



ONTARIO & QUEBEC  
**GUIDE TO  
HI HOSTELS  
2009-10**

**Toronto**



  
**petit futé**

# TORONTO



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**46°N 71°W**

**Population :**  
City: 2,500,000  
inhabitants

City and suburbs:  
6,882,000 inhabitants  
3,972 people per km<sup>2</sup>

Toronto is Canada's largest metropolis and the capital of Ontario. Once seen as rather boring, the city has awakened and today is among the liveliest places in North America.

Music, hockey, and architecture buffs: get ready to discover a fascinating city!

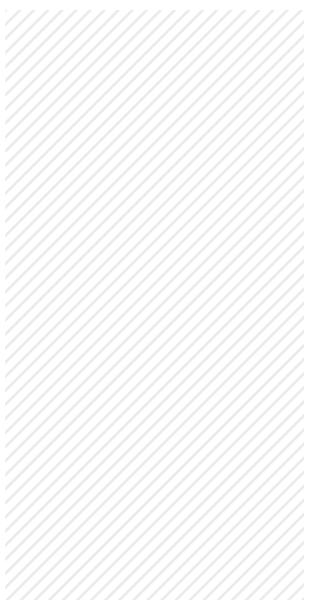
Whatever the hour, there are always a thousand things to do in Toronto. Downtown (careful you don't get a crick in your neck) you can admire the impressive architecture of the skyscrapers. Closer to sea level (or even below!) clothing, music, and electronic stores offer vast selections. For a taste of the exotic, explore one of the city's many ethnic neighbourhoods - Toronto welcomes thousands of new immigrants every year. A few landmarks,



such as the CN Tower and the arts and hockey museums, are sure to catch your eye.

Another option is a barefoot walk on the beach, which is only a few steps from downtown. Just hop on the public ferry and let it bring you to a long beach of fine sand, or make your way to the Beaches district. For a moment you might wonder if you're still in Toronto!

Come evening, a vast selection of bars and clubs await you – the underground scene, Latin music venues, and rock bars are but a few options. Summer brings different festivals almost weekly.



## HI-TORONTO

76, Church St. | 416-971-4440 / 1-877-848-8737

www.hihostels.ca/toronto | toronto@hihostels.ca

*Open year-round.*

The perfect location to get the most out of Toronto's dynamism and attractions! You're just a couple of minutes from the docks where the boats that go to the islands arrive and depart. The St. Lawrence market, where you'll find all you need to whip up a real feast, is also close by.

At the hostel itself, you won't be at a loss for entertainment! There's a comfortable living room where you can chat with fellow travellers from around the world, a café (the Cavern café) that offers delicious breakfasts and dinners, and a gorgeous terrace on the fifth floor... so inviting you could spend the entire day there! To encourage you to go out and explore, the hostel organizes activities such as trips to the islands, pub crawls, University of Toronto guided tours, etc.

### Getting there by public transportation

**By air:** From the Lester B. Pearson International Airport, take the Airport Express bus and get off at the Royal York Hotel. You can then jump in a cab (\$5-\$10) or make the 10-minute walk to the hostel. If you're walking, head east on Front Street and turn left on Church Street. Cab fare from the airport is expensive (over \$50.)

**By bus:** The hostel is a 10- to 15-minute walk away. Head south on Bay Street until you reach Adelaide Street. Then take a left on Adelaide and walk west until you hit Church Street. Turn right on Church to the hostel.

**By train:** The station is a 10-minute walk from the hostel. Walk east on Front Street and make a left on Church Street.

### Rates:

*Shared rooms:* From \$26 for members, \$30 for non-members.

*Private rooms:* From \$80 for members, \$90 for non-members (includes 2 breakfasts).

### Number of beds: 160

**On-site services:** Guest kitchen, Internet access (\$), free Wi-Fi, pool and foosball tables (\$), tourist information, laundry, air conditioning, elevator, restaurant, TV room, HI reservation centre.

**Amenities for families:** Accommodation is free for children 5 and under and half price for those 16 and under.



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# ACTIVITIES

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## YEAR-ROUND

### **DOWNTOWN**

With gigantic yet elegant skyscrapers and streets filled with armies of dynamic business people, the downtown area is best visited during the day; as soon as the clock hits five, it is transformed into a near no man's land.

### **CHINATOWN**

From Huron Street to Spadina Avenue (east to west) and from College Street to Queen Street (north to south).

