

# **NIAGARA FALLS STORY IDEAS - WHAT'S NEW**

(Summer 2022)

- Stunning New Experiences
- Events
- Awards and Accolades
- Anniversaries and Milestones
- Summer's Must-do Activities

## **NEW IN 2022**

## THE TUNNEL (Niagara Parks Power Station), OPENING JULY 1, 2022

The architecturally stunning **Niagara Parks Power Station** opened to the public 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 opens. Travel 180 feet down the **Tailrace Tunnel** in a glass walled elevator to emerge beside the thundering base of the Horseshoe Falls on a spectacular new viewing platform extending into the river. More information <a href="here">here</a>.

## **WALKS (BY CITY CRUISES)**

<u>Walks</u> provides some of the most exclusive and beautifully designed small group tours in the industry, with special access to some of the world's most iconic landmarks and attractions as well as unique cultural experiences delivered by expert local guides. Now available in Niagara Falls, some of the exclusive Niagara Falls Walks experiences include Exclusive First on the Boat Tour plus the Illumination Tower Experience where participants light up the Falls, *literally*!

## REDS KITCHEN + WINE BAR (Fallsview Casino Complex)

Immerse yourself in a modern sophisticated dining experience where the menu is always evolving to showcase seasonal flavours. REDS offers fresh market specialties from their scratch kitchen, crafted cocktails and an extensive carefully curated wine list. Breads and desserts are baked fresh daily.

## **RIPLEY'S SELFIE STUDIO**

COMING SOON! Interactive installations become a playground for endless creativity, feed-worthy content, and lasting memories. 23 themed installations feature unique props and scroll-stopping colors to create last memories and make your social feed pop! More Information <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

## **TRICK ART BOX**

Canada's first 3D trick art gallery augmented reality experience allows visitors to become part of the art as it comes to life in more than 30 fun photo opportunities. More information <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

#### WEDDING AND FASHION MUSEUM

Explore three centuries of fashion at this exhibit featuring displays of vintage wedding and fashion attire. Three galleries include wedding attire plus fashion and accessories from the 1750s to present. More information here.



#### MAPLE LEAF PLACE - NIAGARA BEER & WINE PATIO AND BOTTLE SHOP

An all-new Niagara Beer & Wine - Patio & Bottle Shop. Taste a variety of local offerings including new featured craft brew 'The Golden Maple Lager' made with Maple Leaf Place Maple Syrup (Ontario farmed product) in collaboration with local award-winning brewery Brimstone Brewing Co. Also available 'to go' from the Bottle Shop: assorted Craft Beer flavours, Niagara Ice Wines, Sparkling Wines and Red & Wine Wines. More information here.

## NIAGARA FALLS RIDERS - 2022 Polaris Slingshot

There's a new open-air vehicle popular with visitors exploring the Niagara region. Niagara Falls Riders provides premier luxury, latest and advanced 2022 model Polaris Slingshot, E Bike and E Scooters rentals in the Niagara Region. Guided tours and multiple renting options available. More information <a href="here">here</a>.

# **GETTING TO NIAGARA FALLS FROM TORONTO**

## **TRAIN**

- GO Transit
  - \$10 one day passes and \$15 weekend passes available
  - Ticket packages, including round-trip GO Train tickets, with the popular Niagara Falls WEGO hop-on, hop-off bus line that stops at hotels and other top attractions, are just \$25 for adults.
  - Children 12 and under accompanied by an adult will ride for free on the GO Train and families can buy WEGO children's tickets separately
  - Save with a discounted group package. Two adults and three children (or one adult and four kids) can travel together on both GO and WEGO for only \$62.20. More information here

### **BUS**

- Megabus Union Station to Niagara Falls \$20 each way approximately
- Flixbus Harbourfront to Niagara Falls \$16-18 each way approximately

## **CAR**

Niagara Air Bus – private shuttle approximately \$220 from Pearson or \$250 from Union Station

## **FLY**

• FlyGTA – Billy Bishop (Toronto) to Niagara on the Lake at approx. \$100 each way. 15 minute flights, 4 x week, 3 x a day. Taxi from the airport to Niagara Falls is \$45 (allow 30 minutes for the cab to arrive)

## **Transportation within Niagara Falls**

 WEGO \*\*\*If you purchase the <u>Niagara Parks Adventure Pass</u> it includes 2 days of transportation. Added value!

