

# WELCOME TO TORONTO



# Guide for Canadian Nationals 2018



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# Guide for Canadian Nationals 2018

## Welcome to Toronto!

Once again, Toronto will be hosting the Canadian Nationals event for 2018. This will serve as a handy dandy guide to the city for all of you wonderful judges when you arrive.

## Key Info

### Location & Transportation

The venue for Nationals this year is the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC). The address details are located on the side margin.

The main method of public transportation in Toronto is administered by the Toronto Transit Commission, also known as TTC. The TTC runs a network of subways, buses, and streetcars throughout Toronto. There are a number of ways to get to the venue, and here are the directions.

### From Union Station

From Union Station, the MTCC is a 10 minute walk west. Once you arrive at Union Station, exit to Front Street and turn left. You should reach the MTCC shortly after passing Lower Simcoe Street.

### From Pearson Airport

The easiest and most cost effective way to get to and from the Metro Toronto Convention Centre is to take the UP Express train. This is an express train that connects Pearson Airport to Union Station, which is Toronto's central transit station. The first train will depart around 5:30AM and the last will be around 1AM, and runs every 15 minutes. The trip will take about 35-40 minutes. The station is located in Terminal 1, and you will be able to purchase your tickets at vending machines, the service counter, mobile app, or online at [www.upexpress.com](http://www.upexpress.com). The cost of a one-way fare is \$12.35\*\*. Note that the UP Express train is not a part of TTC, and thus cannot be paid for using a TTC ticket or day pass.

Once you are at Union Station, see above for directions from Union.

### Event Location

Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
222 Bremner Boulevard  
Toronto, ON M5V 3L9

### Dates

June 29–July 1, 2018

### Time Zone

GMT -4

### Currency

Canadian Dollar (CAD)

### Electricity

120V, 60Hz, Plug type A/B

### Emergency

Fire/Ambulance/Police: 911  
Police Services: 416-808-2222





## From Billy Bishop Airport

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport is located on the Toronto Islands. Once you exit the airport, walk to Queens Quay and Bathurst, where you will be able to board the 509 streetcar going eastbound that takes you to Union Station. Union Station will be the final stop, and once you arrive, you will be able to follow the instructions above. The cost of a one-way fare is \$3.25\*\*

## Other Public Transportation Information

If you are exploring the city, the best way to get around is via TTC. Single fare on TTC is \$3.25\*\*, and on most buses and streetcars, exact change is needed as no change is given. If you are planning on travelling a lot by TTC, you can consider getting a day-pass which allows you unlimited rides for the whole day up until 5AM of the following day. The cost of the day-pass is \$12.50 for 1 adult on weekdays. On weekends, a single day-pass can be used for up to 2 adults.

**PRO-TIP:** Always grab a transfer where you make your initial payment to get into the TTC system (whether on subway, streetcar, or bus). These serve as your proof-of-payment for fare inspectors, and also allow you to transfer to a different vehicle on your journey without having to pay another fare. TTC transfers are valid for 2 hours, and are valid for a single direction of travel only (no round trips, no stopovers).

## \*\* Presto Card

On most public transportation, you have the option to pay by Presto Pass, which is a public transportation card similar to Suica/Octopus card that can be found in other cities internationally. The cost of the card is \$6, and is a rechargeable card. The Presto Card provides a discount on TTC and UP Express fares, and is an easier way to pay fares as it is a “tap on, tap off” system as opposed to ensuring you have cash for the fare, or buying tickets in advance. Presto can be ordered online, or purchased at various vending machine and Presto counters throughout the city. Note that you will not need to “tap off” on the TTC.

This might be an option to save some money for someone who plans on staying in the city for multiple days and is relying on transit, or expects to return to Toronto in the future. A regular one-way fare for UP Express is \$12.35, or \$9.25 with Presto. Regular one-way fare for TTC is \$3.25, or \$3.00 with Presto.





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## Driving & Parking

If you are planning on driving into downtown Toronto, there are a number of parking lots near Union Station, although they may be expensive. Expect to pay \$15-30 for a full day of parking. Check out <https://en.parkopedia.ca> as a resource to finding those elusive parking lots in the city.

