

# **Top Niagara Falls Story Ideas for 2023**

As an international bucket-list destination, Niagara Falls offers so much to explore once you've seen the famous waterfalls. Whether your perfect escape includes getting close to nature, thrilling adventures, live entertainment, walking in the footsteps of history or tasting your way through its delicious culinary scene, Niagara Falls has something for everyone.

### 1. History

- The story that is captivating imaginations around the world. Celebrating hydroelectric history, the architecturally stunning Niagara Parks Power Station magnificently restored and opened in 2021 with exhibits during the day and CURRENTS: Niagara's Power Transformed, a breathtaking immersive sound and light experience each night. In July 2022, the second phase of the power station opened. Visitors travel down and through the tailrace tunnel over a century old to emerge beside the thundering base of the Horseshoe Falls. More information here.
- Discover the rich Indigenous history and culture of Niagara Falls with installations that pay tribute to indigenous peoples in the Niagara Region and events throughout the year. More information here.
- As a final stop of the 'Underground Railroad', pay homage to the bravery of freedom seekers on a Black
  History tour with Niagara Bound Tours led by Lezlie Harper, a fifth-generation freedom seeker. More
  information <a href="here">here</a>.
- Visit the Niagara Falls History <u>Museum</u> to explore the history that changed a nation, steps away from tours of Drummond Hill Cemetery and War of 1812 battle site.

#### 2. Sustainable stories

- Niagara Falls Illumination celebrates Earth Hour and Earth Day each year
- Environmental Designations:
  - World Biosphere Reserve Niagara Escarpment
  - Carolinian Life Zone Niagara Peninsula
  - Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) Niagara Gorge
  - Designated Nature Reserve Niagara Glen
  - Environmental Protection
  - Sustainable Gardening Projects
  - Green Spaces and Gardens
    - Niagara Glen and Nature Centre



- Gardens spectacular ranked among the most beautiful in the world: Queen Victoria Park, Oakes Garden
   Theatre, Botanical Gardens, Butterfly Conservatory, Floral Showhouse, Centennial Lilac Garden
- o Parklands Dufferin Islands, Queenston Heights Park
- Scenic Trails Niagara River Recreation Trail
- Cycling Greater Niagara Circle Route
- Birding
- World-Class Golf
- Bouldering
- Geocaching
- Calendar of Blooms
- FeastON Restaurants

#### 3. The Wonderous Outdoors

- Niagara Falls has some of Canada's most beautiful public gardens and landscaped parks. While blooms are spectacular each season, spring is one of the most colourful times to visit. Niagara Falls is the Daffodil Capital of North America, boasts an impressive tulip display, Canada's largest rose garden, a Magnolia Allee, a fragrant Centennial Lilac Garden, iconic Floral Clock with 16,000 plants, one of Canada's largest Botanical gardens, plus a Japanese-style garden tucked behind the historic Oakes Garden Theatre.
- With 56km of natural wonders and outdoor parks, Niagara Falls is a popular hiking destination. The Niagara Parks Niagara Glen is a designated Nature Reserve with paths that wind through a Carolinian Forest and overlook the powerful Niagara River. South of the brink of the Falls, Dufferin Islands offers quiet secluded parkland with walking trails and picnic areas. Nestled high atop the Niagara Escarpment, Queenston Heights Park is the birthplace of Niagara Falls and also a terminus point of the famous Bruce Trail.
- Niagara Falls is a **top** <u>cycling</u> **destination** with over 300km of routes for beginners and pros. Explore the Niagara River Recreation Trail and Greater Niagara Circle Route on your own or join a Niagara River Bike Tour. For a leisurely ride to explore the sites and attractions, feel the breeze and go pedal-free with a Snap E-Bike rental.
- World class golf in Niagara Falls includes top courses at Niagara Parks Legends on the Niagara and the
  Whirlpool Golf Course. For more fun off the course, practice your swing on championship courses with a golf
  simulator at the Golf Lounge located in the Best Western Cairn Croft Hotel.
- Niagara Falls is an **international** <u>birdwatching</u> **destination** with over 280 species. Each February, bird lovers gather at *Birds on the Niagara International Bird Festival and Celebration*.

