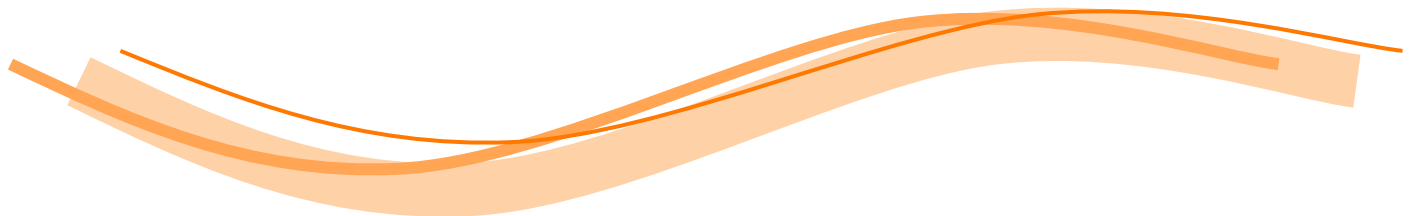




DELTA CHELSEA HOTEL TORONTO





DELTA CHELSEA HOTEL, TORONTO

The Delta Chelsea Hotel, downtown Toronto's Holiday Headquarters, has a gift for you this November 2012; its lowest rate of the year - just \$109 a night plus receive a \$20 gift card from Old Navy.

Enrol your children in the fully-supervised Camp Chelsea activities program while you shop or explore the city. The Delta Chelsea is steps away from the city's best shopping - the Toronto Eaton Centre, the boutiques of Yorkville, funky shops on Queen Street West or the underground PATH.

After a day of shopping, wind down with a sumptuous meal in one of the five restaurants and lounges, relax in the state-of-the-art fitness centre or enjoy the Family Fun Zone with a 130 foot "Corkscrew", downtown Toronto's only indoor waterslide..

One call does it all, with exclusive deals on Toronto's hottest events, attractions and shows. ["Show your key and save"](#) at Toronto events, attractions and Theatre. Plus, with the hotel's on-site ticketing department - at the same time you book your room you can book your tickets.

The Delta Chelsea is perfectly located and is your ideal base to catch a show this winter. Mirvish Productions have an exciting 2012/13 season – here are three not-to-miss shows!

[War Horse \(closes 6 January, 2013 after a hugely successful run\)](#)

England, 1914. As World War I begins, Joey, young Albert's beloved horse, is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France. But Albert cannot forget Joey and, though not old enough to enlist, he embarks on a treacherous mission to find his horse and bring him home. This powerfully moving and imaginative drama, filled with stirring music and songs, is a production of phenomenal inventiveness. At its heart are astonishing life-sized puppets created by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, who bring breathing, galloping, charging horses to life on stage.

[The Wizard of Oz \(opens December 20, 2012\)](#)

Andrew Lloyd Webber's new production of The Wizard of Oz is an enchanting adaptation of the all-time classic, totally reconceived for the stage by the award-winning creative team that recently delighted

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	<p>Toronto audiences of all ages with the revival of The Sound of Music. Developed from the ever popular MGM screenplay, this new production contains all the beloved songs from the Oscar-winning movie score, all the favourite characters and iconic moments, plus a few surprises along the way, including new songs by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber.</p> <p>VIA Rail is the human way to travel to Toronto. No worries about weather or traffic - relax and arrive stress free, in no time! And the journey is becoming even more civilized as VIA Rail work through a program of renovating 78 long-haul cars. Book at www.viarail.ca - and find deals for everyone including special fares for youths 18 to 25 and for kids 2-12 years who travel at 50% off the adult price (offers current as of October 24, 2012. For full terms and conditions and current offers, check out www.viarail.ca) The new Escape fare is VIA Rail's lowest fare, and it's only offered online.</p> <p>And did you know that VIA Rail also provides packages that include train travel, accommodations and even activities - whether you are looking for short urban stays in Ontario and Quebec or themed package vacations across Canada?</p>
<p>Mission</p>	<p>Delta Hotels Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A hotel company that offers great value - A hotel company that has warm, friendly, sincere, customer-focused employees - A hotel company that offers consistent delivery of products and services, is innovative, and consistently improving service
<p>Location</p>	<p>Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, guests are within minutes of the city's best theatre, shopping and attractions. Address: 33 Gerrard Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z4 Tel: 416-595-1975 Fax: 416-585-4375 Reservations: 1-800-243-5732 www.deltachelsea.com</p>
<p>Facebook</p>	<p>The Delta Chelsea has a very creative and fun Facebook presence that is always good to check in on. There are lots of promotions and competitions and tons of useful information. Check it out at: www.Facebook.com/DeltaChelsea</p>
<p>Families</p>	<p>The Delta Chelsea is the first choice for families in Toronto. Firstly, it's great value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free accommodation for children under 18 when staying with a parent or guardian. - "Eat for free" from the special children's menu for children six and under.

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- For children ages seven to 12 years, “**eat for half price**” from the regular menu, or at list price from the special children’s menu.

Nice family-friendly touches include:

- **Individual check-in cards** are given to children to complete upon arrival.
- An age-specific “**Kids’ Essentials**” kit for infants to seven years is given upon check-in.
- Front desk provides information on family attractions.
- **Pagers** are available for parents and wristband policy always matches the child to the parent.
- **Strollers** and wagons are available for a deposit.
- Delta Chelsea has been recognized as the “Best Family Hotel” from the readers of City Parent in the 11th Annual Readers Selection Awards. Being chosen five times by the readers they have become a Gold member of the Hall of Fame.

Then there’s all the family focused services specifically at Delta Chelsea:

- **Theatre babysitting** for children between the ages of three and twelve is available during daily matinees and Friday and Saturday evening performances.
- The Delta Chelsea’s **Starcade Games Room** is catered to teens. Complete with a pool table, air hockey and a great selection of video games.
- **Camp Chelsea** offers a complete line-up of activities for children ages five to twelve. Fully qualified camp counselors will keep your children well entertained. Camp Chelsea operates on weekends throughout the year and every day during the summer.
- **Kid Centre:** The Kid Centre is filled with exciting and entertaining activities to keep any child busy for hours! With painting, crafts, PlayStation, cooperative play, colourful fish and a bunny named Brownie, it’s only the beginning to the endless fun. The centre also offers pagers, strollers and wagon rentals. Supervised childcare, theatre babysitting, (during daily matinees and Friday and Saturday evening performances) and a strict wristband policy set in place to match child to parent.
- **Webkinz** are an exciting addition to the Kid Centre. Webkinz pets are lovable plush toys that come with a unique secret code. With it, you enter Webkinz World where you care for your virtual pet, answer trivia, earn Kinzcash and play the best kids games on the net!
- **Teen Centre – Club 33:** Club 33 is an exciting addition to the Delta Chelsea Hotel! Equipped with a Ping-Pong table, big screen LCD television with Blue Ray player, brand new HP Touch screen computers with internet, XBOX 360 featuring RockBand and IPOD docking stations,

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	<p>the entertainment is endless. This centre is for ages 12-19 years. Catering to the entire family, Bingo, movie nights and Family Fear Factor, there's something fun for everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pools: two heated indoor pools - Deck 27 caters to adults, while the Family Fun Zone on the second floor, includes a pool, waterslide and wading pool. - The pool includes the Corkscrew, a 130-foot waterslide encased in a four-storey glass tower. Heated and operates year round. Height restriction is 5'. - For children under three: Improv Care will supply high quality babysitting services. - Playpens, cribs, highchairs and booster seats. - Safety kits including socket protectors, bandages and night-lights. <p>In the evenings this year, the whole family can enjoy scheduled activities such as Family Fear Factor, Bingo Bonanza, Chelsea Challenge and Moviemania.</p> <p>Family Fun Suites provide families with a home away from home when visiting Toronto. The fully equipped apartment-style suites feature separate bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room and a play area for children. Special amenities include: bubble bath, kid's bathrobes, step-up stools, children's chairs, cookie jars, alphabet fridge magnets, in-room DVD and Nintendo game cube with free access to movies and video games at the Children's Creative Centre, bunk-beds, take-home gifts and Kids Koncierge.</p>
<p>Weddings & Honeymoons</p>	<p>Let the Delta Chelsea help you plan the perfect wedding. Their experienced Director of 'Romance,' your personal wedding planner, will take care of all the details. A team of professionals will keep things running smoothly, while you relax and enjoy your special day in the elegant ambience of our reception facilities. They'll make this an event you and your guests will never forget!</p> <p>As Toronto's wedding specialists, they offer the convenience of a selection of tastefully decorated venues where you can hold your wedding ceremony, as well as the reception to follow.</p> <p>The beautifully landscaped patio is the perfect backdrop for your outdoor wedding ceremony. Nestled in a secluded location off Elm Street, it offers a private setting for your intimate gathering. You'll take your vows under the glow of sunshine, surrounded by luscious trees, colourful flowers and a sparkling fountain.</p> <p>For your indoor wedding ceremony and reception, their team of expert decorators will create a mood to suit your personal taste – one that will make all your wedding dreams come true...</p>