## Accommodations

### Hotels

There are a multitude of hotels located close to the MTCC, and a few options are listed below. This is the heart of downtown Toronto so many hotels super close to MTCC can be fairly expensive. There are also quite a few Airbnb options in Toronto, or alternatively, you can consider getting accommodations near a subway stop on the Yonge-University-Spadina subway line, which would provide convenient access to the venue via TTC.

- InterContinental (1 minute walk away)
- Delta Hotels (6 minute walk away)
- Toronto Marriott City Centre (6 minute walk away)

### Cheap/Hostel Options

There isn't a huge hostel presence in Toronto, but the HI-Toronto Hostel is located around a 20 minute walk from MTCC. For alternative cost-effective accommodations, I highly recommend looking at Airbnb. With the venue being located near the largest transit station in the city, there are many accessible neighbourhoods in Toronto that would have suitable accommodation options.



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## Key Info

### Food Options

Toronto has its own selection of delicious, unique, and trendy cuisine. One of the great things about the food scene here is that there are a plethora of restaurants and eateries that specialize in various cultural foods. Anything from Nepalese to Ethiopian, a quick Yelp or Google search will yield many options. A few of the top picks of Toronto are listed below, but if there's a particular cuisine you're hankering for, don't be afraid to look it up!

### Near the Venue

Luckily, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre is located near the Entertainment and Financial Districts, meaning there are tons of food options available. Below are two of my personal favourites.

#### Canoe (\$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$)—66 Wellington Street West

If you're into fine dining, Canoe is considered one of the best restaurants in Toronto. Located on the 54th floor of the Toronto Dominion Building, it not only offers an eclectic "Canadian" menu that changes seasonally, but also great views of Lake Ontario and downtown Toronto.



#### Byblos (\$\$-\$\$\$)—11 Duncan Street

Byblos is well-known in Toronto as one of the best places to get Mediterranean food. While there are a few menu items that feature cuisines from Western Mediterranean countries like Spain, the focus of the food at Byblos is Eastern Mediterranean food (think Lebanese, Turkish, Israeli). The fare is delicious and unique, and the cocktails are very inspired.

### Price Index

- \$ - Less than \$10
- \$\$ - From \$10 to \$20
- \$\$\$ - From \$20 to \$30
- \$\$\$\$ - From \$30 to \$50
- \$\$\$\$\$ - More than \$50

### Tipping Customs

Canada has a typical tipping custom of ~10-20% depending on the quality of service that you receive. Typically, your tipping amount should be calculated before tax.

### Tax

13% HST is charged on all restaurant/fast food purchases >\$4 (and 5% is charged on purchases <\$4)

### Currency

Canadian Dollar (CAD)





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## Toronto's "Must-Try" Foods

These are a selection of some of the finest foods downtown Toronto has to offer!

### Khao San Road (\$\$)—11 Charlotte Street

This is hands down one of the best places to get Thai food in Toronto. Open on weekdays for lunch, where you'll see quite a few patrons in suits during the lunch rush, or daily for dinner (starting at 5PM). Unfortunately, reservations are not accepted at this highly popular restaurant, so it's recommended that you get there early (especially weekends) to secure yourself a table. The Bangkok-Style Pad Thai is excellent, and I highly recommend getting a glass of their Thai Iced Tea to wash it all down.

### Miku (\$\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$\$)—10 Bay Street

For sushi aficionados, Miku is an excellent option to try both traditional sushi dishes as well as aburi (torched sushi). This restaurant is a Vancouver import, where they made aburi sushi ultra popular. Reservations are recommended for weekday lunch, as you'll see a lot of financial district workers taking their clients here. I recommend the Aburi Oshi Sampler to try out aburi, or if you really want to treat yo'self, I recommend trying one of their Kaiseki menus (multi-course tasting menu).

### Wvrst (\$ to \$\$)—609 King Street West

If you couldn't tell from the restaurant name, Wvrst makes sausages. Really good ones. They have a total of 25 different sausages made of traditional ingredients (think Bratwurst, Chorizo etc.) and also various game meats such as pheasant, elk, bison, boar, and kangaroo. Fear not, my vegetarian/vegan friends, Wvrst has options for all of you too. I recommend getting a sausage and a side of their duck fat fries.

