

# 24hrs in... Toronto

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Clean and safe but never boring, Toronto is the hub of Canada's cultural scene. Hippie markets and gritty bars exist alongside chic boutiques and top-notch restaurants, while a handful of world-class museums and attractions jostle for the attention of the many tourists who flock to the city.



1

### CN Tower

No visitor to Toronto should miss out on a jaunt up the tower that reigned as the world's tallest building for three decades. Steer clear of the daytime crowds, opting instead for a pre-sunset ascent. After admiring the daytime vistas across Lake Ontario, visit the 360 restaurant for sundowners as twinkling lights illuminate the skyline. You could even splurge on a vintage from the world's highest wine cellar, since diners are excused the pricey lift fee to the top of the tower.

2

### Art Gallery of Ontario

Trying to visit every corner of this mammoth gallery will take a chunk out of your Toronto time, so you have to be selective. Bypass the photographic exhibitions and European paintings, making a beeline for the world's largest collection of Canadian art. Linger over the fabulous First Nations carvings – the country's earliest art, depicting life before the Europeans arrived. If time is on your side you could take in a Picasso or some Andy Warhol classics.

3

### Honest Ed's

When you spot the garish, Vegas-style exterior of this Toronto institution you'd be forgiven for thinking of circus shows, casinos or theatres. In fact the much-loved founder of the city's most eccentric place to shop also owned a chunk of Toronto's theatre district. But save for the ostentatious exterior and autographed movie posters inside, Honest Ed's shares little in common with the glitz of theatre land. This multi-storey thrift store is a great place to stock up on cheap clothes, cheap gifts or cheap anything else. And if you don't feel like shopping, drop by anyway for the comical hand-painted slogans adorning the walls.



**4 Hockey Hall of Fame**

If you hope to make friends in Canada, you need a little ice hockey awareness and the Hall of Fame makes a crash course in hockey entertaining. You can try your hand at a penalty shot (tough) or even play goalie (tougher). The wall-to-wall memorabilia might be a little too much for the hockey novice, but the chance to get up close with the Stanley Cup is a must—it's sacred to most Canadians.

**5 Bata Shoe Museum**

Never mind walking a mile in someone else's shoes—the quirky Bata Shoe Museum lets you figuratively leap through centuries and across continents in an array of clogs, boots, slippers and flippers. More than just a dry history of footwear, the museum charts world history through its fabulous footwear collection. It keeps Torontonians coming back, thanks to the ever-changing exhibitions (at any one time hundreds of shoes are displayed, chosen from a collection of over 10,000).

**6 St Lawrence Market**

You know a market should be on your must-do list when local historians offer walking tours among the stalls. The tour takes you through 200 years of the market's history, but you can also skip straight to the gourmet food stalls with their free tasters. Arrive around lunchtime and munch on handmade cheese and freshly baked cakes while you shop for unusual souvenirs and one-off outfits.

**7 Sneaky Dee's**

At first glance Sneaky Dee's might not seem like a place you'd want to dine, but locals flock here en masse for excellent value Mexican food, giant pitchers of beer and the best wings in town. Canada first-timers can sample the country's best hangover fix; poutine, music buffs should head upstairs for funky live tunes and literature lovers will be at home in the toilet stalls, plastered with often witty graffiti.



**8 Harbourfront**

With elegant skyscrapers and a not-so-elegant highway separating Toronto from the water, it's easy to forget that the city sits on the shore of one of the Great Lakes. But once you venture down to Lake Ontario you're rewarded with sparsely-crowded boardwalks linking the cafes, boutiques and parks of the Harbourfront. If it all seems a bit too grown up, you can always escape on a ferry to the Toronto Islands, home of the Centreville Amusement Park and some surprisingly good beaches.

**9 Yorkville**

Elegant boutiques, private art galleries, and a cornucopia of bistros, delis, restaurants and cafes combine to make the city's richest neighbourhood a top spot for celebrity spotting. The range of restaurants truly embraces Toronto's many and varied cultures, so settle down for dim sum, kimbab (a Korean snack) or freshly baked bagels, and look out for anyone from hockey players to Hollywood actors.

**10 Drake Hotel**

The city's nightlife is as vibrant and varied as its shopping, sightseeing and dining scenes, so it can be tough to choose a place to start. Favoured by anyone from university students to businessmen seeking post-work drinks, the Drake Hotel is ideal if you don't feel like stumbling from bar to bar. Indie bands liven up the Underground bar while DJs and cocktails keep the Lounge a more chilled out place to sip.