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	<p>The newly renovated Honeymoon Suites are custom designed with a contemporary and sophisticated uptown feel. Designer elements include hardwood flooring, wall sculpture, luxurious marble bath, rain shower and 42" Plasma television.</p>
<p>Facilities</p>	<p>Deck 27 Health Club It's easy to maintain your fitness routine while staying at the Delta Chelsea. The health club gives you unlimited access to cardio and weight training equipment while enjoying a panoramic view of downtown Toronto. Exclusive to guests 19 and older. The Deck 27 adults-only recreation area offers: Free weights, six lifecycles, two life-rowers, seven treadmills, four life-steps, one free runner, two elliptical, eight strength pieces and Universal machines Towels, change rooms, saunas, showers and lockers, plus outdoor sundeck.</p> <p>Deck 27 Pool Guests can relax and unwind in the adults-only heated indoor pool and whirlpool. Exclusive to guests 19 and older.</p> <p>Family Fun Zone & Family Pool For families, the second floor recreation area features a family pool with and a four-storey indoor waterslide, the 'Corkscrew.' Children can also improve their swimming skills with the parent-directed Delta Dolphin Swim Program. The Family Fun Zone also has a whirlpool and sauna, as well as the Starcade Games Room and the Children's Creative Centre.</p> <p>Services Parking Self-parking - \$29 per night plus taxes Valet parking - \$39 per night plus taxes (as at Nov 2012) In & out parking privileges are provided for registered guests. Dry Cleaning - Same day and overnight dry cleaning services available. Laundry - The hotel has self-service, coin operated laundry facilities available (\$2.00 wash & \$2.00 dry from 7:00 a.m. to midnight). Laundry soap, fabric softener and laundry detergent are available for purchase.</p>
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>The Delta Chelsea is Canada's largest hotel and has 1,590 guestrooms and suites available in a wide choice of styles and sizes to suit the needs of every guest whether they are traveling on business or pleasure. All rooms offer the following amenities: June Jacob Spa Collection amenities Colour TV, with in-room pay-per-view Automated television check-out Bathrobe Complimentary tea & coffee Iron and ironing board Alarm clock Hair dryer Voice Mail</p>

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<p>Dining</p>	<p>Bb33 Bistro and Brasserie - Bb33 is both a bistro and brasserie in one dynamic setting; each offering its own unique dining experience. The brasserie allows guests to choose from elaborate buffets or from a creative à la-carte menu at breakfast, lunch and dinner. This upscale yet relaxed atmosphere features a selection of hearty salads, Canadian cheese and mouth-watering entrées including roast beef and fresh Maritime seafood. http://www.bb33.ca</p> <p>Market Garden - The bustling market-style food emporium features chefs who prepare hot and cold entrées right before your eyes. Prepare your own salad or try the chefs' homemade soups and sandwiches. At the bakery, you can find gourmet pizzas or freshly baked delicacies that are perfect with a specialty coffee from the Coffee & Tea Emporium. Dine in the restaurant, seasonal outdoor patio or enjoy the convenience of take-out.</p> <p>Monarchs - Monarchs is home to delicious pub fare and one of the city's most extensive selections of domestic and international premium ales. Sit back and catch the latest sporting action on the big screen TV or dance the night away to the music of the live DJ. Monarchs Pub is the place to be for the ultimate happy hour or late-night gathering. I have watched World Cup soccer games there in a very lively and fun atmosphere!</p> <p>Elm Street Lounge - Relax over a premium cocktail or specialty martini and watch the world go by from the lobby lounge. At lunch, enjoy a selection of à la-carte items or the authentic curry buffet.</p> <p>Deck 27 - The 27th floor offers a view of Toronto's skyline that is incredible by day and romantic by night. It's the perfect place to enjoy continental breakfast or an evening drink.</p>
<p>Airport Shuttle</p>	<p>The Delta Chelsea is the first pick-up point on the Toronto Airport Express Shuttle en route to Pearson International Airport. The Toronto Airport Express is a convenient and cost-effective method to get to and from Pearson International Airport with time to spare: http://www.torontoairportexpress.com/reservation/portal.aspx?portal=delta</p>
<p>Pet Policy</p>	<p>It is hard to leave a pet behind. Now, you don't have to. Delta Hotels is pleased to welcome you and your pet. When traveling with your pet, you want to ensure a safe and comfortable stay for you and your fellow guests. Delta hotels and resorts have a pet charge of \$35 per stay/room to cover additional cleaning costs (as at Nov 2012).</p>
<p>Internet Service</p>	<p>The ways in which hotel guests are using broadband has changed</p>

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	<p>radically. Travellers are increasingly requiring that hotels provide the technical capability to stay connected to their lives back home. The Delta Chelsea has upgraded its bandwidth to provide the fastest Internet service available in any full service hotel chain in Toronto, 20 times faster than household high-speed Internet.</p> <p>InternetXL will also be a favourite for meeting planners, offering the ability to guarantee and reserve Internet bandwidth and secure dedicated I.P. addresses for their events, at a price point that cannot be matched by outside providers. The InternetXL service will be offered free for a limited time, in the hotel's lobby, some guestrooms and all meeting spaces.</p>
<p>Awards</p>	<p>It is the only hotel company to have been recognized for its sustained focus on business excellence by the prestigious National Quality Institute with three Canada Awards for Excellence, including the award program's highest honour, the Order of Excellence (2007). The company also consistently ranks as one of the country's best employers in The Globe and Mail's Report on Business annual "50 Best Employers" list (2001–2003, 2005–2010). As well, its Corporate Social Responsibility platform, Delta Helps, includes a chain-wide commitment to the communities it serves through a national partnership with Habitat for Humanity Canada, participation in the Hotel Association of Canada's Green Key Eco-Rating program, and work with various other charitable groups.</p>
<p>Environmental Responsibility</p>	<p>As Canada's largest hotel with 1,590 rooms and a business operating in a large community such as Toronto, the Delta Chelsea recognizes and respects its corporate social responsibility ensuring that their quest for sustainable solutions continues to grow and evolve.</p> <p>The Delta Chelsea was recognized with the 2008 Hotel Association of Canada's Hall of Fame Award for Energy and Environment in February 2009. They are committed to improving everyday operations that coincide with strong environmental management practices with the maintenance of quality service and exceeding guest expectations.</p> <p>The Delta Chelsea has offset 109% of their annual carbon footprint as recognized by the LivClean Eco-Stay Program that provides Canadian hotels with leadership positioning in environmental action, accountability and responsibility.</p> <p>In recognition of the Delta Chelsea's environmental initiatives, the Hotel Association of Canada (HAC) awarded the Delta Chelsea with a 4 Green Key ECOMmodation rating. This program is essentially a measurement and performance tool for improving our environmental performance. In order for the Delta Chelsea to reach the 5 Green Key ECOMmodation rating, the hotel is evaluating the opportunities to further improve performance.</p>

