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Contributors



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HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS

Locals

THINGS TO SEE

- The eclectic ever-funky shops of Queen St. West and the neighbouring Fashion District.
- The Toronto sign at Nathan Phillips Square.
- World-class exhibits at the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Royal Ontario Museum.

THINGS TO EAT

- Albert's Real Jamaican Food for Oxtail Stew.
- Drake Burger with Truffle fries at **The Drake**.
- Yueh Tung for Chili Chicken.

THINGS TO DO

- Snap photos amongst the everchanging art of Grafitti Alley.
- Explore the vibrant cultural collection of shops and restaurants in Kensington Market.
- Find your zen in the heart of the city at High Park.



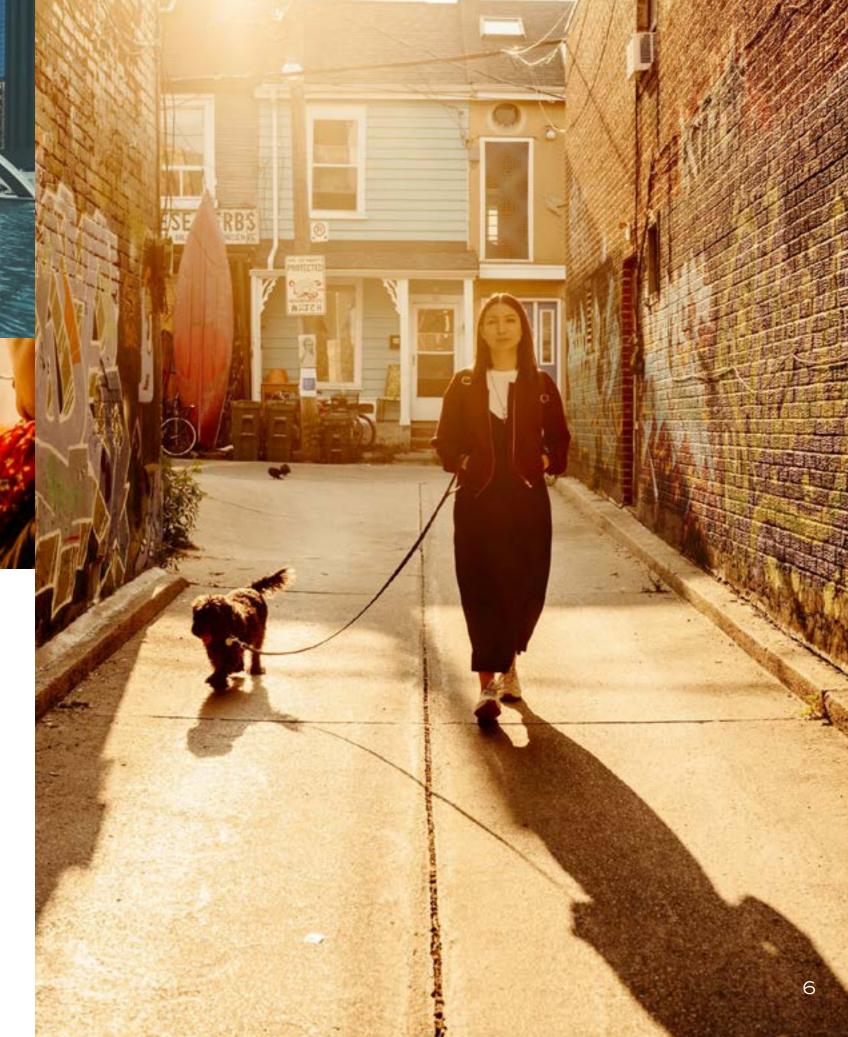
Soronto





ick off your visit with a trip to the top of the iconic CN Tower for a dazzling view of Canada's largest city. Immerse yourself in Toronto's multicultural mix. Stroll around Greektown, Chinatown and many other welcoming neighbourhoods. Sample diverse cuisine from thousands of restaurants, bistros and pubs — or choose a culinary tour. Explore interactive attractions like the Ontario Science Centre and Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. Catch perfect views of the skyline from a harbour cruise or ride the ferry to car-free Toronto Islands.

The landmark Toronto Eaton Centre, and the stylish Yorkdale Shopping Centre, are among the many shopping destinations. Couture reigns in Yorkville, while unique boutiques and galleries are to be found in the Victorian-era Distillery Historic District. Take in a year-round lineup of festivals, including the star-studded Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and Luminato, a 10-day arts celebration. Applaud the bright lights of ballet, opera, theatre and live music performances or get in the game at a professional sporting event.







Locals

THINGS TO SEE

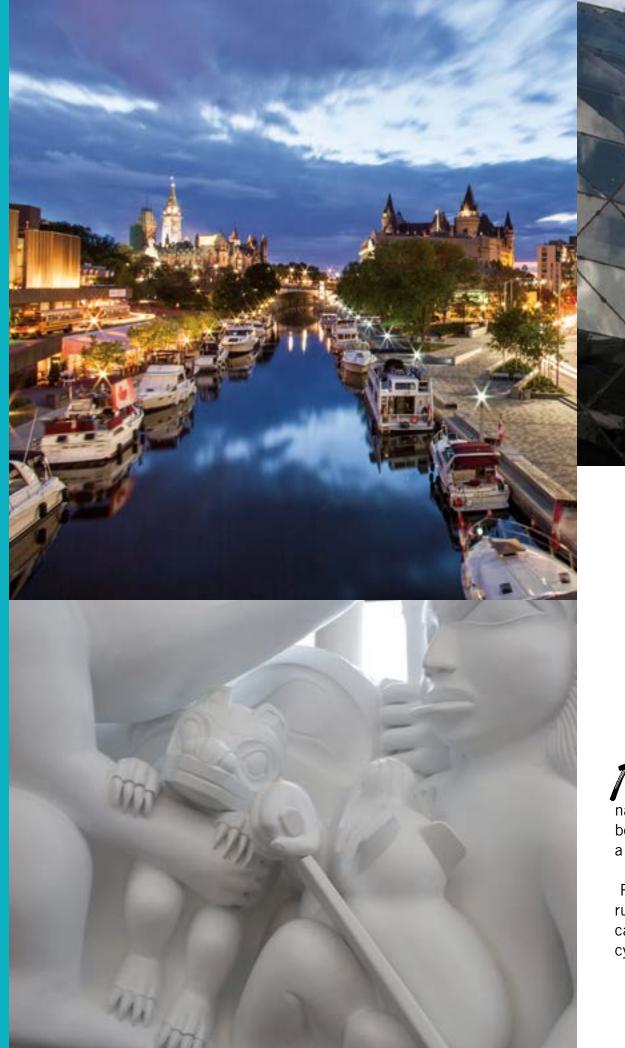
- Historic buildings, such as Parliament and Chateau Laurier.
- **Sound and Light Show** on Parliament Hill.
- Colourful, vibrant street art on Bank Street and ByWard market.

