

The Culture Itinerary

The Culture itinerary is all about discovering Ottawa's cultural attractions, including museums, theatres, and galleries, punctuated by uniquely Canadian experiences.

Day 1

10:00 am:

Begin this tour with a broad cultural overview of Canada at the [Canadian Museum of Civilization](#). The building itself is spectacular, with its curving forms and breath-taking interiors such as the Grand Hall.



Tip: The museum also houses the Canadian Children's Museum—one of the most fun places in the region—so there's plenty to see and do before lunch.

1:00 pm:

Take a break at the Café du Musée or the more casual Voyageurs Cafeteria—both offer amazing views of the Ottawa skyline.

2:00 pm:

Catch the latest IMAX flick. Sit back in a reclining seat to get the full effect of the seven-storey high screen and curved dome.

3:30 pm:

Ottawa is home to a growing number of art galleries, including the [Gordon Harrison Gallery](#), which features original oil paintings of Canada by Canadian Landscape Ottawa Artist, Gordon Harrison.

Tip: Attend 'Friday evenings with the Artist' or a guided walking tour of a dozen art galleries in the ByWard Market – events both hosted by the Gordon Harrison Gallery.

6:00 pm:

Your evening will be spent at the [National Arts Centre](#), so get a reservation at [Le Café](#), the NAC's fabulous restaurant.

Youth/family-friendly option: Stop in for an Italian treat at [The Grand Pizzeria](#), a great hotspot with authentic Neapolitan pizza.

8:00 pm:

Theatre? Dance? The symphony? The [National Arts Centre](#) is home to the NAC Orchestra (under the musical direction of Pinchas Zukerman) as well as English and French theatre presenting the best of stage artistry from across the country.

Day 2

10:00 am:

You can't leave town without a tour through the [National Gallery of Canada](#) with its giant bronze spider, *Maman*, on the plaza entranceway. Permanent exhibits include major works from European, American and Canadian masters among many others. Guided tours or personal tours with audio guide are available.



Tip: Don't miss the outstanding Inuit art collection.

1:00 pm:

Just steps away in the [ByWard Market](#) is the [Empire Grill](#) — the perfect spot for lunch.

Youth/family-friendly option: Enjoy the cool vibe at Zak's Diner, a ByWard Market landmark with great burgers and mini juke boxes in each booth.

3:00 pm:

Spend the afternoon at the [Mackenzie King Estate](#) in [Gatineau Park](#). Roam around the romantic gardens and picturesque ruins or take one of the many trails through the woods before stopping for tea at the Mackenzie King Tearoom. Travel time is approximately 20 minutes.

6:30 pm:

You can indulge in dinner at [Domus](#) that serves Canadian cuisine using fresh, seasonal ingredients from local suppliers and only the best vintages from Ontario wineries.

Youth/family-friendly option: Always popular with a younger crowd, stop in for supper at the Ottawa location of the [Hard Rock Cafe](#). Great food and rock memorabilia make for a fun evening.

8:30 pm:

No need to wait for Halloween to enjoy a really good scare. Take a lantern-guided walking tour of the city's 'darker side' with the [Haunted Walks of Ottawa](#). Large groups are welcome with reservations.

Day 3

10:00 am:

The ideal place to start the day is the [Bytown Museum](#), with its wealth of photographs and artifacts about Ottawa's early days, before it became the capital. As the museum is located at the entrance to Ontario's first UNESCO World Heritage site, the [Rideau Canal](#), you'll view those first locks with fresh eyes once you learn about the monumental challenges of their creation.



11:00 am:

Adventurous groups will love paddling a voyageur canoe to [Aboriginal Experiences](#), a native village with live dance performances, guided tours, craft workshops, authentic meals, and more.

1:00 pm:

Pick a delicious dish from the Irish-inspired menu at the [Heart & Crown ByWard Market](#) (or their Preston Street location).

2:30 pm:

Stay in the neighbourhood and head over to the [Royal Canadian Mint](#). Unique collectables such as hockey and dinosaur coins are for sale in the boutique.

4:00 pm:

Tea anyone? Pop in to [Zoé's Lounge](#) at the [Fairmont Chateau Laurier](#) for its legendary high tea that includes your choice of several loose leaf teas and either the traditional, Canadian or champagne tea service.

Youth/family-friendly option: Wander through the [ByWard Market](#) to enjoy the year-round farmers' market and wide variety of shops. Stop for supper at [The Honest Lawyer Restaurant](#) where you can play a variety of arcade-type games and enjoy a casual meal.

8:00 pm:

With nearly 100 years under its belt, [Ottawa Little Theatre](#) is Canada's oldest community theatre. The facility presents a great mix of comedies, mysteries, and dramas to entertain diverse audiences.