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	<p>The Delta Chelsea has been at the forefront of hotel waste management for the past decade. Through a strong partnership with GFL Environmental (formerly Turtle Island Recycling), Ontario's largest multi-material recycling operator, the hotel has exceeded both industry standards and Municipal targets in landfill diversion.</p> <p>While the City of Toronto set a target of 70% diversion for 2010, the Delta Chelsea diverted 80% of its' waste stream to recycling by the completion of that year. The diversion rate is 84% as of April 2012.</p> <p>Launched in May 2011, Delta Greens is the most ambitious and comprehensive environmental sustainability program within Canada's hospitality industry. The Delta Chelsea is one of 46 properties tasked with changing the way we work in order to reach the targets set out in the program. Under this program, all hotels in the chain will commit to not only increasing waste diversion but will also decrease energy consumption, carbon emissions and water consumption. For more information, visit www.deltachelsea.com/green .</p>
<p>Current Deals November 2012</p>	<p>The hotel currently features its lowest rate of the year at just \$109 per room per night (as at Nov 3rd 2012)</p> <p>Shop 'n Stay at Toronto's Holiday Headquarters</p> <p>This holiday season, guests can save on more than just a good night's sleep at the Delta Chelsea Hotel. From November 1 to December 30, 2012, "Shop 'n Stay" with the Delta Chelsea from just \$109 and receive a FREE \$20 gift card from our shopping partner, Old Navy.</p> <p>Spend a fun-filled day in the heart of the city and enjoy the best holiday shopping that Toronto has to offer at the Toronto Eaton Centre, boutiques of Yorkville, funky Queen West and underground PATH shopping - all just minutes from the hotel.</p> <p>And, if this inexpensive getaway isn't enough for you to 'shop till you drop', the Delta Chelsea has partnered with the best attractions in the city to give guests exclusive offers. With their "Show Your Key and Save" program, hotel guests have access to discounts for museums, galleries and family attractions throughout Toronto. If culture interests you more than shopping, the Delta Chelsea is one of the official partner hotels for "Frida and Diego: Passion, Politics and Painting", the newest blockbuster exhibit at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Their package includes VIP tickets.</p> <p>In either case, finish your day of shopping and/or attraction hopping with a delicious meal in one of four restaurants and lounges or relax in their state-of-the-art fitness and recreation area, featuring an adult-only pool. Spend this holiday season with friends and family at the Delta Chelsea Hotel and enjoy the plentiful festive options for pre-holiday gatherings, festive buffets and New Year's celebrations with the help of their culinary team.</p>

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<p>MIRVISH</p>	<p>Mirvish Productions owns and operates four magnificent theatres in downtown Toronto - the Royal Alexandra, the Princess of Wales, the Canon and the Panasonic - each offering its patrons a unique theatre-going experience. Mirvish Productions have some great shows lined up: The Book of Mormon, The Wizard of Oz and Anything Goes will all be playing to packed houses in 2013.</p>
<p>WAR HORSE</p>	<p>To January 6, 2013 Location: Princess of Wales Theatre Presenting the National Theatre of Great Britain's award-winning production of War Horse. A remarkable tale of courage, loyalty and friendship. Winner of 6 Tony Awards including Best Play. England, 1914. As World War I begins, Joey, young Albert's beloved horse, is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France. He's soon caught up in enemy fire, and fate takes him on an extraordinary journey, serving on both sides before finding himself alone in No Man's Land. But Albert cannot forget Joey and, though not old enough to enlist, he embarks on a treacherous mission to find his horse and bring him home... I have seen this performance and recommend it enthusiastically: it's engaging, innovative and heart-warming.</p>
<p>THE WIZARD OF OZ</p>	<p>December 20, 2012 – January 6, 2013 Location: Ed Mirvish Theatre (was the Canon Theatre) Andrew Lloyd Webber's new production of The Wizard of Oz is an enchanting adaptation of the all-time classic, totally reconceived for the stage by the award-winning creative team that recently delighted Toronto audiences of all ages with the revival of The Sound of Music. Developed from the ever popular MGM screenplay, this new production contains all the beloved songs from the Oscar-winning movie score, all the favourite characters and iconic moments, plus a few surprises along the way, including new songs by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber.</p>
<p>JEKYLL AND HYDE</p>	<p>Nov 14-18, 2012 Location: Ed Mirvish Theatre American Idol star and Tony Award nominee Constantine Maroulis joins with Grammy Award nominee and R&B superstar Deborah Cox to inject new life into the classic tale of good and evil, Jekyll & Hyde. After four thrilling, chilling years on Broadway and multiple world-wide tours, this dark and dangerous love story from Tony and Grammy Award nominee Frank Wildhorn and Oscar and Grammy winner Leslie Bricusse returns in a stunning new pre-Broadway production that includes all the classic songs (This is the Moment, A New Life, Someone Like You) that first grabbed audiences by the throat and transformed JEKYLL & HYDE into a theatrical phenomenon.</p>

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<p>LA CAGE AUX FOLLES</p>	<p>Until November 18, 2012 Location: Royal Alexander Theatre Winner of three 2010 Tony Awards including the award for BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL, this hilarious new production of La Cage aux Folles was the biggest hit of the 2010 Broadway season, leaving audiences in stitches night after night! Starring George Hamilton and Christopher Sieber, La Cage aux Folles tells the story of Georges (George Hamilton), the owner of a glitzy nightclub in lovely Saint-Tropez, and his partner Albin (Christopher Sieber), who moonlights as the glamorous chanteuse Zaza. When Georges' son brings his fiancée's conservative parents' home to meet the flashy pair, the bonds of family are put to the test as the feather boas fly! La Cage is a tuneful and touching tale of one family's struggle to stay together... stay fabulous... and above all else, stay true to themselves! With a glorious score of hummable melodies and a dynamite cast featuring the "notorious and dangerous Cagelles," La Cage is an indisputable musical comedy classic... and this extraordinary new version shows you why!</p>
<p>SPANK!</p>	<p>Nov 14-18, 2012 Location: Panasonic Theatre SPANK! is the unauthorized musical parody of Fifty Shades of Grey that captures all of the naughty fun of the book in this saucy and hilarious show! Part Chippendales, part Second City...all in one delicious package! Grab your girlfriends and get there early for pre-show drinks and a specialty SPANK! cocktail will be served Stay after the show for a photo with Mr. Dangerous himself and meet the cast. Don't miss the sexiest, funniest, and most exciting show of the year! SPANK! is written and directed by Jim Millan, along with an all-star cast of top comedic actors and improvisers. Best known as the Director for Kids In The Hall, Millan's work has appeared in 37 countries, 17 languages and has sold over 10 million tickets over the last decade.</p>
<p>COMING SOON - THE BOOK OF MORMON</p>	<p>May – June 2013 Location: tba The Book of Mormon is from the creators of South Park: nine 2011 Tony Awards say it's the Best Musical of the Year. <i>Vogue</i> says "It's the best musical of the last 25 years." And <i>The New York Times</i> says, "It's the best musical of this century." It's THE BOOK OF MORMON, the Broadway phenomenon from <i>South Park</i> creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone and <i>Avenue Q</i> co-creator Robert Lopez. <i>The Daily Show's</i> Jon Stewart calls it, "A crowning achievement. So good, it makes me angry."</p>
<p>COMING SOON – ANYTHING GOES</p>	<p>July 16 – Aug 18, 2013 Location: tba</p>

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	<p>All aboard for this saucy and splendid production of Roundabout Theatre Company's Anything Goes, winner of three 2011 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival and Choreography and starring critically-acclaimed actress Rachel York. One of the greatest musicals in theatre history, Cole Porter's first-class musical comedy is sailing to Toronto, while it continues a triumphant run on Broadway.</p> <p>When the S.S. American heads out to sea, etiquette and convention get tossed out the portholes as two unlikely pairs set off on the course to true love... proving that sometimes destiny needs a little help from a crew of singing sailors, an exotic disguise and some good old-fashioned blackmail. Peppering this timeless classic are some of musical theatre's most memorable standards, including "I Get a Kick Out of You, "You're the Top," and of course, "Anything Goes."</p>
<p>MIRVISH PRODUCTIONS</p>	<p>Mirvish Productions is a Canadian theatre management and production company, based in Toronto, founded by David Mirvish in 1987. David's father, Ed Mirvish, had made headlines in 1963 when he purchased and saved from demolition Toronto's historic Royal Alexandra Theatre, one of the oldest and most famous legitimate theatres in North America. For the next 24 years, Ed Mirvish operated the Royal Alexandra - as it had been operated for most of its history - primarily as a "road house", staging short-run touring productions from London and New York and renting the space to local theatre groups, the Canadian Opera Co. and the National Ballet.</p> <p>In 1987, David Mirvish assumed the responsibility for the family's theatrical interests and created Mirvish Productions for the purpose of producing original plays and musicals, employing Canadian talent, for the Royal Alexandra's stage, as well as co-producing with such regional Canadian theatres as the Stratford Festival, the Shaw Festival, the Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Citadel Theatre and bringing their works to Toronto.</p> <p>Among the notable early Mirvish-produced and co-produced shows seen at the Royal Alexandra were Brian Macdonald's acclaimed staging of Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore; the world tour of the English Shakespeare Company's Henry IV and Henry V; Sweet Bird of Youth, with Joanne Woodward; Spoils of War, with Kate Nelligan (in her first Canadian stage appearance); Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing, the first native Canadian play to receive a major commercial production in Canada; the world premiere musical Jane Eyre, which subsequently moved to Broadway; and the wildly popular Toronto production and national tours of Les Misérables.</p> <p>In 1991, in response to increased ticket demand, Mirvish Productions established a subsidiary company, TicketKing, to act as a ticketing agent and provide a telephone sales service to complement the theatre ticket window. TicketKing has subsequently evolved into an online sales</p>

