

Niagara Falls

General Information, History and Facts

The City of Niagara Falls

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 adventure, discover family fun, feel the romance and explore unique and memorable experiences have made it Canada's #1 leisure destination and a world-renowned bucket list destination.

Location

- Niagara Falls is located in the province of [Ontario](#), Canada's most populated province. The population of [Niagara Falls](#) is 88,071 (2016) and welcomes 14 million visitors from around the world each year.
- Niagara Falls covers a land area of 212 sq. km. (81.9 sq. mi.).
- The city is located on the western bank of the Niagara River opposite Niagara Falls, New York.
- Named after the world-famous waterfalls, the city overlooks the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, the American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls.
- The city is connected to the United States side of the Falls by several bridges, including the Rainbow, Whirlpool, and Queenston-Lewiston bridges.

Culinary Scene

The dining experiences in Niagara Falls are some of the best in Canada. Visitors can enjoy critically acclaimed locally inspired FeastON certified farm-to-table dining options, award-winning wines, craft brews and spirits to experience the best that Niagara Falls has to offer.

World-Class Accommodations

Many of the hotels are walking distance to the Falls. Book a Fallsview category [Room with a View](#) to enjoy the majesty of the Falls from the comfort of your bed, any time of the day.

Exploring Niagara Falls

Explore the Falls then stroll along to discover four unique neighbourhoods boasting dining, live entertainment, attractions and shopping including Clifton Hill – renowned as the 'Street of Fun'. Spend time outdoors where there's 56 km (35 miles) of parks, a designated nature reserve, trails, historic landmarks and landscaped gardens with plenty of unique and memorable outdoor adventures to explore along the way.

Thrilling Entertainment

Niagara Falls is a Music City and major entertainment destination 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 – coming soon) with over 320 shows per year and 20 restaurants

on property to satisfy every appetite. For theatre buffs, the famous [Shaw Festival](#), one of North America's finest cultural attractions in Niagara-on-the-Lake is only minutes away.

Niagara Falls – SafetoPlay.ca

- Much like other countries around the world, Canada has been fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Our vaccine program is well underway in Canada, but as a safety precaution masks and physical distancing are mandated.
- We want everyone to know that the health and safety of all who visit, work and live in Niagara Falls is very important.
- At [SafetoPlay.ca](#), the Niagara Falls Tourism website outlines the commitment that the tourism industry has made to follow all the standards and regulations introduced by Health Authorities. It also lists the strict measures that Niagara Falls' accommodations, shops, attractions and restaurants have taken to ensure the safety and comfort of all who visit.

History

- The Niagara Region was a place of awe and wonder for the Indigenous peoples who first walked this land. Their ancestors' footsteps arrived approximately 13,000 years ago as the melting glaciers retreated northward, revealing the great lakes of Erie and Ontario and the mighty Niagara River.
- One of the earliest indigenous inhabitants called themselves the "Onguiaahra". It is one of the names from which the name "Niagara River" originated. The name appears on maps as early as 1641. The generally accepted meaning is, "The Strait". Some think it was derived from the narrow waterway that flows north from Lakes Erie to Lake Ontario. Early maps do not refer to the Niagara River but the Niagara Strait, which is more correct. Others believe the word Niagara is taken from another indigenous word meaning, "Thundering Waters". Another theory of the name's origin suggests Niagara is derived from the name given to a local group of Indigenous peoples, called the Niagagarega people.
- In 1626 Etienne Brule, the first European, arrived in Niagara. This signaled the beginning of European explorers coming to the "New World" including Niagara.
- Niagara Falls is steeped in history and was one of the most popular and busiest New World places to visit.
- Originally called Elgin by settlers, the community merged with Clifton in 1856 and was known by that name until 1881, when its name was changed to Niagara Falls. It was incorporated as a city in 1904.
[Niagara Falls History Page](#)

The War of 1812

- One of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812 took place on July 25, 1814 at Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls, Ontario. A total of 7,500 Americans and Canadians fought for six hours. At the end, 1,000 soldiers lay dead or wounded.
- One of the most pivotal battles of the War of 1812 took place at Queenston Heights. On October 13, 1812, over 1000 American soldiers crossed the river. Some climbed the steep 100-metre gorge, surprising the British forces. Outnumbered but not outmatched, 200 skilled British soldiers fought to take back this crucial, elevated outpost. British General Sir Isaac Brock led the charge but was killed instantly by a shot just below his heart. General Brock is buried beneath a 56-metre-high limestone monument. **When constructed in 1856, it was the second tallest in the world.**



