



## NIAGARA FALLS STORY IDEAS - WHAT'S NEW

(February 2021)

*The following information has been prepared to inspire future visits to Niagara Falls and we look forward to welcoming visitors back safely in keeping with any health and safety restrictions. Due to fluctuating COVID-19 restrictions, we recommend visitors contact businesses directly to confirm availability.*

### NEW IN 2021

#### [NEW – Niagara Parks Power Station](#)

*The Best New Things to See and Do in Canada in 2021*– The Globe and Mail, Jan 19, 2021

Beginning July 30th, 2021, Niagara Parks will launch 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 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 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.

#### **NEW – Star Voyager and Eagle Tower Rides at [Marineland](#)**

A first for North America, features four gondola arms mounted in a star-shaped pattern with five seats each. The arms turn in circles at the upper end of a 30m long main mast. On this ride everything spins – the gondola arms and the main mast which when it gets to the top nosedives while rotating around on its own axis. Talk about dizzying! Following the huge success of newest ride Eagle Tower and signature rides Sky Screamer® and Dragon Mountain® roller coaster. Manufactured by Zierer, creators of some of the most popular amusement rides around the world.

#### **NEW - Penguin Palace™ at [Marineland](#)**

A new penguin exhibit invites visitors to get up close and learn about these popular aquatic birds. Watch them swim, slide and play in their very own Penguin Palace™. The penguins are Magellanic penguins which are found on the islands on the southern coast of South America. The average adult weighs approximately 4 to 4.7 kg (9 to 10 pounds) and stands approximately 70 cm (around 28 inches tall) with males standing larger than females. Information sessions are held periodically during the day to allow our animal caregivers the opportunity to share knowledge about the birds in keeping with Marineland's mandate of education, conservation and research.



## MILESTONES IN 2021

### **Whirlpool Aero Car Celebrates 105 Years!**

The Niagara Spanish Aero Car, known today as the [Whirlpool Aero Car](#), is a cable car which offers incredible views of the Niagara Whirlpool high above the racing Niagara River and remains one of Niagara's most popular attractions. The view from the car of the Niagara Whirlpool and the Niagara River lower Class 5 rapids is always spectacular. Designed by Spanish Engineer, Leonardo Torres Quevedo, the car has been upgraded over the years and maintains a perfect safety record. [History of the Aero Car](#).

### **Journey Behind the Falls Celebrates 70 years!**

[Journey Behind the Falls](#) 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.

Journey Behind the Falls has been designated an Official Canadian Signature Experience (officially curated once-in-a-lifetime travel experiences). [History of Journey Behind the Falls](#).

### **Marineland Celebrates 60 Years!**

[Marineland](#) offers fun for the whole family. From close encounters with amazing marine mammals, amusement rides including one of the world's largest steel roller coasters, one of the world's highest triple tower rides, and the new Zierer Star Shape ride - the only one in North America - along with a variety of other rides to suit all ages. There are also land animal displays and a splash park for the kids. Plenty of dining options and picnic areas. Gate admission is pay-one price, parking is free.

### **Niagara SkyWheel Celebrates 15 Years!**

Towering 175 feet (53m) over the Niagara Falls horizon, enjoy a leisurely gondola ride on the Clifton Hill [Niagara SkyWheel](#). From 8-12 minutes long, a ride aboard Canada's largest observation wheel is a thrilling way to see the Falls, the Niagara River and other landmarks.

## COMING UP WINTER 2021

### **Black History Month**

Learn how Niagara Falls has played an active role in 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](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Black History Speaker Series \(Live-Streamed\)](#)

#### **Presented by Niagara Parks**

Discover three different perspectives on Black history and culture in Canada with this three-part online speaker series.

This year's Black History 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 with leading community historians and commentators specializing in Black history and culture.

Tickets are \$15 per event, or gain access to the entire series for \$35. All sessions begin at 7:00 PM.

