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MUSEUM, RESTAURANT, ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
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OTTAWA

The capital of Canada is frequently described as a combination of London and Paris. The city is not only beautiful but one of contrasts. Both English and French are heard in the streets. Ottawa has an impressive array of landmark sites and museums and intimate courtyard cafes. Both the urban and countryside remain in close proximity where a visitor can stroll along a picturesque canal, attend a major performing arts event, or experience exciting nightlife along with exceptional dining possibilities. Much of Ottawa can be appreciated on foot, but Ottawa offers an excellent public transportation system of buses and light rail. Most major attractions are in walking distance of each other. For those who enjoy biking, there are an abundance of bike paths throughout the city. Across the river from Ottawa is the Quebec city of Gatineau which contains an array of museums, dining, and entertainment options including the **Casino du Lac-Leamy**.

OTTAWA BY DISTRICT

Bank Street:

Ottawa's busiest shopping experience. This is the location for Parliament Hill and all the major hotels and covers 15 city blocks. Bank Street is known for its special charm and eclectic one-of-a-kind stores. It is also the center for major entertainment opportunities and dining options. **In August** visitors will be treated to ***the Summer Sidewalk Sales***. **Snider Plaza** offers free admission to the evening **Centretown Movies Outdoor Film Festival**.

ByWard Market:

This district is home to the original farmer's market. It is also a place to explore for dining opportunities and unique shops. Walk the cobblestone streets and explore the courtyards while shopping Sussex Drive boutiques.

Downtown Rideau:

Rideau District spans 23 city blocks and is east of Parliament Hill. Shopping and restaurants offer numerous opportunities to explore. The Ottawa Art Gallery, Museum of

Contemporary Photography, the National Arts Centre, and the Governor-General's residence, Rideau House, are located here.

Preston Street:

Preston Street is the center of Ottawa's *Little Italy*. This district is famous for its family owned and operated restaurants and businesses frequented by politicians, hockey players, and movie stars. Enjoy the food particularly the gelato and pastries.

Somerset Heights:

Asian culture dominates this section of Ottawa in the shops and restaurants. Chinese and Vietnamese restaurants predominate. Explore the spices, the Buddhist artifacts, porcelain, and enjoy the music.

Somerset Village:

Nestled within Ottawa's Centretown core, Somerset Village boasts European-style outdoor cafes and restaurants and a variety of artisan and design studios. Many of the businesses are in renovated Victorian structures so bring a camera to enjoy its exceptional architectural character. At night the five-globe lamps compliment the decorative wrought iron.

Sparks Street:

Sparks Street is the location for Canada's first open-air pedestrian mall. It is common to be entertained by a live orchestra, jugglers, and other street performers. The center of Ottawa's financial district, Sparks Street offers exceptional views of Parliament Hill where the Changing of the Guard takes place and the opportunity to walk the Rideau Canal.

Vanier:

A one-square mile district a short walk from downtown house the Historic French Quarter of Ottawa. While French-Canadian Culture predominates, Vanier is home to a variety of cultures. While shopping enjoy the hanging flower baskets and the outdoor murals.

MUSEUMS

Ottawa is home to an amazing array of museum opportunities that include the: Canadian Museum of Civilization, Canadian Postal Museum, Canadian Children's Museum, The National Gallery of Canada, Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, National Museum of Science and Technology, Canadian Museum of Nature, Canadian War Museum, Canadian Aviation Museum, Canada Agricultural Museum, Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada, Royal Canadian Mint, Library and Archives Canada, and Laurier House. A few will be highlighted along with Parliament, Rideau Hall, and the Library of Parliament.

Rideau Hall: The Governor-General (Queen Elizabeth II's representative) resides at Rideau Hall. The residence is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. for self-guided tours and from 1-5 for guided tours.

Parliament Hill: Canada's stone Gothic **Parliament** building rests atop Parliament Hill. It is a building that should be seen both outside and inside. The *Changing of the Guard* takes place each day at 9:45 a.m. Admission to the Parliament building is free and the tour can last from 20-60 minutes depending upon whether or not Parliament is in session. At night a *Sound and Light Show* takes place at Parliament Hill. On August 7, the shows are 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. and from August 8 onward the shows start at 9 and 10 p.m. **The Library of Parliament** is a wonderful Gothic tower worthy of exploration and picture taking.

