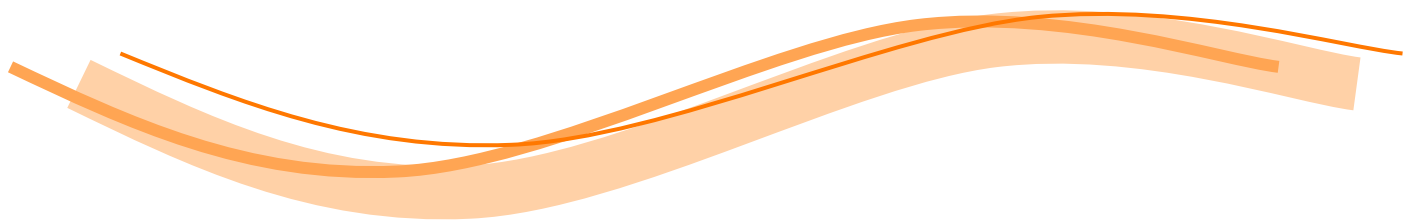




OTTAWA - WINTERLUDE 2012





OTTAWA - WINTERLUDE

Ottawa's relaxed urban vibe makes it a great winter short break destination. Lace up your skates on the Rideau Canal Skateway, the world's largest rink. Weekends in February, Ottawa celebrates Winterlude. Admire ice and snow sculptures brought to life with colourful lighting. Have fun on giant snow slides in the largest snow playground on the continent! Treat your taste buds at "Taste of Winterlude" and discover the many flavours unique to Canada's Capital Region!

Visit www.OttawaTourism.ca or phone 1-888-OTTAWA-8 for some great short break ideas that are easy to book - and great value! Right now until March 31, 2012 – book two nights hotel and the third night is free. For instance the The **Winterlude Family Getaway** package gives you two night's hotel, family admission to your choice of cultural attraction - plus great shopping discounts. All this, including hotel accommodation, from only \$135 per night.

You can create your own Ottawa Getaway thanks to Ottawa Tourism's 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 look for the special bonus button for bookings that will include additional free items during your stay – participating hotels are offering bonuses like free parking, free internet or food and beverage vouchers.

Ottawa's premier winter festival is **Winterlude** – taking place weekends between February 3 - 20, 2012. Winterlude is a unique winter festival that celebrates the joys of winter. It takes place over three fun-filled weekends and during this annual event you can skate on the world's largest skating rink, check out the ice sculpture competitions or play at North America's largest snow playground. Plus many many other activities from triathlons to a stew cookoff! There's fun for the entire family, and all sites are open on Family Day.

What better way to fend off the cold than eat! Ottawa has wonderful cuisine all year round but there are two great culinary events to start off the year and lure you into the warmth of Ottawa restaurants. OTTAWA Magazine is teaming up with local restaurants to create "**WinterBites**" January 12 - 28, 2012. You can enjoy three-course prix fixe menus at enticing prices (lunch for \$15 or \$20; dinner for \$30 or \$40). Beverages, taxes, and gratuities are additional.

And to coincide with the Winterlude Festival – "**Taste of Winterlude**" runs January 26 - February 20, 2012. Indulge in Canada's Capital Region's culinary scene through unique dining experiences and exciting

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culinary events. Sample cuisine at some of the Capital's top restaurants and venues or learn a new cooking technique from a local chef, tour restaurants guided by chefs or sommeliers, and more!

There is nothing more closely associated with the Canadian Winter than Hockey! Don't miss the National Hockey **League Tim Hortons All-Star Game** - January 26 - 29, 2012, taking place this year at Ottawa Convention Centre, Scotiabank Place and more. The best of the best hockey players in the NHL will come to Ottawa to show off their stuff! Of course tickets are next to impossible to get but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the fun. The Ottawa Convention Centre will play host to the Tim Hortons NHL Fan Fare event where you can get your picture taken with the Stanley cup and show off your own hockey skills at the Molson Canadian NHL All-Star Skills Zone. You can buy your NHL All Star package at www.ottawatourism.ca .

And all season long you can take in an Ottawa Senators game – right through to April 5, 2012. The Ottawa Senators take to the ice during home games at Scotiabank, and if you are a Leaf's Fan this could be an easier way to get tickets to see your team than at home in Toronto. Check out the “**Hockey Night in the Capital**” package that you can book at www.OttawaTourism.ca including tickets to the game and hotel accommodations.

Winterlude isn't the only time to get out and enjoy winter. In Ottawa the whole Winter season is filled with favourite winter activities. Skate along the **Rideau Canal Skateway** which is open until March 4, 2012 weather permitting - every winter, 7.8 km (4.8 miles) of the Rideau Canal transforms into the world's largest outdoor skating rink, as designated by Guinness World Records. Stop for a famous Beavertail and hot chocolate at the huts on the side of the canal.

And of course nearby in Gatineau Park you can enjoy 200 km of groomed cross-country ski trails, snowshoeing, and overnight camping in a winter wilderness oasis just 15 minutes from downtown Ottawa.

When you want to get indoors and leave the snow behind – there is always something new at Ottawa's world class cultural attractions.

At the **Museum of Nature** there is “Preternatural - Where Art and Nature Collide” until February 12, 2012. This exhibition of contemporary art draws on the themes of nature, wonder and the extraordinary. It features five Ottawa-based and international contemporary artists who use a variety of media including photography, video and sculpture.

