



Advice for families and bargain hunters. Kevin & Trudie Show. Tuesday 12 March, 2009

Closer to home destinations - Ontario and Quebec

VIA RAIL

VIA Rail have great offers at the moment. Check out www.viarail.ca for full details – here are a few examples.

- Kids under 11 years old travel free in Comfort Class with a paying adult June – September.
- Kids fare is 50% off if you have to buy a ticket.
- To give an idea of fares at the moment, here are a range of Adult Fares in comfort class, one way from Montreal, before taxes:
 - Toronto \$69
 - Ottawa \$69
 - Quebec City \$48
 - Kingston \$55
- And if the Grandparents are coming with the family – if you are 60+, receive a free ticket for your travelling companion when you purchase a Comfort class (economy) ticket for yourself. Offer valid until June, when a new seniors' offer will be launched.

Fort Henry

- Visit www.FortHenry.com for more information. 2 adults and 2 kids 3- 12yrs admission is \$39.50 for a whole day of fun history and exciting, interactive events - artillery demonstrations, Children's Military Muster Parades, eighteen sixties schoolroom lessons and more!
- You can also add on Dramatic Sunset Ceremonies, Wednesdays in July and August. . Pre show - enjoy an historic dinner, served by soldier servants, or an open air BBQ. Or enjoy a ghost tour.
- St Lawrence Parks Commission (runs Upper Canada Village, Fort Henry, Upper Canada Golf Course, Chrysler Park Marina, and numerous campgrounds along the St Lawrence) have the "Gimme 5 promotion June 1 – Aug 31"
- "Gimme 5 Value vacation Card – spend \$5 and get up to \$50 in savings with \$5 off 10 different St Lawrence Parks Commissions experiences, including Fort Henry admission and Sunset Ceremonies.

Ottawa

- Visit www.OttawaTourism.ca for great value packages. These have ideas for all sorts of great short breaks – Spa packages for a girls' weekend or the new Casino package for example.
- Right now if you book 2 nights hotel accommodation you can get the third night ½ price with many participating Ottawa hotels.
- The 2 night Family discovery package is from just \$294 (4 people, 2 adults 2 kids sharing a room). This includes hotel accommodation for the two nights plus 2 attractions from a great list that the kids would love – including the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield steam train, the Canadian Aviation museum or the Canada Science and Technology Museum.



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- Ottawa, like many cities, has great free activities. Many of the museums will have 1 hour during the day or the week when they are free. A tour of the Parliament buildings is free, as is the Sound and Light show on Parliament Hill, a tour of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Currency Museum at the Bank of Canada and Library and Archives Canada. And admission to the RCMP musical ride June 26 – 30 is free as well.

- Not only is Ottawa a great family and kids destination, Ottawa is a vibrant urban city at the edge of nature. There are 165 km of trails in nearby Gatineau Park. You can White Water Raft on the Ottawa River (1.5hrs from Ottawa).

- And there are great exhibitions on over the summer eg “From Raphael to Carracci: The Art of Papal Rome” at the National Gallery of Canada. www.gallery.ca/

- And don't forget the Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest July 9-18, 2009. www.ottawabluesfest.ca

Quebec City

- The website www.TravelForKids.com has chosen Quebec City as one of its Canadian “best bets” for family vacation destinations in 2009.

- Immerse themselves in a French-speaking culture without the language barrier since English is widely spoken.

- Quebec City is home to beautiful well-preserved old city walls, fortress-like gates, ramparts, turrets and cannons all set within a vibrant cosmopolitan city.

- The city has lots of fun things to do in store for families whether it's climbing on the cannons at Parc Montmorency, dressing up in period clothing at the Place-Royale, riding the ferry across the St. Lawrence River, ice skating outdoors, running through Battlefields Park or eating dinner in the oldest building in Quebec City after a horse carriage ride.

Tremblant Region

- If you want to get outdoors this summer the Tremblant Region has some great accommodation offers. Check out www.tourismmonttremblant.ca

- Tremblant Elysium has a summer sale right now on all their accommodations. Check out www.tremblantelysium.com for these beautifully located and well appointed vacation homes, all with private hot tubs and many luxurious features – plus value added like free Internet and long distance calling in Canada and the US, guaranteed early check-in and late check-out, and concierge service.

- Simply book now and get 35 % off plus free unlimited access to the beach club. No blackouts. Offer valid for stays until October 31, 2009

- To give you an idea, a 4 bedroom Elysium @ panache home in July (peak) works out to \$ 519 per night. That is \$ 51 per person for a family of 10.

- Tourisme Tremblant (www.tourismmonttremblant.ca) offer an Activities Card for 3 or 5 activities in the Mont-Tremblant Region, which saves you 15% on the cost of the Activities Card. Visit www.tourismmonttremblant.ca for more details.



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- The card costs, for example, \$36-18 for an adult and \$85-68 for a family of two adults and two kids for the 3 activities card.