### Mildred's Temple Kitchen (\$\$)—85 Hanna Avenue

Mildred's is one of the most well-known breakfast and brunch places in Toronto. They are open for brunch every day at 11AM (9AM Sat-Sun), and also open for dinner on Thursday and Friday. They have traditional brunch fare like fluffy buttermilk pancakes, breakfast skillet, and a selection of sandwiches and wraps. I recommend Mrs. Biederhof's Bluberry Buttermilk Pancakes (comes with real Canadian maple syrup to boot!)





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## Sightseeing & Entertainment

There are lots of famous tourist attractions in Toronto, so I've listed the choicest of them below. There are also a few that are off the beaten path if you want to tour around like a local, and also some LGSs you can visit if you just want to play some good old Magic.

## Canada Day Celebrations

Canada will be celebrating its 151st birthday on Canada Day. Since Nationals will be held over the Canada Day long weekend, there are a few festivities in Toronto that you may be interested in.

All weekend long, the Canadian Hype Team will be helping judges celebrate Canada Day across the country with a handful of meetups and selfie challenges, as well as games and activities as Nationals. You can follow along with the **#ShowYourRed** hashtag on Twitter and Instagram and participate by sending them your best red-shirt selfies (bonus points if you get a selfie with our illustrious RC).

Also keep in mind that more and more activities will pop up closer to the date, so keep an eye out on websites like [www.blogTO.com](http://www.blogTO.com) that will give you lists of everything you can do that weekend.



### Nathan Phillips Square

Every year, Nathan Phillips Square launches a fireworks show. If you haven't seen it before, the fireworks are launched off of the Toronto City Hall buildings (the curved buildings on the header of this guide). It's also an excellent opportunity to get your Instagram picture in front of the (in)famous Toronto sign. There are usually food trucks, concerts, and other live entertainment.

### Toronto Jazz Festival

Toronto's annual 10-day jazz music festival culminates on Canada Day. Every year, hundreds of performers flock to the city to put on performances in 40 different venues, and many of the concerts are free to attend. The full concert line-up and schedule will be available in late May or early June at [www.torontojazz.com/festival-2018](http://www.torontojazz.com/festival-2018)



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## Popular Tourist Attractions

### CN Tower

The CN Tour/La Tour CN is one of the most iconic landmarks of Toronto. A general admission ticket is \$36, and includes entry to the main observation. The top observation deck, SkyPod, requires a separate ticket and an additional fee. There is a rotating restaurant called the 360 Restaurant on the main observation level as well. **PRO-TIP:** Tower entry tickets are complimentary with the purchase of a prix fixe meal for each guest at the 360 Restaurant.

### Ripley's Aquarium

Located right beside the CN Tower, this aquarium houses all kinds of sea life, organized in different exhibits. Tickets range from \$21-25 depending on whether you purchase them ahead of time or not. **PRO-TIP:** If you are planning on visiting both the CN Tower and the Aquarium, there is a combined ticket you can buy called the Sea The Sky ticket for \$55.20.

### Casa Loma

A "castle" located right in the heart of Toronto, Casa Loma is actually a mansion built in the early 1900s by Henry Pellat. Casa Loma has exhibits showcasing its architecture and interiors, as well as other entertainment events such as an escape room, winter gardens, and classical music concerts. Base entry is \$27, and can increase if you participate in other events.

**PRO-TIP:** If you would like to visit all of these attractions, plus the Royal Ontario Museum/Toronto Zoo/Ontario Science Centre, I recommend getting the Toronto CityPass which grants you access to these for \$86+tax (valid for 9 days).

## Off the Beaten Path

### Aga Khan Museum

If you're a fan of both architecture and culture, the Aga Khan Museum would be a great place to visit. Named after the Imam (spiritual leader) of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, this museum focuses on Islamic art and culture, all wrapped up in an ultra-modern building. The price of admission is \$20. Be aware that the museum is closed every Monday, but open from 10-6PM every other day of the week. **PRO-TIP:** If you can, visit the museum on Wednesday, as there is a special entry day with free admission to all exhibitions from 4PM to 8PM.



### Princess of Wales/Ed Mirvish Theatre

Believe it or not, Toronto actually has a pretty active theatre and entertainment scene. For those of you who enjoy live musicals or plays, I recommend scoping out a show at the Princess of Wales Theatre or the Ed Mirvish Theatre. Show information can be found on [www.mirvish.com](http://www.mirvish.com), and tickets can be purchased online or at the various box offices located downtown.





