

NIAGARA FALLS STORY IDEAS - WHAT'S NEW

(Summer 2023)

- New and Noteworthy
- 2023 Season Openings
- Events
- Summer's Must-Do Activities
- Awards & Accolades
- Getting to Niagara Falls from Toronto

GO NIAGARA FALLS! WEEKEND GO TRAIN SERVICE TO NIAGARA FALLS

Kicking off spring with added GO Train service from Toronto to Niagara Falls on weekend + holiday Monday– bringing more ways to cut down on carbon emissions and beat traffic on your next getaway. Save with GO / WEGO combo tickets starting at \$25/person (kids 12 and under ride free on all GO Trains; children 3-12 pay \$8 for the Niagara transportation portion) or \$62.50/group including tax (up to 5 people, max 2 adults 18+ per group). Tickets include round-trip GO Train ride from Union Station to Niagara Falls and Niagara WEGO shuttle bus service throughout the Falls.

More information here

2023 SEASON OPENINGS

NIAGARA FALLS FIREWORKS SERIES (May 19-October 9, 2023)

The popular Niagara Falls fireworks series returns in 2023 to delight visitors. Shows run for 5 minutes at 10:00pm nightly. The majestic Niagara Falls are also illuminated every night of the year, making the destination among the world's best places to see fireworks displays. More information <u>here</u>.

SAFARI NIAGARA

Safari Niagara is a 150-acre, privately owned and operated Nature Park and is home to more than 1000 animals of native and exotic mammals, reptiles and birds. Located only 10 minutes from Niagara Falls! Safari Niagara is the ultimate summer fun destination for people of all ages and abilities. Park admission is all-inclusive and includes access to interactive and educational animal presentations, safari tram, paddle boats, Sky Quest and Sky Tykes (ropes course), Bounce-A-Rooz (jumping pillows), Safari Speedway (pedal bike go-karts), catch & release fishing and of course a splash pad.

FALLS FIREWORKS CRUISE

Hop aboard the Falls Fireworks Cruise for the best views. There's nothing quite like the sight of exploding fireworks over the brink of Niagara Falls to make your trip a memorable one. Admire Niagara Falls at night aboard a 40-minute Falls Fireworks Cruise departing from Niagara Falls, Canada. Set sail for starry skies, panoramic skyline views, stunning illuminations, and of course - fireworks that light up the sky.

WHIRLPOOL JETBOAT TOURS

The jet boat tour is a once in a lifetime opportunity to comfortably experience what is commonly referred to as the "Mount Everest" of white water. As you speed along the Lower Niagara River at 80 km/h you'll be astounded as the 31,000 lbs. of thrust from the jet boat vanquishes the mighty Class 5 whitewater of the Devil's Hole Rapids and the swirling waters of the Whirlpool. Choose between a "Wet Jet" or "Jet Dome" experience. WJBT's one of a kind white water tour will hydrate your senses as you take on Class 5 white water that's guaranteed to leave



you absolutely soaking wet and amazingly refreshed. If getting wet is not for you, the Jet Dome tour follows the exact route as the Wet Jet but shelters you from the water. More information <u>here</u>.

SHAW FESTIVAL (Niagara-on-the-Lake)

Heed the call and return once again to the magical world of Narnia. Molly Atkinson directs the world premiere of Damien Atkins's adaptation of C.S. Lewis's *Prince Caspian*. The quest to save Narnia is at the Shaw Festival's Royal George Theatre. The Shaw Festival's popular 40-minute pre-show workshop for both children and those young at heart returns. Join the resistance and help Prince Caspian save Narnia. Led by a member of the Ensemble, *Prince Caspian Needs You* will be held one hour prior to all performances in the Market Room at Court House (26 Queen Street). Admission: \$5 with a ticket to the day's performance.

For full details about this and other 2023 season productions, see here.

EVENTS

HUMAN NATURE EXHIBITION (April 22, 2023 – January 7, 2024)

From April 22 until January 7, 2024, the temporary exhibition 'human NATURE' will be taking over the Ontario Power Generation Gallery at the Niagara Falls History Museum.

The exhibition shines a light on climate change and environmental sustainability and the potential impact our actions as a society have on future generations. The exhibition features over 70 artifacts from the History Museum's collection that illustrate the fine balance between human-kind and nature, including a mammoth tooth and a bone from the extinct passenger pigeon – both discovered locally.

FALLSVIEW CASINO'S BACKYARD BBQ OUTDOOR FOOD & DRINK MARKET (Thursdays, May 18 – August 31, 2023)

Join us outside in our Fallsview backyard for free live entertainment, delicious food & drink selections and a scenic atmosphere of the falls. Every Thursday starting on May 18 to August 31 from 3-10pm. Featuring these amazing food truck vendors all summer long: BeaverTails, Fallsview Chefs BBQ, Funnel Cake Dream, Johnny Rocco's Pizza Wagon, Kelly Greens, Marble Slab Creamery, Moksha Indian Bistro, Shriner's Creek Kettle Popcorn, Smoke & Moonshine Authentic Barbeque, The Karma Kameleon, The Runaway Greek, The Sweet Oven & What A Jerk!