THINGS TO EAT

- Beavertails from its landmark location in the ByWard market.
- Local produce and baked goods from the Ottawa Farmers' Market at Lansdowne.
- Authentic Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean and more in the city's vibrant Chinatown.

THINGS TO DO

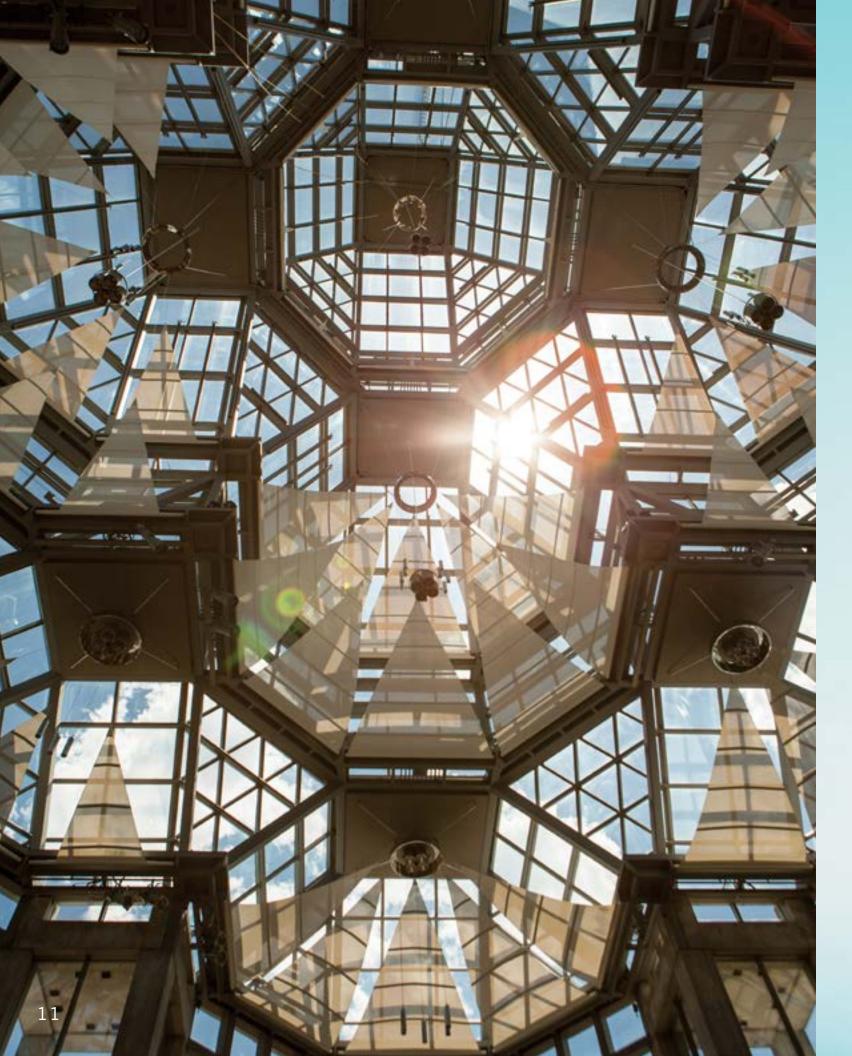
- Hit up one of the various national and local galleries or museums.
- Take in one of many festivals during the year.
- Kayak along the **Ottawa** River.





blend of English and French, the city is energized by a cosmopolitan vibe that celebrates Canada's achievements with cultural attractions, historical sites, festivals and flavours. Witness the drama of the Changing of the Guard ceremony on Parliament Hill. Experience the National Gallery of Canada, Canadian Museum of Nature, Canadian War Museum and Canadian Museum of History, just to name a few. Savour local flavours on a guided walking tour of the historic ByWard Market, plus browse the boutiques and galleries. Events like the Canadian Tulip Festival, Bluesfest and Winterlude make any season a capital time to visit!

Pristine outdoor spaces offer a bounty of experiences. The Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, runs right through the centre of the city. In winter, it becomes the world's largest skating rink. Navigate the canal yourself on a luxury houseboat with Le Boat. With over 800 km of recreational pathways, Ottawa is a cyclist's dream. Just 90 minutes outside the city, go whitewater rafting on the Ottawa River.



THE Peace TOWER

At a height of nearly 98 metres, the Peace Tower is the dominant feature on Parliament Hill, and probably the most widely recognized symbol of Canada after the flag. People are often interested to learn that the Tower's master clock cannot be set back. Therefore, at the end of Daylight Saving Time in autumn, a government employee halts the clock for a full hour overnight.