More information about getting to Niagara Falls here

## **ONTARIO STAYCATION TAX CREDIT**

Ontario residents can take advantage of up to 20% back on accommodation expenses when they enjoy an overnight getaway in Ontario. Learn more <a href="here.">here.</a>



## **EVENTS**

# **INDIGENOUS MONTH AT NIAGARA PARKS (June 2022)**

National Indigenous Month recognizes the historic contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the development of Canada and the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future. Niagara Parks joins a number of local organizations in hosting special events, ceremonies and programming throughout the entire month of June.

Join the opening ceremonies at the Landscape of Nations Commemorative Memorial in Queenston Heights Park to celebrate the start of Indigenous Month.

Learn more about opening celebrations here.

• NIAGARA FALLS ILLUMINATION FOR NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY (June 21, 2022)
On the evening of June 21, 2022, Niagara Falls will be illuminated in celebration National Indigenous

Peoples Day in Canada. Please see the <u>illumination calendar</u> for specific times and further details. Click **here** for a list of Indigenous tours, events and programs in Niagara Falls.

INDIGENOUS SPEAKER SERIES (June 16 and 30, 2022)

This National Indigenous History Month, explore some of Niagara's past and present Indigenous connections with this online speaker series featuring commentators specializing in Indigenous history, art and culture. The Indigenous Month Speaker Series is delivered as a live-streamed, digital event. Tickets grant access using any computer, tablet or mobile device for these live, interactive sessions. Tickets are \$15 per event, or \$35 for the series (first event took place on June 2). All sessions begin at 7:00 PM.

More information here.

## NIAGARA FALLS ILLUMINATION FOR PRIDE (June 23-30, 2022)

Niagara Falls will be illuminated in rainbow colours in celebration of LGBT+ pride and inclusivity from June 23-30. Please see the **illumination calendar** for specific times and further details.

## FALLSVIEW CASINO BACKYARD BBQ (June 23 – September 1)

A new outdoor food and drink market featuring local food and drink vendors, free live music, overlooking Niagara Falls from 4-10:00 pm daily. Vendors include: nacho Pable, Cheese Secrets, Moksha Indian Bistro, What A Jerk, Marble Slab Creamery, Johnny Rocco's Pizza Wagon, Fallsview Backyard Eats. All ages welcome.

## NIAGARA GLEN: CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBIT (June 10 – July 22, 2022)

Niagara Parks hosts a new travelling exhibit, Our Climate Quest: Small Steps to Big Change, created by Science North of Sudbury, Ontario. Free all-ages exhibit open daily, June 10 - July 22 in the Niagara Glen Nature Centre. Interactive experiences designed to empower youth and inspire climate action. This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada. More information <a href="here">here</a>. Media assets <a href="here">here</a>.

## **GREAT CANADIAN BUTTERTART FEST (July 9, 2022)**

Top bakers from across Ontario come together to share this favourite Canadian Treat!

Tickets are \$5. 12 and under are free. 11am – 4pm at the Gale Centre. More information <a href="here">here</a>.



#### **IMMERSIVE ART EXPERIENCES**

Visitors who stay one or more nights in Niagara Falls can immerse themselves in the art of both of these awe-inspiring experiences:

# BANKSY 360: EXCLUSIVE NIAGARA FALLS PREMIERE (Opening July 21, 2022)

Banksy 360°: The World's Most Elusive Street Artist is an unauthorized immersive exhibit created in collaboration with Bristol, England-based author Marc Leverton. Marc wrote the book Banksy: Myths and Legends and is a Senior Lecturer at Bath Spa University. Banksy 360° debuts a brand new imaginative and immersive art experience. Using cutting-edge projection technology crafted by renowned audiovisual designers, Banksy 360° creates an engaging journey into the work of one of the world's most notorious graffiti artists. See over 50 of Banksy's works come alive across multi-media surfaces, and every detail is maximized allowing participants to be surrounded by moving images of the artist's work and influences. Opening July 21, 2022, the exhibit runs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre until September 3, 2022. More Information <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

## **IMMERSIVE VAN GOGH (Opening July 20, 2022)**

Van Gogh Niagara Falls is an immersive experience featuring the work of one of the most famous and influential figures in the history of western art. Van Gogh Niagara Falls brings over 300 of his most popular works together in a dynamic show that is not to be missed. Come surround yourself in Van Gogh. More information here.

