
- **Pools:** two heated indoor pools - Deck 27 caters to adults, while the Family Fun Zone on the second floor, includes a pool, waterslide and wading pool.
- The pool includes the **Corkscrew**, a 130-foot waterslide encased in a four-storey glass tower. Heated and operates year round. Height restriction is 5'.
- For children under three: Improv Care will supply high quality babysitting services.
- Playpens, cribs, highchairs and booster seats.
- Safety kits including socket protectors, bandages and night-lights.

In the evenings this year, the whole family can enjoy scheduled

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	<p>activities such as Family Fear Factor, Bingo Bonanza, Chelsea Challenge and Moviemania.</p> <p>Family Fun Suites provide families with a home away from home when visiting Toronto. The fully equipped apartment-style suites feature separate bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room and a play area for children. Special amenities include: bubble bath, kid's bathrobes, step-up stools, children's chairs, cookie jars, alphabet fridge magnets, in-room DVD and Nintendo game cube with free access to movies and video games at the Children's Creative Centre, bunk-beds, take-home gifts and Kids Koncierge.</p>
<p>Weddings & Honeymoons</p>	<p>Let the Chelsea help you plan the perfect wedding. Their experienced Director of 'Romance,' your personal wedding planner, will take care of all the details. A team of professionals will keep things running smoothly, while you relax and enjoy your special day in the elegant ambience of our reception facilities. They'll make this an event you and your guests will never forget!</p> <p>As Toronto's wedding specialists, they offer the convenience of a selection of tastefully decorated venues where you can hold your wedding ceremony, as well as the reception to follow.</p> <p>The beautifully landscaped patio is the perfect backdrop for your outdoor wedding ceremony. Nestled in a secluded location off Elm Street, it offers a private setting for your intimate gathering. You'll take your vows under the glow of sunshine, surrounded by luscious trees, colourful flowers and a sparkling fountain.</p> <p>For your indoor wedding ceremony and reception, their team of expert decorators will create a mood to suit your personal taste – one that will make all your wedding dreams come true...</p> <p>The newly renovated Honeymoon Suites are custom designed with a contemporary and sophisticated uptown feel. Designer elements include hardwood flooring, wall sculpture, luxurious marble bath, rain shower and 42" Plasma television.</p>
<p>Facilities</p>	<p>Deck 27 Health Club</p> <p>It's easy to maintain your fitness routine while staying at the Chelsea. The health club gives you unlimited access to cardio and weight training equipment while enjoying a panoramic view of downtown Toronto. Exclusive to guests 19 and older. The Deck 27 adults-only recreation area offers: Free weights, six lifecycles, two life-rowers, seven treadmills, four life-steps, one free runner, two elliptical, eight strength pieces and Universal machines Towels, change rooms, saunas, showers and lockers Outdoor sundeck</p> <p>Deck 27 Pool</p> <p>Guests can relax and unwind in the adults-only heated indoor pool and</p>

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	<p>whirlpool. Exclusive to guests 19 and older.</p> <p>Family Fun Zone & Family Pool For families, the second floor recreation area features a family pool with and a four-storey indoor waterslide, the 'Corkscrew.' Children can also improve their swimming skills with the parent-directed Dolphin Swim Program. The Family Fun Zone also has a whirlpool and sauna, as well as the Starcade Games Room and the Children's Creative Centre.</p> <p>Services Parking Self-parking - \$29 per night plus taxes Valet parking - \$39 per night plus taxes (as at Oct 2015) In & out parking privileges are provided for registered guests. The hotel has self-service, coin-operated laundry facilities located within the 2nd Floor Family Fun Zone. Laundry detergent, fabric softener and dryer sheets are available for purchase. The hotel also provides overnight laundry and dry-cleaning services.</p>
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>The Chelsea is Canada's largest hotel and has 1,590 guestrooms and suites available in a wide choice of styles and sizes to suit the needs of every guest whether they are traveling on business or pleasure. All rooms offer the following amenities: June Jacob Spa Collection amenities Colour TV, with in-room pay-per-view Automated television check-out Bathrobe Complimentary tea & coffee Iron and ironing board Alarm clock Hair dryer Voice Mail</p>
<p>Dining</p>	<p>Market Garden - The bustling market-style food emporium features chefs who prepare hot and cold entrées right before your eyes. Prepare your own salad or try the chefs' homemade soups and sandwiches. At the bakery, you can find gourmet pizzas or freshly baked delicacies that are perfect with a specialty coffee from the Coffee & Tea Emporium. Dine in the restaurant, seasonal outdoor patio or enjoy the convenience of take-out.</p> <p>Monarchs - Monarchs is home to delicious pub fare and one of the city's most extensive selections of domestic and international premium ales. Sit back and catch the latest sporting action on the big screen TV or dance the night away to the music of the live DJ. Monarchs Pub is the place to be for the ultimate happy hour or late-night gathering. I have watched World Cup soccer games there in a very lively and fun atmosphere!</p>

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	<p>T Bar - T Bar is the venue of choice for a pre-dinner wine or late-night cocktail. Centrally located, the Lounge conveys warmth and a contemporary style. Inviting and relaxing, guests can watch the world pass by as they sip their premium-blend tea or specialty martini. T Bar also serves an authentic Indian lunch buffet and offers a varied à la carte menu for lunch and dinner.</p>
Chelsea Beach	<p>Chelsea Beach on Centre Island (Summer only)– transportation is provided to hotel guests for a nominal fee. A perfect family beach, it is life guarded daily from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., including first aid available on site. Many amenities are available including change rooms, snack bar and bike rentals next to the beach. This beach has a Blue Flag rating - an international eco-label awarded to beaches for excellence in water quality.</p> <p>Once on Centre Island check out Centreville Amusement Park. With over 30 rides and attractions and more than 14 food outlets, there's something for everyone at Centreville.</p>
Pet Policy	<p>It is hard to leave a pet behind. Now, you don't have to. Eaton Chelsea is pleased to welcome you and your pet. When travelling with your pet, you want to ensure a safe and comfortable stay for you and your fellow guests. Chelsea has a pet charge of \$35 per stay/room to cover additional cleaning costs (as at Oct 2015).</p>
Awards	<p>It is the only hotel company to have been recognized for its sustained focus on business excellence by the prestigious National Quality Institute with three Canada Awards for Excellence, including the award program's highest honour, the Order of Excellence. The company also consistently ranks as one of the country's best employers in The Globe and Mail's Report on Business annual "50 Best Employers" list. As well, its Corporate Social Responsibility platform includes a chain-wide commitment to the communities it serves through a national partnership with Habitat for Humanity Canada, participation in the Hotel Association of Canada's Green Key Eco-Rating program, and work with various other charitable groups.</p>
Environmental Responsibility	<p>As Canada's largest hotel with 1,590 rooms and a business operating in a large community such as Toronto, the Chelsea recognizes and respects its corporate social responsibility ensuring that their quest for sustainable solutions continues to grow and evolve.</p> <p>The Chelsea was recognized with the 2008 Hotel Association of Canada's Hall of Fame Award for Energy and Environment in February 2009. They are committed to improving everyday operations that coincide with strong environmental management practices with the maintenance of quality service and exceeding guest expectations.</p> <p>The Chelsea has offset 109% of their annual carbon footprint as recognized by the LivClean Eco-Stay Program that provides Canadian</p>