Locals

THINGS TO SEE

- Meet the makers while touring more than 100 Niagara region wineries.
- Get the ultimate shot of the Falls from atop the 175 ft. Niagara Skywheel.
- Stroll historic streets of postcard-perfect Niagaraon-the-Lake.

THINGS TO EAT

- Savour winter's sweetest bounty with a glass of Niagara icewine.
- Find roadside stands brimming with the freshest local fruit and vegetables.
- Flock to the **Supper** Markets for gourmet food truck fare.

THINGS TO DO

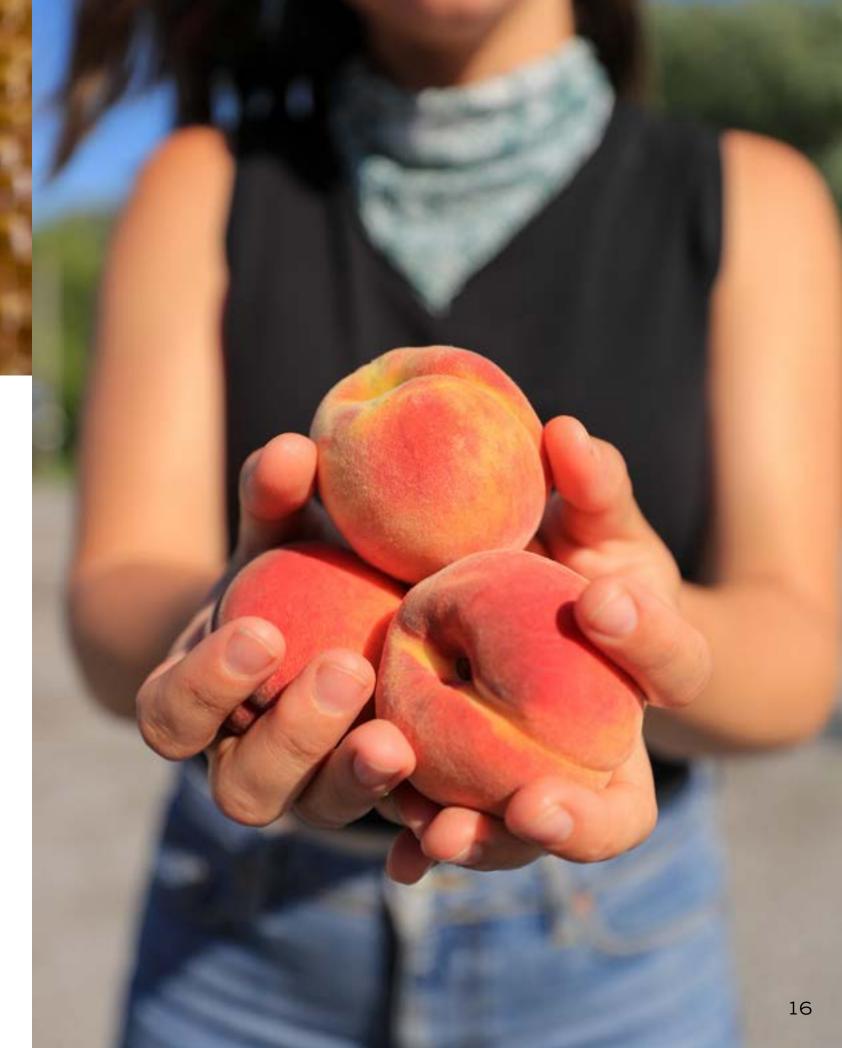
- Sail a Niagara City **Cruises** catamaran into the churning maelstrom of Niagara Falls.
- Crash into Class V rapids on a Whirlpool Jet Boat tour.
- Cycle through wine country.



lingama

e awed by this natural wonder from many incredible vantage points. Feel the mist of the Falls, as Niagara City Cruises takes you to the edge of the crashing waters. See the whole panorama from a helicopter ride. Test your courage on Wildplay's Zipline to the Falls. Uncover the fascinating stories of the historic Niagara Parks Power Station. Admire the verdant parks and gardens along the scenic Niagara Parkway. Enjoy some family time on Clifton Hill and the Skylon Tower. And each evening, see the Falls illuminated in the colours of the rainbow.

Nature has been generous with her gifts to the Niagara Region, creating a distinctive microclimate that is perfect for vineyards – you'll find more than 100 wineries along the Wine Route. Savour award-winning vintages, including Icewine. Local chefs utilize the region's bounty in their culinary creations. Year-round, the quaint town of Niagara-on-the-Lake welcomes you with its enticing boutiques, charming inns and fine dining. It's also home to the Shaw Festival, the world's only theatre dedicated to the works of George Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries.





THE GREAT Colors



Locals KNOW

THINGS TO SEE

- Hike, canoe or sea kayak along the traditional routes of the Anishnaabek people at Point Grondine Park.
- Immerse yourself in the most significant centres of early habitation and ceremonial burial in Canada at Manitou Mounds.

THINGS TO EAT

- Eat traditionally harvested and processed wild rice at Anishinaabe Wild Rice.
- Enjoy dining on fresh fish while overlooking the beautiful North Channel at the North46 Restaurant.

THINGS TO DO

- Reel in the big one while fishing the beautiful waters of Moose Horn Lodge.
- Paddle yourself into a peaceful state of mind with Voyageur Wilderness.



