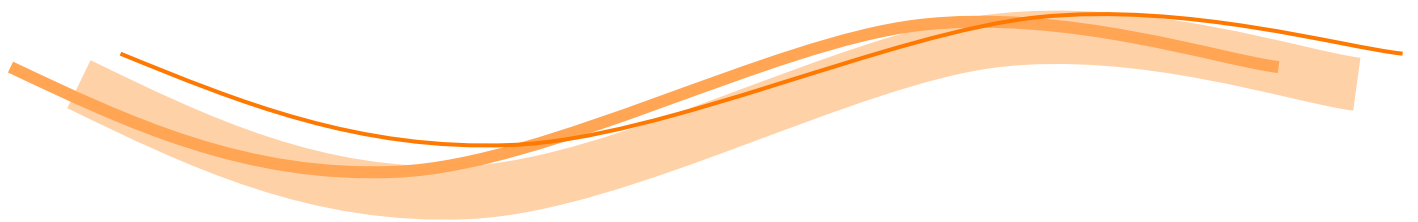




OTTAWA - WINTER 2017





OTTAWA IN THE WINTER

Ottawa's relaxed urban vibe makes it a great winter short break destination. Relax, reconnect and explore Ottawa during **Winterlude** - this year the festival runs from **February 3 - 20, 2017**.

Lace up your skates on the Rideau Canal Skateway, the world's largest rink. Admire ice and snow sculptures brought to life with colourful lighting. And have fun on giant snow slides in the largest snow playground on the continent!

Winterlude is Ottawa's premier winter festival during three fun-filled weekends in February - there's fun for the entire family, and all sites are open on Ontario Family Day. There are three major venues in downtown Ottawa and two of the official sites will focus on a specific theme this year: "Explore our Canadian Landscapes", at Jacques-Cartier Park, and "Dare to Dream", at Confederation Park.

The Rideau Canal Skateway

Grab your skates and glide along the world's largest naturally frozen ice skating rink. With a length of 7.8 kilometres, this scenic skating rink begins in the heart of downtown and extends to Dows Lake.

Crystal Garden, in Confederation Park

Located at the head of the Rideau Canal Skateway and close to many downtown hotels, this is where you will find a fusion of art and ice with live ice carving competitions and demonstrations. At night the sculptures are beautifully illuminated with coloured lighting. Chrystal Gardens is venue for Winterlude Kick-off Celebration as well as well as the Sub-Zero Concert Series featuring Canadian artists (Fridays and Saturdays).

Snowflake Kingdom, in Jacques-Cartier Park in Gatineau

This is where you should head with the kids - or if you are a big kid yourself. There are giant snow slides, winter sports and games, and no shortage of outdoor fun. This is North America's biggest snow playground and the park is also the home of the Ice Hog Family - Winterlude's furry mascots. There is a new snow slide this year as well as ziplining and Snowflake kingdom will be the 2017 National Snow Sculpture RendezVous.

Most Winterlude activities are held on the weekends— and there is no shortage of things to do with learn-to-skate clinics, a hockey tournament, a winter triathlon, children's entertainment and more! During the week you can enjoy the ice sculptures, skating on the Rideau Canal and the Snowflake Kingdom children's snow playground (except

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	<p>Tues and Wed for Snowflake Kingdom).</p> <p>Foodies will love unique culinary events created by some of the capital's best local restaurants — there are wine and food pairings, chef demonstrations and walkabout winter feasts. Plus the city comes to life with other Winterlude related concerts, activities and events. With all this going on a great travel tip is to get around using the FREE OLG-Sno-Bus which runs between the 3 official sites on weekends and on Family Day.</p> <p>But Winterlude isn't the only time to get out and enjoy winter. In Ottawa the whole season is filled with exciting winter activities. The Rideau Canal Skateway is open for the entire winter season, weather permitting, along its 7.8 km length. Skate rental is available and you can stop for a famous Beavertail and hot chocolate at the warming huts on the side of the canal.</p> <p>And, of course, in nearby Gatineau Park you can enjoy 200 km of groomed cross-country ski trails, snowshoeing, and overnight camping in a winter wilderness oasis just 15 minutes from downtown Ottawa. And right inside the gates of Gatineau Park is Nordik-Spa Nature - the largest Spa in North America with outdoor thermal baths and saunas.</p> <p>When you want to get indoors and leave the snow behind - immerse yourself in Ottawa's arts, culture and history - plus shop, dine and unwind. There is always so much going on - indoors and out - when you visit our Nation's Capital, Ottawa.</p>
<p>Ottawa 2017</p>	<p>In 2017 Canada will mark 150 years since Confederation – and where better to celebrate this moment of national pride than in our Nation's Capital? Canadians will gather in Ottawa to join local residents in a year of celebration. Throughout the year, branded as “Ottawa 2017”, there will be big Signature Events that will animate the entire city as well as community celebrations enlivening Ottawa's neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Some events that will be happening all year long – so you can catch them no matter what time you visit. “Ignite 150” is a series of EPIC stunts, gatherings and happenings that will be presented in surprising locations. And “Ottawa Welcomes the World” as Embassies mark their country's national celebration at the Horticulture Building at Lansdowne Park with food, music and more.</p> <p>Of course – there will only be one Canada Day like the one in 2017!</p>

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Ottawa 2017 and CIBC are celebrating in style, at the Shaw Centre – Canada’s Meeting Place. You will be able to enjoy some incredible Canadian cuisine prepared by some of our nation’s top chefs while experiencing a surprising and eclectic array of live musical and theatrical performances. And everyone will be looking forward to the splendour of the Canada Day fireworks.

The day after Canada Day an Interprovincial Picnic will take place on Ottawa’s well-known Alexandra Bridge, which links the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The bridge will be converted to a park with actual grass, inviting families and small groups to enjoy a picnic above the Ottawa River.

There are also some fantastic events scheduled over the course of the year that celebrate sports, music and the arts, and many of them are free. For all the details check out www.ottawatourism.ca.

Red Bull Crashed Ice (March 3 – 4, 2017)

This event will make its Ottawa debut when the Ice Cross Downhill World Championship crashes and glides its way into the capital. It will take place on the iconic locks of the Rideau Canal, overlooking Parliament Hill and the famous Chateau Laurier.

The Stanley Cup 125th Tribute (March 15 – 18, 2017)

A four-day celebration of a Canadian emblem and the most revered trophy in all of sports: the Stanley Cup.

Grey Cup: November 2017

The 105th CFL Grey Cup will be preceded by the Grey Cup Festival - a week of celebrations prior to the game. This is Canada’s largest annual sporting event and the annual championship game of the Canadian Football League!

JUNO Awards & JUNO Week (March 27 – April 2, 2017)

Juno Week will be unprecedented week of musical festivities culminating in the 46th Annual JUNO Awards at the Canadian Tire Centre.

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Ottawa Welcomes the World

Embassies will mark their country's national celebration with 45 events over the year – including:

March 21, 2017 - Embassy of the Hellenic Republic of Greece

April 11, 2017 - Ottawa Diplomatic Community: Fundraising Food & Wine Fair

April 23-25, 2017 - Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

Ignite 150

Ignite 150 will be a series of EPIC stunts and happenings including more than 12 events such as:

March 24, 2017 - Alexander Shelley school band concert

April 8, 2017 - Sugar Lumberfest

April 19, 2017 - R.E.E.L. Canada drive-in

Arts, Culture and Heritage

14 events/projects will highlight Canada's vibrant culture:

March 18, 2017 - Visual17e Ottawa 2017

March 27-April 2, 2017 - MIFO Francophone showcase

April 23-May 27, 2017 - Ottawa in the World of Documentaries

Inspiration Village (May 20 – September 4, 2017)

On York Street in the ByWard Market neighbourhood, this public gathering space built out of sea containers will showcase special exhibitions and performing arts featuring Canadian provinces and territories.

La Machine (July 26 – 30, 2017)

For the first time in North America, La Machine will bring its monumental motion theatre to the streets of downtown Ottawa. Prepare to be

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mesmerized by these fascinating creatures.

Underground Multimedia Experience (End of June – Mid-September, 2017)

Experience the ultimate underground extravaganza with this world first immersive multimedia production, projected in one of Ottawa's city's future Light Rail Transit (LRT) stations.

At the same time as these special events are enlivening Ottawa - transformative legacy projects will come to fruition and launch the Capital into the future. The new Confederation Line Light Rail is just one of the exciting projects that will bring so much to the city. In addition there will be community gardens created, new galleries and museum enhancements completed, a renewal of Main Street, the redevelopment of the National Arts Centre and Ottawa Art Gallery - plus two new initiatives opening with the Ottawa Innovation Centre and The Global Centre for Pluralism.

2017 Legacy Projects will particularly focus on enhancing the already World Class Cultural Attractions in Ottawa:

To celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, the **National Gallery of Canada** is embarking on a major transformation. The Canadian Galleries will close as of 2 August 2016 and will reopen 17 May 2017 as the Canadian and Indigenous Galleries as a wonderful backdrop to this section of the Gallery's extensive permanent collection.

The **National Arts Centre** is the home of the NAC Orchestra, French and English Theatre as well as dance. Renovation is underway and when the 2016-2017 season begins, the National Arts Centre will have a beautifully updated Southam Hall with better seats, better sound and better access.

The largest and most ambitious exhibition project ever undertaken by the **Canadian Museum of History** - the Canadian History Hall - is a gift to the people of Canada as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Opening July 1 with 40,000 sq ft in 3 galleries containing 18 chapters and 1,500 artifacts – the Canadian History Hall will tell the story of 15,000 years of Canadian history

The **Canadian Museum of Nature** is also being enhanced. The Arctic's rich natural diversity and its important connections to humans are the focus of a new permanent gallery to open June 21, 2017. The goal of

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	<p>the New Canada Goose Arctic Gallery is to enhance and transform people's understanding of the Arctic and its importance to Canada in the 21st century. Visitors will immerse themselves in the Arctic's natural history and human connections through four broad themes: climate, geography, sustainability and ecosystems.</p> <p>The Canada Science and Technology Museum will reopen in Fall 2017 after a complete refurbishment. The Museum's exhibitions space will be upgraded to enhance the visitor experience and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators. There will be five main galleries, including a special Children's Gallery, and four other themed spaces; Creating and Using Knowledge; Moving and Connecting, which will include the beloved locomotives; Technology in our Lives; Transforming Resources.</p>
Location	Ottawa lies in northeast North America, in the Province of Ontario, Canada. It is bordered by the Ottawa River to the north, while the historic Rideau River and Rideau Canal meander north to south through the city. Directly across the Ottawa River are the City of Gatineau and the picturesque Outaouais region in the Province of Québec, situated 114 metres (374 feet) above sea level.
Geography	These twin cities of Ottawa and Hull are full of unexpected pleasures -- you can watch the debates and pomp of parliamentary proceedings, take in the street scene from a sidewalk terrace, ski or camp or hike in wilderness only 15 minutes away, and then put your feet up before the fireplace of a rustic inn.
Name	Derived from Outaouak, an Algonquin First Nations name
Population	City 883,000 (Ranked 4 th in Canada) Metro 1,236,000 National Capital Region is 1,451,000
Language	English and French
Government	Ottawa's municipal government consists of a 22 –member council, composed of a Mayor, and 21 councilors (representing the 21 wards of the City. Each councilor is elected, and sits for a three year term. City Hall is located at 110 Laurier Avenue West.
Twin Cities	Beijing, China; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Catania, Sicily, Italy
2017 – Our 150th Birthday!	<p>There will be a huge celebration in Ottawa in 2017</p> <p>It's Canada's big year! Ottawa is where you'll want to be for Canada's 150th birthday. As Ottawa is Canada's Capital – that is where many of the country's biggest celebratory birthday events will happen.</p> <p>2017 will bring the biggest Canada Day celebration the country has ever seen! But the fun will not be limited to July 1. From new exhibitions at Ottawa's national museums, to special performances and exciting technological installations in Ottawa's downtown core, special events will be taking place all year long.</p>

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Ottawa 2017 is tasked with creating 12 full months of big, bold, immersive and moving experiences that will complement national celebrations and annual events and festivals.