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	<p>hotels with leadership positioning in environmental action, accountability and responsibility.</p> <p>In recognition of the Chelsea's environmental initiatives, the Hotel Association of Canada (HAC) awarded the Chelsea with a 4 Green Key ECOmmodation rating. This program is essentially a measurement and performance tool for improving our environmental performance. In order for the Chelsea to reach the 5 Green Key ECOmmodation rating, the hotel is evaluating the opportunities to further improve performance. The Chelsea has been at the forefront of hotel waste management and through the strong partnership with Turtle Island Recycling, it has exceeded both Industry standards and Municipal targets in landfill diversion leading to recognition from the Hotel Association of Canada. The hotel has diverted 83% of its waste from landfill.</p>
<p>1865</p>	<p>1865 is the Langham way of saying thank-you for the loyalty you show to their brands. Bringing you exclusive benefits and recognition, they ensure your stay is especially comfortable and uniquely memorable.</p> <p>1865 Member Benefits at the Chelsea, Toronto Hotel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership with 1865 is offered to individual guests on a complimentary basis and offers a range of benefits by level: https://1865.langhamhotels.com/StaticPage/EN/member_benefits_eatonchelsea.aspx - Explorer You can enroll as an Explorer member once you stay at any of our hotels. When you subsequently accumulate more stays with us in a specific period of time, you can be upgraded to a higher tier of membership. - Gateway Stay 3 times at any of our hotels within a 12-month period and you will be eligible for Gateway membership. - Voyager To enroll as a Voyager member, simply accumulate a total of 5 stays within 12 months. - Chelsea Voyager An exclusive tier for Chelsea, Toronto guests. Stay at the hotel 15 times within a 12-month period to upgrade to a Chelsea Voyager membership. - Destiny Offered by invitation only, Destiny Membership is reserved for the top 1% of Chelsea Voyager members showing the highest level of commitment.
<p>Spa Packages</p>	<p>Elmwood Spa</p> <p>Guests of the Chelsea, Toronto enjoy access to the adjacent Elmwood Spa. Located within walking distance of the hotel, Elmwood Spa offers</p>

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	<p>a wide array of face, body and wellness treatments in a tranquil environment.</p> <p>As a special privilege, Chelsea guests enjoy special discounts on the spa's a la carte menu, including the signature Elmline Essential Spa Facial and Li'Tya Healing Ritual as well as an array of massages and body wraps.</p> <p>Advance bookings for the Eaton-exclusive packages and treatments can be made by calling 1-877-284-6348.</p>
Websites	<p>Website: http://www.chelseatoronto.com</p> <p>Tel: 1-800-CHELSEA</p> <p>Connect with the Chelsea on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/chelseahotelTO</p> <p>Follow the Chelsea on Twitter: https://twitter.com/ChelseaHotelTO</p>

ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO	<p>The Art Gallery of Ontario has become one of Canada's cultural icons. With a permanent collection of nearly 80,000 works of art, the AGO is among the most distinguished art museums in North America. And Transformation AGO over the last few years has resulted in a stunning new design by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry, which has rightly won international acclaim.</p> <p>The Chelsea Toronto Hotel is the official hotel partner of the AGO and you can easily walk to the Gallery if you stay at the Chelsea Toronto. In addition, as part of the Hotel's "Show your key and save" program, show your room key and save 20% off general admission.</p> <p>Completed in 2008, the Transformation AGO project was a massive expansion of the Gallery led by world-renowned Toronto-born architect, Frank Gehry. The ground-breaking redesign expanded the AGO by 97,000 square feet and increased exhibition space by 47 per cent. In addition to the stunning glass and wood façade that spans 600 feet along Dundas Street, Transformation AGO saw the creation of 7,000 feet of hosting space now known as Baillie Court, the Norma Ridley Members' Lounge, shopAGO and the AGO's award-winning restaurant, FRANK.</p> <p>The rebirth of the AGO allowed for a number of new programs to be developed, creating a cultural hub in Toronto. These programs are often themed to reflect one of the major exhibitions going on in the Gallery. So everything from the menu at FRANK and the family activities may reflect the special art that is on display at the time.</p> <p>AGO programs that you can enjoy include:</p>
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- A regular Cinq-à-Sept at FRANK restaurant.
- Yoga classes at the AGO amongst the paintings! Mon and Thursday evenings.
- Every Wednesday night admission to the general galleries is FREE and the AGO is open until 9pm!
- AGO First Thursdays, bring together an impressive roster of artists, live music and interactive art projects that invite gallery-goers to experience the art gallery in a brand new way. Designed to engage and entertain, these interactive art nights out feature a variety of performances, pop-up bars, art-making activities, artist and curator tours, talks and live events. Taking place on the first Thursday of each month, First Thursday at the AGO runs from 6:30 to 11 p.m. and are a ticket only event.
- And just launched are AGO Friday Nights where the best party in town runs until 9pm. Enjoy the art in a whole new way – participate in hands on art making, learn from guest speakers, wine and dine, listen to music and take it all in. Making it a night to remember - AGO Friday nights are included with general admission

An appreciation of art is one of the greatest gifts that you can give a child. And the AGO has lots of programs to involve youngsters in art,

The Kids' Gallery at the AGO is a space created especially for children and families. Together you can experience art first-hand, learn and have fun.

The AGO's Weston Family Learning Centre provides families a dedicated area for art instruction and creative play. Family Sundays in the Weston Family Learning Centre featuring art-making, hands-on activities and family-oriented tours and are included with regular admission and run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For more family-friendly fun, stop by the Margaret & Jim Fleck Gallery to relax and engage with art-making, books and ideas in the Family Creativity Lounge.

