

Contrastive Analysis on Recommendations for Tourists Visiting Culturally Diverse Metropolises: Brussels vs. Toronto



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Abstract

It is rare that one would ever find themselves mentioning Toronto and Brussels in the same sentence other than perhaps when talking about one topic: demographic makeup. But when showcasing their home to the world, how do locals use multiculturalism (or not) to talk about or promote a cultural experience? To further investigate any potential latent differences and similarities, TripAdvisor forums pertaining to tourism in both Toronto and Brussels were analysed. The data retrieved throughout these forums served as the backbone for a survey to be administered to locals from each city. The instruments aimed to identify trends on whether locals from either city promote multicultural activities and food or rather perhaps elements of national culture. The study revealed that there were no overwhelming differences between the way locals from either Toronto or Brussels sell their city to tourists. Noteworthy was the discovery that Brussels locals who speak three or more languages responded with more positive attitudes towards encouraging locals to explore all neighborhoods of their city and to try ethnic food. Along those same lines, when asked about the types of cuisine a local would recommend, nearly all Toronto participants indicated that they would suggest that tourists eat ethnic food whereas almost all those from Brussels responded that they would recommend Belgian food.

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1 Introduction

Cities go to extensive lengths in branding themselves but often use an outdated image, which may not be representative of their present-day demographic. Some cities seem to focus on identifying themselves with stereotypical products and services which used to be unique to their region. A tell-tale example of this is Brussels, where it is difficult to walk far out of its central square (*Grand Place*) without noticing the countless vendors of traditional Belgian items: fries, chocolate, waffles and caricatures of Tintin. Do these goods truly paint a picture of Brussels in 2020? According to a report published by France24 in 2019, Brussels is the second most cosmopolitan city in the world after Dubai (Dupont, 2019). Approximately 66% of its population was born abroad, and its culturally diverse residents from over 180 countries speak about 100 different languages (Dupont, 2019).

On the other hand, the tourism industry in cities like Toronto takes a different approach by seemingly refraining from promoting itself by using aspects of stereotypical Canadian culture. Instead, Toronto's official tourism videos and the photos displayed throughout its international airport show culturally diverse groups of people practicing different traditions and eating a variety of meals. It seems as though the tourism department is trying to promote a narrative that when visiting Toronto, one must take advantage of all the international food and entertainment which are indicative of the current demographic make-up of the city. In a piece published by the BBC in 2017, Toronto is said to welcome over 100,000 new residents each year (Galloway, 2017). Data also indicates that its residents speak over 140 languages (Galloway, 2017).

These statistics show that Brussels and Toronto are two of the most multicultural cities on the planet. The difference, however, is that one seems to promote its multicultural image while the other seems to hide it. To analyze the accuracy of this observation, it will be important to gain insight perceptions from locals on both sides. In this dissertation, data has been obtained from participants who live in Brussels and Toronto in order to learn about the type of image they would like to promote about their own city. Should these cities include more elements of multiculturalism or national culture? Or perhaps a mix of both?

Research Question

How is Toronto's and Brussel's multiculturalism reflected in their tourism campaigns?

Sub-Research Questions

- *What type of cultural recommendations do Torontonians and Bruxellois(e), Brusselaar/Brusselse offer to the tourists visiting their respective cities?*
- *Do the residents of Toronto and Brussels recommend touristic activities which reflect multicultural make-up of their cities?*

2 Theoretical Framework

As a starting point for analysing how city dwellers make sense of the diversity within their cities, it is critical to look at the underpinnings of the ways in which academia defines multiculturalism in Canada. The Canadian idea of multiculturalism serves as a unique example of what a diverse demographic can resemble as collective living together in society. As Winter (2007) explains, multiculturalism often takes as a transformation of the national imagery in pluralist terms. A place can truly be considered multicultural when a majority within it becomes aware of its particularity as group which shares its society with others all the while not having a desire or power to impose a certain identity on those that belong to different groups (Winter, 2007).

Thus, Winter presents the idea that multiculturalism usually includes the following two distinct features:

1. Demographic – A state's plural composition of a population
2. Policy - Defined in terms of goals such as stimulating the participation of immigrants within the stream of society through the maintenance and active support of cultural minorities, refining the socioeconomic position while also including support of cultural minorities and finally improving psychological aspects such as support and acceptance of plural composition and diversity by all groups.

In Canada, the dominant discourse of multiculturalism today represents powerful social imagery (Winter, 2007). Shortly after adoption and acceptance by the population, Winter (2007) explains that social imagery turns into national imaginary (Winter, 2007). That being said, academic commentators in Canada have criticized their government for pinning multiculturalism too tightly to socioeconomics (Winter, 2007). Winter (2007) explains that Canadian officials too often focus on the economic concerns of individuals from different cultures which leads them to rarely address people's grassroots concerns pertaining to quality of life (Winter, 2007). The Canadian government's fixation on striving for a multicultural

dream state has been cited as one of the reasons for Québec's periodic desire for independence (Winter, 2007). This concept of harmonious multiculturalism only being an ideal pushed forward by the government is noteworthy as it could be pertinent to uncover whether or not the population buys into the message.

Going off of the definition of Canadian multiculturalism, Toronto, the country's largest city, receives millions of tourists each year. A 1998 survey by Joppe, Martin and Waalen (2001) on the image tourists had of their visit to Toronto revealed that although most tourists reported being satisfied with the city, results varied depending on the tourists' country of origin. Participants were categorized by whether they originated from Canada, the United States or a country overseas (Joppe et al., 2001). The study recorded levels of satisfaction on factors such as transportation, accommodation, cleanliness, safety and so on (Joppe et al., 2001). Out the sample of 359 tourists, Americans rated the highest level of satisfaction, followed by tourists from overseas, with Canadians from other parts of Canada rating the lowest (Joppe et al., 2001). The results of these established expectations have led to a high rate in return visits to Toronto (Joppe et al., 2001). Demographic change, a greater demand for productivity from service providers, enhanced technological sophistication, a greater demand for tourism-related services were all seen have an impact on the perception, management, and significance of service quality in tourism (Joppe et al., 2001). So, it could be interesting to see if tourist recommendations are curated depending on if the local who gives the suggestion knows the origin of the incoming tourist.

Belgium, on the other hand, is considered an immigrant-receiving society even though there is no proactive federal immigration policy (Martiniello, 2013). Most migrants come from within the European Union (Martiniello, 2013). France and The Netherlands were, in 2007, the top source countries in general (Martiniello, 2013). That being said, Morocco and Turkey were the most important countries of origin for new migrants to Belgium by means of family reunification (Martiniello, 2013). Most immigrants settle in Flanders, followed by Brussels and then Wallonia. The reason for this can be linked to Flanders' stronger economic position in Europe (Martiniello, 2013). Labour migration, freedom of circulation of European citizens, asylum seekers, family reunification, foreign students all consist of common reasons why newcomers settle in Belgium (Martiniello, 2013).

In Brussels specifically, most immigrants come from either Poland or Romania. 28% of the Brussels population is foreign, considerably more than Wallonia or Flanders (Martiniello, 2013). This figure does not account for migrants who eventually received citizenship. If it did, that number would increase by approximately 12%. As Martiniello

(2013) explains, this statistic represents an indicator as to how and why diversity, was regarded as a structural component of the region; few defend a vision of a monocultural capital region. It is increasingly difficult to identify a majority to which newcomers should conform (Martiniello, 2013). The urban region has become a multicultural, multi-ethnic, multiracial and multifaith society in a more intense way than the other regions of the country (Martiniello, 2013). How to combine this structural diversity with enough unity is the central element at the core of debates in Brussels. In other words, the challenge is not to plan effective assimilation while allowing for superficial diversity as in the other regions (Martiniello, 2013). Instead, it is more about building a new multicultural Brussels citizenship based on a shared local identification (Martiniello, 2013).

Today, cultural tourism research has just started to pique the curiosity of researchers, especially in cities which have experienced considerable change in recent years. Two such places are Berlin, and the neighborhood of Harlem in New York City. Though only one article of this type of research has been conducted on Toronto and none known for Brussels, it could be relevant for analytical purposes to compare and contrast the findings from the studies on Berlin (Schmiz, 2017) and Harlem (Hoffman, 2003).

Berlin's propulsion back onto the world stage in the aftermath of the Second World War has served as an interesting case study in tourism research. Its multicultural identity developed rather organically as countless tourists each year feel a pull towards its "poor but sexy" character (Schmiz, 2017). As the city's demographic started to diversify after the war, multiculturalism and tolerance served as Berlin's unique selling points (Schmiz, 2017). Initiatives such as the Carnival of Cultures became a significant bottom-up lead event although it faced resistance from political parties that wanted Berlin to be marketed differently (Schmiz, 2017). True direction and ownership of its multicultural label kicked off in 2002 with a new social democratic political rule (Schmiz, 2017). This change was reflected in the 'be Berlin' campaign with the slogan 'the place to be', which declared Berlin a diverse, colorful and city (Schmiz, 2017, p. 293).

Another example similar to this is Harlem, a neighborhood in New York City where multiculturalism and diversity have recently been a positive characteristic for tourism (Hoffman, 2003). When mobility was not as easy as it is today, being a tourist was reserved for those of a higher class. This reality simplified the tourism industry's task of figuring how to cater to which types of people (Hoffman, 2003). Nowadays, however, public and private tourism entities alike must adapt and learn how to cater to a wide array of people as opposed to niche segment of the population (Hoffman, 2003). In accordance to this, the activities in

which tourists partake have also expanded in the last few decades (Hoffman, 2003). As Hoffman states: “In a relatively short time, the concept of cultural tourism has broadened beyond the focus on museums and theaters to include an anthropological concern with people and place” (p. 291). In the wake of internationalization, Harlem is also becoming a place where ethnicity and diversity are unique selling points for tourists (Hoffman, 2003).

All in all, the important question remains whether multiculturalism was a major determinant in the kinds of activities tourists would partake in when they visited these cities. In the case of Berlin, the Carnival of Cultures was shown to draw outsiders to the city. Whereas in the case of Harlem, it is demonstrated that its multiple multicultural attractions are one reason that hundreds of thousands visit New York City each year.

One of the major reasons as to why cities decide to invest in tourism is its economic and societal benefits (Uysal, 2013). Ways in which to boost tourism consist of improving safety, cleanness, quality of services, culinary scenes and city symbols (Uysal, 2013). Furthermore, in her book, *Tourism Marketing for Cities and Towns*, Kolb (2011) states that tourism marketing must always focus on one segment of the population. Though it may seem attractive for time and money purposes to cater to the masses, the concern is that the message delivered by a tourism campaign may not appeal to everyone since everyone’s needs and interests are different (Kolb, 2011). For this reason, it is always important for a tourism organization to always start any project by identifying which segment of the population is the target audience (Kolb, 2011).

This last approach has been utilized increasingly in the last few decades. This kind of branding involves promoting the unique benefits that the tourist will experience while visiting the city rather than the city itself (Kolb, 2011). With this in mind, logic would suggest that a combination of both national culture and multicultural activities could be beneficial to promote by official tourism entities.

Cities and countries being multicultural can represent opportunities for governments, but how people feel about it at a grassroots level is a different question. Built on a foundation of recent research advancements in the field, the Multicultural Personality Questionnaire was designed to multidimensionally measure multicultural effectiveness (Law, 2008). Specifically, the questionnaire sought out to measure how much successful operating within a new cultural environment is linked to psychological well-being (Law, 2008). Other themes the questionnaire assesses include professional effectiveness, personal adjustment, and intercultural interaction, which can be considered as interest in and ability to deal with

individuals from a different cultural background (Law, 2008). Questionnaires are commonly used as a reliable tool to test how a population receives the concept of multiculturalism.

Similarly, the field of intercultural communication (ICC) can be interesting to look at in terms of learning about how individuals “do” culture. Indeed, Kramsch and Hua (2016) elaborate on the theories of how this relatively new field has evolved considerably of the last few decades. Most notably, in its way of seeing culture as not being given, static or something you belong to or live with, but rather something one does, or, as a verb for meaning making (Kramsch & Hua, 2016). Therefore, culture should not be considered something that people are prescribed (Kramsch & Hua, 2016).

Kramsch and Hua (2016) also go on to explain that seeing “ICC as a social (inter)action means that we can no longer assume that the problems experienced in ICC are cultural misunderstandings which can be made good or pre-empted if people can somehow see ‘good intentions’ in each other’s actions or have sufficient cultural information or skills” (p. 5). The way these problems can be solved is through honing one’s intercultural competence, hence learning about various cultures and languages on a general level.

An underlying element behind the broader concept of diversity and culture is the interplay of ingroup and outgroup dynamics. Studies have shown that when individuals are asked to describe themselves, they often do so on a basis of nationality, race and occupation (Noel, Bascombe & Wann, 1995). This self-categorizing process is also often important for determining the nature of the group one will associate with (Noel et al., 1995). Although ingroup-outgroup research has varied on several fronts throughout the realm of academia, it is generally agreed upon that group membership is important for self-esteem and to have a clear definition of one’s self (Noel et al., 1995). It is also plausible that some feel a stronger association to a group than others. As Noel, Bascombe and Wann (1995) put it, it usually depends on how close the group member incorporates the group onto his self-concept (p.128).

As previously mentioned, one way to obtain data in order to answer the research question herein is by surveying comments posted in TripAdvisor’s Travel Board forum. To say that TripAdvisor has revolutionized the tourism industry over the past decade would be an understatement. As explained by Traiger (2008), TripAdvisor as focal firm in the ecosystem depends on the willingness of consumers to provide content and use the platform for trip planning. Innovations in technology are key drivers for structural changes in the tourism industry (Traiger, 2008). Furthermore, understanding the various ways in which open

innovation can be structured is of utmost importance for tourism industry players in order to identify innovation opportunities (Traiger, 2008).

In summary, TripAdvisor's business plan rests on customer-driven value creation. It is the value proposition of the firm in terms of how it helps the customer to co-create value. It facilitates and gives recognition for the generation of content by travellers and increases the value of this content by linking it to information and services provided by businesses/destinations (Traiger, 2008). TripAdvisor's ecosystem reflects the networked nature of tourism and consequently provides significant insights for the tourism industry in terms of how build on service provision which can be structured to serve both customer and business partner needs (Traiger, 2008).

Certain key features of TripAdvisor include the following:

1. Profile Customisation: subscribers can edit their profiles in order to search and view travel suggestions and reviews according to their travel preferences and profile.
2. Status: Users can display their know-how and obtain recognition for their help.
3. Metasearch Decision support: Prices for different booking platforms/airlines are displayed simultaneously to allow for price comparisons
4. Information filtering: Travellers can view recommendations backed by Facebook friends, who they know and trust more than strangers.
5. Interaction and networking: Tourists can find and interact with people they know (friends) and strangers (e.g. users wishing to visit Shanghai can find people who have previously visited the city).
6. Crowd sourcing/Status: Users promote their profiles within their Facebook network to build social status. This creates incentives to add more content for the benefit of others: 35 % of new reviews are from Facebook-connected users (TripAdvisor.com, 2013b).
Apps Location-based/offline services: Apps provide travellers with location-specific content when on the go and with offline city guides.
7. Forums Social interaction/Collaboration: Members can ask for advice and share their opinions.

The choice for administering surveys in the tourism industry can be considered a risky one for validity reasons. The format of a survey has an impact on the types of answers it obtains. According to Dolnicar, Laesser and Matus, (2008) one such reason is that even

today, deciding on whether or not to use a paper or electronic method can pose a serious problem. It can hide an unintentional bias against those who do not have access to an electronic device. Using an electronic only survey has been shown to exclude persons on one end of the sociodemographic spectrum. Additionally, research indicated that paper surveys lead to lower dropout rates and less incomplete data. To make up for this pitfall and increase the validity of the tool, it is crucial for the tourism survey to include various methods within the questionnaire itself. In other words, a combination of open-ended questions and Likert scale items increases the validity of survey significantly. To eliminate the possibility of creating a bias, a multimethod tactic consisting of using different approaches within an approach should be implemented. One reason for this is that if a Cronbach's Alpha test reveals discrepancies between groups of Likert Scale items, a researcher has the possibility of relying on qualitative answers within the survey, hence the open-ended questions.

3 Methodology

As per mentioned earlier, the methodological approach implemented for the purposes of this research consisted of two parts. The first being the searching of TripAdvisor forums in order to identify commonalities within the questions and responses that prospective tourists and locals to have on their cities. The second part consisted of questioning locals about how they go about considering suggestions and recommendations for what to see, do and eat in Toronto and Brussels.

1. *TripAdvisor - Discourse Analysis*

As previously mentioned, one way to obtain data to answer the research question herein is by surveying comments posted in TripAdvisor's Travel Board forum. Past research has laid a solid foundation for how this platform can be used for similar types of studies (Traiger, 2008, Law, 2006). The way in which I plan to use it is by making use of its search engine capability, which returns a list of postings that match selected criteria (Traiger, 2008). Specifically, my plan is to focus on extracting information relevant to the research question from TripAdvisor's forums. As Traiger (2008) explains "Forums are discussion boards in which travelers can ask (and answer) questions, share their personal travel experiences, and get advice." (p. 15).

Upon analyzing first scan of the forums of questions, answers, and the occasional testimonial posted by future tourists and locals of the two cities, it was clear that a specific *tertium comparationis* needed to be implemented (ten Thije, 2020). In other words, there needed to be an adequate and reliable point of reference (ten Thije, 2020). Such reference is necessary for contrastive studies like the one at hand (ten Thije, 2020). The time span was the six months between August 20th, 2019 and February 20th, 2020, hence the *tertium comparationis*, allocated for the retrieval of the TripAdvisor posts for Brussels and Toronto.

The motive behind narrowing the corpus down to a six-month period is that any less of a time frame would not have yielded the opportunity to find enough relevant data. In other words, a shorter time frame would not have allowed to find sufficient posts that would fall into the research realm of multiculturalism-related efforts in tourism. In order to make the study as relevant as possible, the obvious choice was to decide on a more recent time frame. On the other hand, analyzing TripAdvisor forums of greater than six months of posts would not only have been excessive and infinitely complicated to code, the risk of having an even larger divergence between the percentage of Toronto posts and Brussels posts would have been magnified.

It is also important to state that there were twice as many postings for Toronto than there were for Brussels. For example, 128 excerpts appeared throughout the selection of posts I chose for Toronto compared to 64 for Brussels.

The research was done using a corpus-based approach. Implementing a corpus-based methodology involves a deductive approach in which the corpus at hand acts as a catalyst aiding to confirm or reject a pre-existing theoretical construct. Also, it tends to test the validity of a given hypothesis against a carefully selected corpus data set. This is in direct contrast to the corpus-driven approach which is inductive in that it decides upon a targeted corpus and through interpretation cyclical analysis of a corpus data. It tends to generalize some kind of theory or a rule. As Tognini-Bonelli (2001) explains “Corpus-based studies typically use corpus data in order to explore a theory or hypothesis, aiming to validate it, refute it or refine it”. Finally, when the research circumstances allow for both corpus-based and corpus-driven analyses, the researcher may hybridize both approaches combining the merits of deduction and induction at the same time.

Due to the high number of posts, the objective was to focus on what kind of information could be found in more general posts pertaining to expectations or impressions, such as what to do for a short stay in either Toronto or Brussels. Below are examples of selected posts for each city.

Toronto

“Just had lunch with coworkers who both lived in Toronto. They started getting nostalgic about Toronto. What I love about it is the distinct neighbourhoods. The city is just so RICH with culture!”

“One place I always like to recommend because it is “very Toronto” is Banh Mi Boys. There are several locations. It is a place that serves Vietnamese inspired sub sandwiches and Korean inspired filled/steamed buns. Toronto could very well be the most culturally diverse city in the world (more than half of us born elsewhere) and this is a great example of us 2nd generation Canadians fusing our ancestral cultures with the modern one. Plus, the sandwiches are cheap and delicious! My favourites are the 5-spice pork belly banh mi and the fried chicken bao.”

“Hi. Considering visiting the last week of June. Is 7 days too long? Wondering if I can fill my time. I'm originally from NYC, so like large cities. I'm considering staying near the Entertainment district. BTW, I stayed 7 nights in Quebec City, and I loved it. However it was a unique experience with European charm. I'm afraid Toronto may be too much like NYC...but without the culture. Thank you”

Brussels

“Hello, I will be traveling from London to Brussels in early December for about 5 days (from America). I would like to visit Brussels, Ghent, Bruges, and Antwerp. I was wondering if I should just stay in Brussels the whole time and then just take the train to each of these cities (one city a day). Or stay in Brussels the first two days and then stay one night in each of these cities. Which of these cities should I allocate the most time to? I'm 26 years old and am mostly interested in the beer, food, and architecture of Belgium”

“For multicultural reason the name Christmas market is not often used anymore. Information will be published here <https://www.plaisirsdhiver.be/en/>. You will notice there are no details yet, but you can use last year program as a reference here <https://www.brussels.be/winter-wonders>”

Threads that consisted a local expert referring the soon-to-be tourist to website links were usually discarded. Similarly, posts that included comments which were replaced by an automated messaging indicating that the original message was vulgar/inappropriate were also discarded. The following is an example message of a post that was flagged and subsequently removed:

“-:– Message from Tripadvisor staff -:–

This post has been removed at the author's request. The author may repost if desired.

Posts on the Tripadvisor forums may be edited for a short period of time. Once the edit period has expired, authors may update their posts by removing and reposting them.

To read more about editing your posts, please follow this link: http://www.tripadvisor.com/help/how_to_edit_your_posts

Removed on: 10:34 pm, February 02, 2020

3.1 Coding Procedure

Upon having finalized the process of selecting the TripAdvisor interactions for each city, the posts were exported into a Microsoft Word document. From there, they were subsequently transferred into Nvivo in order to start analysing the discourse. After having scanned the posts once more, themes relating to the researched question were identified.

Those themes - labelled as Nodes in Nvivo - were the following:

Recommending
Multiculturality– General Providing a suggestion pertaining to where the subject can partake in cultural-related activities. Usually in form of a specific recommendation
Multiculturality – Food

<p>Providing a suggestion pertaining to where the subject can find ethnic food. Usually in form of a recommendation</p>
<p>National Culture - General Providing a suggestion pertaining to where the subject can partake in local/national related activities. Usually in form of a recommendation</p>
<p>National Culture – Food Providing a suggestion pertaining to where the subject can find local/national food. Usually in form of a recommendation</p>
<p>National Culture – Day Trips Providing a suggestion pertaining to where the subject can go on a day trip. Usually in form of a recommendation</p>
<p>Cultural Inquiry – Clarification When a local responded to a question by asking the future tourist to clarify what they are seeking for, whether it be museums, ethnic food, art festivals, etc</p>
<p><u>Commenting</u> A general comment about the demographic makeup of the city, sometimes compared to other cities. For example, comparing Toronto’s cultural diversity to that of New York’s</p>

The bulk of this process consisted of identifying, selecting and then transferring the excerpts into their respective code categories. Some of the information retrieved were assessed to belong to two or more categories.

3.2 Survey Design

3.2.1 Sections

Based on the findings retrieved from the TripAdvisor comments, a 21-item survey was designed to inquire how locals promote their respective cities to tourists. The opening page of the questionnaire lays out information pertaining to the purpose for collecting the survey data. The page also informs the participants that their responses will be anonymized. Once the prospective respondent has read all the terms, a check box at the bottom of the page has to be ticked in order for the respondent to proceed with the survey. The check box serves as a clear and explicit representation of consent.

Subsequently, the questionnaire delves into demographic-related questions. Similar to the forced response from the previous page, the one obligatory question consists of inquiring whether the respondent comes from either Toronto, Brussels or “Other”. In order for the survey to be eligible to be counted in the study, the prospective respondent must reside in one of the two aforementioned cities. All surveys received from respondents who did not at the time live in one of the two cities were discarded. In addition to knowing their place of residence, the survey also asked respondents which gender they identify to, their age, how long they have lived in their respective cities, how many languages they speak at a moderate level and what their ideal vacation would consist of. The objective behind having these kinds of questions was to better compartmentalize the data based on the results of the research question-related items.

In regard to the principal survey questions, the items were separated into two parts. The first consisting of open questions and the second being 7-point Likert scale items (see survey in Appendix section). Dörnyei explains the advantages of using qualitative and quantitative data by explaining that it allows the researcher to obtain a fuller understanding of a phenomenon as well as to verify one set of findings against each other (2007). Specifically, the goal of a mixed methods approach is to understand a complex matter by looking at it from multiple angles (Dörnyei, 2007). Along the same lines, triangulation is desired to validate conclusions by converging results obtained using different methods (Dörnyei, 2007).

Only one version of the survey was designed for both the participants of Brussels and of Toronto. Upon the initial completion of the survey questionnaire in English, it was then translated into French and even in Dutch thanks to efforts from generous assistant researchers. The assistant researchers whose names are mentioned in the Acknowledgment section of this report also helped in translating the responses of the Dutch-filled surveys.

The purpose of diversifying the types of questions stems from the need to produce a varied data set. To keep the open questions as concise as possible, the survey requests that the respondent provide three ideas to questions such as what are the three first things that come to their mind when you think of their city. This question was posed to each participant group about their own city as well about the other city. In other words, the two groups had to share three words on the first words that come to mind when thinking of both Toronto and Brussels. Additionally, the structure of other questions which, for example, ask the respondent what types of activities and foods they would recommend a tourist, serves to provide flexibility in allowing the participant the option to either write substantial amount of just a few words.

As for the Likert scale questions, a similar method to the open questions was applied by converting questions into an attitudinal format. Once again possible scenarios and outcomes are given here for the respondent to determine whether or not they could see a situation play out that way. For example, would they only provide ethnic food restaurant recommendations if a tourist specifically asked for it. The important component to be considered here was to formulate half of the questions in a positively worded manner and the others in a negative stance. In other words, items were designed using a variety of formulations relating to the same perception. By doing so, the researcher could possibly determine if respondents are clearly reading each question or if they simply gloss over them and select the same answer for all.

Though participants did not explicitly have access to leave comments upon completing the survey, they could and often did manage to send a direct message to the researcher who was posting the survey on Facebook, Reddit and TripAdvisor from his personal account.

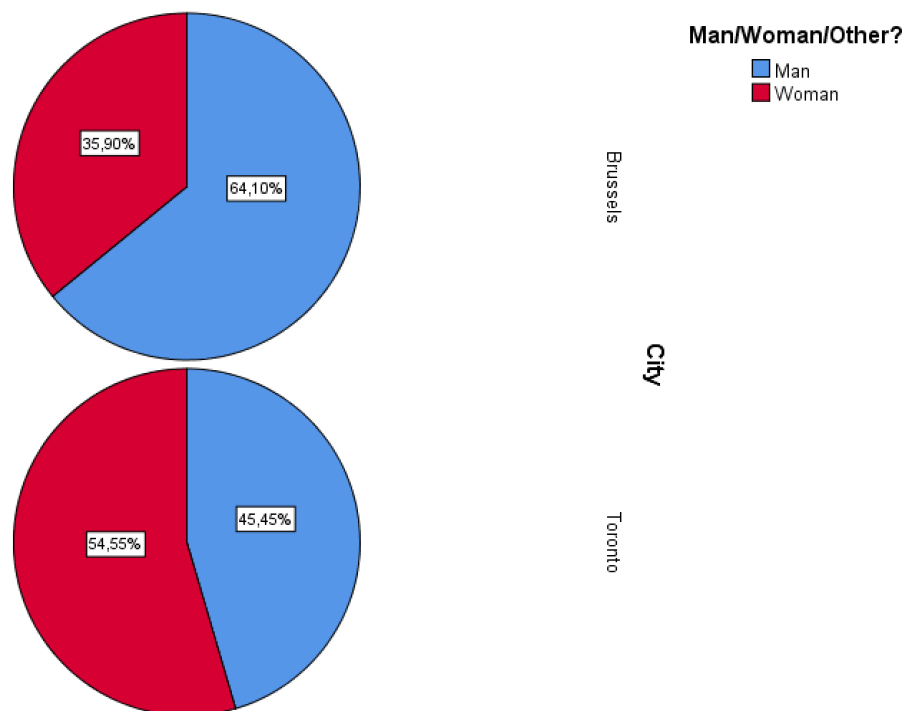
3.2.2 Distribution

The Facebook groups used were the following: Brussels Interns, Events in Brussels, I LOVE BRUSSELS, Expats in Brussels, and Indians in Brussels. The Reddit pages were r/belgium, r/brussels, r/BruxellesMaBelle, and r/Wallonia. The survey was also posted on both the Toronto and Brussels TripAdvisor forums. In addition, the researcher also sent the survey to a few friends, family and acquaintances living in the two cities. Since the researcher experienced slightly more difficulty finding participants who lived in the Brussels area, he asked individuals who know people in the area to pass it on to their personal network.