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	<p>At the Canadian Museum of Civilization the exhibition “God(s): A User’s Guide” runs until September 3, 2012. Explore the vast diversity, and the similarities, in the practices of the world’s most widespread religions. The exhibition touches on universal religious themes such as the belief in a higher power, a world beyond our own, the use of spiritual intermediaries (such as priests, shamans and prophets), sacred rituals, spiritual holidays and rites of passage.</p> <p>The Canadian Children’s Museum at the Museum of Civilization has “Much More Munsch” until April 9, 2012. Enter the world of celebrated Canadian author and storyteller Robert Munsch, whose stories for children reflect the joys and challenges of everyday family life.</p> <p>And the National Gallery of Canada is getting ready for “Van Gogh: Up Close” – a block buster exhibition on its only Canadian stop in Ottawa from May 25 to September 3, 2012. The first major Canadian exhibition of works by the famous Dutch artist in over 25 years – this exhibition explores Van Gogh's close-up views of nature and features more than 40 of his paintings. The artist depicts nature in very particular ways: he experiments with depth of field and focus, zooms in on a verdant tuft of grass or a single iris and or provides shifting perspectives of a farmer’s field or the corner of a garden.</p>
Location	Ottawa lies in northeast North America, in the Province of Ontario, Canada. It is bordered by the Ottawa River to the north, while the historic Rideau River and Rideau Canal meander north to south through the city. Directly across the Ottawa River are the City of Gatineau and the picturesque Outaouais region in the Province of Québec, situated 114 metres (374 feet) above sea level.
Geography	These twin cities of Ottawa and Hull are full of unexpected pleasures -- you can watch the debates and pomp of parliamentary proceedings, take in the street scene from a sidewalk terrace, ski or camp or hike in wilderness only 15 minutes away, and then put your feet up before the fireplace of a rustic inn.
Name	Derived from Outaouak, an Algonquin First Nations name
Population	City 812,000 (Ranked 4 th in Canada) Metro 1,169,000 National Capital Region is 1,451,000
Language	English and French
Government	Ottawa’s municipal government consists of a 22 –member council, composed of a Mayor, and 21 councilors (representing the 21 wards of the City. Each councilor is elected, and sits for a three year term. City Hall is located at 110 Laurier Avenue West.
Twin Cities	Beijing, China; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Catania, Sicily, Italy

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CLIMATE	
General climate	The average Temperatures for the region of Ottawa/Gatineau are: summer max = + 26C; winter max = - 6C
Today's weather	Minus 17 and sunny (January 14, 2012) – perfect for freezing the Rideau Canal solid!
Best time to visit	Any time – there's always something unique and exciting happening in Ottawa!

GETTING THERE	
Flights (Toronto)	It's just 55 minutes from Toronto to Ottawa. Porter Airlines www.flyporter.com 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 16 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.
Flying time	55 minutes from Toronto to Ottawa
Distances	Distance from Toronto is 450 km or 5 hours driving time; Ottawa to Montreal is 213 km or 2.5 hours
Ferries	In summertime, Paul's Cruise on the Ottawa River - there's no better way to see some of Canada's major national landmarks, including the Parliament Buildings, from a new perspective. Or for something really unique, you can take a tour on the Lady Dive, Ottawa's own amphibious bus.
Trains	VIA rail from Montreal is just 1hr 55 mins and from Toronto is 4.5 hours – check out www.viarail.ca
Buses	Ottawa's main mass transit service is OC Transpo (provided by the City of Ottawa). The Ottawa rapid transit system includes the transitway (a network of mostly grade-separated, extremely high-frequency, and reserved bus rapid transit lanes with full stations instead of stops) and a light rail system called the O-Train.
Passes	Ottawa's Capital Museums Passport is making it easy for visitors to enjoy the sights and sounds of Canada's capital city in 2012. For only \$35 per person or \$85 for family of five (maximum two adults), passport holders can visit 9 of Ottawa's diverse museums from the Canadian Museum of Civilization to the Canada Science and Technology Museum. Canadian Museum of Civilization

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	<p>Canadian War Museum National Gallery of Canada Canadian Museum of Nature Canada Science and Technology Museum Canada Agriculture Museum Canada Aviation Museum Royal Canadian Mint Laurier House</p>
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<p>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</p>	<p>While reasonably priced doubles are available at a few B&B inns, you'll have to look to the outer districts for truly inexpensive lodgings, primarily in motels. There are ample choices for mid-priced to first-class rooms, however. There are an unusually large number of suite hotels, intended primarily for businesspeople on long stays in the capital, but ideal for families, with kitchens and beds for four or more. And there are of course some splendid top end hotels in downtown Ottawa too.</p>
<p>OTTAWA TOURISM GETAWAY PACKAGES</p>	<p>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.</p>

<p>TARGET GROUPS</p>	
<p>Kids</p>	<p>Kids love the bands, rifles, and uniforms of the Changing of the Guard on Parliament Hill. The Canada Aviation Museum is a fantasyland for many, especially the mock-ups of cockpits where they can pretend to be pilots. The perennial favorites at the Canadian Museum of Nature are the dinosaurs, the animals, and the Discovery Den, especially created for children. Extra-special attractions at the Canadian Museum of Civilization are the Children's Museum and Cineplus for IMAX movies. Kids enjoy picnicking or taking a hayride at the Central Experimental Farm. At the Canada Science and Technology Museum, the hands-on exhibits entertain while learning.</p> <p>Kids also love the tanks and weaponry on display at the Canadian War Museum and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride practices at the Canadian Police College</p> <p>The Canadian Museum of Civilization also has the IMAX Theatre, now playing: "Grand Canyon, River at Risk" and "Wild Ocean"</p>
<p>Teens</p>	<p>Visit the Diefenbunker, go white water rafting, experience the Ghost Walk, the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train</p> <p>Canada Science and Technology Museum Canada's largest science and technology museum is a great hands-on experience for visitors of all ages. Discover some of the most important</p>

