

## **FODOR'S TORONTO 2011: TOP ATTRACTIONS**

### **CN Tower**

Since it opened as a communications tower in 1976, the CN Tower has defined Toronto's skyline and is the city's most iconic structure. Everyone has to step onto the glass floor, hovering more than 1,000 feet above the ground, at least once. You can sometimes see Niagara Falls from the Sky Pod; at nearly 1,500 feet it was the highest observation deck in the world until the Guangzhou TV & Sightseeing Tower in China crushed its record in 2009.

### **Historic Distillery District**

The 1832 Gooderham and Worts distillery was restored and revitalized in 2006 to create a pedestrian-only mini-village of cobblestone streets and brick buildings housing restaurants, shops, galleries, and theaters. The design perfectly incorporates the original Victorian industrial architecture, and the Distillery District is a great place to while away an afternoon or evening. Concerts and other events take place outdoors in summer.

### **Hockey Sites**

Canadians are as nuts about hockey as the stereotypes maintain, and to truly experience Canadian culture you should school yourself at the Hockey Hall of Fame. Its prized possession is the original 1892 Stanley Cup. The Maple Leafs are Toronto's National Hockey League team, and though they haven't won the Stanley Cup since 1967, fans are loyal and tickets are notoriously tough to get. If you can't see a game at the Air Canada Centre, see one at a sports bar: fans at Wayne Gretzky's bar/restaurant downtown are always fired up.

### **Great Markets**

St. Lawrence Market is as much a destination for its brick 1844 exterior as for its city block of meats, cheeses, produce, and prepared foods inside. It's the quintessential place to grab one of the city's famed peameal bacon sandwiches (remember, we said "famed," not "gourmet").

Kensington Market is an entirely different beast: several blocks square of used-clothing stores, head shops, cheap ethnic and vegetarian eats, inexpensive fish shops, dry-goods shops, and bakeries. Streets teem with browsers, buskers, and bicycles. The best time to go is when cars are prohibited, the last Sunday of every month between May and October.

### **Toronto Islands**

A short ferry ride from the Harbourfront, the car-free Islands are a relaxing respite from the concrete jungle. Take a picnic, lie on the beach, or ride a tandem bicycle on the boardwalk. The kiddie amusement park on Centre Island attracts families. Don't forget your camera: the view of Toronto's skyline from here is unparalleled.

### **Top Museums**

An art-lover's first stop should be the venerable Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), with its collection of nearly 80,000 works spanning almost 2,000 years of art in a building redesigned by Toronto-born Frank Gehry in 2008. The massive Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is one of the most impressive cultural institutions in the world. It, too, received a recent redesign: an über-modern crystalline addition in 2007. Honorable mentions: the Design Exchange and the Bata Shoe Museum.

**Queen West**

Many a visitor falls in love with Toronto after a foray to historically bohemian Queen Street West. Though the entire strip has spirit, the ragtag artist forged businesses keep moving west. Begin with the spiffy chain stores near Spadina and see how the record shops, clothing boutiques, cafés, bookstores, bars, and galleries change as you head west.