

# TORONTO

## An English Student's Guide



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# DISCLAIMER

Whilst all efforts have been made by the author to ensure that the information herein is accurate at the time of writing, the reader is advised to double check the information at the time of travel to ensure it is still relevant. As the data can be changed by third parties, the author takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the data herein. The information presented is intended as a guide only to help the reader during the trip, and no data is intended as advertising or other purposes.

All prices are in Canadian Dollars.

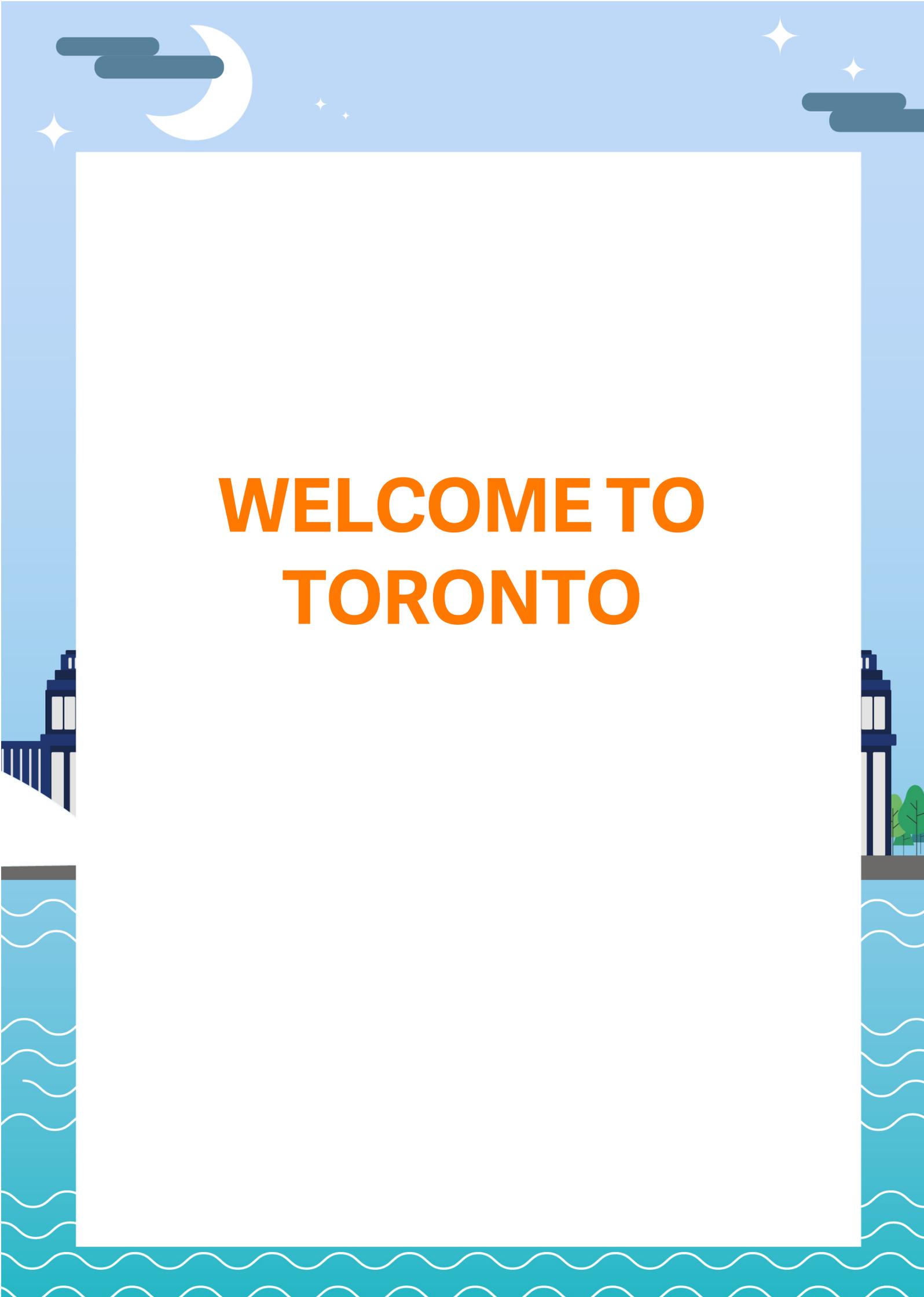
# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide will offer you challenges to practise your language skills in addition to showing you what to see and why to study in Toronto. You will find tips scattered throughout the book with instructions such as:

**BEGINNER LEVEL TIP** Step out of your comfort zone by talking to someone at the library, whether they are a member of the staff or a library user (whisper, of course, since it's a library). Ask for help with finding a particular book or genre.

Each tip will advise you on the level of English required – Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced. However, feel free to try everything and challenge your English skills. Remember, practice makes perfect!





**WELCOME TO  
TORONTO**

If you're looking for vibrant city life, a mix of historical architecture, massive modern skyscrapers, and taste of Canadian culture, then Toronto is the place for you!

Toronto offers cosmopolitan life at its very best, however, before we lay down the basics, let's take a quick look at the extraordinary:

- The entertainment district in Toronto is the place to be for 30,000 clubbers every Saturday night. How's that for awesome night life!
- Toronto has the biggest zoo in Canada. Unless you're an experienced zoologist, you are guaranteed to find a species you've never even seen before.
- Toronto is a multicultural epicentre, with half of its population born outside Canada. You`re never going to feel out of place in this city!
- You can enjoy an adrenaline-filled, 360-degree "walk" around a building 356 ft. above ground level. You guessed it; this is the iconic CN Tower, once the tallest skyscraper in the world.
- Oh yes! And you can dance with dinosaurs. Read on we'll tell u how.



## Toronto: The Basics

Toronto is the capital city of Ontario, home to 2.6 million inhabitants. Often referred to as "The New York of Canada", Toronto is also the largest city in Canada. Located in a prime position, on the northwest shore of Lake Ontario, the city features a 46-kilometre (29 mile) long waterfront shoreline.

If you're into sightseeing, Toronto will charm you with a beautiful blend of historic buildings and modern, cutting-edge architecture. As one would expect from a vibrant cosmopolitan city, the entertainment goes on 24/7 and includes great shopping, food extravaganzas, live music, sports activities, and great nightlife!