Big Signature Events will animate the entire city, while community celebrations will enliven our neighbourhoods. At the same time, transformative legacy projects will change the Capital's urban landscape. The end result: a special year of national pride with many

Signature events:

- JUNO Week & the 2017 JUNO Awards: Beginning on March 27, 2017, Canada's Capital will come alive with Canadian music. Throughout the week, enjoy various musical performances, workshops and other activities that showcase the diversity of Canada's vibrant music scene. The week will then culminate with a grand celebration of the country's musical elite at the JUNO Awards, which will take place at the Canadian Tire Centre on April 2, 2017.
- Interprovincial Picnic: On July 2, 2017 (the day after Canada Day), Ottawa's well-known Alexandra Bridge, which links the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, will be converted to a park with actual grass, inviting families and small groups to enjoy a picnic above the Ottawa River. This event can accommodate 650 people at a time and spaces can be rented for a small fee! Visit the 2017 Celebrations Ottawa website for more details.
- 2017 Canadian Videogame Awards: Ottawa will be home to the Canadian Videogame Awards in November 2017(exact dates to be announced)! The gala celebration will take place at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum, but the Ottawa 2017 Bureau will host a national championship for gamers as well. And the best part? The competition's semi-finals and finals will be projected onto various buildings across the city. If you're a gamer, Ottawa is where you want to be in 2017!
- It will also be the Lord Elgin Hotel's 75th anniversary

There will also be a lasting legacy for Ottawa from 2017:

- Ottawa Light Rail Transit: Ottawa's new Light Rail Transit Confederation Line could be open for preview visits in 2017.
- Ottawa Art Gallery and Arts Court: The Ottawa Art Gallery will reopen following a \$100 million redevelopment, including a 21-storey mixed-use tower (Le Germain hotel and condominiums), a 250-seat multi-purpose and film-screening room, a 120-seat theatre and more
- NAC: The National Arts Centre will undergo a \$110 million redevelopment that includes the revitalization of the entrance, as well as some of the public and performance spaces.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Canada Museum: Formerly known as the Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada, this museum closed to the public just over a year ago to undergo renovations. It will reopen in 2017 in a newly renovated building on Sparks Street. Here, you will find the most comprehensive collection of Canadian coins, tokens and paper money. Official reopening date to be announced. • Canadian Museum of History: The museum closed a hall about a year ago to renovate and make room for the new Canada History Hall. The history of Canada's First Nations people is expected to be more prominently displayed in this new hall, which will open on Canada's 150th birthday; July 1, 2017. • Canadian Museum of Nature: If you're interested in animals and nature, this is a museum you don't want to miss. A brand new and permanent Arctic Gallery will open in 2017. The new gallery is part of the museum's five-year initiative to enhance and advance research, collections, education and exhibits focusing on Canada's majestic Arctic. Official opening date to be announced. • Canada Science and Technology Museum: Home to massive steam powered trains and many other Canadian technological advancements, this museum is currently closed as it is undergoing an \$80 million renovation. The renovation will see new exhibition spaces, fire-suppression systems as well as modern exterior and interior facades put in place, among many other things. The museum will reopen in 2017. Official reopening date to be announced. • Bytown Museum: Housed in Ottawa's oldest stone building – originally used during the construction of the famous Rideau Canal – this museum will celebrate its hundredth anniversary in 2017! Make sure to stop by this quaint attraction for some special activities as it marks this very important milestone.
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CLIMATE	
General climate	The average Temperatures for the region of Ottawa/Gatineau are: summer max + 26C; winter max - 6C
Today's weather	Minus 8 and sunny with cloudy periods (Jan 7 th 2017) – perfect for getting out and enjoying all that Ottawa offers in the winter.
Best time to visit	Any time – there's always something unique and exciting happening in Ottawa!

GETTING THERE	
Flights (Toronto)	It's just 55 minutes from Toronto to Ottawa and there are flights with Air

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	Canada, WestJet and Porter Airlines.
Flying time	Just 55 minutes from Toronto to Ottawa
Distances	Distance from Toronto is 450 km or 5 hours driving time; Ottawa to Montreal is 213 km or 2.5 hours
Ferries	In summertime, Paul's Cruise on the Ottawa River - there's no better way to see some of Canada's major national landmarks, including the Parliament Buildings, from a new perspective. Or for something really unique, you can take a tour on the Lady Dive , Ottawa's own amphibious bus.
Trains	VIA rail from Montreal is just 1hr 55 mins and from Toronto is 4.5 hours – check out www.viarail.ca
Buses	Ottawa's main mass transit service is OC Transpo (provided by the City of Ottawa). The Ottawa rapid transit system includes the transitway (a network of mostly grade-separated, extremely high-frequency, and reserved bus rapid transit lanes with full stations instead of stops) and a light rail system called the O-Train.
Passes	<p>If you want to get General Admission to several museums at a great price - consider a Canada's Capital Museums Passport. For \$30 plus applicable taxes (2017) you can visit 3 uniquely Canadian museums in Ottawa–Gatineau over 3 consecutive days. Each accompanying child receives 30% discount off children/student admission at each Museum. All of the national museums located in Ottawa–Gatineau, are part of Canada's Capital Museums Passport:</p> <p>Canada Agriculture and Food Museum Canada Aviation and Space Museum Canadian Museum of History Canadian Museum of Nature Canadian War Museum National Gallery of Canada</p> <p>www.museumspassport.ca</p>

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	While reasonably priced doubles are available at a few B&B inns, you'll have to look to the outer districts for truly inexpensive lodgings, primarily in motels. There are ample choices for mid-priced to first-class rooms, however. There are an unusually large number of suite hotels, intended primarily for businesspeople on long stays in the capital, but ideal for families, with kitchens and beds for four or more. And there are of course some splendid top end hotels in downtown Ottawa too.
OTTAWA TOURISM GETAWAY PACKAGES	You can create your own Ottawa Getaway thanks to Ottawa Tourism's website that brings you an enhanced ability to book flexible packages online. Get great deals and a wide range of hotel choices as you create

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	your own escape to Ottawa. See the special section at the end.
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OTTAWA'S NEIGHBOURHOODS	Unique Ottawa neighbourhoods offer distinctive shopping, dining and nightlife experiences across the Capital.
ByWard Market	Founded in the 1820's, the Market houses unique stores, restaurants and nightclubs, surrounding outdoor stalls that sell fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables, and the work of local artisans.
Chinatown	Located moments away from downtown, Ottawa's Chinatown is a multicultural village offering local dining, shopping and entertainment experiences with a unique Asian flavour.
Downtown Rideau	Shopping lovers and arts enthusiasts head to Downtown Rideau for an abundance of trendy retail outlets, exquisite restaurants, captivating theatres and a hub of cultural activity in Ottawa's Retail, Arts & Theatre District -- 23-blocks surrounding Rideau Street, east of the canal.
Preston Street/Little Italy	Ottawa's Corso Italia offers popular restaurants and specialty stores, and is located between Carling Avenue at Dow's Lake and LeBreton Flats.
Bank Street Promenade	The Bank Street Promenade is located on "Ottawa's original Main Street". With over 250 eclectic shops, services, bars and restaurants stretching 15 blocks from Wellington St. to Gladstone Ave.
Beechwood Village	Bordered by the Rideau River to the west and exclusive Rockcliffe Park to the North, Beechwood Village is a vibrant neighbourhood offering a unique blend of shops, boutiques and stores, fine restaurants, and a relaxed ambiance.
Glebe	The Glebe is a relaxed and historic neighbourhood of shops, restaurants, pubs and services along Bank Street just south of Highway 417, otherwise known as the Queensway.
Quartier Vanier	The village-like downtown east neighbourhood, mostly known for its large Francophone population, is also becoming known for good food, culture and quality of life.
Somerset Village	Located between Bank & O'Connor Streets and only minutes away from Parliament Hill, Somerset Village features beautiful heritage 19th Century buildings that are home to many fine restaurants, businesses and services.
Sparks Street	One block away are the Parliament Buildings, house for the Canadian government. Nearby, are some of the city's finest hotels, shopping, restaurants and historical sites.
Wellington Village	Home to some of the city's most highly ranked restaurants, the Wellington Village/Hintonburg area west of downtown offers a funky blend of dining, unique shopping and theatre.
Westboro Village	The Village's shopping district offers a unique mix of boutiques, restaurants and many other delightful stops along the way.