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	<p>service, providing an internet box office not only to Mirvish Productions, but to many smaller Toronto theatre companies, as well.</p> <p>In 1993, Mirvish Productions took over responsibility for a second Toronto theatre when Ed and David Mirvish built the Princess of Wales, a luxurious 2000-seat venue two blocks to the west of the Royal Alexandra (and the first privately financed legitimate theatre to be built in North America in more than 30 years). The Princess of Wales opened in 1993 with the box office record-breaking Mirvish co-production (in partnership with London producer Cameron Mackintosh) of the musical Miss Saigon. The two theatres formed the centre around which Toronto's "Entertainment District" has since grown.</p> <p>The Mirvish theatre family doubled in size in 2008 when the company purchased two Yonge Street venues, the 2300-seat Canon Theatre (a 1920s vaudeville and motion picture house) and the intimate, new, 700-seat Panasonic Theatre.</p> <p>Mirvish Productions is, today, Canada's largest commercial theatre production company</p> <p>www.Mirvish.com</p>
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<p>TRAVEL PARTNER</p>	<p>VIA Rail www.viarail.ca or phone 1 888 VIA-RAIL</p>
<p>Details</p>	<p>VIA Rail is the human way to travel to Toronto. No worries about weather or traffic - relax and arrive stress free, in no time! And the journey is becoming even more civilized as VIA Rail work through a program of renovating 78 long-haul cars.</p> <p>Book at www.viarail.ca - and find deals for everyone including special fares for youths 18 to 25 and for kids 2-12 years who travel at 50% off the adult price (offers current as of October 24, 2012. For full terms and conditions and current offers, check out www.viarail.ca)</p> <p>The new Escape fare is VIA Rail's lowest fare, and it's only offered online.</p> <p>And did you know that VIA Rail also provides packages that include train travel, accommodations and even activities - whether you are looking for short urban stays in Ontario and Quebec or themed package vacations across Canada?</p> <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>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected - Wireless Internet service available in-stations and on select trains - 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. - Montreal to Toronto is around 5 hours: quicker than driving!
Current Deals	<p>Check out their new "Escape web fare" that starts as low as \$39 in Economy and \$146 in Business class (as at Nov 2012)</p> <p>Find deals for everyone including special fares for youths 18 to 25 and for kids 2-12 years who travel at 50% off the adult price. Every Thursday the website has new express deals of the week.</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>

TORONTO	
Location	Just six hours drive southwest from Montreal
Geography	Situated 566 feet above sea level on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, part of the Great Lakes system, Toronto is one of the southernmost cities in Canada. In fact, it has the same latitude as southern Oregon.
Name	Toronto is named for the Huron Indian word similar in meaning to 'meeting place'.
Population	Canada's largest city, with a population in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) of 5.1 million people, making it North America's 5th largest city, after Mexico City, New York, LA and Chicago. 46% of Toronto's population are immigrants to Canada. Toronto's population is predicted to increase to 7.45 million by the year 2031. In addition to the City of Toronto, the GTA includes the Regional Municipalities of York, Halton, Peel and Durham.
Language	In addition to the two official languages, the top 5 languages spoken in Toronto are Chinese, Italian, Tamil, Portuguese and Spanish. 46% of Toronto's population are immigrants to Canada and 128 languages and dialects can be heard on the streets of Toronto.
Health	Remember to ensure that you have travel insurance for out of province travel
Safety tips	As for any Canadian city – just normal, sensible precautions.

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CLIMATE	Similar to Montreal – but less snow in winter!
GETTING THERE	
Flying	<p>Less than an hour from Montreal:</p> <p>Porter Airlines have radically altered travel options between Montreal and Toronto.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enjoy state-of-the-art Bombardier Q400 aircraft and the new ultra modern passenger lounge at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. - Fast quiet modern aircraft with custom leather seats and more legroom than usual economy flights. - The Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport in Toronto drastically cuts your total travel time. Arrive just minutes from downtown – saving around two hours on a round trip from Montreal.
Distances	550km, 6hours driving from Montreal to Toronto
Ferries	From downtown to Toronto Island \$7 return (Nov 2012)
Trains	<p>Let the train take the strain...VIA Rail takes between 5 hours from Montreal to Toronto.</p> <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 - 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. <p>Check out their new "Escape web fare" that starts as low as \$39 in Economy and \$146 in Business class (as at Nov 2012)</p> <p>Book on line at www.viarail.ca or phone 1 888 VIA-RAIL</p>
Car Rental	All major companies are represented
PATH	The Underground City PATH is downtown Toronto's underground walkway linking 27 kms of subterranean shopping, services and entertainment. Follow the brightly coloured PATH signs and you'll reach your downtown destination easily in weatherproof comfort.
Buses	TTC – subway, streetcars, buses, transfers
Segway Tours	The Distillery Historic District's famed Segway Tours has unveiled their newest tour, the one-hour Segway & Tasting Combo Tour. A guide will take visitors around the Distillery on the Segway Personal Transporter for a 45-minute glide to explore the area's rich history. After you've been familiarized with the hip Toronto district, the tasting begins. The Combo Tour includes a visit to the award-winning Mill St. Brewery for sampling of the tantalizing brews, and a stop at Soma Chocolate to taste their renowned Peruvian dark chocolate. The winter 2012/2013 tours run

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	regularly Tues to Sun and cost is from \$39 plus per person. www.segwayofontario.com
Passes	Toronto City Pass allows you a 42% discount and front-of-line privileges at five of Toronto's biggest attractions: CN Tower, Toronto Zoo, Casa Loma, Ontario Science Centre and Royal Ontario Museum for just \$59 per person plus tax.(Nov 2012) and valid for 9 days.

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	All types, from B&B to the very best five star hotels. I recommend the Delta Chelsea as the perfect base for exploring Toronto. This fall 2012, Toronto will also witness the arrival of two more new luxury hotels with the openings of the Four Seasons Hotel Toronto and Shangri-La Hotel, Toronto, as well as world-renowned chefs moving in including Daniel Boulud's Café Boulud and dbar and David Chang's Momofuku.
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	<p>CN Tower; Toronto Islands and the ferry; Centreville on the Island – a small funfair that's ideal for younger children; Black Creek Pioneer Village, where they can learn history while having a good time; Paramount Canada's Wonderland where they can just have a good time (!); Ontario Place; ROM; Science Centre; Sports games; Hockey Hall of Fame; Riverdale Farm; Playdium...the list goes on!</p> <p>African Lion Safari: Jungle cats. Ring-tailed lemurs. Baby elephants. What kid could ask for anything more?</p> <p>Harbourfront: Kaleidoscope is an ongoing program of creative crafts, active games, and special events on weekends and holidays. There are also a pond, winter ice-skating, and a crafts studio.</p> <p>Ontario Place: The Children's Village, water slides, huge Cinesphere, futuristic pod, and other entertainment are the big hits at this recreational and cultural park. In the Children's Village, kids under 13 can scramble over rope bridges, bounce on an enormous trampoline, or drench one another in the water-play section.</p> <p>Ontario Science Centre: Kids race to be the first at this paradise of hands-on games, experiments, and push-button demonstrations - 800 of them. There's a Mythic Creatures exhibit on currently (Nov 2010).</p> <p>Canada's Wonderland: The kids can't wait to get on the theme park's roller coasters and daredevil rides. And don't forget to budget for video games.</p>

