

NIAGARA FALLS STORY IDEAS – SCENIC ROAD TRIPS

SCENIC ROAD TRIP: NIAGARA FALLS TO NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Overlooking the legendary Canadian Horseshoe, American and Bridal Veil waterfalls, Niagara Falls is a four-season 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 adventure, discover family fun and feel the romance have made it Canada's #1 leisure destination and an international bucket-list destination.

Plan the perfect getaway to Niagara Falls and while you're there, take to the road to explore the area. With 56 km (35 miles) of natural wonders, outdoor parks, a nature reserve, trails, gardens, iconic attractions plus picturesque farms and countryside with world-class wineries and restaurants - Niagara Falls is one of the best places in North America for an outdoor adventure.

The Niagara River Recreation Trail (Distance: 56 km / 35 miles)

The [Niagara River Recreational Trail](#) meanders through some of the most beautiful countryside in the world. This paved path from Fort Erie to Fort George in [Niagara-on-the-Lake](#) is perfect for hiking or cycling. Breaks occur where the Trail passes through the urban areas of Niagara Falls and the Village of Queenston and include historical sites, attractions, restaurants, parkland, gardens and vineyards along the way.

Constructed in 1986, the Niagara River Recreation Trail is a paved path for non-motorized traffic stretching some 53 kilometers (32 miles) along the Canadian side of the Niagara River. From Fort Erie in the south (terminating at Anger Street), it extends the full length of the peninsula through Niagara Falls to [Fort George](#) in Niagara-on-the-Lake in the north. Breaks occur where the Trail passes through the urban areas of the Village of Queenston and the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario. The Trail was built and is maintained by earnings from [The Niagara Parks Commission](#), a self-funded agency of the Ontario Government. [Niagara Parks](#) is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the beauty of the lands adjacent to the Niagara River for the enjoyment of its visitors. The trail divides nicely into four scenic sections, (each section will take approximately 1-2 hours at a leisurely pace):

- (1) Niagara-on-the-Lake to Queenston
- (2) Queenston to the [Whirlpool Aero Car](#)
- (3) Chippawa to Black Creek
- (4) Black Creek to Fort Erie.

In 2007, Niagara Parks worked with volunteers to implement distance markings every 500 metres along the length of the Trail. The markings are designed to heighten safety on the Trail, and to allow Trail users to know how far they have travelled. Trail users are cautioned that the Trail was not designed to accommodate small wheel devices such as roller blades, roller skates or skateboards. Users are advised to be cautious as portions of the Trail are shared with motorized vehicles and traverse public roadways and private driveways.

Trail users must obey all traffic regulations and be careful, courteous and respectful of public and private property. Whether cyclist, jogger or pedestrian, anyone fortunate enough to travel on the Niagara River Recreation Trail moves in some very special company, for in days gone by British regulars and local militiamen thundered along this historic highway, racing to stem the flow of invaders from across the river. Their lively stories and many stirring episodes are described on over 100 monuments and plaques that mark waypoints along the Trail. From [Niagara-on-the-Lake](#) in the north, the Parkway winds its way southward along one of the

oldest roads in the province. Major-General Sir Isaac Brock rode along it one cold, wet, October morning, as he galloped to his death and his destiny. The trail climbs up the steep escarpment to the Heights of Queenston on which stands the noble column that marks [Brock's final resting place](#). The horticultural and [historic sights](#) will thrill, inform and delight you.

Exploring the sites on the Niagara River Recreation Trail:

1. Niagara Falls

Start in the world-famous city of Niagara Falls, experience the breathtaking views of the Falls from every angle with any one of these best vantage points. Hover 457m (1,500 feet) above the Falls with [Niagara Helicopters](#) on this must-do four season adventure. Voyage into the mist to get up close and personal on the [Niagara City Cruises](#) iconic boat ride sailing toward the base of the Falls, 51m (167 feet) below the brink. [Table Rock Centre](#), arguably one of the best views in the world, will bring you 3m (10 feet) from the Falls, as close as it gets. [Journey Behind the Falls](#) to descend 38m (125 feet) below the brink of the Falls to explore 130-year-old tunnels leading to an observation deck and viewing portal to get a glimpse behind the wonder. Take a thrilling panoramic ride on the [Wildplay Zipline](#), 67m (220 feet) above the Gorge. Soar towards the Falls at speeds of up to 70 km/h (44mph) along the edge of the vast Niagara River. Take in the breathtaking views from the Skylon Tower observation levels.

Head to the Street of Fun, Clifton Hill, for an endless variety of attractions, restaurants, museums, live entertainment and more. For the young and young at heart, take in Niagara's largest mirror maze adventure, [Big Top Amazing Mirror & Lazer Maze](#) or a friendly competition at [Dinosaur Adventure Golf](#), one of the nation's largest miniature golf courses featuring a 70,000 square foot playing surface with two 18-hole courses, populated by 50 realistic and life-sized dinosaurs. Over at the [Niagara Speedway](#) is North America's largest elevated go-kart track facility. Board your gondola on the Niagara [SkyWheel](#), Canada's largest observation wheel towering 53 m (175 feet) over the city and take in spectacular views of the Falls and other landmarks.

Explore the many nearby scenic points, parks and hiking opportunities such as [Dufferin Islands](#), popular with locals and tourists alike with ten acres of quiet secluded parkland including several small islands connected by bridges and footpaths. Admission free. Picnicking available.