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LIFESTYLES	
Kids	<p>Kids love the bands, rifles, and uniforms of the Changing of the Guard on Parliament Hill. The Canada Aviation Museum is a fantasyland for many, especially the mock-ups of cockpits where they can pretend to be pilots.</p> <p>The perennial favorites at the Canadian Museum of Nature are the dinosaurs, the animals, and the Discovery Den, especially created for children.</p> <p>Extra-special attractions at the Canadian History Museum are the Children's Museum and Cineplus for IMAX movies. Kids enjoy picnicking or taking a hayride at the Central Experimental Farm. At the Canada Science and Technology Museum, the hands-on exhibits entertain while learning.</p> <p>Kids also love the tanks and weaponry on display at the Canadian War Museum and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride practices at the Canadian Police College.</p>
Teens	<p>Visit the Diefenbunker, go white water rafting in summer, or try the Ghost Walk. Here are some more suggestions:</p> <p>The Diefenbunker Built in the small town of Carp just west of Ottawa between 1959 and 1961, and meant to house key government and military officials in case of a nuclear attack, this four-storey underground bunker offers tours and unique events to catch glimpses of behind-the-scenes artifacts. Don't miss the decontamination room, the emergency exit hatch, the CBC broadcast studio, the Prime Minister's suite and the Bank of Canada vault. The bunker is named after John Diefenbaker who was prime minister during its construction, but who never visited the site.</p> <p>Canada Science and Technology Museum Canada's largest science and technology museum is a great hands-on experience for visitors of all ages. Discover some of the most important scientific and technological objects in Canada. Climb aboard real trains. Try your hand at fascinating experiments. See for yourself how science and technology affect your everyday life. Located only minutes from downtown Ottawa.</p> <p>Royal Canadian Mint Experience a rush – a gold rush that is! Discover how molten metal is transformed into cherished treasures, hold 99.99% pure gold in your two hands, relive the legends of Canada's past, then stop at the boutique and purchase a treasure for your future.</p> <p>Teens can also explore the evolution of money around the world and</p>

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	through the ages at the Bank of Canada's Currency Museum . A fascinating variety of media of exchange including shells, teeth, and cocoa beans, as well as today's currency, tells us about the societies where they originated.
Romance	<p>Stroll hand in hand – Ottawa is an eminently walkable city. Along the Rideau Canal, past all the magnificent buildings to Parliament Hill, browsing Byward Market, in the beautiful parks or through the grounds of Rideau Hall.</p> <p>Sound & Light Show - For years Canada's history has unfolded in a dazzling display of sound and light against the dramatic backdrop of the Parliament buildings. On summer evenings, a sound and light show called Mosaika explores Canada's physical, historical and cultural landscapes (July to September).</p>
UNIQUES	<p>Changing of the Guard From June until late August, a colourful half-hour ceremony is held daily on the Parliament Hill lawn, weather permitting. Two historic regiments - the Governor-General's Foot Guards and the Canadian Grenadier Guards - compose the Ceremonial Guard. The parade of 125 soldiers in busbies and scarlet jackets (guard, color party, and band) assembles at Cartier Square Drill Hall (by the canal at Laurier Avenue) at 9:30am and marches up Elgin St to reach the hill at 10am.</p>
Surprising	<p>Royal Canadian Mounted Police See the training centre for the famous RCMP musical ride. The Musical Ride, a world-renowned military pageant performed with 32 horses and riders, was first produced publicly in Regina in 1887. The RCMP invites visitors to tour the stables and Visitors' Centre year-round. It is sometimes possible to see the Musical Ride horses and riders practice when they are not away on tour. The Sunset Ceremonies usually occur at the stables at the end of June each year</p>
History	<p>The Ottawa region was long home to the Odawa or Odaawaa First Nations people. The Odawa are an Algonquin people who called the river the Kichi Sibi or Kichissippi, meaning "Great River". The first European settlement in the region was that of Philemon Wright who started a community on the Quebec side of the river in 1800. Wright discovered that transporting timber by river from the Ottawa Valley to Montreal was possible, and the area was soon booming based almost exclusively upon the timber trade. Liked by many European nations for its extremely straight and strong trunk, the White Pine was found throughout the valley. In the years following the War of 1812, in addition to settling some military regiment families, the government began sponsored immigration schemes which brought over Irish Catholics and</p>

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	<p>Protestants to settle the Ottawa area, which began a steady stream of Irish immigration there in the next few decades. Along with French Canadians who crossed over from Quebec, these two groups provided the bulk of workers involved in the Rideau Canal project and the booming timber trade, both instrumental in putting Ottawa on the map.</p> <p>The region's population grew significantly when the canal was completed by Colonel John By in 1832. It was intended to provide a secure route between Montreal and Kingston on Lake Ontario, by-passing the stretch of the St. Lawrence River bordering New York State (the U.S invasions of Canada in the War of 1812 being a recent memory). Construction of the canal began at the northern end, where Colonel By set up a military barracks on what later became Parliament Hill, and laid out a town site that soon became known as Bytown. Original city leaders of Bytown include a number of Wright's sons, most notably Ruggles Wright. Nicholas Sparks, Braddish Billings and Abraham Dow were the first to settle on the Ontario side of the Ottawa river.</p> <p>The west side of the canal became known as "Uppertown" where the Parliament buildings are located, while the east side of the canal (wedged between the canal and Rideau River) was known as the "Lowertown". At that time, Lowertown was a crowded, boisterous shanty town, frequently receiving the worst of disease epidemics, such as the Cholera outbreak in 1832, and typhus in 1847. Ottawa became a centre for lumber milling and square-cut timber industry in Canada and, in fact, for North America as a whole. From there, it quickly expanded further up (or westward along) the Ottawa River, and logs were boomed by raftsmen great distances down the river to the mills. Bytown was renamed Ottawa in 1855, when it was incorporated as a city.</p>
Books	Secret Ottawa by Laura Byrne Paquet is an eclectic compendium of little known nooks and crannies in Ottawa.
1000 Places to see before you die	Winterlude and skating on the Rideau Canal is noted as one of the world's great festivals.
Must Sees	The most visited attractions in Ottawa are: the Casino; the Canadian History Museum; and Parliament Hill.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	When the NHL is playing it's good to catch an Ottawa Senators hockey game – even if you're from Montreal or Toronto! They play at Scotiabank Place, west of the city centre and tickets mostly cost from \$30 to \$80; call: 877-788-3267 or 613/599-3267.
Golf	The Ottawa metro region has over 60 courses , including the one on

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	<p>the premises of the Château Montebello (tel. 819/423-6341) in Québec. Other desirable courses are the Emerald Links Golf & Country Club (tel. 613/822-4653); Canadian Golf and Country Club (tel. 613/253-3290); Le Dome Golf Club (tel. 819/770-5557); and Manderley on the Green (tel. 613/489-2066). Greens fees for these run \$25 to \$40</p>
Skiing	<p>Mont Cascades, just 30 minutes north of Ottawa across the Gatineau River, outside of Cantley on Highway 307, has 13 trails, one triple- and three double-chair lifts, and two T-bars. The longest run is 670m (2,200 ft.). There are two day lodges with a cafeteria and a restaurant/bar at the hill. Night skiing is available. During summer, there are six water slides in the state-of-the-art water park. Mont Ste-Marie, 89km north of Ottawa at Lac Ste-Marie, offers skiing on twin hills, with a 380m (1,250-ft.) drop, and a 3km ski run. There are two quads and a Poma.</p>
Rafting	<p>Owl Rafting, Box 29, Foresters Falls, offers 1- and 2-day white-water rafting trips within 90 minutes of the city, pounding over extensive rapids for the fit and adventurous and floating on gentler stretches for families. http://www.owl-mkc.ca/owl</p>
Hiking	<p>A band of protected wetlands and woodlands surrounds the capital on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River, and here you can find ideal hiking areas. At Stony Swamp Conservation Area (tel. 613/239-5000) in the region's west end are 39km of trails, including the Old Quarry Trail, the Jack Pine Nature Trail, and the Sasparilla Trail. It's also good for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Rideau Trail is a 387km network of trails along the Rideau River and canal between Ottawa and Kingston via many of the pretty towns and villages along the way.</p>
Cycling	<p>Ottawa is a cyclist's paradise. Use your bike or inline skates or just hoof it and explore hundreds of kilometres of paved pathways; winding along rivers and the Rideau Canal; flat and easy or mountainous and challenging—the choice is yours. Sunday Bikedays actually closes 52 kilometres of the most picturesque rides to motorized vehicles and let cyclists, inline skaters and runners rule from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sunday Bikedays run from Victoria Day weekend in May to Labour Day weekend in September. More info: www.canadascapital.qc.ca/biking</p>

CULTURE	
Canadian Museum of History	<p>Located on the shores of the Ottawa River in Gatineau, Quebec, the Canadian Museum of History (formerly the Canadian Museum of Civilization) is Canada's largest and most popular cultural institution, attracting over 1.2 million visitors each year. The Museum's principal role is to enhance Canadians' knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the events, experiences, people and objects that have</p>

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shaped Canada's history and identity, as well as to enhance Canadians' awareness of world history and culture.

The Canadian Museum of History's IMAX Theatre has become CINÉ+ after acquiring a 4k laser projector, the latest in projection technology, making it one of only four cinemas in Canada with this type of projector.

<http://www.historymuseum.ca/>

Hockey (March 10 – October 9, 2017)

Share our magnificent obsession with our national sport of Hockey with one-of-a-kind artifacts (including Jacques Plante's famous hockey mask), video clips of historic highlights, and personal memorabilia. Explore Canada's historic love of the sport of hockey, and its impact on Canadian identity.

Gold Rush! El Dorado in British Columbia (until Jan 15, 2017)

Relive the tumultuous days of gold's discovery in British Columbia's Fraser Canyon. Travel back to 1858 and meet some of the tens of thousands of fortune-seeking prospectors who dreamed of astonishing finds — like the huge Turnagain Nugget. Find out how the gold rush attracted thousands of miners and entrepreneurs of various social and ethnic origins and forever transformed this once-remote region of the Pacific North West. More than 280 artifacts tell the fascinating story of gold's timeless allure, including miner's tools and personal belongings, a real stagecoach, an exquisite gold box carved by Bill Reid and iconic contemporary items such as gold records and Olympic medals.

Horse Power (until Apr 17, 2017)

Exquisite craftsmanship combines with the romance of bygone days in this sumptuous exhibition of 18 horse-drawn sleighs and carriages. Handcrafted between 1770 and 1950, these elegant conveyances once transported Catholic cardinals, Montréal millionaires and governors general. Today, the artistry of the carriage makers lives on in the graceful lines of these lovingly restored antiques. Phaeton, coach, hansom cab or brougham sleigh, each one showcases a different regional style and demonstrates how climate and geography influenced design in the era of horse-powered transportation. On loan from Québec's Musées de la civilisation Paul-Bienvenu Carriage Collection, these pieces belong to the finest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in North America — a collection nationally recognized as a Canadian cultural treasure.

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Canadian Museum of Nature

Located in the castle-like Victoria Memorial Museum Building a pleasant stroll south of Parliament Hill, the Canadian Museum of Nature brings our natural heritage indoors for a close-up and fascinating look. Housed inside a beautiful heritage building, the Museum has undergone a massive renovation. Now open are beautiful, modern galleries, amenities, rental spaces, and a new HD Theatre. In 1916 the Victoria Memorial Museum Building served as the interim home for the Canadian government while the Parliament Buildings were rebuilt after a major fire that destroyed everything but the Parliamentary Library.
<http://nature.ca/en/home>

The RBC Blue Water Gallery is filled with fascinating things to see and learn – all exploring the vital role that water plays in sustaining all living things. Peer into a 4,550-litre river aquarium, play in an Arctic research ship and say hello to an impressive 19-metre blue whale! The Vale Earth Gallery showcases more than 1,000 dazzling minerals and rocks. Visitors will learn about the powerful forces that have shaped our planet, and how geology and mineralogy connect with everyday life. Animalium offers a bright and cheerful place to examine some unusual museum “occupants”. Get nose to nose with an awe-inspiring collection of insects, arachnids, and even slimy banana slugs, housed in attractive terraria.