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	<p>Toronto Zoo: One of the best in the world, modeled after San Diego's - the animals in this 284-hectare (710-acre) park really do live in a natural environment.</p> <p>Toronto's beloved medieval theatre, Medieval Times, has introduced a new performance, the company's first since 2003. The show blends a two-hour live performance with a four course medieval feast served in a castle-inspired 1,000+ seat arena. www.medievaltimes.com</p>
<p>Teens</p>	<p>ROM's Dinosaur Gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum: Discover the wonders of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, the James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and the Gallery of the Age of Mammals. Together, these awe-inspiring, light-filled new galleries occupy the entire Level 2 of the Lee-Chin Crystal. The prism-shaped galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and Age of Mammals boast 18-foot high ceilings to accommodate over 750 of the Museum's tallest specimens. www.rom.on.ca</p> <p>Canada's Wonderland - Leviathan In 2012, Canada's Wonderland will unveil one of the biggest and tallest roller coasters in the world: Leviathan. When the Park opens in May 2012, Leviathan will dominate the Park's landscape, taking riders to breathtaking heights and speeds never experienced before at Wonderland. The excitement begins on Leviathan's first lift hill as riders climb to a record breaking height of 306 feet (93.3M) followed by an exhilarating 80 degree drop. Reaching a top speed of 148 kilometers per hour, riders will experience extreme coaster thrills on 5,486 feet (1,672M) of track that includes a series of giant camelback hills reaching heights up to 180 feet (54.9M), and an astonishing overbanked hammerhead turn at 115 degrees that will cross above the Park's front gate at 147 feet (44.8M) high. Summer only. www.canadawonderland.com Price: \$65 for season pass (2012).</p> <p>LKTYP - Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People is the largest non-profit theatre for young audiences in Canada and presents new Canadian plays, innovative works and classics from children's literature throughout the season. A multi-faceted centre for learning through the arts, LKTYP's performances are designed to help children and youth identify with the issues they face today. www.lktyp.ca</p>
<p>Honeymoons & Weddings</p>	<p>Casa Loma; Toronto Island; CN Tower; many wonderful church and restaurant options too</p>
<p>Seniors</p>	<p>Casa Loma - Experience the elegance and splendor of the Edwardian era at Casa Loma! Casa Loma was built in 1911, by Sir William Henry Mill Pellatt, a prominent financier, industrialist, and military man. Casa</p>

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	<p>Loma was designed by E.J. Lennox. Explore the unique architecture, beautifully furnished rooms, secret passages, towers, and an 800-foot tunnel to luxurious stables. May through October enjoy the magnificent estate gardens. Cost: \$20.55 (Nov 2012)</p> <p>http://www.casaloma.org</p> <p>Toronto Tours - Whether you are seeking adventure or discovery, refinement or rusticity, Toronto Tours will rise to the occasion. Combining great ideas with the most unique venues and services in the city, they create spectacular results beyond your expectations. Choose one or more of the following tour options: Toronto City Tour, Toronto Harbour Tour and/or Niagara Falls Tour.</p>
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UNIQUES	The multicultural neighbourhoods are what make Toronto so vibrant and so unique.
Surprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yonge Street, Toronto's main street, is the longest street in the world at 1,900 km. It stretches from the lake at Queens Quay in Toronto to Rainy River, a mining community in northern Ontario, near Thunder Bay. - the Bata Shoe Museum is a wonderfully quirky treasure trove and well worth a visit: http://www.batashoemuseum.ca - the hidden ravine systems that run towards Lake Ontario.
History	<p>The area was used as a meeting place for centuries by people of the First Nations and, later, by French traders, thanks to its naturally protected harbour.</p> <p>In 1788, the British purchased the land from the Mississauga Indians, and a settlement slowly established itself around the waterfront area.</p> <p>In 1793, Lieutenant-Colonel John Graves Simcoe established a military garrison and named the town York in honour of the Duke of York of the time.</p> <p>It was renamed Toronto when the city was incorporated in 1834. During the War of 1812, the town was twice occupied by the Americans (both times in 1813). By 1834, its citizens – mostly British and Scottish immigrants – numbered close to 10,000. Others, such as Jews from the United States, Russia and Germany would soon arrive, as well as some 40,000 Irish fleeing famines in their homeland. Blacks escaping slavery in the USA soon followed, sowing the seeds of current day Toronto's multicultural diversity. As the population increased, so did the city's infrastructure. The University of Toronto opened its doors in 1843. Growth continued in spite of the Great Fires of 1849 and 1904. The new city included an extensive network of roads, railways, canals, shipping, and telegraph lines.</p> <p>In 1867, Canada was born, and Toronto became the capital of the newly created province of Ontario.</p>
Books	Canada by Jan Morris – there's a perceptive essay on Toronto by this most excellent of travel writers.

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	<p>Frommer's Toronto 2012 The Rough Guide to Toronto – co-written by Helen Lovekin, a past guest on my radio shows.</p>
1000 Places to see before you die	<p>Art Gallery of Ontario Four Seasons Hotel Royal Ontario Museum Hockey Hall of Fame Toronto International Film Festival</p>
Must Sees	<p>The CN Tower; Toronto's diverse neighbourhoods; the great theatre scene, Toronto Islands just offshore in Lake Ontario.</p>

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	<p>Toronto has more major league teams than any other Canadian city – even if most are not performing too well these days!</p> <p>Baseball: Blue Jays; Basketball: Raptors; Football: Argos; Hockey: Maple Leafs; Lacrosse: Toronto Rock; Soccer: Toronto FC.</p> <p>There's also horse racing, boating, sailing, canoeing, inline skating, rock climbing, golf, cross country skiing...and more</p> <p>Bills in Toronto at the Rogers Centre: The NFL has come to Canada in full force. The Buffalo Bills bring NFL Football to the Rogers Centre for eight games over the next five years. The next game is Seahawks v Bill December 16th, 2012. www.billsintoronto.com</p> <p>The Grey Cup 2012 An event a century in the making. Game on! The 100th edition of the Grey Cup Championship returns to the Rogers Centre at on Sunday, November 25, 2012. Tourism Toronto is your source for game day tickets: https://www.reservations.seetorontonow.com/greycup.asp</p>
Golf	<p>Toronto and its surrounding area is a golfer's dream. There are unique doglegs, island greens -and yes, sand traps - just waiting to be conquered at over 100 highly rated courses within a short drive from downtown. Choose from either the Legends or Masters course at Lionhead in Mississauga, or head north to Aurora to walk all 7,304 yards of St. Andrews Valley. Or face the challenges of Glen Abbey and Angus Glen, both of which have hosted the Canadian Open (Canada's PGA tour event). Before you head out, be sure to get some practice in at the driving range at the Docks.</p>
Fishing	<p>Cast your line into Lake Ontario for some of the best fishing in Canada. For an adrenaline - fuelled outdoor adventure, book the Fin-natic fishing</p>

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	<p>charter with all the latest fishing technology and equipment.</p> <p>Andrews Charter: Andrews Charter can provide experienced crew, full catering and two luxury yachts at competitive rates. Their boats, the "What's Next" (45') and 'Last One III' (52') are the largest available for charter in the area and can accommodate groups of 8 to 28 people. Each boat is fully equipped for Lake Ontario salmon fishing. Andrews Charter is the longest established charter boat company in the Toronto area, having provided charters for over 30 years. Charters depart from Port Credit, Mississauga, close to Toronto. Pickup from Toronto can be arranged. Website: www.andrewscharter.ca</p>
Hiking	<p>The ravines in Toronto are wonderful places to escape the city without leaving the city – quiet havens of peace and shade where I have encountered white tailed deer, foxes and coyotes.</p> <p>City of Toronto Parks feature Discovery Walks which are a series of free self-guided walks that link the city ravines, parks, gardens, beaches and neighbourhoods. Informative signage will help you experience an area's heritage and environment. For more information, go to: www.toronto.ca/parks/recreation_facilities/discovery_walks/discover_index.htm</p> <p>The Martin Goodman Trail in Toronto is at the heart of the 350 km Lake Ontario Waterfront trail. The Toronto stretch known as the Martin Goodman trail provides a leisurely or intense trek from the Eastern Beaches to the Western Beaches. You can also go well beyond those borders towards Mississauga (to the west) or Scarborough (to the east). Most the Toronto portion of the path is uninterrupted and well-marked making it perfect and safe for cycling, inline skating, walking, or jogging.</p>
Cycling	<p>With biking trails through most of the city's parks and more than 29km of street bike routes, it's not surprising that Toronto has been called one of the best cycling cities in North America. Favorite pathways include the Martin Goodman Trail (from the Beaches to the Humber River along the waterfront); the Lower Don Valley bike trail (from the east end of the city north to Riverdale Park); High Park (with winding trails over 160 hectares); and the Toronto Islands, where bikers ride freely, without fear of cars.</p>
Skating	<p>Skating in winter at City Hall and Harbourfront: Toronto's holiday postcard experience – skating at these two iconic outdoor rinks is completed with music and rink-side hot chocolate. Both rinks have skate rental on site.</p>

CULTURE	See the Canadian Opera Company at the new Four Seasons Centre
Theatre	See the separate section on Mirvish Productions below.