#### 4. Rejuvenate in Niagara Falls

- The combination of waterfalls and green spaces in Niagara Falls provide the perfect backdrop for wellness escapes. Take a deep breath and soak up the benefits of negative ions released by waterfalls. The Falls are a natural source of negative ions, which can have positive physiological affects on mood and stress levels, as well as help some people breathe easier. Visitors can also soak up the rejuvenating and restorative power of 56km of parkland and beautifully landscaped gardens. See #2 and 3.
- Niagara Falls offers a number of spas in unique settings, with everything from traditional therapies to the latest treatments from around the world:
  - Newly opened in 2022, the Marriott Fallsview Burning Springs Spa & Thermal Pool pays homage to its location near the original natural spring of burning water and offers three thermal pools with salt and minerals to soothe and restore, plus an outdoor fireside relaxation area and Finnish inspired Sauna Cabin within hearing range of the thundering Horseshoe Falls.
  - The newly renovated Christienne Fallsview Spa at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel includes breathtaking views of the Falls and a popular infinity tub.



#### 5. Canada's Entertainment Capital

• Niagara Falls is a premier entertainment destination with year-round attractions, concerts, theatre and Canada's largest casino. Live music takes place across the destination on a regular basis at restaurants and bars. Locations such as Doc Magilligans, Niagara Brewery, hard Rock Café, Spyce Lounge and many others have live music almost every weekend and almost every night in summer months. Other live music venues include the Niagara Falls Convention Centre and the Fallsview Casino Resort, home to two state-of-the-art entertainment venues in Ontario (1,500 seat Avalon Theatre and the new 5,000 seat OLG Stage) with over 320 shows per year. More here.

#### Live Music – "Music City"

Niagara Falls Tourism continues to foster the city's reputation as a leading destination for live music and live entertainment as Canada's Entertainment Capital and a Music City through signature events like Niagara Falls MUSIC LIVE and other initiatives.

- Niagara Falls' signature events bring another great reason to visit the city:
  - Niagara Falls MUSIC LIVE Launched in 2021, this celebration of live music brings the city to life with multi-night events featuring Canadian artists that augment the city's dynamic entertainment scene. Events take place seasonally and a major December event features 80+ performances across 20 venues over one week with top Canadian performers culminating in 15+ New Year's Eve celebrations. Events are hosted in a variety of venues across the city from intimate performances at restaurants and bars to concerts in theatres and convention centres. Planning is underway for the 2023 and 2024 series of Niagara Falls MUSIC LIVE events.
  - Celebrating 40 years in 2022, the Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights (WFOL) is Canada's largest and longest running free outdoor light festival with 101 nights of twinkling lights (from November to February) and it continues to grow each year with new themed routes, displays and offerings. The Festival features popular free family friendly live entertainment on weekends and daily throughout the holidays. Families can walk the Festival Route, enjoy free photos with Santa (in season) and then warm up to enjoy live entertainment indoors. From magicians and musicians to puppet ventriloquists and acrobats, the Festival's indoor entertainment also includes story time, oversized games and photo opportunities. In 2022 a new self-guided Hot Chocolate Trail featured 17 stops with 23 unique flavours, from flavours ranging from inventive cocktails to family friendly nonalcoholic options. More information here

