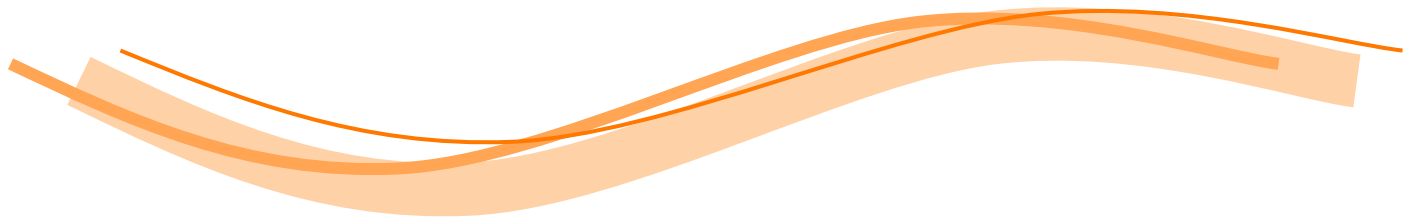




OTTAWA - TULIP FESTIVAL





OTTAWA

Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa, May 6-23, 2011

This week on the Travel Show – Ottawa, where over three million tulips create an exotic mosaic of colour and beauty during the Capital Region’s “Canadian Tulip Festival”. This dazzling event runs for 18 days from May 6, 2011 to May 23 2011. The theme is Kaleidoscope - a celebration of spring awakening through colour, culture and community. Stroll by as artists ply their trade amongst the tulips and musicians serenade you. And best of all – most of the activities at the Canadian Tulip Festival are FREE!

The 2011 edition of the Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa takes place at Major’s Hill Park (between the Chateau Laurier hotel & The National Gallery of Canada, overlooking Parliament) and at Commissioners Park (by Dows Lake Pavilion, adjacent to the historic Rideau Canal - a UNESCO World Heritage).

Visit www.OttawaTourism.ca , or phone 1-888-OTTAWA-8 for some great short break ideas. The “Tulip Celebration Package”, for example, includes shopping discounts plus “The Canadian Tulip Festival Passport” with valuable vouchers to national attractions, local museums and restaurants. You can book all this, plus two nights’ accommodation, from only \$127 per person.

Now you can create your own Ottawa Getaway thanks to Ottawa Tourism’s new website that brings you the ability to book flexible packages online. Get great deals and a wide range of hotel choices as you create your own escape to Ottawa. And using the "print at home" vouchers, you can make your booking right up to the day before departure.

The Tulip Festival has recently achieved coveted recognition as one of the top 10 events in Canada, and one of the top 100 events in North America in the prestigious American Bus Association rankings. Ottawa's tulip heritage is the result of a 1945 gift to Ottawa from Princess Juliana of the Netherlands in thanks for the safe haven the city provided the Dutch Royal Family during the Second World and the role Canadian troops played in liberating Holland during that conflict.

“Come for the Tulips, stay for the experience!” There are topflight national and international musical acts, movies in the park, a kid’s zone, a Garden Party (“Tea in the Tulips”), an International Pavilion and Food Emporium, and much, much more! Visit www.tulipfestival.ca for the latest announcements on entertainment and attractions coming to this year’s festival.

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And just as there's more to the Tulip Festival than just tulips, there is much more to Ottawa than just vibrant national festivals. Come for the Tulip Festival, stay for the great entertainment and culture Ottawa has to offer!

At the National Gallery of Canada (17 June – 11 September 2011) you can see the exhibition "**Caravaggio and His Followers in Rome**".

Not since Michelangelo or Raphael has one artist in Europe affected so many of his contemporaries over such a broad geography and irrevocably changed the course of painting in Italy's major cultural centre. Presented exclusively in Canada at the National Gallery of Canada, this ambitious exhibition explores the profound impact of the work of Caravaggio on a wide range of painters of Italian, French, Dutch, Flemish and Spanish origin who resided in Rome either during his lifetime or immediately afterwards. Approximately 60 paintings by some of the most important artists of the Baroque period will be included in this exhibition together with other major artists who were inspired by Caravaggio's example.

At the Canadian Museum of Civilization (April 21, 2011 to April 15, 2012) you can discover Canada's Far North in an unforgettable expedition of success and tragedy at "**Expedition: Arctic**". Walk in the boots of the scientists, explorers, Inuit guides and the many others who took part in this first major Canadian scientific expedition to the Arctic. The exhibition revives the goals, human drama and achievements of the Expedition, exploring its impacts on the local people and landscape of Canada's Far North. Ultimately, it redrew the map of the Arctic and expanded our understanding of its environment and cultures.

At the Canada Aviation and Space Museum a new exhibition from the Canadian Space Agency called "**Living in Space**" (opening May 4, 2011) takes you aboard the International Space Station!

At the National Arts Centre don't miss "**i think i can**" (May 11- 28, 2011). It is a great show for families and young people ages 8 and up and an opportunity to get audiences interested in dance and to show that tap dancing isn't just something 'that our grandparents used to do'! Here's a story told without words: characters listen with their ears and speak with their feet. Using the rhythms of tap, hip hop and percussive sound, "I think I can" is about a physically-challenged young man who overcomes the bullying and aggression of his peers through the beauty of physics and a fanciful project in a science fair.