3.2.3 Demographics

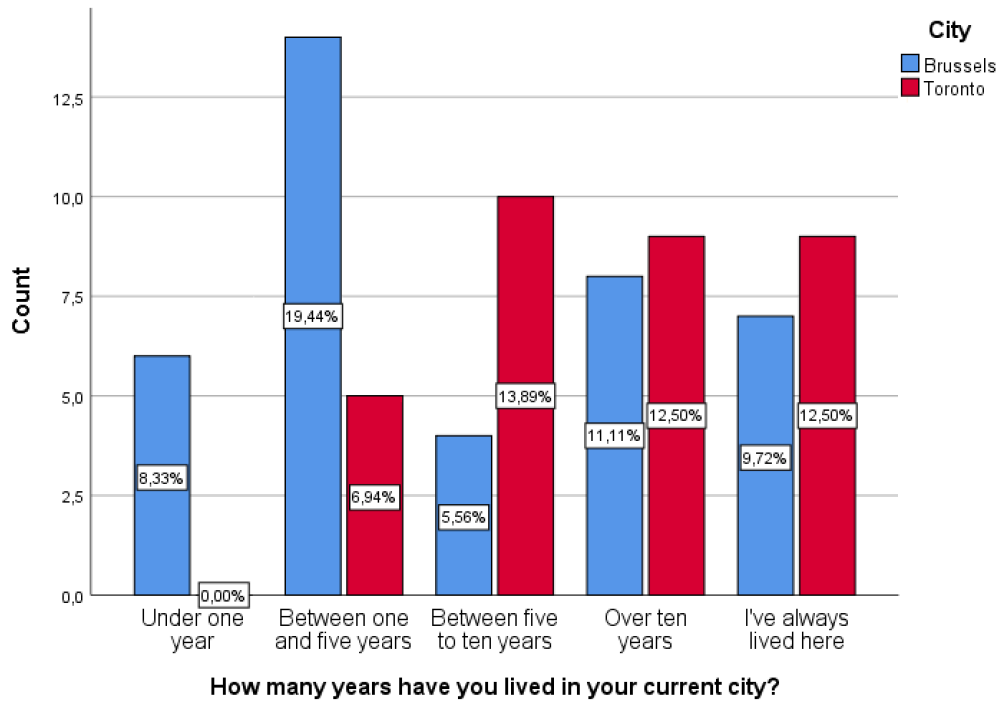
A total of 79 respondents replied to the survey, of which seven were ineligible due to incomplete surveys, being under 18-years-old or where they came from. If they did not currently live the Brussels or Toronto area, their responses were discarded. The remaining 72 participants (32 female, 40 male; mean age = 32,17) (graphic 1) were split into two groups based on the city they inhabited: 39 were classified as being Brussels locals and 33 were classified as Toronto locals (graphic 1).

Graphic 1: Gender



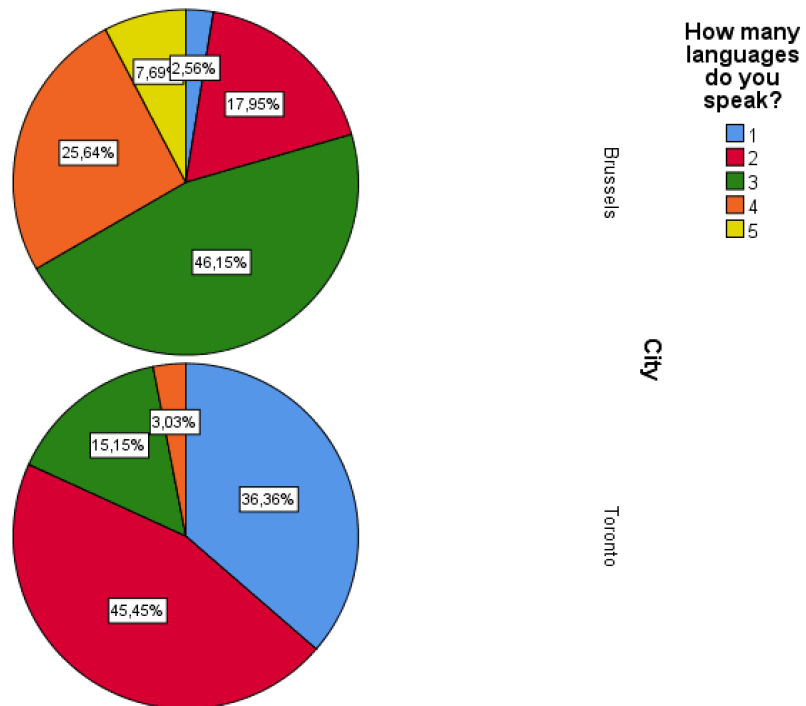
Approximately half of the Brussels locals were relatively new to the city whereas most of the Toronto respondents had lived in the city for over five years (Brussels; under five years = 55.54%, Toronto; over five years = 77.78% (graphic 2).

Graphic 2: Length of time in city



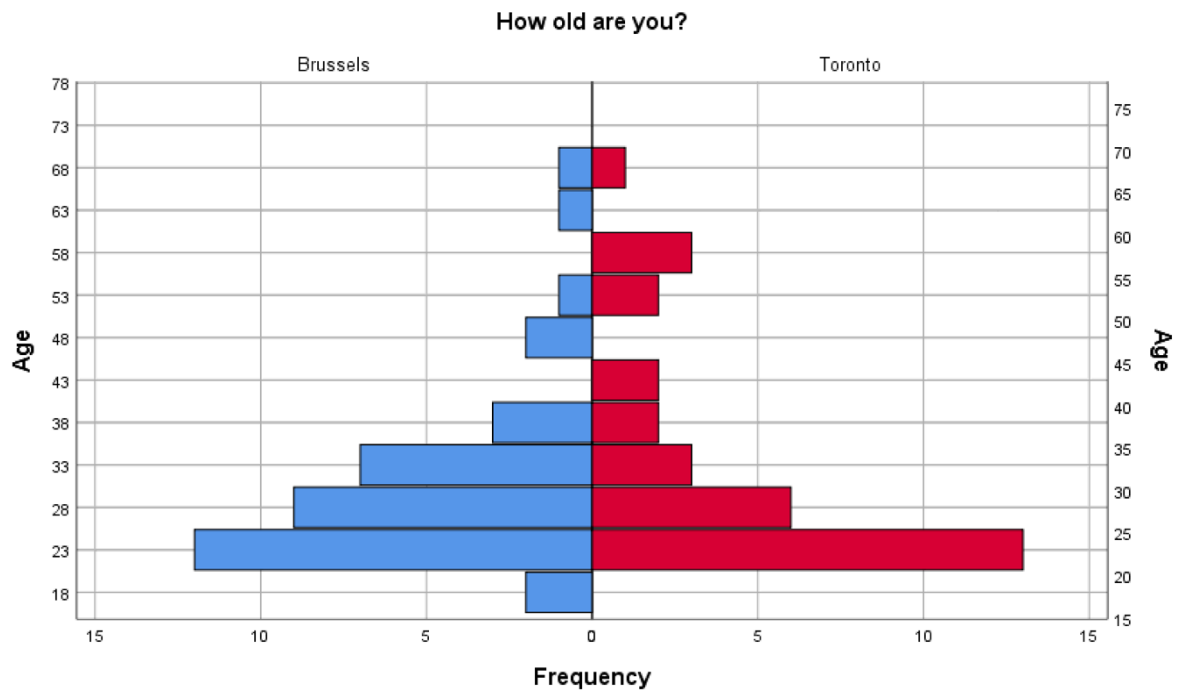
An overwhelming majority of Brussels participants spoke three or more languages whereas most of the Toronto cohort spoke under three languages (Brussels; three or more languages = 79.45%, Toronto; three or more languages = 18.19%) (graphic 3).

Graphic 3: Number of Languages Spoken at a Moderate Level



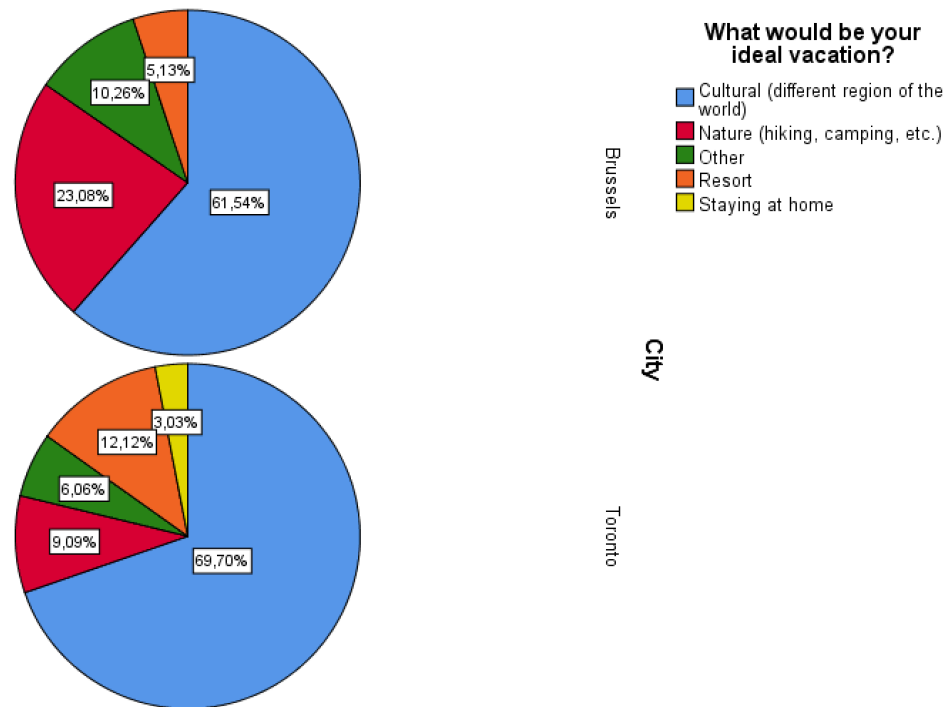
Regarding the age of the respondents, the participants from Brussels (M = 31.24, SD = 12) were on average slightly younger than the Toronto respondents (M = 33.28, SD = 13.54) (graphic 4).

Graphic 4: Age



When it came to the types of preferred vacations that the participants would prefer to go on, for both cities the most common answer proved to be “Cultural (different region of the world)” and least was “Staying at home”, Brussels = 66.66%, Toronto = 63.88% and Brussels = 0%, Toronto = 2.78%, respectively (graphic 5).

Graphic 5: Ideal Type of Vacation



The most used language to fill in the survey was English, followed by French and then Dutch: English = 81.94%, French = 12.50%, Dutch = 5.56%, respectively

4Results & Analysis

TripAdvisor - Forum Scan

This subsection looks at the percentage of Brussels and Toronto TripAdvisor recommendations (see Appendix) that fell into each of the categories defined, retrieved in the previous section. Based off of what most locals seem to focus on in terms of what they view their city, a survey was subsequently designs with an emphasis on the themes that were most commonly represented. The percentages can be found below (table 1)

Table 1. Trip Advisor Scan

Local Recommendation	Brussels	Toronto
Multiculturalism – General	21%	40%
Multiculturalism – Food	2%	19%
National Culture - General	33%	17%
National Culture – Food	13%	11%
National Culture – Day Trips	21%	0%
Cultural Inquiry – Clarification	8%	5%

General Commenting	2%	8%
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In chronological order and as demonstrated in the table above, the three most common talking points for the locals from Brussels in the TripAdvisor forums were the following:

1. National Culture – General
2. National Culture – Day Trips
3. Multiculturalism – General

In order, the three least mentioned talking points for the locals from Brussels in the TripAdvisor forums were the following:

1. General Commenting
2. Multiculturalism – Food
3. Cultural Inquiry – Clarification

In order, the three most talked about topics from the Toronto locals in the TripAdvisor forums were the following:

1. Multiculturalism – General
2. Multiculturalism – Food
3. National Culture – General

In chronological order, the three least brought up points for the locals by Toronto locals in the TripAdvisor forums were the following:

1. National Culture – Day Trips
2. Cultural Inquiry – Clarification
3. General Commenting

Upon observing the commonalities and differences between the percentage a survey was designed with emphasis on the common themes represented throughout the TripAdvisor forums.

Survey

This section will present the results of statistical tests performed on the selected data. The initial step consisted of verifying the reliability of the survey test instrument. Second, an

independent T-Test was performed to test the main research questions, whether multiculturalism had an impact on the type of recommendations that the locals from each city gave to tourists. Subsequently, Pearson Correlation Coefficient tests were conducted within the data set of the individual cities and within the two categories, namely the items pertaining to national culture and those pertaining to multiculturalism. Next, a One-Way ANOVA test was conducted to test if there is a relationship between a factor variable from the demographic section with one of the Likert scale items.

Cronbach's Alpha

In order to test the validity of the item constructs, Cronbach's Reliability tests were conducted. Cronbach's Alpha consists of a measure for verifying the reliability and consistency of the sampling instrument and examines whether all the data were measured the same underlying construct. If the Alpha results is 0.5, it is acceptable but quantitatively weak. Dörnyei expands on this point by explaining that it is possible that the inconsistency in scores could be due a respondent answering a survey in a language different from their mother tongue scores that do not reach “:0.60 on the Cronbach's Alpha scale should sound warning bells” (Dörnyei, 2007, p. 206). Hence the qualitative focus, consisting of the sets of words and quotes, became especially important. For the Brussels survey, the National Culture and Multiculturalism related items produced unacceptable scores. For the Toronto survey, the National Culture items and all items together produced unacceptable scores. For all respondents combined together, the overall set of comparing the overall items to one another produced an unacceptable score (table 2). With these scores in mind, it was often the case that the Alpha was slightly higher when the item on discouraging visits to ethnic neighborhoods and about their city having more to offer compared to less multicultural cities had been deleted. That being said, these scores would still not have surpassed the 0.60 threshold.

Table 2: Cronbach's Alpha

	Brussels α	Toronto α	Overall α
National Culture	0.43	0.55	0.52
Multiculturalism	0.44	0.44	0.52
Overall	0.53	0.31	0.4

Toronto

The city where the participants reside and their attitude towards multiculturalism positively influencing the diversity of restaurants to choose from were compared. On average Toronto locals (M = 6.67, SD = 0.65) reported more positive attitudes

towards the diversity of restaurant of which to choose from than Brussels locals (M = 6.26, SD = 0.94). The results of an Independent Samples T-Test showed that this difference was statistically significant, $t(67.38)=-2.19, p<0.05$.

The city where the participants reside and their attitude towards their multicultural city having more to offer compared to more diverse cities. On average Toronto locals (M = 5.97, SD = 1.21) reported more negative attitudes than Brussels locals (M = 4.21, SD = 1.67) regarding the belief that their metropolis has more to offer compared to more monocultural cities. The results of an Independent Samples T-Test showed that this difference was statistically significant, $t(68.47)=-5.18, p<0.01$. In this case – since $p < .01$ there is even less of a probability that these results were due to chance.

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test show there is a weak positive linear relationship between Toronto locals' attitudes towards the notion that they tend more to promote national culture to tourists and their belief that they only recommend ethnic food if a tourist specifically asked for it: $(r(31)=.39, p<0.05)$ (table 3).

Table 3. Bivariate Correlation Analysis of two Toronto national cultural-related items

		Only recommend ethnic food if tourist specifically asks for it
Promoting national culture	Pearson Correlation	0.386*
	Sig. (1-tailed)	0.027
	<i>n</i>	33

*, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed)

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test show there is a moderate positive linear relationship between Toronto locals' attitudes towards discouraging tourists

from going to ethnic neighbourhoods and asking tourists what type of cultural experience they would be interested when visiting the local's city: ($r(31)=.47, p<0.01$) (table 4).

Table 4. Bivariate Correlation Analysis of two Toronto national cultural-related items

		Discouraging visits to some neighbourhoods
Asking tourists for the type of cultural experience that they'd want	Pearson Correlation	0.466
	Sig. (1-tailed)	0.006
	<i>n</i>	33

** , Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed)

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test show there is no relationship between Toronto locals' attitudes towards the notion that they would only recommend ethnic food if a tourist specifically asked for it and their belief that ethnic restaurants are replacing local food joints. ($r(31)=-.04, p>0.05$) (table 5).

Table 5. Bivariate Correlation Analysis of two Toronto national cultural-related items

		Only recommend ethnic food if tourist specifically asks for it
Ethnic food resto replacing local establishments	Pearson Correlation	-.035
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.847
	<i>n</i>	33

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test show there is a weak positive linear relationship between Toronto locals' attitudes towards their belief that their multicultural city had more to offer compared to less diverse cities and the idea that

multiculturalism positively influences the diversity of restaurants of which to choose from: ($r(31)=.35, p<0.05$) (table 6).

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test show there is no relationship between Toronto locals' attitudes towards the idea that becoming more politically correct is good and the notion that their multicultural city has more to offer compared to less diverse cities: ($r(31)=.03, p>0.05$) (table 6).

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test show there is a moderate positive linear relationship between Toronto locals' attitudes towards the notion that their multicultural city has more to offer compared to less diverse cities and their belief that they would include the word "multicultural" when describing their city to a tourist: ($r(31)=.43, p<0.05$) (table 6).

Table 6. Bivariate Correlation Analysis of four Toronto multicultural-related items

		Multiculturalism positively influences diversity of restaurants to choose from	Becoming PC is good	Including word "multicultural" when describing their city
Their multicultural city having more to offer compared to less diverse cities	Pearson Correlation	.346*	.032	.433*
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.048	.861	.012
	<i>N</i>	33	33	33

*, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed)

Open-Ended Questions

When analysing the survey item which required Toronto respondents to write three words that come to mind when thinking about Brussels, the simplest solution was to categorise the words into three groups. The largest category consisted of all that was food related. Overwhelmingly, the Toronto locals jotted down words such as *Beer, fries* and *sprouts*. The second most common category were words that pertained to the city's

geography and institutional role. Nearly one in five Toronto locals mentioned that Brussels was the capital of the European union or mentioned *Belgium, metropolis*, and so on. The third most common category were those who acknowledged that they knew nothing about the city. One such respondent was rather upfront about their lack of knowledge on Brussels and admitted *Don't know Brussels at all, nothing comes to mind*. One other respondent was also just as forward by writing *Clueless - empty, Never been*. Respondents that were too ambiguous to decipher such as *Unknown, interesting, adventure* were placed into this category. This particular answer, however, most likely speaks to the negativity of emptiness but also the positivity of the unknown and adventure. The fourth and final category was the culture category. Though none of the Toronto respondents had words pertaining to multiculturalism, one had words which could be loosely attributed to Culture. Interestingly, the participant wrote these four words *Belgian, French flemish, culture*. All answers from the Toronto respondents were categorized as being neutral. No biases were identified.

The Toronto locals' words about their city, on the other hand, did reveal several positive attitudes. Commonly respondents used words such as *exciting, safe, clean, progress, fun, great time, happy, world class* and *party*. Approximately just as much as the positive attitudinal responses were the neutral words or those that could not be placed in either the positive or the negative category. Indeed, words such as *home, busy, big* were both used extremely commonly and fell in between both what could be categorized as good or bad. Finally, there were a few responses that could clearly be attributed to having a somewhat negative attitude. These responses included words like *expensive, gray* and *traffic*. Only two participants had these kinds of responses.

As shown above, the Toronto locals often reverted to using adjectives for talking about their city. This and other rather obscure words such as *6ix, Foodies* and *Patio* made categorizing the responses extremely difficult. For example, although it cannot be confirmed, it is believed that *6ix* refers to Toronto's nickname popularised by local rapper Drake. That being said, the most 76% of words were the following *multicultural, city, big* and *diverse*. As for the nature of the types of activities that the Toronto locals would recommend when visiting their city, 64% of participants offered suggestions which only pertained to National Culture like *the CN Tower, Sports games, craft brewery tour* whereas the remaining 36% recommended a mix of some multicultural activities like *eat in Little Italy, Chinatown* and *Aga Khan Museum* and Canadian ones as well.

For the food recommendations, however, the participants tended to offer much more multicultural (27) suggestions which often included the likes of *Indian, Asian fusion, Italian*

and *African*. In this section, the passion of the participants is quite clear through responses such as *Any type they wish, we have them all*”, *whatever they haven't tried before/enjoy!*, *Any which they cannot find in their hometown*, *Ethnic - all kinds* and *oh gosh, Thai, Indian, Korean*. Only one respondent answered, *Local burger joint*.

Brussels

Perhaps most interestingly, the results of the One-Way ANOVA test show that the number of languages that a Brussels local speaks has a significant impact on whether or not they recommend ethnic food restaurant options to tourists $F(4, 34) = 3.98, p = .009$. 13 respondents (4 to 5 language range) somewhat agreed to agreed. Similarly, the results of the One-Way ANOVA test show that the number of languages that a Brussels local speaks has a significant impact on whether they think that their multicultural city has more to offer than less diverse cities $F(4, 34) = 3.43, p = .019$. 13 respondents (4 to 5 language range) somewhat agreed to agreed.

The city where the participants reside and their attitude towards discouraging tourists from going to ethnic neighbourhoods were compared. On average Toronto locals ($M = 1.45, SD = 0.71$) reported more negatively than Brussels locals ($M = 3.21, SD = 2.05$). In other words, they would be less likely to discourage tourists to visiting certain ethnic parts of time. The results of an Independent Samples T-Test showed that this difference was statistically significant, $t(67.38) = -2.19, p < 0.05$.

Table 2. Independent T-Test of one national culture item and multiculturalism-related items

	EIE	<i>n</i>	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Conditions	Significance (2-tailed)
Multiculturalism positively influences diversity of restaurants to choose from	Bru	39	6.26	0.94	$t(67.38) = -2.19$	$p = .037^*$
	Tor	32	6.67	0.65		

Their multicultural city having more to offer compared to less diverse cities	Bru	39	4.21	1.67	t(68.47)=-5.18 p=.001**
	Tor	32	5.97	1.21	
Discouraging tourists from visiting ethnic neighbourhoods	Bru	39	3.21	2.05	t(67.38)=-2.19 p=.001**
	Tor	32	1.45	0.71	

*, Effect is significant at the 0.05 level

**, Effect is significant at the 0.01 level

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test shows there is no relationship between Brussels locals’ attitudes towards discouraging tourists from going to ethnic neighbourhoods and belief that ethnic restaurants are replacing local food joints: (r(37)=.06, p>0.05) (table 3).

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test show there is a weak positive linear relationship between Brussels locals’ attitudes towards their belief that ethnic restaurants are replacing local food joints and the notion that they would only recommend ethnic food if a tourist specifically asked for it. (r(37)=.37, p<0.05) (table 3).

Table 3. Bivariate Correlation Analysis of three Brussels national culture-related items

		Discouraging visits to some neighbourhoods	Only recommend ethnic food if tourist specifically asks for it
Ethnic food resto replacing local establishments	Pearson Correlation	.064	.365
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.697	.022
	n	39	39

*, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed)

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test show there is no relationship between Brussels locals attitudes towards the idea that becoming more politically correct is good and the belief that multiculturalism positively influences the diversity of restaurants of which to choose from ($r(37)=0.02$, $p<0.05$) (table 4). Therefore, it could be said that whether one tries to use more inclusive language does not predict whether they are open food from other cultures.

The results of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient test shows there is a weak positive linear relationship between Brussels locals' attitudes towards the belief that they should include the word *multicultural* when describing their city to a tourist and the idea that becoming more politically correct is good: ($r(37)=.38$, $p<0.05$) (table 4).

Table 4. Bivariate Correlation Analysis of three Brussels multiculturalism-related items

		Including word <i>multicultural</i> when describing their city	Multiculturalism positively influences the diversity of restaurants
Becoming PC is good	Pearson Correlation	.375*	.021
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.019	.901
	<i>n</i>	39	39

*, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed)

Table 9. ANOVA of Number of languages spoken by Brussels' locals and national culture-related items

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Significance
Belief that they'd recommend ethnic food restaurant options to tourists	Between groups	35.395	4	8.849	3.983	$p=.009$
	Within groups	75.529	34	2.221		

Their multicultural city has more to offer than less diverse cities	Between groups	30.553	4	7.638	3.426	$p=.019$
	Within groups	75.806	34	2.230		

Open-Ended Questions

Upon analysing the responses for the Brussels locals about Toronto, the extensive variety once again made it difficult to place the responses into separate categories. The difference was wide ranging and could be seen through answers like *Rob Ford, boat, Searstower*. Similar to the Toronto cohort, the tone of the answers remained neutral throughout. Perhaps interestingly, several answers pertained to Canada as whole. This phenomenon could be seen in words such as *Canada, bears?, Ontario, hockey, syrup* and *sorry* (a common Canadian expression). On that note, several Brussels locals commented on the manner in which Canadians speak by putting down words like *accent, aboot* and *eh*. Four respondents left this box empty and two admitted to not knowing anything about Toronto writing *jamais été* and *je ne connais pas*.

For their responses on their own city, categories were easily identifiable upon first glance. The densest category for this item was Culture with words like *international, Diverse, European* and *Muslim immigrant*. The second largest number of responses was again the Food category which included the words *bière, waffle* and *food*. The third category coincides with the categories attributed to the items mentioned above; it consists of the Negative group. Here words can be found such as *dirty, arrogant* and *soulless*. Finally, the last category consisted naturally of all the rest that was positive and miscellaneous. Words in this category were *maison, cozy, alive* and *open*.

The item which required the Brussels locals to list three activities that they would recommend to others perhaps not as indicative of how they perceive their city as the Toronto cohort. All 39 responses referred to the idea that pertained to National Culture. Overwhelmingly, the respondents suggested food related activities and some form of sightseeing. For example, *Visiting historical locations, drink beer, eat frites, Sightseeing, architecture, chocolate, beer and chocolate tours*, and *Visite de la grande place, bière, des moules chez Léon*. Indeed, most other suggestions consisted of recommending that tourists

see Grand-Place, Manneken Pis, Sainte Catherine and walk around. One respondent indicated that they had no idea *Geen idee*.

On a similar note, all but one of the Brussels participants indicated that tourists should try an assortment of Belgian food. Several simply wrote “*Belgian*” whereas others took a more in-depth approach by specifying a dish or location: *Local (Fries, Waffles, Vol-au-vent, Carbonnade) and a few pizza places, Divers établissements tout à fait différents. Mais la frite à la baraque du coin est incontournable*. A handful of respondents took a more diplomatic approach by indicating that the choice should be up to the tourist: *Ca dépend de ce qu'ils aiment :) il y en a pour tous les goûts!* or *Un peu de tout ! Il y a beaucoup de choses !*. Three responses included a mix of ethnic food as well as with Belgian food: *Middle Eastern, Belgian, Chinese and modern, French, Asian*. One respondent answered, *Italian food*.

5 Discussion

The results presented above do not provide enough substantial evidence that Brussels and Toronto locals consistently promote activities and cuisine that pertain solely to either national culture or multiculturalism. In other words, they tend to recommend that tourists experience a mix of both types of activities.

Although the TripAdvisor scan was used mostly to aid in developing the centre piece of this study (the survey), the frequency of the topics brought up in forums did often align with what was found in the open-ended questions of the survey. When given the choice to write down three words about their own city, both Toronto and Brussels participants frequently mentioned multiculturalism and internationalism. This topic was also what was most brought up about by the locals in the forums. The fact that Brussels locals barely ever recommended ethnic food in the survey also aligned with TripAdvisor findings. This was in direct contrast to the high frequency multicultural food-talk in the Toronto forums and in the survey.

Within the survey the Toronto group held slightly more positive attitudes towards multiculturalism impacting the diversity of restaurants to choose. The Toronto locals also reported more negative attitudes towards encouraging tourists to visit certain perhaps more ethnic neighbourhoods. The one significant difference between the two cities was that the Toronto locals perceived their city as having more to offer compared to less multicultural cities whereas the Brussels locals did not.

Upon analysing the locals' attitudes against each other, we can see that for Brussels, the belief that ethnic restaurants are replacing local food establishments correlated somewhat positively with the notion that they would only recommend ethnic food if a tourist specifically asked for it, which demonstrates a slight preference to sell national culture. Yet, the same group also responded that they would include the word "multicultural" when describing their city to a tourist and the idea that becoming more politically correct is good. When comparing the other items of the two categories against each other, no other correlation was found. For example, it was revealed that how a Brussels local feels about discouraging tourists from going to ethnic neighbourhoods cannot predict their belief that ethnic restaurants are replacing local food joints. The same can be said for the Brussels local's opinion towards the notion that becoming more politically correct is good and the belief that multiculturalism positively influences the diversity of restaurants of which to choose from. In other words, one cannot predict the other since there is no relationship between the two attitudes. Generally speaking, these findings mirror the points represented throughout Martiniello's (2013) work on Brussels embracing multiculturalism. Indeed, it seems as though, locals endorsing visits to ethnic neighborhoods and embracing inclusivity talk could be considered as steps for creating a shared local identity (Martiniello, 2013).

A similar narrative can be observed with the Toronto group as there is a weak positive relationship between the notion that they tend more to promote national culture to tourists and their belief that they only recommend ethnic food if a tourist specifically asked for it, as well as with a somewhat stronger positive relationship between their attitudes on discouraging tourists from going to ethnic neighbourhoods with asking tourists what type of cultural experiences they would be interested when visiting the local's city. These are the only two comparisons which indicated that there is consistency within the categories. Most of the items – within the categories – here too, also showed no correlations. For example, it can be seen that a Toronto local's notion that they would only recommend ethnic food if a tourist specifically asked for it does not predict their belief that ethnic restaurants are replacing local food joints. Neither does their idea that becoming more politically correct is good correlate with their notion that their multicultural city has more to offer compared to less diverse cities. Considering the similarity between the results of the two cities individually, there seems to be little difference in how Brussels and Toronto locals perceive and promote their respective cities. This of course is in direct contrast of what was initially predicated from the anecdotal observation.

The incongruency between the types of recommendations that the locals from both cities give, reflects the findings by Joppe, Martin and Waalen that a tourist's experience varies depending on certain factors such as country of origin (2001). In other words, if a local knows that a tourist comes from the US and not from Europe, for example, the local may adapt his recommendations accordingly.

As brought to light by some of the participants, it is plausible to assume that locals refrain from promoting elements of multiculturalism over national culture in order to appeal to all crowds. This would indeed confirm the general notions found both in the Berlin and Harlem studies which stated that the increased mobility in the 21st century has made travel possible for all kinds of tourists with varying interests. A similar sentiment can be seen in Hoffman's work (2003): contemporary tourism efforts working towards drawing all people through inclusivity rather than to a niche subset. With this in mind, it makes sense as to why Toronto and Brussels residents vary the types of recommendations they provide to tourists.