#### 6. Culinary Spotlight

- With its proximity to nearby farmland and wine region, the Niagara Falls culinary scene includes some of the
  best <u>dining</u> experiences in the country with talented chefs, inventive cuisine, critically acclaimed, locally inspired
  FeastON certified options paired with award-winning local wines, craft brews and spirits.
- Experience beautifully crafted dishes at AG Inspired Cuisine, the #2 Best Fine Dining Restaurant in Canada. The
  menu utilizes seasonal ingredients, brought together by the inventive hand of executive chef Cory Linkson. The
  historic Flour Mill Restaurant is acclaimed for its weekend "Blunch" and private dining in cabins and domes in
  the courtyard.
- A view takes ambiance to a whole new level. Dine right at the brink of the Falls at <u>Table Rock House Restaurant</u>.
   Enjoy 360 degrees views at the <u>Skylon Tower Revolving Dining Room</u>, and even more incredible views day or night at <u>Massimo's Italian Fallsview Restaurant</u> led by renowned celebrity chef Massimo Capra, <u>21 Club</u> at the Fallsview Casino, <u>Prime Steakhouse</u>, <u>Reds</u>, <u>Golden Lotus</u>, <u>The Keg Fallsview</u> and <u>Watermark</u> Restaurant, voted most romantic in Niagara Falls.
- For a truly unique Canadian treat and curated Ontario product, head to <a href="Maple-Leaf Place">Maple Leaf Place</a> to sample flights of pure maple syrup. This one-of-a-kind tasting experience is within the interactive <a href="Maple-Trail">Maple Trail</a>, the world's only indoor Maple Sugar Bush.



#### 7. Bucket List Experiences

No visit to Niagara Falls is complete without one or more of these bucket-list adventures: hover 457m (1,500 feet) above the Falls with Niagara Helicopters for the perfect aerial shot of the entire city on this must-do four season adventure. Voyage into the mist to get up close and personal on Niagara City Cruises iconic boat ride where you get an epic view (and a little wet) as you sail toward the base of the Falls, 51m (167 feet) below the brink. WildPlay Zipline to the Falls for a thrilling panoramic ride, 67m (220 feet) above the natural marvel at speeds up to 70 km/h (44 mph). Table Rock Centre, arguably one of the best views in the world, will bring you as close as it gets, 3m (10 feet) from the Falls. Journey Behind the Falls to descend 38m (125 feet) below the brink of the Falls to explore 130-year-old tunnels leading to an observation deck and viewing portal to get a glimpse behind the wonder. Enjoy a leisurely gondola ride 53 metres above the Falls on the Niagara SkyWheel.

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#### **Niagara Falls Resources**

Hotels: book.niagarafallstourism.com/

Attraction Packages: Niagarafallstourism.com/attraction-packages/

Niagara Falls Itinerary Ideas: Niagarafallstourism.com/blog/itinerary/

• Getting here: Toronto to Niagara Falls GO Train Service

Website: www.niagarafallstourism.com Instagram: @NiagaraFallsTourismCanada Facebook: @NiagaraFallsTourismCanada

Twitter: @NFallsTourism

#ExploreNiagara

#### **About Niagara Falls Canada**

Overlooking the legendary Canadian Horseshoe, American and Bridal Veil waterfalls, Niagara Falls is a four-season destination renowned for its awe-inspiring natural wonders combined with world-class accommodation, thrilling entertainment and a burgeoning culinary scene. Visitors from Ontario, across North America and around the world who come to experience nature and adventure, discover family fun, feel the romance and explore unique and memorable experiences have made it Canada's premier entertainment destination and a world-renowned bucket list destination. Located within a 1-day drive of half the population of North America, more than 152 M people, Niagara Falls is the perfect getaway.

#### **About Niagara Falls Tourism**

Niagara Falls Tourism (NFT) is the official Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, representing almost 400 member establishments in Niagara Falls, including members throughout the Niagara Region. Welcoming almost 14 million visitors into the destination each year, NFT promotes the tourism and hospitality sector to visitors around the world. Dynamic marketing campaigns and signature events inspire visitors to explore Niagara Falls and support the success of local business. NFT fosters the international reputation of Niagara Falls as a four-season bucket-list destination and Canada's entertainment capital.