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	And at the Casino du Lac-Leamy - after 80,000 tickets sold in Québec since its debut in March 2008, and after two weeks headlining at the Panasonic Theatre in Toronto, “ The Man in Black A Tribute to Johnny Cash ” is back (May 12 – 15, 2011). Shawn Barker will make a third appearance at the Théâtre du Casino, charting the course of Johnny Cash’s celebrated career from his early years right up to his very last recording. This year the Casino du Lac-Leamy is celebrating its 15th Anniversary with special events and offers.
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 812,129 (Ranked 4th) Metro 1,168,788 National Capital Region is 1,451,415
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

CLIMATE	
General climate	The average Temperatures for the region of Ottawa/Gatineau are: summer max = + 26C; winter max = - 6C
Today’s weather	9 Centigrade and sunny/showers mix (April 2, 2011)
Best time to visit	Any time – there’s always something unique and exciting happening in Ottawa...Check out the other Destination files for Ottawa on our website for ideas in all four seasons.

GETTING THERE	
Flying time	It’s just 55 minutes from Toronto to Ottawa. Porter Airlines www.flyporter.com

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	Porter operates from its base at Toronto Billy Bishop City Centre Airport (TCCA), one of the most convenient urban airports in the world, and serves Ottawa. From its dedicated terminal, all Porter passengers have access to a modern, comfortable and stylish lounge, including wireless Internet access, refreshments, and computer workstations. While on board, passengers enjoy complimentary premium snacks, wine and beer, a spacious cabin environment with leather upholstery and extra legroom. Up to ten flights a day between Toronto Billy Bishop City Centre Airport and Ottawa. Reservations can be made on Porter's website, www.flyporter.com through its call centre at 1-888-619-8622 or 416-619-8622, or with registered travel agents.
Distances	Distance from Toronto is 450 km or 5 hours; Ottawa to Montreal is 213 km or 2.5 hours
Ferries	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 fare \$50 one way and \$69 one way from Toronto 4 to 5 hours (as at April 2011) – 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, reserved bus rapid transit lanes with full stations instead of stops) and a light rail system called the O-Train.
Bus/Boat	Lady Dive Lady Dive started their Ottawa-Gatineau city tours in 1999 with its very popular and unique Amphibus vehicle. In 2002 they purchased Oak Road and their Double Decker buses and in 2009 they purchased Bytown Trolley and Canuck tours. This makes them the one stop destination in Ottawa for all kind of tours. The 2011 Season begins April 23rd for City Tours and May 1st for the Amphibus; adult prices for 2011 are \$30.40 Website: http://www.ladydive.com
Passes	Ottawa's Capital Museums Passport is making it easy for visitors to enjoy the sights and sounds of Canada's capital city. In 2011, for only \$35 per person or \$85 for family of five (maximum two adults), passport holders can visit 9 of Ottawa's diverse museums in 7 days from the Canadian Museum of Civilization to the Canada Science and Technology Museum. http://www.museumspassport.ca/museum_passport/index.asp?lang=1 Canadian Museum of Civilization Canadian War Museum National Gallery of Canada

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	<p>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>www.diefenbunker.ca</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 \$15 – “Ghosts and Gallows”.</p> <p>http://www.hauntedwalk.com/ottawatours.php</p> <p>Canada Science and Technology Museum</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 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.</p>
<p>Romance</p>	<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. This year (2011) on summer evenings, a sound and light show called Mosaika explores Canada's physical, historical and cultural landscapes (Until September 2011).</p>
<p>UNIQUES</p>	<p>Changing of the Guard</p> <p>Until late August, a colorful 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</p>

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	<p>Square Drill Hall (by the canal at Laurier Avenue) at 9:30am and marches up Elgin St to reach the hill at 10am.</p>
<p>Surprising</p>	<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>
<p>History</p>	<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 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. 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 townsite 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. 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</p>

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	<p>town, frequently receiving the worst of disease epidemics, such as the Cholera outbreak in 1832, and typhus in 1847.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Bytown was renamed Ottawa in 1855, when it was incorporated as a city.</p>
Books	Frommer's Ottawa ; Ottawa has been named one of the most underrated cities in the world according to the editors of Frommer's Secret Ottawa by Laura Byrne Paquet
1000 Places to see before you die	Winterlude and skating on the Rideau Canal
Must Sees	Most visited attractions in Ottawa : 1. Casino; 2. Museum of Civilisation; 3. Parliament Hill

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	It's always 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 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 C\$25 to C\$40
Skiing	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.
Rafting	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. Prices start at C\$115 per person per day during the week, meals included. (2011) http://www.owl-mkc.ca/owl
Hiking	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

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	<p>Jack Pine Nature Trail, and the Sasparilla Trail. It's also good for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.</p> <p>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 kilometers 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 kilometers 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.gc.ca/biking</p>