There are 5 impossible-to-miss things that will make your stay in Toronto truly worthwhile:

- The 360-degree view from atop the CN Tower
- The variety of excellent nightlife (clubs & bars open 24\7)
- The large number and wide variety of free festivals and events
- The fast-paced, business-orientated environment that will inspire and motivate you
- The bargain: \$3 streetcar fee to get around the city (super cheap for a modern city)!





# **WHY LEARN ENGLISH IN TORONTO?**

Iconic, exciting, clean, and safe - Toronto is the place to be in Canada! If you are free-spirited, eager to learn, and curious to explore, Toronto is bound to impress you. The city has a unique way of offering the excitement of a fast-paced, cosmopolitan life, combined with the friendliness and warmth of Canadian hospitality and culture - but Toronto is not just about having fun!

## World-Class Education

In Toronto you can benefit from access to world-class educational facilities. The schools here take pride in being leading educational bodies and a beacon of education in North America and the rest of the world.

**ADVANCED LEVEL TIP:** Use your time around the city to practise. The best way to do that is to ask for directions. Try to speak to at least one person a day, whether a restaurant server, or the person sitting next to you in the bus. Take every available opportunity to practise your English in REAL LIFE situations.

## Multicultural Community of Students

There is a reason why Toronto is world-famous for its multiculturalism; the city welcomes and embraces all cultures, attracting more than 10 million tourists and 800,000 students every year. When you study English in Toronto, you get to connect with an amazing community of students from all over the world. Imagine the memories you'll make, friendships you'll build, and potential job opportunities you could create!

## Endless Opportunities & Resources

Studying English abroad is more than a learning journey - it's a new chapter of your life, an opportunity to discover new things, experience a new place, and grow alongside new people!



Toronto has it all, with something to see and do to suit everyone's tastes offering endless opportunities and resources to practise your English in and out of the classroom!

## **Fun, Fun, Fun**

If you love Toronto and want to take your education to the next level, studying English here is the way to go. After all, the city is known to have one of the most highly-educated populations in the world.

The University of Toronto is the largest and highest-ranked in Canada, and is a World Top 20 university. Even if you are not planning to apply to study here, it's well worth paying a visit.





# **10 WAYS TO PRACTISE YOUR ENGLISH IN TORONTO**

You'll learn a lot about the English language in class, but what's the best way to put your newly-acquired skills to use outside the classroom? The busy streets of Toronto offer many fantastic opportunities to practise your English language skills. Let's take a look at 10 ways to challenge your knowledge of the language and learn to use it in a variety of real-life situations.

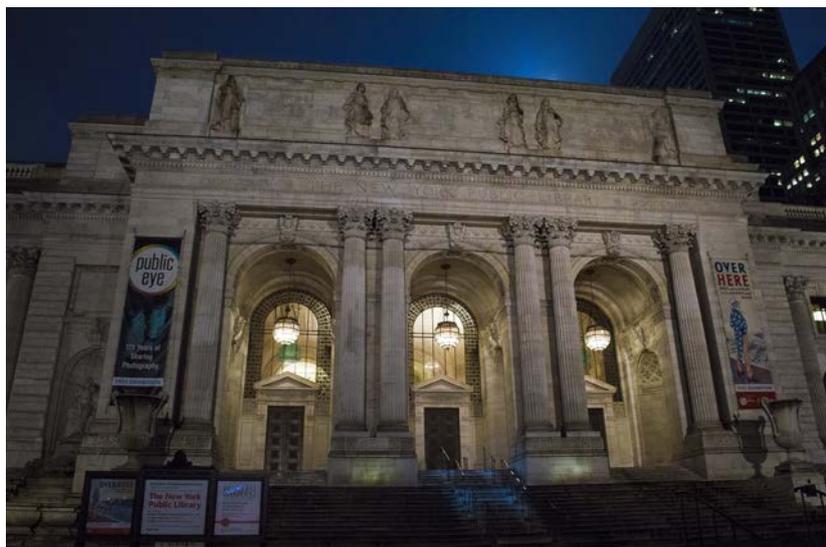
## 1. Find the hidden gem on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Toronto Reference Library

Check out the Language Centre on the 5th floor of the Toronto Reference Library, which can be found at 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8. Here, you can practise your listening and pronunciation skills for free, since the centre is equipped with headphones and audio/DVD/video-players.

This is also the perfect place to make some new friends! You'll be surrounded by other students just like you, looking to connect and practise English. Find out more info about this at the official website for the Toronto Reference Library.

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?R=LIB018>

**BEGINNER LEVEL TIP:** Step out of your comfort zone by talking to someone at the library, whether it's a member of staff or a fellow library user (whisper, because it's a library). Ask for help with finding a specific book or genre.



## 2. Join an English conversation circle

You should also visit the TPL (Toronto Public Library) and hang around for an English conversation circle. This is open to anyone who would like to practise their speaking skills, and is designed to help speakers immerse themselves in Canadian culture. Find out more about this program and how to join on the [official TPL website](#).

## 3. Go on an art tour at the University of Toronto

Do you want a 3-in-1 experience when you visit the University of Toronto? Go on a free art tour of the Hart House, hosted by a university student.

As you are guided through the 650-piece art collection at the University, you will get to practise your listening and speaking skills. Don't forget to interact and ask questions!

Find out more information about the Hart House at University of Toronto, and the schedule for the free tours, at the [Art Museum's official website](#).

## 4. Watch a movie in unique surroundings

Watching a movie at a drive-in theatre surrounded by water is certainly a quirky way to practise your listening skills. You can enjoy this at the Polson Pier Drive-in Theatre.

**ADVANCED LEVEL TIP:** If you see something you like at a stall, try to politely ask the vendor something about it. You could ask about the price, colour, or size if it's a piece of clothing. Don't be shy – Canadians are known for their friendliness!

## 5. Shop at St. Lawrence's Market

Markets are more personal than bigger shops, giving you the opportunity to practise your conversation skills. Why not try visiting the famous St. Lawrence Market in Toronto and make a promise to yourself to buy something only if you made a conversation with the vendor.



**ADVANCED LEVEL TIP:** Learn the lyrics to one song of the band or artist you are watching perform. Even if you aren't a fan, do it for language benefits. You can simply look up the lyrics online and listen to the song a few times. Then discover new vocabulary by looking up the words you don't know in your dictionary!

