



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

**Ottawa**



  
**petit futé**

# OTTAWA

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**45°N 75°W**

**Population :**

**Town: 812,000  
inhabitants**

**Town and suburbs:  
846,000 inhabitants  
292 people per km<sup>2</sup>**

Canada's capital offers world-class culture surrounded by nature !

Ottawa is a hot spot for tourists, and with good reason. As Canada's capital, the city offers access to some of the world's most renowned galleries, museums, and festivals. The National Gallery of Canada is one of the country's oldest cultural institutions, and features landmark work from international and Canadian artists. The Canadian Museum of Civilization is Canada's most visited museum, and is famous for its stunning architecture and leading-edge technology.

The city also offers unlimited options for nature lovers. Gatineau Park – just 15 minutes from downtown Ottawa – has over 36,000 hectares of forest and lakes, and over 200 kilometres of ski and bike trails. In the heart of the city, you'll find over 170 kilometres of pathways that you can run, walk, bike, or rollerblade on. And of course, there's the Rideau Canal, which serves as the world's longest skating rink during the winter.

Whatever your interests, you'll find what you're looking for in Canada's capital. But don't take our word for it... come and see for yourself!

## HI-OTTAWA OTTAWA JAIL HOSTEL

75, Nicholas | 613-235-2595 / 1-866-299-1478

[www.hihostels.ca/ottawa](http://www.hihostels.ca/ottawa) | [ottawa.jail@hihostels.ca](mailto:ottawa.jail@hihostels.ca)

*Open all year-round*



Our Ottawa hostel has made quite a name for itself. From 1862 to the early 1970s, the building operated as a jail. But don't let that fool you. Over the past 30 years, we've invested millions of dollars to transform the building into a modern facility with the latest amenities for your comfort.

We've kept a few rooms as they were, in case you're looking for an authentic jail experience. But for the rest of you, you'll be treated to a cozy, furnished hostel room – shared or private. The common spaces are also thoroughly up-to-date; we have a fully equipped kitchen and a spacious TV room.

### **Getting there by public transportation**

*From the airport:* Take bus 97 to the Mackenzie King stop. Walk east to the hostel.

*From the bus station:* Take bus 4 (stops at the corner of Arlington and Kent) to the Rideau Centre. Walk two blocks south to Nicholas Street. The hostel is on the left.

*From the train station:* Take bus 95 to the Rideau Centre. Then walk east to the hostel.

**Rates:** *Shared rooms:* from \$28 for members, \$33 for non-members.

*Private rooms:* from \$70 for members, \$80 for non-members.

**On-site services:** Parking, free Wi-Fi and Internet access, kitchen, breakfast available, TVs and DVD players, board games, tourist information, lockers, organized activities, museum ticket sales.

**Amenities for families:** private rooms, discount rates for children, high chairs.

# ACTIVITIES

## YEAR-ROUND

Ottawa offers so many activities that the only limiting factor will be time. You can tour Parliament Hill, take in a performance at the National Art Centre, or visit the Canada Science and Technology Museum or the Canadian Museum of Nature. Here are a few of our favourite spots to visit – we offer discounted tickets to hostel guests.

### **CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM**

1 Vimy Place | 819-776-8600 or 1 800-555-5621 | [www.warmuseum.ca](http://www.warmuseum.ca)  
Canada's newest national museum, the Canadian War Museum features permanent and special exhibitions that document how war has shaped our country. It focuses on conflicts from our earliest military past to present day.

### **NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA**

380 Promenade Sussex | 613-990-1985 / 1 800-319-2787 | [www.gallery.ca](http://www.gallery.ca)  
The National Gallery of Canada (NGC) is one of the world's premiere art institutions. From controversial modern exhibits to classic pieces from Degas and van Gogh, the Gallery offers a collection you won't find anywhere else. As a national institution, the NGC makes a point of showcasing Canadian artists, including Joseph Légaré and Alex Colville.

### **CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION**

100 Laurier, Gatineau | 819-776-7000 / 1 800-555-5621 | [www.civilization.ca](http://www.civilization.ca)  
The Canadian Museum of Civilization is known as much for its unique architecture as for its impressive exhibits. Designed by world-renowned Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal, the museum presents a thousand years of our nation's history, including the world's largest indoor collection of totem poles, and the spectacular First Peoples Hall.

