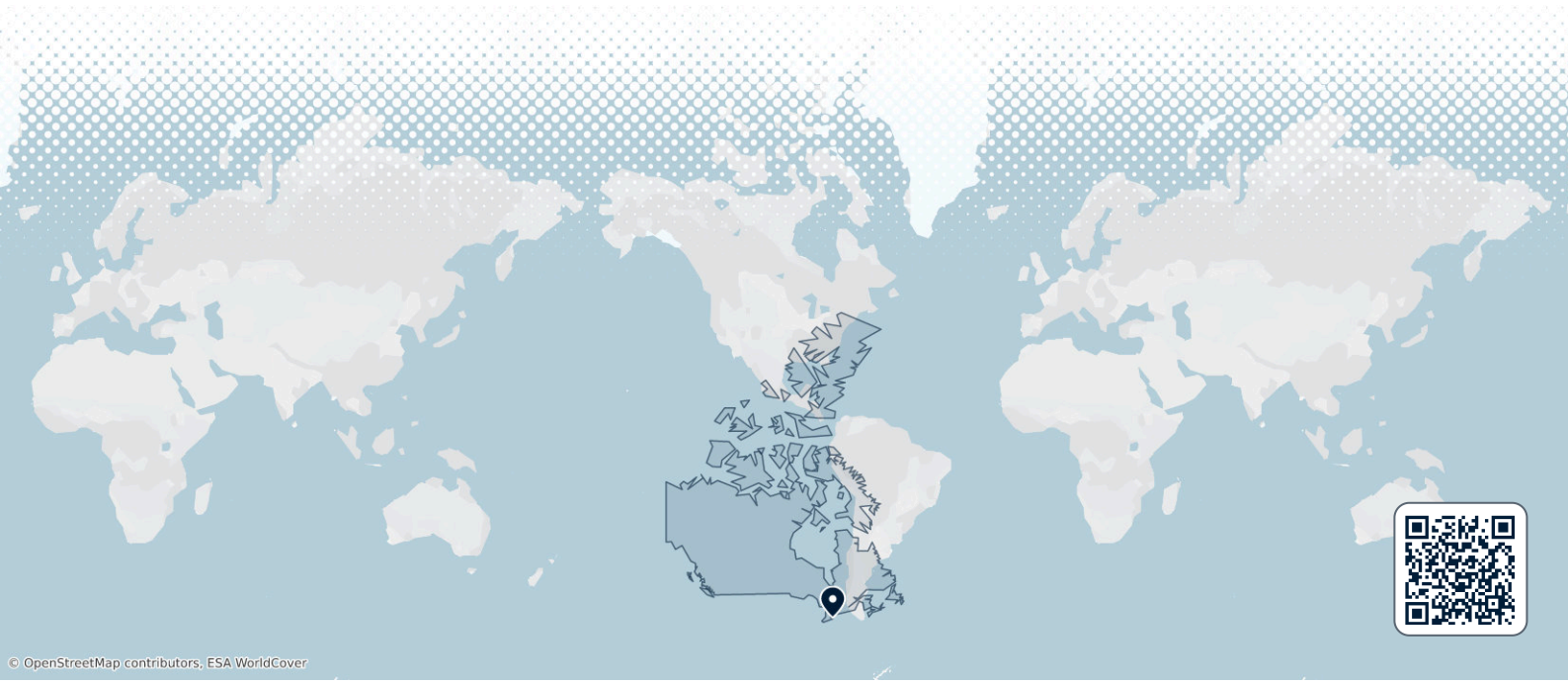


Niagara Falls

Ontario · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Niagara Falls is a city on the Niagara River in Ontario. Three waterfalls sit on the border with the United States: Horseshoe Falls, American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls. The Canadian side has the widest view, and the falls are lit in colour every night.

The city has two tourist areas. Clifton Hill is full of arcades and family attractions. Fallsview, on the hill above the falls, has hotels and a casino. Parks and gardens follow the river north, away from the crowds. One or two days is enough for most visitors.

When to visit

June to September is the best time. The days are warm, boat tours run and all attractions are open. July and August are the busiest months, so go early in the day.