One interesting but more general finding from the survey was that the more languages a Brussels local speaks at a moderate level, the more they are inclined to suggest ethnic food restaurants to a tourist. Similarly, the more languages a Brussels local speaks also has a significant impact on them thinking their multicultural city has more to offer than less diverse cities. This result makes sense in that a local who speaks several languages possibly has a sense of belonging for more than one culture. In fact, this lines up considerably well with Kramsch and Zhu's explanation for developing intercultural competence. In essence, it makes sense that the more one actively seeks to eat ethnic food, the more one would also speak multiple languages. It is possible that an individual who spoke two languages at home as a child but learning or more other languages, as well as eating different types of food, contributes to choices linked to worldly openness.

As eluded to in the results, the way in which Toronto and Brussels locals view their city based on their responses to the open ended questions proved to be so varied that it was practically impossible to interpret the results in a statistical manner other than looking at the count and percentages. It should also be noted that the percentage here is more relevant since there are an uneven number of respondents between both groups. The first glaring observation found within these eight items is that although both the Toronto and Brussels group each describe their city as being multicultural, the Brussels group would offer practically no multicultural related activity or food suggestions for tourists visiting their city. Although the Toronto group also refrained from proposing that tourists partake in multicultural activities, nearly all participants indicated they would tend to recommend ethnic

food options rather than national dishes. There are several reasons as to why this may be, such as the reality that non-indigenous population in Canada has only existed for approximately 400 years, centuries less than the variety of people who have inhabited Belgium. Another reason could be that since Toronto is bigger by land mass and population, there is simply a larger number of options from which to choose from. Finally, it is also possible that it is easier for prospective restaurant owners to obtain a permit and loan in Canada than it is in Belgium.

In addition, it is perhaps interesting to note that the Brussels locals had harsher remarks about their own city than those from Toronto. In fact, some of the responses were downright critical, whereas some of the Toronto group's positive responses were so enthusiastic that they could perhaps have contained a bias throughout the entirety of the survey. This contradicts Winter's (2007) approach to Canadian multiculturalism merely being an initiative pushed by the government. It is clear through the results that Torontonians embrace multiculturalism on an individual level.

The underlying theme of the results based on the Likert Scale portion of the survey was that there were little significant relationships between the ways that the participants answered overall as well as within their group. This was foreshadowed when, upon entering all the data into SPSS, Cronbach's alpha test scores produced unacceptable results. Only when after deleting the item pertaining to discouraging visits to certain neighbourhoods could the Cronbach's alpha test be qualified as reliable, yet "poor". As mentioned earlier, the former question was perhaps too complicated since there was a sort of playful trick in the wording. In essence, the question did not explicitly state that they sometimes discourage tourists to visit ethnic neighbourhoods. Instead, the question was formulated as though they sometimes discourage tourists to visit some neighbourhoods, followed by a selection of ethnic neighbourhoods found in brackets. Therefore, it is possible that some of the respondents caught on to the play on words whereas others failed to do so.

6 Limitations

One issue that was brought forth by survey participants was the lack of clarification pertaining to what relationship the participant has with the tourist in question. The participant rightfully mentioned that their answers would vary in nature depending on if they are friends or if it is a stranger. The commenter made the point of emphasising that the certain foods they

personally enjoy in their city would not necessary coincide with what a tourist should objectively experience during their first experience in visiting Brussels or Toronto.

Along those same lines, a comment from a Reddit user referred to the idea that it could have been relevant to ask where the respondent came from initially. He then respondent goes on to explain that he is from New-Zeeland so “real” Belgian food like good frites, stoemp, waterzooi, chocolate or beer are more of a novelty to his visitors than something like Thai or Italian.

Interestingly, a different Reddit-user, respondent who was a Brussels local, brought up the question about discouraging tourist from visiting certain neighborhoods. The user said he answered “Indifferent” to this question, however, he did want to add that tourists should exercise caution. The reason for this is, according to the Reddit-user respondent, that is that Brussels has a pickpocketing problem in certain areas which are poorer and less attractive. Regarding the low Alpha scores, one probable explanation as to why they were so low could be due to the low number of respondents. Finding at least 30 participants proved to be difficult for Brussels as the researcher knew very few people who currently live in the region. The minimum was eventually reached, which thankfully opened the door to run numerous statistical tests. However, as Dörnyei (2007) states, unacceptable Alpha scores can often be linked to small sample sizes.

7 Concluding Remarks: Methodological Reflection; Future Research

As explained by Hoffman (2003), Kolb (2006) and Schmiz (2017) it is in the best interest for those who try to promote their cities to be inclusive when doing so, as mobility has made it possible for more people than ever before to become a tourist. The present study clearly related that locals from both Toronto and Brussels consider recommending that tourists take advantage of the multicultural side offerings of their city, as well as the food and activities that pertain more to national culture.

The somewhat significant findings consisted of the manner in which the survey could predict correlations between number of languages that Brussels locals could speak depending on their thought that multicultural city has more to offer than less diverse cities and their belief that multiculturalism has bettered the options for eating out.

Then other overwhelming difference consisted of the manner in which almost all Toronto locals noted that they would recommend a tourist takes advantage of the ethnic food

options whereas the Brussels locals nearly unanimously agreed that tourists should stick to Belgian food.

Moving forward, it could be interesting for researchers to see if there is any difference between the same constructs for cities in Asia, African and/or South America. History and politics would absolutely make for tourist experiences to be considerably different in the non-western world. Additionally, and as alluded to in the previous section, clarifying if the tourist is a friend or a stranger could also be an interesting qualifier for the design of a future study. This distinction is important because it is possible that locals would cater their advice to a friend based on their shared interests rather than general highlights of their city.

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aca272277fb72c9f/Innovation-for-Volunteer-Travel-Using-Crowdsourcing-to-Create-
Change.pdf#page=257

SURVEY

Q1 I confirm that: I participate voluntarily. I acknowledge that: The data is collected by a student researcher from Utrecht University. The collected data will only be used for the purpose of aiding the thesis research process. I understand that: I have the right to withdraw my consent to the use of data. Filling out the survey will take approximately take 5 - 10 minutes. If upon completing the survey, you feel there are still subjects that have not received enough attention, please contact a.r.plenderleith@students.uu.nl.

I Agree (1)

Page Break

Q2 I choose to identify as...

- Man (1)
 - Woman (2)
 - Other (3)
 - Prefer not to answer (4)
-

Q4 Where do you live?

- Brussels (1)
 - Toronto (2)
 - Other (3) _____
-

Q3 How many years have you lived in your current city?

- Under one year (4)
 - Between one and five years (5)
 - Between five to ten years (6)
 - Over ten years (7)
 - I've always lived here (8)
-

Q5 How old are you?

Q6 What would be your ideal type of vacation?

- Resort (1)
- Nature (hiking, camping, etc.) (2)
- Cultural (different region of the world) (3)
- Staying at home (4)
- Other (5) _____
-

Q7 How many languages do you speak? Including your primary language(s), please indicate all the languages in which you achieve a moderate level. This means you understand what most conversations are about, and you can talk about normal situations at work and / or school. On holiday in a country where this language is spoken, you have few problems with the language, and you can manage independently. For more information about this, click on the link below: <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/resources/european-language-levels-cefr>

Page Break _____

Q8 What three words come to mind when you think of Brussels?

Q9 What three words come to mind when you think of Toronto?

Q10 What are the top three activities you would recommend when a tourist visits your city?

Q11 What type of cuisine do you recommend when tourists visits your city?

Q12 If someone who is coming to your city for approximately one week expresses a desire to also explore nearby cities or regions, what would you advise them?

Page Break

Q14 When giving tourists advice on what to experience in my city, I often provide suggestions relating to national culture.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Somewhat disagree (3)
 - Indifferent (4)
 - Somewhat agree (5)
 - Agree (6)
 - Strongly agree (7)
-

Q15 The city's multicultural demographics contribute positively to the diversity of options that tourists have when choosing on a restaurant.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Somewhat disagree (3)
 - Indifferent (4)
 - Somewhat agree (5)
 - Agree (6)
 - Strongly agree (7)
-

Q16 I give recommendations for ethnic food only if a tourist specifically asks for it.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Somewhat disagree (3)
 - Indifferent (4)
 - Somewhat agree (5)
 - Agree (6)
 - Strongly agree (7)
-

Q17 The city's vast number of ethnic restaurant-options has recently taken over the selection of local food restaurants.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Somewhat disagree (3)
 - Indifferent (4)
 - Somewhat agree (5)
 - Agree (6)
 - Strongly agree (7)
-

Q18 Compared to other less multicultural cities, my city has overall more to offer for tourists.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Somewhat disagree (3)
 - Indifferent (4)
 - Somewhat agree (5)
 - Agree (6)
 - Strongly agree (7)
-

Q19 I often discourage tourists from exploring some neighborhoods of the city (Chinatown, Matongé, Greektown, Molenbeek).

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Somewhat disagree (3)
 - Indifferent (4)
 - Somewhat agree (5)
 - Agree (6)
 - Strongly agree (7)
-

Q20 Changing an event's name from Christmas Market to Winter Wonders, for example, could be seen as something good considering the diverse demographic in my city.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Somewhat disagree (3)
 - Indifferent (4)
 - Somewhat agree (5)
 - Agree (6)
 - Strongly agree (7)
-

Q22 When I describe my city to non-locals, the subject of multiculturalism is usually among the first points I bring up.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
 - Disagree (2)
 - Somewhat disagree (3)
 - Indifferent (4)
 - Somewhat agree (5)
 - Agree (6)
 - Strongly agree (7)
-




Q23 When a tourist of my city asks me for general advice on what to do, I ask them to clarify their interests in order to know if I should guide them towards either national culture or options relating to multiculturality.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Indifferent (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)
- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

Page Break

T

Toronto

-  672 posts
-  33 reviews
-  18 helpful votes

9. Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto

9 years ago




Save

Does anyone know if [Steam Whistle brewery](#) still gives tours. If so, that might be something the OP could do. Afterward, maybe head over to [the "Bier Markt"](#) for dinner..

Edited: 9 years ago
[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto

Level  Contributor

-  803 posts
-  72 reviews
-  175 helpful votes

10. Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto

9 years ago

Save

I would suggest checking out The Distillery District. Its within walking distance of the [St. Lawrence market](#). Has some good restaurants, cafe's, bakery and there is the [Mill Street Brew Pub](#) there (Microbrewery with some good beer!)

<http://www.thedistillerydistrict.com/>

2010

Travelling young couple looking to spend our time well?

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Toronto forums
Limerick, Ireland



7 posts

Travelling young couple looking to spend our time well?

3 years ago

Save

Hey everyone, I was just wondering if ye had any tips on things to do while in [Toronto](#)? Myself and my partner (both 28) are travelling from Ireland to visit a friend who lives in [Vancouver](#) towards the end of Sept and plan to spend 5 days in Toronto also. We would love some advice on fun things to do, apart from the obvious [CN tower](#) etc while there. We plan to spend 1 night at niagra falls in the middle of the 5 days, booked this already. We both love sports and would love to see a game but not sure if the season will even have started? Any other tips would be really appreciated as we are not sure if we will be ever be back and want to do everything worth seeing, as far as possible with our time there... Thanks a mil :)

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1

SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

31,981 posts

17 reviews

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1. Re: Travelling young couple looking to spend our time well?

3 years ago

Save

First - check the Top Questions section (right hand side of this page - NOT viewable on mobile), including Trip reports, and under the green Things to Do tab at top of page. Some reading through the [Toronto](#) tourism website and other Toronto related sites will also provide lots of info.

What game? Hockey will not have started but baseball should still be on.

What other things interest you - culture, food, history, nature, theatre ... ?

<http://www.seetorontonow.com/>

<http://www.blogto.com/>

Edited: 3 years ago
[Report inappropriate content](#)
Toronto, Canada

Level **4** Contributor

7 posts

30 reviews

8 helpful votes

2. Re: Travelling young couple looking to spend our time well?

3 years ago

Save

Bike along waterfront trail to Beach- vibrant cool neighbourhood-hang out at beach if you want and weather is nice

On another day Bike the other way - west along trail - to sunny side pool- pool will be closed but there is a nice waterfront cafe right there - down on Boardwalk

Walk along queen west

Check out blue Jays / [Toronto](#) football /

Aquarium

Harbourfront

Would suggest cheap ferry ride to island to get a great view of skyline - can take your bikes over there too

Would not suggest harbour tour - too pricey I think - but they do seem to have some fun party boats you might like

Walk around [Yonge Dundas square](#)- see what is on that week

Check out [Kensington market](#) area too

Have fun! Check out blogto and Toronto now magazine for events.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Limerick, Ireland



7 posts

3. **Re: Travelling young couple looking to spend our time well?**

3 years ago

Save

Thanks so much for the help. Really looking forward to the trip and hopefully will get to see a lot of the main sights in the few days we have planned. Might sound like a silly q but is it easy to find our way around between all the main attractions. We wont be hiring a [car](#) like I said so everything will be done on foot, buses etc? The baseball sounds great. Where would I find further details about this, eg days the games would be on, ticket prices etc

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Toronto, Canada



Level 6 Contributor



8,008 posts



37 reviews



162 helpful votes

4. **Re: Travelling young couple looking to spend our time well?**

3 years ago

Save

[Toronto](#) has good, efficient, public transit through out the city. You do not need a [car](#) within the city.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto



Level 6 Contributor

 1,911 posts

 71 reviews

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5. Re: Travelling young couple looking to spend our time well?

3 years ago

Save

Here are Jays' games in September (scroll to the bottom); ...mlb.com/schedule/sortable.jsp...

And you can buy tickets here: toronto.bluejays.mlb.com/ticketing/index.jsp...

Edited: 3 years ago

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6. Re: Travelling young couple looking to spend our time well?

2 years ago

-:- Message from Tripadvisor staff -:-

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Removed on: 12:17 am, May 27, 2017

2016

Need help with itinerary in Toronto

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Toronto forums
Winnipeg, Canada

Level  Contributor

 29 posts

Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

Hi!

I'll visit [Toronto](#) with my husband, my parents, sister and her friend on July. I'm bad at making itinerary and having a hard time doing it. So i need some help. Our Airbnb is at Chaplin Crescent area.

July 14

Arrived around 4.30pm. Checkin airbnb. No idea what to do in the evening. Any suggestions?

July 15

- [Wonderland](#) : is it a half day or full day thing? Is it easy to go there by public transport?

July 16

- [Royal ontario museum](#)

- [CN tower](#)

- [St Lawrence Market](#) : which time is the best to visit the market? day time or evening?

July 17

- Yorkville

- Any other shopping places?

July 18

- [Niagara](#) falls all day. We will be driving. Is it worth to do the Niagara falls fireworks [cruise](#) before drive back to Toronto?

July 19

- Visiting parent's friend in [Hamilton](#). Will be driving too. Still not sure about what to do in Hamilton.

Seems like my itinerary is too empty. I need suggestions on places to visit. Also i'm not familiar with public transportation. I read that weekly pass is only for monday to sunday? Since i'll arrived at friday so it's a waste to buy a weekly pass? Is it better to buy day pass instead?

Also, is uber legal in toronto? Since we are 6 people, we can't fit into regular taxi.

Thanks!

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SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

 31,981 posts

 17 reviews

 20 helpful votes

1. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

July 16th is a Sunday, and the [St. Lawrence Market](#) is closed Sundays & Mondays.

Have you checked the [Toronto](#) tourism site for events/festivals that may be on during your visit?

www.seetorontonow.com

www.blogto.com

What are your interests? History, culture sports, theatre, etc?

A trip out to Toronto Islands is always a great way to spend a warm day in the city.

Shopping in Distillery District or [West Queen West](#) area.


Have you read through the Top Questions on right hand side of this page (not viewable on mobile)? And checked under the green things to do tab at top of page?

Public transport options are outlined on the [Wonderland](#) website. It's easier to drive if you will have a [car](#).

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SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

 31,981 posts



17 reviews



20 helpful votes

2. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

Also note that depending where on Chaplin Crescent you are staying - [Yonge Street](#) end or Eglinton end - there are lots of shops, restaurants, etc. in those neighbourhoods.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Winnipeg, Canada

Level **2** Contributor

29 posts

3. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

Hi phpr,

I didn't know that [St Lawrence market](#) is close on sunday and monday. Have to take a note on that. And i already checked on Tourism toronto website. We're not really into art or music events and my parents are not a big fan of musium. 'History, culture sports, theatre' none of them.

My mother loves shopping. Thats it. Thats why i'm kinda having a hard time trying to plan the holiday.

Our Airbnb is near the Memorial Park at Chaplin Crescent.

I'm going to put [West Queen West](#) area in my itinerary. And i already checked a couple of top and similar questions and try to combine them in my itinerary.

Thanks!

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

8,008 posts



37 reviews



162 helpful votes

4. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

A [car](#) is a better option for [Wonderland](#). From what you posted about your parents interests the choices are limited. May be your mom will enjoy high-end shopping on Bloor Street west of [Yonge Street](#).

Edited: 2 years ago

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Toronto

Level **6** Contributor

1,911 posts



71 reviews



77 helpful votes

5. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

For shopping also check out the Eaton Centre. I second the suggestion for a trip out to the [Toronto Islands](#) - you get a spectacular view of the Toronto Skyline.

You could combine Ripley's Aquarium with the [CN Tower](#). Combine the Distillery District with [St. Lawrence Market](#).

You could investigate a visit to Chinatown and the [Kensington Market](#) neighbourhood.

[Wonderland](#) is a full day.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Redwood City...

Level **1** Contributor



4 posts



4 reviews



2 helpful votes

6. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

[Wonderland](#) is a whole day. Also you have to get there and back, and that isn't that simple, and you have to allow for traffic.

Personally I think [St Lawrence Market](#) isn't great to visit for tourists. There are some touristy things, but it really is a food market - think raw meat, fresh vegetables, etc, groceries. Shopping is better in the places other people have mentioned, including Younger St outside the Eaton Center, and along Queen starting at Younger and going West.

If you are going to the [CN Tower](#) and the ROM (RoM is really large, if you don't like Museums not sure why you would go) - I'd skip the RoM and go to Queen's Quay/Harbourfront instead <http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com> and there is shopping in that area as well. Maybe take a boat trip out on the water, or dinner [cruise](#).

Don't forget to allow for traffic, [Toronto](#) is very busy. Maps might say you can get to [Niagara Falls](#) in 2 hours, but could be closer to 4 hours at most times of the day.

Between [Niagara and Hamilton](#) there are a lot of wineries, most of which do tours and wine tastings, you should think about adding that. [Niagara](#) region is famous for wine, including ice wine. Niagara is also famous for a huge outlet mall. <https://...>

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SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor



31,981 posts



17 reviews



20 helpful votes

7. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

"but could be closer to 4 hours at most times of the day." Umm ... no... it does not take 4 hours at most times of the day.... perhaps on a holiday weekend... if there's been an accident..

And it's [Yonge Street](#) - not Young St.

So your Airbnb is at Eglinton & Chaplin - which is a very nice residential neighbourhood - known as Eglinton West. Lots of lovely shops and restaurants on Eglinton, just east of Chaplin .. easy walking distance.

Edited: 2 years ago

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

8,008 posts



37 reviews



162 helpful votes

8. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

No way it will take 4 hours to [Niagara Falls](#) from [Toronto](#). I have done that trip hundreds of times including last Sunday. 2 hours in slow moving traffic.

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Toronto

Level **6** Contributor

1,911 posts



71 reviews



77 helpful votes

9. Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto

2 years ago

Save

"Personally I think [St Lawrence Market](#) isn't great to visit for tourists" During the summer there are vendors of handmade goods, etc., surrounding the market building. Also there are a couple of souvenir stores in the building, and some nice restaurants in the area. You may also want a shot of the flatiron building nearby.

www.aviewoncities.com/toronto/flatiron.htm

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West Grey, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

92,230 posts



109 reviews



664 helpful votes

10. **Re: Need help with itinerary in Toronto**

2 years ago

Save

>>I'll visit [Toronto](#) with my husband, my parents, sister and her friend<<

I would only suggest [Wonderland](#) for the sister and her friend. It's not worth the price of admission for the rest of you to just sit around.

In addition to The Eaton Centre, you might consider Yorkdale Mall.

<https://...toronto-eaton-centre.html>

<http://www.yorkdale.com>

Best Regards

A First Nation experience out of Toronto

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Toronto forums
Australia

Level **4** Contributor



32 posts



32 reviews



10 helpful votes

A First Nation experience out of Toronto

6 years ago

Save

Sirs or Madams:

We, a couple will be staying in [Toronto](#) early July 2014. We wish to have a First Nations experience out of Toronto that can be in the form of an escorted tour of three or so days or independent visit.

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1

Ottawa, ON

Level **6** Contributor



2,715 posts



61 reviews



37 helpful votes

1. **Re: A First Nation experience out of Toronto**

6 years ago

Save

Suggest you contact the Six Nations of Grand River tourism office, <http://sntourism.com/>

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[phpr](#)

SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor



32,001 posts



17 reviews



20 helpful votes

2. **Re: A First Nation experience out of Toronto**

6 years ago

Save

Also consider:

curvelakefirstnation.ca/tourism-and-culture/

<http://www.aldervillefirstnation.ca/tourism/>

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

Depending on how far north of the city you're willing to go, you might also consider these:

<http://circletrail.com/> Manitoulin Island

<http://misabiadventurecompany.ca/> Temagami

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3. Re: A First Nation experience out of Toronto

5 years ago

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Removed on: 12:18 am, November 07, 2014

Toronto to Quebec

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Toronto forums
cheshire

Level **3** Contributor

 59 posts

 12 reviews

 13 helpful votes

Toronto to Quebec

5 years ago

Save

Hi,

we are planning on flying into [Toronto](#) from Manchester [UK] and driving to [Quebec](#) around July time 2015. We have visited [Toronto](#) and [Montreal](#) before and would prefer to stay at smaller towns on our journey. We are looking for some ideas on a route, places to stay etc. We plan to come over for 12 or 14 days. How long will it take to do Quebec ?We need to get back to Toronto for our return [flight](#) home,so another option would be to get an internal [flight](#) back. I know its a bit vague but its in the early stages at the moment,we need a few ideas.

Thanks.

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Waikoloa, Hawaii

Level **6** Contributor

3,042 posts

39 reviews

44 helpful votes

1. Re: Toronto to Quebec

5 years ago

Save

[Quebec](#) is 2 1/2 times the size of France. Twelve or 14 days would scratch the surface. It would be best to fly into [Montreal](#) (YUL) instead.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

SE Ontario

Level  Contributor



32,001 posts



17 reviews



20 helpful votes

2. Re: Toronto to Quebec

5 years ago

Save

A few things to be clarified:

1) When you say [Quebec](#) - do you mean the province as a whole, or [Quebec City](#)? And if so, how many days would you want to visit Quebec City.

2) Was it your intention to spend most of those 12-14 days in Quebec (province) (in which case as noted you're best to [fly to Montreal](#)), or were you envisioning a road trip that would take through some of the best bits of both eastern [Ontario](#) and and Quebec . For example, you might be interested in visiting out capital - [Ottawa](#).

We can give you any number of road trip routes that take you through Ontario and Quebec, but a bit more research on your part of the area, and some more info for us on your interests is needed: nature, sports, history, culture, foodies, wineries, ???

You might start by looking at both Ontario and Quebec tourism websites, and also the various TA forums devoted to the specific areas.

<http://www.ontariotravel.net/en/home>

www.bonjourquebec.com/ca-en/accueil0.html?

Edited: 5 years ago

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Toronto

Destination Expert

for Algonquin Provincial Park

Level  Contributor



4,264 posts

3. Re: Toronto to Quebec

5 years ago

Save

You've posted in the [Toronto](#) forum. Toronto is in [Ontario](#) and as such this forum is nested in the Ontario forum. If you're looking for advice on destinations in [Quebec](#) and travel within Quebec, you should be posting on the Quebec forum (tripadvisor.ca/ShowForum-g155025-i50-Quebec....). I assume that the answer to phpr's question #1 is the province, rather than the city, since you're talking about small towns.

Back in January you seemed to be planning a driving trip around Ontario, [tripadvisor.ca/ShowTopic-g155019-i55-k711477...](https://www.tripadvisor.ca/ShowTopic-g155019-i55-k711477...) . Has the idea changed, or did you do that this summer and you're talking now about a separate trip?

As others have said, Quebec is a huge area and you will not "do Quebec", but you can explore some great parts of it if you narrow down your interests a bit.

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SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor



32,001 posts



17 reviews



20 helpful votes

4. **Re: Toronto to Quebec**

5 years ago

Save

Good catch tws!

So in fact some of those suggestions would still be of interest/could be incorporated for your travel from [Toronto](#) east towards [Quebec](#).

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



16,481 posts



953 reviews



635 helpful votes

5. **Re: Toronto to Quebec**

5 years ago

Save

I'd agree with flying into montreal if all you are doing is flying in [Toronto...](#)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

cheshire

Level **3** Contributor



59 posts



12 reviews



13 helpful votes

6. **Re: Toronto to Quebec**

5 years ago

Save

Hi, thanks for your help, unfortunately [flights](#) from Manchester only fly into [Toronto](#) and [Vancouver](#) , we want to make our way to [Quebec City](#) , maybe we are getting to ambitious !!


[Report inappropriate content](#)

Waikoloa, Hawaii

Level **6** Contributor

 3,042 posts

 39 reviews

 44 helpful votes

7. **Re: Toronto to Quebec**

5 years ago


Save

You will lose two days of vacation if you fly into [Toronto](#). [Quebec City](#) is a 7-8 hour drive from Toronto, with no stops or delays. It's best to fly into Quebec City if that is where you plan to vacation.


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SE Ontario

Level  Contributor

 32,001 posts

 17 reviews

 20 helpful votes

8. **Re: Toronto to Quebec**

5 years ago

Save

If flying to [Toronto](#) is the most economical and easiest for you, then so be it - we can work with that.

But as requested above, please advise if you want to spend all of your vacation in [Quebec](#) ... how do you envision this holiday? As a road trip or as a "get to [Quebec City](#) and spend your time there and around"? How much of your holiday do you want to spend in Quebec - all or part?


It's easy to get internal [flights](#) from Toronto to Quebec City, and when it comes to [renting a car](#), you would be looking at a one way drop fee if you drove from Toronto and then flew back from QC. For internal [flights](#) look at Air [Canada](#) & Westjet from Toronto Pearson, and Porter [Airlines](#) from Toronto [City Centre](#) (Billy Bishop).


[Report inappropriate content](#)

cheshire

Level  Contributor

 59 posts

 12 reviews

 13 helpful votes

9. **Re: Toronto to Quebec**

5 years ago


Save

Thanks for your reply, much appreciated, to give you some idea 5 years ago we flew into [Montreal](#) [not possible now from Man] 2 nights in Montreal then made our way through [Vermont](#) , [New England](#) and flew home from [Boston](#) , we really enjoyed the scenery and places we stayed , so we thought maybe we could do [Toronto](#) / [Quebec City](#) although it might be a long drive ?


[Report inappropriate content](#)

SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

 32,001 posts

 17 reviews

 20 helpful votes

10. **Re: Toronto to Quebec**

5 years ago

Save

It can be done - preferably in 14 days.

Here's a tentative route, with possible stops. I emphasize tentative - you can play with the number of nights and locations, as well as driving times, etc. Note that your arrival and departure times from [Toronto](#) will also come into play here - it's always advisable to spend the night closer to Toronto based on your departure time, and your arrival time (morning, afternoon, evening?) is also important.

<http://goo.gl/maps/dywsu>

Toronto - 1 night? depending on arrival time

[Prince Edward County](#) (via the old Hwy #2 scenic route) - 2 nights

North Hatley, QC (or any town in [Eastern Townships](#)) - 2 nights

[Quebec City](#) - 3 nights

[La Malbaie \(Charlevoix\)](#) - 2 nights

Trois Rivieres - via the old King's Highway on north shore) - 1 night

[Mont-Tremblant](#) - 1 night

[Ottawa](#) - 2 nights

Toronto - 1 night (or not, depending on [flights](#))

Again - please take a look at the [Quebec](#) Tourism website, and also the Quebec TA forum pages - lots of info there.

Some other sites:

<http://prince-edward-county.com/>

<http://www.easterntownships.org/>

www.bonjourquebec.com/qc-en/cheminroy0.html

<http://www.ottawatourism.ca/en/>

Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives

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Toronto forums
Dundee, United...

Level **4** Contributor

 33 posts

 29 reviews

 13 helpful votes

Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives

1 year ago

Save

Dear all,

We are visiting [Toronto](#) Tuesday 3rd April until Friday 6th April -staying in [York](#) street, Downtown Toronto. My wife and I are visiting with our elderly parents -and are looking for fun/interesting/unusual things to do? Any local knowledge and pointers gratefully received! By the way, will the sidewalks still be icy/snowy then -some mobility issues to consider!

Best

Michael and Martina

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Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto

1,120 Reviews
from €67.64*



Niagara Falls Day and Evening Tour With Boat Cruise and Optional Fallsview Dinner

247 Reviews
from €120.43*

Niagara Falls Small-Group Day Tour from Toronto

313 Reviews

from €71.66*

1-8 of 8 replies**Sorted by**

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1

Guelph, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

2,872 posts



18 reviews



14 helpful votes

1. Re: Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives

1 year ago

Save

The sidewalks are clear now and will likely remain so in early April. To provide more assistance, we need to know more about your interests. What sorts of things would you consider fun/interesting/unusual? Are you interested in the usual tourist attractions? Shopping? Dining? Theatre? Museums? You say your parents are elderly. Do they have any specific mobility issues or other restrictions that would affect our recommendations?