### **CRIME & PUNISHMENT JAIL TOUR AND GHOSTS IN THE GALLOWES TOUR**

73 Clarence or 75 Nicholas | 613-232-0344 | [www.hauntedwalk.com](http://www.hauntedwalk.com)  
Two walks. Two truths. Find out everything you want to know about the history behind the hostel you're staying in. The Crime and Punishment Jail Tour will fill you in on the bare facts. The Ghosts in the Gallows Tour will open your eyes to some of the lesser-known details of the inmates who once frequented your room... and who may not have left. Goosebumps guaranteed.

## **OTTAWA ART GALLERY**

2 Daly Avenue | 613-233-8699

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

This little, hidden gem is pay-what-you-can, and you'll never find a better deal. For whatever price you can afford, you get access to the Firestone Collection, featuring the world's largest collection of Group of Seven paintings. The gallery is also right next to our hostel. You can't beat that!

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## **SUMMER**

### **BLUESFEST**

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

Of all the music festivals in Ottawa, Bluesfest is one of the most impressive. Past line-ups boast performers such as Fergie, Snoop Dog, Kanye West, Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, and The Tragically Hip. Every year, this event rocks LeBreton Flats for a week and a half during mid-summer.

### **SUNDAY BIKEDAYS**

[www.canadascapital.gc.ca](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca)

From late May to late August, Ottawa goes green(er) on Sunday mornings. Some 50 km of roads are blocked off to motorists, making way for cyclists and rollerbladers.

### **CANADA DAY**

What better way to celebrate Canada's birthday than in the capital? On July 1, Parliament

Hill transforms into party central, with concerts, magnificent fireworks, and the RCMP Musical Ride to mark the occasion.

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## **HIVER**

### **RIDEAU CANAL**

At 7.8 km, the Rideau Canal is the world's largest skating rink. It was recently added to UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. If you didn't bring your own skates, you can rent a pair at Dow's Lake Pavilion. And don't forget to stop by Hooker's for one of their famous Beavertails – deep-fried and delicious!

### **WINTERLUDE**

For nearly three weeks in February, the famous Winterlude festivities take over the downtown area. Canada's winter celebration features an international ice sculpture competition, outdoor shows, and countless activities. Where else can you dog sled through a major metropolis?

### **HOCKEY**

How could Canada's national winter sport not be showcased in our nation's capital? We're home to the Ottawa Senators. And in December 2009, we're proud to be hosting the World Junior Hockey Championships at Scotiabank Place.

## DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

### AROUND THE BYWARD MARKET

Ottawa's popular ByWard Market offers dozens of cafés, restaurants, and pubs for all appetites and budgets. Here are our top picks.

#### BLACK TOMATO

11 George Street  
613-789-8123  
Eclectic menu, eclectic music. Try it yourself for a taste of something out of the ordinary.

#### THE BRIG

23 York Street  
613-562-6666  
Roomy bar with several terraces, a dozen beers on tap, and a limited but tasty selection of food.

#### ZAPHOD'S

27 York Street  
613-562-1010  
Hot spot for local students, featuring theme nights and hip, edgy musical performers.

### OUTSIDE THE BYWARD MARKET DISTRICT

Whether you want fine dining or a cozy, low-key meal, Ottawa has what you're looking for. Be sure to hit Elgin Street – the 24-hour Elgin Street Diner is a must-visit. Here are a few of our other favourites.

#### THE WORKS

580 Bank  
613-235-0406  
Endless burger options, each as delicious as the next!

#### BARRYMORE'S

323 Bank  
613-233-0307  
Don't let the plain exterior fool you – this venue features a great variety of concerts.

#### SPINS & NEEDLES AND DISCO BINGO

[www.spinsandneedles.com](http://www.spinsandneedles.com)  
These unique events – hosted by nomadic DJs – pop up at various Ottawa bars, art galleries, and other unusual spaces.

# MEMBER DISCOUNTS

(in addition to those previously mentioned)

## GREAT CANADIAN BUNJEE

25% off

819-459-3714

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

## MAPLE LEAF SOUVENIRS

15% off all souvenirs (excluding food and tobacco products)

59, William

613-241-9505

## ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR

10% off all rentals

1 800-261-7331

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

## LIVING COLOR TATTOO

10% off all body art and jewellery

412, Dalhousie, Ottawa

613-241-4961

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