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<p>Music</p>	<p>The music scene in Toronto is vibrant, with big names like the Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Elton John and The Who making regular appearances.</p> <p>Roy Thomson Hall: at 60 Simcoe St. in Toronto is Canada's premier concert hall, presenting top international performers and it's home to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and Toronto International Film Festival Gala screenings. Website: www.roythomson.com</p> <p>Massey Hall: 178 Victoria St. Toronto - The 'grande dame' of local music halls has been part of Toronto's music history since 1894. Programming includes pop, rock, classical and contemporary music. Website: www.MasseyHall.com</p> <p>Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts - Opera: The Canadian Opera Company is one of the largest arts organizations in Canada, and among the top ten opera producers in North America. Internationally acclaimed as one of the continent's most innovative performing arts companies. Tosca will be performed from Jan. 21 to Feb. 25, 2012. Performances at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen W., 416-363-8231 Website: www.coc.ca</p> <p>The National Ballet of Canada - The Nutcracker at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts is presenting The Nutcracker, James Kudelka's 1995 version of this evergreen seasonal classic - a perfect gem of a ballet, affectionate and reflective, at once cheerily traditional yet freshly attuned to the rhythms and accents of the contemporary. Dec 19, 2012 – Jan 5, 2013. Website: http://national.ballet.ca</p>
<p>Films</p>	<p>On any given day, there are up to 40 productions filming in Toronto. Considered "Hollywood North" by the film industry, Toronto is 3rd in TV and film production and 2nd as exporter of TV programming in North America.</p> <p>Some of the films shot in Toronto: Chicago; X-Men; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Cinderella Man; Moonstruck; and many more.</p> <p>Currently, several TV shows are shot in Toronto, including the very successful "Flashpoint" which is one of my personal favourite shows – partly because it showcases the city of Toronto so effectively.</p>
<p>Museums</p>	<p>There are 125 museums and public archives in the Greater Toronto Area; here are some of the stars -</p> <p>Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) - No trip to Toronto is complete without</p>

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a visit to Canada's leading international Museum. Located in the heart of downtown, the ROM's renowned collections span both World Cultures and Natural History. Ten glorious new galleries are now open for you to explore featuring the art and archaeology of China, Japan, Korea and Canada's First Peoples. www.rom.on.ca

Ultimate Dinosaurs: Giants from Gondwana

On now for a limited time. Forget about the dinosaurs you know... this is a whole new breed of beast. Mark your calendars for the biggest and best dinosaur exhibition ever mounted in Canada. Ultimate Dinosaurs: Giants from Gondwana features dinosaurs you've never seen before, displayed in ways you've never seen before.

Also: the ROM's **Dinosaur Gallery** returns

Discover the first two permanent galleries of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, the James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and the Gallery of the Age of Mammals. Together, these awe-inspiring, light-filled new galleries occupy the entire Level 2 of the Lee-Chin Crystal. The prism-shaped galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and Age of Mammals boast 18-foot high ceilings to accommodate over 750 of the Museum's tallest specimens.

Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) - With a permanent collection of more than 73,000 works of art, the Art Gallery of Ontario is among the most distinguished art museums in North America The Gallery began an extraordinary chapter when it launched Transformation AGO in 2002. The facelift involved the growth of the permanent collection, an architectural expansion by architect Frank Gehry, strengthening of the museum's endowment resources, enriching visitors' experiences and providing greater access to the full vibrancy of the art museum. www.ago.net

Frida & Diego: Passion, Politics and Painting

October 20, 2012 – January 20, 2013

The exhibition features more than 80 works on paper and paintings by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera and more than 60 photographs of the couple, whose shared passion for each other and Mexico's revolutionary culture during the 1920s and 1930s have made them Mexico's most famous artists. Assembled from three distinguished Mexican private collections on Mexican art, the Museo Dolores Olmedo, Colección Gelman, and Galería Arvil, the exhibition provides the opportunity to view almost one quarter of Kahlo's entire body of work and a range of Rivera's painting styles from his early cubist period and studies for his Mexican murals to his portraits and later landscapes. Photographs by

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	<p>Nickolas Muray, Lola Alvarez Bravo, Bernard Silberstein and others help tell the story of one of the most prolific and politically charged couples of the 20th century. http://www.ago.net/frida-diego-passion-politics-and-painting</p> <p>Bata Shoe Museum - Explore the world at your feet through a stunning collection of more than 12,000 shoes and related artifacts that span 4,500 years of history in four impressive galleries. A cultural gem in the heart of the city, The Bata Shoe Museum is an internationally-acclaimed institution and architectural treasure. http://www.batashoemuseum.ca</p> <p>Also don't miss the Ontario Science Centre and the Gardiner Museum of Ceramics.</p>
<p>Architecture</p>	<p>Toronto Architecture Tours: Guided Walking Tours - find out more at www.torontosocietyofarchitects.ca For instance their ART & PERFORMANCE TOUR. Some of Toronto's most exciting contemporary buildings are related to art, theatre, and cinema. This outdoor walking tour features dynamic and controversial structures designed by top international and Canadian architects. You'll see some of the results of Toronto's Cultural Renaissance, an exciting program of buildings that solidified the city's reputation as an arts centre. Highlights of the tour include the TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival) Bell Lightbox, Sharp Centre at Ontario College of Art & Design University, and the Art Gallery of Ontario.</p> <p>Featured Buildings Roy Thomson Hall, 1978-82 Arthur Erickson with Mathers & Haldenby; interior transformed 2000-02 KPMB Princess of Wales Theatre, 1991-93 Peter Smith of Lett/Smith Architects TIFF Bell Lightbox, 2007-10 KPMB Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 2006 A. J. (Jack) Diamond Umbra Concept Store, 2007 Kohn Shnier Architects Pachter Hall / Moose Factory Gallery, 2005 Stephen Teeple Sharp Centre, Ontario College of Art and Design University, 2004 Will Alsop with Robbie/Young + Wright Architects Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), 2003–08 Gehry International Architects with Adamson Associates Architects</p>
<p>Festivals & Events</p>	<p>The most authentic way to experience Toronto is through the festivals and events inspired by the cultures within. The 2012/13 roster of festivals shines a spotlight on every neighbourhood in the region. From inspiring art during Luminato and souvlaki cravings at the Taste of the Danforth to the colourful costumes of Caribana and schmoozing with the Stars at the Toronto International Film Festival - Toronto has a festival for everyone. And the best thing about them is that they're free!</p>