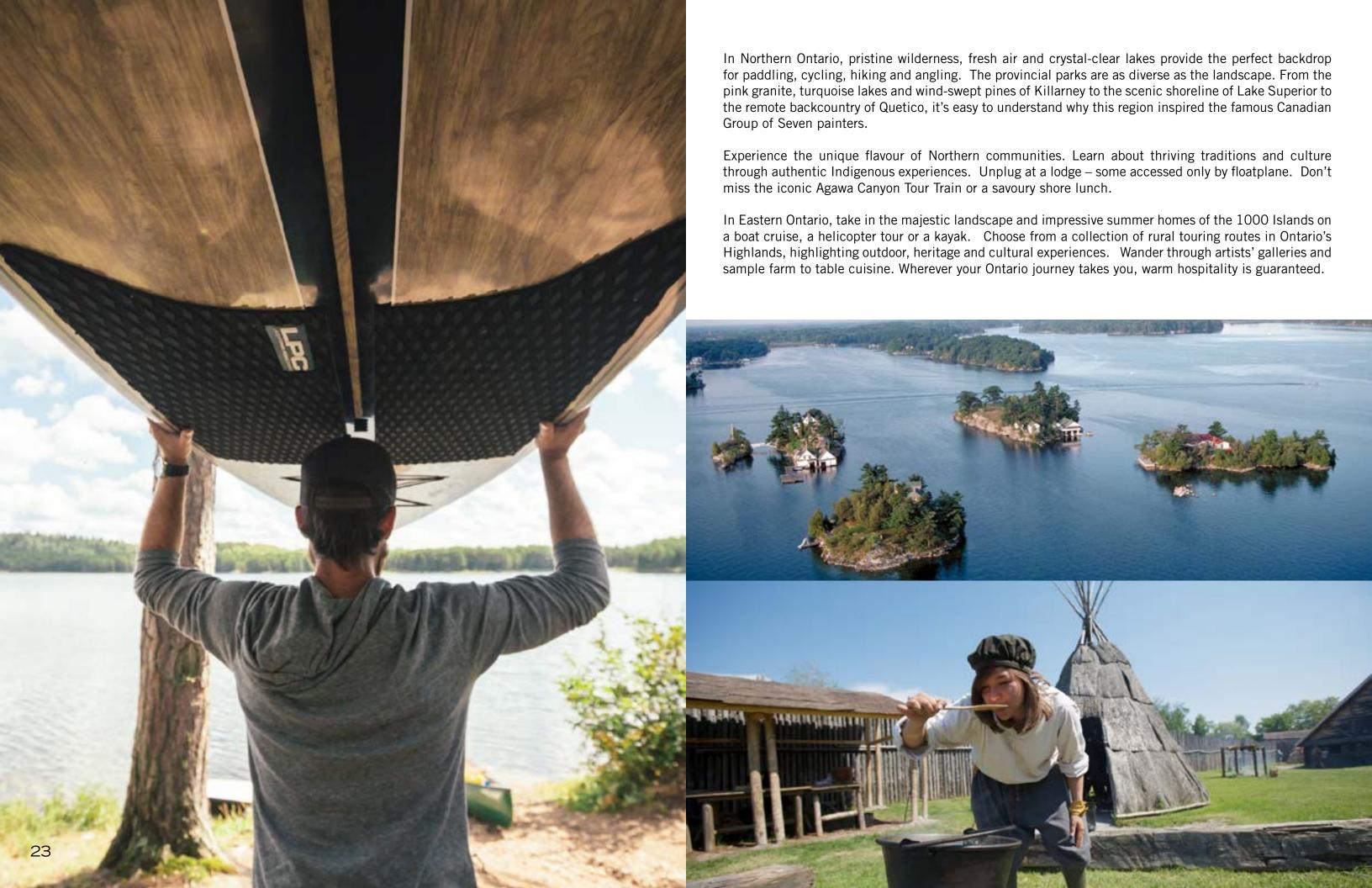


ith more than 250,000 lakes, 340 provincial parks, six national parks, and a myriad of distinctive regions, it's easy to savour Ontario's natural beauty. Venture to destinations close to our cities or to remote areas. Unique resorts, lodges and inns across the province offer diverse options. Every season brings its own magic, but fall brings a special brilliance as the forests are ablaze with colour.

Discover the sparkling lakes, granite shores and charming towns of picturesque Muskoka, a treasured holiday destination for generations of Canadians. Cruise in a vintage steam-driven vessel, dip a paddle into blue waters or simply relax lakeside.

Nearby, explore the world-famous Algonquin Provincial Park. With hundreds of lakes, the park is perfect for beginner or expert canoeists. Enjoy the peaceful forest while hiking or snowshoeing, depending on the season. Watch for wildlife – from hawks and great blue herons to moose, beaver and deer. South of Algonquin, discover the sustainable experiences offered at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve.

Blue Mountain Resort, overlooking the shimmering waters of Georgian Bay, offers a range of outdoor activities for all ages. Try tree top walking or ziplining. Hike, cycle or golf. Rejuvenate at Scandinave Spa. Enjoy the shops, restaurants and entertainment in the lively pedestrian village.



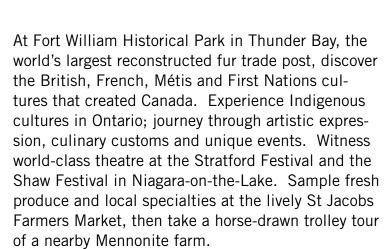
SLEEPING

The Sleeping Giant is a series of mesas formed by the erosion of thick, basaltic sills on Sibley Peninsula which resembles a giant lying on its back when viewed from the west to northnorthwest section of Thunder Bay, Ontario. One Ojibway legend identifies the giant as Nanabijou, who was turned to stone when the secret location of a rich silver mine was revealed.



Immerse yourself in Ontario's distinctive heritage and culture

Enter the realm of 19th century military life at Fort Henry National Historic Site in Kingston, a city where history and innovation thrive. Visit Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg where the pioneer spirit lives on; learn about the accomplishments of 19th century settlers as they carved out a new life in the wilderness. At Sainte-Marie among the Hurons near Midland, Ontario's first European settlement, costumed interpreters bring to life the interaction between this French Jesuit mission and the Indigenous Wendat nations at this recreated heritage site.