Chinatown, which occupies several streets near the downtown core, is a succession of Asian food stores, beauty parlours, and restaurants. A great area to grab a delicious and cheap bite to eat.



## KENSINGTON MARKET

From Augusta Avenue to Spadina (east to west) and from College Street to Dundas Street (north to south).

Located just behind Chinatown, this market has a hip, bohemian vibe. Laid-back eateries serve healthy meals or world cuisine. Small shops sell colourful, original clothing and other items. The Blue Banana (250 Augusta Avenue) is definitely worth checking out.

## CN TOWER

Can't miss it!

416-86-TOWER | [www.cntower.ca](http://www.cntower.ca)

*Adults: \$27. Discounts for HI members if tickets are bought from the hostel.*

*Summer: open daily 9 am to 11 pm.*

*Winter: open daily 9 am to 10 pm.*

*(Fri. and Sat.: open till 10:30 pm.)*

The CN Tower, a Toronto landmark, is the second-tallest building in the world (553 m, 1815 ft.). With its unusual design, which dates back to 1976, and see-through floors, it attracts 2 million visitors per year. On top of providing amazing views of the city and Lake Ontario, the tower is home to a café, a revolving restaurant, a video arcade, and a ride simulator. The film *The Height of Excellence* fills you in on how this unique tower was built.

## **HOCKEY HALL OF FAME**

Brookfield Place | 416-360-7735 | [www.hhof.com](http://www.hhof.com) | King Metro

*Adults: \$13. Summer: open Mon.–Sat. 9:30 am to 6 pm. Winter: open Mon.–Fri. 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday 9:30 to 6 pm and Sunday 10:30 am to 5 pm. Tickets sold at the hostel.*

It's a hockey fan paradise! The only place in the world where the average person can have his or her picture taken with the Stanley Cup! Placed under the magnificent dome of an old bank, the famed Cup is the star of this exhibit. The museum also contains objects associated with various NHL and other league players – both here and abroad – and informative displays highlighting their biographies. A film revisits the greatest moments of hockey's history. Should you feel so inclined, you may jump on the "ice" and defend your goal from the slap shots of legendary players... in virtual reality, of course!

## **ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM**

100 Queen's Park | 416-586-8000 | [www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca) | Museum Metro

*Adults: \$22. Fridays are half-price starting at 4:30 pm. Open Mon.–Thurs. 10 am to 5:30 pm, Friday 10 am to 9:30 pm and Sat. & Sun. 10 am to 5:30 pm.*

Located in a gorgeous building whose architecture tastefully incorporates tradition and modernity, this museum houses many fascinating permanent exhibits. Certain sections are devoted to world civilizations, while others showcase Canadian painters such as the renowned Group of Seven. Ask about the temporary exhibits – they're often worth a detour.

## **CASA LOMA**

1 Austin Terrace | 416-923-1171 | [www.casaloma.org](http://www.casaloma.org) | Dupont Metro.

*Open daily 9:30 am to 5 pm. Discounts for HI members.*

A Disneyesque castle of fantastic proportions, Casa Loma was built by Henry Mill Pellatt, a prominent financier with big ambitions. Unfortunately, he eventually had to declare bankruptcy and lived in this opulent palace for only 10 or so years. Be sure to visit if you have a thing for crenellated towers, mahogany wood floors, and splendid, quiet parks.

## **ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO**

317 Dundas St West | 416-979-6648 | [www.ago.net](http://www.ago.net) | Osgoode Metro.

Following substantial renovations, the museum reopened to the public in November 2008. There are now 110 exhibition rooms housing 4,000 pieces. The collections range from primitive art to contemporary art, with superb paintings from the Renaissance period. A fascinating museum.



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## **BATA SHOE MUSEUM**

327, Bloor St | 416-979-7799

[www.batashoemuseum.ca](http://www.batashoemuseum.ca)

*St. George Metro. Adults: \$12. Open*

*Mon.–Wed. and Fri. & Sat. 10 am*

*to 5 pm. Thursday: 10 am to 8*

*pm. Sunday: noon to 3 pm.*

All about shoes! More than simply educational, this museum's collections are filled with amazing representatives of the shoe species... a feast for the eyes! To highlight the shoe's varied history, it also showcases shoes worn by famous people, such as Toronto's famous pianist Glenn Gould.