The Talisman Fossil Gallery is a favourite with kids, with life-like dioramas and an Extinction Theatre. The gallery shows the end of the dinosaurs’ reign on Earth and the rise of mammals, from 65 to 35 million years ago.

The Mammal Gallery features the wildlife of Canada, from polar bears to white Arctic hares, moose, bison, caribou and cougars. The Bird Gallery features an impressive collection of 500 specimens of Canada's finest feathered friends. Step outside the Museum and see a cast of a 112-million-year-old dinosaur footprint, then take your picture with life-like dinosaur and woolly mammoth models.

The Discovery Zone features fun and discovery for kids, including close-up examination of unusual and spectacular specimens, crafts and a trading post where kids can check out fossils, minerals, animal skulls and more.

Reptiles: The Beautiful and the Deadly (October 6, 2016, to April 2, 2017)

Meet an amazing variety of live reptiles from around the world! Get

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	<p>eyeball to eyeball with deadly snakes, colourful lizards and bizarre turtles. You'll discover cool facts and get a new appreciation for these misunderstood creatures. The exhibition's science and conservation messages aim to dispel common myths and demonstrate how reptiles fit into the animal kingdom and their native environments. The show is produced by Clyde Peeling's Reptiland in Allentown, Pennsylvania, creators of the popular Frogs exhibition hosted by the museum in 2013.</p>
<p>National Gallery of Canada</p>	<p>The story of the National Gallery of Canada began in the late 19th-century with a simple dream: that Canadians should have a national gallery to call their own. It would be a place to showcase Canadian art; to preserve, study and teach about this vast nation's cultural heritage; and to acquire magnificent works from around the world. It would expose us to great art from all periods and in all its manifestations: paintings, photographs, sculptures and more.</p> <p>Today, the National Gallery of Canada is one of the world's most respected art institutions, revered for its scholarship, applauded for its ability to engage audiences of all ages and all levels of artistic knowledge, and renowned for its exceptional collection of approximately 65,000 works of art. It makes its home in a grand, light-filled structure of glass and granite, in which visitors can find a cloistered garden courtyard, a glass-bottomed pool, and a reconstructed 19th-century chapel. For more information and updates on activities at the National Gallery of Canada, watch their website at www.gallery.ca</p> <p>Alex Janvier (November 25 2016 – April 17 2017)</p> <p>This major retrospective celebrates Alex Janvier's lifetime of creativity, knowledge and perspective, gained through his love of the land, art and Dene culture. Come discover more than 150 remarkable paintings and drawings, including works that have never been on public display and well-known masterpieces. Visitors will have an unprecedented opportunity to appreciate Janvier's unique style, with its vivid colours and calligraphic lines. He combines Denesuline iconography with Western art styles and techniques, such as automatic painting and modernist abstraction. Universal in appeal, his paintings on paper, canvas and linen reference Indigenous culture and history and explore his experience of residential schools and the effects of colonization.</p>
<p>Canadian War Museum</p>	<p>The first thing you'll notice as you drive toward the Canadian War Museum, on the western edge of downtown Ottawa beside the Ottawa River, is the building itself. Its magnificent design — with its low-lying body that suddenly sweeps upward to create a peak that reaches 80 feet into the air — speaks to the theme of regeneration. Inside you'll find incredible exhibitions that reveal Canada's involvement in conflicts from</p>

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	<p>the beginning of time until now. Tanks, artillery, combat gear, art and so many more artifacts and collections, bring an added level of realism to the country's war history. http://www.warmuseum.ca/home</p> <p>Deadly Skies – Air War 1914-1918 (until Jan 29, 2017)</p> <p>Go beyond the dogfights and immerse yourself in the lives of nine people, from both sides of the conflict, who experienced the first air war. Join them as they train to fly, gather intelligence, fight aerial battles and drop bombs. Their stories — told with more than 80 authentic artifacts woven into an innovative graphic novel presentation — provide insight into the history and consequences of the first air war.</p> <p>Vimy – Beyond the Battle (April 7, 2017 - January 7, 2018)</p> <p>In 2017, the War Museum will present a multi-faceted exhibition and programming schedule exploring the Battle of Vimy Ridge and its meaning, 100 years later. A special exhibition focused on commemoration and memory, upgrades to the presentation of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in the Museum and highly interactive programming will enable visitors to understand how this iconic event has shaped our perception of history.</p>
<p>Canada Aviation and Space Museum</p>	<p>The Museum offers two flight simulators, open to the public at an additional cost. Climb aboard a replica of an F-16 cockpit and test your flight skills! Or, try the Redbird full-motion platform simulator, used to train pilots around the world. Bring your children every Saturday at 11 a.m. for specially designed kids' tours. Tours take 45 to 60 minutes and are for children ages 4 to 7.</p> <p>http://casmuseum.techno-science.ca/en/index.php</p> <p>The Reserve Hangar houses many of Canada's national aviation icons not currently on display on the Museum floor. Visitors can get a behind-the-scenes tour that includes the de Havilland D.H. 98 Mosquito B XX, the Bristol Bolingbroke IVT and the wing tips of the Avro CF-105 Arrow 2.</p> <p>Hawker Typhoon: Visitors to the Canada Aviation and Space Museum (CASM) have the rare privilege of admiring a legendary Second World War aircraft – the last remaining of its kind – exactly 70 years after the D-Day beginning of the Normandy landings, on loan from The Royal Air Force Museum (RAFM) of London, U.K. Hawker Typhoons saw active service during the Second World War, notably during operations leading to the Liberation of Normandy, and were flown by several Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons during the War, including the City of</p>

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	<p>Ottawa 440 Squadron.</p> <p>FWW App: This new mobile app, available at the app store and on Google Play, showcases Canadian innovation in aviation history and technology and commemorates involvement in the First World War and engages Canadian youth to develop an interest in aviation and the history of the First World War. The app was developed to provide a dynamic experience on a platform able to engage with Canadians beyond the Museum’s four walls. Based on the Museum’s stunning collection of First World War aircraft, small artifacts and historical images the App provides an insight into a widely recognized collection and rich period in Canadian and early aviation history. To this end the app also offers an immersive hands-on engagement permitting the user to learn the basics of flight, putting themselves in the virtual cockpit and ‘at-the-controls’.</p> <p>Canadarm: The Canadarm, one of the country’s most famous technological achievements, made its space debut on November 13, 1981. Designed to deploy and retrieve objects in space, the robotic arm marked the beginning of Canada’s role in the Space Shuttle Program and positioned the country as a key partner in the International Space Station. After nearly 30 years of faithful service in space, the arm completed its operations on July 21, 2011. It travelled 624 million kilometres and logged a total of 944 workdays in space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. The interactive exhibition allows visitors to navigate through the history of the robotic arm, including: its greatest achievements and how its legacy continues to live on today in medical robots used in neurological and pediatric surgery.</p> <p>Life In Orbit: The International Space Station</p> <p>What is it like to live in space? This exhibition tells the story of daily life aboard the marvel of technology that is the International Space Station (ISS). Find out how the space station stays up in space. Learn how the ISS works - through the eyes of the astronauts who’ve lived there - and see some of the items from the Space station like a space toilet and exercise equipment.</p>
<p>Canada Agriculture and Food Museum</p>	<p>Food Preservation: The Science You Eat</p> <p>- If “we are what we eat,” then we are all consumers of food science — even if we may not be aware of it. With a pinch of history and a dash of myth busting, Food Preservation: The Science You Eat highlights the role science plays in delaying food decay and keeping food nutritious and safe from farm to fork. In this interactive museum experience, explore the fascinating world of food preservation both at home and in</p>

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	<p>larger scale operations. Learn the scientific reason why long-used methods of food preservation continue today and discover new innovations that will affect our food choices into the future. You'll find something to feed your mind and imagination on the menu!</p> <p>http://cafmuseum.techno-science.ca/en/</p>
<p>Arts</p>	<p>The Performing Arts - Canadian and international musical, dance, and theater artists - including the resident NAC Orchestra - perform at the elaborate National Arts Centre, 53 Elgin St., at Confederation Square. The building, created by architect Fred Lebensold, is made of three interlocking hexagons beside the Rideau Canal, its terraces tendering views of Parliament Hill and the Ottawa River. There are three auditoriums: the European-style Opera, seating 2,300; the 950-seat Theatre, with its innovative apron stage; and the 350-seat Studio, used for experimental works. The National Arts Centre Orchestra performs in seven or eight main concert series per year.</p> <p>http://www.nac-cna.ca/en</p> <p>The Colony of Unrequited Dreams (January 25- February 11, 2017) At the National Arts Centre you can see "The Colony of Unrequited Dreams", which is an NAC English Theatre collaboration. This is based on Wayne Johnston's novel about the life of Joey Smallwood – premier of Newfoundland and Labrador and the self-described "Last Father of Confederation".</p> <p>Canada Scene In 2017, the National Arts Centre will celebrate the country's sesquicentennial with CANADA SCENE, a massive gathering of our most exciting artists. In the days leading up to Canada Day, and for weeks after, hundreds of artists from every corner of the country will travel to the nation's capital to take part in 150 events at venues throughout Ottawa/ Gatineau. CANADA SCENE will bring together talented artists in music, theatre, dance, visual and media arts, film, literature, comedy, circus and culinary arts for an extraordinary national celebration. The festival will shine a spotlight on iconic artists who inspire us, dynamic artists who challenge us, and the diverse cultures that bring us together.</p>
<p>Museums</p>	<p>The capital region is home to 29 museums, including 12 national museums that appeal to all interests and age groups. Many of these attractions line Confederation Boulevard, "Canada's Discovery Route," which is the site of a variety of events which animate the capital throughout the year. The architecture of Ottawa's museums, the copper roofs and the Gothic towers of Canada's national symbols will provide a long-remembered sight. Here are a couple of my favourites from the less well-known museums:</p>