NIAGARA FALLS TOURISM

- With General Brock dead, Mohawk Chief John Norton knew he had to hold the ground until reinforcements could arrive from Fort George. For hours, Chief Norton, Mohawk Chief John Brant and 80 Haudenosaunee sharpshooters pinned down the 1,000 American soldiers. Reinforcements, including British Redcoats, Canadian Militia, and the Coloured Corps, arrived. Together, they forced the Americans to surrender. The **Coloured Company Corps** were men of African descent who feared an American victory. They fought to maintain their freedom. The American casualties were severe. 300 soldiers were killed or wounded and another 958 captured.
- In 2016, to commemorate their heroism, the **Landscape of Nations monument** was unveiled with prominent statues of Chief Brant and Chief Norton. The monument's metal frame entrance symbolizes a long house. Eight limestone walls surround a loop of sweetgrass forming the Memory Circle.

Black History

- Between 1840 and 1860, enslaved people from the United States followed the "Underground Railroad" to find freedom in Canada. Approximately, 30,000 enslaved people between 1800 and 1865 escaped into Canada from the US using this secret network of routes and safe houses from Fort Erie to Niagara on the Lake. Among those who escaped was Burr Plato who went on to establish the British Methodist Church built in 1836 and now a National Historic Site. This well-respected gentleman went on to become the first elected black man in local government from 1886 to 1905. **Harriet Tubman** was a heroine who played a huge role in the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman escaped to Canada where she went on to help many enslaved people escape across the border into Niagara Falls, Canada. Between 1852 and 1857, Tubman made 11 trips despite a \$40,000 reward for her capture — dead or alive. No one rivaled Tubman in the number of trips and the number of people liberated into the Underground Railroad. To learn more about Black History in Niagara Falls visit the [Niagara Falls History Museum](#).
- "Uncle Tom's Cabin", a famous novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe, was partly inspired by the author's trip to Niagara Falls and her subsequent interest in Reverend Josiah Henson who smuggled runaway enslaved people across the Niagara River into Canada.

Hydroelectric History

- Electricity is created when water is released from reservoirs located on top of the gorge. The water falls onto underground turbines, causing them to spin and create power. The reservoirs are filled by water diverted from rivers above Niagara Falls. It then travels 12 km through tunnels and channels into massive basins.
- The 1950 Canada-U.S. Niagara River Treaty regulates the flow of water over Niagara Falls. Most evenings, 50 percent of the river is diverted to hydroelectric stations upstream. Water is redirected from travelling over the Falls in order to drive large hydro-electric turbines that produce electricity for Southern Ontario and Western New York State.
- **The first major power plant on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls**, the Niagara Parks Power Station was completed in 1905 to produce hydroelectricity by leveraging the power of the Niagara River. Beyond its stunning architectural features and landscape design, the power station was one of the first in the world to undertake a major tunnel project, with water entering through the forebay and dropping 180 feet before being expelled into a 2,000 foot tunnel that emptied into the lower Niagara River, right at the base of the Horseshoe Falls. A marvel of engineering and architecture, the station's generators were the largest of their kind, followed shortly after by those at the Toronto Power Generating Station located a short distance south. In its operation, power generated from the Niagara Parks Power Station was used



NIAGARA FALLS TOURISM

to service Fort Erie, Ontario and Buffalo, New York, and the plant remained in operation until 2006 when it was decommissioned. The Niagara Parks Commission acquired ownership in 2009.

- On July 1st, 2021, Niagara Parks will launch the Niagara Parks Power Station, a new landmark attraction just south of the Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls. By day, visitors can explore the preserved interior of the historic power station, transformed with new exhibits and guest amenities, while each night, an immersive sound & light experience brings the building to life through state-of-the-art projection mapping technology.