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	<p>scientific and technological objects in Canada. Climb aboard real trains. Try your hand at fascinating experiments. See for yourself how science and technology affect your everyday life. Located only minutes from downtown Ottawa.</p> <p>Royal Canadian Mint Experience a rush – a gold rush that is! Discover how molten metal is transformed into cherished treasures, hold 99.99% pure gold in your two hands, relive the legends of Canada's past, then stop at the boutique and purchase a treasure for your future. 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>
Romance	<p>Stroll hand in hand – Ottawa is an eminently walkable city. Along the Rideau Canal, past all the magnificent buildings to Parliament Hill, browsing Byward Market, in the beautiful parks or through the grounds of Rideau Hall.</p> <p>Sound & Light Show - For years Canada's history has unfolded in a dazzling display of sound and light against the dramatic backdrop of the Parliament buildings. This year (2012) on summer evenings, a sound and light show called Mosaika explores Canada's physical, historical and cultural landscapes (Until September 2012).</p>
UNIQUES	<p>Changing of the Guard 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 Square Drill Hall (by the canal at Laurier Avenue) at 9:30am and marches up Elgin St to reach the hill at 10am.</p>
Surprising	<p>Royal Canadian Mounted Police See the training centre for the famous RCMP musical ride. The Musical Ride, a world-renowned military pageant performed with 32 horses and riders, was first produced publicly in Regina in 1887. The RCMP invites visitors to tour the stables and Visitors' Centre year-round. It is sometimes possible to see the Musical Ride horses and riders practise when they are not away on tour. The Sunset Ceremonies usually occur at the stables at the end of June each year</p>
History	<p>The Ottawa region was long home to the Odawa or Odaawaa First Nations people. The Odawa are an Algonquin people who called the</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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 town site that soon became known as Bytown. Original city leaders of Bytown include a number of Wright's sons, most notably Ruggles Wright. Nicholas Sparks, Braddish Billings and Abraham Dow were the first to settle on the Ontario side of the Ottawa river.</p> <p>The west side of the canal became known as "Uppertown" where the Parliament buildings are located, while the east side of the canal (wedged between the canal and Rideau River) was known as the "Lowertown". At that time, Lowertown was a crowded, boisterous shanty town, frequently receiving the worst of disease epidemics, such as the Cholera outbreak in 1832, and typhus in 1847.</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.

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	Secret Ottawa by Laura Byrne Paquet is an eclectic compendium of little known nooks and crannies in Ottawa.
1000 Places to see before you die	Winterlude and skating on the Rideau Canal
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.
2012 Tim Hortons NHL All-Star Game	<p>Thursday, January 26: 3:00pm - 10:00pm Friday, January 27: 10:00am - 10:00pm Saturday, January 28: 10:00am - 6:00pm</p> <p>Scotiabank NHL Fan Fair offers hockey fans the chance to participate in and experience the excitement of the 2012 Tim Hortons NHL All-Star Game at more than 30 interactive hockey themed attractions and exhibits. You can enjoy this hockey theme park over the course of three days during NHL All-Star Weekend at the Ottawa Convention Centre in downtown Ottawa. So join this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to:</p> <p>Check out the NHL Trophy Display presented by Tim Hortons Take a Picture with the Stanley Cup Test your Hockey Skills in the Molson Canadian NHL All-Star Skills Zone Meet NHL Alumni at the XM Theatre Visit the Tim Hortons Timbits Zone designed for Young Hockey Fans Test your Accuracy at the Bridgestone Shoot Out Create Your Own Hockey Trading Card presented by Upper Deck Collect Rare Hockey Memorabilia in the 2012 NHL All-Star Trading Card & Memorabilia Show presented by Panini America & Upper Deck Try on your favorite NHL Player's Equipment in the Reebok-CCM Locker Room Display Capture the Passion! Collect your favorite All-Star Game Pins at the NHL All-Star Pin Zone Meet the NHL Mascots</p>
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

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	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. (2012) 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 Jack Pine Nature Trail, and the Sasparilla Trail. It's also good for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Rideau Trail is a 387km network of trails along the Rideau River and canal between Ottawa and Kingston via many of the pretty towns and villages along the way.
Cycling	Ottawa is a cyclist's paradise. Use your bike or inline skates or just hoof it and explore hundreds of kilometres of paved pathways; winding along rivers and the Rideau Canal; flat and easy or mountainous and challenging—the choice is yours. Sunday Bikedays actually closes 52 kilometres of the most picturesque rides to motorized vehicles and let cyclists, inline skaters and runners rule from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sunday Bikedays run from Victoria Day weekend in May to Labour Day weekend in September. More info: www.canadascapital.gc.ca/biking

CULTURE	<p>There is always so much going on in our cultural capital – here are just a few of the events this winter:</p> <p>Canadian Museum of Civilization</p> <p>God(s): A User's Guide December 2, 2011 - September 3, 2012 Explore universal religious themes such as the belief in a higher power, a world beyond our own, the use of spiritual intermediaries (such as priests, shamans and prophets), sacred rituals, spiritual holidays and rites of passage.</p> <p>Much More Munsch October 8, 2011 - April 9, 2012 Enter the world of celebrated Canadian author and storyteller Robert</p>
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Munsch whose stories for children reflect the joys and challenges of everyday family life. Take part in a wide range of activities designed to appeal to all your senses.