#### 2022 YEAR OF THE GARDEN

Where better to celebrate 2022 Year of the Garden than in Niagara Falls where some of Canada's most beautiful public gardens and landscaped parks can be found. 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. Visit here for the top 5 Gardens to visit in Niagara Falls.

• June 4, 2022 - Beginning June 4<sup>th</sup>, splash into summer immersing yourself in the lush blooms of the **Annual Summer Show** at the iconic Floral Showhouse.

## **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

# NIAGARA FALLS TOURISM CAMPAIGN FEATURING ALESSIA CARA TAKES TOP INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

- One-of-a-kind Collaboration Earns 'Absolute Best Campaigns and Talent from 2022' at London UK's
   Drum Awards for Marketing and 'Gold' at the New York Festivals TV & Film Awards
- Campaign earns over 240 million impressions; 820,000 video views; 30+ earned media placements, including Rolling Stone

Niagara Falls Tourism is celebrating two top prestigious international awards for its one-of-a-kind collaboration with Grammy award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter Alessia Cara to produce 'Alessia Cara Live from



**Niagara Falls'.** The ground-breaking marketing campaign is the first of its kind for destination marketing organizations successfully bringing together Ontario's tourism, live music and film sectors to promote Niagara Falls, Canada.

• The Drum Awards For Marketing in London, UK – The Absolute Best Campaigns and Talent from 2022 Niagara Falls Tourism achieved top honours in the Music and Entertainment Category at The Drum Awards for Marketing earning the distinction over top international nominees in this category including Ed Sheeran, The Spice Girls, Kanye West and HBO. The 'Alessia Cara Live from Niagara Falls' virtual concert was declared one of The Absolute Best Campaigns and Talent from 2022. The Drum Awards is a global awards program which recognizes best practices, the best companies and the best people from across the marketing and communications industry.

#### New York Festivals TV & Film Awards – Gold

Niagara Falls Tourism was also recently awarded Gold at the New York Festivals TV & Film Awards for the innovative collaboration. The 'Alessia Cara Live from Niagara Falls' virtual concert and Niagara Falls showpiece proudly took home Gold in the Branded Documentary category. This award places the Niagara Falls tourism industry on a world stage where nominations across multiple categories included Disney, The Emmy Awards, BBC, ESPN, Apple TV, Netflix and branded work from tourism destinations such as Iceland, Greece, Portugal, UK, Austria and more.

- See the project case study video here
- As seen on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert on July 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Alessia Cara "Sweet Dream" live from Niagara Falls, Canada here
- As shared on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert social channels on July 19th:
  - Alessia Cara "Shapeshifter" live from Niagara Falls, Canada here
- As seen on MTV Fresh Out Live
  - Alessia Cara "Sweet Dream" live from Niagara Falls, Canada here
- Images from the production can be found <u>here</u>
- See the full press release here

# 100 BEST RESTAURANTS IN CANADA FOR OUTDOOR DINING FEATURES NIAGARA RESTAURANTS

Niagara Falls has even more reason to boast about being 15 minutes away from Niagara's wine region. OpenTable has ranked the 100 best restaurants for outdoor dining in Canada, highlighting spots that offer stunning patio views, great cuisine and an incredible outdoor dining experience. Included are the following Niagara region restaurants within a 20-minute drive from Niagara Falls:

- Kitchen 76 at Two Sisters Vineyards
- The Winery Restaurant at Peller Estates
- Trius Winery Restaurant
- Vineland Estates Winery Restaurant

## NIAGARA FALLS FARMERS' MARKET AWARDED MARKET OF THE YEAR

The <u>Niagara Falls Farmers' Market</u> has been recognized by Farmers' Markets Ontario as the Market of the Year 2021. This award recognizes markets that are exemplary in adding value to the community. The Niagara Falls Farmers' Market opens every Saturday between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. beginning May 14th to October 29th 2022. Currently at the MacBain Community Centre, the market will be relocating to the new Niagara Falls Exchange when it opens later this year.