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Dundee, United...

Level **4** Contributor

33 posts



29 reviews



13 helpful votes

2. Re: Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives

1 year ago

Save

So, we like interesting museums, historical highlights, shopping, sports, cinema, most anything. SI off the beaten track would be good. We have one team member who needs to walk with a stick but otherwise all fine. Looking forward to any thoughts?

[Report inappropriate content](#)

SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

32,001 posts



17 reviews



20 helpful votes

3. Re: Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives

1 year ago

Save

[Royal Ontario Museum](#) (ROM) would be a must see. Also the [Hockey Hall of Fame](#) (HHOF). Art Gallery of [Ontario](#) if you enjoy art (AGO). One of your other posts suggests an interest in First Nations culture - you might enjoy the McMichael Gallery of Canadian Art in Kleinburg, just north of the city - many fine examples of First Nations work there, as well as the iconic paintings of the Group of Seven.

<http://mcmichael.com/>

Pretty well all museums & galleries have wheelchairs available for free.... your person with a walking stick might find one of those handy (one of our elderly relatives did when visiting the AGO - even though she used a cane, she found it less tiring).

A very good place to start some research is the [Toronto](#) tourism site:

www.seetorontonow.com

So also the Ontario travel site - check under the Explore tab for the various regions in the province:

<https://www.ontariotravel.net/en/home>

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Dundee, United...

Level **4** Contributor



33 posts



29 reviews



13 helpful votes

4. **Re: Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives**

1 year ago

Save

Many thanks Rob and Cathy,

We are really interested in learning more about First Nations culture, all your suggestions are really helpful, and in particular we wouldn't have spotted the McMichael Gallery -it looks just perfect for us.

Many thanks for taking the time,

Michael and Martina

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



16,481 posts



953 reviews



635 helpful votes

5. **Re: Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives**

1 year ago

Save

Fort [York](#) is worth a gander, imo...

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Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



556 posts



77 reviews



47 helpful votes

6. Re: Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives

1 year ago

Save

You might want to check out the [Bata Shoe Museum](#) and the Art Gallery of [Ontario](#). Just FYI you will need a [car](#) to go to the McMichael Gallery as it is north of [Toronto](#).

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

351 posts



102 reviews



57 helpful votes

7. Re: Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives

1 year ago

Save

A lunch in high park is always a great way to spend an afternoon. You can take the subway right there, bring a bag of peanuts for the squirrels and sit on a park bench enjoying the views of the lake and Grenadier pond then plan to eat at the restaurant (sit in the service section, its the same price as the self serve).

The Old Mill is another very easily accessible subway stop and offers one of the best brunches in the city.

Enjoy your trip!

TC

[Report inappropriate content](#)**8. Re: Early April 3 day visit with elderly relatives**

Mar 14, 2019, 12:17 AM

-:- Message from Tripadvisor staff -:-

This topic has been closed to new posts due to inactivity. We hope you'll join the conversation by posting to an open topic or starting a new one.

To review the Tripadvisor Forums Posting Guidelines, please follow this link: http://www.tripadvisor.com/pages/forums_posting_guidelines.html

We remove posts that do not follow our posting guidelines, and we reserve the right to remove any post for any reason.

Removed on: 12:17 am, March 14, 2019

Aboriginal Festival?

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Toronto forums
Rochester, NY

Level 5 Contributor

 417 posts

 3 reviews

 8 helpful votes

Aboriginal Festival?

7 years ago

Save

I usually visit [Toronto](#) for the Canadian Aboriginal Festival every November... but this year I can't find any dates or information about it. Can anyone help?

Thanks.

Lynn in [Rochester, NY](#) (a confessed Torontoholic)

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from €67.64*



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247 Reviews
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313 Reviews
 from €71.66*
1-10 of 21 replies
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Toronto, Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

 4,113 posts

 61 reviews

 68 helpful votes

1. Re: Aboriginal Festival?

7 years ago

Save

Hi, Lynn, always a pleasure to have you in town!

I just sent a quick note off to them, will advise the response. Can't find anything online, nothing of theirs, nothing in the Ex event listings coming up...nada. Hope that doesn't signify funding cuts...


Will let you know.

[Report inappropriate content](#)
 Rochester, NY

Level **5** Contributor

 417 posts

 3 reviews

 8 helpful votes

2. Re: Aboriginal Festival?

7 years ago

Save

Wow! You are right ON it, flyinmom!!! Thanks so much!

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 Toronto, Canada

 1 post

3. Re: Aboriginal Festival?

7 years ago


Save

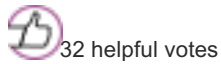
Hi as far as I can tell from taking to toronto council fire they are not having one this year...at least not in [Toronto](#). I know they lost a great deal of money when they moved it to [Hamilton](#)...they did move back to TO las t year...but so far no news.

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 Burlington, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

 2,564 posts

 28 reviews



4. Re: Aboriginal Festival?

7 years ago

Save

Here is the website for the Canadian Native Center on 16 Spadina Road. There are phone numbers and email addresses if you would like to either call them or email them.

<http://www.ncct.on.ca/contact.php>

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[flyinmom](#)

Toronto, Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

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68 helpful votes

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BTW, I never had a response back from them.

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Thanks... I'll try that address, but I fear that there's no festival this year. It's getting really late, eh?

Lynn in [Rochester, NY](#)

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Rochester, NY

Level **5** Contributor

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3 reviews

8 helpful votes

7. Re: Aboriginal Festival?

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Save

I appreciate your attempt! I tried also, and never got a response!

Lynn in [Rochester, NY](#)

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Managua, Nicaragua

Level **1** Contributor



1 post



4 reviews



1 helpful vote

8. **Re: Aboriginal Festival?**

7 years ago

Save

November 17-19: 19th Annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival

Location: Pow Wow and Open Drum Competition

Better Living Centre, [Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON](#)

Info: Ron Robert, Festival Coordinator, E-mail: info@canab.com

Catherine Cornelius, Administrative Coordinator, E-mail: info@canab.com

www.canab.com/index.html

BUT ODDLY NOTHING ON THIER WEBSITE, NOR REPLY TO EMAIL.

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Berlin, Germany

Level **6** Contributor



6,858 posts

9. **Re: Aboriginal Festival?**

7 years ago

Save

That listing (from www.nationnews.ca/index.php...) was posted back in June, so perhaps their plans fell apart since then.

It's also not listed on the [Exhibition Place](#) event calendar (<http://www.explace.on.ca/events.php>), so that also points to it not happening there this year.

Edited: 7 years ago

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Toronto, ON

Level **5** Contributor



68 posts



46 reviews



30 helpful votes

10. **Re: Aboriginal Festival?**

7 years ago

Save

Too bad. I've never been to one, and I was looking forward to attending this year. I never had native food before.

Aboriginal Festival?

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[rochesterwoman](#)
Rochester, NY

Level **5** Contributor

 417 posts

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2. Re: Aboriginal Festival?

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Toronto, Canada



1 post

3. Re: Aboriginal Festival?

7 years ago

Save

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Burlington, Canada

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32 helpful votes

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Toronto, Ontario

Level **6** Contributor



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61 reviews



68 helpful votes

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Rochester, NY

Level **5** Contributor



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3 reviews



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Lynn in [Rochester, NY](#)


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Lynn in [Rochester, NY](#)


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Managua, Nicaragua

Level **1** Contributor

 1 post

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Save

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[mattInTO](#)

Berlin, Germany

Level **6** Contributor

 6,858 posts

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Toronto, ON

Level **5** Contributor

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10. Re: Aboriginal Festival?

7 years ago

Save

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looking for something uniquely canadian

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Toronto forums
Auckland Central...

Level **1** Contributor

 7 posts

 2 reviews

 2 helpful votes

looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

hi, me and my partner are thinking about going to canada for a visit (we're currently in NY now). Can someone suggest something canadian to do or see?

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Toronto, Canada
Destination Expert

for Toronto, Isla de Vieques

Level **6** Contributor

 4,449 posts

 61 reviews

 20 helpful votes

1. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

Hi, and welcome to Trip Advisor!

Our flip answer to your question is "yes, come & build an igloo" ;-)

The obvious thing that comes to mind, given your proximity, is [Niagara Falls](#) but why limit yourself only to the clichés? You've posted in the travel forum for [Toronto](#), a city of about 6 million people. Do you guys like big cities? What are your interests? Let us know a little more about yourselves & we can help you find the right fit!

If you've had enough of cities but want to stay in the part of [Canada](#) nearest [NYC](#) then let us know & we can direct you to the appropriate forum.


Give us a little more to work with!


[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

 4,113 posts

 61 reviews

 68 helpful votes

2. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

Alexia, [Canada](#) is a pretty big country. There is a boatload of uniquely Canadian experiences, depends where in Canada you wanna be to do 'em. If you're into wakeboarding, the [Muskoka](#) Lakes region in [Ontario](#) has some of the best water in the world. ([Sparrow](#) Lake near [Orillia](#) is always fantastic.)

If you're looking to experience sometime a little less urban and a little more maritime, you might consider the province of [Nova Scotia](#). Summer out in Lunenburg, a UNESCO protected site, is stunning and worth the trip. Alternatively, heading in the opposite direction, the Rockies out in [Banff](#) are magical.

For a little bit of cultural exchange, you might want to head to [Montreal](#) or [Quebec City](#), our two main French cultural centres in Canada. Each one is unique in its own way.

[Toronto](#) is, obviously, THE best city on the planet, so...you might just wanna come on over here and check out a fantastic city in its prime season.

Give us some clues about likes and preferences, and we can do this a little better for you.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Auckland Central...

Level **1** Contributor



7 posts



2 reviews



2 helpful votes

3. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

thanks you all for the response, i was more thinking about unique sceneries, perferably ones that is close to toronto (other than niagra falls, we just been there recently, :)).

examples example, mmm, china has a great wall, belize have mayan pyramids... arizona have grand canyon... ontario have (fill in the blanks please)

i know there are a lot of wonderful things to see in canada, like northern lights and polar bears, but those are a bit too far, looking great sceneries that's physically pretty close to NY

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Ontario, Canada

Destination Expert

for Toronto, Quebec City

Level **6** Contributor



5,451 posts



129 reviews



413 helpful votes

4. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

Hello.

I am not certain how far from [Toronto](#) you would consider driving to. If three hours isn't too much of a stretch... there is a very scenic area with a gorgeous view of the Thousand Islands. I can't speak from personal experience as I haven't been there yet, however check out the links below to see if it is something you would find interesting.

<http://www.1000islandsskydeck.com/home.php>

tripadvisor.ca/Attraction_Review-g1200493-d1...

[Report inappropriate content](#)

St. Catharines...

Level **6** Contributor



2,867 posts



32 reviews



39 helpful votes

5. **Re: looking for something uniquely canadian**

9 years ago

Save

Well you may consider [Algonquin Park](#), just over 3 hours north from [Toronto](#). You may even be able to shot a moose (with a camera).

<http://www.algonquinpark.on.ca/>

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Auckland Central...

Level **1** Contributor



7 posts



2 reviews



2 helpful votes

6. **Re: looking for something uniquely canadian**

9 years ago

Save

thanks for the advice i'll check it out :)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Grimsby, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



2,306 posts



11 reviews



31 helpful votes

7. **Re: looking for something uniquely canadian**

9 years ago

Save

I would check out the old section of [Quebec City](#)...the cuisine, views and sense of history...French is spoken primarily there but you will do just fine with English...

[Report inappropriate content](#)

West Grey, Canada

Level  Contributor



92,240 posts



109 reviews



664 helpful votes

8. **Re: looking for something uniquely canadian**

9 years ago

Save

About a 3 hour drive east of [Toronto](#) (180 miles / 290 km.) is the town of [Gananoque](#) (pronounced GAN-AN-OCK-WAY), the "Gateway to the [Thousand Islands](#)". From there you can take a boat tour of the 1000 Islands.

tripadvisor.ca/Attraction_Review-g182143-d13...

www.ganboatline.com/

For more info on the 1000 Islands;

www.1000islandsgananoque.com

www.visit1000islands.com/

www.1000islandsinfo.com/

[Canada](#) has a natural beauty that MUST be seen, which is why I'm suggesting some time in the 1000 Island Region.

Best Regards

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Ontario

Level  Contributor



4,113 posts



61 reviews



68 helpful votes

9. **Re: looking for something uniquely canadian**

9 years ago

Save

This might help you choose some interesting destination: ontariotravel.net/TCISSegmentsWeb/...

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Athens, Ontario

Level  Contributor



555 posts



75 reviews



87 helpful votes

10. **Re: looking for something uniquely canadian**

9 years ago

Save

For physically close to NY spots I would second the 1000 Islands region, [Ottawa](#), and [Quebec City](#). It also depends on how long you will be visiting for.

The 1000 Islands region is home to beautiful scenery and is a great place to enjoy the outdoors in the summer. There is the Skydeck as stated above, but also close by are many hiking trails, river cruises, historic Fort Henry and waterfront in downtown [Kingston](#), the historic Rideau Canal system, and local theatre.

A 90 minute drive to the northeast of there is Ottawa. As Canada's capital, it is home to our Parliament Buildings, three rivers, a canal, many bike paths, museums and art galleries, an outdoor market, and interesting bus and water tours.

A 5 hour drive east of the 1000 Islands is Quebec City. [Old Quebec City](#) is over 400 years old and has a classic European feel and great charm in the summer time. Walking through the narrow streets and shops gives you a nice feel for the past mixed with modern amenities.

All three places have enough to do to fill at least 2 full days.

Good luck with your planning.

Let us know if you have any more questions.

Edited: 9 years ago

11. **Re: looking for something uniquely canadian**

9 years ago

Save

For starters, check out [the Bruce Trail](#). It follows the [Niagara](#) Escarpment all the way to [Tobermory](#). Tobermory itself is a nice place to visit - this is where people board the ferry to [Manitoulin Island](#), the furthest north end of the Escarpment and the largest freshwater island in the world. Our native indian people have a very proud heritage - along the way, numerous shops with indian handcrafts. If you were adventurous, make it two days with an overnight stay. Georgian Bay is a rich part of our Canadian culture. Very scenic, (especially the peninsula) and within a few hours of [Toronto](#) - uniquely Canadian.

<http://www.brucepeninsula.org/>

<http://brucetrail.org/places>

On day two, follow the shoreline of the peninsula and head over to the other side to Port Severn - the Marine Railway. This is where the railway transfers boats from the Trent Severn Waterway (connects [Lake Ontario](#) with Georgian Bay through a series of locks and canals) to the bay. The scenery is quite different on this side of the bay, as it is Cambrian shield and the iconic White Pine is everywhere.

pc.gc.ca/eng/...lock44.aspx

Along the way you'll pass [Midland](#). That is the site of Fort [Sainte-Marie among the Hurons](#), one of the first settlements in [Ontario](#). The original fort was burned down, but this re-creation gives a good resemblance to what life must have been like back then.

saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/english/inde...

[Report inappropriate content](#)
Auckland Central...

Level  Contributor



7 posts



2 reviews



2 helpful votes

12. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

thank you very much the place looks perfect :)

we will probably be travelling by bus though, being back packers spending hundreds of dollars a week renting [cars](#) is not exactly within our budget :)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Kingston, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

3,689 posts



96 reviews



158 helpful votes

13. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

Taking public transportation severely limits your options.

If you can make your visit to the area over a weekend (and you are 25 years of age or older) I would suggest you [rent a car](#). For example, for this coming weekend (Friday to Monday) Enterprise [Rent a car](#) has [cars](#) available for \$69.46 including everything but insurance, so if you have your own insurance coverage it would be very affordable. This would open up your options to all of the great suggestions you've been given already.

ktown

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Ottawa, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

13,856 posts



47 reviews



163 helpful votes

14. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

Welcome to the [TORONTO](#) TRAVEL FORUM.

Ok I get it now, we are not talking all of [Canada](#)... (that is HUGE... 10 Provinces - 3 Territories spread out over 8,000 Kms wide and 6 time zones)...

BUT rather we are going to focus on [Ontario](#)... so to answer your Question

ONTARIO HAS...

1- The Great Lakes. Probably the most significant thing about this part of North America... water... tons of water. The most fresh water on the entire planet. This is what makes this Province unique from every other... 4 of the 5 Great Lakes are found here. You'll definitely want to spend some time "on" or "in" the water when in Ontario.

2- [Niagara Falls](#). More water... more Great Lakes Water. The Falls actually are that the waters that are making their way downstream from Lake Erie to [Lake Ontario](#) via the [Niagara](#) River that flows between them... and it just so happens to cascade over a prehistoric glacial rock ridge (the Escarpment) and voila a Natural Wonder of the World was born... for sure you want to see Niagara Falls.

3- Natural Wilderness. This for proximity to Toronto would translate into [Algonquin](#) Park, the crown jewel of the Ontario Parks System. Aprox 3-1/2 Hours North of Toronto a park with limited road access, the size of some small countries. A prime example of our Canadian Shield Geography with rock outcrops, bogs, spring fed or snow fed lakes, and lots of forest. A good place year round... Camp, Canoe, Hike in the Summer, Leaf Peep in the Fall, and Snow Shoe in the Winter. A park filled with Canadian wildlife... Black Bears – Moose – Deer – Wolves – Coyotes – Fox – Cougars – Lynx – and Bobcat. Although count yourself lucky if you see any of them... they are fairly allusive creatures (that also have an element of danger tucked into their beauty, so they should be respected)... On the other hand the smaller more mischievous can be a real unwelcome guest in any campsite... Raccoons, Porcupines, Skunks would count in those numbers. Algonquin Park was the subject of several of Canada's most famous painters (The Group of 7) as they were consumed by its solitude and stunning landscape... as will you.

4- General Beauty. As someone else has said if you can [rent a car](#) then that is a MUST DO... the [car](#) is king in Canada not only is it the best way to get around... offering ultimate flexibility vs an inter-city public transit system that leaves a lot to be desired – Expensive, Inconvenient – and doesn't go everywhere due to demand... (Canada's very scant population spread out over a huge land mass). But as I often say, Canada is quite different from other places... although our cities are nice... it is the bits between the cities that are truly amazing. One has to rethink things and realize that when it comes to Canada, the "destination" isn't the next city... but rather the "destination" is the journey in between them.

So in Ontario that would include...(just a few examples)

The Niagara Peninsula in Southern Ontario (between Niagara Falls and Toronto).

[Stratford](#) & St Jacobs (between Toronto & [London](#))

The [Muskoka](#) Lake District (between Toronto and [North Bay](#)).

Georgian Bay (between Toronto and [Sudbury](#))

Quinte Isle & PE County (between Toronto and [Kingston](#))

The 1000 Islands (between Kingston and [Montreal](#))

The [Rideau Canal](#) & Rideau Lakes (between Kingston and [Ottawa](#))

Anyways... I think you get the jist... ya can't see the best bits on a bus or train, or from an expressway... ya have to get off the main traffic corridors (they just use the shortest route between places... not particularly scenic, and most just cut thru farmland) instead go find the places that don't naturally have cities built around them, but rather are gems because of what they offer in the way of scenic beauty and natural charm.

LOL, but that doesn't mean our cities aren't worth a look see too !!

5- Cities. Toronto (Canada's largest) – Ottawa (the National Capital) are both MUST DOs, but you'll also find cities like [Windsor](#) – London – Niagara Falls – Kingston have much to offer as well. As does North Bay – Sudbury – [Sault Ste Marie](#) – and [Thunder Bay](#), but this latter list are all considered to be in the northern part of the Province so less likely that you'll get up that way.

So that's a summary of what makes Ontario Great !!

--- --- ---

And because others have also added a few [Quebec](#) Destinations into the mix... I will too. Both Montreal and [Quebec City](#) are worthwhile visits. Montreal more cosmopolitan (it is Canada's 2nd largest city) while Quebec City is small and unique... nothing else like it in North America.

Quebec City is the Birthplace of North America... where the French Explorers first made their "home base" from which to launch their canoes and travel inland via the Magnificent St Lawrence River, and the Mighty Ottawa River... so as to ultimately map out all of the continent from the Atlantic thru to [Hudson's](#) Bay in the North, and out to middle America beyond the Great Lakes, as well as South to the Gulf of Mexico. Quebec City is also considered to be the "cradle" to French Culture... for now some 400+ years later the continent looks much different than when [the French](#) arrived in the early 1500s... once the dominant group, they now are the minority (having lost the Seven Year War to the British) and have been relegated to just a small corner of North America. Where they work to preserve their language, culture and traditions. So a visit to Quebec City is something very special.... a place of living history... where one can easily stop and look out over the St Lawrence and imagine those early Voyageurs, but also see now how interwoven French is into the Canadian fabric... for in some small way there is a bit of that original rugged perseverance against the odds to be found in all of us.

Count on a minimum of 2 Weeks to explore Ontario (3 would be better).

Count on a minimum of 2 Days each for Ottawa and Montreal, 3 or 4 for Quebec City... and well Toronto can easily merit a week.

Hope this is helpful in your making a decision on where to visit....

Remember most of these places have Wikipedia entries, Tourism Offices, and of course TRAVEL PAGES and respective TRAVEL FORUMS here on TA... so lots of resources where you can find out more.

Cheers!

Wine-4-2

PS... One of the incredible things about Canada, is that we are so HUGE... so you'll probably find like most Travellers you just cannot do it all and have to plan return visits... so no doubt you'll be as many making plans to come again, before your first vacation here is over.

Edited: 9 years ago
[Report inappropriate content](#)
 Ottawa, Canada

Level  Contributor



35 posts



11 reviews



9 helpful votes

15. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian

9 years ago

Save

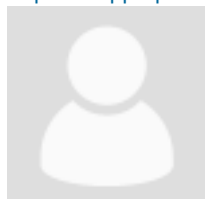
Hi,

I might be a bit late with my advice, but anyway... I stumbled accidentally upon your post searching for something else... Several posters have already given you great advices, but I'd like to add a few thoughts anyway.

[Canada](#) is a little bigger than say Belize, so different people may suggest quite different things as uniquely Canadian. First which comes to mind is probably vastness, nature and wilderness, but actually you need to be much farther west to really feel that. What is reachable in reasonable time from NY would not be much different from what you can see, for example, in the Adirondack Park in NY State (btw I don't think you can see much there anyway if you rely only on public transportation). 1000 Islands are great, but you don't have to cross the border to enjoy that – you can take a boat trip from [Alexandria Bay](#) on the US side.

If you intend to take intercity buses, then you are more or less confined to major urban areas. [Toronto](#) would not be much different than most of large North American cities, unless you like to go on really tall towers ([CN tower](#) used to be the largest man-made structure in the world; not any longer thanks to Dubai...). Toronto is probably much cleaner and safer than cities of that size south of the border though. If I wanted to see something completely different, I would choose [Quebec City](#), [Montreal](#) and [Ottawa](#) (in this order). Greyhound bus would take you to Montreal from NY City in about 7 hours (btw it is much closer than Toronto from NY). To get from there to Quebec City or Ottawa, you'll have to change to the [Quebec](#) bus company Voyager – it is in the same Terminus bus station. You will not need a [car](#) in either Quebec or Montreal, in fact it is easier to travel there without a [car](#). In [Old Quebec city](#) walking gets you anywhere you need within the fortifications. If you want to see the Montmorency Falls nearby just take a city bus (it still within the city limits). In Montreal one needs just walking plus Metro (subway, underground). Ottawa could perhaps be of less interest to you since British heritage might be somewhat similar in NZ (though I do not know myself).

[Report inappropriate content](#)

**16. Re: looking for something uniquely canadian**

9 years ago

-:- Message from Tripadvisor staff -:-

This topic has been closed to new posts due to inactivity. We hope you'll join the conversation by posting to an open topic or starting a new one.

To review the Tripadvisor Forums Posting Guidelines, please follow this link: http://www.tripadvisor.com/pages/forums_posting_guidelines.html

We remove posts that do not follow our posting guidelines, and we reserve the right to remove any post for any reason.

Removed on: 1:21 am, January 20, 2011

Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 4:41 PM

Save

Hi guys,

I'll be travelling to [Toronto](#) for two weeks at the beginning of July for business purpose. I was wondering what's worth to see in Toronto and nearby so I can use my free time to its full potential.

What shopping centre is the best?

Any specific places to eat that you recommend?

I am also [renting a car](#) so any places that I should visit?

I'm also travelling from Ireland, just wondering if I would be eligible for tax-free shopping?

Thank you so much for your time and advice!

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Related: [What are the most popular tours in Toronto?](#)

[See all](#)



Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto

1,120 Reviews
from €67.64*



Niagara Falls Day and Evening Tour With Boat Cruise and Optional Fallsview Dinner

247 Reviews
from €120.43*

Niagara Falls Small-Group Day Tour from Toronto

313 Reviews
from €71.66*

46 replies to this topic

1-10 of 46 replies


Sorted by

Oldest first Newest first


« 1 2345 »

SE Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

 32,001 posts

 17 reviews

 20 helpful votes

1. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 4:52 PM

Save

No tax free shopping. Taxes paid are not eligible for refunds.

What if any research have you done to date? What types of activities do you consider "worth" your time... worth it questions are very subjective. Here are a few sites to get get started:

www.seetorontonow.com

www.blogto.com

www.toronto.com

There are literally thousands of restaurants in [Toronto](#), of every possible cuisine you can imagine - narrow down your likes and dislikes for us for specifics. In the meantime the blogto site has some excellent restaurant listings and "best of" lists.

Reply


[Report inappropriate content](#)

Athlone, Ireland

Level **2** Contributor

 17 posts

 5 reviews

 3 helpful votes

2. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 5:00 PM

Save

@phpr I honestly only looked through trip advisor pinned topics on the forum, found a really good post about literally everything haha. Thank you for links to blogs, I definitely will have a look at them.


I was only wondering if there is something very special, or something that you can't see elsewhere but in [Toronto](#)/nearby (more in landscape directions rather than museum/theatres which I am not interested in at all)


Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

West Grey, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

 92,240 posts

 109 reviews



664 helpful votes

3. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 5:09 PM

Save

[Niagara Falls](#) is approx. 80 mi / 130 km from [Toronto](#), which makes a nice day trip away.

Best Regards

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

512 posts



20 reviews



20 helpful votes

4. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 6:22 PM

Save

The [Don Valley](#) trail, the [Tommy Thompson Park](#) and [Toronto](#) Islands would be good outing. You may enjoy Evergreen Brickworks or the Distillery area. Toronto is made up of great neighbourhoods, you can eat around the world. What are some things you like or want to try.?

The above recommendation of Blogto or dailyhive are great reference sites.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

512 posts



20 reviews



20 helpful votes

5. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 6:23 PM

Save

The [Don Valley](#) trail, the [Tommy Thompson Park](#) and [Toronto](#) Islands would be good outing. You may enjoy Evergreen Brickworks or the Distillery area. Toronto is made up of great neighbourhoods, you can eat around the world. What are some things you like or want to try.?

The above recommendation of Blogto or dailyhive are great reference sites.

Unless you are leaving the city, a [car](#) will be a nuisance.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Athlone, Ireland

Level **2** Contributor

17 posts



5 reviews



3 helpful votes

6. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 6:29 PM

Save

I was thinking I'd love to see [Niagara](#). This is the type of attraction I am looking for. I'm not really a person that likes cathedrals or museums.

Is there any traditional food that I should try? Food like, you know, Paella in Spain or Dumplings in Poland. Something really Canadian.

Thank you so much guys for all your help, I really appreciate it.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Gibsons, Canada

Destination Expert

for Vancouver

Level **6** Contributor

9,444 posts



27 reviews



96 helpful votes

7. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 6:32 PM

Save

[Canada](#)'s a nation of immigrants. [Toronto](#)'s claim to fame is that it has every cuisine in the world. There is no one universal Canadian food. Toronto does have its peameal bacon sandwiches but strolling the neighbourhoods and checking out the unique-to-Toronto restaurants, lounges, bars, bakeries, breweries are more exciting to me. Drop by [Kensington Market](#). Catch a live band somewhere. Have a beer at Bellwoods Brewing.

Edited: 6:34 pm, June 24, 2019

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto

Level **6** Contributor

1,911 posts



71 reviews



77 helpful votes

8. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 6:55 PM

Save

"Something really Canadian"

Poutine: tastetoronto.ca/the-15-best-poutines-in-toro...

Tim Horton's coffee & donuts - on every street corner: timhortons.com

Canadian Game Meat : <http://thebeastrestaurant.com/>

www.antlerkitchenbar.com

Butter Tarts: <http://www.tastetoronto.ca/best-butter-tarts/>

Nanaimo Bars:

https://www.yelp.ca/search?find_desc=Nanaimo+Bars&find_loc=Toronto%2C+ON

Edited: 6:56 pm, June 24, 2019

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)
Toronto

Level **6** Contributor



1,911 posts



71 reviews



77 helpful votes

9. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 6:58 PM

Save

Too late to edit, here's another link for Nanaimo bars: <https://...nanaimo-bars-Toronto-m9860>

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)
Merida, Mexico

Destination Expert

for Merida

Level **6** Contributor



4,014 posts



12 reviews



9 helpful votes

10. Re: Things to do in Toronto

Jun 24, 2019, 9:26 PM

Save

Is there a reason you've decided to [rent a car](#)? [Toronto](#) is a fairly dense city with good transportation. Besides, there is a lot of traffic and parking is expensive. Unless your work is on the outskirts of the city, I'd reconsider the rental.

Robyn says it best, to really enjoy Toronto you need to pick an inner city neighborhood and simply wander its streets and parks and drop in on an Ethiopian or Colombian or Vietnamese or insert ethnicity here restaurant or cafe or bakery.

Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors

[Watch this Topic](#)

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- [All](#)
- [Ontario forums](#)
- [Toronto forum](#)
Toronto forums
Sewickley

Level  Contributor

 200 posts

Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors

13 years ago

Save

Following is a list of websites that Toronto/Niagara visitors may find useful. Please feel free to post additions to the list. However, to keep the list useful, only add the website link and a very short description. To keep the list focused, do not add links for individual restaurants and hotels.

TORONTO INFORMATION

www.toronto.com (general Toronto information)

www.city.toronto.on.ca (Toronto government website)

www.city.toronto.on.ca/ttc/index.htm (transit authority website)

www.city.toronto.on.ca/ttc/family_pass.htm (transit day pass information)

www.city.toronto.on.ca/parks/island/index.htm (Toronto Islands & ferry schedule)

www.city.toronto.on.ca/path/index.htm (Downtown 16.5-mile underground walkway map)

www.city.toronto.on.ca/torontomaps/index.htm (interactive city map)

www.greenp.com/tpa (Toronto Parking Authority lot locator interactive map)

greenp.com/tpa/...Attractions.jsp (parking lots near attractions)

tripadvisor.com/ShowForum-g155019-i55-Toront... (general Toronto forum)

chowhound.com/canada/...toronto.html (Toronto food/restaurant forum)

www.stlawrencemarket.com (city food market house)

www.torontofoodies.com (miniToronto restaurant review/photos)

www.foodpages.ca (Canadian restaurant locator maps/locations)

www.menuplace.com (some Toronto restaurant menus)

www.torontoeatoncentre.com (Downtown indoor shopping mall)

www.tdcentre.com (Downtown indoor shopping mall)

www.firstcanadianplace.com (Downtown indoor shopping mall)

www.bceplace.com (Downtown indoor shopping mall)

www.geocities.com/cplarosa/toronto/malls.htm (map locating 46 Chinese shopping malls)

www.first-markham-place.com

www.pacificmalltoronto.com

www.marketvillage.net

www.torontomalls.com/mapsfrm.htm (interactive shopping mall map)

www.rom.on.ca (Royal Ontario Museum)

www.ago.net (Art Gallery of Ontario)

www.gardinermuseum.on.ca (ceramics museum)

www.museumfortextiles.on.ca (textile museum)

www.batashoemusseum.ca (shoe museum)

www.masseyhall.com (theater venues)

www.mirvish.com (theater venues)

www.hummingbirdcentre.com (theatre venue)

www.tso.on.ca (Toronto Symphony Orchestra)

www.nationalballet.ca (National Ballet of Canada)

www.coc.ca (Canadian Opera Company)

www.fourseasonscentre.ca (new home of ballet/opera opening 2006)

www.rogerscentre.com (indoor stadium formerly known as Skydome)

www.theaircanadacentre.com (indoor arena)

www.ojc.com (Woodbine -- flat & harness racing)

www.hhof.com (Hockey Hall of Fame)

www.canadas-wonderland.com (amusement park)

www.cntower.ca (CN Tower)

www.casaloma.org (Casa Loma)

www.osc.on.ca (Ontario Science Centre)

www.torontozoo.com (Toronto Zoo)

www.ontarioplace.com (Ontario Place)

www.harbourfront.on.ca (Harbourfront Centre)

www.city.toronto.on.ca/culture/fort_york.htm (Fort York)

www.trca.on.ca (Toronto Regional Conservation Authority/Black Creek Pioneer Village, etc.)

www.torontotourism.com

www.tourismtoronto.org

www.thestar.com (Toronto's largest daily newspaper)

www.nowtoronto.com (alternative weekly)

www.torontolife.com (monthly city magazine)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/400-Series_Highways

www.boldts.net/Toronto.shtml (Toronto's neighborhoods – photos & text)

www.hvsinternational.com/News/?nt=3 (Canadian hotel occupancy/revenue data)

If you are looking for a subject and can't find it among the above links, try this website that has eight pages of Toronto links:

www.math.toronto.edu/toronto

Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) Information:

TripAdvisor.com/ShowForum-g154998-i97-Niagar... NF Forum

tripadvisor.com/ShowForum-g154999-i270-Niaga... NOTL Forum

www.city.niagarafalls.on.ca official city government website

www.niagarafallschamber.com Chamber of Commerce website

www.niagarafallstourism.com NF Tourism & Convention Bureau website

www.niagaraparks.com Niagara Parks regional website

www.wfol.com Winter Festival of Lights

www.niagaraonthelake.com NOTL city website

www.shawfest.com Shaw Festival Website

www.regional.niagara.on.ca Niagara regional government website

www.winesofontario.org Ontario wineries website

Please feel free to post additions to the list. However, to keep the list useful, only add the website link and a very short description. To keep the list focused, do not add links for individual restaurants and hotels.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Related: What are the most popular tours in Toronto?

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Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto

1,120 Reviews

from €67.64*



Niagara Falls Day and Evening Tour With Boat Cruise and Optional Fallsview Dinner

247 Reviews
from €120.43*

Niagara Falls Small-Group Day Tour from Toronto

313 Reviews
from €71.66*

1-9 of 9 replies

Sorted by

Oldest first Newest first

1

London, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



3,780 posts



77 reviews



167 helpful votes

1. **Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors**

13 years ago

Save

Great idea GeoNitt !!

GENERAL:

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

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/> (Currency exchange rates)

For [NIAGARA FALLS](#) and the area:

<http://www.20valley.ca> ~NOTL and beyond

tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g154999-Activiti...

<http://www.mapquest.com/> ~Driving distance & times

www.infoniagara.com/transportation/index.html

<http://www.soto.on.ca/> ~Southern [Ontario](#) tourism

<http://www.niagaraairbus.com/> ~[Buffalo/Niagara/Toronto](#)

[Hamilton](#)

<http://jetblue.com/> ~[Flights](#) from Buffalo

For TORONTO:

<http://torontoairportexpress.com/> ~Airport shuttle info

<http://www.thedistillerydistrict.com/> ~Arts, dining, shops

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

<http://www.torontolivetheatre.com/>

<http://tribute.ca/> (Movie theatre listings)

viator.com/brochure//ed_PRODUCT_results.jsp...

(and example of some tours offered)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Sewickley

Level  Contributor



200 posts

2. Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors

13 years ago

Save

Nice additions, Tobie!

Probavbly, after a few weeks, I'll probably re-do the list, incorporating all of the new suggestions, and re-postg as a new thread.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

London, Canada

Level  Contributor



3,780 posts



77 reviews



167 helpful votes

3. Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors

13 years ago

Save

Thanks. I think this would make a great Sticky after all the additions/edits are in.

Would save everyone so much time and decrease the number of repetitive posts for the same info.....or at least make it easier to access. Good work!

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto

Level  Contributor



597 posts



1 review



7 helpful votes

4. Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors

13 years ago

Save

Excellent list! Here are a few more you could add.

Travel

<http://www.gtaa.com/> (Pearson Airport info)

http://www.viarail.ca/en_index.html (Train)

<http://www.greyhound.ca/en/> (Bus)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

[mattInTO](#)

Berlin, Germany

Level  Contributor



6,858 posts

5. Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors

13 years ago

Save

Instead of making a new thread, why not make it into an Inside [Toronto](#) page? It makes it easier (for anyone) to keep it up to date and add more links. See tripadvisor.com/Travel-g155019-s1/Toronto:On... for examples.

The other thing that's nice about Inside Pages is that they can have real (clickable) hyperlinks to non-Trip Advisor pages. And I think I know of a faster way to turn the addresses above into links than hitting the Insert Hyperlink button dozens of times -- if you just put them on the page as plain text, I'd be happy to go hook up the links.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

London, Canada

Level  Contributor



3,780 posts



77 reviews



167 helpful votes

6. Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors

13 years ago

Save

<<< if you just put them on the page as plain text, I'd be happy to go hook up the links.>>>>

matt~

What a great idea! Got time to put together an inside page of all these with links??

And for all those who haven't visited the Inside Pages yet, have a look.

tripadvisor.com/Travel-g155019-c1193/Toronto...

[Report inappropriate content](#)

[mattInTO](#)

Berlin, Germany

Level **6** Contributor



6,858 posts

7. **Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors**

13 years ago

Save

I want to give GeoNitt a chance to create the page himself (or herself?), since TripAdvisor gives credit to Inside Page contributors and I didn't do any of the hard work.

Also, it looks like the links now get applied automatically when you copy & paste into an Inside Page. (I'm convinced it didn't work this way before; they must still be adding new features.) So my help may not be needed, though I'm still willing to help out with formatting etc.

if you want me to go ahead and create the page, just let me know here.

[Report inappropriate content](#)



[GeoNitt](#)

Sewickley

Level **4** Contributor



200 posts

8. **Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors**

13 years ago

Save

, I'm doing a revision that I'll post in a couple of weeks.

When I do, feel free to create an inside page with the information that I post.

However, I think it might be a good idea to put a sticky -- "[Toronto/NF Quick Website Links](#)" -- with a link to the new inside page so that forum users will be aware of its availability of the list.

[Report inappropriate content](#)



9. **Re: Useful Website Links for Toronto/Niagara Visitors**

10 years ago

-- Message from Tripadvisor staff --

This topic has been closed to new posts due to inactivity. We hope you'll join the conversation by posting to an open topic or starting a new one.

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We remove posts that do not follow our posting guidelines, and we reserve the right to remove any post for any reason.

Removed on: 1:29 am, August 12, 2009

Toronto International festival

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- [Toronto forum](#)

Toronto forums
Syracuse, New York

Level **6** Contributor



566 posts



165 reviews



90 helpful votes

Toronto International festival

11 years ago

Save

Quite a few years ago while working in [Mississauga](#), I attended a International Festival in [Toronto](#). The event was held over a weekend and at various venues throughout the city. I recall having to purchase a 'passport' and that allowed you into each venue. The various countries represented had examples of their food, craft, music etc. It was great and I've always wanted to attend again. Do they still hold the festival?

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1

West Grey, Canada

Level  Contributor



92,240 posts



109 reviews



664 helpful votes

1. **Re: Toronto International festival**

11 years ago

Save

Hi;

Perhaps you are thinking of Carassauga ?

www.carassauga.com

This year's festival was held in May.

Best Regards

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Syracuse, New York

Level  Contributor



566 posts



165 reviews



90 helpful votes

2. **Re: Toronto International festival**

11 years ago

Save

I definitely remember being in downtown [Toronto](#) for many of the events. I'll check out the url you provided and see if it sounds similar.

Thanks

[Report inappropriate content](#)

toronto

Level  Contributor



3,252 posts



106 reviews



121 helpful votes

3. Re: Toronto International festival

11 years ago

Save

That would be [Toronto Caravan](#), a June staple in the city for many years, but now, thankfully, just a memory of a long-ago time when "multiculturalism" was considered a novelty.

Your recollection is correct - the passports, the food, the crafts, the folk dancing. Now you can find all these things (except perhaps the folk dancing) year round, in the daily fabric of the city. And that's a great thing.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Berlin, Germany

Level  Contributor

6,858 posts

4. Re: Toronto International festival

11 years ago

Save

The World Routes festival at [Harbourfront Centre](#) (www.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldroutes/) offers entertainment on a particular theme each summer weekend, and they do have a "World Cafe" and "International Marketplace" for the food and crafts.

But as Estragon suggests, there's plenty to see beyond any organized festivals. Little Italy and Little India are only a streetcar ride apart, 365 days a year.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

toronto

Level  Contributor

3,252 posts



106 reviews



121 helpful votes

5. Re: Toronto International festival

11 years ago

Save

Not to mention, on the same College streetcar line that MattinTO mentions, [Kensington Market](#), two Chinatowns (which include lots of Vietnamese places), Little Portugal, a bit of Brazil, etc.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Syracuse, New York

Level  Contributor

566 posts



165 reviews



90 helpful votes

6. Re: Toronto International festival

11 years ago

Save

Thank you for the information.

[Report inappropriate content](#)



7. Re: Toronto International festival

10 years ago

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Toronto Islands

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Toronto forums
North Attleboro...

Level **6** Contributor



269 posts



76 reviews



64 helpful votes

Toronto Islands

11 years ago

Save

My husband and I are going to be in [Toronto](#) for 3 full days in August. We want to definitely check out the [CN Tower](#) and the [Hockey Hall of Fame](#). We are also attending a baseball game (Red Sox vs. Toronto) and might stop by [Casa Loma](#). I keep hearing a lot about the Toronto Islands and wonder if we should consider visiting one or more of them as a day trip. First, how easy is to get to the ferry? Second, which island(s) should we see and what is there to do there...Any suggestions would be appreciated :)

Thanks.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

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Kelowna, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



917 posts



214 reviews



106 helpful votes

1. Re: Toronto Islands

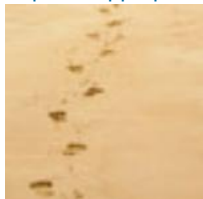
11 years ago

Save

An excellent idea -- In fact I'd call the Island the best least visited of Toronto's attractions. First off you can get a fabulous view of the city from the ferry taking you to and from the island -- perfect for photography. Next, the eastern part of the island where people live is very interesting for walking around -- a quirky little community to look at. For the more adventuresome, in good weather, at the other end of the island is the clothing optional beach at Hanlon's Point. Note also, regarding the ferries, that you can take a ferry (they all leave from the foot of [Bay Street](#)) to one part of the island (Ward, Centre, Hanlon) and take the ferry back from either the same or either of the others. So you can go for a walk along the island and not have to retrace your steps if you don't want to.

Have a great visit.

[Report inappropriate content](#)



[berberToronto](#)

Toronto



8 posts

2. Re: Toronto Islands

11 years ago

Save

I agree with the first reply. The islands are a great way to see the city. You can rent bikes on the island to get around. There are beautiful gardens, lots of ducks and swans a nice beach and a little amusement ride park (good for small kids). Unless you have a child under 10, I would skip [Casa Loma](#). Not too exciting. To get a feel for the Real [Toronto](#) is to experience our multiculturalism. It is what really defines our city.

Buy a one day TTC (subway/bus pass) and check out our downtown international communities. China Town at Spadina & College (don't miss [Kensington Market](#) next door - cool alternative stores and a step back in time to a old food market); hope on the subway to visit Greek Town at Danforth and [Broadview](#); then take a bus or cab down to Little India at Gerrard just west of Coxwell. Check the internet, you may be visiting during one of our festivals on the weekend in Aug. Taste of the Danforth or the festival in Little India. They close the streets and there is food vendors and music for blocks. I love to go.

Have fun and let me know if you have other questions.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

[mattInTO](#)

Berlin, Germany



Level 6 Contributor



6,858 posts

3. Re: Toronto Islands

11 years ago

Save

How to get there: take the subway to Union Station, then any streetcar from there to the first stop (helpfully named "Queen's Quay - Ferry Docks"). Or, if you're already in the south end of downtown, you can just walk down to Queen's Quay. The ferry docks are behind [the Westin Harbour Castle](#) hotel.

If you can, go on a weekday -- the ferry line can get long on a summer weekend. Personally, I'd recommend taking the ferry to Ward's Island and working your way east. Or, if you wanted to rent bikes, that requires starting at Centre Island.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto



Level 4 Contributor



162 posts



9 reviews



19 helpful votes

4. Re: Toronto Islands

11 years ago

Save

Everything your doing, the island, cn tower, hockey hall of fame and the baseball game are great but i would skip casa loma, not much there, ok others may not agree but it's a castle that has become commercialized for tourist and a bit of a waste of time. you can drive by to take a look but i would spend my day doing something else.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

North Attleboro...

Level **6** Contributor

269 posts



76 reviews



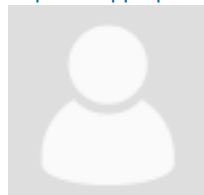
64 helpful votes

5. Re: Toronto Islands

11 years ago

Save

Thanks for all of your suggestions. It sounds like I should cross [Casa Loma](#) off the list (maybe we can drive by and snap a photo). I like the idea of seeing the city from the Ferry. Hopefully the weather is nice :)

[Report inappropriate content](#)**6. Re: Toronto Islands**

10 years ago

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Help & Ideas needed

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Toronto forums

Level **4** Contributor



138 posts

Help & Ideas needed

11 years ago

Save

My husband just told me to look into visting [Toronto](#) over New Years - 30 Dec - 4 Jan. We have 2 children ages 16 & 12 years old and we usually like staying in Sheraton/Delta/Best Western hotels. I know we would like to go to the [CN Tower](#), Hall of Fame, [Niagara Falls](#), maybe a show. Recommendation for a nice family restaurant where we can have our new years eve meal and fire works there after. Please I need some advise and ideas because time is running out and I really dont know where to start. Thank you!

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West Grey, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



92,240 posts



109 reviews



664 helpful votes

1. **Re: Help & Ideas needed**

11 years ago

Save

A north facing room at the [Toronto Sheraton Centre](#) will give you a front row seat to the New Years festivities at [Nathan Phillips Square](#) (aka New City Hall) fireworks and all !

tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g155019-d183085...

Not for New Years, the hockey buffs like a bite at [Wayne Gretzky's](#) restaurant, about a mile from the [Hockey Hall of Fame](#).

<http://www.gretzky.com/restaurant/>

[Niagara Falls](#) is approx 80 miles / 130 km, an average drive of 1½ hours southwest of Toronto, without traffic delays.

Best Regards

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto

Level **4** Contributor



162 posts



9 reviews



19 helpful votes

2. **Re: Help & Ideas needed**

11 years ago

Save

Your here for 5 days stay put in one place if you can. Do the [CN Tower](#), [Hockey Hall of Fame](#) and the many other musuems and sites. Stickys at the top will give you that info. As for

New Years Eve it can be expensive for dinner but if you are on vacation I would do the CN tower for that meal or the Harbour Castle, both will give you skyline views. Nathan's Philips Square usually has a free concert and fireworks on New Years Eve the kids will love it. Just a short walk from the Eaton's Centre on the Queen St. side. Unfortunately it's too early to see the New Years eve pricing for meals but for the most part they are inflated. Wait a bit longer for that type of info in this economy who knows it may be ok.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto

Level **4** Contributor



162 posts



9 reviews



19 helpful votes

3. **Re: Help & Ideas needed**

11 years ago

Save

by the way don't go to Gretzky's total tourist trap the food is terrible and your money is better off elsewhere.

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Toronto, Ontario

Level **6** Contributor



4,113 posts



61 reviews



68 helpful votes

4. **Re: Help & Ideas needed**

11 years ago

Save

At their age, they'll love [Jack Astors on](#) Front St (down the street from the [Rogers Centre](#) / [CN Tower](#))

<http://www.jackastors.com/>

In that same block, Joe Badali's <http://www.joebadalis.com>

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2,033 posts



137 reviews



218 helpful votes

5. **Re: Help & Ideas needed**

11 years ago

Save

You mention [Niagara Falls](#). There is the option to see fireworks and see an outdoor show: cliftonhill.com/niagara_falls_events/...

However, I think the [Toronto](#) Sheraton Ctr for New Years Eve is a safer idea... no concerns about travel.

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Toronto, Canada

Level  Contributor

210 posts



1 review



8 helpful votes

6. Re: Help & Ideas needed

11 years ago

Save

A reply above mentions the [CN Tower](#) for dinner. While I like it there very much, the food being quite good for a tourist destination, I think that at this time of year into New Years is not the time for dinner and viewing a skyline as it will be dark at dinner time. You will only get to appreciate the lights of the city. Better to get a drink at the bar there first, maybe at 4:30 p.m., and see the views, then appreciate the night scene, and then leave to another good restaurant on the ground. The CN Tower Restaurant, The 360, is very expensive for a family as well.

For a nice family restaurant, that has a surprisingly nice upscale atmosphere and very reasonable pricing with quite good food, I often recommend, to tourists, [the Pickle Barrel](#) at Yonge and Dundas. Upstairs bar area, or, go downstairs to their diningroom. Afterwards you can walk around Yonge Dundas Square and walk back to your hotel. The Pickle Barrel, while having a number of locations, is not a typical "chain type restaurant" as they are all corporately operated, been around for 40 years, and offer a high end atmosphere at very fair pricing. They constantly win "Best Family Restaurant" in [Toronto](#) by the tourist oriented "Where Magazine".

If not there, there are many other restaurants everywhere around you.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Sydney, Australia

Level  Contributor

217 posts



1 review

7. Re: Help & Ideas needed

11 years ago

Save

[Pickle Barrel](#) and [Jack Astors](#) aren't the best restaurants to eat when in [Toronto](#) because they don't highlight the multiculturalism of this city. I would highly recommend heading to Pho Hung. The food is excellent, offers a great selection and is great value for money. It's also frequented by locals and tourists, so it's not going to be a tourist trap. There are also great restaurants on Baldwin off of McCaul. Don't be afraid to head to Little Italy either for a nice meal or the Danforth.

About activities, your kids might be interested in the [Ontario Science Centre](#). Plus there is [Toronto Zoo](#).

Before you head to Toronto and once you're there, take a look at NOW Magazine and Eye Weekly to tell you what's happening. They have restaurant reviews, offer info for what to do with the family.

<http://www.nowtoronto.com/>

<http://www.eyeweekly.com/>

have a great time in Toronto!

[Report inappropriate content](#)

toronto

Level **6** Contributor

3,252 posts



106 reviews



121 helpful votes

8. Re: Help & Ideas needed

11 years ago

Save

RikiP, I love Pho Hung, but the Spadina location got slapped with a DineSafe yellow card last month for a whole bunch of violations - part of the recent crackdown in [Chinatown on](#) rat infestation. It's since been cleared as safe, but I think I'm going to take a break from there for a while.

Swatow, another one of my Chinatown favourites, got red-carded the same day.

(The Bloor St. Pho Hung location has passed every inspection in the last two years.)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Ontario

Level **6** Contributor

4,113 posts



61 reviews



68 helpful votes

9. Re: Help & Ideas needed

11 years ago

Save

Riki, I don't disagree with you about the lack of multiculturalism of J'Astors or Pickel B. However, if you have teenagers, which I do (who are just about those same ages), you will know they don't give a fig for multicultural. Worse still, if they're boyz (like mine), all they care about is how much is on the plate, and how fast can it get in their mouths. Taste and ethnicity are secondary to speed and blandness. (True Fact: It is a part of the teen physiology that at their ages, teen taste buds are the duller they will be in their lives, hence the reliance on stuff like Kraft Dinner andd velveeta. That's part of why all the "foodies" are usually in their early 30's...that's about the time the taste buds are at their most discerning, and then 60+ they start to deteriorate again. See what you can learn on TA???) My experience with teens of that age is that they are about 2-5 years shy of being good candidates for real asian cooking.

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Ottawa, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

13,856 posts



47 reviews



163 helpful votes

10. Re: Help & Ideas needed

11 years ago

Save

TO FLYINMOM,

I agree you are right on with your observations regarding teens eating habits, and I know that LUV2GO2C posted a similar topic on the [Quebec City](#) Forum and said her kids were a tad picky when it came to food.

[Jack Astors](#), IMO is a good choice for teens. They like the food and the decor, and there is lots of choice for Mom & Dad, and the food isn't bland, it actually has some flavour. LOL

Cheers!

Wine-4-2

Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

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Toronto forums

Torrox Costa, Spain

Destination Expert

for Torrox

Level  **Contributor**



7,148 posts



64 reviews



60 helpful votes

Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

12 years ago

Save

Day 1 – Tuesday.

Good [flight](#) from Manchester to [Hamilton airport](#),. Arrived 2-45pm Oh No, it's raining – Shuttle bus to [Bond Place Hotel Toronto](#) didn't arrive until 4-15pm, got to hotel at 5-30pm, unpacked had a siesta then out for a snack meal and look around the area. Pub across the road (Imperial) for a couple of pints. Hotel clean and comfortable, good central location.

Day 2 Wednesday.

Breakfast at [Senator restaurant](#), Dull cloudy day so took Gray Line hop on – hop off bus, North/South route. Stopped at [Casa Loma](#) – OK. Had lunch at Mario's Eastside – great pasta. Then did East/West route. It's raining again. Evening walk to old Chinatown, forgetful meal at restaurant I can't be bothered to remember.

Day 3 – Thursday.

Raining again! After breakfast investigated Eaton Centre (kept the wife happy anyway). Discovered Trinity Church – very interesting history, nice man let us in early to look round, left good donation.

Afternoon toured [Mackenzie House](#) – good local history.

Evening. Poor meal at Senator (pity really as breakfasts are great). Then THE highlight so far. “We Will Rock You” show at the Canon Theatre – What a fantastic show, singing of the highest quality.

Day 4 – Friday.

1st sunny day, so off for a harbour [cruise](#) and lunch on Centre Island, very pretty and tranquil. Unfortunately the clouds rolled in so our planned trip up [CN tower](#) cancelled as visibility deteriorating and queues too long. Drink and snack at Hard Roc Café.

Evening meal at [Fran's](#) – not bad. My wife wanted to see some of a fashion show at Dundas Square, so I endured for a while, then sneaked off to [Imperial Pub](#).

Day 5 – Saturday.

10-00am Shuttle transfer to [Niagara Falls](#) – entire journey in heavy rain. Arrived at Skyline Inn – We like this one. Large comfortable room overlooking indoor conservatory/patio.

Lunch at adjoining Perkins restaurant – shared mixed platter but couldn't finish it, very tasty.

Rain stopped so decided to “do” [Maid of the Mist](#) – Great experience and got wet (Again!), was going to do it again later but ran out of time.

Evening snacked on pizza, few beers in Jacks.

Day 6 – Sunday.

Breakfast at Starbucks, then good walk to Historical Museum – interesting. Gave our legs a rest at Imax cinema + hot dogs. Afternoon enjoyed the views, made [Journey Behind the Falls](#).

Evening meal at The Guru – very acceptable Indian meal. Just caught the Fireworks over the Falls then a few beers in Rainforest Café.

Day 7 – Monday.

Packed and checked out, leaving luggage in hotel. Bought tickets for People Mover. Went to [Whirlpool Aero Car](#) – great ride, took loads of photos. Continued to [Botanical Gardens](#) and [Butterfly conservatory](#), then back to [White Water Walk](#). Lunch nearby then bus back to hotel.

“The Nightmare Begins”.

Shuttle arrived 5-00pm for transfer to Hamilton airport. Queue for 90 minutes then told [plane](#) not available due to “mechanical breakdown”. Shuttle bus to [Sheraton Hamilton hotel](#), arrive 9-00pm. Given vouchers for food – totally inadequate and only covered half of costs for a basic snack. E.g. Breakfast voucher for \$10 but a bowl of oatmeal was \$8.50 plus tax plus 15% service charge.

Bus arrived 12-30pm for new [flight](#) at 4-00pm which was then delayed to 8-00pm.

Cabin crew were Fantastic and our every need catered for, so no complaints on the eventual [flight](#).

Arrived Manchester 06-30am Wednesday, but our [flight](#) home to Spain was 3-30pm Tuesday (Oops!). with Monarch [airline](#). Re-booked a [flight](#) for 2-45pm BUT when checking in at 12-30pm was told of [flight](#) delay until 8-00pm. Tired and fed up we re-scheduled for 07-30am Thursday and booked into hotel. Finally arrived home Thursday afternoon – 2 days late.

Summary

TORONTO – Not impressed!! Maybe the poor weather dictated poor impression, but probably not. A very boring city. Won't be returning However, Great people!! Everyone we met were very, very friendly.

NIAGARA FALL – Definitely worth a visit and could have done with a day more here and a day less in Toronto.

FLYGLOBESPAN –Flights good, cabin crew excellent, but delay and lack of information let then down badly.

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Ontario, Canada

Destination Expert

for Toronto, Quebec City

Level **6** Contributor

5,451 posts



129 reviews



413 helpful votes

11. Re: Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

12 years ago

Save

Hello Pavoreal.

Of course everyone is entitled to their own opinion, however it is difficult to give much credibility to your complaints about [Toronto](#) when you obviously experienced so little of Toronto.

I don't think it's fair to blame Toronto and call it boring. There is no point in me listing the multitude of unique, fun and interesting things Toronto has to offer because regardless of all that...the outcome of any vacation falls directly on the person planning it. In other words you get back exactly what you put into it.

I would just like to add one more point. In your post after you said Toronto was very boring and you won't be returning you said "Great people!! Everyone we met were very, very friendly." Well in my books I think you kinda missed the point because attractions, hotels, restaurants aside it's ultimately the people that make up Toronto.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Great Mitton...

Level **4** Contributor

26 posts



36 reviews



128 helpful votes

12. Re: Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

12 years ago

Save

If anyone goes on a package tour they are invariably setting themselves up for dissapointment, wether in [Toronto](#) or Madrid. You are experiencing what the tour company thinks you should do and not necessarily what YOU want to do. On our recent trip to Toronto we bought a couple of guide books, had a look on here and took a few recommendations for days out in and around the city from other sites. In our 10 days we ate where the locals ate, rode the public transport, took in a couple of baseball games and spent a couple of days in the city parks and everything was absolutely superb and we didn't manage to see everything what we had hoped to see and, due to that, we are returning again next summer. Granted the OP had bad weather whilst there whilst we had gloriously warm, sunny days, but there are museums, theatres, shops and neighbourhoods that are not weather dependant, and you can't really blame the city for the rain. Still, it takes all sorts I guess.

Some have also said about Toronto not stacking up to European cities and I think they are selling Toronto short. The history aspect is not up for debate, but for Europeans North America is an exciting place to visit. You tend not to notice or, in some cases, appreciate what's in your own back garden. I found Torontonians version of multiculturalism to be a hell of a lot better than the UKs.

Oh yes, Estragon, how can you have a go at the British taste in food? That comment put me right off my Tripe and Blood Pudding dinner tonight.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Ontario, Canada

Destination Expert

for Toronto, Quebec City

Level **6** Contributor



5,451 posts



129 reviews



413 helpful votes

13. Re: Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

12 years ago

Save

Great post jimmyschippy !