Visit the [Niagara Falls History Museum](#) and later on your drive bring the history of the Niagara Region to life with a visit to its many historic sites.

2. Explore the Great Gorge

Next stop, the Great Gorge. Beginning at the base of Niagara Falls and ending down river at the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, The Niagara Gorge is an 11 km (6.8 mi) long canyon carved by the Niagara River over thousands of years. The force of the river in the Gorge is one of the most powerful in the world. Here are some unique ways to explore this natural wonder.

Soar above the Gorge on the [Whirlpool Aero car](#), a cable car with incredible views of the Niagara Whirlpool high above the racing Niagara River. Explore the [WildPlay Whirlpool Adventure Course](#), a unique Niagara experience of suspended obstacles and ziplines provides a new fun and thrilling way to see the world-famous whirlpool and Niagara Gorge from high above.

Or get right down into the Gorge to marvel at the relentless power and beauty of the [White Water Walk](#). This experience offers a breathtaking boardwalk at the very edge of one of the world's wildest stretches of

whitewater (class 6 rapids)! Deep in the Great Gorge, the [Niagara Glen](#) is a designated Nature Reserve with 4 km (2.5 mi) of paths that wind through a pristine pocket of Carolinian Forest, past boulders left behind as the Falls eroded through the area thousands of years ago. Hikes through the Niagara Glen involve an elevation change of over 60 m (200 ft). The Glen has become Ontario's hotspot for [Bouldering](#).

3. The Niagara Escarpment

The Niagara Escarpment features a wide variety of forests, farms, recreation areas, cliffs, wetlands, animal habitats, historic sites, towns and scenic views and one of the most diverse ecosystems in Ontario, with many different species of birds, reptiles, and other animals. There's no shortage of things to do around the Escarpment, regardless of the time of year.

Head to the Niagara Parks [Botanical Gardens](#) with 40 hectares (99 acres) of beautifully maintained gardens to explore and world-famous rose gardens with over 2,400 roses. Home to the magical [Butterfly Conservatory](#), one of the largest in North America where you will see over 2,000 butterflies with over 45 species of tropical butterflies floating along lush paths.

Bring Niagara history to life. A self-guided tour of the Battle of Queenston Heights starts at [Brock's Monument](#), a tribute to Sir General Isaac Brock, commander of the British forces in Upper Canada. Continue climbing to the top of the Niagara Escarpment for a magnificent view. Be sure to snap some photos at the Niagara Scenic lookout just North of Queenston Heights. Nestled high atop the Niagara Escarpment, [Queenston Heights Park](#) is the birthplace of Niagara Falls - garden and nature lovers, hikers and picnickers have used this park for generations. Queenston Heights Park is also a terminus point of the Bruce Trail. Visit the [Laura Secord Homestead](#) to learn how Laura Secord began the journey that has earned her a place in Canadian history.

4. Niagara-on-the-Lake

Last stop, the picturesque town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. History buffs can continue to Fort George National Historic Site. The Fort is steeped deep in history as the headquarters of the Centre Division of the British Army during the War of 1812. Passionate costumed staff fill the air with music, smells of the kitchen, and the power of musketry and artillery and offer exciting presentations that bring the drama of the war to life! Fort George is also home to the internationally renowned Fife and Drum Corps of the 41st Regiment of Foot, an authentic 1812 experience not to be missed.

End the afternoon driving through wine country with a stop for lunch and be sure to pick up a taste of Niagara wines, spirits or craft brews to bring home. Sprawling vineyards, award-winning wines and a remarkable microclimate make Niagara's wine country one of the most visited wine regions in the world. From rustic wineries to grand estates, you'll find picturesque patios and unique culinary dining experiences overlooking lush vineyards at [Peller Estates](#), [Two Sisters Vineyards](#), [Lailey Winery](#), [Trius Winery](#), [Wayne Gretzky Estates](#), and [Ravine Vineyard](#).

Niagara is also home to craft breweries that are passionate about showcasing the best hops and fresh fruit grown here. [Oast House Brewers](#) housed in a refurbished red barn takes pride in working with local ingredients. Enjoy delicious BBQ style cuisines and live entertainment on their two-tiered patio. Back in Niagara Falls for the evening, you can taste local brews on Clifton Hill at the Niagara Brewing Company before taking in the sights of the nightly [Falls Illumination](#) as you walk back to your hotel room to rest for another day of exploration.



NIAGARA FALLS TOURISM

PLAN YOUR VISIT

For more information about unique and memorable experiences in Niagara Falls, please visit www.niagarafallstourism.com and these helpful resources:

WHERE TO STAY

Book a Fallsview room to enjoy a [Room with a View](#), the majesty of the Falls from the comfort of your bed, any time of the day. Niagara Falls [campgrounds and cottages](#) afford visitors a special way of getting a little closer to nature.

RESOURCES

- Niagara Falls Illumination: www.niagarafallstourism.com/Illumination/
- Niagara Falls Itinerary Ideas: www.niagarafallstourism.com/blog/itinerary/
- Attraction Packages: www.niagarafallstourism.com/attraction-packages/
- Niagara Falls 24/7 Live Cam from Fallsview Casino: [Niagara Falls Live Stream](#)

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

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Instagram: [@NiagaraFallsTourismCanada](https://www.instagram.com/NiagaraFallsTourismCanada)

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MEDIA CONTACT

Irene Knight, Manager of Public Relations

iknight@niagarafallstourism.com

Cell: 905-651-5790