#### NIAGARA PARKS POWER STATION RECEIVES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION

The <u>Niagara Parks Power Station</u> was honoured with an award for Excellence in Conservation at the 2021 Lieutenant Governor's Heritage Awards on February 24. The Niagara Parks Power Station was celebrated alongside other individuals and projects for their dedication to sharing Ontario's heritage.

## **FESTIVALS & EVENTS ONTARIO (FEO) AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Each year the FEO Awards Program highlights the best of the festivals and events industry in Ontario. Congratulations to the 2022 FEO Achievement Award recipients from Niagara Falls!

## **2022 FEO Achievement Award-Winning Events:**

- <u>Celebration of Nations</u> (LON 360)
- Niagara Falls Music Live
- OPG Winter Festival of Lights (Niagara Falls)

## 2022 FEO Volunteer of the Year Award Winners for Winter Festival of Lights:

- Hailey Birch WFOL Event Volunteer
- Roman Typer WFOL Event Volunteer

## **ANNIVERSARIES AND MILESTONES**

## WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 40th ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 40 years in 2022, the Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights is Canada's largest and longest running free outdoor light festival — and it continues to grow each year with new themed routes and displays, including the extension from 58 nights to 101 Nights of Twinkling Lights (from November to February) and indoor family friendly entertainment. On weekends and throughout the holiday season, guests can walk the Festival Route to enjoy dozens of light displays, and then warm up at indoor venues to experience magicians, musicians, acrobats, story time and more. Festival dates and details for 2022 will be announced in July.

# SAFARI NIAGARA 20th ANNIVERSARY

<u>Safari Niagara</u> celebrates 20 years in 2022! This 150-acre privately owned and operated Nature Park is home to more than 1000 native and exotic mammals, reptiles and birds. Park admission is all-inclusive and includes access to interactive and educational animal presentations, safari tram, paddle boats, Sky Quest and Sky Tykes (ropes course), Bounce-A-Rooz (jumping pillows), Safari Speedway (pedal bike go-karts), catch & release fishing and a splash pad. To learn more about Safari Niagara's history, events, education and conservation initiatives, visit here.

## SHAW FESTIVAL 60th ANNIVERSARY

This year, Niagara-on-the-Lake's world renowned <u>Shaw Festival</u> marks its 60th season with an ambitious program, putting on 13 plays across three stages, including "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "The Importance of Being Earnest." Also in the plan is outdoor entertainment: "A Short History of Niagara" (an explainer in the form of a puppet show), and "Fairground" and "Shawground" (guided rambles through the lush theatre grounds, combining elements like music and poetry along the way).



# FLYING SAUCER RESTAURANT CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY

For 50 years this unique local flying saucer-shaped diner has been serving out-of-this-world food at down-to-earth prices and making visits to Niagara Falls even more memorable. A renowned breakfast spot, their specialty subs can't be beat, and the burgers and dogs are the meanest. More information here.

# NICK WALLENDA 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC TIGHTROPE CROSSING – NEW LIMITED-TIME EXHIBIT BEGINS JUNE 15th

Niagara Parks, in partnership with the City of Niagara Falls, will host a special event recognizing the 10th anniversary of aerialist Nik Wallenda's successful crossing of Niagara Falls by tightrope in 2012. Nik Wallenda himself will be in attendance for a special ceremony which will include remarks from Wallenda and dignitaries, along with the official unveiling of a new limited-time exhibit created by Ripley Entertainment, installed at the brink of the Horseshoe Falls. Media availability will immediately follow the ceremony. Link to press release here.

## TIDE & VINE RESTAURANT CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY

Niagara's premier seafood specialists, <u>Tide & Vine's</u> award-winning restaurant boasts some of Canada's top competitive oyster shuckers. Tide & Vine seafood supply delivers the freshest sustainable sea fare to southern Ontario's restaurants. Enjoy dining in the restaurant or on their patio, an event in the private dining room, Tide & Vine Special Events around the Niagara Region or have the crew bring an authentic experience to your door. And stay tuned for more information about 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events and specials, visit here.