And the Dr. Mariano Elia Hands-On Centre is open to the AGO's youngest visitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

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<p>The Turner Exhibition</p>	<p>J. M. W. Turner: Painting Set Free</p> <p>J. M. W. Turner: Painting Set Free is a critically acclaimed solo exhibition from the Tate Britain and it will make its only Canadian appearance in Toronto 31 October, 2015 – 31 January, 2016. This is a rare opportunity to see the works of Britain’s most famous artist up close.</p> <p>J.M.W. Turner has been described as “a towering figure of British 19th-century art”. Turner’s most radical achievements were in water colour. Over his lifetime, he invented a host of new techniques that elevated a basic sketching medium into high art, and he approached water colour with an unprecedented spontaneity that artists still seek to emulate today.</p> <p>Mocked publicly in his time, Turner baffled his critics with his radical approach. Nonetheless, he carried on experimenting with unusual subject matters and different canvas formats and mastering his free and spontaneous techniques in both oil and watercolour. He said of himself “The only secret I have got is damned hard work”.</p> <p>This exhibition sets out to show how his last 15 years were a time of exceptional drive and vigour, during which he continued travelling, confronting and painting the dramatic landscapes of Europe.</p> <p>J. M. W. Turner: Painting Set Free focuses on the artist’s later works with more than 50 paintings and watercolours on loan from Tate Britain. These painting demonstrate Turner’s famous use of rich colour, textures and his arresting use of light.</p> <p>Organized thematically, the exhibition takes a focused look at his travels across Europe, his fascination with classical history, mythology and religion, his love of the sea and his pre-occupations with capturing light and atmosphere.</p> <p>Special exhibition tickets to J. M. W. Turner: Painting Set Free include access to all galleries at the AGO. This exhibition is timed ticketed so you are able to enjoy the exhibition without it being too crowded. Find out more at www.ago.net .</p>
<p>Turner Programming at the AGO</p>	<p>The AGO is now staying open later on Friday evenings! Making its debut on Nov. 6, 2016 and continuing weekly thereafter, AGO Friday Nights launches with an exciting series of Turner-themed programming throughout the month of November. Featuring drop-in art making, talks,</p>

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	<p>tours, a wine bar and a delicious tapas menu.</p> <p>In partnership with Tapestry Opera, Canada's largest and most influential contemporary opera company, the AGO presents Music Set Free, a series of live performances inspired by Turner, each Friday in November from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m</p> <p>AGO Friday nights are included with general admission, and free to AGO Members.</p> <p>In addition to free Turner-inspired drop-in artmaking at AGO Friday Nights in November, the Adult Studio will also offer Turner & Watercolours, a special five-week workshop taught by instructor Kerry Kim. The larger-than-life artist makes the leap from the canvas to the big screen in a special AGO screening of Mike Leigh's biopic, Mr. Turner at the AGO's Jackman Hall Theatre.</p> <p>Family Sundays return this fall on Nov. 1, 2015 with a Turner-sized celebration for kids of all ages. Featuring Turner-themed art-making, hands-on activities and family-oriented tours,</p> <p>The Gallery welcomes Sam Smiles, professor of Art History and Visual Culture and co-curator of the Tate Britain exhibition Late Turner, for a lecture on Nov. 13th, reviewing Turner's last works.</p> <p>FRANK restaurant at the AGO will celebrate the Turner exhibition with flavours of Britain and a series of vibrant prix-fixe menus that feature reimagined classics of English dining, like seared scallops and mushy peas, duck cassoulet and Eton mess.</p> <p>shopAGO also welcomes Turner with an artful selection of British-inspired gifts, stationary, home décor and prints. And you can also buy a 224-page colour catalogue to accompany the exhibition entitled J.M.W. Turner: Painting Set Free which features 130 vibrant colour plates.</p>
<p>Turner Admission</p>	<p>\$25.00 ADULT \$21.50 SENIOR \$16.50 STUDENT \$16.50 YOUTH Free CHILD \$62.50 FAMILY PASS \$32.00 CAFE PACKAGE</p>
<p>AGO Admission 2015</p>	<p>Open all days except Monday from 10am to 5.30pm and to 8.30pm on Wednesdays</p>

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	<p>Adults – \$19.50 Senior (65 and over) – \$16 Family - \$49 Student (full-time with valid ID) – \$11 Youth (ages 6–12) – \$11 Children (5 and under with adult) – FREE Members – FREE</p> <p>A longstanding tradition at the AGO – free admission to the collection galleries every Wednesday from 6pm to 8:30pm.</p>
Contacts	<p>Art Gallery of Ontario 317 Dundas Street West Toronto Ontario M5T 1G4 1 877 225 4246 Website: http://www.ago.net AGO Membership: http://www.ago.net/membership AGO Tickets: https://tickets.ago.net/searchAll.aro?_sp=5af03f344cfd1081.1445129301680 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AGOToronto Twitter: https://twitter.com/agotoronto</p>

TORONTO	<p>Exciting, multi cultural Toronto with fine dining, live theatre, authentic festivals, world class attractions and diverse neighbourhoods. Visit www.SeeTorontoNow.com. There are also great value packages to help book your hotel, tickets and everything you need to make your Toronto trip complete whether you are looking for family fun, couples escapes or girlfriends getaways.</p>
Location	Just six hours drive from Montreal
Geography	Situated 566 feet above sea level on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, part of the Great Lakes system, Toronto is one of the southernmost cities in Canada. In fact, it has the same latitude as southern Oregon.
Name	Toronto is named for the Huron Indian word similar in meaning to 'meeting place'.
Population	Canada's largest city, with a population in the Greater Toronto Area of 6.1 million people, making it North America's 4 th largest city, after Mexico City, New York, and LA. Toronto's population is predicted to increase to 7.45 million by the year 2031.
Language	In addition to the two official languages, the top 5 languages spoken in Toronto are Chinese, Italian, Tamil, Portuguese and Spanish. 46% of Toronto's population are immigrants to Canada and 128 languages and dialects can be heard on the streets of Toronto.
Health	Remember to ensure that you have travel insurance for out of province travel