I think you made some great points. So glad you enjoyed [Toronto](#) and want to come back. You will be most welcome to visit Toronto again, and everywhere else in [Canada](#) for that matter.

Take care.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

U.K.

Level **5** Contributor



155 posts



25 reviews



9 helpful votes

14. Re: Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

12 years ago

Save

I have to echo. I was in [Toronto](#) for a week in April and it was cold and wet the week I was there, but it didn't spoil my enjoyment a bit. I know it is always a bonus to have good weather, but if the major part of enjoying your holiday is reliant on that, you're probably going to be disappointed quite often!

My friend and I had a great time and enjoyed the shopping, the food, the sights and generally just wandering around and meeting the people, who were as friendly and helpful as I remembered from my first trip 5 years ago. I hope pavoreal has better luck on his next trip.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Destination Expert

for Toronto

Level **6** Contributor



3,303 posts



90 reviews



105 helpful votes

15. Re: Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

12 years ago

Save

Great posts! Don't be so quick, estragon, to dis the U.K.'s food tastes, I've heard the national dish there is now Chicken Tikka Masala.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

toronto

Level **6** Contributor

3,252 posts



106 reviews



121 helpful votes

16. Re: Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

12 years ago

Save

I know, Urbanfoodie. I hear the best Indian restaurants in the world are in [London](#) -- not to mention Gordon Ramsay, Heston Blumenthal (the Fat Duck), et al. But I'd like to see Jamie Oliver reform the taste buds of the average Englishperson, and not just the school cafeterias. (Come to think of it, school cafeterias are a good place to start.)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Destination Expert

for Toronto

Level **6** Contributor

3,303 posts



90 reviews



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17. Re: Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara

12 years ago

Save

Oh for sure. Here as well. Start by banning "Wonder Bread" and serving Dimpflmeier or the equivalent.

[Report inappropriate content](#)**18. Re: Trip Report Flyglobespan Toronto/Niagara**

10 years ago

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Toronto forums
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Level **6** Contributor



99 posts



147 reviews



102 helpful votes

Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?

11 years ago

Save

Hi there - returned after three weeks in BC and AB - had an amazing time, loved [Canada](#) so much we are returning next summer for another three weeks.

This time we are flying into [Toronto](#) and have three weeks to spend.

I am going into this blind - as we have not booked or thought of any route to spend the time.

It has been suggested for us to travel from Toronto to [Montreal](#) to [Quebec](#) onto [Portland \(Maine\)](#) then onto [Boston](#) the onto [New York](#) state then back up to Toronto!

Does this sound like a good trip?

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[Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto](#)

1,120 Reviews

from €67.64*



Niagara Falls Day and Evening Tour With Boat Cruise and Optional Fallsview Dinner

247 Reviews
from €120.43*

Niagara Falls Small-Group Day Tour from Toronto

313 Reviews
from €71.66*

1-10 of 14 replies

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West Grey, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



92,240 posts



109 reviews



664 helpful votes

1. **Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?**

11 years ago

Save

You could spend a week in [Toronto](#) or [Quebec City](#) and still have plenty to see and do !

[Niagara Falls](#) is approx. 80 miles / 130 km southwest of Toronto, about a 1½ hour drive without traffic delays. It could be a day trip, or you could stay overnight.

Here are some interesting websites about Niagara Falls, and local attractions.

www.niagarafallstourism.com/

www.maidofthemist.com

www.marinelandcanada.com

www.niagaraparks.com/

www.cliftonhill.com/

www.whirlpooljet.com/

About ½ way between Toronto and [Montreal](#) (180 miles / 290 km.) is the town of [Gananoque](#) (pronounced GAN-AN-OCK-WAY), the "Gateway to the [Thousand Islands](#)". From there you can take a boat tour of the 1000 Islands.

www.ganboatline.com/

For more info on the 1000 Islands;

www.1000islandsgananoque.com

www.visit1000islands.com/

www.1000islandsinfo.com/

How are you planning to get from one city to another ? [Rental car \(car hire\)](#), bus, train ?

Best Regards

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Federated States of...

Level  Contributor



99 posts



147 reviews



102 helpful votes

2. Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?

11 years ago

Save

hi - thanks for the swift and interesting reply, very handy. Yes to answer your question I am going to drive around.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Destination Expert

for Toronto

Level  Contributor



3,303 posts



90 reviews



105 helpful votes

3. Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?

11 years ago

Save

Sounds like an awesome trip, but LOTS of driving. The drive to [NYC](#) from here is about 10 hours (if you obey the speed limit) Taken in small parts along the way, it should be fine. As long as you have a co-driver, it might not be so bad. When in [Toronto](#), [Montreal](#) or New York, you definitely won't need the [car](#), so you might want to research parking rates, the ones in New York are astronomical. The ones here aren't too cheap either (think around \$30/day here to around USD\$50 or more in NYC)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

West Grey, Canada

Level  Contributor



92,240 posts



109 reviews



664 helpful votes

4. Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?

11 years ago

Save

Hi HC;

[Montreal](#) is approx. 340 miles / 545 km from [Toronto](#).

[Quebec City](#) is approx. 156 miles / 251 km from Montreal.

[Portland Maine](#) is approx. 275 miles / 445 km from Quebec City.

[Boston Massachusetts](#) is approx. 107 miles / 173 km from Portland.

Toronto via [New York](#) state and [Niagara Falls](#) is approx. 550 miles / 885 km from Boston.

Yes...it sounds like a wonderful trip, but as urbanfoodie commented, lots of driving.

- There are some [car rental companies](#) that will not permit their [cars](#) out of the province or out of the country, or charge a premium if they do. Most of the larger rental companies will allow cross border travel.

Ensure that the [car rental](#) company notes on the rental agreement that they authorize you to take the [car](#) into the US. You may be asked by Customs when entering the US, or when re-entering [Canada](#), for this documentation.

- As a citizen of the UK, upon entering the US, you will be required to obtain an I-94W visa waiver, as an addition to your passport. To obtain the waiver, you will be photographed, fingerprinted, and pay a fee of \$6 US.

The I-94W visa waiver will be attached to your passport, and must be surrendered when you leave the [United States](#).

The process of obtaining the I-94W waiver takes on average ½ an hour.

Best Regards

[Report inappropriate content](#)
Federated States of...

Level  Contributor



99 posts



147 reviews



102 helpful votes

5. **Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?**

11 years ago

Save

Again, thanks for the information - I am getting excited thinking about the trip now, even though it's 8 months away!, but I like to get things sorted beforehand!

I am not actually going to visit NY city as I have been there before, probably going to venture towards Bethel...and mainly trying to stay outside of the large cities on the way...but we will see!

[Report inappropriate content](#)
Toronto

Level  Contributor



977 posts

6. **Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?**

11 years ago

Save

Just a suggestion...why not just focus on Central and Eastern [Canada](#) and leave US for your next trip?

You can easily spend 3 weeks just in Central Canada, North [Ontario](#), [Toronto](#), [NFalls](#), [Montreal](#), [Ottawa](#), [Quebec City](#). Lots of small towns in these 2 provinces to explore.

Or go further east to [Nova Scotia](#), PEI etc.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Sydney, Australia

Level **4** Contributor



217 posts



1 review

7. **Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?**

11 years ago

Save

If you'll be in the [Toronto](#) region for three weeks, why not head up north to cottage country and rent a cottage. Do what Canadians would do! Enjoy the outdoors and get a sense of the Canadian wilderness. There is nothing more relaxing than spending a day by the lake, swimming, boating...If you're into that.

<http://www.ontariocottage.com/>

If you're into cities more than wilderness, I would also recommend doing a loop road trip: Toronto, [Ottawa](#), [Montreal](#), [Quebec City](#)....

If you want to get to the US, you can head to [Chicago](#), [Detroit](#), [New York](#), [Boston](#)....

It all depends on what you want from the trip.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Ottawa, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



13,856 posts



47 reviews



163 helpful votes

8. **Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?**

11 years ago

Save

Although I love the [New England](#) States, I too am going to vote for just staying in [Canada](#) this trip... especially as large portions of the US that you would be travelling thru are not as populated as the Canadian side of the border... so there are fewer "destinations" grouped together. Although lovely scenery, it is a lot of forests and farmland with very small towns (NY State, [Vermont](#), [New Hampshire](#), etc). Similar scenery can be found in [Quebec](#), and [Quebec City](#) and the North Shore are way more culturally different than the rest of North America.

I think you'll find that the eastern portion of Central Canada has much to offer, it is the most densely populated portion of the country, and one could easily spend the whole summer here enjoying it's people, scenery, history, and multiculturalism.

There are 4 larger cities in the region: [Toronto](#), [Ottawa](#), [Montreal](#) and Quebec City. All of them significant destinations and each different from the other.

As well there are fantastic places to explore inbetween. To the south and west of Toronto - [Niagara Falls](#), The [Niagara](#) Region, The Great Lake Corridor ([London](#), [Windsor](#), [Sault Ste Marie](#)), [Stratford](#) & St Jacobs. To the east of Toronto - [Lake Ontario](#) ([Belleville](#), PE County), [Kingston](#) & The 1000 Islands. Next up Quebec - Montreal, The [Eastern Townships](#), [Quebec](#) City, The St Lawrence River, The Laurentians. Then of course to complete the loop.... Ottawa and the [Rideau Canal](#) and Lake District.

With 3 weeks, you could visit all the places I've listed (a tad busy) or you could pick and choose. Or alternatively you could also opt for some R&R in Cottage Country... Toronto's is the Muskokas, Montreal's is the Laurentians and Ottawa's is the Rideau Lake District.

You could stay in a lodge in [Algonquin](#) Park, or rent a Houseboat on the Rideau Canal (runs from Ottawa to Kingston).

There is just soooooo much to choose from.

For more info on any of the places I have mentioned just type the destination into the TA SEARCH box. For specific info read the Destination's OVERVIEW, TRAVELLER ARTICLES, or THINGS TO DO (these buttons are clickable on the left hand side of each page). Or you could browse a Destination's FORUM and see what others are saying (the FORUMS are also SEARCHABLE).

Hope this gives you some ideas.

Cheers!

Wine-4-2

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Canada

Level  Contributor



115 posts



4 reviews



5 helpful votes

9. **Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?**

11 years ago

Save

Or, to state the obvious, spend lots and lots of time in [Toronto](#). You haven't said what your interests are, but there's so much here - including the newly opened, redesigned Art Gallery of [Ontario](#), many other great museums, shopping, restaurants, clubs, pubs...

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Sydney, Australia

Level  Contributor



217 posts



1 review

10. **Re: Got three weeks in Toronto - any suggestions?**

11 years ago

Save

Don't forget about the Kawartha Lakes area....Beautiful, and often overshadowed by [Muskoka](#).

1-10 of 15 replies

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Europe

Level  Contributor



9,044 posts

1. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

Save

I'm sad that it has come to this, but in Brussel you'll have less problems wearing a headscarf than without one. Brussel is not dangerous, but quiet some women report being harased (not physically, in general) by male members of certain immigrant comunities who will probably leave you alone wearing a scarf.

English is no problem...

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Level  Contributor



174 posts



21 reviews



14 helpful votes

2. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

Save

Thanks for your reply!

It's actually sad that *any*one would be harassed, with or without a headscarf. I'm slightly relieved by what you've said (that it won't be a problem) but also a bit disheartened by the mentality of people if it is as you say.

[Report inappropriate content](#)



3. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

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To read more about editing your posts, please follow this link: http://www.tripadvisor.com/help/how_to_edit_your_posts

Removed on: 10:13 am, March 01, 2015




[ilovepineapple](#)

Level **5** Contributor

 174 posts

 21 reviews

 14 helpful votes

4. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago


Save

It's probably just a stereotype but I've read lots of accounts of locals getting fed up with people not speaking French. I felt this once or twice when I visited [Paris](#) but I went with a friend who spoke French, so it wasn't so much of an issue. I just wondered whether it would be an issue in [Brussels](#), but from what you've said it won't be. Thanks!

[Report inappropriate content](#)

 174 posts

 21 reviews

 14 helpful votes

5. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

Save

Anyone else? :-)

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Brussels, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor

 4,368 posts

6. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

Save

I agree with kbbcn.

[Report inappropriate content](#)



7. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

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This post has been removed at the author's request. The author may repost if desired.

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To read more about editing your posts, please follow this link: http://www.tripadvisor.com/help/how_to_edit_your_posts

Removed on: 10:13 am, March 01, 2015

Europe

Level  Contributor



9,044 posts

8. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

Save

@ParisWat: google for "Sofie Peeters" / "Femme de la rue". But again, regarding the OP's question and wearing a headscarf, she will be fine. (When I take the metro from hotel to work in the morning women wearing a scarf often seem to be the norm rather than the exception.)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Brussels, Belgium

Level  Contributor



4,368 posts

9. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

Save

I'm not a woman so I don't have this experience first hand. But it has happened to lots of my friends who live in [Brussels](#). Actually it doesn't matter that much where you are. [Rue Neuve](#), Pl. Flagey and around, [Etterbeek](#)... not even "bad" neighborhoods. I've also heard stories about St Josse or Molenbeek. And in public transport like metro or tram.

Women are usually approached by ppl (daytime or nighttime) who ask them to invite them for a coffee or to go for a while to a hotel room. If you answer back furiously (what I would do if I got that unwelcomed attention) it is even worse, and they would insult you and follow you down the road for a while. It also happens that women are walking down the street and a [car](#) follows them at the same speed asking the same previous questions. I think it is very intimidating, especially if you are in a street that is empty.

And I don't think this is a behaviour that happens anywhere else. I've lived in several countries and this is the first time I hear this happening.

Sadly enough, apparently best thing to do (according to my female friends) is to politely refuse the invitation (3 or 4 times, because they will insist) and then they will let you go.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Level  Contributor



174 posts



21 reviews



14 helpful votes

10. **Re: Solo female + general advice**

5 years ago

Save

From what you've said it sounds quite bad. But surely it would be more common knowledge if it happens so often?

It feels like this thread is going a bit topic anyway :) thanks for the replies!

How not to be an annoying tourist

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Toronto forums
United Kingdom

Level **5** Contributor



102 posts



36 reviews



17 helpful votes

How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

I'm very excited apout my upcoming trip to [Toronto](#). Your city looks fab!

Living in a tourist town, I know how terminally stupid tourists can be and I don't want to be that person! What social faux-pas might I unwittingly make that I can avoid?

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Related: What are the most popular tours in Toronto?

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Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto

1,120 Reviews

from **€67.64***



Niagara Falls Day and Evening Tour With Boat Cruise and Optional Fallsview Dinner

247 Reviews
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Niagara Falls Small-Group Day Tour from Toronto

312 Reviews
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Scunthorpe, England.

Level **5** Contributor



285 posts



37 reviews



40 helpful votes

31. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

Im on holiday in [Toronto](#) at the moment and i must say how polite and well mannered people are,a pleasure to walk around and it seems as safe as houses, the heats killing me though.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



8,008 posts



37 reviews



162 helpful votes

32. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

Lufc, the heat will be gone by the end of the week. Enjoy your stay.

Edited: 2 years ago

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Scunthorpe, England.

Level **5** Contributor



285 posts



37 reviews



40 helpful votes

33. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

Unfortunately i go home on Thursday, but what a great place, everyone chilled and relaxed i cant praise it enough

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

4,526 posts



157 reviews



90 helpful votes

34. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

Take heart, the heat is a shock to us too. This feels more like late July to us than the end of September, that's for sure.

For the "discussion" a few points back, I'd mark a [Tim Hortons](#) coffee as something to check off for almost any to [Canada](#). Like it or not, it's iconic, and not like it's taking much away from one's visit. Man, the stuff people get up in arms about...

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **4** Contributor

29 posts



31 reviews



28 helpful votes

35. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

Don't ask people of colour where they're "really" from. Many of us really are from [Toronto](#) (or other parts of [Canada](#)). Diversity is our strength, multiculturalism makes this city great. This is advice for everyone but especially people from countries where it's less diverse.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Victoria, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

2,599 posts



181 reviews



107 helpful votes

36. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

I often ask people where they are from originally, if they have an accent I can't place. I study accents! It has nothing to do with colour though.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

1,820 posts



28 reviews



18 helpful votes

37. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

Just don't do what I once did and ask someone if they were from South or North Korea. Apparently that will cause problems. If they say they are from Korea just leave it at that.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

United Kingdom

Level **5** Contributor

102 posts



36 reviews



17 helpful votes

38. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

OK. Regarding Tim Horton's. I will go, but I promise not to be pleased. Hopefully that's a compromise that most will find acceptable. 😞

'A couple of toonies' is \$4, yes? Therefore roughly £2.60 and tbh I'm impressed that it would get anything other than a hard stare.

(v. excited. only a few days to go.)

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Akron, Ohio

Level **6** Contributor

1,564 posts



492 reviews



299 helpful votes

39. Re: How not to be an annoying tourist

2 years ago

Save

Try to define your visit as an intellectual inquiry for learning much about [Canada](#). Intellectual inquiry can be pursued in many settings like major museums and libraries. Show an interest in universities and their programs. I have spent time in bookstores with cafes for intellectual conversations. I personally stay away from so called entertainment districts. Going to Canada to drink Molson Ale is not an intellectual pursuit. Going to Canada to absorb or hear loud popular rock music is not a sufficient reason to describe your visit as intellectual. Ask telling questions about several topics central to Canada's identity. Show a curiosity. Wait for a response. Tell the people at the National Gallery - I mean employees - that visiting the gallery and attending lectures and seeing films there is more valuable than watching ice hockey games. Visit the book

or gift shop there at the gallery. So many avenues lead to intellectual experiences that can define your visit. Do not walk through art exhibits munching on two ham sandwiches and drinking a milk shake. After attending recitals for classical music do not throw away your program as you exit the recital hall. Keep it and read it. Visit the cultural institutes for many foreign countries in [Toronto](#). These have been my guidelines for many years. Hope they can inspire and guide you. Learn the rules for learning about Toronto and other large cities but do not allow those do's and don't's to define your visit. Take the subway and climb to the top of needle tower if this is your best ambition, but so not allow these successes to justify or define your being there. This is my vantage point on travel in Canada. I avoid large crowds that congregate to see the same events.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **6** Contributor



1,820 posts



28 reviews



18 helpful votes

40. **Re: How not to be an annoying tourist**

2 years ago

Save

That is correct. The coffee is iconic so the price is right.

There is a Timmies museum just outside [Toronto](#) to put it into perspective

So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto

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- [Toronto forum](#)

Toronto forums
Hereford, United...

Level **6** Contributor



131 posts



132 reviews



185 helpful votes

So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto

9 years ago

Save

We're looking forward to our short break. It's my first time in [Canada](#) let alone [Toronto](#). I love my food and drink - junk and fine dining; so what should we sample that sets Toronto out from somewhere in the States, like [Boston](#), that we've visited a few times. Are we going to find something different from Bacon & Pancakes for breakfast? What should I try in the Bars? and is there a quintessential Toronto dish?

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Top restaurants in Toronto

[See all](#)



Ed's Real Scoop

970 Reviews

\$\$ - \$\$\$, Canadian



New Orleans Seafood & Steakhouse

301 Reviews

\$\$ - \$\$\$, Steakhouse, Cajun & Creole, Seafood



Scaramouche Restaurant

1,656 Reviews

\$\$\$\$, French, International

1-10 of 35 replies

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Ottawa, Canada

Level **6** Contributor

 7,935 posts



21 reviews



15 helpful votes

1. Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto

9 years ago

Save

I can't think of a special [Toronto](#) dish. You might want to consider eating atop the [CN Tower](#). The restaurant there is better than most revolving restaurants and the view can't be beaten....

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level **5** Contributor

299 posts



16 reviews



34 helpful votes

2. Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto

9 years ago

Save

I'm sure I'll upset some people by saying this (and I'm personally not even a fan of it), but I don't think you've visited [Toronto](#) unless you've gone to Tim Horton's and had either a "double double" (coffee with 2 cream, 2 sugar I believe) or an "ice cap" (ice cappuccino). While Tim Horton's is definitely not unique to Toronto (or even [Canada](#) any more), Toronto is where they truly seem to be the most popular (i.e. an institution)...they're on every street corner, and it seems everyone is always walking around drinking one (esp. ice caps in the summer) Be warned: I'm not saying it's great (the coffee is very weak; the ice cap is very sugary and fattening). What I am saying is that when I travel, I try to also seek out whatever sets the city apart (i.e. famous/unique/popular etc. food/drink), be it junk or fine dining, and if I were coming to Toronto as a visitor with that particular plan in mind, because of it's insane popularity here, Tim Horton's would be on the top of my list.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Destination Expert

for Toronto

Level **6** Contributor

3,302 posts



90 reviews



105 helpful votes

3. Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto

9 years ago

Save

[Tim Hortons](#) is very Canadian or North American, but it is so in that old fashioned way where, say, Europeans would have thought decades ago that one could not find a decent, strong coffee in town or locals drink Coke instead of wine. [Toronto](#) has grown up a lot since then.

A lot of people would say you have to have a peameal (or "Canadian") bacon sandwich at [St Lawrence Market](#) and I can't argue, ot rocks! (especially with some fried onions and honey mustard). Toronto to me is much more than that. While eating your sandwich, look at the patrons of the market. All ages, races, creeds, incomes. That's my Toronto. Rare to see just anywhere

else where a place like a "gourmet" market is often full of a smaller, higher income demographic in other cities.

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Destination Expert

for Toronto, Isla de Vieques

Level  **Contributor**



4,449 posts



61 reviews



20 helpful votes

4. **Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto**

9 years ago

Save

We'd definitely agree with both previous posters.

To the Tim Horton's comments we'd add: try a donut or two; or even more quintessential, get a box of Tim Bits, the donut holes.

urbanfoodie alluded to this, but [Toronto](#) is a real microcosm of the global community- rather than give the world a particular cuisine, we have brought the world to our table. If there is any type of "ethnic" food you love or you've always wanted to try, let this forum know & you'll get great advice on where to find the best.

If you want to taste our "terroir" try eating in one of the many "locavore" inspired restaurants, and absolutely have some wine from [Niagara](#).

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto

Level  **Contributor**



13 posts



7 reviews



6 helpful votes

5. **Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto**

9 years ago

Save

poutine...not really Toronto, more Quebec, but still delicious and Canadian. The best poutine downtown is from the blue chip truck at Nathan Philip Square.

[Toronto](#) is a food city. Because there is so much multiculturalism, you can get great Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Ethiopian, Italian...the list goes on. I would check out restaurant reviews on <http://www.torontolife.com/restaurants/> and see if anything catches your eye.

The CN Tower restaurant isn't that good...it's kind of a ripoff for the quality of food.


Bacon sandwiches at [St. Lawrence Market](#) are amazing


[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level  **Contributor**

 672 posts

 33 reviews

 18 helpful votes

6. **Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto**

9 years ago

Save

How about trying some:

Canadian beer & wine,

Ice wine from the [Niagara](#) region,

Laura Secord chocolates,

Smarties (candy coated chocolates),

maple syrup (on top of pancakes or french toast),

maple fudge,

east coast oysters,

butter tarts.

This list should get you started...


Edited: 9 years ago


[Report inappropriate content](#)

Hereford, United...

Level  Contributor

 131 posts

 132 reviews

 185 helpful votes

7. **Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto**

9 years ago

Save

Thanks, that's given us a good heads up on the food. Never heard of [Tim Hortons](#) before. We're down near the [St Lawrence Market](#) for a few nights so I'm looking forward to the peameal(?) bacon sandwich. What about the hard stuff - I presume that I shouldn't be walking into a Canadian bar and ask for a Bourbon which I assume is basically from the US.


I guess you guys are the ones that will reply to my succession of posts over the next few days so thanks for your info and your patience. Just off to post again!


[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto, Canada

Level  Contributor

 30 posts

 206 reviews

 131 helpful votes

8. Re: So what should we eat/drink to know we've visited Toronto

9 years ago

Save

Speaking about hard stuff: there's a Canadian rye whisky you should try. It is not as strong-smelling as a Bourbon, and is a real Canadian tradition. If you're into beer, there're several decent midsize/microbreweries. Avoid Molson (even though they have beer named Canadian) and Labatt, those are our beer behemots and the beer is as inspiring as Budweiser, i.e. totally standard. However, Steam Whistle, Rickard, Alexander Keith and others supply a decent product.

Speaking about food: you can have some of the best and most authentic Chinese, Korean and Indian food in North America here in [Toronto](#), as we have huge immigrant communities here. Try Chinatown (Spadina between Queen and College) or [Markham](#) for Chinese, Little India (Gerrard) for Indian and [Koreatown](#) (Bloor West) for Korean.

BRUSSELS

Christmas markets

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 Brussels forums
 Thurles, Ireland

 Level **5** Contributor


85 posts



39 reviews



27 helpful votes

Christmas markets

Sep 8, 2019, 5:18 AM

Save

Hi i would love to go to the christmas markets in December. Can anybody tell me where they are located? Is there any more most sees in brussels, i was there 20 years ago and cant remember. Would ne landing on friday morning at 10am and leaving Sunday evening at 9pm. Would this be enough time to see everything. Many thanks in advance

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Belgian Beer Tasting in Brussels

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3 replies to this topic

1-3 of 3 replies

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1

Flanders, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



1,445 posts

1. Re: Christmas markets

Sep 8, 2019, 5:38 AM

Save

For multicultural reason the name [Christmas market](#) is not often used anymore.

Information will be published here <https://www.plaisirdhiver.be/en/>

You will notice there are no details yet, but you can use last year program as a reference here <https://www.brussels.be/winter-wonders>

Reply

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London, United...

Destination Expert

for Cornwall

Level **6** Contributor



17,083 posts



265 reviews



133 helpful votes

2. Re: Christmas markets

Sep 9, 2019, 1:58 AM

Save

There are no must sees, only places you want to see. Without knowing your interests I can only suggest places I enjoy eg Comic strip museum, Horta House and MIM.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Lier, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



3,228 posts



16 reviews



12 helpful votes

3. Re: Christmas markets

Sep 9, 2019, 4:36 AM

Save

A man who likes art nouveau cannot be completely bad.

I love the square on the zavel with all these statues representing past jobs.

Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

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Brussels forums
Emerson, New Jersey

Level **5** Contributor



16 posts



57 reviews



12 helpful votes

Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Jan 5, 2020, 9:53 PM

Save

Hello all!

I am planning a trip to [Belgium](#) and [the Netherlands](#) at the end of April/early May. We are flying into [Brussels](#) and plan to spend a day in each - Brussels, [Bruges](#), and [Ghent](#) and then travel to [Antwerp](#) and continue on to [Amsterdam](#). In the Netherlands, we plan to visit [Keukenhof](#) and the Windmills, a day trip to [Hague](#) and [Delft](#) and spend 2 days in Amsterdam. I was looking to see what people's opinions are comparing [renting a car](#) versus just taking the trains. Does anyone have any recommendations?

Thanks in advance!

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Wales, United...

Destination Expert

for Bargain Travel, Cruises, Swansea, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Neath, Port Talbot

Level **6** Contributor



95,167 posts



478 reviews



381 helpful votes

11. Re: Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Feb 7, 2020, 3:17 AM

Save

Apart from the excellent reason given by [Breda](#), you may also find that in [Europe](#) the price of fuel is high, parking can be challenging and expensive, and traffic heavy.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Breda, The...

Level **6** Contributor



9,318 posts



8 reviews



6 helpful votes

12. Re: Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Feb 7, 2020, 3:26 AM

Save

“ the price of fuel is high, parking can be challenging and expensive”

Fuel prices and parking fees are high to try and discourage people from taking the [car](#). In [the Netherlands](#) around 60% of the gas price per liter is tax and excise duty.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Wales, United...

Destination Expertfor **Bargain Travel, Cruises, Swansea, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Neath, Port Talbot**Level **6** Contributor

95,167 posts



478 reviews



381 helpful votes

13. Re: Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Feb 7, 2020, 3:29 AM

Save

Indeed, and I fully agree with trying to get people out of [cars](#). As I've got older I've found driving less and less enjoyable - and I now use public transport more than I did when I was young.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Los Angeles...

Level **5** Contributor

241 posts



11 reviews



4 helpful votes

14. Re: Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Feb 7, 2020, 11:40 AM

Save

Thanks!

Reply

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Denver, Colorado

Level **6** Contributor

84 posts



236 reviews



176 helpful votes

15. Re: Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Feb 9, 2020, 10:37 AM

Save

While I totally agree about clean air, regional culture that ensues this. I totally respect the insight of the authors that mention this above. I believe must weigh the travel time, sites and experiences missed vs drop off cost of a [rental car](#). As most visitors to any european region, time is of essence with limited travel days. It cost \$5K++ to travel to region, waiting in train stations is not what anyone comes to see.

Point is, the \$150 [rental car](#) drop off charge and paying to park is well worth stopping when/where ever, seeing off the beaten path sites that are improbable by mass transit. Staying outside of towns in local Mom and Pop B+B's or renting your own farm house! Freedom of [car](#) while traveling [Europe](#) is paramount for a true cultural experience. While, I agree, simple

city to city travels should be can be taken by mass transit but it is definitely not viable for us tourist to explore countryside with limited days.

Would ANYONE take a boat to the USA because it is better for the environment than a [airplane](#)? Traversing Europe countryside is not like traveling to [Disney](#) World where everything to see is in one convenient place.

With total respect to culture and authors above, I disagree. There are allot better ways to help save the environment than driving a Fiat around [France](#), [Belgium](#) and [Netherlands](#).

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Breda, The...