- January 27, 2021, 7:00 pm, **Blacks in the Military (Rosemary Sadlier)**
- February 24, 2021, 7:00 pm, **The Power of Cultural Competence (Saladin Allah)**
- March 31, 2021, 7:00 pm, **Self-Liberated and Famous: Fugitive Freedom Seekers Escape to Niagara (Rochelle Bush)**

### **Black History Month -[Walking the Talk](#)**

#### [Presented by Niagara Falls History Museum](#)

#### **February 18, 2021**

Join us for a digital screening of the film Walking the Talk, produced and directed by Ayo Adewumi. The murder of George Floyd by the police in the USA sparked another round of anti-racism protests all around the world.

"Walking the Talk" is an account of how people in some Canadian cities rose in solidarity with Black Americans in June 2020, to condemned years of ongoing systemic racism and social injustice in Canada.

To participate, click on the link provided, and input the password. The password will work for exactly 24hrs starting from February 18, 2021 at 7-9:00 pm (Digital screening)

Link: <https://vimeo.com/432933479>

Password: Niagara

### [My Story, My Tattoo](#)

#### **Presented by Niagara Falls History Museum**

#### **May 15 – August 22, 2021**

Tattoos are living images that reveal important stories about our residents, our community and the tattoo phenomenon. My Story, My Tattoo features 32 photographs and stories of people and their amazing tattoos. Participants range from a cancer survivor to teachers and their students, a firefighter and a farmer. All the individuals, their stories and personalities are represented through this series of thought-provoking and colourful images. Chris Piccinetti, a Guelph photographer and graphic designer for the County of Wellington, photographed these inspiring images.

## EXPLORE NIAGARA FALLS VIRTUALLY

### [Explore Niagara VR](#)

While we all do our part in staying safe at home to stop the spread of COVID-19, Niagara Falls is bringing its iconic experiences to life in your living room. Whether you've visited the Falls before, are planning to visit in the future, or you call Niagara Falls home, the World Wonder will be ready to welcome you again when travel resumes. Get cozy and enjoy our collection of family-friendly videos, stories and activities to entertain and

educate – from virtual tours to magic shows. Plus, view the majestic wonder from home 24/7 with the Niagara Falls Live Web Cam, including the nightly Falls Illumination.

### **Niagara Parks Golf Introduces New Virtual Fitness Workshop Series**

- Four-part virtual event series will help prepare golfers for the upcoming season
- Virtual workshops will be held bi-weekly on Wednesdays beginning on March 3rd, with full details and tickets available at [niagaraparks.com/fitness](https://niagaraparks.com/fitness)

Niagara Parks will host a four-part virtual workshop series focused on preparing players of all ages and skill levels for the upcoming golf season. The interactive sessions will cover everything from health and wellness to tips for improving their fundamentals and adding power their swings. The workshops will feature live instruction from Niagara Parks Golf's head teaching professional Geoff Law and former LPGA player and Canadian Golf Hall of Fame inductee Cathy Sherk. They will be joined by renowned Strength and Conditioning Coach Nathane Jackson, who will begin the series on March 3rd and host the final session on April 14th.

The hour-long interactive online workshops will each focus on a unique golf topic.

- March 3: Nathane Jackson, Health and Wellness for Golf Performance
- March 17: Cathy Sherk, Classic Golf Fundamentals
- March 31: Geoff Law, Play Better Golf in 2021
- April 14: Nathane Jackson, Strength and Power

Additional event details and tickets are available at [niagaraparks.com/fitness](https://niagaraparks.com/fitness).

Tickets are \$15 per session, with access to all four events available for \$45.

All sessions will be broadcast live at 10am via Zoom, with registrants also receiving a recorded version following the event.

Media assets are available [here](#).