BE Inspired









GEOFF COOMBS

TOP FIVE PLOTO HOTSPOTS

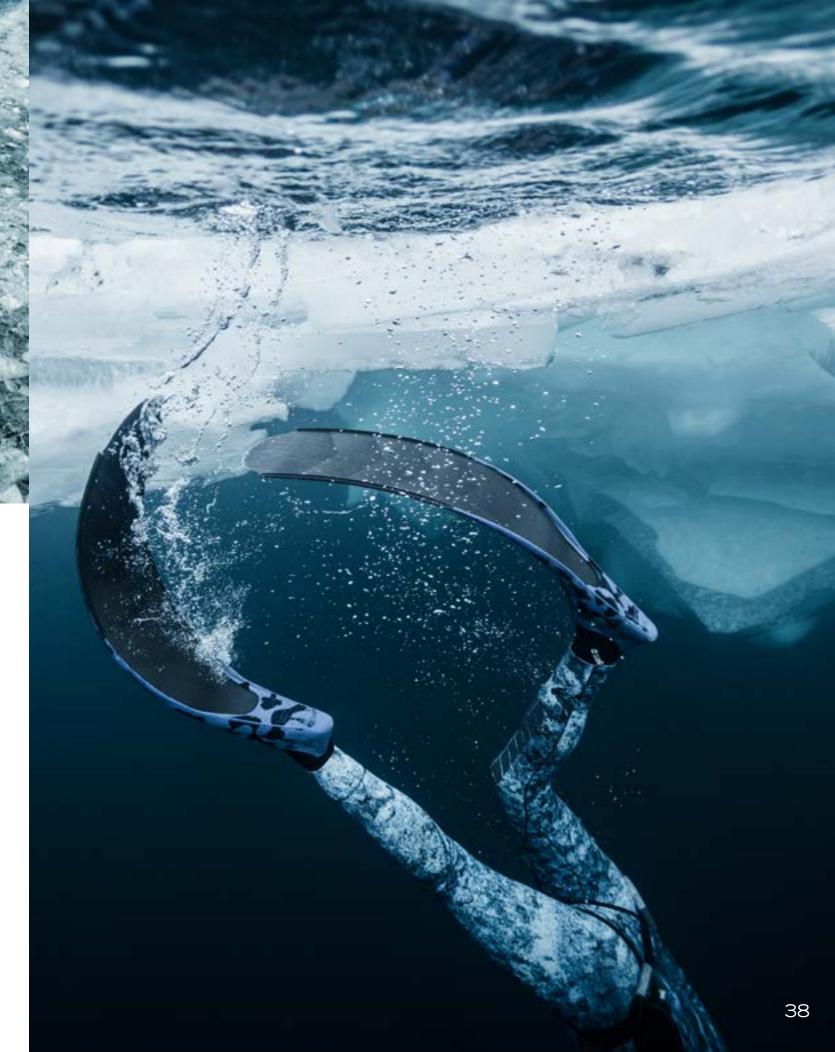
- The Grotto (Winter, Spring, Fall)
- Little Cove (Winter, Summer)
- Lions Head (Spring, Summer)
- Muskoka Lakes (Year round)
- Algonquin Park (Year round)

ntario is full of incredible places that await the adventurous soul. Many people think of Ontario as sprawling cities and suburbs expanding from Toronto, and while that is true for a small area, it does not embody the whole.

Growing up in Ontario, I was fortunate to have opportunities to explore the beautiful lakes of Muskoka in the summers at my grandparents' cottage. The tall pines and nostalgic lakes filled my young mind with wonder. Over time, I realized I had a gift for taking pictures and my fascination with water drew deeper.

For the last six years I've run my own photography business as a commercial and underwater photographer, becoming known for documenting the underwater world along the shores of the Northern Bruce Peninsula. This land splits between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, and offers turquoise waters, 19th century shipwrecks, and fascinating geological formations to explore. The limestone cliffs in this area allow the water to be crystal clear, and in the winters we freedive under ice to discover a whole new world.

Ontario is full of hidden gems that not too many people know about, or are willing to go to. What makes it special is at one moment you can be in the city, and a few hours later, in an oasis of vast lakes and forests. It is truly a place to discover.





CHEF DEV HAS #/////// FOR ONTARIO'S FOOD SCENE



any of my fondest food memories come from Ontario. If I never travelled again, I would be happy here with what we have. It's a bold statement, but hey, it's true. Check out my top five food spots in the province.

Simcoe County

Simcoe County offers beautiful produce and farm-fresh local foods. It really celebrates its local artisanal goods. One thing that blew me away there was honeynut squash, which I roasted and infused with herbs and garlic – oh man. And you can't miss out on the small-batch maple syrup.







Niagara Region

My favourite memory of Niagara is being there during peach season. Peach scones? So tasty. And the wineries – yes please. There's a huge emphasis on purchasing from local growers, and the farmer-chef connection is super important. There are so many dining options – charcuterie, fine dining, bistros – you name it.