NIAGARA FALLS COMIC CON (June 9-11, 2023)

Niagara Falls Comic Con is set to take place over three days on June 9, 10 and 11 2023! The event takes place just steps away from the majestic Falls and will feature more than 200,000 square feet of exhibitors, comic books, movie cars, cosplay contests, celebrity autographs and photo-ops, a video gaming arena, Falls Horror Fest and more.

FALLSVIEW FOOD & DRINK FEST: FOOD CON & CELEBRITY CHEF DINE ABOUT (June 23/24, 2023)

Calling all Food and Drink Lovers! Step into a culinary wonderland at the Fallsview Casino Food and Drink Fest, an exclusive two-day spectacular series that will run Friday, June 23 & 24. This promises to be an unforgettable experience. Indulge in a mouthwatering journey as you explore a diverse array of cuisine and cocktails, all under the dazzling lights of the iconic Fallsview Casino Resort.

TIDE & VINE: OYSTER FEST NIAGARA (June 25, 2023)

Join us for our 9th annual Oyster Fest Niagara! Ticket includes oyster plate, great music and lively knife to knife entertainment. Food will include Tide & Vine classics and festival twists. Local wine, beer and house cocktails.



NIAGARA IRISH FESTIVAL (August 25 & 26, 2023)

This is a two-day Irish Festival set outdoors at Firemen's Park, in beautiful Niagara Falls, Canada. Niagara Irish Festival is presented by Irish Music Niagara, a non-profit organisation that runs weekly traditional Irish music sessions and folk singalongs in Niagara Falls. The aim of the festival is to celebrate Irish Music Culture in a family friendly, community centred way. Niagara Irish Festival prioritizes quality artisans, musicians and businesses that are based locally while extending a warm welcome to all who wish to visit our lovely city!

CARIFALLS MULTICULTURAL CARNIVAL/PARADE (August 26, 2023)

CariFalls is a multicultural experience with international participation that brings together Caribbean, Latin, Central, South and North America, Brazilian and Bahamian cultures. Featured on Queen Street, Niagara Falls will bring displays of traditional craftsmanship and design of the elaborate, embellished, exotic, colourful costumes brought to life in the presentation of the walking parade to the cultural music and chants projected through the streets. This worldly MULTICULTURAL Fashion walking parade/carnival will lead attendees into a fenced event space where there will be a live on-stage display and performance, by international, national and local artists.

There will be a wide variety of vendors and artisans with an array of alluring cultural merchandise for the pleasure of all attendees creating a street full of cultural aromas. Tempting, inviting your taste buds to take a worldly escape with a variety of foods and drinks to enjoy. A Kid Zone area will also be set up for families to enjoy, this space will feature bouncy castles, games, food, clowns & face painting.

iMELA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (September 8 & 9, 2023)

iMela, the 8th annual international festival and Movie Night will return to Niagara Falls, Ontario September 8th and 9th 2023. Taking place in the Niagara Parks Queen Victoria Park, this picturesque location offers outstanding views of Niagara Falls. Dance Competition on Friday September 8th with Free Movie Night in the evening and on September 9th 2023 is the Main music. This free event will be a family oriented international event, where you can enjoy a movie under the stars at night right beside the Falls. Some of the very best local Canadian artists and international Punjabi/Indian/Bollywood/Pakistani musical artists will perform at this event. Entertainment will include bands, singers, dancers as well as a few local and international comedy acts.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT FALLSVIEW - SHOW LISTINGS

Niagara Falls is Canada's entertainment capital with unique and memorable attractions, headline entertainment, outdoor concerts, live shows and the largest Casino in Canada. Live venues include the Fallsview Casino Resort, home to two state-of-the-art entertainment venues in Ontario (1,500 seat Avalon Theatre and 5,000 seat OLG Stage) with over 320 shows per year. The OLG Stage presents a new world-class theatre complete with 5,000 seats, state of the art technology, outstanding acoustics, and spectacular entertainment. Some upcoming performances include:

- Santana (June 24th)
- Counting Crows (June 28th)
- Incubus (August 6th)
- Train (August 22nd)

Visit <u>here</u> for a current list of frequently updated live events and shows.

INDIGENOUS MONTH (& ILLUMINTATION) June 2023

National Indigenous Month recognizes the historic contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the development of Canada and the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future. Niagara Parks



joins a number of local organizations in hosting special events, ceremonies and programming throughout the entire month of June.

PRIDE - NIAGARA FALLS ILLUMINATION (June 24 and 30, 2023)

Niagara Falls will be illuminated in rainbow colours in celebration of LGBT+ pride and inclusivity on June 24th and June 30th. Please see the <u>illumination calendar</u> for specific times and further details.