CULTURE	
National Gallery of Canada	<p>This year (2011) there is a real blockbuster reason to visit to this world class gallery:</p> <p>Caravaggio and his Circle in Rome 10 June – 11 September 2011</p> <p>The National Gallery of Canada and the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, are organizing a major exhibition for the summer of 2011 on the theme of Caravaggio and his Roman followers. Not since Michelangelo or Raphael had one artist in Europe affected so many of his contemporaries over such a broad geography and irrevocably changed the course of painting in a major center. This ambitious exhibition intends to explore the profound impact of Caravaggio's work on a wide range of painters of Italian, French, Dutch, Flemish and Spanish origin who resided in Rome either during his lifetime or immediately afterwards. Approximately sixty paintings by some of the most important artists of the Baroque period will be included in this show.</p> <p>Remember to visit the Gallery's website www.gallery.ca You'll get lots of information right up front that will help you plan your visit in advance. There are also some great micro sites dedicated to key exhibitions.</p>
Arts	<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</p>

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	<p>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>I think I can May 11- 28, 2011 at the National Arts Centre. This show is a great opportunity to get audiences interested in dance... to show that tap dancing isn't just something that our grandparents used to do. Winner of the 2007 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Musical... Here's a story told without words: characters listen with their ears and speak with their feet. Using the rhythms of tap, hip hop and percussive sound, i think i can is about a physically-challenged young man who overcomes the bullying and aggression of his peers through the beauty of physics and a fanciful project in a science fair. While the characters are young, this show is for audiences of all ages. Performed by many of Canada's top dancers, it's The Drowsy Chaperone meets Stomp! In a world of "So You Think You Can Dance?", this production illustrates through bodies in motion what happens when someone asserts: "I think I can." Suitable for families and young people ages 8 and up.</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 some suggestions:</p> <p>Canadian Museum of Civilization A cultural experience you won't want to miss! Explore 1,000 years of Canadian history as you travel through life-sized townscapes and environments from across the country, and as you meet some of Canada's most remarkable figures. Discover a traditional West Coast aboriginal village and take in the world's largest indoor collection of totem poles. The Museum also features outstanding international exhibitions and is home to the Canadian Children's Museum, the Canadian Postal Museum and an IMAX® Theatre.</p> <p>Expedition: Arctic April 21, 2011 to April 15, 2012 Expedition: Arctic, the most diverse discoveries, the most ships used and the most territory covered in an unforgettable expedition of success and tragedy. Walk in the boots of the scientists, explorers, Inuit guides and the many others who took part in this first major Canadian scientific</p>

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	<p>expedition to the Arctic. The exhibition revives the goals, human drama and achievements of the Expedition, exploring its impacts on the local people and landscape of Canada’s Far North. Ultimately, it redrew the map of the Arctic and expanded our understanding of its environment and cultures.</p> <p>Canadian Aviation Museum The Canada Aviation Museum has reopened its doors to the public after months of extensive renovation work. A monumental movement of artifacts involving over 75% of the collection was completed in preparation of the exciting new exhibition Canadian Wings: A Remarkable Century of Flight. The Canada Aviation Museum is Canada’s finest aviation museum with an internationally renowned aeronautical collection. The Museum is located at the intersection of the Aviation and Rockcliffe Parkways. Admission is \$6 adults, \$5 for students, \$5 for seniors, and \$3 for children 4-15, free for children under 4. A family pass is \$14. Free parking. OC Transpo bus #129 Rockcliffe also goes to the Museum.</p> <p>Living in Space at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum takes you aboard the International Space Station with a new exhibition from the Canadian Space Agency opening May 4th, 2011</p> <p>Canadian War Museum - A stunning must-see attraction opened in May 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. It’s a magnificently moving and informative museum, and one which I personally strongly recommend. Open daily from May to mid October; closed Mondays from mid October to April.</p> <p>Bytown Museum: Located in the heart downtown Ottawa, the Bytown Museum explores the stories of an evolving city and its residents from its early days as Bytown to present day Ottawa. Housed in Ottawa's oldest stone building, the Museum is located at the Rideau Canal locks between Parliament Hill and the Château Laurier—one of the most picturesque sites in the city.</p>
<p>Canadian Museum of Nature</p>	<p>After more than five years of renovations, the Canadian Museum of Nature fully re-opened again in the summer of 2010. The Museum is affectionately known as “the castle” because of its Gothic architectural style with turrets and crenellations, and so Saturday night presents a “castle-warming party” with live entertainment. Night owls should be sure to stick around for ghost tours, music and late-night movies - all part of Museum by Night!</p>