## 6. Go to a live concert

There is an unlimited supply of live music to suit all tastes and moods in Toronto. This is a perfect environment that will help you feel comfortable interacting with locals and practising your English skills! Don't shy away if you don't speak much English, instead, talk to the fellow music-lovers next to you, and try to make friends.

## 7. Order up at the restaurant

When you eat out in Toronto, you'll have the perfect opportunity to use your English skills by reading menus and ordering your food. This is the time to use all of that 'at the restaurant' vocabulary you have learnt in the classroom.

**BEGINNER LEVEL TIP:** Don't just point to the item on the menu that you want to order, read it out loud. This will get you out of your comfort zone and help you improve your language skills. The waiter will probably repeat the order to you to make sure that it is written down correctly.

## 8. Go on a street-art tour

When you think of art, galleries and museums immediately come to mind. Well, Toronto has a special treat in store; you can enjoy a Graffiti Tour at the famous Graffiti Alley on Queen St. West (the only place in Toronto where graffiti is legal).

It's great to be able to practise English by going on a guided tour. There are many organisers that offer FREE tours. 'Tour Guys' is a company in Toronto that organises free or 'pay what you like' tours of the famous alley. You can check out their Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/TourGuys/>.



## 9. Go to the Islands

Feel like a tourist and learn like a student by joining a guided tour to the Islands. You can either take along some friends (and it will be very beneficial if the group only speaks in English), or join an organised group which is a great way to make new friends.

Make sure you take a boat tour to the Islands that also includes live narration, which will help you practise your listening skills in a fun and interesting way. [Toronto Harbour Tours](#) organises trips to the islands, and there are many other tour providers to choose from.

## 10. Read and watch CTV

One of the best way to practise English is to read and listen to things in English. What better way to learn about the city than to watch the local news?

You can follow the news channel for Toronto (CTV Toronto). Check out their website - <http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/>, or download their free app on your smartphone (search for CTV).





# **WHAT TO SEE & EXPERIENCE IN THE "QUEEN CITY"**

Just like all the exciting cities around the world, Toronto has popular nicknames, and 'Queen City' is one of them. It's also often referred to as the 'Big Smoke', although that is more commonly associated with London.

Let's move on to your Canadian adventure and all the things that you can see and experience in Canada's largest city. The list of options is endless, but there are a few places and activities that are really worth investing your time on!

## CN TOWER

Not going to the CN Tower in Toronto is like travelling to New York and not visiting the Statue of Liberty. Firstly, it's practically impossible to explore the city without catching a glimpse of the famous tower, which stands at almost 500 metres tall. Formally the tallest building in the world, it is still classified as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World as it remains the tallest, free-standing man-made construction in North America.

Here you can also experience the incredible EdgeWalk, which involves walking around the external part of the tower at 356m high to admire the city. There is always more going on inside the tower itself, and you can check out the latest schedule at the official website - <http://www.cntower.ca>.



## Opening Times

The CN Tower is open every day of the year apart from Christmas Day. For the exact opening hours, depending on what you want to do at the tower, check their official schedule: <http://www.cntower.ca/en-ca/plan-your-visit/hours.html>

## Ticket Prices

A tour of the tower costs \$35, but you have a variety of options and discounts if you want to see more and do more (e.g. the EdgeWalk). Find more information at <http://www.cntower.ca/en-ca/plan-your-visit/rates/rates.html> and <http://www.edgewalkcntower.ca>.

## How to get to The CN Tower

The CN Tower stands right in the heart of Downtown Toronto on Front Street, just north of Bremner Blvd. It is located right between Rogers Centre and the Metro Convention Centre.

There are a number of options to get there. If you travel by subway, stop at Union Street and go West along Front Street. Drop-off buses and Go Transit trains and buses stop near the tower. The exact address of the CN Tower is: 301 Front St. West (& John St.), but it's hard to miss.

Find more information about how to get to the CN Tower at:

<http://www.cntower.ca/en-ca/plan-your-visit/location/how-to-get-here.html>



Image Credit: Google Maps



## ROGERS CENTRE

Located close to the CN Tower, the Rogers Centre is a multi-purpose stadium where some of the most exciting sporting events in Toronto take place. The stadium used to be called SkyDome and is totally state of the art.



It has the world's first fully-retractable roof, which opens and closes in 20 minutes and weighs 11,000 tonnes! The Rogers Stadium is a gigantic, modern venue (although opened 27 years ago) specifically built for entertainment and sporting events.

The stadium is truly the place to go and be; for sporting events as it is the home to the (US) National Baseball League's Toronto Blue Jays, the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts, the site of the annual International Bowl American college football game, and as of 2008, it has also become the National Football League's Buffalo Bills' second playing venue in the Bills Toronto Series.

You can find out what's on at Rogers Centre at their official website – <http://www.rogerscentre.com>. Check out their events calendar here: <http://events.rogerscentre.com>.



## Opening Times

The centre has different opening hours depending on the section you are visiting.

For the correct timetable check the website <http://events.rogerscentre.com/>.

## Ticket Prices

This depends on what you want to do at the Rogers Centre. The best place to find

information is at <http://www.rogerscentre.com/events/tickets.jsp>.

## How to get to The Rogers Centre

Rogers Centre is located in downtown Toronto. You can easily access it via subway, Go Transit or car. The closest subway stations are Union Station and St Andrews Station. The exact address for the Rogers Centre is 1 Blue Jays Way, Toronto, ON M5V 1J1. For step by step directions visit

[http://www.rogerscentre.com/inaround/visitors\\_directions.jsp](http://www.rogerscentre.com/inaround/visitors_directions.jsp).



Image Credit: Google Maps



## TORONTO CITY HALL

One of the hottest spots in the city, the Toronto City Hall is an impressive modern site dating back to the 1960s.



The City Hall serves multiple purposes in addition to being home to the municipal government of Toronto. It is one of the hottest places for festivals and events, including the annual New Year's fireworks display.

Visit the official website [here](#) for more information about Toronto City Hall.

### *Opening Times*

The hall is open from Monday to Friday, 8.30 am – 4.15 pm. Find more details [here](#).

### *Ticket Prices*

Although you can take a tour inside the building, the best part of the City Hall is its exterior: free of charge and accessible 24/7. Make sure to experience it both by day and night, as it is uniquely stunning in the sunshine as when it is lit up by city lights.





