

Sites, Tours and Walking Tours

Parliament Hill, House of Commons and Senate of Canada

Discover what makes Parliament Hill a unique place to visit. As you stroll along the Hill, site interpreters can assist you in your discovery of historical figures and events on Parliament Hill. We also encourage you to pick up the Discover the Hill Self-Guiding Booklet and explore the site at your own pace. These are available free of charge at the Info-Tent in the summer, and year-round at the Capital Infocentre across from the Hill.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police -Meet a Mountie – a scarlet-clad RCMP officer – on Parliament Hill. Formed as the North West Mounted Police in 1873 to oversee the settlement of the West, this famous police force is a part of Canadian history and a continued source of national pride.

Ottawa Rickshaws present an easy way to see the downtown sights in the evening.

All historical rickshaw tours are served with a gelato from Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and runners are licensed by the City of Ottawa. Reservations in advance at (613) 878 4675; the service is "weather-permitting". The pickup location is in Byward Market at the corner of William and George Streets, across the street from the Beavertails stand. Summer hours are from 6PM to bar closing time everyday; available during the day upon reservations. Prices include up to 2 persons + 1 child \$25.00 (½ hour); \$50.00 (1 hour).

Haunted Walks Ghost Tours

Reservations are recommended. (613) 232-0344. The Haunted Walk is Ottawa's most popular walking tour company. Locals and newcomers alike are fascinated by these glimpses into the darker history and haunting of the Nation's Capital. All of our stories are thoroughly researched and will delight even the skeptics in the group! Ticket booth located at the corner of Elgin Street and Sparks Street, and opens daily at 4:00PM.

The Rideau Canal is a UNESCO World Heritage site, running 202 kilometres from Ottawa to Kingston.

An engineering marvel of its day, The Rideau Canal was designed as a large strategic canal constructed for military purposes which played a crucial contributory role in allowing British forces to defend the colony of Canada against the United States of America, leading to the development of two distinct political and cultural entities in the north of the American continent. It has become a boater's paradise as well as a scenic venue from which to experience Ottawa in all seasons.

Rideau Hall, as the home and gardens of the Governor General of Canada is the official residence and the workplace of every governor general since 1867.

This heritage site is a national gathering place, where the governor general lives, honours Canadians for their excellence, hosts foreign dignitaries and performs the functions of the representative of Canada's Head of State. Tours of the residence, the grounds and the art collection are offered year-round.

Laurier House National Historic Site commemorates two of Canada's most notable prime ministers, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King.

For over fifty years, from 1897 to 1948, the house occupied a central position in the political life of Canada, as the place of residence of Laurier and, after his death, of Mackenzie King. King bequeathed the house to the "Government and people of Canada" in the belief that future generations would be interested in the place where they lived, where they entertained dignitaries and politicians, and where they often conducted the business of the country. King was Canada's longest serving Prime Minister, with a total of greater than 22 years as the Head of the Government of Canada, and his mentor Laurier holds the record of over 15 years of continuous service in the role.

Arts Court is home to the largest and most innovative creative group of Ottawa's professional arts producers and presenters

It includes: the Arts Court Theatre, The Ottawa Art Gallery, the Firestone Collection of Canadian Art, Le Groupe Dance Lab, SAW Gallery, SAW Video and Club SAW. It is also home to the headquarters of 26 independent arts organizations. The building itself is a historic landmark located in the heart of the city. Year after year, Arts Court continues to evolve as the vibrant hub for Ottawa artists and audiences.

Carleton County Gaol Heritage Centre

HI-Ottawa Jail Hostel is the only hostel in North America located in a former prison that operated for over 100 years. Guided tours are available through [Haunted Walks Ghost Tours](#) (above).

RCMP Musical Ride Visitor's Centre and Stable Tours

Experience the Mounties of the Musical Ride at the RCMP Rockcliffe Stables in Ottawa. Visit with the Mounties and experience a living tribute to Canadian heritage and history. Visitors can tour the stables, the Farrier Station, Tack Room and see the stately carriages used in royal escorts of Her Majesty the Queen.

Gray Line Sightseeing Tours

Hop aboard authentic London-style double deckers, turn of the century trolleys, or first-class, air-conditioned, washroom-equipped motor coaches. The 2 hour tour officially begins at the corner of Sparks and Elgin Streets, however one can hop on and off at any of the stops located throughout the National Capital Region. Your ticket is valid for 3 consecutive days, allowing you to tour our Nation's Capital at your own pace. The city tour runs in a continuous circle (daily from 10:00 am with the last departure leaving at 4:00pm (peak season). The Capital Cruise Package adds in a boat tour along the Ottawa River or the Rideau Canal, and Grand City Tour keeps you on the Confederation loop downtown to see the primary downtown sites including the residences of the Prime Minister and the Governor General. Costs are in the \$20-\$30 range depending on your package.