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	<p>Canada Science and Technology Museum Energy: Power To Choose The production and consumption of energy have social, economic, and environmental implications that are influenced by available resources and the choices we make. In this interactive new exhibition, plug in to practical tips to reduce energy consumption, and pledge your action to better conserve energy. Produce your own electricity with the Museum's human hamster wheel. Interact with a map of Canada that identifies locations where energy is produced and where distribution of major sources of energy takes place. You'll be shocked to discover that one producer of energy is the Museum's electric eel. http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca</p> <p>Bytown Museum Nestled beside the Rideau Canal locks below Parliament Hill and adjacent to the Ottawa River, the Bytown Museum traces the early history of Ottawa, with a special focus on the construction of the Rideau Canal - a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Museum is housed in the oldest stone building in Ottawa, beside a series of 8 dramatic stepped locks that connect the Rideau Canal to the Ottawa River. The Museum building served as a treasury and storehouse during the construction of the Rideau Canal in the early 1830s. The three-story museum displays artifacts and items chronicling not only the construction of the Rideau Canal, but also the early days of Bytown as a rough and tumble lumber town and its transformation into the nation's capital. Audio tours of the Bytown Museum are available in 6 languages - English, French, Spanish, German, Mandarin and Japanese - and are included with the price of admission. (www.bytownmuseum.com)</p>
<p>Winter Events and Festivals</p>	<p>There's always something going on in Ottawa, no matter what time you visit. You can always check out the events calendar at www.ottawatourism.ca for up to date information. Ottawa sparkles in the wintertime and the major event in the city is the Winterlude Festival that runs February 3 - 20, 2017. There are also many activities in Ottawa timed to coincide with the festival. Events coming up in the early part of 2017 include:</p> <p>Canadian Tire National Skating Championships (Jan 16 to 22, 2017) Skaters compete in the men's, women's, pairs, and ice dance disciplines in three levels: senior, junior, and novice. The very first Canadian Skating Championships were held in 1914 in Ottawa.</p> <p>Nature Nocturne: Lunar New Year (January 27, 2017) Dance until midnight while DJs fill the castle with awesome sound. Meet artists throughout the galleries. Discover four floors of world-class</p>

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	<p>museum exhibitions</p> <p>Alterna Savings Crackup Comedy Festival (February 4 to 18, 2017) Attracting top comedic talent from across North America, the 2017 festival has more record-breaking attempts, more family events, more shows and WAY MORE LAUGHS to raise more money for mental health.</p> <p>Winterlude (February 3 to 20, 2017) A unique winter festival featuring snow and ice sculpture competitions, snow playgrounds, and skating and sporting events. Winterlude transforms Ottawa into a winter wonderland.</p> <p>Winterlude Triathlon (February 4, 2017) Hundreds of winter enthusiasts skate for 8 km, cross-country ski for 8 km and run for 5 km.</p> <p>Gatineau Winter Beerfest (February 3 to 4, 2017) Discover artisan and local brewers inside the museum's Grand Hall and outdoors, among friends and family.</p> <p>TD Ottawa Winter Jazz Festival (February 9 to 12, 2017) Offering up a little southern comfort on those chilly February nights, the TD Ottawa Winter Jazz Festival will be hitting up venues around the city.</p> <p>Accora Villa Bed Race (February 11, 2017) Fifty teams of 4 runners and one rider compete with modified and decorated beds for honours and prizes as the fastest bed, the best decorated bed and the best fundraisers</p> <p>Canadian Ski Marathon (February 10 to 11, 2017) The world's longest cross-country ski tour, covering 160 km of ski trails, caters to about 2,500 skiers annually. Ski as little as 12 km or the whole 160 km; you set the pace.</p> <p>Gatineau Loppet (February 17 to 19, 2017) Join Canada's biggest cross-country ski event in Gatineau Park: more than 3,000 skiers—experts and amateurs, coming from 20 different countries—will take part.</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	<p>Parliament Hill - Parliament of Canada - Tours Schedules and tours of the Centre Block (the main Parliament Building) vary – sometimes without notice – according to the time and the day on</p>
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	<p>which you choose to visit, especially when Parliament is in session. Tours are shorter and do not go to the Senate and House of Commons chambers when they are in use.</p>
Wildlife	<p>Open all year, Parc Oméga, Route 323 nord, Montebello, a nearby wildlife park, is distinctive by season, barely recognizable in both fauna and vegetation in summer as compared to winter. At the entrance, elk wait for one of the carrots purchased with your tickets, only a foreshadowing of the animals to be spotted on the drive, most of which stroll up to your car to take their snacks from your hand. Among the most visible are whitetail deer, wapiti, bison, fallow deer, raccoons, and wild boar, all of which roam free. Kept in large enclosures are black bears, timber wolves, and raptors, including bald eagles. With luck, you may see a reclusive moose.</p>
Parks	<p>Gatineau Park Managed by the NCC, Gatineau Park is a superb nature reserve just 15 minutes from Parliament Hill. It serves as a reminder that environmental protection is a cherished Canadian value, and its objective is to ensure the permanent preservation of a vast natural territory for the enjoyment of all Canadians. The Park is endowed with hundreds of kilometres of trails, forests containing more than fifty species of trees, abundant wildlife and numerous crystal-clear lakes typical of the hills of the Canadian Shield. Summer and winter, visitors can participate in outdoor activities or simply enjoy the tranquility of a protected natural environment. http://www.canadacapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16297-16299-10170&lang=1</p>
Gardens	<p>As Canada's Capital, Ottawa is well known for its impressive landmarks, sites, and attractions. But equally appealing is the city's beautiful natural setting of rivers, waterways, parks and pathways – and the many marvelous gardens that colour its urban yet unspoiled cityscape. Beginning with the early spring arrival of crocuses on Parliament Hill, then continuing through May's Canadian Tulip Festival and on into summer and early autumn, Ottawa's beds are ablaze with beauty – and welcome visitors to discover their flowering favourites.</p> <p>The National Capital Commission maintains 90 flower beds in 30 different sites, including Parliament Hill. In the spring, over one million tulips bloom in the NCC's flowerbeds, along with thousands of daffodils and spring flowering bulbs. After the spring flowers bloom, they are replaced by annuals and perennials, which keep Canada's Capital Region ablaze with colour into the fall.</p> <p>Home of the Governor General, the Queen's representative in Canada, Rideau Hall sits on 79 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds. The</p>

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	<p>grounds were originally styled as an English country estate, with luxurious lawns surrounded by gardens and walking paths through forests. More than 3,000 trees, an inukshuk, totem pole and the Canadian Heritage Gardens—a sweeping arc of roses that symbolizes Canada’s cultural mosaic—await you. Many of the trees were planted by visiting Heads of State—look for the small plaques that explain who planted the tree and when. Guided and self-guided walking tours (including ones led by a horticultural expert) are available, and on-site experts are happy to provide tips on everything from rose and organic gardening to landscaping</p> <p>Ottawa is the only world capital with a working farm at its centre. The Central Experimental Farm’s Ornamental Gardens and Dominion Arboretum is a piece of paradise in the heart of the city. While strolling the grounds, one can find lilacs, roses, peonies, over 90 hedges, rose and rock gardens and the Macoun sunken garden, as well as magnolias, crab apples, hostas gardens and shrubs, both rare and familiar. The Canada Agriculture Museum presents the sights and sounds of typical farm life and explores Canada’s agricultural heritage.</p> <p>Filled with sunny daffodils and flowering trees in May, Rockcliffe Park and the Rockeries are a favourite spot for picnics and its lookout a preferred point for viewing the Ottawa River and Gatineau Hills beyond.</p> <p>Garden of the Provinces and Territories: This patriotic park, located on Wellington Street near the Supreme Court of Canada and Library and Archives Canada, is decorated with the flower emblem and coat of arms of each of the 10 provinces and three territories. Filled with tulips in the spring, then annuals during the summer, you’ll also find two beautiful fountains representing the five Great Lakes and Canada’s vast forests.</p>
<p>Landmark Buildings</p>	<p>Rideau Hall</p> <p>Rideau Hall has been the residence of every one of Canada’s Governors General (the Queen’s representative in Canada). The current resident is David Johnston who was appointed as the 28th Governor General of Canada in 2010.</p> <p>Visitors can learn more about the history, roles, responsibilities and activities of the Governor General while exploring this beautiful residence and its grounds. In the winter, there’s an amazing outdoor skating rink. In the summer, take a picnic and watch a cricket game or stroll the rose garden. www.gg.ca</p>

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	<p>Laurier House National Historic Site of Canada Home of two Canadian prime ministers, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and William Lyon Mackenzie King, Laurier House provides an intimate glimpse into the lives of these great Canadians who governed Canada for the first half of the twentieth century. From artifacts to personal memorabilia, history comes alive in the splendour of this grand residence.</p>
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OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>From large shopping centres to exclusive local boutiques and unique souvenir stores, shopping in Ottawa is a favoured activity of visitors and residents alike. Downtown Ottawa shopping provides a host of shopping opportunities, from the 160-store Rideau Centre to the boutiques and craft shops of the ByWard Market and Sparks Street – the country's first and oldest pedestrian mall. West Ottawa includes great outdoor stores and a major shopping centre – Bayshore – while east Ottawa is home to two popular regional shopping centres – St. Laurent and Place d'Orleans.</p> <p>The Rideau Centre has been transformed recently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rideau Centre is in its last year of their \$360M redevelopment project. • The new Dining Hall opened last year and features 16 premium branded eateries including 2 new local concepts MLT DWN (gourmet grilled cheese) and Green Rebel (healthy sandwich/salads), 850 seats and reusable dishware. • The new centre interiors reflect a contemporary, urban aesthetic that highlights the retailers. <p>And there are some big names who have recently opened or are about to open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nordstrom opened a spectacular 2-level store on March 6, 2015. The store includes Bazille restaurant on the upper level which has a lovely outdoor patio that connects to Rideau Centre's rooftop terrace. • Tiffany & Co., Kate Spade and Saje Wellness, Stuart Weitzman and Tumi • The 4-level expansion will open in August 2016 and will feature Ottawa's first Simons as well as H&M, a new flagship Zara, Massimo Dutti, a restaurant and more. <p>The Lansdowne area has also been redeveloped with shopping, dining and entertainment options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first store to open was the The Lindt chocolate outlet – ideal for the Holidays! • Stores including Winners, Sporting Life, Whole Foods Market,