Hamilton

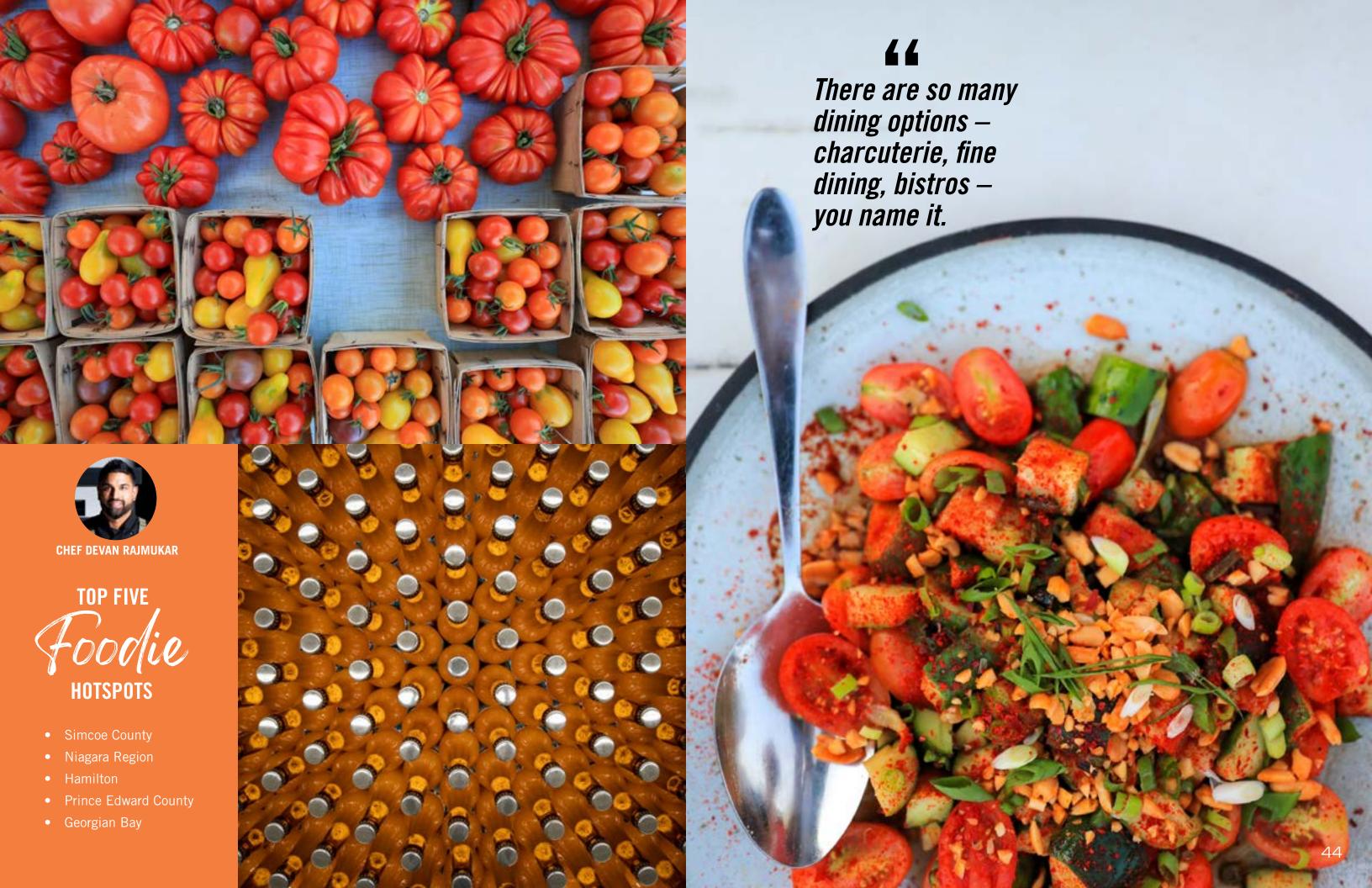
Hamilton's food scene is a very tight-knit community. Everyone works together, and they're passionate about offering hyper-local ingredients anywhere they can — it's inspiring. And shoutout to Murray's Farm & Butcher Shoppe for the best pork chop I've ever had in my life.

Prince Edward County

I remember visiting a farm in Prince Edward County with over 100 varieties of tomatoes (Vicki's Veggies). When I think of Prince Edward County, I think of those tomatoes and of course, the wineries. My absolute favourite thing to eat there is the local seafood, especially oysters. And it's just a haven for talented chefs.

Anything farm-fresh is really exciting in Georgian Bay. I love that when I'm there I can go apple and strawberry picking and forage for wild leeks, fiddleheads, asparagus, and corn.

I hope that if you travel to some (or all) of these destinations, you'll be able to make some fond food memories of your own. Mad Love.







Create your own experience by RVing in Ontario

Ontario has one of Canada's most diverse landscapes, and what better way to explore than by RV?

Choose a self-contained RV unit, like a motorhome, ranging in size from a camper van to a bus-size model. Equipment and amenities vary — like showers, refrigerators, kitchen and bedding supplies, generators — so it's important to determine your preferences. Establish what kind of hook-ups (electrical, sewer, water) the RV will need to operate at a campsite — this helps when choosing a site. Choose an RV model and size where you feel safe and comfortable behind the wheel. Ask upfront what's included:

Do nightly rates include mileage or use of a generator?

Is a minimum number of rental nights required?

Is there a one-way drop-off charge?

What are the cancellation policies?

Rental companies are near Ontario's larger cities and have general information on the RV travel lifestyle and making equipment choices.

Ontario is famous for its great outdoors, from the majestic Great Lakes to the boreal forests of the north. There are 100 Ontario Parks (ontarioparks.com) with campsites spread across the vast province, each one with a different landscape and amenities – from central showers to sites with-or-without electrical hook-ups – and even zones regulating generators, radios and pets. The Ontario Parks day-use pass is a way to explore many different parks through daytime visits.

Several national Parks Canada sites in Ontario offer campsites suitable for RVs (parkscanada.ca).

Camping In Ontario (campinginontario.ca) represents 450+ independently owned and operated campgrounds and RV parks. You can also search for private campgrounds through the Canadian Camping and RV Council (ccrvc.ca/campgrounds-canada/).

The number one tip is to book as early as possible!





