

[Toronto] Top Five Places

Toronto is a hub of commercial, financial, industrial and cultural life, as well as one of the most livable and multicultural urban places in the world. The G-20 Summit, to be held on June 26 and 27 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, will “bring the world” to the city. Jim Feir, a trade commissioner recently posted to DFAIT’s Toronto Regional Office, offers a few suggestions of places within a stone’s throw of the Summit site.



photo: City of Toronto

CN TOWER

At 553.33 m, it’s the world’s tallest tower, and, unless you’re vertigo-challenged, an ideal and iconic place for an overview of Toronto. You’ll get a first-hand perspective of how big and green the city really is. Map out where you’ll spend the rest of the day, or stay and enjoy a meal in the revolving restaurant. On a clear day there’s a view of Niagara Falls.

Jim Feir, a Winnipeg native, began discovering what the thriving metropolis of Toronto has to offer in 2009.



photo: Adrian Holmes

TORONTO MUSIC GARDEN

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy created this waterfront park by interpreting the music of Johann Sebastian Bach’s first suite for unaccompanied cello. The result is a public place where you can take in a free concert or sit and quietly ponder nature. On a personal note, the garden’s maypole was designed by the late Anne Roberts of Feir’s Mill Design. Feir’s Mill, in the Kawartha Lakes area, is where my forebears settled and established a grist- and sawmill when they came to Canada from Ireland in 1834.



photo: Tourism Toronto

RAVINES, ISLANDS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

No matter where you are in Toronto, you can walk to a ravine—an alternate world that tells our aboriginal history, teems with wildlife and offers an opportunity to hike, cycle or picnic. The Toronto Islands, a short ferry-ride away, are one of the city’s best-kept secrets, offering quiet spots, an amusement park, beaches and a fabulous view of the skyline, particularly at night. Enjoy the diversity of culture and cuisine that abounds in Toronto’s neighbourhoods; you’ll find a restaurant to represent each of the G-20 countries.



photo: Tourism Toronto

DISTILLERY HISTORIC DISTRICT

In many parts of the world, old buildings are razed and replaced with tall condo towers. But Toronto preserved the former Hiram Walker-Gooderham & Worts whisky distillery and permitted its intelligent transformation into a pedestrian-only village entirely dedicated to arts, culture and entertainment. You’ll find restaurants, art galleries, cafés and shops in what is the largest and best-preserved collection of Victorian industrial architecture in North America.



photo: Reuters

TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE

Hey—I’m a trade commissioner. Located in the heart of the city’s financial district, Toronto’s stock exchange is the third-largest in North America. Discover the world of finance and see how the market functions at Stock Market Place, its high-technology visitor centre. Maybe you’ll get your tip to a fortune!