The Falls

- Niagara Falls was formed 12,500 years ago at the end of the Ice Age, as the ice retreated northward. The rushing meltwaters flowed through Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario to the St. Lawrence River and into the Atlantic Ocean.
- 12,500 years ago the Falls were located 12 km downstream from where they are today.
- The rushing waters carved out a river in their descent and the Falls are located where they pass over the Niagara escarpment, a steep cliff like formation.
- The powerful Falls eroded the rocky ledge beneath them at a dramatic rate of one metre per year, causing this shift upstream.
- Thundering over the Niagara Escarpment, the water began to wear its way back up the river. The path that it left is known today as the Niagara Gorge (a deeply cut and very scenic river path).
- There are actually three waterfalls in Niagara Falls, the Canadian Horseshoe Falls located in Canada and the American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls located in the United States.
- It is the combination of height and volume of water that makes Niagara Falls so impressive.
- More than three million litres of fresh water go over the Falls every second during peak daytime hours. **Niagara has more falling water than any other waterfall in North America.**
- The Canadian Horseshoe Falls drops an average of 57m (188 ft.) into the Lower Niagara River.
- The crest line of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls is approximately 670m (2,200 ft.) wide. The plunge pool beneath the Falls is 35m (100 ft.) deep.
- The height of the American Falls ranges between 21 to 34m (70-110 ft.). The height of the Falls from the top of the Falls to the river is 57m (188 ft.). The crest line of the American Falls is approximately 260m (850 ft.) wide. The American Falls make up only 10 percent of the water flow of Niagara Falls.
- Rapids at the Falls have been recorded up to 68 mph.
- On any sunny day it is possible to see **spectacular rainbows** over Niagara Falls as the mist hits the sunlight.
- There has only been one occurrence where the flow of Niagara Falls has been stopped due to a winter freeze. In March of 1848, the waters stopped flowing over Niagara's famous cliff when ice forming in the mouth of the Niagara River caused a blockage of water from flowing down towards the Horseshoe Falls.
- During the winter months, when water comes crashing down over the Falls into the rocks below it causes it to freeze solid and form what is known as "The Ice Bridge" connecting the American side to the Canadian Side.
- An "["Old Scow"](#)" (a steel barge) remains stranded a few hundred meters above the Falls and has been marooned there since August 6, 1918 when a near tragedy was averted by three men who opened the dumping hatches of the barge to let water in and ground the out of control boat.



The Niagara River

- The 58km long Niagara River connects Lake Erie to Lake Ontario and separates Canada from the United States.
- The mouth of the Niagara is 23km to Niagara Falls; at its midpoint is the legendary Niagara Falls.
- Nearly 20% of the world's freshwater flows through the Niagara River
- The Niagara River flows at approximately 35 miles/hour (56.3 km/hour).
- Water that flows over the Falls ultimately ends up in Lake Ontario - from there, water drains by way of the St. Lawrence River into the Atlantic Ocean.
- The vibrant green colour of the Niagara River is due to the erosive power of water. An estimated 60 tons of dissolved minerals are swept over Niagara Falls every minute. The calcium particles come from crushed prehistoric shells and coral found in limestone.
- The waters of the Niagara River are used by a combined Canada/United States population of more than 1,000,000 people for a wide range of purposes such as drinking water, recreation (boating, swimming, birdwatching), fishing, industrial cooling water supply, receiver of municipal and industrial effluents hydro-power generation (Sir Adam Beck Station in Ontario & New York State Power Authority)
- In the early 1800s, American slaves travelled the Underground Railroad to freedom in Canada. The Niagara River was often the last 500 metres of their journey.
- Powerful jet boats are the only vessels licensed to operate in the river's white water. Tours leave from both the Canadian and U.S. sides.
- Since 1987 efforts to reduce pollutants and toxic chemicals in the river have resulted in a much healthier river today. It sustains **89 native fish species**, including the prehistoric lake sturgeon, muskellunge, lake trout and walleye.