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	<p>LCBO, and the REDBLACKS/67's/Fury FC Team Store.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants include Milestones, Jack Astors, Joeys, Local, • Entertainment includes Cineplex Cinemas Lansdowne and VIP - a 10-screen, state-of-the-art theatre complex <p>The new Tanger Outlets Store in Ottawa's West End features 75 designer outlet stores including brands such as: Michael Kors, Calvin Klein, Coach, Adidas, Polo Ralph Lauren factory Store, Nine West Outlet, Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Town Shoes, Under Armour, Fossil, Banana Republic Factory Store and Levi's Outlet.</p>
<p>Markets</p>	<p>Ottawa includes more actively-farmed agricultural land within its limits than any city in Canada. Local produce and products can be bought at a number of farmers' markets in and near the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established in 1830, the Ottawa ByWard Market is the best known farmers' market in the city, with 200 vendors selling fresh local and imported products daily, the year 'round. - The Ottawa Parkdale Market on Parkdale Avenue at Wellington was established in 1927 and is open daily with 20 vendors from April through late December. - The Ottawa Farmers' Market at Lansdowne Park in the Glebe is open Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, depending on the time of the year. - The Main Farmers' Market at St. Paul's University on Main Street is open Saturdays from mid-May through the end of September. - The Ottawa Organic Farmers' Market is open Saturdays year 'round at the Canada Care Building, Bank Street at Heron Road. - The Metcalfe Farmers' Market is open Saturdays early-May through mid-October at the Metcalfe Agricultural Society Fairgrounds. - The North Gower Farmers' Market is open Saturdays from late-May through October on Roger Stevens Drive in North Gower. - The Stittsville Farmers' Market is open daily from early June through October at the Ottawa Waldorf School in Stittsville. - The Carp Farmers' Market is open Saturdays from mid-May through late-October at the Carp Fairgrounds.
<p>Nightlife</p>	<p>Ottawa by night? The question is how to choose. From quiet and intimate to busy and happening, there's something for everyone, with lots of options for evening entertainment.</p> <p>The heart of the action is the ByWard Market. You can sample fine dining at such trendy restaurants as the Empire Grill, have a drink at the Hard Rock Café, or enjoy the duelling pianos at Fat Tuesday's. There's also lots of action along Elgin Street, with its pubs and restaurants. And in Gatineau, explore the area around La Promenade du Portage—the live performances at Le Petit Chicago, or the Café aux 4 jeudis, with its outdoor cinema in the summer.</p> <p>Ottawa nightlife has something for everyone. The Casino du</p>

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	<p>Lac-Leamy has gambling, dinner and shows. If you're looking for young and edgy in the music scene, try Zaphod Beeblebrox in the ByWard Market or Barrymore's Music Hall on Bank Street. Or you might venture out to The Blacksheep Inn in nearby Wakefield, Québec, a self-described "juke joint divebar cabaret." If opera is what you're after, our local opera company, Opera Lyra, has a regular round of performances.</p> <p>The Capital's premier performing arts venue, the National Arts Centre, presents a full lineup of music, dance and theatre, plus popular touring acts and shows. Ottawa also has a thriving local theatre scene, including the Great Canadian Theatre Company, Ottawa Little Theatre, and the Gladstone. And there's always something new on the bill at Scotiabank Place.</p> <p>Bars, Clubs & Discos - Ottawa has an abundance of English and Irish pubs of varying degrees of authenticity. Check out the Brig, 23 York St., in the Byward Market area, and the Elephant and Castle, 50 Rideau Street.</p>
<p>The Casino du Lac-Leamy</p>	<p>The Casino du Lac-Leamy is under 5km from Parliament Hill and is open daily 11am to 3am. The Casino has just celebrated their 20th anniversary and is a major employer with 1400 employees and close to 3 million visitors on average each year.</p> <p>The Casino overlooks Lac Leamy, which is accessible by boat from the Ottawa River. Docking facilities are available. On-site is the Hilton Lac-Leamy hotel, which offers a selection of amenities sure to please the most discerning guest, including spa facilities, an indoor-outdoor swimming pool, beautiful views, a variety of dining and lounge options, and more. Both the exterior and the interior are dramatically landscaped with tropical plants, pools, and waterfalls.</p> <p>Poker, baccarat, blackjack, roulette, sic bo, keno, slot machines - the Casino du Lac-Leamy offers a full complement of exciting gaming experiences.</p> <p>The Casino features roughly 1700 slot machines – affordable, favourite classics, progressive jackpots including Powerbucks which just launched in December, jackpots of \$1 million or more, slot machines inspired by hit TV shows like Ironman and Game of Thrones. There are 60+ gaming tables including the Blackjack, roulette, Baccarat, Poker, Texas Hold'em Poker</p> <p>They've introduced low limit tables as well as learning tables where you can learn the strategy from the dealers.</p> <p>The Zone is a casino within a casino! The Zone brings together multimedia technology, an electronic gaming network and social interaction to create an outstanding entertainment experience in a</p>

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	<p>single location. 45 multi-game terminals allow players to alternate between table and slot machine games, without leaving their terminal</p> <p>The shows at the Casino are a “must see”. January 27 & 28 Forever Gentlemen with Garou, Roch Voisine and Corneille (brat pack tribute, like Vegas in the 50s). You can buy hotel packages with a night at the Hilton + breakfast at Arome and tickets.</p> <p>And the dining at the Casino is fabulous.... There are five or eight course tasting menus, four course Gourmet menu, Pre-show menu, and a three course \$49 dinner on show nights. The CAA-AAA has awarded their Five Diamond rating to Le Baccara yearly since 2001, one of only two restaurants in Québec with this ranking, passion and customer service. All complemented by a prize-winning cellar and our experienced sommelier who will happily create a customized wine palette to accompany each course.</p> <p>There are several other dining options, including Banco Bistro with its à la carte menu features a savoury variety of burgers, poutines, pizzas and bistro-inspired dishes. Evening buffets on weekends, Sunday brunch.</p> <p>Arome’s Sunday brunch, recently introduced aged beef that is aged up to 70 days onsite to produce tender pieces of beef that melt in your mouth, with slightly sweet notes and nutty aromas.</p> <p>2017 Recently renovated, the Casino has added a nightclub and a unique multimedia atmosphere throughout the gaming area. They’ve also introduced various themes throughout the year, which include slot machine launches, big wins, special drinks menus in their bars and restaurants and fun things like mechanical bull-riding last fall during their country theme. Cirque du Soleil inspired activities will take place 12 Jan to 9 February 2017, such as a Cirque du Soleil lounge with new Kooza inspired slot machines and virtual reality goggles that transport you into the Cirque’s world. www.casinosduquebec.com/lacleamy</p>
<p>Spas</p>	<p>Why not pamper yourself at the Spa? Ottawa has lots to offer.</p> <p>Nordik – Spa Nature This is the largest Scandinavian spa in North America - largest in terms of size (41 500 ft2 of interior space and more than 100,000 ft2 of outside space), but also the spa offers the most impressive variety of services in</p>

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relaxation, enjoyment and wellbeing. And it is an absolutely beautiful, relaxing facility.

Nordik Spa-Nature offers a new concept with more relaxation and unique facilities including three new saunas, a floating bath, an infinity pool and a European style Lounge with an outdoor terrace.

Nordik Spa-Nature is only the second spa in the world to offer its visitors an incomparable experience through Källa, a floating bath replicating the same advantages as the Dead Sea. Users will float on the water's surface and experience benefits that are highly praised by health and relaxation professionals. Its unique properties are due to its high concentration of magnesium and sulfate salts which allow the body to float, and which purify the body, and promote restful sleep, improve circulation, relax muscles, stimulate creativity and reduce stress.

Nordik Spa-Nature, 16 chemin Nordik, Chelsea Québec J9B 2P7

Toll Free: 1 866 575-3700 info@lenordik.ca

Website: <http://www.lenordik.com/en/welcome>

The luxurious **Holtz Spa** is right in the centre of the city. It offers total health and wellness with holistic treatments designed to create harmony of body, mind and spirit. The decor and ambiance provide a quiet sanctuary to relax and rejuvenate. Ancient healing therapies from the East meet contemporary services from the West where highly trained estheticians and body therapists use only the purest botanical products and innovative spa technology to guarantee the Holtz standard of excellence.

Holtz Spa, Front: 135 Rideau St. Back: 90 George St.

Toll Free: 1 877 241-8889

Web Site: www.holtzspa.com

The Au Naturel Spa

Experience the ultimate in wellness at one of the most unique spas in Ottawa. At Brookstreet's Au Naturel Spa, enter into a welcome sense of calm and be captivated by smell, sight, sound and touch, in an intimate environment of soft-spoken luxury and understated elegance. Relax and revitalize with a variety of therapies designed to meet the diverse needs of both men and women. Au Naturel Spa offers a range of innovative spa services including uniquely tailored massages, facials, body treatments, manicures and pedicures, as well as the restorative properties of water with Vichy and hydrofusion, which are intrinsic parts of the spa experience.

The Brookstreet Hotel Ottawa 525 Legget Drive, Ottawa, ON K2K 2W2

Toll free 888.826.2220

Website: <http://www.brookstreet.ca>

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CUISINE

The culinary scene in Ottawa has come alive in recent years, with a thriving community of Ottawa chefs and restaurants making names for themselves both at home and abroad.

Located in the historic Sandy Hill neighbourhood in downtown Ottawa, **Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa Culinary Arts Institute** has been a driving force behind this culinary resurgence. It is the only Canadian campus of this world renowned culinary training school – and includes Signatures Restaurant where anyone can sample the delights of exceptional French cuisine.

Signatures Restaurant has a tasty, locally inspired, menu with French flare - bringing you unique culinary creations by Chef Yannick that you won't find anywhere else in Ottawa! A meal at Signatures Restaurant is a great gastronomic experience, enhanced by its setting in an historic building – what a great venue to host private groups for special occasions!

Ottawa Magazine best new restaurants in 2016 include: Bar Laurel, Carden Food + Drink, Datsun, Fairouz, North & Navy, The Pomeroy House, Riviera, The Rowan, Sansotei Ramen and Walesbone Elgin. [Click here](#) for restaurant suggestions covering a number of Ottawa's lively neighbourhoods.

As well as Ottawa's restaurants – here are two rather different ways to enjoy the foodie scene in Ottawa. Both of these activities can be booked at weekends so you can plan them as part of a short break in the Capital.

C'est Bon Gourmet Food Tours allow you to explore Ottawa's neighbourhood food markets, discover local produce and dishes, and meet area chefs and food artisans. Find the hidden treasures with the help of expert and insightful guides. Current tours explore Ottawa's ByWard Market, Preston Street, Chinatown, Wellington West and the Glebe neighbourhoods, as well as Eddy Street in old Gatineau. These delightful epicurean outings last an hour and a half to two and a half hours each. They're casual walking tours, so be sure to dress comfortably and allow for the weather.

Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa Culinary Arts Institute offers short cooking courses to the public ranging from half day to four days in length. Some are offered at the weekend – so this is something that a visitor to Ottawa could easily fit in as part of their stay. Though the courses are taught by the same teachers who educate the budding chefs at the Le Cordon

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	<p>Bleu Ottawa Culinary Arts Institute - everyday cooks should not be intimidated. These really are courses for everyone. Course topics include Cake Decorating, Healthy Cuisine, Knife Skills, Potatoes and Oh Chocolat amongst many others.</p>
<p>Food</p>	<p>Beavertails Pastry This delicious, fresh, hot pastry treat is shaped like the water-slapping end of a beaver. These wildly delicious pastry treats were first introduced to Ottawa in 1978 and can be sampled at the first permanent BeaverTails store in Ottawa's historic ByWard Market neighbourhood.</p> <p>Obama Cookies Since US President Obama's visit in 2009, these maple leaf shaped cookies have been a roaring success! Try some at the ByWard Market.</p>
<p>Restaurants</p>	<p>Restaurants in Ottawa are intimately related to the neighbourhoods of the city. One of the best ways to experience Ottawa is by visiting its many distinctive neighbourhoods. And it couldn't be easier. Whether you're on foot or riding a bicycle — taking in Ottawa's scenic urban surrounds that include gorgeous views of the Rideau Canal — on public transit, or in your car, you're always minutes from one of Ottawa's vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods, with each offering a new experience.</p> <p>The food and shopping woven into the historic ByWard Market district or Downtown Rideau is very different from that of Chinatown (Somerset Street West), Bank Street, Somerset Village and Preston Street/Little Italy; the vibe and atmosphere of Sparks Street, and Wellington West and Westboro Village all differ greatly from Beechwood Village, the Glebe and Quartier Vanier. Discover the unique ambiance of each.</p> <p>ByWard Market: Established by Lt-Col. John By in 1826, the ByWard Market is one of Canada's oldest and largest public markets. Within an area roughly four square blocks, you'll find museums, cafés, specialty food shops, boutiques, galleries, restaurants, pubs and more!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E18hteen (newest transformation), 'Cutting edge' French-based cuisine, 2014 CAA Four Diamond Award Recipient • SIDEDOOR Contemporary Kitchen and Bar (International/Asian cuisine) <p>Elgin Street: Elgin Street is a great nightlife area with million-dollar views of the National War Memorial, Fairmont Château Laurier, National Arts Centre and more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beckta Dining & Wine - International Cuisine - Owner: Stephen Beckta • El Camino - Tacos, Tequila, Rawbar

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oz Café - Asian shared plated with a twist of Mexican <p>Wellington West/Westboro: Home to some of the city's most highly ranked restaurants, the Wellington Village/Hintonburg area west of downtown offers a funky blend of dining, unique shopping and theatre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply and Demand - Seafood and pasta • The Elmsdale Oyster House & Tavern - Seafood, sustainably sourced • Absinthe - Contemporary comfort food (and fondue Mondays!) • Allium (Tapas, French cuisine) • Gezellig: 337 Richmond Rd. - Global cuisine <p>Preston Street (Little Italy): Ottawa's Corso Italia offers popular restaurants and specialty stores, and is located between Carling Avenue at Dow's Lake and LeBreton Flats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Cat Bistro - International cuisine • Salt (International cuisine)
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MORE INFO	
Brochures	Visitor Guide online at https://www.joomag.com/magazine/ottawa-tourism-visitor-guide-ottawa-visitors-guide-2016-2017/0998649001462462600?short
Connect	Telephone: 1 (800) 363-4465. Website: www.ottawatourism.ca Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/visitottawa Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/visitottawa Twitter: https://twitter.com/Ottawa_Tourism

CURRENT DEALS January 2017	<p>Of course Ottawa is an easy getaway from both Toronto and Montreal. It's not far by car - and VIA Rail is a great option as well. Plus Air Canada, WestJet and Porter Airlines have frequent service to Ottawa from Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. To plan a trip to Ottawa visit www.OttawaTourism.ca or phone 1-888-OTTAWA-8 for some great short break ideas. All the available packages offer discounted rates on attraction admissions, passes and tickets, so not only are they easy to book – they represent great value.</p> <p>You can create your own Ottawa Getaway thanks to the flexible packages at Ottawa Tourism's website. Get great deals and a wide range of hotel choices as you create your own escape to Ottawa.</p>
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Plus you can book a whole range of attraction admission tickets right on the website. Book in advance for museum entrance, spas like Holtz Spa and Le Nordik-Spa Nature, sports such as Ottawa REDBLACKS CFL tickets and culinary delights such as a meal at Signatures Restaurant at Le Cordon Bleu and C'est Bon Epicurean Adventures gourmet walking tours.

You can create your own Ottawa Getaway thanks to Ottawa Tourism's upgraded website that brings you an enhanced ability to book flexible packages online. Get great deals and a wide range of hotel choices as you create your own escape to Ottawa. As at **January 2017** there are eight different packages to suit your needs:

1. Winterlude Family Fun

Festive family fun is what Winterlude's all about! During this annual event you can skate on the world's largest skating rink – the Rideau Canal, check out the ice sculpture competitions at Crystal Garden (Confederation Park) or play at Snowflake Kingdom, North America's largest snow playground! There are fun activities for the entire family, and all sites are open on Family Day.

This package includes all of these free activities plus your accommodations, family admission to one of our world-class cultural institutions, such as the Children's Museum at the Canadian Museum of History (formerly the Canadian Museum of Civilization), as well as shopping discounts at the Rideau Centre.

2. Winterlude Amour

Winter weekends in February are filled with excitement and romance as the Capital celebrates Winterlude. Admire the beauty of ice sculptures at night when colourful lighting brings them to life. Lace up your skates and glide through Ottawa on the world's largest rink, the Rideau Canal Skateway. Then warm up inside one of our many national museums followed by a romantic dinner at Signatures Restaurant at Le Cordon Bleu with a tasty locally inspired menu with French flare. Or pamper yourself and get cozy at one of our fantastic spas. There are so many ways to enjoy the winter together!

3. Get to Know Your Canada

Every country has a city where its stories are told...This is Canada's. If you're new to Canada or simply in need of a pleasant refresher course on our great country, this two-night Ottawa getaway package is the perfect choice. Immerse yourself in Canadian history, culture and achievement at national museums and galleries. Fill with pride as you tour the Capital's famous national sites and landmark attractions. And

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join in the celebration at seasonal festivals and national events the year round. It's all about getting to know your Canada – and doing it all in one quintessentially Canadian place! This package includes: Hotel accommodation for your dates of stay; a Certificate to receive Rideau Centre Savings Directory; and admission to one of the museums.

4. Family Discovery

All family members are sure to discover something new and exciting about the Capital, the country and the world beyond with the affordable Family Discovery 2-night getaway. What better way to reconnect than sharing, learning and exploring together? This package features family admission to some of the Capital's best museums and galleries, or hands-on experiences at our most popular attractions. And there are always lots of new shops to discover at Rideau Centre and in the ByWard Market area!

5. Casino Du Lac-Leamy Getaway

Visit Canada's Capital Region and be enthralled with entertainment at its best. Surrounded by fountains and lakes, the Casino du Lac-Leamy in Gatineau features more than 1800 slot machines and 64 gaming tables in a smoke-free environment. During your visit, enroll in the Casino du Lac-Leamy free Casino Privileges rewards Program and receive 1500 bonus points. A fabulous location, stunning architecture and a whole new world of excitement. Includes 2 nights' accommodation for 2 people, \$50 in Casino Chips, 2 for the price of 1 buffet at the Banco Restaurant and free entrance to one of the major museums in Ottawa. See www.casinosduquebec.com/lacleamy

6. Rendez-Vous for Two

Sneak away to the Capital with that special someone for a getaway to remember. Stroll along the Rideau Canal. Visit one of the city's great cultural attractions, take a unique tour of the nation's capital, or take in a show at the National Arts Centre. For a touch of luxury, top it all off with a 5-diamond dinner at Le Cordon Bleus Signatures Restaurant. Here's your chance to get away from the ordinary and plan a romantic escape for two in Ottawa.

7. Taste of Canada

Looking for an escape with a distinctly Canadian flavour? Then come sample some of the best of Canada with this two-night getaway package in the Capital. If you're into the great Canadian outdoors, just step outside your Ottawa hotel and go – from skating and skiing in winter to great golf, cycling, running, hiking, and water sports in summer. If your tastes tend more toward arts and culture, Ottawa's

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	<p>got you covered with the country’s biggest lineup of national museums, galleries and performing arts. And if what you’re really looking forward to is a taste of Canadian culinary excellence, Ottawa’s community of renowned chefs will be only too happy to oblige. This package includes hotel accommodation; certificate to receive Rideau Centre Savings Directory and Le Cordon Bleu Bistro @ Signatures - Dinner for Two; a gift from Le Cordon Bleu is also included (available Thurs to Sat).</p> <p>8. Shop, Dine & Unwind</p> <p>Come immerse yourself in arts and culture at our fantastic national museums, tour historic sites, and shop, dine & unwind in unique districts and neighbourhoods across the city. Ottawa is home to three culinary schools, including Le Cordon Bleu. The schools have turned out countless talented local chefs who have gone on to open exquisite restaurants around the capital – like C’est Bon Epicurean Adventures – who offer delightful epicurean outings in the various neighbourhoods across the Capital. This package includes hotel accommodation for your dates of stay (minimum 2 nights) Certificate to receive a Rideau Centre Savings Directory.</p>
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<p>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</p>	<p>Here are some of the many highlights of my own trips to Ottawa:</p> <p>Canadian History Museum - An architectural masterpiece, Canada's largest and most visited museum offers you a thousand years of Canadian history, the world's largest indoor collection of totem poles and the magnificent First Peoples Hall.</p> <p>Canadian War Museum - A stunning must-see attraction opened in 2005. This new world-class museum presents exhibits on military history and reveals how the nation's involvement in conflict and peacekeeping has shaped the country.</p> <p>Canadian Museum of Nature - Canada's foremost natural history museum offers comprehensive exhibits about the natural world, from grizzly bears to gems, from insects to dinosaurs.</p> <p>Canadian Aviation Museum - Canada's rich aviation heritage is revealed through exhibits of vintage aircraft from the museum's permanent collection. Interactive activities, films, demonstrations, and guided tours offer visitors a chance to explore the story of flight.</p> <p>Haunted Walks Inc - Evening and daytime tours reveal Ottawa's darker past and include visits with ghosts, graveyards, hangings, and haunts. Private group tours available. Various tours available 7 days a week. 90 minute tour (I went on the Ghosts and the Gallows tour)</p> <p>The Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum - This vestige of Cold War history is a unique reminder of Ottawa’s position in global politics.</p>
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	<p>www.diefenbunker.ca Byward Market – fun to visit at any time of the year Amphibus Lady Dive – the best of land and water! National Gallery of Canada – always stunning Changing the Guard Ceremony @ 10.00 on Parliament Hill Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Institute and Signatures Restaurant Casino du Lac Leamy and its restaurants Arome and Le Baccara Scotia Bank Place for a Senators hockey game Zak’s Diner – in Byward Market Some of the hotels that I have enjoyed staying at include: The Westin Ottawa Hotel, Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Indigo Hotel.</p>
<p>Travel Show Magic Moments in Ottawa</p>	<p>I often include a specific a-ha moment from my trips to the destinations we feature on the show. Here are a few Travel Show Magic Moments from my past visits to Ottawa:</p> <p><i>“It was one of those Ottawa November mornings with a fresh breeze blowing and a hint of winter’s chill in the air...but when I passed through the doors of the Holtz Spa in downtown Ottawa opposite the Rideau Centre, the warm scented air of its relaxed atmosphere immediately enfolded me like a warm blanket. The stress and tension of the day fell away and I felt as though I had slid gently into an alternative universe of calm and tranquility. And this was before my spa treatment! My classical Thai massage took me further into my own universe of gentle massage, aromatherapy and natural sounds. Afterwards, I was brought slowly back to reality by the light and delicious fare at Santé, the healthy eating restaurant on-site at the spa. Now my mind was clear and I was ready for all the cultural attractions of our Nation’s Capital that were all just a few minutes’ walk away from this lovely spa...”</i></p> <p><i>“Among the kaleidoscope of tulips and the many other spring festivals in Ottawa, there is one dear to my heart – and that is the Ottawa Race Weekend. This is the largest multi-day running event in Canada and attracts over forty thousand participants over a weekend in May each year. A few years ago I ran the Ottawa Marathon as part of this event. We started off on a beautiful spring morning from one of the many downtown parks in the city and ran past the throngs of cheering supporters through the streets of Ottawa and over the Chaudiere Bridge into Gatineau on the other side of the Ottawa River. I was trying to qualify for the Boston Marathon, so I was pushing myself hard as we turned south past the Museum of Civilisation (now the Museum of History) and onto the Alexandra Bridge over the Ottawa River. And that is where I had my Magic Moment. Half way across the bridge, I looked up to my right and there, illuminated in the spring sunshine like</i></p>