Level **6** Contributor



9,318 posts



8 reviews



6 helpful votes

16. Re: [Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains](#)

Feb 9, 2020, 11:36 AM

Save

“ Traversing [Europe](#) countryside is not like traveling to [Disney](#) World where everything to see is in one convenient place.”

This post is not about visiting the countryside of Europe. It's about visiting historical cities that were build long before [cars](#) were invented. Public transport in [the Netherlands](#) and [Belgium](#) is dense and frequent. The are several trains per hour between cities such as [Ghent](#), [Bruges](#) and [Brussels](#), so there is no waiting time in train stations. There is however plenty of waiting time while you are stuck in traffic on the highway and while making your way in and out of parking garages etc.

I totally agree that if someone wants to explore the countryside of Europe a [car](#) could be useful, but again that was not was this question was about.

Reply

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Mumbai, India

Level **4** Contributor



148 posts



14 reviews



6 helpful votes

17. Re: [Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains](#)

Feb 9, 2020, 12:45 PM

Save

Here is what I would suggest (and what we did). Avoid [cars](#) in [Brussels](#) and [Amsterdam](#), but use a [rental car](#) for the rest of the trip. Assuming you start at Brussels, explore Brussels without a [car](#). Then [rent a car](#) and explore the rest of [Belgium](#) and Netherland. Leave the [car](#) at Amsterdam, and then spend the last 2 days at Amsterdam using public transport. If you are arriving and flying out of the same city, take a train for the last leg of the trip from Amsterdam back to Brussels.

We have shared our itinerary of our Belgium/Amsterdam trip, along with some tips and tricks in our blog here. Hope it helps! <https://...>

Reply

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Champlon, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



12,850 posts



5 reviews



4 helpful votes

18. Re: Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Feb 9, 2020, 1:13 PM

Save

Wait at train stations - or wait in traffic jams, sometimes for hours? The choice is yours but I know which I would rather avoid, and I have my own [car](#) so don't have the cost of hiring.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Uppsala, Sweden

Level **6** Contributor



3,552 posts



111 reviews



23 helpful votes

19. Re: Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Feb 9, 2020, 1:39 PM

Save

>waiting in train stations is not what anyone comes to see.

Neither is being stuck in traffic jams or spending 30 minutes at your destination trying to find an empty parking spot.

Reply

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Virginia Beach...

Level **1** Contributor



3 posts



4 reviews



2 helpful votes

20. Re: Belgium/Netherlands Transportation - Rental Car or Trains

Feb 9, 2020, 2:44 PM

Save

I, too, am planning a trip to [Belgium](#) that includes staying in [Antwerp](#) 4 nights and making day trips to [Bruges](#), [Ghent](#) and [Brussels](#). We will be coming from [London](#). And, after 4 nights in Antwerp will travel to [Amsterdam](#) for 3 nights.

I'm trying to figure out if it's worth buying a Benelux Pass from Eurail, adding the [Eurostar](#) from London to it. I think I would get a 4 day pass because once we're in Amsterdam we would only leave the city to see the windmills. And, we could take a bus to do that.

I'm getting the feeling that traveling local trains may cost less than buying a Benelux Pass.

Can anyone advise me about how to compare prices?

Thank you.

Info for upcoming trip

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Brussels forums
Alabama

Level **3** Contributor

 63 posts

 1 review

Info for upcoming trip

Nov 19, 2019, 4:21 PM

Save

Planning on 7 nights in [Belgium](#), arrive early A M, do [Brussels](#) next day trip Bruge next brussels 3rd day Ghent 4th day brussels 5th day another city?? day trip then just what ever, how does this sound. Also advice on hotel, lower town near central station, looking at Mariott Grand Brussels, open for suggestions Weare active senios citizens thanks

Reply

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Bristol, United...

Level  Contributor



1,945 posts



95 reviews



26 helpful votes

1. Re: Info for upcoming trip

Nov 19, 2019, 4:34 PM

Save

You will probably find that you don't need 3 full days to see [Brussels](#).

If you arrive in the morning then that day plus one full day later on should be sufficient. Lots of places you can do daytrips to. [Antwerp](#), [Dinant](#), [Mons](#), [Namur](#), [Leuven](#), [Aachen \(Germany\)](#) & [Maastricht \(Netherlands\)](#) are all very accessible from Brussels as day trips by train.

Reply

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Toronto

Level  Contributor



189 posts



378 reviews



57 helpful votes

2. Re: Info for upcoming trip

Nov 20, 2019, 6:19 AM

Save

I agree wit Dean. You could add another day trip maybe to [Wallonia](#), the French part of [Belgium](#) Like that, you see both cultures. [Namur](#), [Dinant](#) or [Liege](#) would work. Of the three I think Namur is the best combining city with a quiet charm. The citadelle is a must if you go. Namur is quaint with a nice old town with pedestrian streets and nice shops. Great food there as well. If you go there I can help you with the planning since I grew up there.

Fpr hotel, I love The Sandton near [Central Station](#). 3 minutes walg in a quiet street. Great Service and prices comparable to the Mariott witch I like as well. Marriott is closer to the Saint-Catherine area but Sandton is closet to Station.

<https://...>

How many days would you recommend?

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Brussels forums
Philadelphia...

Level 2 Contributor

 49 posts

How many days would you recommend?

Nov 8, 2019, 10:11 AM

Save

My husband and I are flying into [Brussels](#) the morning of May 13 and leaving the morning of the 20th. We would like to split our trip between Brussels and [Amsterdam](#). We enjoy seeing the sites, but not too thoroughly. We breeze through museums and cathedrals for the most part. We love walking the streets, finding cool neighborhoods to explore, and LOVE food and drinks. Give us a park we can walk through and we're in heaven. Based on our interests how many days would you recommend for each city? We'll be traveling to Amsterdam by train.

Reply

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Bristol, United...

Level **6** Contributor



1,945 posts



95 reviews



26 helpful votes

1. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 8, 2019, 10:57 AM

Save

Most people who visit would generally only spend a day or two on [Brussels](#) itself. Many visitors tend to use it as a base to see other nearby Belgian Cities such as [Antwerp](#), [Bruges](#) and [Ghent](#) which are all within just over an hour away by train.

If it were me I would spend 3 days in [Amsterdam](#) and 4 in Brussels with 2 side trips included.

Reply

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Philadelphia...

Level **2** Contributor



49 posts

2. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 8, 2019, 11:01 AM

Save

Thank you. I was thinking something similar. I did see a bus tour where you can do Ghent/Bruges in the same day. I understand it will be brief, but wanted to go to [Luxembourg City](#) if possible for a day.

Reply

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Champlon, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



12,850 posts



5 reviews



4 helpful votes

3. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 8, 2019, 11:04 AM

Save

If you go to [Luxembourg city](#), you are looking at spending around seven hours of the day just sitting on a train.

Reply

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Philadelphia...

Level **2** Contributor



49 posts

4. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 8, 2019, 11:38 AM

Save

Thank you! Maybe another time then. Guess it's Antwerp.

Reply

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Bristol, United...

Level **6** Contributor

1,945 posts



95 reviews



26 helpful votes

5. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 8, 2019, 11:56 AM

Save

If you want to combine [Ghent](#) and [Bruges](#) as a one day trip then it's easy to do by train from [Brussels](#). As you are travelling in May the days will be long so if you set off early enough you should be able to fit in 6 -7 hours in each.

The 2 Cities are on the same train line. Go to Bruges first which takes just over an hour then go to Ghent on the way back which is just under halfway between Bruges and Brussels.

Personally I think both Cities deserve a full day but half a day each isn't the end of the world if that's all you can spare.

Also bare in mind if you travel on a Saturday or Sunday you can purchase the weekend ticket which will act as a day return and is half the price of a standard ticket.

Edited: 11:59 am, November 08, 2019

Reply

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Philadelphia...

Level **2** Contributor

49 posts

6. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 8, 2019, 12:23 PM

Save

Thanks for the weekend tip and I didn't realize it was that easy by train. Maybe we'll do that option and if we find ourselves loving one city and want to stay we have the flexibility.

Reply

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Toronto

Level **6** Contributor

189 posts



378 reviews



57 helpful votes

7. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 13, 2019, 7:39 AM

Save

So many options for day trips.

Brges, [Ghent](#) and [Antwerp](#) in [Flanders](#) and [Namur](#), [Liege](#) and [Dinant](#) in the south. All have direct train routes. It depends what you like to do. To see both cultures I would do Antwerp an Namur.

Reply

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New Brunswick, New...

Level **6** Contributor

1,592 posts



6 reviews



3 helpful votes

8. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 14, 2019, 10:53 PM

Save

[Amsterdam](#) does deserve more time for more reasons than its larger size. Yet do not short change Brussels. A newer more modern section of [Brussels](#) is devoted to the the buildings associated with its obligations for NATO. There are reasons to walk through that section of Brussels. The art museum is there to be seen. Grande Place draws many visitors. You can justify a short visit to Louvain or [Leuven](#) to see an old university. As a national capitol city and European city of some importance Brussels might deserve three days. Do not make the excuse of making up reasons for taking day trips with excursions to many places in the country just to get away from Brussels. That would be the equivalent of short changing Brussels. To leave shortly after your arrival there by eight hours would not be right. Show some respect and curiosity for [Belgium](#). Save more of your vacation marbles for Amsterdam. Brussels has additional reasons to stay in place chocolate and beer perhaps. Take Brussels at a slow pace and walk through it instead of avoiding it. Response # 5 has some good advice. Too much time-on the train is counter productive. Forget about going to [Antwerp](#) or [Luxembourg](#). Response # 1 has good suggestions and advice. Stay in Brussels and give it and Belgium a fair shake - not a milk shake yet. Going to Amsterdam by train is a good decision so spend five days there and enjoy it. A totally different city by so many standards of comparison.

Reply

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New Brunswick, New...

Level **6** Contributor

1,592 posts



6 reviews



3 helpful votes

9. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 14, 2019, 11:46 PM

Save

These smaller countries deserve a visit and a lengthy stay for no other reason than because they have much to show visitors. [Belgium](#) belongs to that category. Establish or select a list of priorities and group them according to location and proximity. More important you should educate yourself about [Brussels](#) by reading about it in so many reputable guide books that can teach you so much about the city. Size up yourself as a tourist with legitimate interests and march your vacation goals for Brussels with priorities mentioned above. What knowledge about

Belgium or Brussels - perhaps emanating from your formal education - can help you formulate a workable itinerary? Do not casually drop in just get a glimpse of Brussels and leave it suddenly because [Amsterdam](#) is waiting for you. Belgian history has enough for keeping you there as anyplace else.

Reply

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Europe

Level **6** Contributor



9,053 posts

10. Re: How many days would you recommend?

Nov 15, 2019, 1:14 AM

Save

As usual, ignore the nonsenses by CC (posts #8 and #9). (I guess you figured out yourself...)

In the first few lines of post #8 alone there are so many mistakes that it hurts my eyes. (Go for a walk in the part of [Brussels](#) where the NATO HQ is, with an art museum there?!? Really?)

5 Day Trip in Belgium?

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Brussels forums



4 posts

5 Day Trip in Belgium?

Oct 30, 2019, 9:24 AM

Save

Hello, I will be traveling from [London](#) to [Brussels](#) in early December for about 5 days (from America). I would like to visit Brussels, [Ghent](#), [Bruges](#), and [Antwerp](#). I was wondering if I should just stay in Brussels the whole time and then just take the train to each of these cities (one city a day). Or stay in Brussels the first two days and then stay one night in each of these cities. Which of these cities should I allocate the most time to? Im 26 years old and am mostly interested in the beer, food, and architecture of [Belgium](#)

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New Brunswick, New...

Level **6** Contributor

1,592 posts



6 reviews



3 helpful votes

1. Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?

Oct 30, 2019, 11:14 AM

Save

Read about these places soon. [Antwerp](#) probably deserves more time in part because of its size and cultural content. Stay there for two days. [Ghent](#) and [Bruges](#) maybe deserve one day or less each depending on your cultural interests leading you there. Train travel in [Belgium](#) is good so do not rely on driving [rental cars](#) or private drivers masquerading as tour guides. In these places and others you can find examples of architectural design so select your destinations accordingly. Contact universities that have schools of architecture first and ask questions. If you live near large universities that have art schools with collections or training programs for architecture for European countries go there and make inquiries and ask questions. Five days will go fast so utilize your time wisely for getting something from being in [Brussels](#) and stay there for two days at the most with other destinations looming on the horizon. Art museum might attract your time in Brussels. Walking around central old part of the city will be beneficial - [Grande Place](#) especially. Certain places out of the loop for your tight timetable might interest you for information about architectural design. Memorials for WWI events are there. More time will be needed to include these places in your itinerary. [Leuven](#) is one example closer to Brussels. Short day trips do not deliver what they promise all the time so schedule departures carefully. Do not make the mistake of arriving at Bruges and Ghent late in the morning thereby wasting much of your time traveling on trains to return to and arriving from Brussels. You need to spend as much of an entire day as time will permit in both Bruges and Ghent. Veteran travelers might offer advice on which one deserves an over night stay since they are not the same size with different cultural ingredients worth seeing. One night in both might do many good things for you if your cultural interests and

vacation goals lead you in that direction for that purpose. So many of these places with connections to art history are heavy weight destinations and should not be treated lightly. Casual or brief visits can damage or handicap your vacation goals for this category of reasons for going to Belgium in the first place. No harm in spending more time at these places. Restrictions of your time table might make it difficult to do this comfortably. But devote more time for Antwerp by reducing your time for Brussels. By comparison for cultural content alone two days for Antwerp can be justified easily. Using Brussels as the place to stay while making day trips to these places might make sense especially if your departure by [plane](#) is from that city. How much do you enjoy traveling on trains for what are short distances in a small country? Getting the most from the city of Brussels comes around to benefitting from a different kettle of fish when comparisons are made with Ghent and Bruges. Establish or select a list of priorities and reasons for visiting Belgium. Size yourself up as a tourist with legitimate interests and match your vacation goals with the priorities mentioned above. Staying in Brussels the whole time might prove to be less than altogether satisfying but that depends on what knowledge about Belgium you bring with you and how you utilize it. Today Brussels occupies a place or position for world affairs for [Europe](#) with new buildings you might want to see. We would make that suggestion for embellishing your itinerary with examples of modern architectural design. You might be making a list for a second list as soon as you get to Belgium. Do not do unrealistic things. Your health and happiness are more important.

Edited: 10:49 am, November 01, 2019

Reply

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Bristol, United...

Level **6** Contributor



1,945 posts



95 reviews



26 helpful votes

2. Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?

Oct 30, 2019, 11:18 AM

Save

If it were me I would just stay in [Brussels](#) and use the train to visit the other Cities.

If you do decide to change base or stay somewhere else then [Antwerp](#) or [Ghent](#) will work better than Bruges which is very quiet in the evenings when all the tourists have left.

Oh and please ignore post #1 which is not a real person with genuine experience of the destinations in question.

Edited: 11:19 am, October 30, 2019

Reply

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United States

Level **6** Contributor



852 posts



71 reviews



61 helpful votes

3. Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?

Oct 30, 2019, 4:04 PM

Save

Hello,

I just stayed in [Brussels](#) and did day trips from there- its very easy to get to the places you want to visit by train- buy your tickets at the train station machines is easy - if travelling around Brussels to site see buy a day pass for the buses-

I decided to join my parents on their trip to Brussels and [Bruges](#). Brussels is amazing and we loved it and had a wonderful time! The public transport is amazing- you can purchase tickets on board the buses- but purchasing thru a machine are cheaper. There are trams, buses, and metro, and connections are very easy to make. A single bus was 2.50€ but you can buy a day pass for 7.80 or 7.90€. The drivers are all friendly and will gladly answer any questions you may have.

A highlight of our trip was to the European Parliament. Here is the information they emailed me:

,

Thank you for your message expressing interest in visiting the European Parliament. We would be delighted to welcome you to visit the "hemicycle" in the autumn.

Between September and June, visiting hours, with a multimedia guide (available in all official EU languages) are:

* Monday to Thursday: between 9h00 and 16h00

* Friday: between 9h00 and 12h00

Briefings about the work and role of the European Parliament by one of our speakers take place every Monday at 11h00 and 15h00 (in English and French).

There is no need to register. All you have to do is to come to the visitor entrance (Paul [Henri-Spaak](#) building, next to Park [Leopold](#) - see attached "Visit to the hemicycle" map) 15 minutes beforehand. A valid ID is required.

Visitors to the European Parliament in Brussels can now leave their [car](#) in the [car](#) park, by sending the booking request at least one working day in advance of a visit. <https://ec.europa.eu/>

The tour is free- you need to go thru a airport like security- and wear a sticker - there are postcards that you can fill out for free and they will mail them if you drop them in the box provided- as well as a "green screen" photo op where you can take a photo and email it to yourself for free as well. Our tour guide was from [Slovenia](#) and gave us a 1 hour 45 min tour (usually lasts 40-45 minutes) as he was kind enough to answer all of our questions. Our group was about 15 ppl. There are also beautiful paintings you can admire as well. The tour was very informative and we had a great time! A fantastic start to our trip to Brussels!

Edited: 4:06 pm, October 30, 2019

Reply

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Houston, Texas

Level  Contributor



47,051 posts



735 reviews



210 helpful votes

4. Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?

Nov 1, 2019, 12:08 AM

Save

If flying into [Brussels](#) and out of it or taking the train into Brussels and out of it, I'd stay there and take the train to the other locations as well.

[Reply](#)

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New Jersey

Level **6** Contributor

298 posts



236 reviews



64 helpful votes

5. Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?

Nov 6, 2019, 12:50 PM

Save

I spent a week in [Belgium](#) in September. We stayed in [Brussels](#) walking distance to the trains and took day trips to all the other cities. Even took a day trip to [Amsterdam](#) and [Paris](#). It was very easy to just wake up take a walk down the street and hop on a train.

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Toronto

Level **6** Contributor

189 posts



378 reviews



57 helpful votes

6. Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?

Nov 13, 2019, 8:37 AM

Save

I would stay in brussels and do day trips To Brugges or [Antwerp](#) in the nort and [Namur](#) or [Liege](#) for the south. Like that you get a taste of both cultures (Flemish and French).

Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

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Bellmore, New York

Level **6** Contributor

1,805 posts



112 reviews



89 helpful votes

Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 3, 2019, 6:21 AM

Save

We just returned from a beautiful trip to [Amsterdam](#) and [Paris](#). We would like to plan a trip to [Brussels](#), 10-11 days, early October 2020. Just need your advice where to start.

1. Should we base just in Brussels and do day trips, overnight trips to cities like [Bruges](#), [Ghent](#)?
2. Should we split the trip 5-6 days in two major cities. Just spent 5 days in Amsterdam so would prefer another.....and add a few day tours?
3. Best central place to stay in Brussels.

Any suggestions would really be appreciated....thanks....karen

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Bristol, United...

Level **6** Contributor



1,945 posts



95 reviews



26 helpful votes

1. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 3, 2019, 12:43 PM

Save

Even if you pad out your time with day trips from [Brussels](#) you will still probably find that 10-11 days is a bit too long.

Brussels is not a big City like [Amsterdam](#) or [Paris](#) with lots to see and do. Most people find 1-2 full days exploring the City is enough.

Perhaps consider staying for part of your trip in [Cologne](#). You can travel between Cologne and Brussels in just over an hour and half by train.

Perhaps 6-7 days in Brussels which will leave you time for day trips to [Ghent](#) and [Bruges](#), plus a couple of others, you could consider [Antwerp](#), [Mons](#), [Dinant](#), [Leuven](#) or [Maastricht](#) in Southern [Netherlands](#).

You could then have 4-5 nights in Cologne and include a couple of day trips from there perhaps [Aachen](#), Düsseldorf, [Bonn](#) or even a boat trip down the Rhine Valley.

Best place to stay in Brussels is close to [Central Station](#).

Reply

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Lier, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



3,228 posts



16 reviews



12 helpful votes

2. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 3, 2019, 3:23 PM

Save

I agree that 11 days in Brussel can be too much and staying close to central station is very good idea.

However Koeln is for me not deserving more than a day.

Plenty to see in [Belgium](#).

Antwerpen

Brugge

Gent

leper

Mons

All deserve about one day.

[Dinant](#) or [Namur](#)

Les grottes de Han are spectacular - and a zoo next door.

Leuven

A fantastic zoo - pari daizia.

The zwin - ornithology park

Etc

[Paris](#) is 1h 30 away.

[Lille](#) is one hour away.

Aachen is quite nice too

Maastricht

Monschau

Trier

...

Reply

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Bellmore, New York

Level  Contributor



1,805 posts



112 reviews



89 helpful votes

3. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 3, 2019, 5:06 PM

Save

Thank you for the wonderful advice!

Reply

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Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Level  Contributor



83 posts



316 reviews



71 helpful votes

4. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 4, 2019, 12:54 PM

Save

Just visited [Brussels](#) in Summer , ideally 4 days will be enough and reasonable.

You can add [Luxembourg](#) and east of france to your trip 3 days each.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

New Brunswick, New...

Level **6** Contributor

1,592 posts



6 reviews



3 helpful votes

5. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 7, 2019, 5:37 PM

Save

[Ardennes](#) region near the [Luxembourg](#) and French borders deserves your attention. [Leuven](#) and [Mechelen](#) might appeal to you as smaller destinations. [Antwerp](#) should be on your list. If [Brussels](#) deserves four days then Antwerp deserves at least three. Do not become overly exhilarated and be-dazzled with visits lasting a half day to [Bruges](#) but it might not deserve that close attention for prolong periods of time but that depends on what looms on the horizon as places deserving a visit. Bruges does deserve a visit but do not become easily mesmerized with it. In southern [Netherlands](#) near Tilbourg and [Breda](#) you will find an unusual part of another country locked within the Netherlands in the form of the Belgian enclave called Baarle Herzog. See it for curiosity alone. [Eindhoven](#) is not that far away. Ardennes region might have priority. Many countries with connections with eighteenth military battles have memorials and places for honoring past heroics on the battle field. [Belgium](#) is no exception Oudenaarde and Ramilles are two places worth your time if your interests lead you in that direction for more than curiosity. Ramilles is near [Liege](#). Just inside the French border near Bavay is the small town of Malplaquet with noteworthy importance for eighteenth century battles. Visit it if your time table obligations do not get in the way. [Ghent](#) and Bruges and Antwerp by comparison certainly have greater importance for today's travelers, but this aspect of Belgian history should not be readily dismissed. Use Brussels as a good starting point in setting up and following a workable itinerary for exploring so much in Belgium Escapades to [Cologne](#) do make sense. [Maastricht](#) too. For Brussels there an additional reason to visit the city namely the place it occupies in European world affairs. [Grande Place](#) is deserving your time and so is the art museum there. But do not allow modern Belgium to escape your exploration or investigation.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

brussels

Destination Expert

for Brussels

Level **6** Contributor

1,198 posts



45 reviews



26 helpful votes

6. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 9, 2019, 9:18 AM

Save

good advice all round [Brussels](#) has some good spots great for food and drink but quite small. It is however central and a goo place to construct a a tour around. Their is a long list of places t ogo my favourites would be [Aachen](#) and [Dusseldorf](#). but that is the beer talking. war cmteries are pretty movng places to go and it is a good time to be doing it.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Dublin, Ireland

Level **3** Contributor

17 posts



17 reviews



6 helpful votes

7. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 9, 2019, 1:11 PM

Save

My friend and I are visiting there in two weeks from [Ireland](#) we plan to spend 36 hours in [Brussels](#) then take a one hour trip to bruge we spend 18 hours there and take a 3 hour bus to eindhoven in Holland... From eindhoven there's day trips to [Maastricht](#) and other cities an hour away.. Also from brugeand brussels there are buses and trains in and out of [France](#)...this could be an alternative to see [Dunkirk](#) etc

The English and Irish go to Brussels for weekends really and by all accounts (even look on YouTube) it's a little dull, it's a business city with politicians in nato and EU buildings there but it's not someplace people say is amazing to me and overpriced... That said these are our main sites to see

The EU Parliament and museum seem good

The grande square/place and its townhalls

The old masters art museum(Reuben etc collections)

The art nouveau area of the city

The cinquetairre park

These are all a couple bus stops or short walk between each other. We hope to finish this itinery between 9-6 at a moderate pace on day 1 then chill in the cafes at the main square in the evening, there's a free walking tour from the main square daily we may catch one on day 2 or there is mini [Europe](#) just outside the city that looks fun

If we were staying longer trips to war graves in flanders maybe on the cards if its once in a lifetime maybe give yourself 4 days and see everything then go on but 11 days is too long.

Trivago do deals and agoda on hotel most people stay within 2km of the grand place or near gare di midi(the trainstation 2km from the main square.. Handy for the airport transfer and leaving Brussels) .. Try get breakfast included in your hotel as eating outs expensive by all accounts.

We are staying 1km from the train stop we arrive at in bruge.. ghent is inbetween Brussels and bruge and seems like a good place to visit on the way but I believe just the day like get back on the train and go to brugge after seeing ghent ... Brugge is exceptionally expensive for hotels but small alot of daytrips from Brussels see everything in 7 hours there so we have enough time to see these things in just one night in a hotel and relax in the evening .. Why double back. We will definitely see..

The Salvador dali collection

Town Hall and Bell tower

Chocolate and fries museum

Take a short canal boat trip

A brewery

In all buses and trains and several museums and canal boats in both places is costing around 100 euro so we are keeping other costs low.

[Eindhoven](#) has an airport we may fly back to dublin after seeing Maastricht and our first ever burlesque show however I don't know really ill let you know 😊 ...

But from eindhoven you can link to plenty of other European cities we leave [Dublin](#) on a Thursday and fly back on Monday night so 4.5 days.. Personally I'd fly someplace warm and cheap like the algarve in [Portugal](#) or [Spain](#) ..

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Dublin, Ireland

Level **3** Contributor



17 posts



17 reviews



6 helpful votes

8. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 9, 2019, 1:28 PM

Save

Just out of my own self interest there October 2020 [flights to Malaga](#), grán canáraí, Palma... Like the nice and warm Spanish areas cost 14 euro one way [flight](#) and I'm sure have very cheap [flights](#) coming back to [Brussels](#) if that's where you're flying back home from... October can be abit bleak Malaga is on mainland [Spain](#) but by the coast with hotels in torremelinos 10 minutes cheap taxi from the airport or even Malaga town is very Spanish and interesting to see, beautiful harbour and warm in winter, palma on the island of mallorca is steeped in history and again fantastic weather, food and hotels.. Grand canaria maybe abit further, costly but close to African weather year round...

11 days traipsing through European cities is hard work... 5 days in Spain can hit the mark on culture and the added bonus of swimming pools, weather etc

3 days in Brussels

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Brussels forums
Altamonte Springs...



2 posts

3 days in Brussels

Dec 23, 2019, 2:57 PM

Save

best areas to stay for local food and drink

Reply

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Related: What are the most popular tours in Brussels?

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699 Reviews
from €80.00*



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1,098 Reviews
from €14.00*

2 replies to this topic

1-2 of 2 replies

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Liverpool, United...

Level **6** Contributor



25,523 posts



77 reviews



115 helpful votes

1. **Re: 3 days in Brussels**

Dec 23, 2019, 3:33 PM

Save

This isn't Google!


Reply


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Bristol, United...

Level **6** Contributor

 1,945 posts

 95 reviews

 26 helpful votes

2. Re: 3 days in Brussels

Dec 23, 2019, 3:51 PM

Save

Rusty, I can see you are new here so I will offer you a tip.

If you want people's help with recommendations, it's best to be polite and say please, or thank you in advance.

Two day blank canvas

Watch this Topic

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- [Brussels forum](#)

Brussels forums

 8 posts

Two day blank canvas

Nov 26, 2019, 6:23 AM

Save

Hi all, me and my girlfriend arrive 07/12 for 3 days.

We literally have no agenda, other than the Christmas market.

We're not the museum type, we love our food and drink - especially beer. Were also keen sports fans, but as far as I'm aware there is not a lot on during our stay.

If anyone has any suggestions it would be much appreciated.

Thank you

Reply

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Related: [What are the most popular tours in Brussels?](#)

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701 Reviews

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Belgian Beer Tasting in Brussels

1,098 Reviews
from €14.00*

5 replies to this topic

1-5 of 5 replies

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Brussels, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor

1,572 posts

14 reviews

7 helpful votes

1. **Re: Two day blank canvas**

Nov 26, 2019, 12:47 PM

Save

Here is the official "what's on" website: <https://agenda.brussels/en/>

For discounted same day tickets to cinema, theatre and concerts, check Arsene 50 website daily: <https://arsene50.brussels/en>

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto

Level **6** Contributor

189 posts

378 reviews

57 helpful votes

2. **Re: Two day blank canvas**

Nov 27, 2019, 9:31 AM

Save

There is a pretty big football match on Sunday the 8 at 6pm at the [Anderlecht](#) stadium Anderlecht vs [Charleroi](#).

If you like beer, look at this

<https://...>

For great belgian fries go to Friterie Flagey

Around the Christmas Market there are alot of restaurants on Place St-Catherine.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)



8 posts

3. Re: Two day blank canvas

Dec 3, 2019, 5:38 AM

Save

Thank you for your replies.

Also, I need to get from [Charleroi](#) to the centre of [Brussels](#). Does anyone have a train site I could use ?

Thanks

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Toronto

Level **6** Contributor



189 posts



378 reviews



57 helpful votes

4. Re: Two day blank canvas

Dec 3, 2019, 9:26 AM

Save

<https://www.belgiantrain.be/en>

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Flanders, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



1,449 posts

5. Re: Two day blank canvas

Dec 3, 2019, 12:36 PM

Save

Or use the app <https://...use-the-sncb-app>

One day in Brussels

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- [Brussels forum](#)

Brussels forums

Level **5** Contributor



26 posts



57 reviews



21 helpful votes

One day in Brussels

Dec 1, 2019, 9:07 PM

Save

Suggestions of things to do and see if we only have one day in [Brussels](#) - will be there first of June 2020

Reply

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Related: What are the most popular tours in Brussels?