Museum of Nature

Preternatural

Dec 9 – Feb 12, 2012

Where Art and Nature Collide

This exhibition of contemporary art draws on the themes of nature, wonder and the extraordinary. It features five Ottawa-based and international contemporary artists who use a variety of media including photography, video and sculpture.

Canadian War Museum

To 28 Jan 2012

A Sailor's Kit

Discover the clothing worn and the equipment used by Canadian sailors during the Second World War.

Canada Science and Technology Museum

Energy: Power To Choose

The production and consumption of energy have social, economic, and environmental implications that are influenced by available resources and the choices we make. In this interactive new exhibition, plug in to practical tips to reduce energy consumption, and pledge your action to better conserve energy. Produce your own electricity with the Museum's human hamster wheel. Interact with a map of Canada that identifies locations where energy is produced and where distribution of major sources of energy takes place. You'll be shocked to discover that one producer of energy is the Museum's electric eel.

<http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/whatson/2011-exhibitions-energy-power-to-choose.cfm>

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

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	<p>also goes to the Museum. http://www.aviation.technomuses.ca 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. Be part of the adventure and learn how to adapt to the rigours of daily life in space for months at a time on board the International Space Station (ISS). Discover how astronauts in the weightless environment work, entertain themselves and tackle such basics as personal hygiene, eating and sleeping among the stars. Become inspired by the engineering of this space station that sustains life and Canadian scientific experiments that reap a myriad of benefits. This modular, highly interactive exhibit incorporates multimedia with various objects, replicas and components used daily by astronauts during a mission to present the technical, psychological and physical challenges of life in space. Experience the extreme conditions on board the ISS-an incredible ecosystem in itself.</p> <p>And don't forget the Winterlude Festival – full details below.</p>
<p>National Gallery of Canada</p>	<p>Van Gogh: Up Close May 25 to September 3 The first major Canadian exhibition of works by the famous Dutch artist in over 25 years - explores Van Gogh's close-up views of nature and features more than 40 of his paintings.</p> <p>For more information and updates on Winterlude activities at the National Gallery of Canada, watch their website at www.gallery.ca</p>
<p>Arts</p>	<p>The Performing Arts - Canadian and international musical, dance, and theater artists - including the resident NAC Orchestra - perform at the elaborate National Arts Centre, 53 Elgin St., at Confederation Square. The building, created by architect Fred Lebensold, is made of three interlocking hexagons beside the Rideau Canal, its terraces tendering views of Parliament Hill and the Ottawa River. There are three auditoriums: the European-style Opera, seating 2,300; the 950-seat Theatre, with its innovative apron stage; and the 350-seat Studio, used for experimental works. The National Arts Centre Orchestra performs in seven or eight main concert series per year.</p> <p>http://www.nac-cna.ca/en</p>
<p>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.</p>

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	<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. www.bytownmuseum.com)</p> <p>Canadian Aviation Museum The fall/winter hours of operation are from Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays with the exception of holidays and the Christmas and March break periods. 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>Canada Aviation and Space Museum www.aviation.technomuses.ca The Canada Aviation and Space Museum is Canada's national museum and has earned an international reputation and following, being recognized as having the most extensive aviation collection in Canada and one which ranks among the finest in the world.</p> <p>And what an exciting time for the Canadian Museum of Nature! The Victoria Memorial Museum Building has been completely reborn at 100 years old with major refurbishments and new galleries such as the Water Gallery, Earth Gallery and the Talisman Fossil Gallery. The museum houses a complete blue whale skeleton – one of only two in Canada. Kids will enjoy the dinosaurs as well as mammal hall, bird care clinic, Arctic research vessel plus the Discovery Centre. There is even a new HD theatre. www.nature.ca</p>
<p>Festivals and Events</p>	<p>Winterlude – of course! See separate section below.</p> <p>Winter Jazz Festival National Arts Centre and other venues February 2 - 4, 2012 This inaugural event is piled with jazz artists of international acclaim as well a showcase of the best local talent on offer.</p> <p>Ottawa Irish Festival March 8 - 17, 2012 Produced annually by the Irish Society of the National Capital Region to</p>

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	<p>celebrate Irish and Irish-Canadian heritage. Parade on March 10.</p> <p>Maple SugarFest, Richelieu Park, Vanier Quartier March 30 - April 1, 2012 Sugarfest features maple syrup-themed activities for all ages.</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>
<p>Wildlife</p>	<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>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>Gatineau Park Managed by the NCC, Gatineau Park is a superb nature reserve just 15 minutes from Parliament Hill. It serves as a reminder that environmental protection is a cherished Canadian value, and its objective is to ensure the permanent preservation of a vast natural territory for the enjoyment of all Canadians. The Park is endowed with hundreds of kilometres of trails, forests containing more than fifty species of trees, abundant wildlife and numerous crystal-clear lakes typical of the hills of the Canadian Shield. Summer and winter, visitors can participate in outdoor activities or simply enjoy the tranquility of a protected natural environment. http://www.canadacapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16297-16299-10170&lang=1</p>
<p>Gardens</p>	<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 abloom with beauty – and welcome visitors to discover their flowering favourites.</p>