SUMMER'S MUST-DO ACTIVITIES

CYCLING

Niagara Falls is one of Ontario's premier cycling destinations with over 300km of exceptional cycling routes and trails for beginners and pros alike. Whether you rent a bike or bring your own, there are great trails, bike friendly restaurants and self-guided tours to suit every level of cyclist in Niagara Falls Canada. Begin a cycling tour in the Falls and travel along the **Niagara River Recreation Trail**, which offers over 56 kilometers of breathtaking views, including the Niagara Glen and Whirlpool, finishing in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake. Cycle through the <u>Greater</u> <u>Niagara Circle Route</u>, a 140 km picturesque route along the Niagara Parkway beside Niagara Falls leading you through the lush greenery of the Niagara Escarpment. <u>Niagara River Bike Tours</u> offer two- and half-hour cycling tours showcase the hidden gems along the Niagara River.

EBIKING

Find out why ebiking in Niagara Falls is so popular! eBikes allow you to experience all the joys of cycling with the assist of a battery powered motor that helps you gain some speed and tackle hills fearlessly while exploring the Niagara Region. You choose when you want to pedal exclusively or give your pedaling a little boost using the motor. Find more information about premium ebike rentals <u>here</u>. Click <u>here</u> for more information including Transit for You and Your Bike, Bike Friendly Accommodations and Bike Rentals including premium ebike Rentals.

WORLD-CLASS GOLF

Niagara Falls is a world-class <u>golf destination</u> with 8 top golf courses designed by famed architects including <u>Legends on the Niagara</u>, Canada's premier public golf course, and the <u>Whirlpool Golf Course</u>, one of Canada's most highly rated and renowned public golf courses located in a spectacular setting against the backdrop of the Niagara River Whirlpool and Gorge.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

FESTIVALS & EVENTS ONTARIO (FEO) AWARD RECIPIENTS
 Top 100 Award, FEO, Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights
 Best Volunteer Program, FEO, Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights
 Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, FEO, Dhanvi Patel and Emily Shields (tie) Niagara Falls Winter
 Festival of Lights



GETTING TO NIAGARA FALLS FROM TORONTO

TRAIN

- GO Transit
 - \circ $\:$ Save with GO / WEGO combo tickets starting at \$25/person
 - Kids 12 and under ride free on all GO Trains; children 3-12 pay \$8 for the Niagara transportation portion
 - \$62.50/group including tax (up to 5 people, max 2 adults 18+ per group).
 - Tickets include round-trip GO Train ride from Union Station to Niagara Falls and Niagara WEGO shuttle bus service throughout the Falls.

BUS

- Megabus Union Station to Niagara Falls \$20 each way approximately
- Flixbus Harbourfront to Niagara Falls \$16-18 each way approximately

CAR

• Niagara Air Bus – private shuttle approximately \$220 from Pearson or \$250 from Union Station

FLY

• FlyGTA – Billy Bishop (Toronto) to Niagara on the Lake at approx. \$100 each way. 15 minute flights, 4 x week, 3 x a day. Taxi from the airport to Niagara Falls is \$45 (allow 30 minutes for the cab to arrive)

Transportation within Niagara Falls

• WEGO ***If you purchase the Niagara Parks Adventure Pass it includes 2 days of transportation. Added value! More information about getting to Niagara Falls <u>here</u>

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Niagara Falls Resources

- Hotel Packages: <u>https://book.niagarafallstourism.com/</u>
- Attraction Packages: <u>Niagarafallstourism.com/attraction-packages/</u>
- Niagara Falls Itinerary Ideas: <u>Niagarafallstourism.com/blog/itinerary/</u>
- Media Hub: <u>https://media.niagarafallstourism.com/</u>
- Getting here: Toronto to Niagara Falls GO Train Service

Website:www.niagarafallstourism.comInstagram:@NiagaraFallsTourismCanadaFacebook:@NiagaraFallsTourismCanadaTwitter:@NFallsTourism#ExploreNiagara

About Niagara Falls Canada

Overlooking the legendary Canadian Horseshoe, American and Bridal Veil waterfalls, Niagara Falls is a fourseason destination renowned for its awe-inspiring natural wonders combined with world-class accommodation, thrilling entertainment and a burgeoning culinary scene. Visitors from Ontario, across North America and around the world who come to experience nature and adventure, discover family fun, feel the romance and explore unique and memorable experiences have made it Canada's premier entertainment destination and a world-renowned bucket list destination. Located within a 1-day drive of half the population of North America, more than 152 M people, Niagara Falls is the perfect getaway.

About Niagara Falls Tourism

Niagara Falls Tourism (NFT) is the official Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, representing almost 400 member establishments in Niagara Falls, including members throughout the Niagara Region. Welcoming almost 14 million visitors into the destination each year, NFT promotes the tourism and hospitality sector to visitors around the world. Dynamic marketing campaigns and signature events inspire visitors to explore Niagara Falls and support the success of local business. NFT fosters the international reputation of Niagara Falls as a four-season bucket-list destination and Canada's entertainment capital.