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	<p>Visitors are wowed by the amazing new Water Gallery and Earth Gallery. The Water Gallery features a 19-metre (65-foot) skeleton of a blue whale, the largest animal on the planet! In the Earth Gallery, visitors will see over 800 dazzling minerals from the Museum's world-class collection. Most of these specimens have never before been exhibited. And let's not forget their other, creepier specimens... ones that actually move! In Animalium, an eye-popping assortment of insects, arachnids and slugs will be sure to get a reaction. In addition, three special temporary exhibitions, AQUA, Frogs – A Chorus of Colours and the Wildlife Photography of the Year exhibition will keep visitors busy. www.nature.ca</p>
<p>Festivals and Events</p>	<p>Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa, May 6-23, 2011 See special section below for more details.</p> <p>Ottawa Race Weekend May 28-29, 2011 Ottawa Race Weekend is a massive annual spring gathering of runners from around the world for a series of races through Canada's Capital including the prestigious Ottawa Marathon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held the final weekend in May each year, Race Weekend attracted 36,000 runners in 2009. • The Ottawa Marathon is the centerpiece competitive event of the weekend, and is one of Canada's oldest and most prestigious marathons; thousands of dollars in prize money are up for grabs. • RunAbroad.com ranked the Ottawa Marathon as one of the "101 races to run before you die". • The Weekend also includes a half marathon, 10K, 5K, family 2K, a kids' marathon and walkers' events. Currently (2 April 2011), the Ottawa Marathon is 88% sold out; the Ottawa Half Marathon is SOLD OUT; the Ottawa 10k is SOLD OUT; the Ottawa 5K is SOLD OUT; and the Ottawa 2K is 69% sold out. • All events take runners along Ottawa's Rideau Canal, with the Ottawa Marathon extending across the Ottawa River to the city of Gatineau in the province of Quebec, then back again - passing many landmark sites, including Parliament Hill, along the way. <p>I ran the Ottawa Marathon in 2008 and enjoyed every moment of the race, particularly the enthusiastic crowds cheering on the racers. Check out the website at http://www.runottawa.ca</p>
<p>ATTRACTIONS</p>	<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 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>

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Wildlife	<p>Open all year, Parc Oméga, Route 323 nord, Montebello, a nearby wildlife park, is distinctive by seasons, 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.</p> <p>The Park is endowed with hundreds of kilometers 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.</p> <p>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 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</p>

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	<p>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 are 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 Rideau Hall has been the residence of every one of Canada’s Governors General (the Queen’s representative in Canada). The current resident is His Excellency the Right Honourable David Lloyd Johnston . 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> <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 artefacts 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>
Markets	<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.
Nightlife	<p>Bars, Clubs & Discos - Ottawa has an abundance of English and Irish pubs of varying degrees of authenticity. In addition to those places listed, check out the Brig, 23 York St., in the Byward Market area, and the Elephant and Castle, 50 Rideau St.</p>
Casinos	<p>Casino du Lac-Leamy: Under 5km from Parliament Hill and open daily 11am to 3am. Both the exterior and the interior are dramatically landscaped with tropical plants, pools, and waterfalls. There are over 1,800 slot machines and more than 60 gambling tables, including blackjack, roulette, baccarat, and stud poker. A variety of attractions in</p>

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	<p>the Théâtre du Casino, with headliners such as Engelbert Humperdinck and Joe Cocker as well as dance-and music revues, provide respite from losing. The complex also has two lounges and three restaurants - fine dining in Le Baccara, a buffet in Banco, and a snack bar. 2011 is also the Casino du Lac-Leamy's 15th Anniversary, so there's even more to celebrate.</p> <p>www.casinosduquebec.com/lacleamy</p> <p>Concerts at Casino du Lac-Leamy: After 80,000 tickets sold in Québec since its debut in March 2008, and after two weeks headlining at the Panasonic Theatre in Toronto, The Man in Black – A Tribute to Johnny Cash will make a third appearance at the Théâtre du Casino. This is your opportunity to experience, if only for one evening, a nostalgic moment, thanks to Shawn Barker. The Man in Black – A Tribute to Johnny Cash charts the course of the celebrated artist from his early years right up to his very last recording. Hurt, his final hit, originally recorded by Nine Inch Nails, lives on as his musical testament, in particular in the eyes of an all-new generation of fans.</p>
Spas	<p>Why not pamper yourself at the Spa? Ottawa has lots to offer. The luxurious Holtz Spa for instance, is right in the centre of the city, conveniently located nearby the Fairmont Chateau Laurier and the Westin Hotels. 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.</p> <p>Contact: Holtz Spa, 45 Rideau St. Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5W8 Toll Free: 1 877 241-8889 Email: info@holtzspa.com Web Site: www.holtzspa.com</p>

CUISINE	
Food	<p>Beavertails Pastry</p> <p>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. Even President Obama had to try these!</p>
Restaurants	<p>5-Diamond dining, a vast selection of international cuisines, relaxed, casual fare – Ottawa offers restaurants and culinary experiences to suit every palate, with a thriving local culinary scene and local chefs making names for themselves at home and abroad.</p> <p>Dining districts include the courtyards and outdoor cafés of the historic</p>

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ByWard Market, great Asian dining along Somerset Street West, Italian along Preston Street, and a mix of culinary treats along Elgin Street, Bank Street and surrounding neighbourhoods.

You'll find fine dining in Ottawa and across the Ottawa River in Gatineau alike: Ottawa is home to Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa Culinary Arts Institute including the 5-Diamond Signatures restaurant on the premises. That same distinction is shared by the Casino du Lac–Leamy's Le Bacarra in Gatineau.

As one of Ontario's designated culinary tourism destinations, the city, its restaurants and its local food producers are all working together to bring locally-grown and prepared foods to tables across the region through an initiative called Savour Ottawa. Special culinary events with a local flavour are held throughout the year, including the Ottawa Wine and Food Show in autumn, and Taste of Winterlude leading up to the popular February winter festival.