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	<p><i>an ethereal palace from a children’s fairy tale, was Parliament Hill in all its very Canadian glory. I stopped dead in my tracks. Literally. In the middle of my race. A small group of other runners also stopped beside me. And one by one, we panted: “Wow”! And then we got going again, but with that image to spur me on, I managed to cross the line just inside my qualifying time. And now on every visit to Ottawa I try to return to that breath-taking vantage point.”</i></p> <p><i>“It’s high summer in Ottawa and I am broadcasting an on-location Travel Show from the most beautiful patio in Ottawa! The broadcast equipment is piled on a table at La Terrasse, the open air window on Ottawa at the capital’s iconic hotel, Fairmont Chateau Laurier. As we come to a break in the show, a glass of chilled white wine appears beside me and I feel a gentle breeze coming off the Ottawa River, tempering the summertime heat. The view from the Terrasse epitomizes Ottawa: immediately below me is the Rideau Canal with its locks allowing entry to the Ottawa River. On the other side, a classic view of Parliament Hill, brightly illuminated in the sunshine under a cloudless sky. I am so much at one with the moment that I almost miss my cue back into the broadcast...”</i></p> <p><i>“I am standing on a balcony overlooking a vast hangar full of flying machines. Stephen Quick, the Director of the Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa is guiding me around this collection of more than 130 aircraft and artifacts - such as propellers and engines - from right across the military and civilian worlds. The Museum aims to engage visitors with the wonder of flight through this spectacular collection and its educational programming – and I am suitably engaged! It’s the most extensive aviation collection in Canada and one of the finest in the world. My father was in the Royal Air Force for five years during the Second World War, so I am particularly drawn to this section of the museum. However, when I fly the museum’s simulator and try to land my plane, I end up in the nearby woods rather than the runway, so I clearly have not inherited his flight talents!”</i></p>
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<p>WINTERLUDE 2017 and other Winter Activities in Ottawa</p>	<p>There’s always something going on in Ottawa, no matter what time you visit. You can always check out the events calendar at www.ottawatourism.ca for up to date information.</p> <p>Ottawa sparkles in the wintertime and the major event in the city is the Winterlude Festival that runs February 3 - 20, 2017. There are also many activities in Ottawa timed to coincide with the festival.</p>
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Events coming up in the early part of 2017 include:

National Arts Centre

The Colony of Unrequited Dreams (January 25- February 11, 2017)

At the National Arts Centre you can see “The Colony of Unrequited Dreams”, which is an NAC English Theatre collaboration. This is based on Wayne Johnston’s novel about the life of Joey Smallwood – premier of Newfoundland and Labrador and the self-described “Last Father of Confederation”.

Canadian Tire National Skating Championships (January 16 to 22, 2017)

Skaters compete in the men’s, women’s, pairs, and ice dance disciplines in three levels: senior, junior, and novice. The very first Canadian Skating Championships were held in 1914 in Ottawa.

Nature Nocturne: Lunar New Year (January 27, 2017)

Dance until midnight while DJs fill the castle with awesome sound. Meet artists throughout the galleries. Discover four floors of world-class museum exhibitions

Alterna Savings Crackup Comedy Festival (February 4 to 18, 2017)

Attracting top comedic talent from across North America, the 2017 festival has more record-breaking attempts, more family events, more shows and WAY MORE LAUGHS to raise more money for mental health.

Winterlude (February 3 to 20, 2017)

A unique winter festival featuring snow and ice sculpture competitions, snow playgrounds, and skating and sporting events. Winterlude transforms Ottawa into a winter wonderland.

Winterlude Triathlon (February 4, 2017)

Hundreds of winter enthusiasts skate for 8 km, cross-country ski for 8 km and run for 5 km.

Gatineau Winter Beerfest (February 3 to 4, 2017)

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Discover artisan and local brewers inside the museum's Grand Hall and outdoors, among friends and family.

TD Ottawa Winter Jazz Festival (February 9 to 12, 2017)

Offering up a little southern comfort on those chilly February nights, the TD Ottawa Winter Jazz Festival will be hitting up venues around the city.

Accora Villa Bed Race (February 11, 2017)

Fifty teams of 4 runners and one rider compete with modified and decorated beds for honours and prizes as the fastest bed, the best decorated bed and the best fundraisers

Canadian Ski Marathon (February 10 to 11, 2017)

The world's longest cross-country ski tour, covering 160 km of ski trails, caters to about 2,500 skiers annually. Ski as little as 12 km or the whole 160 km; you set the pace.

Gatineau Loppet (February 17 to 19, 2017)

Join Canada's biggest cross-country ski event in Gatineau Park: more than 3,000 skiers—experts and amateurs, coming from 20 different countries—will take part.

Skiing and Snowshoeing in Ottawa

There are a number of options for you to enjoy winter outdoors on your own schedule. At any time during the winter you can enjoy Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing in Gatineau Park.

Parc Oméga, located just north of Montebello (approximately 1 hour drive from Ottawa), is also a chance to really enjoy nature. It offers a 17-km car trail through the park that will allow you to see a variety of animals such as moose, elks, deer, bears, raccoons, bison, wapiti, wild goats and wolves in their natural habitat. There are several walking trails and in the winter months you can also rent snowshoes.

The Rideau Canal, of course, is the largest outdoor skating rink in the world and a UNESCO world heritage site.

Outdoor skating abounds in Ottawa! On February 18, 2017 the city will celebrate "Hockey Day in Ottawa". People of all ages, abilities, and

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	<p>skill levels can take to the city’s 250+ outdoor rinks for an afternoon of pick-up hockey, skating, community and physical fitness. The historic rink at beautiful Rideau Hall was established in 1872. It is open January 4 to March 12, 2017. Rideau Hall is the Governor General of Canada’s residence, located on Sussex Drive.</p> <p>The Sens Rinks Of Dreams is located in front of Ottawa City Hall on Laurier Avenue in Ottawa’s downtown core. Great at any time of day, it is at its most magical after dark when it is lit up with multi-colored LED lights. Due to its refrigerated surface, the rink offers a longer skating season that stretches roughly from mid-November to mid-March. Heated changing facilities are available.</p> <p>Lansdowne Park Skating Court is located in the newly renovated Lansdowne Park, just south of Ottawa’s downtown core. Like the Sens Rink of Dreams, Lansdowne’s Skating Court offers a longer skating season that stretches from roughly mid-November to mid-March. Free open skating sessions are available daily, or you can learn how to skate through one of its skating programs.</p>
<p>Rideau Canal Skateway 2017</p>	<p>This winter kicks off the 47th skating season of the Rideau Canal Skateway. Throughout the years, people of all ages have enjoyed the Rideau Canal Skateway — on sled, on foot, and of course, on skates! In winter, this historic navigable waterway becomes the world's largest skating rink and a magical 7.8-kilometre skateway of ice, in the very heart of Canada’s Capital. During Winterlude, the Rideau Canal Skateway is the site of the Winterlude Triathlon, the Bedzzz Annual Bed Race, skating demonstrations, workshops and much more. There are all sorts of exciting events that take place on the Rideau Canal Skateway too:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIBC Skate for the cure • Alcatel-Lucent Saturday Skate Days • Special performances at the OLG Sno-Bus Station • Giant Tiger Interactive Hockey Zone • Library and Archives Canada presents “Let Them Howl: Images From 100 Years in the Women’s Rights Struggle” <p>For current ice conditions on the canal, go to this update: http://www.canadacapital.gc.ca/places-to-visit/rideau-canal-skateway/ice-conditions</p>
<p>Crystal Garden at Confederation Park 2017</p>	<p>The Crystal Garden, in Confederation Park is the venue for Winterlude Kick-off Celebration and where you will find a fusion of art and ice, live ice carving competitions and demonstrations, located at the head of the Rideau Canal Skateway. Right in the heart of the Capital and close to many downtown hotels:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th Crystal Garden International Ice-Carving Competition • Come admire dazzling masterpieces in this enchanted garden and witness a fusion of art, ice and light...ice carvers from around the world turn blocks of ice into stunning works of art. At night, special lighting turns ice-carving masterpieces into a breathtaking and mystical sight. Renowned Canadian artists will energize your Friday and Saturday evenings as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.
Snowflake Kingdom at Gatineau's Jacques Cartier Park 2016	<p>Snowflake Kingdom in Jacques-Cartier Park transforms into North America's biggest snow playground with giant snow slides, winter sports and games, and no shortage of outdoor fun - so pack your snow pants! The Xtreme zone features a zip line, mini zip line, pedal go-carts on snow and a giant maze. At night you can enjoy an illuminated sliding experience to the rhythm of youth DJs.</p> <p>The Ice Hog family, beloved mascots of Winterlude, can also be found at the Snowflake Kingdom. The Ice Hog family lives here at Jacques-Cartier Park while visiting Canada's Capital Region each February. They love to play and give out hugs, and are happy to pose for pictures.</p>
Winterlude Websites	<p>To find out more about all these great Winterlude events visit www.Winterlude.gc.ca Twitter: https://twitter.com/capital_exp</p>

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