Claims to Fame

- Niagara Falls is Canada's #1 leisure travel destination, a global iconic four-season tourism hub with a legacy of being on every travel bucket list.
- Named after the world-famous waterfalls, the city overlooks the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, the American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls.
- Crowned the "**Honeymoon Capital of the World**" and known as a world-famous [wedding](#) destination, Niagara Falls, Canada is synonymous with love and romance. To this day Niagara Falls Canada is a sought-after destination by romantics from all over the world who come from near and far to get married, renew their vows, enjoy their honeymoon or to experience an unforgettable romantic getaway.
- Niagara Falls is home to numerous thrilling and iconic experiences **including two official Canadian Signature Experiences** (officially curated once-in-a-lifetime travel experiences): [Journey Behind the Falls](#), a 150 foot descent through bedrock right into the heart of Niagara Falls that emerges behind the thunderous wall of water, and Niagara Helicopters, an exciting way to experience Niagara Falls from up above.
- The 20th Century Fox Movie, "Niagara" starring Marilyn Monroe was filmed in Niagara Falls, Ontario in 1952. She stayed in Room 801 at the historic [Crowne Plaza Hotel Niagara Falls](#).
- The Niagara Escarpment has been recognized as a **world biosphere by U.N.E.S.C.O.** There are 714 biospheres in the world, a designation that demonstrates excellence in sustainable development and allows for conservation, research and continued sustainable development.
- The Niagara River corridor is one of the **world's most biodiverse places** similar to the world-famous Galápagos Islands, the Florida Everglades and Yellowstone Park.



NIAGARA FALLS TOURISM

- The Niagara Glen was designated a **Nature Reserve** (a protected area of importance for flora, fauna and geographic features) in 1992 and features 4 km (2.5 miles) of paths that wind through a pristine pocket of Carolinian Forest (a life zone in North America characterized by trees with broad leaves). **It is the most ecologically diverse place in Canada.** Beneath the green canopy are 1,500 species of flora and fauna including rare eastern white cedars thought to be 1,500 years old. The Glen's 4 km of hiking trails are popular with visitors. One trail runs parallel to the river and leads to the famous Niagara Whirlpool.
- The Niagara Whirlpool's circular basin was formed when the eroding Falls ran into a soft prehistoric riverbed. Taking the path of least resistance, the Falls took a sharp, 90-degree left hand turn and forever altered the river's straight path. The whirlpool naturally spins in a counterclockwise motion. But, when water is diverted to the power plants, the gentler flow often reverses to clockwise.
- The next 1.5km stretch of the river is home to the **Whirlpool Rapids. They're among the world's most dangerous and rated a Class 6/6.**
- In 1996, the entire Niagara River corridor, stretching 56km (35 miles) from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, became the first site in North America to receive international recognition as a **"Globally Significant Important Bird and Biodiversity Area"** by major conservation groups in Canada and the United States. Starting mid-November, the river comes alive with more than 100,000 gulls on migratory flights from as far north as Greenland and the Canadian Arctic to as far south as Florida. **More than 370 bird species can be found in the Niagara River Corridor, more than in any other river in Canada.** The year-round open water allows gulls and other waterfowl from higher latitudes to feed here, instead of migrating much farther south.
- **The 40-hectare Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture is the only one of its kind in the world.** No other botanical gardens operate with only an apprentice student work force to maintain its vast living classroom. Since 1936, students and the faculty have converted an old farm and orchard into **one of Canada's largest botanical gardens.** Botanical gardens can be traced back to the 16th century and were originally planted as medicinal gardens. 500 plant species live in the formal herb garden including exotics like coffee, fig, olive and citrus trees. **The rose garden is the largest in Canada.** More than 2,500 roses bushes and 120 different species are grown. Researchers study them for hardiness, fragrance and disease resistance.
- Niagara Falls is known as the **Daffodil Capital of North America** with millions of white and yellow blooms in Queen Victoria Park near the Falls.
- The Niagara Falls [Winter Festival of Lights](#) is **Canada's largest and longest running free outdoor light festival**, celebrating 39 years in 2021.
- **Canada's longest-running [spectacular fireworks series](#)** takes place each summer in Niagara Falls, Ontario and during the [Winter Festival of Lights](#), and select other holidays throughout the year.
- Niagara Falls is home to [Bird Kingdom](#), the **largest free flying indoor bird aviary** in North America and **one of the largest [Butterfly Conservatories](#)** in North America.
- Niagara Falls is a world-class [golf destination](#) with more than 12 top golf courses designed by famed architects including [Legends on the Niagara](#), Canada's premier public golf course, and the [Whirlpool Golf Course](#), **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.
- **One of the top 10 Best Irish Pubs** in North America, [Doc Magilligans's](#) serves up authentic Irish dishes, beer and a great time.
- The Queenston-Lewiston Bridge is the **fourth-busiest border crossing** between Canada and the United States.
- **The world's first [Railway Suspension Bridge](#)** over the Niagara River was completed 1855 by John Roebling who would later build The Brooklyn Bridge in 1875.