### *How to get to Toronto City Hall*

Located on Queen Street West, Toronto City Hall is very easy to find. It's a few minutes' walk from Queen Station and Osgoode Station. It is easily accessible with all forms of public transportation. The exact address is: 100 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2.



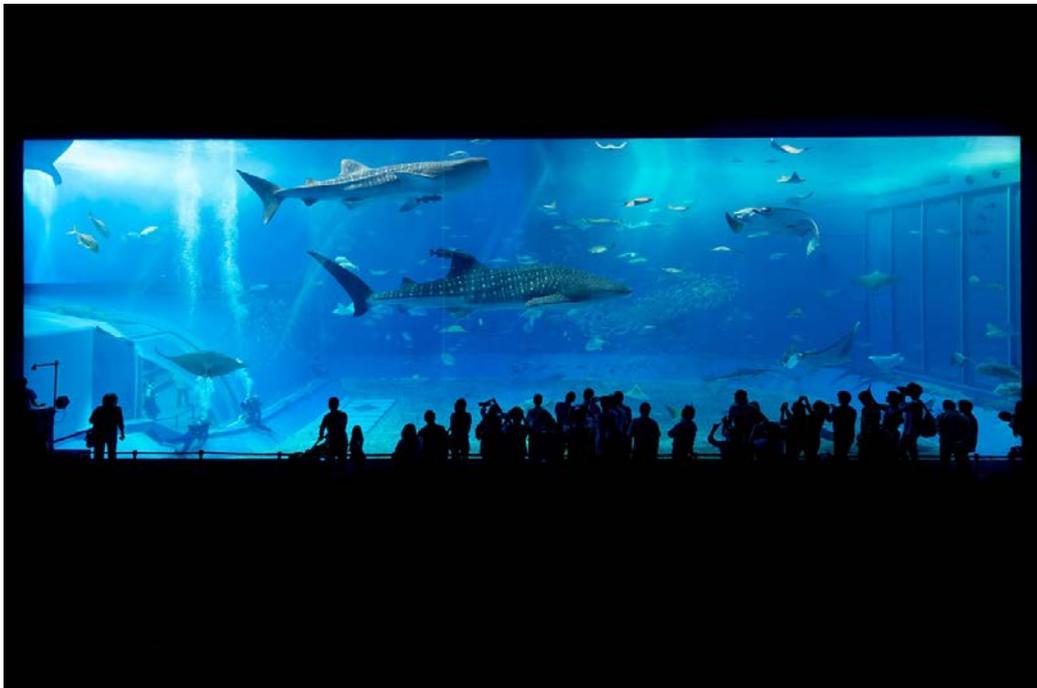
*Image Credit: Google Maps*



## RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM OF CANADA

Located next to the CN Tower, the Ripley's Aquarium of Canada is the newest attraction in town. It opened its doors in 2013 and is now home to 16,000 beautiful marine animals.

The aquarium is a modern marvel. The Dangerous Lagoon (one of the aquarium's sections) features an underwater tunnel and moving walkway, where one can admire some of the most majestic animals swimming all around people. The moving sidewalk is actually the largest one in North America!



### *Opening Times*

The aquarium is open to the public 7 days a week, from 9am until 11pm. However, some days it closes earlier due to private functions and events.

Check the timetable on the official website for Ripley's Aquarium of Canada at <https://www.ripleyaquariums.com/canada/visit/directions-and-parking/>



## *Ticket Prices*

Various prices are available depending on what options you choose and how early you book, with options from \$25 up to \$100. You can save money by avoiding peak times and visiting later in the day. Check out all the packages and discounts available here: <https://www.ripleyaquariums.com/canada/tickets/>

## *How to get to Ripley's Aquarium of Canada*

The Aquarium is very easy to find, due to its prime location in downtown Toronto, neighbouring the CN Tower and Rogers Centre. You can arrive here using any form of public transportation. The exact address for Ripley's Aquarium of Canada is: 288, Bremner Boulevard, Toronto, ON, M5V 3L9.



*Image Credit: Google Maps*

## **TORONTO ZOO**

One of the most thrilling things to do in the city is to visit Toronto Zoo; the largest zoo in the country with 1.3 million visitors every year.

The most beloved animals at the zoo are, of course, the Giant Pandas. The zoo has giant panda cubs, which are guaranteed to melt the heart of any child or adult due to their incredible cuteness. With over 5,000 animals from across more than 460 species, you are guaranteed to find a few that you've never seen or even heard of.





However, the Toronto Zoo is not your typical zoo with caged animals that look depressed and unloved, this is what is called a 'living zoo', with a mission statement that describes it as: "A living centre for education and science, committed to providing compelling guest experiences and inspiring passion to protect wildlife and habitats."

The zoo focuses on providing the means for visitors to learn more about the animals and interact with them, which makes for a truly unique experience, right in the heart of this wonderful, cosmopolitan city.

If you want to get a feel for the zoo before you visit, check out their official YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/torontozoochannel>

**INTERMEDIATE LEVEL TIP:** Leave a comment! You can practise your English right now by leaving a comment on your favourite YouTube video. It doesn't matter if it is a short or long one, what matters is that you are trying something different to practise and improve your English writing skills.

## *Opening Times*

Toronto Zoo is open every day of the year apart from Christmas Day. The standard opening hours are 9am to 4:30pm, but weekends and holidays the zoo stays open until 6pm. For a real-time experience of the opening hours schedule go to:

<http://www.torontozoo.com/ExploreTheZoo/hours.asp>

## *Ticket Prices*

The standard entry price for the zoo is \$23 for adults. Find the latest information on prices, discounts and packages at:

<http://www.torontozoo.com/ExploreTheZoo/Admission.asp>

## *How to get to Toronto Zoo*

Since it is one of the main attractions in the city, Toronto Zoo is easily accessible by all forms of public transportation. The closest train station is Rouge Hill Go Station, and from there one can hop on the TTC 85 Sheppard East bus straight to the zoo.

The TTC bus has many routes straight to the Zoo, and you can find them all at

<http://www.ttc.ca>.

The exact address is: 2000 Meadowvale Rd, Toronto, ON M1B 5K7. For more directions to the zoo, check out their official website:

<http://www.torontozoo.com/ExploreTheZoo/Directions.asp>.