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

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	<p>Governor General of Canada in 2010. 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 artifacts to personal memorabilia, history comes alive in the splendour of this grand residence.</p>
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OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>From large shopping centres to exclusive local boutiques and unique souvenir stores, shopping in Ottawa is a favoured activity of visitors and residents alike. Downtown Ottawa shopping provides a host of shopping opportunities, from the 160-store Rideau Centre to the boutiques and craft shops of the ByWard Market and Sparks Street – the country's first and oldest pedestrian mall. West Ottawa includes great outdoor stores and a major shopping centre – Bayshore – while east Ottawa is home to two popular regional shopping centres – St. Laurent and Place d'Orleans.</p>
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

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	<p>through October on Roger Stevens Drive in North Gower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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 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.</p> <p>www.casinosduquebec.com/lacleamy</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>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 This delicious, fresh, hot pastry treat is shaped like the water-slapping end of a beaver. These wildly delicious pastry treats were first introduced to Ottawa in 1978 and can be sampled at the first permanent BeaverTails store in Ottawa's historic ByWard Market neighbourhood.</p> <p>Obama Cookies Since US President Obama's visit in 2009, these maple leaf shaped cookies have been a roaring success! Try some at the ByWard Market.</p>
Restaurants	<p>5-Diamond dining, a vast selection of international cuisines, relaxed, casual fare – Ottawa offers restaurants and culinary experiences to suit</p>

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every palate, with a thriving local culinary scene and local chefs making names for themselves at home and abroad.

Dining districts include the courtyards and outdoor cafés of the historic 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

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	<p>education and the talent of students that they train in their internationally renowned culinary arts institute.</p> <p>In contrast, the Signatures restaurant presented a formal fine dining 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>
WinterBites 2012	<p>WinterBites is based on two truths:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ottawa winters are cold2. Prix fixe menus are enticing <p>OTTAWA Magazine is teaming up with local restaurants to create three-course prix fixe menus at enticing prices; lunch for \$15 or \$20; dinner for \$30 or \$40 (beverages, taxes, and gratuities are additional). This event is sure to lure you into the warmth of Ottawa's restaurants to savour our culinary delights. Visit as many as you like, as often as you like. And check www.ottawamagazine.com/winterbites-2012 occasionally; the list of participating restaurant is growing daily.</p> <p>WinterBites runs Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012 to Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012.</p> <p>Reservations are required — please book directly with these participating restaurants:</p> <p>Absinthe - www.absinthecafe.ca</p> <p>Burnt Butter Italian Kitchen - www.burntbutter.ca</p> <p>The Buzz - www.thebuzzrestaurant.ca</p> <p>The Courtyard Restaurant - www.courtyardrestaurant.com</p> <p>Coasters Seafood Grill - www.coasters.ca</p> <p>Divino Wine Studio - www.divinowinestudio.com</p> <p>The Fish Market Restaurant - www.fishmarket.ca</p> <p>Fridays Roast Beef House - www.fridaysroastbeefhouse.com</p>

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	<p>Graffiti's - www.graffitis.ca</p> <p>Grill 41 at Lord Elgin Hotel - www.grill41.ca</p> <p>Kinki - www.kinki.ca</p> <p>Mambo - www.mambonuevolatino.com</p> <p>Obsession - www.myobsession.ca</p> <p>Pelican Grill - www.pelicanfisheryandgrill.com</p> <p>Petit Bills - www.petitbillsbistro.com</p> <p>Perspectives at Brookstreet - www.brookstreet.com</p> <p>Prime 360 - www.prime-360.com</p> <p>Le Saint-Ô - www.lesainto.com</p> <p>Santé - www.santerestaurant.com</p> <p>Spin Kitchen - www.spinkitchenbar.com</p> <p>Vineyards - www.vineyards.ca</p> <p>Todric's - www.todrics.com</p> <p>The Urban Pear - www.theurbanpear.com</p> <p>The Village Café - www.thevillagecafe.net</p> <p>Wilfred's Restaurant at Fairmont Château Laurier - www.fairmont.com</p> <p>ZenKitchen - www.zenkitchen.ca</p> <p>Zola's Restaurant - www.zolas.ca</p>
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MORE INFO	<p>Getaway Packages</p> <p>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>
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	<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	Visitor Guide online at www.ottawatourism.ca
Website	www.ottawatourism.ca for Ottawa Tourism

<p>CURRENT DEALS Jan 2012</p>	<p>There's a great deal this month (Jan 2012). Book a 2-night Ottawa Getaway Package deal on the www.ottawatourism.ca website before March 31st 2012 and you receive a 3rd night FREE at participating hotels.</p> <p>www.ottawatourism.ca/en/visitors/ottawa-getaways-and-special-offers</p> <p>You can create your own Ottawa Getaway thanks to Ottawa Tourism's upgraded website that brings you an enhanced ability to book flexible packages online. Get great deals and a wide range of hotel choices as you create your own escape to Ottawa. As at January 2012 there are 12 different packages to suit your needs:</p> <p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. Winterlude Family Getaway Festive family fun is what Winterlude's all about! There are tons of</p>
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outdoor activities, great performances at the Snowbowl outdoor amphitheatre including a new Sound and Light Show, and of course skating on the world's largest ice rink, the Rideau Canal skateway. This package includes all of these free activities plus your accommodations, family admission to one of our world-class cultural institutions, such as the Children's Museum at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, as well as shopping discounts at the Rideau Centre.

3. Winterlude Rendezvous for Two

Winter weekends in February are filled with excitement and romance as the Capital celebrates Winterlude. Come lace up your skates and glide through Ottawa on the world's largest rink, the Rideau Canal Skateway. Enjoy artistic and athletic performances at the Snowbowl outdoor amphitheatre, including a new Sound and Light Show. Admire the beauty of ice and snow sculptures at night when colourful lighting brings them to life. This package includes all of these plus your accommodations, Casino du Lac-Leamy cash certificates worth up to \$20, admission to one of the world-class cultural institutions and great shopping discounts. It's also recommended that you take advantage of exclusive prix-fixe menus taking place at participating restaurants during Taste of Winterlude. The rest is up to you!