Capital Cruises

If Buses aren't your thing but the water attracts you, consider the sightseeing vessel, the Empress of Ottawa, and capture unique and spectacular views of some of the city's attractions such as the Parliament Buildings, Museum of Civilization, Rideau Falls a UNESCO world heritage site, and the Prime Minister's residence. With these landmarks as your backdrop Capital Cruises adds a sound track to complete the floating theatre experience. Using state of the art wireless technology professionally produced commentary summarizes the story of Ottawa is told in your choice of English, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, or Spanish. Guests are free to roam about two enclosed decks and the third open-air deck to find their ideal spot aboard. Full service bars are available for refreshments on both the first and second levels. Boat tour departures from Jacques Cartier Park Wharf in Gatineau (Hull Sector) and at the base of the Rideau Canal locks below the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, and tickets can be purchased at the ticket kiosks on Confederation Square, at Jacques Cartier Park Wharf or on the Empress. A Dining Cruise with buffet style service will be in the range of \$60.00-\$70.00 before bar service.

Paul's Boatlines offers Cruise experiences on the Ottawa River as well as along the scenic Rideau Canal.

All cruises come with a bilingual and live commentary and run 1.5 hours from the Ottawa dock and 2 hours from the Hull dock. The Paula D is the ideal sightseeing venue, providing the choice to see the scenery of Ottawa from the open air environment found on the upper deck or to relax by the tables to be found in the roomy lower deck with a fully licensed bar and canteen. The cruise offers the view of the city as it was first conceived with the river as its main highway and resource. You will also see the natural beauty of the region that captured the imagination of the first European explorer Samuel de Champlain.

SPNHC & CBA-ABC 2010 Joint Conference

The Hull Marina is located on the Quebec side of the river in Jacques Cartier Park adjacent to the Museum of Civilization and Interprovincial Bridge. Boat leaves daily at: 10:30; 13:30; 15:30
The Ottawa Locks can be found between Parliament Hill and the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel. The boat leaves daily at: 11:00; 14:00; 16:00.

Departing from the Conference Centre (former train station) opposite the Chateau Laurier, the Rideau Canal tour offers a 1¼ hour tour of one of this engineering marvel of the nineteenth century, and many of the major sites that have led to the development and rise of Ottawa as a city and a seat of government. In early June, boats leave daily at: 11:30; 13:30; 15:00; 16:30
Sightseeing rates per person are under \$20.00 or experience both waterways for \$30.00

Lady Dive Amphibious tours lets you have it both ways from one vehicle, with the only Amphibus tour in the city.

Journey by land and water through the National Capital area of Ottawa and Gatineau. Bilingual guides take you through the important sites of this picturesque area, with a narration of humorous anecdotes on a tour of approximately 1 hour. Rates app. \$30 per adult; Tour times 7 days a week at 10:30, 12:15, 13:45, 15:15, 16:45.

The Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train

Hop aboard one of Canada's last remaining authentic steam-powered trains and climb the Gatineau hills as did the pioneers at the turn of the last century. Built in 1907 in Sweden, this 2-8-0 locomotive engine was actually part of a contingency plan for Swedish rail transport during the Cold War, after being retired from active service in 1945. The service carries thousands of visitors, rail fans, nature lovers and adventurers to the picturesque tourist village of Wakefield nestled by the Gatineau River.

Relax comfortably in climate-controlled cars and let the sounds of the steam whistle and the "clickety clack" of the wheels carry you back to a by-gone era; a memorable and fun-filled journey. The train takes you for a 64 km round trip on the banks of one of Canada's most beautiful natural reserves, the Gatineau Park. Discover the enchanting landscapes of western Quebec's Outaouais region with on-board tour guides and musicians that will share with you the history of our region and of this unique steam engine. Seasonal rates run from \$45.00-\$70.00 depending on your coach selection, or you can dine on board at an inclusive rate of \$99.00 (prices exclude any applicable taxes). Reservations are required.

"Aboriginal Experiences"

This is an exciting new cultural attraction in Ottawa that offers more than a fun family outing; visitors are provided with an enriching and entertaining new experience. The programs offer a rare opportunity to experience the rich culture, teachings and history of Canada's First People from their own perspective. Talented team of Aboriginal artists, represent the Aboriginal community of Ottawa today – a diversity of native nations from across Canada (or Turtle Island as it is known). Each has a story that to share with you on your visit. SUMMER MONTHS ONLY FROM JULY1.