## **SUMMER'S MUST-DO ACTIVITIES**

## **WORLD-CLASS GOLF**

Niagara Falls is a world-class <u>golf destination</u> with 8 top golf courses designed by famed architects including <u>Legends on the Niagara</u>, Canada's premier public golf course, and the <u>Whirlpool Golf Course</u>, one of Canada's most highly rated and renowned public golf courses located in a spectacular setting against the backdrop of the Niagara River Whirlpool and Gorge.

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT FALLSVIEW - SHOW LISTINGS

Niagara Falls is Canada's entertainment capital with unique and memorable attractions, headline entertainment, outdoor concerts, live shows and the largest Casino in Canada. Live venues include the Fallsview Casino Resort, home to two state-of-the-art entertainment venues in Ontario (1,500 seat Avalon Theatre and 5,000 seat Entertainment Centre) with over 320 shows per year. The Fallsview Casino's Entertainment Centre and Avalon Theatre offer new world-class theatre complete with 5,000 seats, state of the art technology, outstanding acoustics, and spectacular entertainment.

Visit here for a current list of live Fallsview Casino events and shows.

## **CYCLING**

Niagara Falls is one of Ontario's premier cycling destinations with over 300km of exceptional cycling routes and trails for beginners and pros alike. Whether you rent a bike or bring your own, there are great trails, bike friendly restaurants and self-guided tours to suit every level of cyclist in Niagara Falls Canada. Begin a cycling tour in the Falls and travel along the **Niagara River Recreation Trail**, which offers over 56 kilometers of breathtaking views, including the Niagara Glen and Whirlpool, finishing in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake. Cycle through the **Greater Niagara Circle Route**, a 140 km picturesque route along the Niagara Parkway beside Niagara Falls leading you



through the lush greenery of the Niagara Escarpment. <u>Niagara River Bike Tours</u> offer two- and half-hour cycling tours showcase the hidden gems along the Niagara River.

## **EBIKING**

Find out why ebiking in Niagara Falls is so popular! eBikes allow you to experience all the joys of cycling with the assist of a battery powered motor that helps you gain some speed and tackle hills fearlessly while exploring the Niagara Region. You choose when you want to pedal exclusively or give your pedaling a little boost using the motor. Find more information about premium ebike rentals <a href="https://example.com/here/background-rental-ebike-rental

Click <u>here</u> for more information including Transit for You and Your Bike, Bike Friendly Accommodations and Bike Rentals including premium ebike Rentals.

#### WHIRLPOOL JET BOAT TOURS

The jet boat tour is a once in a lifetime opportunity to comfortably experience what is commonly referred to as the "Mount Everest" of white water. As you speed along the Lower Niagara River at 80 km/h you'll be astounded as the 31,000 lbs. of thrust from the jet boat vanquishes the mighty Class 5 whitewater of the Devil's Hole Rapids and the swirling waters of the Whirlpool. Choose between a "Wet Jet" or "Jet Dome" experience. WJBT's one of a kind white water tour will hydrate your senses as you take on Class 5 white water that's guaranteed to leave you absolutely soaking wet and amazingly refreshed. If getting wet is not for you, the Jet Dome tour follows the exact route as the Wet Jet but shelters you from the water. More information here.

# NIAGARA FALLS FIREWORKS SERIES (beginning May 20, 2022)

The popular Niagara Falls fireworks series returns in 2022 to delight visitors. Shows run for 5 minutes at 10:00 pm nightly. The majestic Niagara Falls are also illuminated every night of the year, making the destination among the world's best places to see fireworks displays. More information <a href="here">here</a>.

## **FALLS FIREWORKS CRUISE RETURNS**

The popular nightly Falls Fireworks Cruise returns in 2022. Weekend Falls Fireworks Cruises will run June 18th to 20th and June 25th to 27th. The cruise will run daily from June 30th until Labour Day. The Falls Fireworks Cruise departs the Niagara City Cruises dock at 9:30 p.m. for the 40-minute tour. Tickets cost \$43.25 for adults and \$28.25 for children, plus applicable taxes.

More information here

## Media inquiries:

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#### **Niagara Falls Resources**

- Hotel Packages: <a href="https://book.niagarafallstourism.com/">https://book.niagarafallstourism.com/</a>
- Attraction Packages: <u>Niagarafallstourism.com/attraction-packages/</u>
- 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.