- The card gives you access for the day to the panoramic gondola, plus a choice from a whole list of activities from the Alpine Luge Ride to 10 mins on the climbing tower to Canoe or Bike rentals/

Sepaq National Parks

- Sepaq manages a network of twenty two national parks, sixteen wildlife reserves and nine tourist resorts – a total of eighty thousand square kilometers of the Province of Quebec’s most beautiful landscapes, preserved areas and outdoor playgrounds. Visit www.sepaq.com

- These are a haven for outdoor activities from hiking, biking and canoeing to the exciting Via Ferata - a unique experience, it’s a safe, accessible climbing route marked out on a rocky cliff at Parc national du Mont-Tremblant.

- Sepaq provide a range of accommodations across the Parks, and camping is a fun and economical vacation option for families. For campers who like a little bit more comfort Sepaq’s “ready-to-camp” Huttopia tents have been added to their range of popular tent trailers in fourteen of the national parks. The Huttopia tents are equipped for comfortable stays in the heart of nature. They have a wooden platform, canvas walls and roof, two bedrooms, and a living room fully furnished with camping style furniture.

- Some of the parks offer similarly prepared Yurts – based on the original Mongolian tent. When Marco Polo made his journeys in the late 1200’s he described these circular tent like structures! 5 nights in June in a yurt in Parc national du Mont-Tremblant costs around \$649 including taxes.

Toronto and the Niagara Region

Anderson Vacations

- Anderson Vacations is a specialist in One-stop Canada Travel Solution. For more information visit www.canadatravelsolution.com. They offer a range of tours right across Canada – here are a couple of ideas priced at less than \$1000 in the Toronto/Niagara Region.

Family Fun Getaway to Toronto

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 2 nights of accommodation at the Delta Chelsea Hotel
- CN Tower Elevation Pass with Lunch at the 360 Restaurant
- Hop on & Hop off City Tour of Toronto
- Entrance to Casa Loma
- Package starting from \$795 for a family of 2 Adults & 2 Children (12 years and under), plus GST

Explore Niagara Falls

4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 3 nights of accommodation at the Old Stone Inn, Niagara Falls
- Journey Behind the Falls Film
- White Water Walk
- Maid of Mist Boat Ride



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- People Mover Shuttle Bus
- Whirlpool Jetboat Tour
- Package starting from \$895 for a family of 2 Adults & 2 Children (12 years and under), plus GST (Saturday night surcharges applies)

Delta Chelsea Hotel Toronto

A great hotel right in the heart of Toronto, The Delta Chelsea is set up right to be "family friendly":

- Free accommodation for children 17 and under when staying with a parent or guardian
- "Eat for free" from Delta's special children's menu for children 6 and under
- "Eat for half price" from Delta's regular menu or at list price from Delta's special children's menu for children ages 7 to 12
- Chelsea Beach is a spectacular addition to the Delta Chelsea! Toronto Island Park- also known as "Centre Island" has often been regarded as a best kept secret in the city. The Delta Chelsea now offers its guests a welcoming, safe spot on the beach and to explore the island by bike, rent boats or to visit Centreville Amusement Park. With roundtrip transportation (coach then boat) from the hotel, it's an offer a family can't pass up!

The Delta Chelsea Hotel Family Package includes:

- "Camp Chelsea" - an exciting line-up of fully supervised activities - including poolside fun at the four-storey indoor waterslide the 'Corkscrew.'
 - One-night's accommodation
 - Complimentary parking
 - \$25 daily food credit
 - Camp Chelsea children's activities
 - The Family Fun Package rate is from \$184.00 per night for the months of June, July and August - through until Labour Day weekend.
- www.Expedia.ca are offering Toronto - 4 nights (hotel and car) for \$190 avg per person based on 2 adults, 2 children and a June 22, 2009 check in/pick up. Stay at the Westin Harbour Castle – 4 stars and Economy Car.

Stratford Ontario

Few places in Ontario are lovelier or more alive with culture and character than the civilized city of Stratford. And Stratford is internationally famous for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Discover the perfect getaway at great prices in May and June. For complete details and booking information visit www.SensuousStratford.com

- Spring specials in hotels, inns and B&Bs starting from \$99 a night.
- Stratford's celebrated chefs offer exclusive spring menus starting at \$15 for lunch and \$30 for dinner. - - Sensational 2009 Stratford Shakespeare Festival musicals and plays at special preview prices – 3 plays for only \$199.



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Closer to home destinations – New Brunswick

With Natural Wonders and a vibrant Acadian culture, plus the warmest salt water beaches north of Virginia, New Brunswick is a great family destination this summer. For more information check out

www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca

Moncton

- Stay at the Ramada Plaza, Crystal Palace, Moncton www.crystalpalacehotel.com There's an indoor amusement park here as well as movie theatres. It's also a quick connection to highway 15 that leads to Shediac and the popular Parlee Beach.