Photo credit: Google Maps



## GRAFFITI ALLEY

If you want a different kind of sightseeing tour, you have to check out Graffiti Alley. From west of Spadina Ave. to Portland St. you can enjoy street art at its very best.



## *Opening Times*

The best thing about Graffiti Alley is that it is open to the public 24/7. It can be enjoyed at any time, but its best features can be seen in broad daylight.

## *Ticket Prices*

Entrance Free!

## *How to get to Graffiti Alley*

The alley starts on 1 Rush Line and continues to Queen Street West and Spadina Avenue. For more than half a mile one can enjoy a showcase of the finest street art that can be found in Toronto or anywhere in the world.



Photo credit: Google maps

## The list of places to see in Toronto goes on:

If you love the feel of historic buildings, quirky cafes and quaint alleyways you really must pay a visit to the **Distillery Historic District**. What was once the largest distillery in the British Empire is today a buzzing epicentre of arts and culture right here in Toronto where history and fun intertwine, surrounded by cafes, shops, and iconic, old buildings. Toronto's only heritage district has quite a few stories to tell, so do make sure to pay it a visit during your stay in the city.

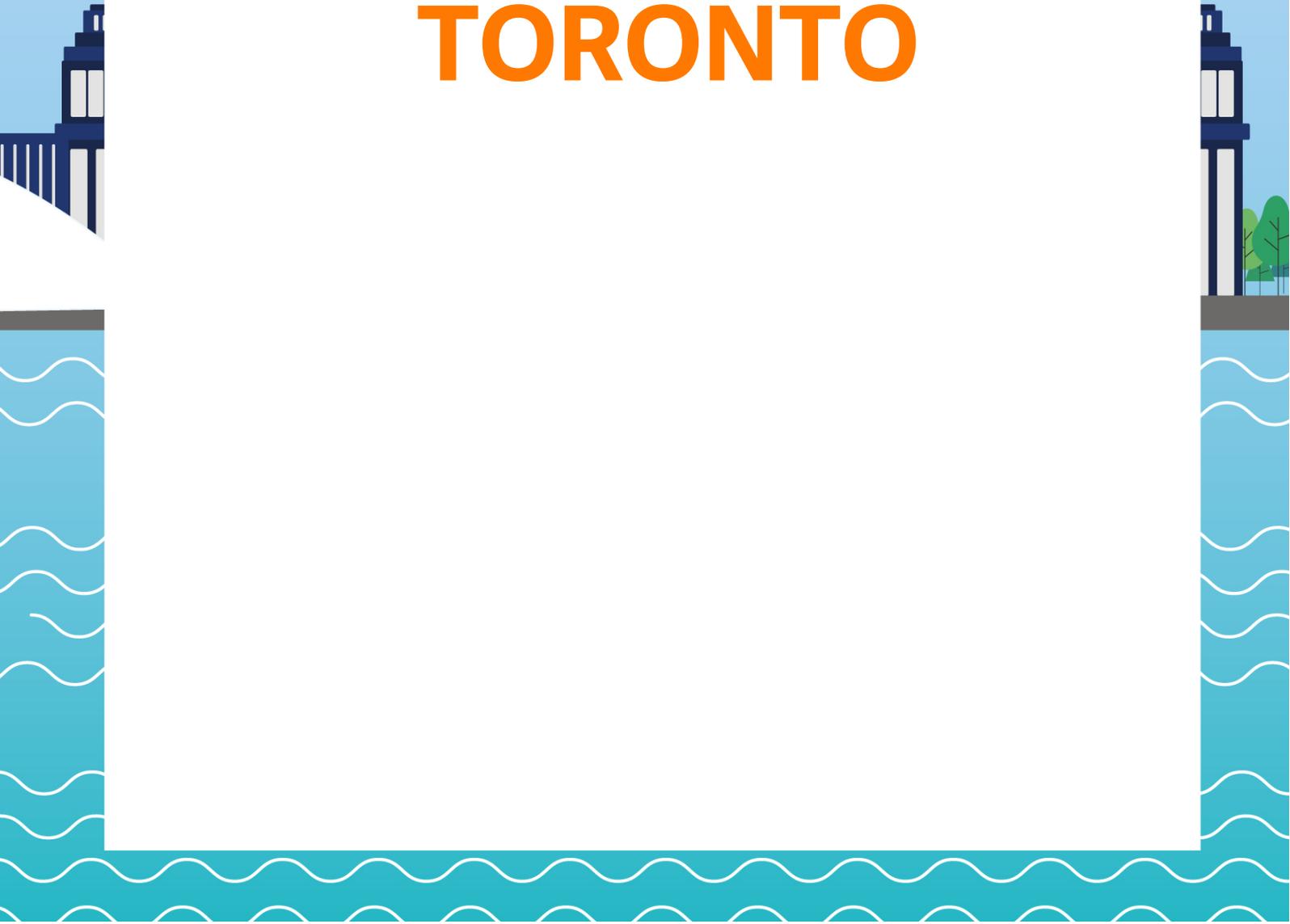
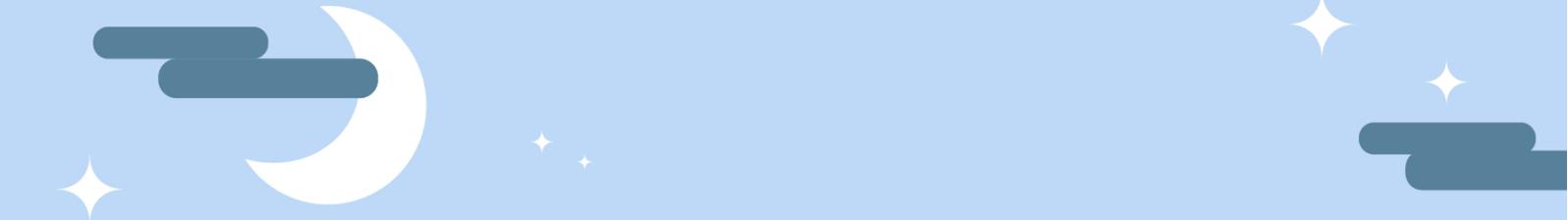
Don't forget to put your tourist hat on to go and marvel at the stunning **Casa Loma**.





If you want to get away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Toronto, you can have direct access to a whole world of tranquillity and natural wonderland. The Toronto Islands are a short ferry ride away, and although there are plenty of activities available on the islands, here you can also disconnect and relax. And doesn't that sound like a great idea after a week filled with classes?