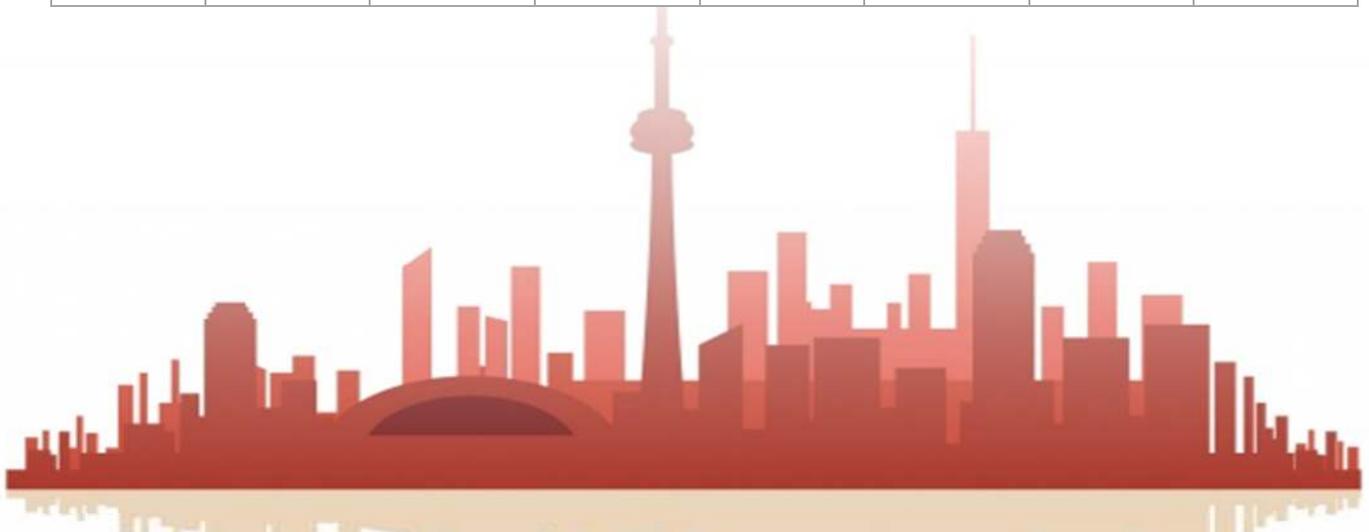
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## LGSs

What visit to Toronto would be complete without a visit to our local hangouts? I've listed some of the biggest and most popular stores in the city, as well as the regular event formats hosted throughout the week!

- Face to Face Games—2077a Danforth Ave
- 401 Games—518 Yonge Street
- A&C Cards—452 Spadina Avenue
- Hairy Tarantula North—6979 Yonge Street

|                     | Sunday                   | Monday                             | Tuesday                   | Wednesday             | Thursday                    | Friday  | Saturday                   |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Face to Face</b> | 12PM Modern<br>4PM Draft | 6PM EDH<br>6:30PM Draft            | 7PM Modern                | 7PM Pauper            | 6:30PM Sealed<br>7PM Modern | 6:30PM Draft<br>7PM Legacy<br>7PM Standard          | 2PM Standard<br>4PM Draft  |
| <b>401 Games</b>    | 4:30PM Draft             | 6PM Modern                         | 6PM Draft<br>6PM Standard |                       | 6PM Standard                | 6PM Draft<br>6PM Modern<br>6:30PM EDH               | 12PM Modern<br>12PM Sealed |
| <b>A&amp;C</b>      | 1PM Standard             | 7PM Standard                       | 7PM Modern                | 6PM EDH<br>7PM Legacy | 7PM Draft<br>7PM Pauper     | 7PM Draft<br>7PM Modern                             | 1PM Modern                 |
| <b>Hairy T</b>      |                          | 4PM EDH<br>7PM Legacy<br>7PM Draft |                           |                       | 7PM Standard                | 1PM EDH<br>4PM Modern<br>7PM Modern<br>7:30PM Draft |                            |





## Contact Information

If you have questions about Toronto during your stay, if you are lost or need guidance, please reach out to one of the following judges who will be happy to help you.

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Face to Face Games Toronto           | 416-690-6664       |
| Flora Li                             | 416-709-1488       |
| Jonathan Goud (Regional Coordinator) | jonbgoud@gmail.com |