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Safety tips	As for any Canadian city – just normal, sensible precautions
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CLIMATE	Similar to Montreal – but less snow in winter!
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GETTING THERE	
Flying	Less than an hour from Montreal with Air Canada, WestJet and Porter Airlines.
Distances	550km, 6hours driving from Montreal to Toronto
Ferries	From downtown to Toronto Island
Trains	<p>Let the train take the strain... VIA Rail takes between 4 and 5 hours from Montreal to Toronto.</p> <p>VIA Rail Canada run more than 480 trains per week over a 14,000-kilometre network linking more than 450 locations in Canada - that adds up to about four million passengers per year on VIA trains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected - Wireless Internet service available in-stations and on select trains - Convenient - Priority boarding, a delicious meal included in the price of your ticket and complimentary newspapers create stress-free travel. - Choice - Facing seats, at-your-seat power outlets for your portable computer and premium lighting create a fine ambience before and after your vacation. <p>Book on line at www.viarail.ca or phone 1 888 VIA-RAIL</p>
Car Rental	All major companies are represented
PATH	The Underground City PATH is downtown Toronto's underground walkway linking 27 kms of subterranean shopping, services and entertainment. Follow the brightly coloured PATH signs and you'll reach your downtown destination easily in weatherproof comfort.
Buses	TTC – subway, streetcars, buses, transfers
Segway Tours	The Distillery Historic District's famed Segway Tours has unveiled their newest tour, the one-hour Segway & Tasting Combo Tour. A guide will take visitors around the Distillery on the Segway Personal Transporter for a 60-minute glide to explore the area's rich history. After you've been familiarized with the hip Toronto district, the tasting begins. The Combo Tour includes a visit to the award-winning Mill St. Brewery for sampling of the tantalizing brews, and a stop at Soma Chocolate to taste their renowned Peruvian dark chocolate. The summer 2013 tours run regularly throughout the week and cost is \$69 plus per person. www.segwayofontario.com
Passes	Toronto City Pass allows you a 42% discount and front-of-line privileges at five of Toronto's biggest attractions: CN Tower, Toronto Zoo, Casa Loma, Ontario Science Centre and Royal Ontario Museum for just US\$64 per person (\$41 for kids) plus tax.(Oct 2015) and valid

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	for 9 days. http://www.citypass.com/toronto
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ACCOMMODATION TYPES	All types, from B&B to the very best five star hotels. I recommend the Chelsea Toronto as the perfect base for exploring Toronto – see more details above.
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	<p>CN Tower; Toronto Islands and the ferry; Centreville; Black Creek Pioneer Village; Paramount Canada’s Wonderland; Ontario Place; ROM; Science Centre; Sports games; Hockey Hall of Fame; Riverdale Farm; Playdium...the list goes on!</p> <p>African Lion Safari: Jungle cats. Ring-tailed lemurs. Baby elephants. What kid could ask for anything more?</p> <p>Harbourfront: Kaleidoscope is an ongoing program of creative crafts, active games, and special events on weekends and holidays. There are also a pond, winter ice-skating, and a crafts studio.</p> <p>Ontario Science Centre: Kids race to be the first at this paradise of hands-on games, experiments, and push-button demonstrations - 800 of them. www.ontariosciencecentre.ca</p> <p>Toronto Zoo: One of the best in the world, modeled after San Diego's - the animals in this 284-hectare (710-acre) park really do live in a natural environment. The Toronto Zoo has opened the Giant Panda Experience, the home of Er Shun and Da Mao.</p> <p>Toronto’s beloved medieval theatre Medieval Times. The show blends a two-hour live performance with a four course medieval feast served in a castle-inspired 1,000+ seat arena. www.medievaltimes.com</p>
Teens	<p>ROM's Dinosaur Gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum: Discover the wonders of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, the James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and the Gallery of the Age of Mammals. Together, these awe-inspiring, light-filled new galleries occupy the entire Level 2 of the Lee-Chin Crystal. The prism-shaped galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and Age of Mammals boast 18-foot high ceilings to accommodate over 750 of the Museum's tallest specimens. www.rom.on.ca</p> <p>Canada’s Wonderland - Leviathan Canada’s Wonderland has unveiled one of the biggest and tallest roller coasters in the world: Leviathan. Opened in 2012, Leviathan dominates</p>

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	<p>the Park's landscape, taking riders to breathtaking heights and speeds never experienced before at Wonderland.</p> <p>The excitement begins on Leviathan's first lift hill as riders climb to a record breaking height of 306 feet (93.3M) followed by an exhilarating 80 degree drop. Reaching a top speed of 148 kilometers per hour, riders will experience extreme coaster thrills on 5,486 feet (1,672M) of track that includes a series of giant camelback hills reaching heights up to 180 feet (54.9M), and an astonishing overbanked hammerhead turn at 115 degrees that will cross above the Park's front gate at 147 feet (44.8M) high. Summer only.</p> <p>www.canadaswonderland.com</p> <p>LKTYP - Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People is the largest non-profit theatre for young audiences in Canada and presents new Canadian plays, innovative works and classics from children's literature throughout the season. A multi-faceted centre for learning through the arts, LKTYP's performances are designed to help children and youth identify with the issues they face today. www.lktyp.ca</p>
<p>Honeymoons & Weddings</p>	<p>Casa Loma; Toronto Island; CN Tower; many wonderful church and restaurant options too</p>
<p>Zoomers</p>	<p>Casa Loma - Experience the elegance and splendour of the Edwardian era at Casa Loma! Casa Loma was built in 1911, by Sir William Henry Mill Pellatt, a prominent financier, industrialist, and military man. Casa Loma was designed by E.J. Lennox. Explore the unique architecture, beautifully furnished rooms, secret passages, towers, and an 800-foot tunnel to luxurious stables. May through October enjoy the magnificent estate gardens.</p> <p>Toronto Tours - Whether you are seeking adventure or discovery, refinement or rusticity, Toronto Tours will rise to the occasion. Combining great ideas with the most unique venues and services in the city, they create spectacular results beyond your expectations. Choose one or more of the following tour options: Toronto City Tour, Toronto Harbour Tour and/or Niagara Falls Tour. http://www.torontotours.com</p>
<p>UNIQUES</p>	<p>The multicultural neighbourhoods are what make Toronto so vibrant and so unique.</p>
<p>Surprising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yonge Street, Toronto's main street, is the longest street in the world at 1,900 km. It stretches from the lake at Queens Quay in Toronto to Rainy River, a mining community in northern Ontario, near Thunder Bay. - the Bata Shoe Museum is a wonderfully quirky treasure trove and well worth a visit: http://www.batashoemuseum.ca - the hidden ravine park systems that run towards Lake Ontario.