Laurier House: The home of Canadian Prime Ministers Laurier and King, the building was given to the Canadian people in 1951 and is open for tours. It is located in East Ottawa and is easily accessible by Bus # 5 or on foot as it is a mile from Parliament Hill. Admission is \$3.95 and is open Monday to Saturday from 9-5 and on Sundays from 1-5.

National Gallery of Canada: Of the many permanent collections the most interesting might be the Canadian and Aboriginal Art and the Inuit Art Galleries. Hours: Daily, 10-5, Admission \$6 with a separate fee for special exhibits. Free Thursdays from 5-8. Special Exhibitions: *Emily Carr: New Perspectives*, *Acting the Part: Photography as Theatre*, *Cai Guo-Qiang Long Scroll*, *Governor-General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts*.

The Library and Archives Canada: Offers an extensive collection of films, architectural drawings, information in electronic formats, books, photographic images, art, sheet music, newspapers, periodicals, portraits, and the Canadian Postal Archives. Hours: 8:30 to 5, Monday to Friday.

Canadian Museum of Civilization: Located in Gastineau (as are the **Children's Museum** and **Postal Museum**). Hours: 9-6 daily, Admission \$10. Thursdays evenings from 4-9, admission is free. Special Exhibitions: *Petra: Lost City of Stone (Jordan)*, *Clash of Empires: The War that Made Canada, 1754-1763*, and *Citizens: Portraits of Canadian Women of African Descent*, *Beads of Life: making ornaments in Eastern and Southern Africa*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sound of Light Fireworks, Wednesday and Saturday at the Casino du Lac-Leamy, 1 Blvd. du Casino in Gatineau, Quebec and offers a full array of casino gambling opportunities. *Swing Fever*, Theatre du Casino du Lac-Leamy, Sundays to Wednesdays, \$15 admission. *Centretown Movies*, Fridays and Saturdays Dundonald Park on Somerset Street between Bay and Lyon Street.

Cabaret U-Mano, Theatre du Casino du Lac-Leamy, sensual and talented puppets for adults, Thursdays to Saturdays, admission \$34.

RESTAURANTS

Indian Food: *Ceylonta*, Somerset Street West; *Shafali Bazaar*, ByWard Market; *The Roses Café*, Wellington Street.

Best Lasagna: *Zola's Restaurant and French Pasta Shop*, 194 Robertson Rd, Bells Corners; *Parma Ravioli*, 1314 Wellington Street; *Johnny Farina's*, 216 Elgin Street.

Chinese Food: *Golden Palace*, 2195 Carling Avenue; *So Good*, 717 Somerset West; *Yangtze*, 700 Somerset West.

Spaghetti and Meatballs: *Robbies Spaghetti House*, 1606 Walkley Road; *Capones West*, 2369 Carling Avenue; *Trattoria Café Italia*, 254 Preston Street.

Vegetarian Food: *The Green Door*, 198 Main Street; *The Table*, 1230 Wellington Street; *Govindas Vegetarian Buffet*, 212 Somerset Street East.

Thai Food: *Sukhothai*, 130 Robertson Road; *Nokham Thai*, 747 Richmond Road; *Sweet Basil*, 1585 Bank Street.

Greek Food: *Pilos*, 876 Montreal Road; *Souvlaki House*, 1200 Prince of Wales; *Theo's Greek Taverna*, 911 Richmond Road.

Japanese Food: *Taste of Japan*, 3710 Richmond Road, Bells Corners; *Wasabi*, 41 Clarence Street; *Festival Japan*, 149 Kent Street.

Italian Food: *Fratelli's*, 749 Bank Street; *Giovanni's*, 362 Preston Street; *Bella's Bistro*, 45 Richmond Road.

Fish and Chips: *Merivale Seafood Grill*, 1482 Merivale Road; *Glen Scottish Pub*, 462 Hazeldean Road; *LaPointe's*, 194 Robertson Road.

Desserts: *La Provence Bakery*, 500 Hazeldean Rd, Kanata; *Pasticceria Gelateria Italiana*, 200 Preston Street; *Vittoria Trattoria*, 35 William Street.

For those with a spirit of adventure you might want to consider **The Newport** at 334 Richmond Road. The restaurant has an extensive Elvis collection and has attracted a share of celebrities. You can get there by bus # 15 going toward Lincoln Fields and exit the bus at Churchill and Richmond Roads or bus # 18 toward Britannia and get off at the same intersection. Where ever you dine you will not be disappointed.