4. 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.

5. 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

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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.

6. 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!

7. 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!

8. 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

9. 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.

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	<p>10. 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.</p> <p>11. 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).</p> <p>12. NHL Scotiabank Fan Fair Getaway This is hockey country. The best of the best hockey players in the NHL come to Ottawa to show off their stuff! Various fan-friendly activities will take place throughout the National Capital Region. Make Ottawa your place to be January 26-29, 2012. You may also select the following activities to add to your package: Scotiabank NHL All Star Weekend - Fan Fair Tickets, THURSDAY, January 26, 2012 Scotiabank NHL All Star Fan Fair Ticket - FRIDAY, January 27, 2012</p>
<p>Roots Promotion</p>	<p>Put on your favourite Roots clothing and come skate on the Rideau Canal—the world’s largest rink—or join Winterlude the first 3 weekends in February, there’s no shortage of things to do in Canada’s Capital. http://www.ottawatourism.ca/en/features/roots Enter for your chance to win when you sign up for more information on Ottawa. By completing the entry form you’ll automatically be entered for a chance to win a Let's Go Outside Getaway this summer in Ottawa. Prize Includes: Round-trip transportation to Ottawa 3 nights’ accommodation at Fairmont Chateau Laurier</p>

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	<p>An overnight rafting adventure with RiverRun Rafting Two \$500 Roots gift certificates Two set of Roots hats and scarves Dinner at Le Cordon Bleu Bistro @ Signatures Admission to the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Museum of Civilization Two bike rentals at Rent-A-Bike Ottawa Two day car rental See full prize details and contest rules and regulations. The contest is open to all legal residents of Canada who have reached the age of 18 years. Contest closes February 14, 2012.</p>
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HOTEL PRIZE PARTNERS - 1010	<p>Quality Hotel Downtown Ottawa 290 Rideau St. Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5Y3 Tel: (613) 789-7511 Website: http://www.qualityhotellottawa.com Skate on the world's longest outdoor skating canal or smell the tulips in full bloom – Ottawa has it all, just steps away from the Quality Hotel Downtown. All tastefully appointed guest rooms feature complimentary wireless high speed internet access, voice mail, coffee makers, 32" LCD LG flat screen cable televisions and ergonomically designed work stations. Relax in the family friendly on site restaurant, the one & only downtown Don Cherry's Sports Grill. The Quality Hotel Downtown Ottawa has been recognized on numerous occasions for their commitment to superlative service and consistently achieving perfect scores on cleanliness. This hotel is also pet friendly.</p>
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HOTEL PRIZE PARTNERS - CJAD	<p>Fairmont Chateau Laurier 1 Rideau Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N8S7 Tel: (866) 540-4410 Web: http://www.fairmont.com/laurier Reflecting the confidence, dignity and style of Canada's capital city, Fairmont Château Laurier stands as a testament to this dynamic, thriving city. Located next door to the Parliament Buildings, the landmark Fairmont Château Laurier hotel in Ottawa is a magnificent limestone edifice with turrets and masonry reminiscent of a French château. This luxury hotel in Ottawa enchants guests with its charm and stateliness. Summer or winter, they make healthy activities simple. The Rideau Canal offers kms of bicycle and inline skating paths and the</p>
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	<p>world's longest skating rink just outside the door. With Winterlude, the Tulip Festival and countless other special events, Ottawa is a flurry of activity. Once you've taken in the wealth of sights, drop by the Fairmont Château Laurier hotel Health Club or satisfy your appetite at one of the superb restaurants. Revel in the distinctive hospitality of Fairmont Château Laurier hotel in Ottawa - where your stay is guaranteed to be a memorable one. This year, 2012, will mark the 100th birthday of the hotel, so a stay here will be extra special!</p>
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RAIL TRAVEL PRIZE PARTNER	VIA Rail www.viarail.ca or phone 1 888 VIA-RAIL
Details	<p>VIA Rail Canada runs 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>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 - An architectural masterpiece, Canada's largest and most visited museum offers you a thousand years of Canadian history, the world's largest indoor collection of totem poles and the magnificent First Peoples Hall. It also houses the IMAX Theatre, the Canadian Children's Museum and special exhibitions.</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. Open daily from May to mid October; closed Mondays from mid October to April.</p> <p>Canadian Museum of Nature - Canada's foremost natural history museum offers comprehensive exhibits about the natural world, from grizzly bears to gems, from insects to dinosaurs.</p> <p>Canadian Aviation Museum - Canada's rich aviation heritage is revealed through exhibits of vintage aircraft from the museum's permanent collection. Interactive activities, films, demonstrations, and</p>
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guided tours offer visitors a chance to explore the story of flight.
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 (Margo – guide on Ghosts and the Gallows) \$12
The Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum - This vestige of Cold War history is a unique reminder of Ottawa's position in global politics. Built in the small town of Carp just west of Ottawa between 1959 and 1961, and meant to house key government and military officials in case of a nuclear attack, this four-storey underground bunker offers tours and unique events to catch glimpses of behind-the-scenes artifacts. Don't miss the decontamination room, the emergency exit hatch, the CBC broadcast studio, the Prime Minister's suite and the Bank of Canada vault. The bunker is named after John Diefenbaker who was prime minister during its construction, but who never visited the site.
www.diefenbunker.ca
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 – 60 sightseeing tour on land and river, 48 pax, under and over Alexander Bridge
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