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1,098 Reviews

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3 replies to this topic

1-3 of 3 replies

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1

Level **6** Contributor



14,081 posts



1 review



2 helpful votes

1. Re: One day in Brussels

Dec 2, 2019, 2:26 AM

Save

welcome,

note that at the top of each destination board is a "things to do and see" but you need a desktop to see the link. So i have attached it below for your convenience.

<https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g188...>

there are also travel books to give you ideas.

If you want someone to tell you where to go, they will chime in soon.

good luck.

Reply

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London, United...

Destination Expert

for Cornwall

Level **6** Contributor

17,096 posts



265 reviews



133 helpful votes

2. Re: One day in Brussels

Dec 2, 2019, 2:53 AM

Save

What interests you please? Food, museums, galleries, shopping, parks?

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Breda, The...

Level **6** Contributor

9,334 posts



8 reviews



6 helpful votes

3. Re: One day in Brussels

Dec 2, 2019, 3:21 AM

Save

"If you want someone to tell you where to go, they will chime in soon."

Well, I'm guessing they won't. People in [Belgium](#) are very polite, they don't respond well to questions being asked without so much as a please and a thank you.

Restaurants in the EU

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Brussels forums
Bethesda, Maryland...



12 posts

Restaurants in the EU

Nov 18, 2019, 8:45 PM

Save

Hi.

My family and I will be staying in the EU quarter and I'm seeking restaurant recommendations. What are some good quality places with a variety of dishes? I have 2 teenagers and my youngest does not like seafood.

Thank you,

Reply

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Top restaurants in Brussels

See all



65 Degrees

151 Reviews

\$\$ - \$\$\$, French, European, Gastropub

Le Rabassier

715 Reviews

\$\$\$\$, Belgian, European, French



Tonton Garby

1,626 Reviews

\$, French, Belgian, European

4 replies to this topic

1-4 of 4 replies

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1

Brussels, Belgium

Level 6 Contributor

1,572 posts



14 reviews



7 helpful votes

1. Re: Restaurants in the EU

Nov 19, 2019, 1:34 AM

SaveLa Terrasse in Merode <http://www.brasserie-laterrasse.be/carte.php>Manhattan burgers in Merode <https://www.manhattns.com/menu>**Reply**[Report inappropriate content](#)

Bethesda, Maryland...



12 posts

2. Re: Restaurants in the EU

Nov 19, 2019, 1:11 PM

Save

Thank you for the information.

Reply[Report inappropriate content](#)

brussels

Destination Expert**for Brussels****Level 6 Contributor**

1,198 posts



45 reviews



26 helpful votes

3. Re: Restaurants in the EU

Nov 29, 2019, 9:10 AM

Save

sel et povre near place lux

Reply[Report inappropriate content](#)

Flanders, Belgium

Level 6 Contributor

1,449 posts

4. Re: Restaurants in the EU

Nov 29, 2019, 9:27 AM

SaveThere is no 'sel et povre' in [Brussels](#).'Sel et poivre' is not located in Brussels, but in [Charleroi](#).

So I assume you are trying to direct OP to 'Poivre et sel', and yes this one is near the Place du Luxembourg ;-)
<https://www.poivre-et-sel.be/en/>

Edited: 9:29 am, November 29, 2019

Brussels with teens recommendations

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Brussels forums
 Pittsburgh...

Level **1** Contributor



11 posts



1 review

Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 28, 2019, 9:57 AM

Save

We are planning a 3 day trip from [Brussels](#) to [Rotterdam](#) over Christmas break, and will spend 2 days in Brussels. We are traveling with older teens. Any "must do" suggestions? We were planning to visit Winter Wonders, walk around the city (cartoons/Manneken Pis) and the and possibly 1/2 day trip to Bruges.

Reply

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Related: What are the most popular tours in Brussels?

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1,098 Reviews
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11 replies to this topic

1-10 of 11 replies

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« 1 2 »

London, United...

Destination Expert

for Cornwall

Level **6** Contributor



17,096 posts



265 reviews



133 helpful votes

1. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 28, 2019, 10:35 AM

Save

You don't say anything about your teens' interests and much will depend on their ages eg 13 (not beer) or 19 (beer).

How about the Comic Strip Museum?

<https://www.comicscenter.net/en/home>

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Pittsburgh...

Level **1** Contributor



11 posts



1 review

2. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 28, 2019, 12:19 PM

Save

Thanks for your reply. Ages are 18, 14 and we also have a 9 years old. They are fine with museums, outdoor activities or any unique experiences (canal ice skating etc). This is their first visit to the area.

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Flanders, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



1,449 posts

3. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 28, 2019, 12:37 PM

Save

Check perhaps a visit of [Atomium](https://www.atomium.be/Home/Index?lang=en) <https://www.atomium.be/Home/Index?lang=en>

And in the immediate vicinity of Atomium a view on the rest of [Europe](https://www.minieurope.com/en/) <https://www.minieurope.com/en/>

Also know about the existence of [Jeanneke Pis](https://visit.brussels/en/place/Jeanneke-Pis...) <https://visit.brussels/en/place/Jeanneke-Pis...> and whilst there, if your teens our +16 (=beer drinking allowed in [Belgium](#)) let them discover the delirium village <https://www.deliriumvillage.com/>

And certainly don't miss the waffles at Maison Dandoy <https://...>

And enjoy a cocktail, or just a coffee in bar le 31 of Metropole hotel ...[sabreprosite.com/en/...bar-le-31](https://www.sabreprosite.com/en/...bar-le-31) (you don't need to stay in the hotel to enjoy this bar).

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

Lier, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



3,228 posts



16 reviews



12 helpful votes

4. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 28, 2019, 1:15 PM

Save

Hello.

You could go to [Autoworld](#) if they like [cars](#). War museum - esp air wing great planes there.

In case of a rainy day coudenberg museum in front of the royal palace is great. Even if it doesn't rain - could happen 😊

Reply

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Pittsburgh...

Level **1** Contributor



11 posts



1 review

5. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 28, 2019, 3:15 PM

Save

Thanks I'll check these out

Reply

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Brussels, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



1,572 posts



14 reviews



7 helpful votes

6. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 28, 2019, 3:15 PM

Save

Another vote for Coudenberg.

A few other ideas:

The Belgian dinosaurs (iguanodons) at the Natural History Museum: <https://...390>

Musical Instruments Museums: <http://www.mim.be/en>

Tram Museum <https://...>

Reply

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Pittsburgh...

Level **1** Contributor



11 posts



1 review

7. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 28, 2019, 3:16 PM

Save

Thanks!

Reply

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United States

Level **6** Contributor



852 posts



71 reviews



61 helpful votes

8. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Oct 30, 2019, 8:20 PM

Save

I also think The Atomium - its a interesting place, and Little [Europe](#) is close by.

Reply

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Toronto

Level **6** Contributor



189 posts



378 reviews



57 helpful votes

9. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Nov 13, 2019, 8:49 AM

Save

There is a rink for skating and the winter market is fun. Definitly the Comic Strip museum. Shopping on [rue Neuve](#) if they like shopping. To eat, the best fries it is frite flagey but you will need to take public transport or [Fritland](#) right downtown. For waffles, skip the cheap ones near Maneken Piss and splurge by going to Maison Dandoy. That is the real deal. For typicaal meal you can go [Chez Leon](#) and kids under 12 eat for free. Where are you staying.

Reply

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Pittsburgh...

Level **1** Contributor

11 posts



1 review

10. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Nov 16, 2019, 10:34 PM

Save

Thanks for the suggestions!

brussels

**Destination Expert
for Brussels**Level **6** Contributor

1,198 posts



45 reviews



26 helpful votes

11. Re: Brussels with teens recommendations

Nov 18, 2019, 3:17 AM

Save

the atomium is just about ok little [Europe](#) for a teenager absolutely not.

I would suggest the magritte museum and the grand place and the dock at st Katherine for some decent food and it is fun to look around the market will be on so you could browse and graze your way round for a day, iwould try and do a day trip to [Antwerp](#) if you get bored it has some good artwork.

5 Day Trip in Belgium?

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Brussels forums



4 posts

5 Day Trip in Belgium?

Oct 30, 2019, 9:24 AM

Save

Hello, I will be traveling from [London](#) to [Brussels](#) in early December for about 5 days (from America). I would like to visit Brussels, [Ghent](#), [Bruges](#), and [Antwerp](#). I was wondering if I should just stay in Brussels the whole time and then just take the train to each of these cities (one city a day). Or stay in Brussels the first two days and then stay one night in each of these cities. Which

of these cities should I allocate the most time to? Im 26 years old and am mostly interested in the beer, food, and architecture of [Belgium](#)

Reply

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Related: What are the most popular tours in Brussels?

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6 replies to this topic

1-6 of 6 replies

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New Brunswick, New...

Level **6** Contributor

1,592 posts

6 reviews

3 helpful votes

1. **Re: 5 Day Trip in Belgium?**

Oct 30, 2019, 11:14 AM

Save

Read about these places soon. [Antwerp](#) probably deserves more time in part because of its size and cultural content. Stay there for two days. [Ghent](#) and [Bruges](#) maybe deserve one day or less

each depending on your cultural interests leading you there. Train travel in [Belgium](#) is good so do not rely on driving [rental cars](#) or private drivers masquerading as tour guides. In these places and others you can find examples of architectural design so select your destinations accordingly. Contact universities that have schools of architecture first and ask questions. If you live near large universities that have art schools with collections or training programs for architecture for European countries go there and make inquiries and ask questions. Five days will go fast so utilize your time wisely for getting something from being in [Brussels](#) and stay there for two days at the most with other destinations looming on the horizon. Art museum might attract your time in Brussels. Walking around central old part of the city will be beneficial - [Grande Place](#) especially. Certain places out of the loop for your tight timetable might interest you for information about architectural design. Memorials for WWI events are there. More time will be needed to include these places in your itinerary. [Leuven](#) is one example closer to Brussels. Short day trips do not deliver what they promise all the time so schedule departures carefully. Do not make the mistake of arriving at Bruges and Ghent late in the morning thereby wasting much of your time traveling on trains to return to and arriving from Brussels. You need to spend as much of an entire day as time will permit in both Bruges and Ghent. Veteran travelers might offer advice on which one deserves an over night stay since they are not the same size with different cultural ingredients worth seeing. One night in both might do many good things for you if your cultural interests and vacation goals lead you in that direction for that purpose. So many of these places with connections to art history are heavy weight destinations and should not be treated lightly. Casual or brief visits can damage or handicap your vacation goals for this category of reasons for going to Belgium in the first place. No harm in spending more time at these places. Restrictions of your time table might make it difficult to do this comfortably. But devote more time for Antwerp by reducing your time for Brussels. By comparison for cultural content alone two days for Antwerp can be justified easily. Using Brussels as the place to stay while making day trips to these places might make sense especially if your departure by [plane](#) is from that city. How much do you enjoy traveling on trains for what are short distances in a small country? Getting the most from the city of Brussels comes around to benefitting from a different kettle of fish when comparisons are made with Ghent and Bruges. Establish or select a list of priorities and reasons for visiting Belgium. Size yourself up as a tourist with legitimate interests and match your vacation goals with the priorities mentioned above. Staying in Brussels the whole time might prove to be less than altogether satisfying but that depends on what knowledge about Belgium you bring with you and how you utilize it. Today Brussels occupies a place or position for world affairs for [Europe](#) with new buildings you might want to see. We would make that suggestion for embellishing your itinerary with examples of modern architectural design. You might be making a list for a second list as soon as you get to Belgium. Do not do unrealistic things. Your health and happiness are more important.

Edited: 10:49 am, November 01, 2019

Reply

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Bristol, United...

Level  Contributor



1,951 posts



95 reviews



26 helpful votes

2. Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?

Oct 30, 2019, 11:18 AM

Save

If it were me I would just stay in [Brussels](#) and use the train to visit the other Cities.

If you do decide to change base or stay somewhere else then [Antwerp](#) or [Ghent](#) will work better than Bruges which is very quiet in the evenings when all the tourists have left.

Oh and please ignore post #1 which is not a real person with genuine experience of the destinations in question.

Edited: 11:19 am, October 30, 2019

Reply

[Report inappropriate content](#)

United States

Level  Contributor



852 posts



71 reviews



61 helpful votes

3. Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?

Oct 30, 2019, 4:04 PM

Save

Hello,

I just stayed in [Brussels](#) and did day trips from there- its very easy to get to the places you want to visit by train- buy your tickets at the train station machines is easy - if travelling around Brussels to site see buy a day pass for the buses-

I decided to join my parents on their trip to Brussels and [Bruges](#). Brussels is amazing and we loved it and had a wonderful time! The public transport is amazing- you can purchase tickets on board the buses- but purchasing thru a machine are cheaper. There are trams, buses, and metro, and connections are very easy to make. A single bus was 2.50€ but you can buy a day pass for 7.80 or 7.90€. The drivers are all friendly and will gladly answer any questions you may have.

A highlight of our trip was to the European Parliament. Here is the information they emailed me:

,

Thank you for your message expressing interest in visiting the European Parliament. We would be delighted to welcome you to visit the "hemicycle" in the autumn.

Between September and June, visiting hours, with a multimedia guide (available in all official EU languages) are:

* Monday to Thursday: between 9h00 and 16h00

* Friday: between 9h00 and 12h00

Briefings about the work and role of the European Parliament by one of our speakers take place every Monday at 11h00 and 15h00 (in English and French).

There is no need to register. All you have to do is to come to the visitor entrance (Paul [Henri-Spaak](#) building, next to Park [Leopold](#) - see attached "Visit to the hemicycle" map) 15 minutes beforehand. A valid ID is required.

Visitors to the European Parliament in Brussels can now leave their [car](#) in the [car](#) park, by sending the booking request at least one working day in advance of a visit. <https://ec.europa.eu/>

The tour is free- you need to go thru a airport like security- and wear a sticker - there are postcards that you can fill out for free and they will mail them if you drop them in the box provided- as well as a "green screen" photo op where you can take a photo and email it to yourself for free as well. Our tour guide was from [Slovenia](#) and gave us a 1 hour 45 min tour (usually lasts 40-45 minutes) as he was kind enough to answer all of our questions. Our group was about 15 ppl. There are also beautiful paintings you can admire as well. The tour was very informative and we had a great time! A fantastic start to our trip to Brussels!

Edited: 4:06 pm, October 30, 2019

Reply

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Houston, Texas

Level **6** Contributor



47,064 posts



735 reviews



210 helpful votes

4. **Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?**

Nov 1, 2019, 12:08 AM

Save

If flying into [Brussels](#) and out of it or taking the train into Brussels and out of it, I'd stay there and take the train to the other locations as well.

Reply

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New Jersey

Level **6** Contributor



298 posts



236 reviews



64 helpful votes

5. **Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?**

Nov 6, 2019, 12:50 PM

Save

I spent a week in [Belgium](#) in September. We stayed in [Brussels](#) walking distance to the trains and took day trips to all the other cities. Even took a day trip to [Amsterdam](#) and [Paris](#). It was very easy to just wake up take a walk down the street and hop on a train.

Reply

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Toronto

Level **6** Contributor



189 posts



378 reviews



57 helpful votes

6. **Re: 5 Day Trip in Beligum?**

Nov 13, 2019, 8:37 AM

Save

I would stay in brussels and do day trips To Brugges or [Antwerp](#) in the nort and [Namur](#) or [Liege](#) for the south. Like that you get a taste of both cultures (Flemish and French).

Restaurant for daughters 18th Birthday meal

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Brussels forums
Leeds, United...



6 posts

Restaurant for daughters 18th Birthday meal

Oct 27, 2019, 8:19 AM

Save

Just that really looking for recommendations for my daughters 18th birthday meal.

No budget but don't want Michelin star's want my 14 year old and 18 year old to feel comfortable.

She's a veggie but don't want a veggie restaurant just one with veggie options. Open to all cuisines but would prefer to stay away from Chinese or indian. Only a small group of 5 of us and we are staying in the centre.

Thank you x

Reply

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Top restaurants in Brussels

See all



65 Degres

151 Reviews

\$\$ - \$\$\$, French, European, Gastropub

Le Rabassier

715 Reviews

\$\$\$\$, Belgian, European, French



Tonton Garby

1,626 Reviews

\$, French, Belgian, European

6 replies to this topic

1-6 of 6 replies

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Houston, Texas

Level **6** Contributor



238 posts



135 reviews



60 helpful votes

1. Re: Restaurant for daughters 18th Birthday meal

Oct 27, 2019, 9:45 AM

Save

Try [Belga Queen](http://www.belgaqueen.be/brussels.aspx) near De Brouckère: <http://www.belgaqueen.be/brussels.aspx>. Beautiful space housed in a former bank building. Fancy without being stuffy. They specialize in raw bar seafood, but have a section of their menu for vegetarians.

Reply

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Brussels, Belgium

Level **1** Contributor



15 posts



1 review

2. Re: Restaurant for daughters 18th Birthday meal

Oct 27, 2019, 9:52 AM

Save

Try [Dolce Amaro](#) on chausee de charleroi

Reply

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Brussels, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



1,572 posts



14 reviews



7 helpful votes

3. Re: Restaurant for daughters 18th Birthday meal

Oct 27, 2019, 10:26 AM

Save

check out [Chalet Robinson](https://www.chaletrobinson.be/en/) <https://www.chaletrobinson.be/en/>

closest Tram stop: Marie-Jose

Reply

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Lier, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor

3,228 posts



16 reviews



12 helpful votes

4. Re: Restaurant for daughters 18th Birthday meal

Oct 28, 2019, 12:25 AM

Save

Good idea chalet Robinson. Been there twice. Long ago. Nice.

Reply

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Leeds, United...



6 posts

5. Re: Restaurant for daughters 18th Birthday meal

Nov 2, 2019, 7:40 AM

Save

Thank you everyone for your recommendations looking into them now.

Reply

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New Jersey

Level **6** Contributor

298 posts



236 reviews



64 helpful votes

6. Re: Restaurant for daughters 18th Birthday meal

Nov 6, 2019, 12:48 PM

Save

My wife and I ate dinner two consecutive nights at [Pasta Divina](#). One of the best restaurants I have ever been to.

New Year's eve in Brussels?

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Brussels forums



4 posts

New Year's eve in Brussels?

Oct 10, 2019, 12:28 AM

Save

Has anyone of you spent New Year's eve in [Brussels](#)? If yes, please, share your opinion. Are there any outdoor parties with free admission that are worth being attended? Tnx in advance :)

Reply

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Related: [What are the most popular tours in Brussels?](#)

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Hungry Mary's Famous Beer and Chocolate Tour - Brussels

701 Reviews

from €80.00*



Day Trip to Bruges from Brussels

428 Reviews

from €40.00*

Belgian Beer Tasting in Brussels

1,098 Reviews

from €14.00*

2 replies to this topic

1-2 of 2 replies

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Brussels, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



37,636 posts



3 reviews



2 helpful votes

1. Re: New Year's eve in Brussels?

Oct 10, 2019, 9:15 AM

Save

We don't have outdoor parties on NYE, with or without free admission, unless you count the free fireworks display which in the last few years has been done from the area around the [Atomium](#), at Heysel metro station some 20-30 mins outside the city centre on metro line 6. Plans are never announced before the end of November/ beginning of December but I would expect nothing to change this year. The redesign of Place de Brouckère was supposed to have been done partly to make this the NYE venue (before that they were set off from [Mont des Arts](#)), but for security reasons the fireworks were moved out to Heysel and I think the city prefers it out there. Of course the big difficulty is then getting back into the city centre with all the crowds, even if public transport is free after midnight (but not necessarily running all night...).

There are plenty of bars in St. Géry etc. that are open for drinks without any admission charge, as well as organised parties (especially in discos/ nightclubs), which do charge. If you want a meal, it will be necessary to book at any proper restaurant, and they will mostly be serving a special, multi-course (expensive) meal with limited choices. Nightclubs and restaurants both start to advertise their offers around the beginning of December.

If you want some sort of community activity, you'd do better to go to Brugge which has a (free) group sing-song in 't Zand square (or other large square) every NYE. Songs are mostly the year's pop hits in Dutch, French and English, and they distribute song-sheets to help with the words.

P.S. If you google YouTube New Years Eve [Brussels](#) (or Brugge) you should find plenty of videos to give you an idea what sort of things might be going on.

Edited: 9:18 am, October 10, 2019

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4 posts

2. Re: New Year's eve in Brussels?

Oct 10, 2019, 12:35 PM

Save

Many thanks for the detailed info :))))

Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

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- [Brussels forum](#)

Brussels forums
Bellmore, New York

Level **6** Contributor



1,805 posts



110 reviews



88 helpful votes

Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 3, 2019, 6:21 AM

Save

We just returned from a beautiful trip to [Amsterdam](#) and [Paris](#). We would like to plan a trip to [Brussels](#), 10-11 days, early October 2020. Just need your advice where to start.

1. Should we base just in Brussels and do day trips, overnight trips to cities like [Bruges](#), [Ghent](#)?
2. Should we split the trip 5-6 days in two major cities. Just spent 5 days in Amsterdam so would prefer another.....and add a few day tours?
3. Best central place to stay in Brussels.

Any suggestions would really be appreciated....thanks....karen

Reply

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Related: What are the most popular tours in Brussels?

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[Hungry Mary's Famous Beer and Chocolate Tour - Brussels](#)

701 Reviews

from €80.00*



[Day Trip to Bruges from Brussels](#)

428 Reviews

from €40.00*

[Belgian Beer Tasting in Brussels](#)

1,098 Reviews

from €14.00*

8 replies to this topic

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Bristol, United...

Level **6** Contributor



1,951 posts



1. **Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point**

Oct 3, 2019, 12:43 PM

Save

Even if you pad out your time with day trips from [Brussels](#) you will still probably find that 10-11 days is a bit too long.

Brussels is not a big City like [Amsterdam](#) or [Paris](#) with lots to see and do. Most people find 1-2 full days exploring the City is enough.

Perhaps consider staying for part of your trip in [Cologne](#). You can travel between Cologne and Brussels in just over an hour and half by train.

Perhaps 6-7 days in Brussels which will leave you time for day trips to [Ghent](#) and [Bruges](#), plus a couple of others, you could consider [Antwerp](#), [Mons](#), [Dinant](#), [Leuven](#) or [Maastricht](#) in Southern [Netherlands](#).

You could then have 4-5 nights in Cologne and include a couple of day trips from there perhaps [Aachen](#), Düsseldorf, [Bonn](#) or even a boat trip down the Rhine Valley.

Best place to stay in Brussels is close to [Central Station](#).

Reply

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Lier, Belgium

Level **6** Contributor



2. **Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point**

Oct 3, 2019, 3:23 PM

Save

I agree that 11 days in Brussel can be too much and staying close to central station is very good idea.

However Koeln is for me not deserving more than a day.

Plenty to see in [Belgium](#).

Antwerpen

Brugge

Gent

leper

Mons

All deserve about one day.

[Dinant](#) or [Namur](#)

Les grottes de Han are spectacular - and a zoo next door.

Leuven

A fantastic zoo - pari daizia.

The zwin - ornithology park

Etc

[Paris](#) is 1h 30 away.

[Lille](#) is one hour away.

Aachen is quite nice too

Maastricht

Monschau

Trier

...

Reply

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Bellmore, New York

Level  Contributor



1,805 posts



110 reviews



88 helpful votes

3. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 3, 2019, 5:06 PM

Save

Thank you for the wonderful advice!

Reply

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Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Level  Contributor



83 posts



316 reviews



71 helpful votes

4. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 4, 2019, 12:54 PM

Save

Just visited [Brussels](#) in Summer , ideally 4 days will be enough and reasonable.

You can add [Luxembourg](#) and east of france to your trip 3 days each.

Reply

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New Brunswick, New...

Level  Contributor



1,592 posts



6 reviews



3 helpful votes

5. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 7, 2019, 5:37 PM

Save

[Ardennes](#) region near the [Luxembourg](#) and French borders deserves your attention. [Leuven](#) and [Mechelen](#) might appeal to you as smaller destinations. [Antwerp](#) should be on your list. If [Brussels](#) deserves four days then Antwerp deserves at least three. Do not become overly exhilarated and be-dazzled with visits lasting a half day to [Bruges](#) but it might not deserve that close attention for prolong periods of time but that depends on what looms on the horizon as places deserving a visit. Bruges does deserve a visit but do not become easily mesmerized with it. In southern [Netherlands](#) near Tilbourg and [Breda](#) you will find an unusual part of another country locked within the Netherlands in the form of the Belgian enclave called Baarle Herzog. See it for curiosity alone. [Eindhoven](#) is not that far away. Ardennes region might have priority. Many countries with connections with eighteenth military battles have memorials and places for honoring past heroics on the battle field. [Belgium](#) is no exception Oudenaarde and Ramilles are two places worth your time if your interests lead you in that direction for more than curiosity. Ramilles is near [Liege](#). Just inside the French border near Bavay is the small town of Malplaquet with noteworthy importance for eighteenth century battles. Visit it if your time table obligations do not get in the way. [Ghent](#) and Bruges and Antwerp by comparison certainly have greater importance for today's travelers, but this aspect of Belgian history should not be readily dismissed. Use Brussels as a good starting point in setting up and following a workable itinerary for exploring so much in Belgium Escapades to [Cologne](#) do make sense. [Maastricht](#) too. For Brussels there an additional reason to visit the city namely the place it occupies in European world affairs. [Grande Place](#) is deserving your time and so is the art museum there. But do not allow modern Belgium to escape your exploration or investigation.

Reply

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brussels

Destination Expert

for Brussels

Level  Contributor



1,198 posts



45 reviews



26 helpful votes

6. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 9, 2019, 9:18 AM

Save

good advice all round [Brussels](#) has some good spots great for food and drink but quite small. It is however central and a goo place to construct a a tour around. Their is a long list of places t ogo my favourites would be [Aachen](#) and [Dusseldorf](#). but that is the beer talking. war cmteries are pretty movng places to go and it is a good time to be doing it.

Reply

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Dublin, Ireland

Level  Contributor



17 posts



17 reviews



6 helpful votes

7. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 9, 2019, 1:11 PM

Save

My friend and I are visiting there in two weeks from [Ireland](#) we plan to spend 36 hours in [Brussels](#) then take a one hour trip to bruge we spend 18 hours there and take a 3 hour bus to eindhoven in Holland... From eindhoven there's day trips to [Maastricht](#) and other cities an hour away.. Also from brugeand brussels there are buses and trains in and out of [France](#)...this could be an alternative to see [Dunkirk](#) etc

The English and Irish go to Brussels for weekends really and by all accounts (even look on YouTube) it's a little dull, it's a business city with politicians in nato and EU buildings there but it's not someplace people say is amazing to me and overpriced... That said these are our main sites to see

The EU Parliament and museum seem good

The grande square/place and its townhalls

The old masters art museum(Reuben etc collections)

The art nouveau area of the city

The cinquetairre park

These are all a couple bus stops or short walk between each other. We hope to finish this itinery between 9-6 at a moderate pace on day 1 then chill in the cafes at the main square in the evening, there's a free walking tour from the main square daily we may catch one on day 2 or there is mini [Europe](#) just outside the city that looks fun

If we were staying longer trips to war graves in flanders maybe on the cards if its once in a lifetime maybe give yourself 4 days and see everything then go on but 11 days is too long.

Trivago do deals and agoda on hotel most people stay within 2km of the grand place or near gare di midi(the trainstation 2km from the main square.. Handy for the airport transfer and leaving Brussels) .. Try get breakfast included in your hotel as eating outs expensive by all accounts.

We are staying 1km from the train stop we arrive at in bruge.. ghent is inbetween Brussels and bruge and seems like a good place to visit on the way but I believe just the day like get back on the train and go to brugge after seeing ghent ... Brugge is exceptionally expensive for hotels but small alot of daytrips from Brussels see everything in 7 hours there so we have enough time to see these things in just one night in a hotel and relax in the evening .. Why double back. We will definitely see..

The Salvador dali collection

Town Hall and Bell tower

Chocolate and fries museum

Take a short canal boat trip

A brewery

In all buses and trains and several museums and canal boats in both places is costing around 100 euro so we are keeping other costs low.

[Eindhoven](#) has an airport we may fly back to dublin after seeing Maastricht and our first ever burlesque show however I don't know really ill let you know 😊...

But from eindhoven you can link to plenty of other European cities we leave [Dublin](#) on a Thursday and fly back on Monday night so 4.5 days.. Personally I'd fly someplace warm and cheap like the algarve in [Portugal](#) or [Spain](#) ..

Reply

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Dublin, Ireland

Level **3** Contributor



17 posts



17 reviews



6 helpful votes

8. Re: Need a Brussels Itinerary Starting Point

Oct 9, 2019, 1:28 PM

Save

Just out of my own self interest there October 2020 [flights](#) to [Malaga](#), grán canáraí, Palma... Like the nice and warm Spanish areas cost 14 euro one way [flight](#) and I'm sure have very cheap [flights](#) coming back to [Brussels](#) if that's where you're flying back home from... October can be abit bleak Malaga is on mainland [Spain](#) but by the coast with hotels in torremelinos 10 minutes cheap taxi from the airport or even Malaga town is very Spanish and interesting to see, beautiful harbour and warm in winter, palma on the island of mallorca is steeped in history and again fantastic weather, food and hotels.. Grand canaria maybe abit further, costly but close to African weather year round...

11 days traipsing through European cities is hard work... 5 days in Spain can hit the mark on culture and the added bonus of swimming pools, weather etc