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History	<p>The area was used as a meeting place for centuries by people of the First Nations and, later, by French traders, thanks to its naturally protected harbour.</p> <p>In 1788, the British purchased the land from the Mississauga Indians, and a settlement slowly established itself around the waterfront area.</p> <p>In 1793, Lieutenant-Colonel John Graves Simcoe established a military garrison and named the town York in honour of the Duke of York of the time.</p> <p>It was renamed Toronto when the city was incorporated in 1834.</p> <p>During the War of 1812, the town was twice occupied by the Americans (both times in 1813). By 1834, its citizens – mostly British and Scottish immigrants – numbered close to 10,000. Others, such as Jews from the United States, Russia and Germany would soon arrive, as well as some 40,000 Irish fleeing famines in their homeland. Blacks escaping slavery in the USA soon followed, sowing the seeds of current day Toronto's multicultural diversity. As the population increased, so did the city's infrastructure. The University of Toronto opened its doors in 1843. Growth continued in spite of the Great Fires of 1849 and 1904. The new city included an extensive network of roads, railways, canals, shipping, and telegraph lines.</p> <p>In 1867, Canada was born, and Toronto became the capital of the newly created province of Ontario.</p>
Books	<p>The Rough Guide to Toronto – co-written by Helen Lovekin, a past guest on my radio shows and a well-written, witty and informative guide to the best that Toronto has to offer.</p> <p>Frommer's Toronto Canada by Jan Morris – there's a perceptive essay on Toronto by this most excellent of travel writers.</p>
1000 Places to see before you die	<p>Art Gallery of Ontario Royal Ontario Museum Hockey Hall of Fame Toronto International Film Festival</p>
Must Sees	<p>The CN Tower; Toronto's diverse neighbourhoods; the great theatre scene, Toronto Islands just offshore in Lake Ontario.</p>

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	<p>Toronto has more major league teams than any other Canadian city –</p> <p>Baseball: Blue Jays; Basketball: Raptors; Football: Argos; Hockey: Maple Leafs; Lacrosse: Toronto Rock; Soccer: Toronto FC.</p> <p>There's also horse racing, boating, sailing, canoeing, inline skating, rock climbing, golf, cross country skiing...and more</p>
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<p>Golf</p>	<p>Toronto and its surrounding area is a golfer's dream. There are unique doglegs, island greens -and yes, sand traps - just waiting to be conquered at over 100 highly rated courses within a short drive from downtown. Choose from either the Legends or Masters course at Lionhead in Mississauga, or head north to Aurora to walk all 7,304 yards of St. Andrews Valley. Or face the challenges of Glen Abbey and Angus Glen, both of which have hosted the Canadian Open (Canada's PGA tour event). Before you head out, be sure to get some practice in at the driving range at the Docks.</p>
<p>Fishing</p>	<p>Cast your line into Lake Ontario for some of the best fishing in Canada. For an adrenaline - fuelled outdoor adventure, book the Fin-natic fishing charter with all the latest fishing technology and equipment.</p> <p>Andrews Charter: Andrews Charter can provide experienced crew, full catering and two luxury yachts at competitive rates. Their boats, the 'What's Next' (45') and 'Last One III' (52') are the largest available for charter in the area and can accommodate groups of 8 to 28 people. Each boat is fully equipped for Lake Ontario salmon fishing. Andrews Charter is the longest established charter boat company in the Toronto area, having provided charters for over 30 years. Charters depart from Port Credit, Mississauga, close to Toronto. Pickup from Toronto can be arranged. Website: www.andrewscharter.ca</p>
<p>Hiking</p>	<p>The ravines in Toronto are wonderful places to escape the city without leaving the city – quiet havens of peace and shade where I have encountered white tailed deer, foxes and coyotes.</p> <p>City of Toronto Parks feature Discovery Walks which are a series of free self-guided walks that link the city ravines, parks, gardens, beaches and neighbourhoods. Informative signage will help you experience an area's heritage and environment. For more information, go to: www.toronto.ca/parks/recreation_facilities/discovery_walks/discover_index.htm</p> <p>The Martin Goodman Trail in Toronto is at the heart of the 350 km Lake Ontario Waterfront trail. The Toronto stretch known as the Martin Goodman trail provides a leisurely or intense trek from the Eastern Beaches to the Western Beaches. You can also go well beyond those borders towards Mississauga (to the west) or Scarborough (to the east). Most the Toronto portion of the path is uninterrupted and well-marked making it perfect and safe for cycling, inline skating, walking, or jogging.</p>
<p>Cycling</p>	<p>With biking trails through most of the city's parks and lots of street bike routes, it's not surprising that Toronto has been called one of the best</p>

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	cycling cities in North America. Favorite pathways include the Martin Goodman Trail (from the Beaches to the Humber River along the waterfront); the Lower Don Valley bike trail (from the east end of the city north to Riverdale Park); High Park (with winding trails over 160 hectares); and the Toronto Islands, where bikers ride freely, without fear of cars.
Skating	Skating in winter at City Hall and Harbourfront: Toronto's holiday postcard experience – skating at these two iconic outdoor rinks is completed with music and rink-side hot chocolate. Both rinks have skate rental on site.

CULTURE	
Theatre	Mirvish Productions takes centre stage here. Go to www.Mirvish.com for the details of their latest productions, including my current personal favourite: "Kinky Boots"!
Music	<p>The music scene in Toronto is vibrant, with big names like the Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Elton John and The Who making regular appearances.</p> <p>Roy Thomson Hall: at 60 Simcoe St. in Toronto is Canada's premier concert hall, presenting top international performers and it's home to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and Toronto International Film Festival Gala screenings. Website: www.roythomson.com</p> <p>Massey Hall: 178 Victoria St. Toronto - The 'grande dame' of local music halls has been part of Toronto's music history since 1894. Programming includes pop, rock, classical and contemporary music. Website: www.MasseyHall.com</p> <p>Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts - Opera: The Canadian Opera Company is one of the largest arts organizations in Canada, and among the top ten opera producers in North America. Internationally acclaimed as one of the continent's most innovative performing arts companies. Upcoming productions: Performances at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen W., 416-363-8231 Website: www.coc.ca</p> <p>The National Ballet of Canada:</p> <p>The Nutcracker The National Ballet's sumptuous, comical, touching and spellbinding version of E.T.A. Hoffmann's Christmas tale was created in 1995 and has been enthralling audiences – especially children – ever since.</p>