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	<p>Luminato: June Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity, is an annual celebration of the arts infusing Toronto’s stages, streets, and public spaces with theatre, dance, classical and contemporary music, film, literature, visual arts, and design. www.luminato.com</p> <p>Taste of the Danforth: August</p> <p>Toronto International Film Festival: September</p> <p>TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS (October to April) The Leafs take the ice for some exciting National Hockey League games at the Air Canada Centre...or maybe not for the 2012/2013 season! www.mapleleafs.com</p> <p>TORONTO RAPTORS (October to April) The Raptors NBA basketball team hold court at the Air Canada Centre. www.nba.com/raptors</p> <p>TORONTO BLUE JAYS (April to October) See the only big league Canadian baseball play at the Rogers Centre http://toronto.bluejays.mlb.com</p> <p>Gourmet Food and Wine Expo (Nov 15-18 2012) Each year the Expo offers 36,000 guests an unparalleled opportunity to sample over 1,500 fine wines, spirits and beers from around the globe. http://www.foodandwineexpo.ca</p> <p>Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (November 2-11 2012) Held on the grounds of the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, the Royal Winter Fair has “brought the country to the city” since 1922 and has grown into the world’s largest indoor agricultural fair. www.RoyalFair.org</p> <p>ONE OF A KIND CHRISTMAS CANADIAN CRAFT SHOW AND SALE (Nov 22 – Dec 2, 2012) Complete your holiday shopping at one of Toronto’s most popular shopping expos. You’ll find unique gift ideas from over 750 Canadian designers and artisans specializing in fashion, art, crafts and interior decorations. www.oneofakindshow.com</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	<p>CN Tower is Canada's National Tower and it defines the Toronto skyline; at 553.33m (1,815 ft., 5 in.) is the world’s 2nd tallest building and a Wonder of the Modern World. With breathtaking views from 3</p>
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	<p>observation levels including the Glass Floor and SkyPod, theatre, rides, arcade, exhibits, shopping and award-winning dining at 360 Restaurant, it's Toronto's most visited attraction. www.cntower.com Cost: Total Tower Experience is \$35.99 (as at Nov 2012)</p> <p>EdgeWalk at the CN Tower 2013 EdgeWalk operates seasonally from May 1-October 31. Newflash: The 2012 season has been extended until November 18th 2012! EdgeWalk is the CN Tower's most thrilling attraction in its 36 year history, and the first of its kind in North America. It is the world's highest full circle hands-free walk on a 5 ft (1.5 m) wide ledge encircling the top of the Tower's main pod. Visitors walk in groups of six, while attached to an overhead safety rail via a trolley and harness system. Trained EdgeWalk guides encourage participants to push their personal limits, allowing them to lean back over Toronto with nothing but air and breathtaking views of Lake Ontario beneath them. Designed with the highest international safety and security standards in mind, EdgeWalk runs 1.5 hours, with the outdoor walk lasting approximately 30 minutes. Tickets cost \$175 CAD and include a keepsake video, photos and certificate of achievement. Participants also receive a Total Tower Experience Ticket. New in 2012, the entire experience can be booked online and further information and FAQ can be found at www.edgewalkcntower.ca For special requests call 416-601-3833. Book early to secure the best dates and times. EdgeWalk holds the Guinness World Record for the "Highest External Walk on a Building".</p>
Beaches	<p>Ashridges Bay: This is a great park in summer, close enough to the downtown core (just a short streetcar ride away) and the perfect place to spend a summer afternoon. On the beach, you'll see volleyball games going on, families having picnics, couples going for walks along the boardwalk, and lots of people soaking up the sun. It really doesn't feel like you're in the city at all. There's a laid-back vibe and the many independently owned restaurants and shops nearby add to the neighbourhood's easygoing charm. There are also beaches on Toronto Island's south shore.</p>
Wildlife	<p>NEW FOR 2013: Ripley's Aquarium of Canada Located in the heart of downtown Toronto next door to the iconic CN Tower, the Ripley's Aquarium of Canada – a \$130 million facility now under construction – is a major family attraction set to open in summer 2013. The highly anticipated aquarium is expected to draw nearly two-million visitors each year and will feature more than 13,500 exotic sea and freshwater creatures, a unique 96-metre-long moving</p>

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	<p>walkway through an acrylic tunnel deep below the 2.84-million litre Shark Lagoon, a tropical reef tank, and a Marine and Freshwater Education Centre with dedicated classroom space. www.ripleyaquariums.com/canada</p> <p>Toronto Zoo: Canada’s premier Zoo offers over 5,000 animals and incredible exhibits including the award winning 30-acre “African Savanna,” and the “Gorilla Rainforest”, the largest indoor gorilla exhibit in North America. A must see- “Zellers Discovery Zone” featuring the "Kids Zoo", "Splash Island" and the "Waterside Theatre", home of the Amazing Animal Show (Seasonal). The Toronto Zoo will receive two breeding giant pandas in spring 2013; the result of an agreement between Hu Jintao, President of China and Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, to loan two giant pandas to Zoos in Canada as part of a long-term conservation partnership between China and Canada. The giant panda exhibit will open in the spring 2013, and will be open during the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto. Previously, when pandas were at the Toronto Zoo in 1985 for a short-term loan of three months, the Zoo experienced its highest annual attendance ever at 1.9 million visitors. Visit www.torontozoo.com for full details Also, I have seen white tailed deer, fox and coyote in the ravines system in the heart of the city.</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>There’s lots of green space in Toronto! 8,000 hectares or 18.1 per cent of Toronto's area is parkland including ravines, valleys, woodlots, waterfront natural areas, parks and farmland. And there are 3 million publicly owned trees in Toronto.</p> <p>High Park: A 400 acre wilderness park right on the subway system. Enjoy miles of nature trails plus a Trackless Train, Zoo, children's garden, grenadier pond, adventure playground, hillside gardens and a restored 1837 cottage.</p> <p>The Toronto Islands: Take a short ferry ride from downtown Toronto and you will find yourself in a serene, verdant and care-free paradise. With beaches, parkland, biking and hiking paths and even an amusement park for the youngsters – there is something for everyone in this green space spread over 14 separate islands.</p>
<p>Gardens</p>	<p>Toronto Botanical Garden - Designed to educate and inspire, Toronto Botanical Garden offers an array of 12 award-winning themed gardens spanning nearly four acres. You'll also find a complete range of innovative indoor and outdoor learning experiences for all ages including programs, garden tours, nature day camps, and an extensive horticultural library. The LEED Silver Certified Building with its energy-efficient sloping green roof showcases environmental</p>

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	<p>sustainability and architectural beauty. Two large event halls flow into open-air courtyards and are ideally suited for weddings and corporate events. Don't forget to visit the garden shop or seasonal café before you leave. Admission is free. Website: www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca</p> <p>Riverdale Farm - Wander 7.5 acres of farmland through wooded areas, around ponds, and into butterfly-herb-vegetable-flower gardens. It's the country in the middle of the city.</p> <p>Canada Blooms – March The Toronto Flower and Garden Show in March each year is the largest annual indoor flower and garden show in Canada. Featuring 6 acres of spectacular gardens, floral arrangements, horticultural displays, educational programs and a marketplace of garden related products. http://www.canadablooms.com</p>
Castles/Forts	<p>Fort York National Historic Site Visit the site of the 1813 Battle of York and the birthplace of modern Toronto. Fort York is home to Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings which now house exhibits and restored period room settings. This National Historic site is open year-round and offers seasonal guided tours, musket, drill and music demonstrations – see www.toronto.ca/fortyork for more details.</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>Toronto's vibrant sense of community among specific neighbourhoods across the city has created the continent's best street-level shopping. Peruse the windows of Bayview Village, the high-end boutiques of Bloor-Yorkville, the trendsetting shops of Queen West or the neighbourhood stores of Bloor West Village. Dig for amazing vintage finds in Kensington Market or enjoy a variety of distinct uptown shops in the Yonge/Eglington area.</p> <p>Toronto also boasts one-of-a-kind shopping adventures. This uniqueness comes to life in places like in Lululemon, a Canadian-based clothier and lifestyle merchant entirely devoted to fashionable yoga wear and accessories, and in Honest Ed's, a Toronto shopping landmark, where the only thing brighter than the illuminated exterior is your opportunity to save a ton of dough.</p> <p>For one of the best wine selections in the country, including an extensive vintages section, visit the Summerhill LCBO, the largest liquor store in Canada.</p> <p>World renowned Holt Renfrew is not your typical department store – designer jeans, runway fashions and exclusive labels fill all three floors.</p>