The list of places to visit and experience in Toronto is vast. From the **Hockey Hall of Fame** to the **Art Gallery of Ontario**, your options are almost endless.



# THE LOCAL TORONTO

Visiting all the hot spots will give you a taste of the city's history, but if you want to live like a local while studying in Toronto, here are some of the things that locals do!

## Eat and drink on patios

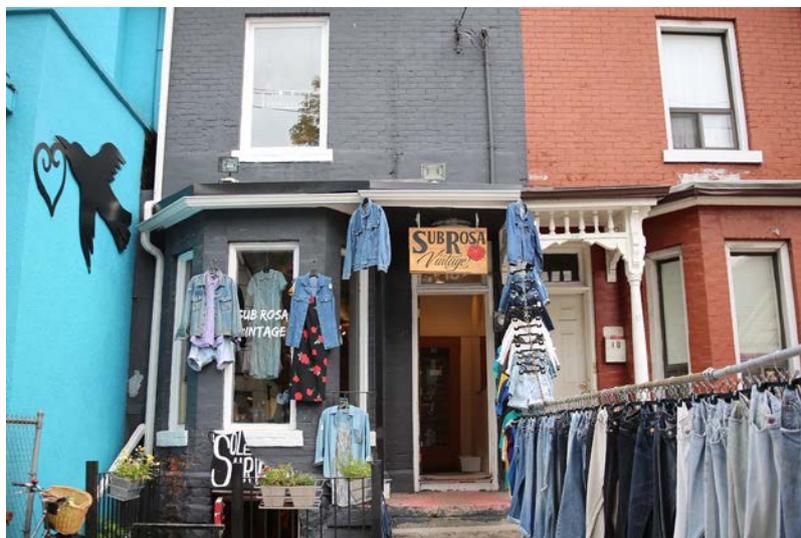
When the sun is shining bright, locals love to hang out on patios, drinking beer and eating tasty food in the open air. Porch is one of the most popular rooftop patios in the city, located on top of The Rock 'n' Horse Saloon. Find out more about it here: <http://patios.blogto.com/patio/rock-n-horse-saloon-toronto>

The list of patios is extensive and the best way to find your favourite is to try out as many as possible.

**ADVANCED LEVEL TIP:** Ask someone (your teacher, a colleague) what their favourite patio in the city is. This will start a conversation, and you can get some tips on the best patios to check out while practising your language skills.

## Eat and shop at Kensington Market

While St. Lawrence Market is the main spot for tourists, Kensington Market is highly recommended by locals. The market is the place to be if you want a bohemian vibe, unique shops, and inexpensive food.



**BEGINNER LEVEL TIP:** Take a photo of your favourite shop at Kensington Market and post it on social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). Write one sentence, in English, about why you like that shop. This will get you practising your writing skills and will encourage you to build your vocabulary with descriptive words. Don't forget to tag @EC Toronto and use #ecexperience to share your photo with us!

## Eat from a food truck

Another local tradition in Toronto is to eat from one of the many varieties of food trucks. If you want to find out more about the different cuisines and food trucks available in Toronto, check out <http://torontofoodtrucks.ca>

Get ready to enjoy anything from spaghetti and meatball sandwiches to hot smoked meat, schnitzels, fish tacos, and gourmet cupcakes.

**BEGINNER LEVEL TIP:** When you order from a food truck, don't simply read out the menu – try to make conversation. Ask the vendor what their speciality dish is and what they recommend to try first. You will practise your conversation skills and enjoy delicious food at the same time - it's a win-win situation.

## Attend a festival or event

Toronto is famous for its festivals and events, and there is a reason for that; locals love to join in and participate. When in Toronto, check out what's going on where, and join the fun. Most festivals are free to attend. Here are a few events recommended by locals, born and raised in Toronto:

- AGO First Thursdays (party at the Art Gallery of Ontario). Find more [information about it at: http://www.ago.net/firstthursdays](http://www.ago.net/firstthursdays)
- Hot Docs (Canadian International Documentary Festival). Find out more information about it at: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/i>



- City Chase – also known as Canada’s Largest Urban Adventure. It’s quite legendary, a chase that you can participate in either by running, walking or using public transportation. Find out more about it here:

<http://goodlifefitnesscitychase.ca>

## Have brunch at the weekend

In Toronto, locals take brunch pretty seriously. It is a tradition that happens every weekend. In our source’s own words, “brunch is beyond eggs, toast, sausages, and bacon - it’s a pure art form”.





# TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN TORONTO

Some of the most unusual, but highly recommended activities to do. They may seem unusual, but that's what makes Toronto such an extraordinary city.

## 1. Dance with dinosaurs

This sounds a little crazy, but believe it or not, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) makes it possible. Friday Night Live (FNL) at ROM is one of the hottest events in town and it often involves dancing alongside the amazing exhibitions of dinosaurs. This is definitely a fun and unique approach to visiting a museum, since it takes place in the late hours, with drinks and great music. The locals love it and many say that growing up, this is one of the things they can't wait to do – FNL at ROM.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL TIP: While you're at the Grand Central, have some fun figuring out the routes to different parts of New York or the rest of America. It will help you work on your reading and comprehension skills, and you never know when this knowledge might come in handy. If you have any doubts, ask a member of staff –and don't be shy!

## 2. Go to a live music performance

Some of the most famous singers and bands visit Toronto during their world tours. Be sure to check out Toronto's lively music scene and make sure you join in!

If your favourite musician isn't in town, check out the Indie music scene that Toronto prides itself on. The iconic music halls in the city have a show on every night of the week, with a choice of Jazz, Eastern European music, Rock 'n' Roll, with everything in between.



### 3. Go to the Islands

Your trip to Toronto is not complete until you have explored North America's largest car-free, urban community. Part residential, part recreational, the Islands are quite an attraction in their own right, with peace and tranquillity, yet adventure awaiting at every turn. If you want the best spot to photograph the city skyline, take your camera (or phone) with you to the Toronto Islands and do not miss this opportunity to die for!



### 4. Sample some Craft Beer

Torontonians love beer, and your tour of the city would not be complete without trying one of their many craft beers. If alcoholic beverages are not your thing, one can still enjoy non-alcoholic beers or other beverages.