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	<p>James Kudelka's glorious re-imagination of the evergreen Christmas classic is pure pleasure to experience, a feast for the senses and the imagination.</p>
<p>Films</p>	<p>On any given day, there are up to 40 productions filming in Toronto. Considered "Hollywood North" by the film industry, Toronto is 3rd in TV and film production and 2nd as exporter of TV programming in North America.</p> <p>Some of the films shot in Toronto: Chicago; X-Men; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Cinderella Man; Moonstruck; and many more.</p> <p>Several TV shows are set in Toronto, including the very successful "Flashpoint" one of my personal favourite shows – partly because it showcases the city of Toronto so effectively.</p>
<p>Museums</p>	<p>There are 125 museums and public archives in the Greater Toronto Area; here are some of the stars –</p> <p>Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) - No trip to Toronto is complete without a visit to Canada's leading international Museum. Located in the heart of downtown, the ROM's renowned collections span both World Cultures and Natural History. With over 30 galleries of world cultures and natural history, as well as themed events ranging from bats to moon exploration, the ROM offers great value and lots to see and do. Discover the permanent galleries of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, the James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and the Gallery of the Age of Mammals. Together, these awe-inspiring, light-filled new galleries occupy the entire Level 2 of the Lee-Chin Crystal. The prism-shaped galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and Age of Mammals boast 18-foot high ceilings to accommodate over 750 of the Museum's tallest specimens. www.rom.on.ca</p> <p>Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) - With a permanent collection of more than 73,000 works of art, the Art Gallery of Ontario is among the most distinguished art museums in North America The Gallery began an extraordinary chapter when it launched Transformation AGO in 2002. The facelift involved the growth of the permanent collection, an architectural expansion by architect Frank Gehry, strengthening of the museum's endowment resources, enriching visitors' experiences and providing greater access to the full vibrancy of the art museum. See the separate feature above. www.ago.net</p> <p>Bata Shoe Museum - Explore the world at your feet through a stunning collection of more than 12,000 shoes and related artifacts that</p>

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	<p>span 4,500 years of history in four impressive galleries. A cultural gem in the heart of the city, The Bata Shoe Museum is an internationally-acclaimed institution and architectural treasure. http://www.batashoemuseum.ca</p> <p>Ontario Science Centre – The Ontario Science Centre delights, informs, and challenges. They enrich people's lives and their understanding through engagement with science of local, national and global relevance. They are the public centre for innovative thinking and provocative dialogue in science and technology. And they are great fun for all the family!</p>
<p>Architecture</p>	<p>Where to start? There's so much of note to see. Here are some of the buildings featured on Toronto Architecture Tours: Guided Walking Tours - find out more at www.torontosocietyofarchitects.ca :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roy Thompson Hall, 1978-82 Arthur Erickson with Mathers & Haldenby; interior transformed 2000-02 KPMB • Princess of Wales Theatre, 1991-93 Peter Smith of Lett/Smith Architects • TIFF Bell Lightbox, 2007-10 KPMB • Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 2006 A. J. (Jack) Diamond • Sharp Centre, Ontario College of Art and Design University, 2004 Will Alsop with Robbie/Young + Wright Architects • Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), 2003–08 Gehry International Architects with Adamson Associates Architects • Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, 2003-06 KPMB (original building 1984 Keith Wagland) • Michael Lee-Chin Crystal addition, Royal Ontario Museum 2003-08 Daniel Libeskind with B+H Architects • Telus Centre for Performance and Learning, Royal Conservatory of Music, 2005-08 KPMB • Bata Shoe Museum, 1995 Moriyama & Teshima
<p>Festivals & Events</p>	<p>Here's just a few of the activities coming up in Toronto for the Holidays.</p> <p>The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (November 6 - 15, 2015) Once a year, the country comes to the city bringing along over 300 vendors, regal horse shows, entertaining dog shows and everything else in between. Celebrating its 90th year and promising to be the biggest year ever, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the largest of its kind and truly a part of Canadian tradition.</p> <p>Santa Claus Parade Sunday (November 15, 2015) The Santa Claus Parade has been a Toronto tradition since 1905. Fantastic animated floats leave the corner of Christie and Bloor Street</p>

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	<p>in the company of two dozen marching bands and a couple of thousand costumed participants, cheered along by excited kids.</p> <p>Ice Wine and Dine (November 22 from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.) Winter Magic continues with Ice Wine & Dine, an outdoor food fest with drinks and live entertainment. Several restaurants on or near Elm Street will have food samples from their menus along with their signature drinks, with live musicians nearby and several ice sculptures will be on display.</p> <p>Illuminite (November 15 at 5:30 p.m.) A unique combination of technology and artistry in a number of different performances from local and international artists. The evening concludes with the lighting of a 52,000 LED tree and other light installations around the downtown Yonge St area.</p> <p>Cavalcade of Lights Saturday (November 28, 2015) Toronto's 49th annual Cavalcade of Lights presented by Great Gulf celebrates the first lighting of Toronto's official Christmas tree, live performances by some of Canada's top musical talent, a spectacular fireworks display and a skating party at Nathan Phillips Square.</p> <p>Toronto Christmas Market (November 20 to December 20, 2015) Inspired by the Old World and influenced by the New, this free annual event captures all of the tradition, heritage and charm of a European Christmas Market, while showcasing hundreds of unique and local handcrafted products. Family-friendly entertainment includes musicians, carolers and children's choirs and, of course, Santa's House. There is great shopping, specialty beer and mulled wine gardens, and sweets and treats. The Christmas Market at The Distillery is the perfect opportunity to put the magic back in your family's holiday time.</p> <p>The Nutcracker (December 12, 2015 – January 3, 2016) The National Ballet's sumptuous, comical, touching and spellbinding version of E.T.A. Hoffmann's Christmas tale was created in 1995 and has been enthralling audiences – especially children – ever since. It is a refreshingly traditional version of the story, replete with the details of childhood dreams and the appeal of fantasy. This is a ballet gloriously designed and costumed and brimming with affection for, and insight into, the passage from childhood to maturity that all children make.</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	CN Tower is Canada's National Tower and it defines the Toronto skyline; at 553.33m (1,815 ft., 5 in.) is the world's 2 nd tallest building
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	<p>and a Wonder of the Modern World. With breathtaking views from 3 observation levels including the Glass Floor and SkyPod, theatre, rides, arcade, exhibits, shopping and award-winning dining at 360 Restaurant, it's Toronto's most visited attraction. www.cntower.com Cost: Total Tower Experience is \$44 (2015)</p> <p>EdgeWalk at the CN Tower EdgeWalk operates seasonally from April to October</p> <p>EdgeWalk is CN Tower's most thrilling attraction in its 35 year history, and the first of its kind in North America. It is the world's highest full circle hands-free walk on a 5 ft (1.5 m) wide ledge encircling the top of the Tower's main pod, 356m/1168ft (116 storeys) above the ground. Visitors walk in groups of six, while attached to an overhead safety rail via a trolley and harness system. Trained EdgeWalk guides will encourage participants to push their personal limits, allowing them to lean back over Toronto with nothing but air and breathtaking views of Lake Ontario beneath them.</p> <p>Designed with the highest international safety and security standards in mind, EdgeWalk runs for 1.5 hours, with the outdoor walk lasting approximately 30 minutes. Tickets include a keepsake video, printed photos and certificate of achievement. Participants also receive a Tower Experience Ticket which includes access to LookOut, Glass Floor, SkyPod, Movie and Motion Theatre Ride.</p> <p>The EdgeWalk at the CN Tower will operate seasonally in all weather except for electrical storms, high winds or other extreme weather conditions. Varying weather conditions will make the EdgeWalk experience more unique. You need to dress appropriately for the weather conditions.</p> <p>EdgeWalk holds the Guinness World Record for the "Highest External Walk on a Building". I have recently experienced this thrill and lived to tell the tale – here is a photo of my experience: http://www.pinterest.com/pin/228768856044886281/</p>
<p>Beaches</p>	<p>Ashridges Bay: This is a great park in summer, close enough to the downtown core (just a short streetcar ride away) and the perfect place to spend a summer afternoon. On the beach, you'll see volleyball games going on, families having picnics, couples going for walks along the boardwalk, and lots of people soaking up the sun. It really doesn't feel like you're in the city at all. There's a laid-back vibe and the many independently owned restaurants and shops nearby add to the neighbourhood's easygoing charm. There are also beaches on</p>