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## **SUMMER**

### **THE ISLANDS**

*Accessible via public ferry.*

*Adults: \$6 return ticket.*

A wide white-sand beach a few minutes from downtown? What more could you ask for! Lake Ontario's water is said to be fit for swimming in these areas: we tested it for you and came out absolutely fine! In addition to swimming, you can explore the islands by going for a stroll or bike ride.

# DINING

## Hot dogs

Sold everywhere  
on the street!

Beef, chicken,  
and even veggie  
hotdogs are Toronto's  
answer to fast and  
ready street food.

## ST. LAWRENCE MARKET

Corner of Front and Jarvis streets

[www.stlawrencemarket.com](http://www.stlawrencemarket.com)

*Closed Sun. & Mon. Open Tues.–Thurs. 8 am to 6 pm.*

*Friday: 8 am to 7 pm. Saturday: 5 am to 5 pm.*

A short walk from the hostel, this large market abounds with delicious fresh produce: fish, meat, fruits, and vegetables. The stands also offer excellent ready-to-eat options, such as Italian sandwiches filled with breaded meat and scrumptious Eastern European stuffed ravioli. Eat there (inside or on the terrace) or take it to go.



© Isabelle Boyer

## BEER BISTRO

18 King E | 416-861-9872

A restaurant popular with young professionals who come to unwind after a day at the office. The food is a tad expensive, but very good. Vast selection of beers. Very close to the hostel.

## QUEEN STREET

*Between Clarendon and University.*

This hip street is chock-a-block with nice little restaurants, often drawing on ethnic flavours. Among our faves, try Rotis (554 Queens Street West) for its widely renowned, affordable, and delicious curries and Fressen (478 Queen Street West) which has an excellent selection of delicately flavoured vegan tapas.

# ENTERTAINMENT



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## NEAR THE HOSTEL

### **C'EST WHAT ?**

67 Front St East | 416-867-9499

This large tapas bar-cum-pool hall hosts music shows and draws in the crowds! Its home-brewed beers – particularly the Hemp beer – are very popular.

### **PRAVDA VODKA BAR**

44 Wellington St East | 416-863-5244

A hip and happening place with a stellar selection of vodkas.

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## DISTILLERY DISTRICT

What was once the largest distillery of the British Empire has been transformed into an appealing pedestrian district. It contains a large playhouse and several coffee houses and bars such as Mill St. Brew Pub, which makes its own beer. In the summer, the terraces are quite lively.

### **QUEEN AND KING STREETS**

*Between Claremont and University.*

We won't even attempt to tell you which bar to visit... there are simply too many! By walking around the neighbourhood, you will most certainly find the kind of venue that suits your tastes, musical preferences, and desires, whether you are in the mood for a live show or a good night of goofy dancing.

# MEMBER DISCOUNTS

(in addition to those previously mentioned)

## HARD ROCK CAFE TORONTO

Upon presentation of a valid membership card:

Front-of-the-line seating: when there is a waiting list, members will get the first available table(s)

Access to group menu price: members will have access to our Metallica Group Menu (\$19.00 including taxes and gratuity) on an individual basis

Value added offer: members will receive a complimentary souvenir/ gift with every retail purchase of \$25.00 or more (before taxes)

279 Yonge St | 416-362-3636

[www.hardrock.com](http://www.hardrock.com)

## GREAT LAKES SCHOONER

10% discount

249 Queen's Quay W Suite 111

416-203-2322

[www.greatlakesschooner.com](http://www.greatlakesschooner.com)

## EUROPEBOUND

7% discount

383 King St. West

416-601-1990

[www.europebound.com](http://www.europebound.com)

## MARIPOSA CRUISES

20% discount on one-hour narrated harbour tour

207 Queen's Quay W., Suite 415

416-203-0178

[www.mariposacruzises.com](http://www.mariposacruzises.com)

## ROGERS CENTRE TOUR EXPERIENCE

\$2.00 discount

1 Blue Jays Way

416-341-2770

[www.rogerscentre.com](http://www.rogerscentre.com)

## RAINBOW MARKET SQUARE CINEMAS

\$3.00 discount on evening shows

80 Front East

416-494-9371

[www.rainbowcinemas.ca](http://www.rainbowcinemas.ca)

## TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

\$1.00 discount on the regular entry fee

55 Centre Avenue

416-599-5321

[www.textilemuseum.ca](http://www.textilemuseum.ca)