**INTERMEDIATE LEVEL TIP:** Ask specifically for Canadian craft beer in tap, so that you get the real, local drink (while practising your speaking skills). If you're feeling adventurous, why not start a conversation with the bartender and ask what the beer is made from.

## 5. Go on a food tour

The multicultural flavour of Toronto makes for an incredible food scene. From food trucks to international restaurants, it offers a bit of everything and you have to try it all. Any type of cuisine that comes to mind is available in Toronto. There are in fact more than 9,000 restaurants in the city, covering all tastes and budgets. Enjoy but watch your waistline.

**BEGINNER LEVEL TIP:** Find your own cuisine in Toronto and order your favourite dish in English (even if the menu is available in your own language). This will be familiar, fun and useful for your conversation skills.

## 6. Go to the Beach

Toronto's impressive shoreline means plenty of beaches to choose from. You could check out Ward's Island, Woodbine Beach, or Hanlan's Point – we recommend that you try at least one (if not all) of them. Weather permitting, why not try some surfing or a good old sunbathing session lazing in the sun?

**INTERMEDIATE LEVEL TIP:** learn as much "at the beach vocabulary" as you can and try to use it all on your trip to the beach. That may include asking someone: Is there a lifeguard at this beach? Where can I buy a swimsuit? How much does a surf lesson cost? Where's the nearest restroom?



## 7. Catch a sports game

Whether it is hockey, basketball, baseball or soccer, join the locals for a fast-paced game at some of the best venues in town. Choose from the Air Canada Centre or Rogers Centre, where games take place throughout the year.



**INTERMEDIATE LEVEL TIP:** Before you go to the match, read a little bit about the teams. Find out who the top players are, and how well (or badly) they played in their last game. This will help you with your reading skills.

When you get to the game, use your newly-acquired knowledge to make conversation and practise your speaking and listening skills. This will be fun and educational – and you might even become a fan of one of the teams!

## 8. Travel on a streetcar

Even in the unlikely scenario that you won't need a streetcar to travel around the city, make sure to hop on one before you leave Toronto. It's a simple, cheap, and a really fun way to sample one of the local, traditional transportation systems.

## 9. Play Bubble Soccer

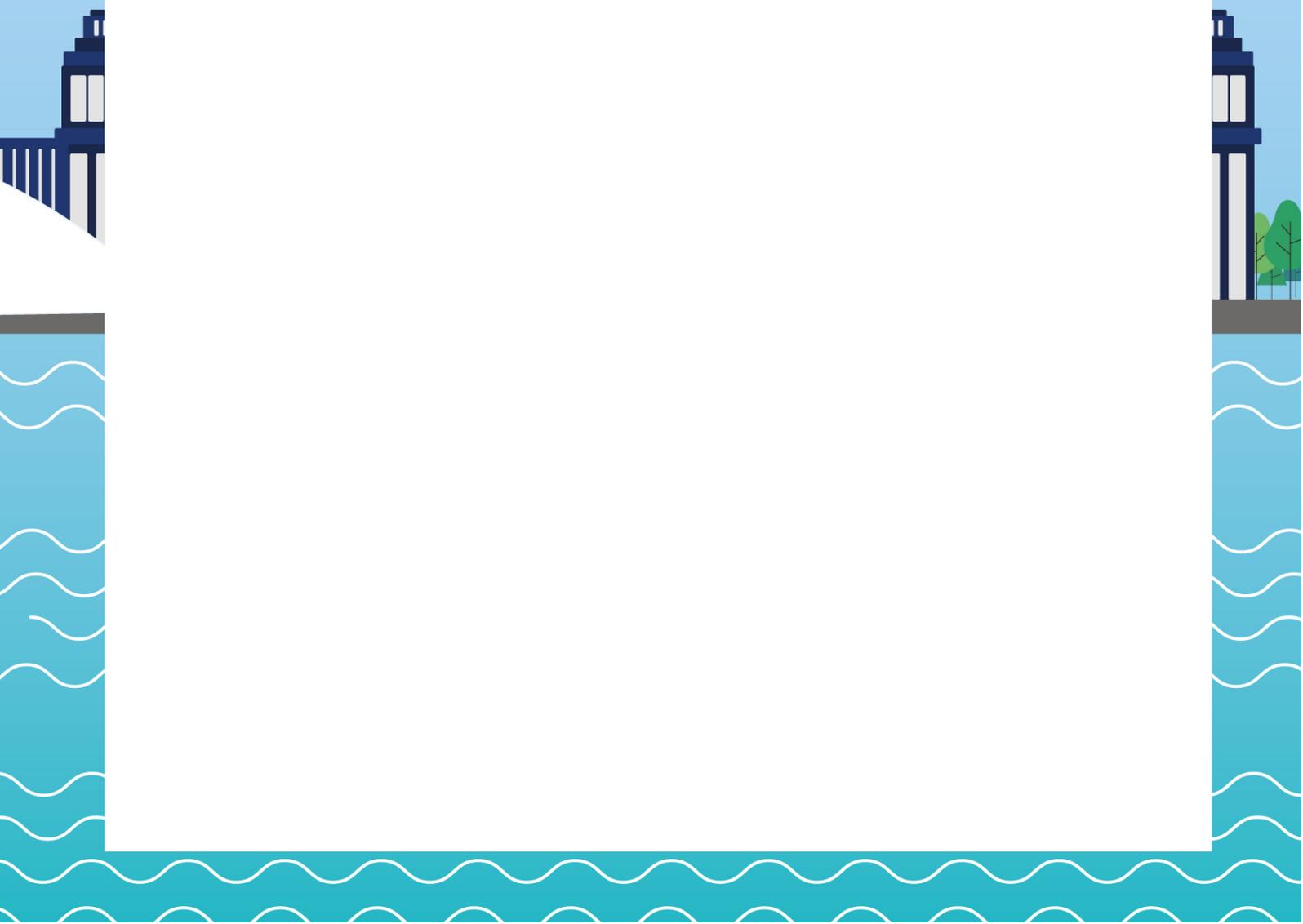
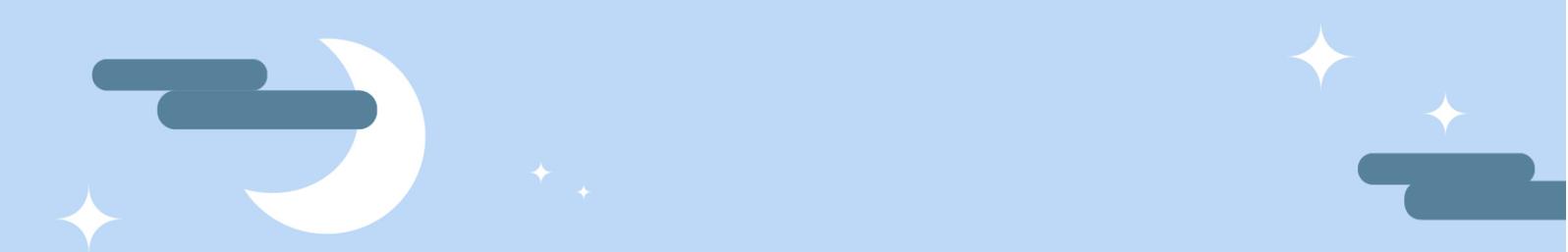
Take advantage of this opportunity to play an unusual kind of soccer. Here is the official website for the bubble soccer facility where you can find out more about it:

<http://www.atbubblesoccer.ca/index.html>

## 10. Go to beaches

'The Beaches' is a neighbourhood in the Old City of Toronto. Here you'll be able to enjoy three beaches on Lake Ontario, as well as lots of lively entertainment. You can find The Beaches on the east side of downtown Toronto. There is always something exciting going on, with shops and restaurants dotted around the place, water sports, beach games, live music, fundraising events, and plenty of other interesting things to see and do.





# **SURVIVAL GUIDE**

## Getting to Toronto

Toronto is served by 2 major airports:

- **Toronto Pearson International Airport:** Pearson is one of the busiest airports in North America. It's large and sprawling, clean, and has a great reputation for ease of use with excellent facilities. It is Canada's biggest airport by far and handles mostly **international** flights, although it also runs a number of domestic routes, such as to Vancouver on the Pacific Coast and Montreal in Quebec.
- **Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport:** This airport is mainly a base for domestic flights, but also runs a few short international routes to places like Boston and Chicago.

## Getting around Toronto

### Public Transit

Toronto is easy to navigate and boasts affordable inner city travel. The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is the answer to all your travel needs within the city; it operates on a single fare system across all modes of transport, including the subway, buses, and the iconic streetcars. 'Go Transit' also provides suburban transport in Toronto, and connects the city to the nearby areas.



## Cycling

Toronto has a bike share system, which means that you can easily cycle your way around the city. You can find out how to use the bike share system in Toronto at <http://www.bikesharetoronto.com>.

## Taxi

You can also use a taxi to get around Toronto. Fares are standard, metered, and non-negotiable. The taxis in Toronto come in a variety of colours, but you can recognise them by the yellow lit up sign on the top of the vehicle.

## Ferries

If you are travelling to the Islands, you'll need to catch a ferry. Here you can find the schedule as well as fares for the ferry trips:

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=3690dada600f0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>



## Fun & useful info about Toronto

- Alcohol in Toronto can only be purchased from a government-authorized shop.
- Some restaurants expect a 20% tip, so be prepared to add that on top of your meal bill.
- The best time to walk in Toronto (and not use public transportation) is between 5 pm and 6:30 pm. This is the rush hour and it gets very cramped on all forms of transport, so try to walk to your destination if you can.
- If you are a lady using a bus at night, between the times of 9pm and 5am, most drivers will be open to 'request stops' to ensure you get home safely, just ask.
- Some museums offer late-night admissions, meaning that ticket prices are either 50% cheaper or completely free, so keep on the lookout for these special admission offers.

## Emergency Phone Numbers

**Fire:** 911

**Police:** 911

**Ambulance:** 911

**Information Assistance:** 311



## Useful Links

- Plan your travel with Toronto Transit Commission (TTC):  
[https://www.ttc.ca/Trip\\_planner/index.jsp](https://www.ttc.ca/Trip_planner/index.jsp)
- Plan your travel with Go Transit:  
[http://www.gotransit.com/timetables/en/schedules/triplinx\\_planner.aspx](http://www.gotransit.com/timetables/en/schedules/triplinx_planner.aspx)
- Toronto printable subway map:  
[https://ttc.ca/Subway/interactive\\_map/interactive\\_map.jsp#](https://ttc.ca/Subway/interactive_map/interactive_map.jsp#)
- Bus routes in Toronto: <https://www.ttc.ca/Routes/Buses.jsp>
- Official guide for Toronto:  
<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=8e79f9be8db1c310VgnVCM1000006cd60f89RCRD>
- Toronto interactive maps:  
<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=15dede0230460410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>
- Discount deals in Toronto: <https://www.groupon.com/local/toronto>
- Events in Toronto:  
<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=376a3293dc3ef310VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>
- Tourist information centres in Toronto:  
<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=71c08b7a29891410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>
- Toronto news: <http://toronto.ctvnews.ca>

## Useful Apps

- **Hailo Taxi:** Calculate your fare, trip duration, find cabs in your area, read driver reviews etc., pay with the app via your credit card
- **Now Magazine:** Weekly entertainment magazine for music, clubs, concerts, galleries, special events, exhibitions and much more.

*Tip: write Now Toronto in your app search, as you will get quite a few options. The app should look like is*



NOW Magazine  
NewspaperDirect Inc



- **BlogTo:** A great app to get “best of Toronto” tips
- **MyBus Transit App:** Real-time bus arrival information for any TTC stop in Toronto
- **OpenTable:** Find restaurants, deals, book tables (useful around the world, not only in Toronto)

## Final Tips

**Don't leave Toronto without doing this:**

- Enjoy a panoramic view of the city from CN Tower. Whether you dare to adventure on the EdgeWalk or prefer to relax, enjoy exquisite food and admire the view from the 360 Restaurant (on top of the Tower itself)
- Have lunch on a rooftop patio (especially on a sunny day)
- Have brunch! ++Enough: “don't leave Toronto without having brunch a few times, the locals won't appreciate it”
- Try some Dim Sum in Chinatown (the locals love it so it must be good!)
- Go to the beach
- Trying something you've never eaten before at St. Lawrence's Market
- Go for a walk in High Park
- Go to the islands and take pictures of the skyline
- Have a cold pint of craft beer in the Distillery District