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	<p>Malls are also not a-miss, by putting everything in one place, malls offer the best opportunity to get the most stuff in the shortest amount of time. Toronto Eaton Centre is in the heart of the downtown and is filled with level upon level of clothes, shoes, music and everything else. In other areas of the city beyond downtown, you'll find more shopping at Yorkdale, Square One and Sherway Gardens. Head to Dixie Outlet Mall for sweet deals or Vaughan Mills for unique stores like Holt Renfrew Last Call and Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World.</p> <p>Yorkdale Shopping Centre's new \$185 million and 145,000 square foot retail expansion including 30 new stores will open for business on November 15, 2012. Iconic and innovative brands Ted Baker London, Kate Spade New York, Tesla Motors and Ann Taylor are among those entering the Canadian market for the first-time with flagship stores in Yorkdale's expansion. Other notable new stores include Diesel, Wilfred Boutique, the North Face, Ta-ze and Joey Restaurants. Holt Renfrew, Lacoste and Club Monaco will have refurbished and larger locations within the expansion. Yorkdale's retail expansion is the second of two major developments in 2012, which together will create an additional 190,000 total square feet in the shopping centre at a total cost of \$220 million. Yorkdale's new food collection, Dine on 3, launched in June 2012 and accounts for 45,000 square feet of the overall expansion and features restaurants and a new dining area with skylights, fireplaces and an outdoor terrace. www.yorkdale.com</p> <p>Shopping beyond downtown Great shopping and holiday spirit extends across Greater Toronto from two of Canada's largest malls, Vaughan Mills and Square One, to the truly unique Pacific Mall and the quaint boutiques of Old Town Markham and Unionville. There are even more options further afield, including Cookstown and Canada One outlets.</p>
<p>Markets</p>	<p>Lowe's Toronto Christmas Market at the Distillery November 30 to December 16, 2012 A magical market set among authentic Victorian-era architecture. Inspired by the Old World and influenced by the new, Toronto's first traditional European holiday market will capture the charm, heritage and romance of a bygone era while showcasing unique artisanal products of Toronto. Entertainment for the entire family includes live music, a Ferris wheel, holiday themed presentations and workshops, children's story telling and more. Location: The Distillery Historic District - 55 Mill St. www.torontochristmasmarket.com</p>

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	<p>St Lawrence Market: Back in 1803, the governor proclaimed the area to be the “market block”. Today the south building of St. Lawrence Market, dating from 1905, incorporates one of Toronto’s former city halls. It holds more than 50 vendors hawking everything from maple syrup to live mussels. On Saturdays the north building springs to life at five in the morning. Regional farmers start setting out their seasonal produce while it’s still dark and everything from emu eggs to apples can be found.</p> <p>Kensington Market: This colorful, lively area should not be missed. You'll hear Caribbean, Portuguese, Italian, and other accents as merchants spread out their wares - squid and crabs in pails; chickens, pigeons, bread, cheese, apples, pears, peppers, ginger, and mangoes from the West Indies; salted fish from Portuguese dories; lace, fabrics, and other colourful remnants. There's no market on Sunday. Kensington Avenue itself is a treasure trove of vintage clothing stores. Admittedly, you'll see a lot of junk here, but amazing finds can be had at shops such as Courage My Love (14 Kensington Ave.). Most of the shops display their wares out of doors in decent weather, adding to the colour and charm of the area.</p> <p>The Evergreen Brick Works Farmers’ Market features the best of the season, with a fabulous assortment of fruits, vegetables, wild fish, meat, cheese, milled flours, eggs and oils—all from local farmers. The market takes place in The Pavilions from May to October. During the colder months, from November to April, the market moves indoors to the Young Welcome Centre. http://ebw.evergreen.ca/whats-on/farmers-market</p>
Nightlife	<p>Queen Street West is the most happening area currently. Spacious and edgy with maverick touches, the newest addition to Toronto’s nightlife is Tattoo Rock Parlour, the city’s only live rock n’ roll and DJ venue equipped with a resident tattoo shop. Featuring a fireplace, stage for live music and upper level that holds two bars, Tattoo Rock Parlour will amuse the senses of even the most bona fide rock star. For more information visit www.tattoorockparlour.com</p>
Casinos	<p>At Niagara (90 minutes away) and Casino Rama, near Orillia, a similar distance to the north.</p>

CUISINE	
Food	<p>Every cuisine under the sun; “Winterlicious” and “Summerlicious” food festivals are very cost effective ways of eating your way around Toronto!</p>
Wine	<p>Ontario’s vineyards are 60 minutes away on the Niagara Peninsula – see the Destination file on Ontario’s Wine Country on this website for full details at:</p>

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	<p>http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/destinations.asp?destination=ontario_wine Also my Travel Blog: http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2011/07/wine-country-ontario_07.html</p>
<p>Restaurants</p>	<p>Dining out is nothing short of a passion in Toronto. It's not that residents are too lazy to cook, but we are spoiled by the embarrassment of edible riches in all parts of the city.</p> <p>The city is a restaurant-goer's nirvana for a wealth of reasons. For starters, there are more than 7,000 places to choose among. They represent cooking styles from any country or nationality you can name, making Toronto's culinary scene both eclectic and palate-teasing. Eating out is also remarkably affordable: While the most expensive restaurants have broken the C\$50-an-entrée mark, there are many, many reasonably priced options that offer inventive cooking and attentive service.</p> <p>Mediterranean and Asian cuisines dominate the scene - and often appear on the same plate. Fusion cooking caught on big here and has never lost its steam. Many restaurants that started out as, say, Italian have incorporated ingredients and cooking styles from Southeast Asia and North Africa, among other haute spots. Each wave of immigration has carried new ideas and flavors.</p> <p>While restaurants of all descriptions are found across the city, certain neighborhoods are renowned for their specialties: Little Italy for its trattorias, Chinatown for its Chinese and Vietnamese eateries, and the Danforth for its Greek tavernas. King Street West has unexpectedly become a magnet for gourmets in the past couple of years, offering a bevy of bistros and boîtes.</p> <p>In coordination with the dramatic Michael Lee-Chin Crystal addition to the Royal Ontario Museum, Crystal Five (C5) Restaurant Lounge is on the fifth floor. Located at the pinnacle of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, Crystal Five is a unique dining destination. Using local and artisanal ingredients, menu items can be paired with wines from the international and regional wine list. For more information visit www.rom.on.ca</p> <p>Exceptional 'ONE' restaurant by international chef Mark McEwan is open at the new five star Hazelton Hotel, offering elegant dining in a sea of smoked glass, beautiful cowhide, and boldly striped tiger-eye onyx. Modern North American cuisine delights and surprises the senses with contemporary flourishes. Take advantage of special catering services within the Silver Screening Room and dining rooms or have meals</p>

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	<p>served in a room/suite. 'ONE' features one of the largest street-level patios in the Yorkville area, the perfect spot to sip a coffee for the afternoon and watch as pedestrians stroll by or shop in the area's upscale boutiques. www.thehazeltonhotel.com</p> <p>Located at Queen's Quay, Toronto's laid back waterfront neighbourhood, the newest Shoeless Joe's Restaurant brings all the sports action on dozens of screens to the water's edge. For more information visit www.shoelessjoes.ca</p> <p>A must-visit steak house of Toronto and Mississauga, Ruth's Chris Steak House has launched Canada's first year-round, complimentary Shuttle service offering free door-to-door transportation to and from each location to area hotels and entertainment venues. For more information visit www.ruthschris.ca</p> <p>Sassafras is once again the heart of the posh Yorkville area of Toronto, having reopened after fire destroyed most of the building. The new Sassafras features chef Bradley MacDonald's newly revamped menu of contemporary Canadian dishes based in French cuisine, a 20-foot indoor vertical garden and a new rooftop patio that brings seating capacity to 350. Described as the centre of where all the excitement happens, the celebrity destination is open until 2 a.m. For more information visit www.sassafras.ca</p> <p>And finally a plug for my local pub, The Rebel House, at 1068 Yonge Street (close to Rosedale subway station) which serves gastropub fare of high quality and always has interesting beers on tap. Who knows? I may see you there! www.rebelhouse.ca</p>
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MORE INFO	
Brochures	TO Visitor Guide – also available online
Website	http://www.seetorontonow.com

CURRENT DEALS	Toronto Tourism often has great deals on their website. See www.reservations.torontotourism.com/BBPackages.asp to see what's on offer this month.
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PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	I have lived in Toronto for 17 years and as fast as I visit the sights, more new ones are created!
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