NIAGARA FALLS TOURISM

- The [Niagara SkyWheel](#) is **Canada's largest observation wheel** towering 53 m (175 feet) over the city and offering spectacular views of the Falls and other landmarks.
- [Niagara Speedway](#) is **North America's largest elevated go-kart track**.
- [Fallsview Casino](#) is the largest casino in Canada at 2.5 million square feet, built on a 23-acre site.
- Along the river is the Niagara Parkway. Live the river, the parkway runs for 56 km and connects Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. Construction of the Parkway began in 1908 and ended in 1931. **It has some of the oldest stretches of road in Ontario.**
- Niagara Parks protects a strip of land on the Canadian side of the river. Established in 1885, it is the **second oldest park in Canada**. Originally created to safeguard the natural beauty of the Falls, today, Niagara Parks also protects a 56km river corridor from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Fort Erie.
- In 1986, the **Niagara Parks Recreation Trail** was built parallel to the Niagara River. It runs the entire length of the park. The trail has numerous bicycle racks, bike fix it stations water bottle filling stations and washrooms along the route. The trail is part of the **2,500 km Great Lakes Waterfront Trail** following the Canadian shorelines of the Great Lakes. There are **more than 100 monuments and plaques** along the trail that recount the rich history of the region.
- Early Indigenous peoples understood the value of the region's rich soil. They planted corn, squash and beans - the "Three Sisters." When planted side by side, the three crops help each other, resulting in better harvests. The first European settlers recognized that Niagara's hot summers, sandy soil and year-round rainfall were perfect for fruit trees. Today, the **Niagara fruit Belt produces 90 percent of Ontario's' tender fruit: peaches, nectarines, apricots, grapes and cherries**. Ontario's' tender fruit industry is worth more than \$60 million per year.

The Niagara Wine Region

- Wild grapes have always grown in the region and were first harvested by Indigenous peoples.
- Niagara's first commercial winery was founded in 1873.
- Niagara's favourable growing conditions are helped by Lake Ontario. It heats up in the summer and acts as a hot water bottle through the winter.
- Niagara is further south than France's famous Burgundy and Bordeaux wine regions.
- In 1983, Niagara started producing ice wine made from grapes frozen on the vine. **Today, it is the world's largest producer of ice wine.**
- In 2006, a half a bottle of a vintage Niagara ice wine was sold for \$30,000. At the time, it was the world's most expensive ice wine.
- Today, there are more than 180 wineries in Ontario. 100 of them are on the Niagara Peninsula. Niagara's vineyards produce 93 percent of Ontario's grapes.
- Ontario's grape and wine industry contributes more than \$4 billion annually to the province's economy.

Recent Accolades

2023

- [Most Popular Bucket List Landmark](#), International, Niagara Falls is #4, Comparethemarket, 2023
- Top 10 Most Instagrammable Tourist Spots in Canada, National, Niagara Falls is #2, CasinoBonusCA.com, 2023
- [100 Most Loved Destinations Around the World](#), International, Niagara Falls is #1 in Ontario and #81 in the World, Tourism Sentiment Index 2023
- [100 Most Romantic Restaurants in Canada](#), National, Open Table 2023
 - Kitchen 76, Two Sisters Vineyards, Niagara on the Lake



NIAGARA FALLS TOURISM

- Table Rock House Restaurant, Niagara Falls
- Vineland Estates Winery Restaurant, Vineland
- [Restaurants with the Most Beautiful Views in the World](#), International, HawaiianIslands.com / TripAdvisor
 - Skylon Tower Revolving Dining Room, Niagara Falls
 - Prime Steakhouse, Niagara Falls
 - Watermark Restaurant, Niagara Falls
- [Gold](#) – Two Sisters Vineyards Chardonnay (Chardonnay-du-Monde, 2023)
- [Festival and Events Ontario](#) (FEO 2023, Provincial)
 - Top 100 Award, FEO, Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights
 - Best Volunteer Program, FEO, Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights
 - Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, FEO, Dhanvi Patel and Emily Shields (tie), Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights
- [Grand Prize](#) – Niagara Parks Power Station ([Niagara Biennial Design Awards 2022](#), Regional)
- International Women’s Day Award – [Michele-Elise Burnett](#) (Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, Regional)