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<p>WINTERLUDE 2012</p>	<p>Ottawa’s premier winter festival is Winterlude – taking place weekends between February 3 - 20, 2012. Winterlude is a unique winter festival that celebrates the joys of winter. It takes place over three fun-filled weekends and during this annual event you can skate on the world’s largest skating rink, check out the ice sculpture competitions or play at North America’s largest snow playground. Plus many many other activities from triathlons to a stew cookoff! There’s fun for the entire family, and all sites are open on Family Day.</p> <p>And to coincide with the Winterlude Festival – “Taste of Winterlude” runs January 26 - February 20, 2012. Indulge in Canada’s Capital Region’s culinary scene through unique dining experiences and exciting culinary events. Sample cuisine at some of the Capital’s top restaurants and venues or learn a new cooking technique from a local chef, tour restaurants guided by chefs or sommeliers, and more!</p> <p>There are three main festival sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Rideau Canal Skateway - Confederation Park, also known as the Crystal Garden: this is the site of the international ice carving competition) - Parc Jacques-Cartier in nearby Gatineau, also known as Snowflake Kingdom, home of the giant snow mazes and giant ice slides <p>Other General Winter Activities Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skating on the Rideau Canal Skateway until March 04, 2012 weather permitting - Outdoor Skating at Rideau Hall (January 6 - March 11, 2012), - Gatineau Park, February 17 - 19, 2012 - Gatineau Loppet - Canada’s biggest cross-country ski event
<p>Rideau Canal Skateway</p>	<p>This winter kicks off the 42nd skating season of the Rideau Canal Skateway. Throughout the years, people of all ages have enjoyed the Rideau Canal Skateway — on sled, on foot, and of course, on skates! In winter, this historic navigable waterway becomes the world's largest skating rink and a magical 7.8-kilometre skateway of ice, in the very heart of Canada’s Capital. During Winterlude, the Rideau Canal Skateway is the site of the Winterlude Triathlon, the Bedzzz Annual Bed Race, skating demonstrations, workshops and much more.</p> <p>Visit the Rideau Canal Skateway Official Website for ice condition updates, videos and a virtual tour: http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16297-16299-10080&lang=1</p>

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	<p>For current ice conditions on the canal, go to this update: http://www.canadacapital.gc.ca/places-to-visit/rideau-canal-skateway/ice-conditions</p>
<p>Rogers Crystal Lounge at Confederation Park 2012</p>	<p>Rogers Crystal Lounge at Confederation Park on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Prepare to be transported to an amazing crystalline world — a world where you can experience ice like never before. Try the larger-than-life Samsung ice Smartphones, have your photo taken with your family or simply lounge around on the unique ice furniture. Also, don't miss the chance to win great prizes by voting for your favourite ice sculpture in the Rogers People's Choice Award</p>
<p>Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom at Gatineau's Jacques Cartier Park 2012</p>	<p>Jacques Cartier Park is located along the Ottawa River next to the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec. It is easily accessible from Ottawa via the historic Alexandra Bridge. Equipped with 30 larger-than-life snow slides, the Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom at Jacques-Cartier Park is North America's biggest snow playground. It is also the location during Winterlude of a variety of shows, performances and cooperative games.</p> <p>Enjoy this enchanting setting in the company of those favourite mascots, the Ice Hog family. The biggest snow playground on the continent celebrates Canada's winter fun with activities inspired by our winter and Northern traditions!</p> <p>Open Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays, 9 am to 6 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 9 am to 9 pm (except February 4 2011, until 9:30 pm).</p>
<p>Taste of Winterlude 2012</p>	<p>This winter, treat your taste buds at the 7th annual Taste of Winterlude. Discover the many flavours unique to Canada's Capital Region from Jan 26 to February 20, 2012 Taste of Winterlude features exclusive culinary events that highlight local chefs, sommeliers, winemakers and Canadian products. Check out the many gastronomic adventures available for 2012 at www.canadacapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude/taste-of-winterlude</p>
<p>2012 Winterlude Activities</p>	<p>There are so many events and activities on offer at the 2012 Winterlude – take a look at just some of them...</p> <p>Rogers One-Block Challenge Confederation Park (Rogers Crystal Garden) Friday, February 3, 2012 8 am to 10 am Awards Ceremony: Friday, February 4, 5 pm One-block sculptures on the theme of "yin and yang" offer a glimpse of what professional and amateur ice carvers will create over the weekend.</p>

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**Portraits on the Ice**

Rideau Canal Skateway (under the Bank Street Bridge)
Daily - Unexpected encounters!

Slippery Slopes

Jacques-Cartier Park (Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom)
Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays, 9 am to 6 pm
Fridays and Saturdays, 9 am to 9 pm (except February 4, until 9:30 pm).
Zoom down the slopes at top speed! Fun and laughter guaranteed!

Expérience manège

Jacques-Cartier Park (Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom)
Friday, February 3 to Monday, February 21, 9 am to 4 pm
Children age 5 to 8 will have an opportunity for a free introduction to downhill skiing with qualified instructors.

Giant Slide

Jacques-Cartier Park (Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom)
Open Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays, 9 am to 6 pm
Fridays and Saturdays, 9 am to 9 pm (except February 4, until 9:30 pm)
Zoom down the Sun Life Giant Slide — thrills for the whole family!