### **Bird Kingdom (Virtual)**

Bird Kingdom is bringing the wonder of birds to you! Their Virtual Field Trip is a mix of live animal interaction and prerecorded footage of the animals at Bird Kingdom, showing the most amazing and educational experiences you can see at the world's largest indoor free-flying aviary. Each class runs 35 minutes and costs \$95 for up to 50 participants. Their presentation involves audience interaction, so be ready to type your answers and ask questions during the live presentation. Learn something new about birds and why we should care about protecting the natural environment. It may be hard or impossible for groups to travel, but Bird Kingdom is bringing education and inspiration direct to your screen. During lockdown classes can be booked 7 days a week from 9am to 4pm.

### **Niagara's Indigenous Legacy (Virtual)**

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. Explore the collection featuring objects that reveal the presence of Indigenous peoples, their art and history in the Niagara region, extending back hundreds of generations up to the present day. Explore videos created by curators Rob MacDonald, Rick Hill and Dave Labbe as they explain the source materials, uses and beauty of the Indigenous artifacts in the collections. Solve the mystery of the bannerstones!



## **[Adventure Rooms Canada](#) (Virtual During March 2021)**

Adventure Rooms Canada takes its thrilling experiences online including two popular games with [Hosted Remote Play](#). Your group has 60 minutes to find its way out of a mysterious room using logic, searching for clues to get through obstacles. Make it through the puzzles to find the key and unlock yourself to freedom. Family friendly games are appropriate for ages 8 years and up.

## **[Safari Niagara](#) March Break Programming (Virtual)**

Safari Niagara is showcasing programming on the [Safari Niagara YouTube](#) channel that can be viewed at leisure including: Keeper Cams/Keeper Talks, Get Closer Series, Animal Enrichment footage and Zooniversity videos.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **[NEW -Niagara Falls eXchange \(NFX\)](#) Cultural Hub & Market - Opening July 1, 2022**

The new Niagara Falls Cultural Hub & Market will become a vibrant cultural and social centre of activity in Niagara Falls by providing shared spaces where artists, musicians, food vendors and patrons, and local businesses can come together and create. Located in the historic Main and Ferry district, it will include a large culture and market hall, café, artist studios, creative workshop and public washrooms surrounded by two multi-functional civic plazas that interconnect the flanking streets. The Market Hall, which will house the regularly scheduled Farmers' Market, will be a space for other events that include music, theatre, lectures and other weekend markets. Located adjacent to the Niagara Falls History Museum, the site is knit together with a design language that prioritizes an accessible public realm and creates quality indoor and outdoor space that is durable, flexible, and sustainable. The project name - Niagara Falls Exchange (NFX), speaks to the rich exchange of ideas and creativity that is anticipated to occur on site and between the arts and culture, food and farming communities of Niagara Falls. Designed by DTAH, an award-winning architecture, landscape architecture and urban design firm, construction began September 2020. [Video](#)

### **[NEW – Niagara Parks Power Station \(Phase 2\)](#) – Opening July 1, 2022**

Following the completion and opening of Phase 1 in 2021, Niagara Parks will launch Phase 2 of this new landmark attraction just south of the Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls on July 1, 2022. 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. Phase 2 of the adaptive reuse project will invite visitors to explore the vast underground portions of CNP as they travel down nearly 200 feet below the main floor via glass enclosed elevator to reach the tailrace tunnel which connects the plant to the Niagara River. Visitors will make their way through the enormous, century old tunnel, brought to life with projection mapping technology to emerge beside the base of the Horseshoe Falls.

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plant remained in operation until 2006 when it was decommissioned. The Niagara Parks Commission acquired ownership in 2009.

### **NEW - Dates announced - Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games**

The 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the [Canada Summer Games](#), Canada's largest multi-sport event, will take place in Niagara from Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Considered a key step in the development of Canada's next generation of national, international and Olympic champions, the Canada Games are widely recognized as the highest level of national competition for thousands of up-and-coming Canadian athletes. More than 5,000 participants and 4,000 volunteers are expected to participate. The Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games will celebrate the wonder of sport alongside arts and culture. The Games will honour Niagara's Indigenous communities and showcase a remarkable heritage of hard work and innovation in one of the world's most awe-inspiring destinations. With world-renowned hospitality, the people of Niagara will welcome visitors from across the country.