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	Toronto Island's south shore, including Chelsea Beach.
Wildlife	<p>Toronto Zoo: Canada's premier Zoo offers over 5,000 animals and incredible exhibits including the award winning 30-acre "African Savanna," and the "Gorilla Rainforest", the largest indoor gorilla exhibit in North America and the NEW Great Barrier Reef and 2008 special exhibit, Stingray Bay-A Touching Experience. A must see- "Zellers Discovery Zone" featuring the "Kids Zoo", "Splash Island" and the "Waterside Theatre", home of the Amazing Animal Show (Seasonal). Visit the incredible 10-acre Tundra Trek featuring an amazing 5-acre Polar bear habitat complete with underwater viewing area, the Gorilla Rainforest home to a Western Lowland Gorilla troop and newest addition Nassir, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Discovery Zone featuring Kids Zoo, Splash Island and Waterside Theatre.</p> <p>Giant Panda experience: The Toronto Zoo has now opened the Giant Panda Experience, the new home of Er Shun and Da Mao, is now open. Before you get up close to this adorable new giant panda pair, you will have the chance to take in the new, state-of-the-art Panda Interpretive Centre. This climate controlled centre features many interpretive and interactive elements for visitors to enjoy year round. Interpretive themes will include Eating Bamboo, Threats to Giant Pandas, and Saving Giant Pandas. After the Panda Interpretive Centre visitors will have a chance to see Da Mao and Er Shun in either their outdoor exhibits or in their indoor holdings. Either way, remember to bring your camera to catch our dynamic duo! Visit www.torontozoo.com for full details.</p> <p>Also, I have seen white tailed deer, fox and coyote in the ravines system in the heart of the city.</p>
Parks	<p>High Park: A 400 acre wilderness park right on the subway system. Enjoy miles of nature trails plus a Trackless Train, Zoo, children's garden, grenadier pond, adventure playground, hillside gardens and a restored 1837 cottage.</p> <p>The Toronto Islands: Take a short ferry ride from downtown Toronto and you will find yourself in a serene, verdant and care-free paradise. With beaches, parkland, biking and hiking paths and even an amusement park for the youngsters – there is something for everyone in this green space spread over 14 separate islands.</p>
Gardens	<p>Toronto Botanical Garden - Designed to educate and inspire, Toronto Botanical Garden offers an array of 12 award-winning themed gardens spanning nearly four acres. You'll also find a complete range of innovative indoor and outdoor learning experiences for all ages including programs, garden tours, nature day camps, and an extensive</p>

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	<p>horticultural library. The LEED Silver Certified Building with its energy-efficient sloping green roof showcases environmental sustainability and architectural beauty. Two large event halls flow into open-air courtyards and are ideally suited for weddings and corporate events. Don't forget to visit the garden shop or seasonal café before you leave. Admission is free. Website: www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca</p> <p>Riverdale Farm - Wander 7.5 acres of farmland through wooded areas, around ponds, and into butterfly-herb-vegetable-flower gardens. It's the country in the middle of the city.</p> <p>Canada Blooms – March The Toronto Flower and Garden Show in March each year is the largest annual indoor flower and garden show in Canada. Featuring 6 acres of spectacular gardens, floral arrangements, horticultural displays, educational programs and a marketplace of garden related products. http://www.canadablooms.com</p>
Castles/Forts	<p>Fort York National Historic Site Visit the site of the 1813 Battle of York and the birthplace of modern Toronto. Fort York is home to Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings which now house exhibits and restored period room settings. This National Historic site is open year-round and offers seasonal guided tours, musket, drill and music demonstrations – see www.toronto.ca/fortyork for more details.</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>Toronto's vibrant sense of community among specific neighbourhoods across the city has created the continent's best street-level shopping. Peruse the windows of Bayview Village, the high-end boutiques of Bloor-Yorkville, the trendsetting shops of Queen West or the neighbourhood stores of Bloor West Village. Dig for amazing vintage finds in Kensington Market or enjoy a variety of distinct uptown shops in the Yonge/Eglington area.</p> <p>Toronto also boasts one-of-a-kind shopping adventures. This uniqueness comes to life in places like in Lululemon, a Canadian-based clothier and lifestyle merchant entirely devoted to fashionable yoga wear and accessories.</p> <p>For one of the best wine selections in the country, including an extensive vintages section, visit the Summerhill LCBO, the largest liquor store in Canada.</p>