An Authentic Sami Lavvu

Confederation Park (Rogers Crystal Garden)
Discover the customs of the people living in northern Norway. Listen to the stories and legends of this Scandinavian people. Join in the activities of the youth group Nunavut Sivuniksavut. Warm up around the fire and taste real Norwegian waffles (\$).

Kiddie Zone

Jacques-Cartier Park (Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom)
Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays, 9 am to 6 pm
Fridays and Saturdays, 9 am to 9 pm (except February 3, until 9:30 pm)
Play structures and inukshuk-building workshops for the little tykes to enjoy!

Photo Exhibit — Roald Amundsen: From the Northwest Passage to the South Pole

Confederation Park (Rogers Crystal Garden)
Find out more about the great Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, his expedition through the Northwest Passage and the knowledge he gained from the Inuit people of Netsilik.

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Canadian Rangers

Jacques-Cartier Park (Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom, Winter Experience Zone) Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am to 5 pm

Rangers from the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group in Northern Ontario will share tips on providing assistance in emergencies such as searches, plane crashes, forest fires and floods. Visitors can have a look at some of their tools and vehicles, and talk with members of the Canadian Rangers.

Canadian Forces Winter Obstacle Course

Jacques-Cartier Park (Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom, Winter Experience Zone) Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am to 5 pm

Are your kids up for a challenge? Kids can test their physical fitness in this military-grade winter obstacle course.

21st Annual ByWard Market Stew Cook-Off

ByWard Market (George Street at William Street, outside)

Friday, February 3, noon

Kick off Winterlude in the ByWard Market! For only \$10, taste stew from several ByWard Market restaurants, and vote for your favourite! All proceeds will be donated to a local charity.

www.byward-market.com , 613-562-3325

Yukon Days

Jacques-Cartier Park

Friday February 4 and 5

Explore Yukon at Winterlude, through the eyes of talented artists, snow sculptors and more. Featuring: Groundwork Sessions at the Snowflake Stage.

American Express Winterlude Opening

Canadian Museum of Civilization

Friday, February 3, 5 pm to 11 pm

Fire and Lights From 1812 to 2012: Forging the Canadian Spirit

Experience warmth and revelry outdoors and indoors at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, where we invite fellow Winterluders to celebrate our enduring Canadian spirit. Offerings include historical characters and drummers, storytelling around cozy firepits, IMAX presentations (\$), an amazing fireworks show and an outdoor DJ dance party with Kytami and The PhonoGraFF! Fun for the entire family

Northern Surprises – Circus Acts

Canadian Children's Museum Theatre

February 3, 6 pm, 6:30 pm, 7 pm, 7:30 pm, 8 pm and 8:30 pm

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Talented students from the street performance program at École secondaire du Versant are coming to the museum in an exciting presentation, featuring juggling, acrobatics and tableaux vivants.

29th Annual Winterlude Triathlon (\$)

Rideau Canal Skateway (Dows Lake)

Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 8 am to 10 am

Skate! Ski! Run! What could be more fun? Enjoy an 8-km skate, a 4.5-km ski and a 5-km run. www.zone3sports.com , 613-290-3238

Learn to Skate

Rideau Canal Skateway (Fifth Avenue)

Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am to 4 pm

Sign up for a FREE 45-minute SUBWAY® Learn to Skate session, focused on fun and basic skill development, provided by professional coaches from the Nepean, Gloucester and Minto skating clubs. Register on the hour.

Winter at Rideau Hall

Public skating: Weekends, noon to 5 pm

Guided tours: Daily, by reservation

Whether you come to skate or to walk the snow-covered paths, the historic grounds are a great place to enjoy winter. Visit the state rooms of the governor general's residence, and discover the unique art collection.

Information: 613-991-4422, 1-866-842-4422

Canadian Ski Marathon (\$)

Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, 2012

The annual two-day event features 10 sections that cover 160 kilometres of beauty and tranquility in the Quebec countryside: from Lachute to Gatineau, with an overnight stop in Montebello.

Information and registration: www.csm-mcs.com , 1-877-770-6556

Tethered Hot Air Balloon

Jacques-Cartier Park (Sun Life Snowflake Kingdom)

Starting Feb 3rd, 2012

A hot air balloon that lights up...A few really lucky people will get a chance to hop in! (Weather permitting.)

Gatineau Loppet (\$)

February 17 to 19, 2012

The largest cross-country ski event in Canada, held in Gatineau Park. Come and take part in the family activities of the 34th edition of this

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event! Information and registration: www.keskinada.com 819-778-5014

Winterman Marathon and Marathon Relays (\$)

Sunday, February 19th, 2012: Races start at 8:30 am
Starts and ends at the Canadian War Museum.

A celebration of running in the Canadian winter, for all ages. Solo runs include marathon, half-marathon, 10-km, 5-km, and 3-km. Marathon relays include pairs, fours and eights. Proceeds will be donated to Search and Rescue Global 1.

www.wintermanmarathon.ca , 613-295-4008

Snowshoe Under The Stars

Gatineau Park

Feb 3 and Feb 17, 2012

Join the Friends of Gatineau Park volunteers for this great evening activity. As you snowshoe under the crisp night sky, you'll discover how animals and plants face the many challenges of winter survival.

Reservation required.

Paul Brandt

Centrepointe Theatre

Feb 3rd 2012 at 8pm

In the short span of a decade, Paul Brandt's name has become synonymous with Alberta, independence and quality. Paul's voice is the voice of country music in Canada. But these accolades have not come without a few twists and turns along the way. Ask Paul Brandt, and he'll tell you they've been the product of years of give and take, faith, and grace.

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