

## AN INTRODUCTION TO

# Ottawa

CANADA'S CAPITAL



## OTTAWA FAST FACTS

- Canada's capital city, is located in the province of Ontario at the Québec border. Flying time: 1 hour east of Toronto, 1 1/2 hours north of New York City, 25 minutes west of Montreal and 7 hours (direct) from London, England
- Impressive yet intimate metropolitan area of 1.1 million English- and French-speaking residents and growing multicultural communities
- Attributes: national and historic sites, cultural attractions, a beautiful natural setting supporting year-round recreation and adventure, a relaxed urban rhythm with distinctive neighbourhoods, and a very walkable downtown

## EXTRAORDINARY CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS



The **Canadian Museum of Civilization** celebrates Canadian and world cultures. The Grand Hall, on the main level of the museum, houses an exhibition of six Pacific coast Indian house facades connected by a shoreline and boardwalk, and the largest collection of indoor totem poles in the world.



The **Canadian Museum of Nature** has undergone a major revitalization over the last 5 years and reopened the historic "castle" in May 2010 with a selection of new and upgraded galleries - think dinosaurs, blue whales and more!



Want to see and learn more about the famous **Royal Canadian Mounted Police** and their beautiful horses? Why not visit the **RCMP Stables**. Tour the stables, meet the horses and experience a living tribute to Canadian heritage and history.



Rich in cultural treasures and attractions, Ottawa invites visitors to experience the best of Canada all in one place. The **National Gallery of Canada**, houses the country's national art collection and hosts outstanding special exhibitions.

## MUST-SEE LANDMARK CAPITAL SIGHTS



Famous national landmarks and historic sights greet visitors around every corner in Canada's capital, and foremost among them is **Parliament Hill**. It's the seat of Canada's federal government and the setting for pomp and celebration including **Canada Day** (July 1), the daily **Changing the Guard** ceremony and nightly **Sound and Light Show** in the summer. Parliament offers free daily tours and rides to the top of the soaring **Peace Tower** for a spectacular 360° view of the city.



The **Rideau Canal**, Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage Site, winds through the heart of Ottawa, and is filled with sightseeing cruises, pleasure boats, canoes and kayaks.

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## SEASONAL FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Ottawans enjoy festivals all year long!



**February – Winterlude**  
(North America's greatest winter celebration)



**May – The largest Tulip Festival**  
in the world.



**Late June – TD Canada Trust Ottawa International Jazz Festival.**



**July 1 – Canada Day Festival**  
(a huge celebration of Canada's birthday on Parliament Hill!)



**Early to mid-July – Cisco Ottawa Blues Festival** (one of the largest music festivals in North America).



**Late July to early August – Ottawa Chamber Music Festival** (the largest in the world).



**Early August – Rideau Canal Festival** (celebrating the UNESCO Heritage Designated waterway).



**Mid-August – Ottawa Folk Festival**

**Fall** – As the leaves turn colour each autumn, **Gatineau Park** hosts **Fall Rhapsody**, welcoming hikers, cyclists and casual strollers for nature awareness programming.

Other **festivals** celebrate our multicultural communities, dragon boats, beach volleyball, Pride week, hot air balloons and more.

## RELAXED URBAN EXPERIENCES



Surprisingly intimate with a very walkable downtown, Ottawa is an urban setting that's relaxed, friendly and welcoming. The eclectic **ByWard Market** just east of Parliament Hill is a visitor favourite: a farmers' market and shopping district by day, with chic dining, outdoor cafés and lively clubs and pubs by night.

Ottawa's culinary scene is alive with a community of chefs gaining national and international acclaim and opening their own restaurants! The **Savour Ottawa** initiative encourages and promotes the use of locally grown and produced foods and their appearances on local menus.



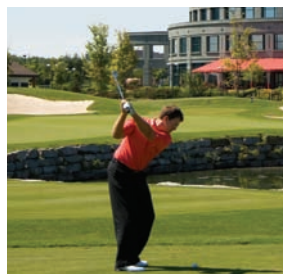
For a change of pace, the **Casino du Lac-Leamy** offers exciting gaming and entertainment.

## SPORTS, RECREATION & ADVENTURE

Ottawa is a natural for sports and outdoor recreation enthusiasts. May's **Ottawa Race Weekend** attracts thousands of top national and international runners. During spring, summer and fall, Ottawa's 175 km (108 mi.) of paved recreational paths welcome cyclists, inline skaters and runners.



The Capital's many waterways are ideal for kayaking, canoeing and boating, and the upper **Ottawa River** is one of the top 5 white-water rafting rivers in the world. Ottawa has more great **golf courses** within an easy drive of downtown than any other Canadian city.



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