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	<p>World renowned Holt Renfrew is not your typical department store – designer jeans, runway fashions and exclusive labels fill all three floors.</p> <p>Malls are also not a-miss, by putting everything in one place, malls offer the best opportunity to get the most stuff in the shortest amount of time. Toronto Eaton Centre is in the heart of the downtown and is filled with level upon level of clothes, shoes, music and everything else. In other areas of the city beyond downtown, you'll find more shopping at Yorkdale, Square One and Sherway Gardens. Head to Dixie Outlet Mall for sweet deals or Vaughan Mills for unique stores like Holt Renfrew Last Call and Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World.</p> <p>Shopping beyond downtown Great shopping and holiday spirit extends across Greater Toronto from two of Canada's largest malls, Vaughan Mills and Square One, to the truly unique Pacific Mall and the quaint boutiques of Old Town Markham and Unionville. There are even more options further afield, including Cookstown and Canada One outlets.</p>
<p>Markets</p>	<p>Toronto Christmas Market at the Distillery A magical market set among authentic Victorian-era architecture. Inspired by the Old World and influenced by the new, Toronto's first traditional European holiday market will capture the charm, heritage and romance of a bygone era while showcasing unique artisanal products of Toronto. Entertainment for the entire family includes live music, a Ferris wheel, holiday themed presentations and workshops, children's story telling and more. Location: The Distillery Historic District - 55 Mill St. www.torontochristmasmarket.com</p> <p>St Lawrence Market: Back in 1803, the governor proclaimed the area to be the "market block". Today the south building of St. Lawrence Market, dating from 1905, incorporates one of Toronto's former city halls. It holds more than 50 vendors hawking everything from maple syrup to live mussels. On Saturdays the north building springs to life at five in the morning. Regional farmers start setting out their seasonal produce while it's still dark and everything from emu eggs to apples can be found. See the special feature at the end of these notes for more details.</p> <p>Kensington Market: This colorful, lively area should not be missed. You'll hear Caribbean, Portuguese, Italian, and other accents as merchants spread out their wares - squid and crabs in pails; chickens, pigeons, bread, cheese, apples, pears, peppers, ginger, and mangoes from the West Indies; salted fish from Portuguese dories; lace, fabrics,</p>

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	<p>and other colorful remnants. There's no market on Sunday. Kensington Avenue itself is a treasure trove of vintage clothing stores. Admittedly, you'll see a lot of junk here, but amazing finds can be had at shops such as Courage My Love (14 Kensington Ave.). Most of the shops display their wares out of doors in decent weather, adding to the color and charm of the area.</p> <p>The Evergreen Brick Works Farmers' Market features the best of the season, with a fabulous assortment of fruits, vegetables, wild fish, meat, cheese, milled flours, eggs and oils—all from local farmers. The market takes place in The Pavilions from May to October. During the colder months, from November to April, the market moves indoors to the Young Welcome Centre. http://ebw.evergreen.ca/whats-on/farmers-market</p>
Nightlife	<p>Queen Street West is the most happening area currently. Spacious and edgy with maverick touches, the newest addition to Toronto's nightlife is Tattoo Rock Parlour, the city's only live rock n' roll and DJ venue equipped with a resident tattoo shop. Featuring a fireplace, stage for live music and upper level that holds two bars, Tattoo Rock Parlour will amuse the senses of even the most bona fide rock star. For more information visit www.tattoorockparlour.com</p>
Casinos	<p>At Niagara (90 minutes away) and Casino Rama, near Orillia, a similar distance to the north.</p>

CUISINE	
Food	<p>Every cuisine under the sun; "Winterlicious" and "Summerlicious" food festivals are very cost effective ways of eating your way around Toronto!</p>
Wine	<p>Ontario's vineyards are 60 minutes away on the Niagara Peninsula – see the Destination file on Ontario's Wine Country on this website for full details at: http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/destinations.asp?destination=ontario_wine Also my Travel Blog: http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2011/07/wine-country-ontario_07.html</p>
Restaurants	<p>Dining out is nothing short of a passion in Toronto. It's not that residents are too lazy to cook, but we are spoiled by the embarrassment of edible riches in all parts of the city.</p> <p>The city is a restaurant-goer's nirvana for a wealth of reasons. For starters, there are more than 7,000 places to choose among. They represent cooking styles from any country or nationality you can name, making Toronto's culinary scene both eclectic and palate-teasing. Eating out is also remarkably affordable: While the most expensive</p>

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restaurants have broken the C\$50-an-entrée mark, there are many, many reasonably priced options that offer inventive cooking and attentive service.

Mediterranean and Asian cuisines dominate the scene - and often appear on the same plate. Fusion cooking caught on big here and has never lost its steam. Many restaurants that started out as, say, Italian have incorporated ingredients and cooking styles from Southeast Asia and North Africa, among other haute spots. Each wave of immigration has carried new ideas and flavors.

While restaurants of all descriptions are found across the city, certain neighborhoods are renowned for their specialties: Little Italy for its trattorias, Chinatown for its Chinese and Vietnamese eateries, and the Danforth for its Greek tavernas. King Street West has unexpectedly become a magnet for gourmets in the past couple of years, offering a bevy of bistros and boîtes.

In coordination with the dramatic Michael Lee-Chin Crystal addition to the Royal Ontario Museum, **Crystal Five (C5) Restaurant Lounge** is on the fifth floor. Located at the pinnacle of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, Crystal Five is a unique dining destination. Using local and artisanal ingredients, menu items can be paired with wines from the international and regional wine list. For more information visit www.rom.on.ca

Exceptional '**ONE**' restaurant by international chef Mark McEwan is open at the new five star Hazelton Hotel, offering elegant dining in a sea of smoked glass, beautiful cowhide, and boldly striped tiger-eye onyx. Modern North American cuisine delights and surprises the senses with contemporary flourishes. 'ONE' features one of the largest street-level patios in the Yorkville area, the perfect spot to sip a coffee for the afternoon and watch as pedestrians stroll by or shop in the area's upscale boutiques. www.thehazeltonhotel.com

Located at Queen's Quay, Toronto's laid back waterfront neighbourhood, the newest **Shoeless Joe's Restaurant** brings all the sports action on dozens of screens to the water's edge. For more information visit www.shoelessjoes.ca

Sassafras is once again the heart of the posh Yorkville area of Toronto, having reopened after fire destroyed most of the building. The new Sassafras features chef Bradley MacDonald's newly revamped menu of contemporary Canadian dishes based in French cuisine, a 20-

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	<p>foot indoor vertical garden and a new rooftop patio that brings seating capacity to 350. Described as the centre of where all the excitement happens, the celebrity destination is open until 2 a.m. For more information visit www.sassafras.ca</p> <p>And finally a plug for my local pub, The Rebel House, at 1068 Yonge Street (close to Rosedale subway station) which serves gastropub fare of high quality and always has interesting beers on tap. Who knows? I may see you there! www.rebelhouse.ca</p>
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