- Canadream RV Rentals www.canadream.com
- CruiseCanada RV Rentals www.cruisecanada.com
- FraserWay RV Rentals www.fraserway.com
- Motor Home Travel Canada Inc. www.motorhometravel.com
- Owasco RV Rentals www.owascorvrentals.com



Toronto

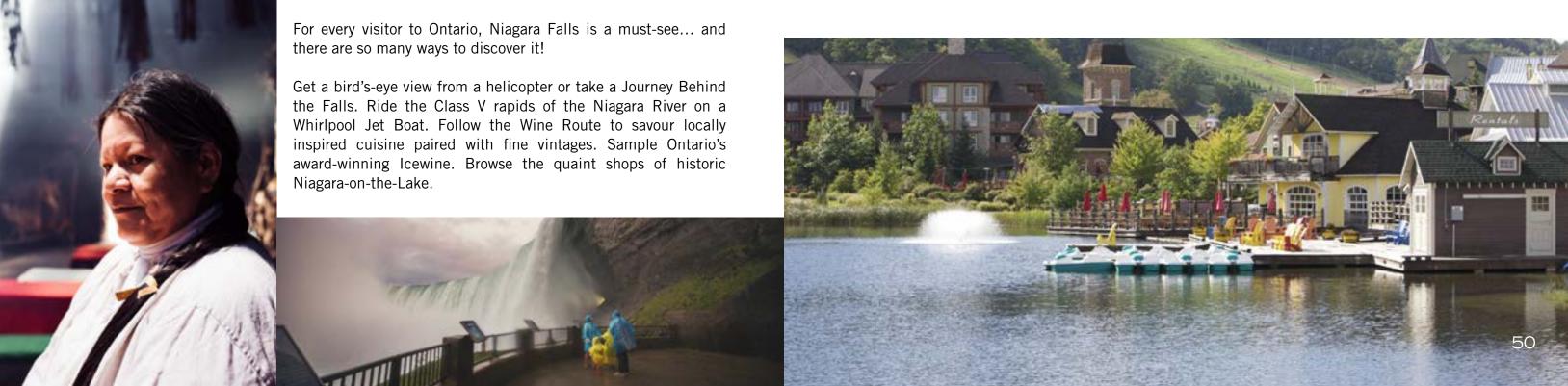
Welcome to cosmopolitan Toronto. Take a hop-on hop-off tour or a walking tour to hit as many highlights as you can. Savour international cuisine throughout the mosaic of neighbourhoods. Enjoy an incredible view from atop the CN Tower. Also high on the must-see list are the remarkable array of galleries and museums, including the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. From Bloor-Yorkville couture to Queen St. West bohemia, Toronto is a centre for shopping – and a hub for the performing arts too. For a break from city life, take a 10-minute ferry ride to the idyllic Toronto Islands – it's the perfect vantage point to see the city skyline.



Blue Mountain, Manitoulin Island and Killarney

Make your way to Blue Mountain Resort, a four-season recreation destination. Get active and go hiking, tree-top walking, ziplining, golfing or skiing. Browse boutiques in the pedestrian-friendly Village. Take a side trip to the 1600s at Sainte Marie Among the Hurons, where early European settlers lived alongside Indigenous people.

Head north to board the MS Chi-Cheemaun ferry to Manitoulin Island, the largest freshwater island in the world. Immerse yourself in nature and culture-based experiences, guided by local Indigenous people. Back on the mainland, head east to Killarney Provincial Park, where adventurers paddle its aquamarine waters and hike its white quartzite mountains.





Muskoka and Algonquin

Pristine lakes, boreal forests and granite landscapes are everywhere in Muskoka, an area renowned for its lodges and resorts. Its towns have a charm all their own too. Cruise the beautiful Muskoka lakes on the RMS Segwun, North America's oldest operating steamship. Learn about the "bog to bottle" journey of cranberries.

Algonquin Provincial Park is an oasis for outdoor adventurers – more than 2,400 lakes and countless trails await paddlers and hikers of all abilities. Wildlife sightings of moose and beaver are plentiful. En route to Ottawa, make time for whitewater rafting on the Ottawa River.



Ottawa, Kingston and the St. Lawrence River

Canada's national capital, Ottawa, is also a capital of culture. Learn through interactive tours with Indigenous Experiences. Discover the best of Canada at national museums and galleries. Book a boat cruise down the historic Rideau Canal or join a cycling tour.

Travel south along the Rideau Heritage Route. Visit charming towns and historic locks along the way. Step back in time at Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg. Take a 1000 Islands boat cruise on the St. Lawrence River. Admire Kingston's 19th-

century limestone architecture and witness military life in the 1800s at Fort Henry. Take in the contemporary arts, cultural and culinary scene of this walkable, lakefront city. Make a detour through foodie-favourite Prince Edward County as you head back to Toronto for your flight home.

This itinerary is just a starting point for your Ontario adventure. Take time along the way to explore communities, connect with locals and discover hidden gems. The possibilities are endless. For more ideas, visit **destinationontario.com**



14 DAY ONTARIO FAMILY CIRCLE TOUR

TORONTO – NIAGARA FALLS – BLUE MOUNTAIN-MUSKOKA – ONTARIO'S HIGHLANDS - OTTAWA – KINGSTON AND 1000 ISLANDS – KEENE - TORONTO

Niagara Region

Niagara Falls is filled with fun for the family. Get wet on Niagara City Cruises and get your adrenaline pumping on Wildplay Zipline to the Falls and Whirlpool Adventure Course. Go behind the-scenes at the historic Niagara Parks Power Station and learn the fascinating history of we harness the awesome power of the Falls. Take in the excitement and thrills of Clifton Hill entertainment district with attractions, restaurants, rides and more! The Niagara SkyWheel offers breathtaking views from 175 feet, while The Niagara Speedway is North America's largest elevated go-kart track facility (inspired by "Mario-kart"!). Several Niagara hotels offer indoor waterparks.

Toronto

Vibrant Toronto will keep your family busy! Take a 58-second ride to the top of the CN Tower, then head next door to Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. Learn about Canada's beloved sport at the Hockey Hall of Fame. Get interactive at the Toronto Zoo and Ontario Science Centre. Pack a picnic, rent bicycles and explore Toronto Islands.