2022

- [World’s Best Loved Landmarks in the World](#), Niagara Falls is #1, Bounce
- [Top 100 Most Beloved Restaurants in Canada](#), Kitchen 76 at Two Sisters Vineyards and Vineland Estates Winery Restaurant, OpenTable
- [Best of the Best](#), Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights, American Bus Association
- [Gold](#), Alessia Cara Live from Niagara Falls, New York Festivals TV & Film Awards
- [Absolute Best Campaigns and Talent from 2022](#), Alessia Cara Live from Niagara Falls, London UK’s Drum Awards for Marketing
- [Bronze](#), Alessia Cara Live from Niagara Falls, international CLIO Entertainment Awards
- [Top 100 Restaurants of Canada](#), Kitchen 76 at Two Sisters Vineyards, OpenTable
- [Top 100 Restaurants of Canada](#), Vineland Estates Winery Restaurant, OpenTable
- [Ontario Tourism Awards - Sustainability: Cycling](#), Finalist – Niagara Cycling Tours, Tourism Industry Association Ontario (TIAO)
- [Ontario Tourism Awards - Collaboration: Festivals & Events](#) – Finalist – Niagara Falls Music Live, Ontario Tourism Awards, Tourism Industry Association Ontario (TIAO)
- [Ontario Tourism Awards - Innovation: Festivals & Events](#) – Finalist – Alessia Cara Live from Niagara Falls, Tourism Industry Association Ontario (TIAO)
- [Ontario Tourism Awards - Collaboration: Festivals & Events](#) – Finalist – Alessia Cara Live from Niagara Falls, Tourism Industry Association Ontario (TIAO)

2021

- [The Best Fine Dining in Canada](#) – Top 10 Restaurants, #2 AG Inspired Cuisine, Tripadvisor
- [Three Best Rated](#) in Niagara Falls, Journey Behind the Falls, Bird Kingdom, Butterfly Conservatory
- [Best Bicycle Friendly Business](#), County Cycle, Niagara Falls, [Ontario by Bike](#)
- [Best Places to Visit in Canada](#), Niagara Falls, Travel US News
- [Best New Things to See and Do in Canada 2021-](#) Canadian Niagara Power Station, Globe and Mail
- [52 Places to Visit in Your Lifetime](#) - Niagara City Cruises by Hornblower, PlanetD, Bucket List Travels
- [20 Most Romantic Places in the World](#), Niagara Falls, [Flowercard](#) / Tripadvisor



2020

- [10 Safest Cities in the World](#), The Discoverer
- [Top 100 Festivals and Events](#), Winter Festival of Lights, Festivals & Events Ontario

Driving Distances from Nearby Cities

Approximately half of North America’s population, more than 152 M people (as of 2019), are within a 1-day less than 1,000km (620m) drive to Niagara Falls.

Canada

Hamilton, ON	50 minutes
Toronto, ON	1 hour 20 minutes
Kitchener, ON	1 hour 30 minutes
London, ON	2 hours
Barrie, ON	2 hours
Windsor, ON	3 hours 40 minutes
Sudbury, ON	5 hours
Ottawa, ON	5 hours 30 minutes
Montreal, PQ	6 hours 30 minutes
Sault Ste Marie, ON	8 hours
Quebec City, PQ	9 hours

USA

Rochester, NY	1 hour 30 minutes
Syracuse, NY	2 hours 45 minutes
Cleveland, OH	3 hours 30 minutes
Pittsburgh, PA	3 hours 45 minutes
Detroit, MI	3 hours 45 minutes
Albany, NY	5 hours
Columbus, OH	5 hours 30 minutes
Philadelphia, PA	6 hours 45 minutes
NYC, NY	6 hours 45 minutes
Boston, MA	7 hours 30 minutes
Washington, DC	7 hours 30 minutes
Cincinnati, OH	7hrs
Chicago, IL	8hrs
Louisville, KY	9hrs
Nashville, TN	11hrs

Getting Here

Plane There are four major airports in surrounding areas that charter airlines from around the world. Once you land, rental cars, airport limousines, trains, buses, airport shuttles and taxis are available to transport you to Niagara Falls.

Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) As Canada's largest and busiest airport, [Toronto Pearson International Airport](#) sees nearly 50 million passengers annually. The airport is located 125 km (78 mi) from Niagara Falls, and is about an hour and a half drive.

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (YTZ) Located on Toronto Island, Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport welcomes nearly 3 million passengers annually from Canada and the U.S. via two airlines: Porter and Air Canada. The airport is located 127 km (79 mi) from Niagara Falls, and is just over an hour and a half drive. Private charters are also available from Billy Bishop to the Niagara District Airport in Niagara-on-the-Lake (plane or helicopter).

John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport (YMC) Seeing close to 350,000 passengers a year and serving several destinations across North America, [Hamilton International Airport](#) located in Hamilton, ON, is less than an hour drive to Niagara Falls.

Buffalo Niagara International Airport (BUF) Located in Buffalo, NY, approximately a 45-minute drive from Niagara Falls, Canada. A reminder that even if you fly to Buffalo from a city within the United States, you will need a passport to cross the [border](#) into Niagara Falls, Canada. You can find information on how to get from Buffalo to Niagara Falls [here](#).

There is small airport located in the Niagara Region, called the [Niagara District Airport](#). While no large commercial flights charter through there, flights do fly regularly to and from Toronto and approximately 75 aircrafts are based at this airport.

Train

GO Train The GO Train is part of [GO Transit](#), the regional transit provider for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas. The GO Train offers weekday commuter service from Niagara Falls to Toronto in the morning, with one return trip in the evening. Weekend only train service runs from Toronto to Niagara Falls during May long weekend, and then every weekend from July 1st through to Labour Day in early September. WEGO is available at the train station to transport you to your destination, as are taxis and Ubers. Always visit the GO Transit site to confirm current schedules.

VIA Rail As Canada's national passenger rail service, [VIA Rail](#) offers direct departures from Toronto, New York City and Cleveland to Niagara Falls once daily with evening return service. Connections from origins throughout Canada, especially Ontario and Quebec are readily available.

Car

From New York State If you're driving from New York State, there are three bridges available to cross into Canada: Peace Bridge, [Queenston Lewiston Bridge](#) or directly into Niagara Falls via Rainbow Bridge. Visit our [border crossing](#) page for further information on documentation required to enter Canada.

From Toronto Area When coming in from the Toronto area, take Gardiner Expressway West until it turns into Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). Continue on the QEW toward Niagara, exiting on the ON-420 to Niagara Veterans Memorial Highway East. The trip should take about an hour and a half, however if travelling during peak traffic (rush hour, weekends) the trip can double. For details on parking lots and pricing, check out our [parking](#) information.

GO Bus A part of [GO Transit](#), the regional transit provider for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas, the GO Bus works with the GO Train to transport passengers from across Ontario to Toronto and then directly to Niagara. With stops in St. Catharines, [Niagara-on-the-Lake](#) and Niagara Falls, passengers can easily and affordably travel into Niagara from across Ontario.

Greyhound and megabus Charter buses are available direct from Toronto and Buffalo, NY to the Niagara Falls Bus Terminal (4555 Erie Avenue) in Canada, daily. With bus connections to Toronto from across Canada and Buffalo from across the United States, there are several origin locations to choose from.



Niagara Falls Tourism

A non-profit member-based organization that works across consumer and business channels to foster the growth of tourism throughout the City of Niagara Falls and surrounding areas.

Niagara Falls Tourism is the official Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for the City of Niagara Falls, Canada. Representing almost 400 member establishments within the city limits of Niagara Falls and throughout the Niagara Region, including accommodations, attractions, entertainment and events, award-winning dining, shopping, spas, theatre, history, outdoor adventures, world-class golf and wineries. Niagara Falls Tourism is the unified voice for tourism in Niagara Falls and a trusted source of accurate information. An industry leader, Niagara Falls Tourism's activities include creating strategies and executing plans to support a thriving tourism industry in Niagara Falls.