<http://www.ottawatourism.ca/savourottawa>

Here are two personally recommended restaurants in Ottawa:

le café (@ the National Arts Centre)

Put yourself in the charismatic hands of Chef Michael Blackie! Fine Dining along the Historic Rideau Canal. Situated in Canada's National Arts Centre, le café offers the perfect blend of fine dining and artistic ambience in the heart of downtown Ottawa. The picturesque setting and inspired menu make le café ideal for a relaxed luncheon or a night on the town. Savour the best in contemporary Canadian Cuisine and internationally-inspired dishes. le café is also proud to offer a varied selection of Canadian wines. Reservations recommended. Open Monday to Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday dinners only and Sunday brunch. <http://www.nac-cna.ca/en/lecafe/lecafe>

Le Cordon Bleu Bistro @ Signatures

The inspiration of their new "Bistro" style restaurant is in recognition of the successful "bistroCordonBleu" operation and the highly acclaimed 5 diamond restaurant "Le Cordon Bleu Signatures".

"BistroCordonBleu" offered clients a casual dining atmosphere with high quality food at a great price. This operation was one that was heavily contributed to by culinary arts students both in the kitchen and serving clients. It was developed as a testament to the standard of culinary education and the talent of students that they train in their internationally renowned culinary arts institute.

In contrast, the Signatures restaurant presented a formal fine dining

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	<p>atmosphere that celebrated the history and tradition of French cuisine and culture. Fine service, elaborate menu options, an extensive wine list and a truly French ambience were at the premise of this operation. It was proudly nominated as a 5-diamond restaurant by the CAA for a few years.</p> <p>After the success of two restaurant ventures they now present Le Cordon Bleu Bistro @ Signatures. They have taken the best from both operations and merged them into a service offering that is the talk of Ottawa. Every week they feature a new original menu showcasing the talents of their dedicated team. http://www.bistroatsignatures.com</p>
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MORE INFO	<p>Getaway Packages For inquiries or to book your hotel room or Getaway package contact Ottawa Tourism's Reservation Centre (operated by Capital Tickets). By Phone: 1.888.OTTAWA8 (1-888-688-2928) By E-Mail: ottawagetaways@capitaltickets.ca</p> <p>Reservation agents are on duty from Monday through Sunday, 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Sundays/holidays 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. (all hours EST).</p> <p>Tourist Information You can reach Ottawa Tourism by phone (open Monday thru Friday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Eastern Time) by calling (613) 237-5150 or 1 (800) 363-4465.</p> <p>For general information on events and attractions in Canada's Capital Region contact the National Capital Commission at (613) 239-5000 or 1-800-465-1867.</p> <p>Visitor Information: The Capital Infocentre (staffed by the National Capital Commission) at 90 Wellington Street, across from Parliament Hill, offers a chance to learn more about Canada's Capital Region with its dynamic exhibits and multimedia show. The Centre is open daily and has a stunning view of Parliament Hill.</p>
Brochures	2011 Visitor Guide online at www.ottawatourism.ca
Website	www.ottawatourism.ca for Ottawa Tourism

CURRENT DEALS	<p>There's a great deal currently (April 2011). Book a 2-night Ottawa Getaway Package deal on the www.ottawatourism.ca website, and you can stay at a participating Ottawa hotel for a third night at half price. It's an affordable way to extend your stay and enjoy even more of all that Ottawa has to offer. To take advantage of this offer, select the Getaway Package that appeals to you most, then select the 3rd Night 1/2 Price</p>
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option when checking rates/availability.

<http://www.ottawatourism.ca/en/getaways-and-special-offers>

Now 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 April 1st 2011, there are 10 different packages to suit your needs:

1. Tulip Celebration

Be dazzled by the tulips, be taken with the town. Visit the Capital from May 6 to 23, 2011 and see the city come alive with colour. Over three million tulips create an exotic mosaic during the Capital Region's Canadian Tulip Festival. This 2-night getaway includes everything you need to enjoy the world's largest tulip festival, including admission to one of the city's great attractions and great shopping discounts. This package includes the Tulip Passport full of vouchers with discounts at some of Ottawa's finest restaurants and spas, free museum passes and a special gift from the Tulip Boutique. The passport is valued at more than \$600 and offered in this package at a special rate of \$13 per person (regular price is \$15). \$127 per person

2. Hockey night in the Capital

This is hockey country and here's your chance to see the Ottawa Senators in action this season! Your hockey night in the capital package includes 100 level tickets to an Ottawa Senators game (including Montreal Canadiens, Toronto Maple Leafs, Boston Bruins and other great teams), a spectacular roast beef buffet in the Scotiabank Place's Senate Club before the game and one night accommodation in a luxurious Ottawa hotel. Don't forget to check out the Casino du Lac Leamy after the game with your \$20 vouchers.