- Also in Moncton there's the Magnetic Hill Zoo and the Magic Mountain Water Theme Park and a miniature golf course and across the road. There's a butterfly emporium and a little entertainment area where the kids can feed the ducks, play games, etc.

- You're not far from Fundy National Park which offer many hiking trails in all ranges of difficulty and Hopewell Rocks. Families can walk on the ocean surface and then six hours later they can rent a kayak or go to an observation deck and see how the waters have risen to four storey's high. There's an interpretive centre there explain why this natural phenomena happens twice a day. There are also caving adventures in this area.

- TreeGo (Mactaquac Provincial Park or Moncton) These two tree-top obstacle courses in New Brunswick are made up of zip lines, tightropes, Tarzan ropes and floating catwalks. Treego Moncton, which has been open since last fall, is a favourite amongst many outdoor enthusiasts, young and old alike. For more information on rates and hours of operation call 1-506-388-4646.

Acadian Coast

- Stay at the Super 8 Motel, Caraquet – check out www.super8caraquet.com . It's a great place overlooking the Bay of Chaleur. They have an indoor swimming pool and are in the heart of Acadia.

- It's not far from Shippagan where Village Historique Acadien is located (depicts Acadian life between 1770 and 1939) Also in Shippagan there is an Ecological Park www.eco-parc.com and there this the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre located in Shippagan. www.gnb.ca/aquarium Every day at 11am seals do a small performance and it's feeding time!

St Andrews By-The-Sea

- Stay at the Fairmont Algonquin, St. Andrews By-the-Sea – www.fairmont.com/algonquin . Families can really enjoy the beauty of this small coastal community.

- While in St. Andrews there are a number of different whale watching expeditions. There's also the Huntsman Marine Science Centre Aquarium/Sealab www.huntsmanmarine.ca You can also skip up the highway to St. Stephen which a great place for children (and chocolate-lovers alike). St. Stephen is home to the Ganong Chocolatier www.ganong.com and the Chocolate Museum www.chocolatemuseum.ca both of these are located in downtown St. Stephen offering you a chance to view candy making, interactive computer games... and there are samples!

- Close by St Andrews take a ferry ride to Grand Manan Island from Black's Harbour. During the ferry ride (www.coastaltransport.ca or www.grandmanannb.com for tourism information) there's an opportunity to see



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whales. But once on Grand Manan, how you choose to view the whales is up to you. You can visit Swallowtail Lighthouse where people have been known to see whales right from the shoreline. There's Sea Watch Tours (which also offers Puffin tours) www.seawatchtours.com or Whales-N-Sails Adventure www.whales-n-sails.com and you can also go kayaking or biking. Plus Grand Manan has three sandy beaches were are great areas for building sand castles and to visit them is absolutely free!

Fredericton

- Stay at the Crowne Plaza Fredericton Lord Beaverbrook www.cpfredericton.com 1-866-444-1946 located two blocks from Science East www.scienceeast.nb.ca , which is great for kids.

- There's lots to do in Fredericton and immediate surround area... like Kingswood Park is a golf course but it's also an entertainment centre offering bowling, climbing structure, laser tag, food court.

- Kings Landing Historical Settlement in Prince William (15-20 minutes west of Fredericton www.kingslanding.nb.ca) and depicts the one hundred year transformation of a young colony into a vibrant nation. Learn first-hand how ordinary people lived and worked in the 19th century. You will find over 70 historic buildings, complete with artifacts, furniture, tools and equipment. It's an epic story that's more than just history, it's history, well told.

Saint John

- Saint John is home to the Reversing Falls where you can experience the incredible rapids on a thrilling boat ride that will leave you soaked and mesmerized. You can go for a harbour boat tour for a more relaxing experience. Visit Reversing Falls Jet Boat Ride www.jetboatrides.com

- Also in the downtown core you can visit the New Brunswick Museum and the delightful Old City market. The Irving Nature Park is a haven for wildlife with trails and a boardwalk to allow you to explore the unique ecosystem of Las Dune de Bouctouche ... plus it's free! Visit www.ifdn.com/inp/index.htm Contact park manager, Kelly Honeyman, or his staff, to book a tour, 506-632-7777

- Saint John is not far from the Fundy Trail Parkway located in St. Martins. <http://www.fundytrailparkway.com> Every Sunday afternoon at 2pm, during the months of July and August, there's a "Concert on the Green" at Parking Lot 6 which is free to those who have paid to enter the parkway. Imagine... beautiful afternoon outside enjoying live entertainment and the back drop is the Bay of Fundy. You can also visit the interpretive centre nearby and take a small hike in one of the many trails that spread out from this area.

Miramichi

- The Central NB Woodmen's Museum, Metepenagiag Heritage Park, and Beaubear's Island have collaborated to offer a unique experience called the Sprints of the River. Each site will offer a "story" (music, food, folklore/legend) linking each of the sites and encouraging visitors to visit all of them. Each site will also be offering Day Adventures with a Sprints of the River theme. For further information call 1-506-369-7214.