Blue Mountain

Blue Mountain Resort is activity-central and your base to experience the Ridge Runner Mountain Coaster, Wind Rider Triple Ziplines, high and low ropes courses, rock climbing, Cascade Putting Course, hiking, biking, Segway tours, gondola rides up the mountain and much more. Not far away, Wasaga Beach boasts 14 km of white sand beach, making it the largest freshwater beach in the world! Its shallow warm Georgian Bay waters were made for splashing about!



Muskoka and Algonquin

Tourists have been flocking to the Muskoka Region for generations to enjoy its pristine lakes and tranquil forest. Choose from grand resorts and rustic lodges; make them your base to explore the small towns and adventure options. Take the iconic RMS Segwun cruise, the oldest operating steamship in North America. Try tree top trekking, stand-up paddle (SUP) boarding and paddling. Don't forget to stop for ice cream!

Ontario's Highlands

Along with more than 300 kilometres of trails and canoeing tours, the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve includes a wolf centre with a non-invasive observatory to view the wolf pack. Take a Walk in the Clouds on their tree-top canopy boardwalk, 20 metres above the ground. At Madawaska Kanu Centre, learn whitewater paddling as a family or experience the thrill of whitewater rafting.

Ottawa

The perfect combination of outdoor adventures and interactive museums to keep families engaged. The new Interzip Rogers will have you soaring over the Ottawa River between Ontario and Quebec at speeds of up to 40 km per hour. Calypso Waterpark boasts the nation's largest wave pool, more than 35 slides and floating rivers. Haunted Walks entertains with spooky ghost stories and fascinating history! Be sure to try a Beavertail pastry!

Kingston and the 1000 Islands

Travel south along the Rideau Heritage Route. Visit Skywood Eco Adventure in Mallorytown for some aerial adventure and ziplining and kayak through the 1000 Islands in Gananoque. Step back into the 1800s at Upper Canada Village and Fort Henry.



Have a quintessential Ontario summer experience at one of the many resorts across the province. One ideal choice is Elmhirst's Resort on Rice Lake with cozy cottages and farm-to-table freshness. Choose from an epic list of adventures – and end the day with campfires and s'mores.

En route back to Toronto for your flight home, visit the Canadian Canoe Museum in nearby Peterborough to learn about the significance of the canoe to the Indigenous peoples and in the development of Canada.









Passports and Visas

International visitors require a valid passport to enter Canada, and some countries may require a visa. Visa-exempt foreign nationals who fly to or transit through Canada will need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). Exceptions include U.S. citizens and travellers with a valid visa. Please visit cic.gc.ca for more information regarding travel documents and eTAs.

Weather

Ontario experiences four distinct seasons – below are the average temperatures for each season.

SUMMER (June – August) 18°C to 25°C FALL (September – November) 15°C to 4°C WINTER (December – February) -3°C to -5°C SPRING (March – May) -1°C to 12°C

Air Travel

Air Canada offers non-stop flights from Sydney and Brisbane to Vancouver (YVR), with connections to Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Ottawa Macdonald Cartier International Airport (YOW). Various carriers offer routes connecting through US cities.

Getting Around

Car rentals and taxis are available at the airport and across the province. UP Express train service connects YYZ and downtown Toronto in just 25 minutes. An Australia driver's license is valid for up to three months in Ontario – remember that we drive on the right-hand side of the road. Trains (VIA Rail) and motorcoaches (Coach Canada, Ontario Northland) offer service connecting Ontario's communities and other provinces. Porter Airlines and Air Canada offer many flights within the province.

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EB MEB COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE

CANADA DAY (July 1) - Ottawa

RBC BLUESFEST - Ottawa

NORTHERN LIGHTS: SOUND & LIGHT SHOW ON PARLIAMENT HILL - Ottawa

TORONTO CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL - Toronto

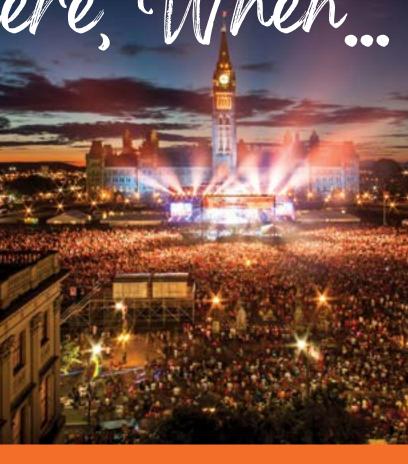
SHAW FESTIVAL - Niagara

STRATFORD FESTIVAL - Stratford

FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES - Fergus

FORT HENRY SUNSET CEREMONY - Kingston

WIKWEMIKONG ANNUAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL - Manitoulin





TORONTO CHRISTMAS MARKET

WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS - Niagara Falls

NIAGARA ICEWINE FESTIVAL

WINTERLUDE - Ottawa

UP HERE MUSIC FESTIVAL - Sudbury

BONSOO WINTER CARNIVAL - Sault Ste Marie

WINTER



TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

NIAGARA GRAPE AND WINE FESTIVAL

TASTE Community Grown - Prince Edward County

FORT FRIGHT - Kingston

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ACROSS CANADA - Ottawa

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR - Toronto

CAVALCADE OF LIGHTS - Toronto

FALL

PRIDE TORONTO - Toronto

LUMINATO - Toronto

TD TORONTO JAZZ FESTIVAL - Toronto

NIAGARA HOME GROWN WINE FESTIVAL

CANADIAN TULIP FESTIVAL - Ottawa

ANISHNAWBE KEESHIGUN ABORIGINAL FESTIVAL - Thunder Bay





ONTARIO CANADA www.destinationontario.com