3. Celebration Vacation

If you've got an anniversary, birthday or other special occasion coming up, come to Ottawa for a Celebration Vacation. This 2-night getaway package is the perfect way to mark that special day in a very special destination. Come reconnect with those near and dear to you and make new memories with two carefree days of fun, discovery, relaxation and of course, celebration. This package includes: 2 nights' accommodation for 2 people; Certificate to receive Rideau Centre Savings Directory; Dinner for 2 at Le Cordon Bleu Bistro @ Signatures; A Le Cordon Bleu Home Collection Cookbook is also included in this package; and admission to one of the major museums or a \$50 gift card for services at Holtz Spa, or Ottawa Senators Hockey Tickets.

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4. 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 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.

5. Sip, Savour & Spa

Pamper yourself with this 2-night getaway to the Capital for 2. Start off with a relaxing treatment at one of Ottawa's most luxurious spas. Then try a little retail therapy at Rideau Centre, the region's premiere shopping centre. Follow it up with a visit to one of the city's great cultural attractions.

And cap off this indulgent visit to Ottawa with a fantastic meal at Le Cordon Bleu's 5-diamond Signatures Restaurant—what a treat!

6. 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!

7. Casino 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

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8. Girlfriends Getaway

This one's for the girls! Calling all girlfriends to retreat to Canada's Capital - a city bursting with vibrant culture and surrounded by an oasis of natural beauty. This package caters to all types and budgets by providing the ability to pick and choose. Spend a couple days shopping, visiting museums and galleries, dining, indulge in a spa treatment or take in a show! Don't forget to check out the funky ByWard Market district, where there's always something happening. It's the perfect scene for a night out on the town with your friends.

9. 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.

10. 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 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 (only available Thursday to Saturday).

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HOTEL PRIZE PARTNERS

Capital Hill Hotel and Suites (Newstalk 1010 prize)

88 Albert Street (between Elgin and Metcalfe) Ottawa ON K1P 5E9
Toll Free: 1-800-463-7705 Website: <http://www.capitalhill.com>

The Capital Hill Hotel & Suites is an independent 3 1/2 star, situated in the heart of downtown Ottawa's tourist and business district. Not only do they have a variety of room styles to suit any traveller, they also include free high speed wireless internet connection in all of their 150 smoke free guest rooms. And, if you leave your laptop at home, you are welcome to use their business centre, with 24 hour access, free computer use, free high speed internet service and free printer privileges. Easily accessible, they are located along major public transit routes, serviced by the Airport Shuttle, and feature on-site parking.

In addition to the above conveniences, all guest rooms and suites have voicemail, hairdryers, coffee makers, in room movies and Nintendo games plus 24 hour access to a Fitness Room. To start your day off right you can relax with the daily newspaper delivered to your room or take it down to the Bibliothèque Café, where guests of the hotel are offered 10% off their meals.

Cartier Place Suite Hotel (CJAD prize)

180 Cooper Street, Ottawa, ON K2P2L5
Toll free: 1-800-236-8399 Website: <http://www.suitedreams.com>

This is one of downtown Ottawa's most unique all suite hotels. The Cartier Place Suite Hotel is ideally located just a few minutes from Parliament Hill. You'll find their lodging accommodations nestled deep within a quiet neighbourhood, located between the Rideau Canal and the trendy boutique area of Elgin Street. This family owned and operated hotel is one of Ottawa's best, offering 250 spacious studios, one and two bedroom suites (including V.I.P. suites with Jacuzzis). Each suite features fully-equipped kitchens, separate bedrooms, and a living area with a private balcony. Enjoy an indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, exercise and game rooms. Their lodging accommodations are pet friendly and they also offer pet grooming services on-site. If you are looking to kick back and relax, the garden patio, complete with a children's playground and shuffleboard, is perfect. Weekend rate specials and packages are available throughout the year. Add the Cafe Mezzaluna full service restaurant, wireless internet, baby-sitting services, indoor parking, children 16 and under stay free and an airport bus shuttle and you have the complete package!

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RAIL TRAVEL PRIZE PARTNER	VIA Rail www.viarail.ca or phone 1 888 VIA-RAIL
Details	<p>VIA Rail Canada run more than 480 trains per week over a 14,000-kilometre network linking more than 450 locations in Canada - that adds up to about four million passengers per year on VIA trains!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected - Wireless Internet service available in-stations and on select trains lets you email, chat with loved ones or do some research. Get 24 hours of service for as little as \$8.95! - Convenient - Priority boarding, a delicious meal included in the price of your ticket and complimentary newspapers create stress-free travel. - Choice - Facing seats, at-your-seat power outlets for your portable computer and premium lighting create a fine ambience before - and after - your vacation.
CURRENT DEALS	<p>VIA rail from Montreal is just \$50 one way and \$69 one way from Toronto (as at April 2011)</p> <p>Seniors: As a traveller 60 years of age or over, you can save year round on the adult regular fare in Economy class. Simply choose the 60+ fare when booking online.</p> <p>For all current deals see http://www.viarail.ca/en/deals</p>

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	<p>Canadian Museum of Civilisation Canadian War Museum Canadian Museum of Nature Canadian Aviation Museum Haunted Walks of Ottawa The Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum Byward Market – fun to visit at any time of the year Canada and the World Pavilion – free, 50 Sussex Drive, in Rideau Falls Park, displays on Canadians who are making a difference: music and sport to science and humanitarianism. Be proud to be Canadian! Amphibus Lady Dive 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, Canada's oldest continuously operating farmers' market The Westin Ottawa Hotel, Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Indigo Hotel</p>
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TULIP FESTIVAL

Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa, May 6-23, 2011

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

Be dazzled by the tulips, be taken with the town. Join the festivities from May 6 to 23, 2011. Visit the Capital this May and see the city come alive with colour. Over three million tulips create an exotic mosaic during the Capital Region's Canadian Tulip Festival. This getaway includes everything you need to enjoy the world's largest tulip festival, including great shopping discounts. This package includes the Tulip Passport which contains countless valuable vouchers to nearby national attractions, local museums and restaurants, so you can make the very most of your stay in Ottawa. The passport is offered in this package at a special rate of \$18 per person (regular price is \$20). Most Canadian Tulip Festival activities are free to the general public.

Visit www.OttawaTourism.ca or phone 1-888-OTTAWA-8 for some great short break ideas that are easy to book - and great value!

The **Tulip Celebration Package**, includes admission to one of the city's world-renowned cultural attractions and great shopping discounts. Plus the Tulip Passport full of vouchers with discounts at some of Ottawa's finest restaurants and spas, free museum passes and a special gift from the Tulip Boutique. All this, plus two nights' accommodation, from only \$127 per person.

Over half a century old, the **Canadian Tulip Festival** in Ottawa celebrates international friendship, and the return of Spring, as millions of colourful flowers bloom in parks and gardens across the Capital. Experience the Festival at sites throughout the city and along the Tulip Route - including Major's Hill Park, Festival Plaza at Ottawa City Hall, Lansdowne Park and Commissioners' Park.

Ottawa's tulip heritage is the result of a 1945 gift to Ottawa from Princess Juliana of the Netherlands in thanks for the safe haven the city provided the Dutch Royal Family during the Second World and the role Canadian troops played in liberating Holland during that conflict.

The Festival is the largest of its kind in the world, attracting some 600,000 visitors annually. It presents entertainment, family activities and an international pavilion featuring foods and heritage presentations by countries from around the world. **Celebridée**, a new programming element added in 2007, celebrates ideas, with guest appearances by some of the world's most noted thinkers, authors and personalities.

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	<p>The Canadian Tulip Festival is a national festival and a Canadian cultural touchstone, proudly in its 59th year of existence. The Tulip Festival has recently achieved coveted recognition as one of the top 10 events in Canada, and one of the top 100 events in North America in the prestigious American Bus Association rankings.</p> <p>Bike rentals: at all major sites – an ideal way to explore the Tulip Route. Bike stands will be at all sites.</p>
<p>Colour Culture Community</p>	<p>This is the theme of the 2011 Canadian Tulip Festival.</p> <p>Colour Immerse yourself in a mosaic of astonishing tulips as spring comes alive. The scent of nature’s first blooms surrounds you as the city awakens and reminds you of its true beauty. As you pass by the extraordinary flower beds, you see the beauty within each individual tulip. The park radiates with the beautiful and unique colours from around the globe as countries showcase their own unique foods, fabrics and culture. This is a true visual experience. Over one million tulips in more than 50 varieties will bring a kaleidoscope of color throughout the National Capital Region. The highest concentration tulips – some 300,000, can be found in Commissioners Park. Festival shuttle services along the Tulip Route will allow visitors to view spectacular multi-colored tulip beds and gardens along the canal or visitors can take the Tulip Tour through the Capital region. Major’s Hill Park will feature the Festival’s must-see Kaleidoscopic tulip beds – perfect for pictures, visual arts or simply to admire.</p> <p>Culture World culture and heritage come together as you are captivated by the sights and sounds of worldly traditions. Visitors in the International Pavilion will tour the world without ever leaving Festival grounds. Under the Pavilion’s tented roofs, a rich tapestry of international flavours and colours swirl together to offer festival-goers an unforgettable multicultural experience. From the savoury goodness of homemade Ukrainian pierogies to the deep timbre of the Senegalese djembe drum, the Pavilion offers up a kaleidoscope of cultural highlights for visitors to take in when they visit the Festival’s Major’s Hill Park grounds.</p> <p>Community As the definition of a traditional community continues to evolve in our connected society, its goal remains the same, to come together for a common purpose. The tulips have become an important symbol of international friendship and spring, and have special meaning to the</p>

