

Grand Prix Toronto Travel Guide!



Ah Toronto.... the gateway to the North! Polar bears, moose and live beavers being worn as hats! Okay... we might be hamming it up a bit, but there are a few things you should know before we bring the back bacon on this GP!

Event Location - For the first time in recent memory, GP Toronto is being held at Toronto's downtown Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This means that the GP will be right in the heart of the city: Minutes from the CN Tower, Aquarium, Skydome and so much more. But there are a few things you need to know to enjoy this great city to its fullest.

Transportation:

Cabs - A cab from the airport to downtown will take approx 20-50 minutes (depending on rush hour traffic) and will cost between \$50 - \$70. Many van cabs in Toronto will charge an extra \$10 if you are bringing lots of stuff or lots of people.

Shuttles - There are a number of airport shuttles that run to major downtown hotels. These can be as cheap as \$15 or as much as \$30. Shop around at the airport for a good deal if you can.

Public Transit - *#Value* - All travel, including getting to and from the airport can be done on the public transit system (TTC). All subways, buses and streetcars cost \$3 per trip and get a transfer. (You might not need it depending on where you're travelling, but get one anyway, just in case.) The entire trip from airport to downtown will only take around an hour - even during rush hour. Don't be upset when there's a delay, however. There is always a delay.

From Pearson Airport -

Pearson is the main airport in Toronto and if you are flying on any major airline, you will arrive there. To get to the public transit in terminal one, you need to walk down to the concourse level (basement) and walk out to the big pillar with the letter "R" on it. There, the 192 Airport Rocket will pick you up and take you to Kipling station. From terminal three, you need to go down to the concourse level and walk all the way to your left. There you will see a bus shelter where you can catch the 192 Airport Rocket.



At Kipling Station, take any subway (all are westbound from Kipling as it is the end of the line) downtown to St George Station where you go up one floor to the Yonge-University line. There, you get on a southbound train which will be on the same side of the platform as the train you just got off. Southbound trains will take you to Union Station where you are walking distance from the MTCC and the judge hotel!

From Island Airport - If you're flying Porter (which we highly recommend - they always have a seat sale and fantastic service), you'll end up landing at the Toronto City Centre Airport. The island residents have only recently let us start building a tunnel, so you'll have to take the ferry to cross back over to the mainland. From there, Porter has a free shuttle bus that takes you to Front and York, conveniently right in front of a Starbucks and a Chipotle. And the venue, I guess worth mentioning.

Transport within the city - Getting around by TTC is often the best plan. If you go into any subway station you can purchase a day pass for around \$11. These passes are good for two adults for unlimited travel for a day on weekends. Very good deal. On weekdays, they are only good for one person. Not so good deal.

Lodging:

Hotels - There are plenty of hotels near the MTCC, but none are particularly cheap. The InterContinental is right at the venue, while the Renaissance, Residence Inn, and Radisson are less expensive, but only a short walk away. The Fairmont Royal York is super swanky, super expensive, and nearby, in case you feel like living the high life. If you don't mind taking public transit each day, there are some much more affordable hotels in the ~100/night range off Yonge St.

Hostel - #Value - The best local hostel in the neighbourhood is the Canadiana. Its only about a 8 minute walk from the GP venue as is open the Canadian residents as well as people from outside Canada. Quad dorm rooms can be under \$30 after taxes per night if booked online and in advance. Check them out online: <http://www.canadianalodging.com/>

Stuff (Arguably) Worth Doing:

CN Tower - A big tall tower that you can go up and look around! It sounds really boring, but if you like being up high and looking at tiny little cars and people, it's pretty awesome.

Baseball - If you can stick around till Monday, there is a Blue Jays game on Monday at 7pm at the Rogers Centre (formerly known as the Skydome) which is also right downtown and walking distance from everything.

Basketball/Hockey - Apparently there's nothing going on this weekend, so we get to spare you the agony of watching the Leafs lose.



Beer - #Value! - Steamwhistle Brewery is located at Toronto's historic roundhouse, located just across the street from the south building of the MTCC. You can always go in for a free 4oz beer and tours range from \$12 - \$30 depending on how much stuff and beer you want to take home with you. The whole tour takes about an hour and is very interesting. Also: beer.

Chinatown and Kensington Market - About 20 minutes walk away from the MTCC you can find Toronto's historic Kensington Market. This hip, funky neighbourhood is home to a ton of cool shops and great restaurants. It's also surrounded by Chinatown, where you can find knock off tee shirts and weird, dried herbs by the pound. (At least I think they were herbs... but might have been mushrooms... or some kind of sea creature... who knows.)

Hockey Hall of Fame - Hockey lovers rejoice! Come here to see lots of hockey related stuff.. like sticks and pucks and probably those

special shirts they wear with all the tiny holes in them. Open daily from 10am - 5pm and only a 10 minute walk from the MTCC, certainly worth checking out if you are a fan of our national sport! www.hhof.com

Scotiabank Theatre - Famous Players movie theatre located in downtown. Movies and stuff! Closest theatre to the venue. Has Coke Freestyle machines if that's a draw to you.

Food (!):

Food Trucks - There will be a number of food trucks will be parked out front of the MTCC for most of the weekend. Nothing fancy, but food!

Union Station Food Court - Located just five minutes walk from the GP site, this food court offers many classics such as McDonalds, Booster Juice and a Harvey's as well as many more. Probably one of the best options for a quick bite while on break. There's also a Chipotle at Front and York, if you're craving gastrointestinal problems.

Loblaws at Bremner and Lower Simcoe - For those who want to grab a few things from a grocery store, this is your closest option. It is a little more swanky than is necessary, but still cheaper than eating out all weekend and still only a few minutes walk from the GP venue.

The Loose Moose - Less than 5 minutes from the venue, this is a good spot for people looking for a nice pub. Probably wouldn't have enough time to eat there on a 1 hour lunch break, but might be a good spot for an after shift get together. www.theloosemoose.ca

Luma - Certainly most classy, Luma is one of the best "bang for your buck" on the upper side of classy downtown Toronto has to offer. With entrees around \$25 - \$40 you will pay more, but it's worth it. Great spot, and personal favourite. <http://oliverbonacini.com/Luma.aspx>

Copacabana Brazilian Steak House - All you can eat meat brought right to your table until you throw in the towel. An amazing experience you must do once before you die. Unless you're vegetarian: then skip it. \$45 per person on Fridays and Saturdays and \$38 on Sunday through Thursday. They



also take groups. <http://www.thecopa.ca/>

Koreatown - Craving some bibimbap? K-town is a short subway ride away, at Christie station. 24-hour favourites like The Owl of Minerva serve up a storm of fast and delicious late night spicy comfort food, and typically have sweet deals on cheap beer and soju.



Nerd Experiences:

There are a ton of local game stores in or close to downtown Toronto worth stopping in at.

401 Games - Cards, huge board game selection, and large play space.

A&C Games - Vintage video games, pay for play video games, cards, and more.

Castle - Board game cafe.

Face to Face Games Toronto - Cards, free play boardgames, extremely attractive, professional, articulate, and humble staff. Also a cafe! (Disclaimer: this document may have been edited by judges who work at Face to Face Games Toronto)

The Hairy Tarantula - Comics, board games, Manga, cards, and cats.

Meeplemart - Board games, cards, and minis.

One Million Comics - Comics, swag, collectibles, and cards.

Snakes and Lattes - Board game cafe, very popular.

Snakes and Lagers - Board game... bar! BEER!

The Silver Snail - Swanky comics, collectibles, and coffee.