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	<p>people of Canada. To celebrate its roots of International Friendship, the Canadian Tulip Festival is known as the “festival without fences” with park events offering free admission. The Canadian Tulip Festival celebrates its long 59 year heritage while continuing to foster its commitment to the city that has made it the largest Tulip showcase in the world. With the support of local artists, artisans, musicians and schools, the festival preserves the legacy of the gift of the tulip to all Canadians.</p> <p>In May 2011, Tulip Festival Archives Central at Dow’s Lake Pavilion invites all Canadians to share their favorite Tulip Festival story, memory or photo, which will be presented in 2012 for the Canadian Tulip Festival’s 60th Anniversary celebrations.</p>
<p>Venues</p>	<p>Commissioners Park: Floral Central Always a popular destination, Commissioners Park, located at Dow’s Lake, will be open from Friday, May 6th to Monday, May 23rd 2011. In spring, over one million tulips in more than 50 varieties bring the National Capital Commission’s (NCC) flower beds to life. The highest concentration in the region—some 300,000, can be found in Commissioners Park during the Canadian Tulip Festival. Visit the NCC’s Tulip Legacy Exhibit at Dow’s Lake and discover the fascinating details of the events that led to the “Gift of Tulips”. Then, follow the Tulip Route as it winds its way along the canal and through the Capital. Stop to visit other spectacular multi-coloured tulip gardens, including the picturesque Malak bed at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and along the shorelines of the Ottawa River in Gatineau.</p> <p>Visit the NCC’s Tulip Legacy Exhibit at Dow’s Lake and discover the fascinating details of the events that led to the “Gift of Tulips”.</p> <p>Major’s Hill Park: Festival Central Major’s Hill Park, the Canadian Tulip Festival’s main activity site, will officially be open May 6-8 and May 13-23 2011. In partnership with the NCC, the official gardener of Canada’s Capital, Major’s Hill Park will feature must see extraordinary Kaleidoscope tulip beds. Children and family oriented activities and the International Pavilion are back. In 2011, the pavilion will host 20 or more participating embassies and local community groups. Come out and enjoy cultural entertainment on the International Friendship Stage, taste exotic cuisine, explore new worlds, learn about other countries and their history, plan your next trip or shop for souvenirs from around the world</p>
<p>History of the Festival</p>	<p>The Canadian Tulip Festival has grown into the largest Tulip Festival in the world from a gift of International Friendship given six decades ago. In the fall of 1945, Princess Juliana of the Netherlands presented</p>

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Ottawa with 100,000 tulip bulbs. The gift was given in appreciation of the safe haven that members of Holland's exiled royal family received during the Second World War in Ottawa and in recognition of the role which Canadian troops played in the liberation of the Netherlands.

The tulips have become an important symbol of international friendship and the beauty of spring. They also have special meaning to people of Canada's Capital Region. During the war, the Dutch royal family was hosted at Government House in Ottawa. Princess Margriet was born at the Ottawa Civic Hospital; her hospital room declared "Dutch soil" and the flag of the Netherlands flew on Parliament's Peace Tower.

A few years after the Dutch tulips arrived in 1945, they became a strong attraction. Stunning pictures appeared in newspapers nationwide. More and more events began to centre around the annual bloom of tulips.

The first Canadian Tulip Festival was held in 1953. The Ottawa Board of Trade, at the suggestion of world-renowned photographer Malak Karsh whose photographs have immortalized the tulip, formalized the Canadian Tulip Festival to coincide with the tulip's annual bloom. In the next 10 years the Festival grew in size, with a staggering display of over two million flowers.

Over the decades the Festival has been opened by Governors General, Prime Ministers and Royalty, including several return visits from Queen Juliana and Princess Margriet. In addition, international superstars - Liberace in 1972 - and Canadian superstars have performed at the Canadian Tulip Festival. Singer Alanis Morissette made her debut on the Tulip stage at the age of 12 in 1987.

Through the 1990s and into the new millennium, the Canadian Tulip Festival celebrated the Tulip as a symbol of Peace and Friendship creating an annual international bond by twinning with Friendship Countries including the Netherlands, Turkey, France, Japan, the United States, Great Britain and Australia. In 2002, the Festival celebrated its 50th Anniversary dedicated to its founder, Malak Karsh, having expanded to an event showcasing over 3 million tulips throughout Canada's Capital Region.

Each spring over 600,000 people from all over North America, Europe and Asia make over a million visits to the Canadian Tulip Festival. Studies show it has a \$50 million economic impact annually on the Ottawa region. The event, which grew from the Dutch gift of friendship, has become the world's largest Tulip Festival and Ottawa has become

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	<p>the Tulip Capital of the North America.</p> <p>In 2007 the Canadian Tulip Festival returned to its roots in celebrating International Friendship and, in partnership with the 15 Embassies and local international groups, created the International Pavilion in Major's Hill Park attracting 125,000 people in just 11 days. In 2008, this will be expanded to the full 18 days of the Festival and will include more countries. The Tulip Festival also became the "festival without fences" with all tulip park events having free admission. 2007 also saw the introduction of Celebridée - A Celebration of Ideas, with its inaugural event - The Power of Ideas – hosted at Rideau Hall by the Governor General of Canada.</p> <p>The theme for the 2011 Canadian Tulip Festival is Colour Culture Community.</p>
Tulip Passport	<p>The 2011 Canadian Tulip Festival Passport is the key that unlocks countless tulip-related activities at the Tulip Festival's "Festival Central", located in Major's Hill Park between the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel and the National Gallery of Canada. With the Festival Passport, kids and adults alike can take advantage of interactive entertainment, craft-making activities and memorable souvenirs all for only \$20. And the festival itself is otherwise free.</p> <p>The Tulip Passport also contains countless valuable vouchers to nearby national attractions, local museums and restaurants, so you can make the very most of your stay in Ottawa-Gatineau</p>
Website	<p>http://tulipfestival.ca</p>

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