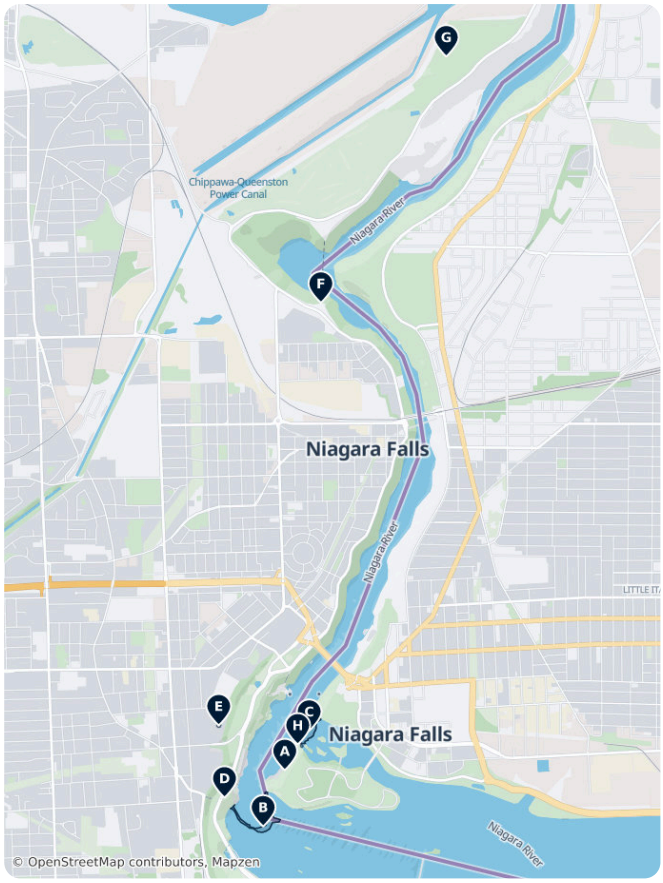
May and late September are quieter and still mild. Winters are cold, and some seasonal attractions close. Ice forms along the gorge, and a festival of lights runs through the winter months.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 7° Feels like -8°	-6° / -14°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 9° Feels like -7°	-6° / -14°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 14° Feels like -1°	-2° / -10°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for cycling	11° / 18° Feels like 6°	2° / -3°	15 rainy days · Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	17° / 25° Feels like 14°	9° / 3°	15 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	15° / 9°	16 rainy days
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 31°	18° / 13°	17 rainy days · Humid air
August	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 30°	18° / 14°	15 rainy days · Humid air
September	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	15° / 10°	14 rainy days
October	Good Good for hiking	15° / 24° Feels like 11°	9° / 3°	15 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	8° / 16° Feels like 3°	3° / -3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -4°	-2° / -9°	16 rainy days · Dry air

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Niagara Falls is the main sight. The best free views are along the walkway in Queen Victoria Park, on the Canadian side.
- B Horseshoe Falls is the largest of the three falls. Most of the river flows over it, and it carries the border line.
- C American Falls is a straight, wide drop on the US side. You see it from the Canadian walkway, along with the smaller Bridal Veil Falls.
- D Journey Behind the Falls takes you through tunnels to a view from behind the Horseshoe Falls. You get wet, so wear a rain jacket.
- E Skylon Tower has an observation deck high above the falls and a revolving restaurant. It gives the best wide view of the whole area.
- F Whirlpool Aero Car is a cable car that crosses the Niagara Whirlpool in the gorge. It runs in the warmer months.
- G Butterfly Conservatory is a warm indoor garden with free-flying butterflies. It is on the Niagara Parkway, north of the falls.
- H Cave of the Winds is on the US side. Wooden walkways lead to the base of Bridal Veil Falls.



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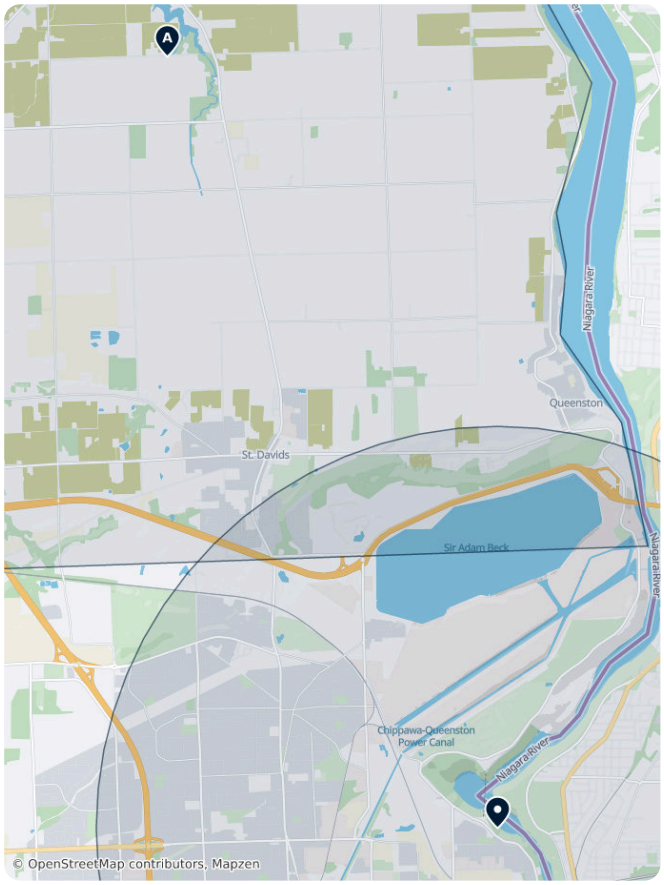
What to experience

- **Take a boat tour.** Boats run in the warmer months and go close to the base of the falls. You get wet, so wear the poncho provided.
- **See the falls at night.** Coloured lights shine on the falls every evening, and fireworks are held on some summer evenings.
- **Go behind the falls.** Journey Behind the Falls is open to visitors year-round and is the closest you can get to the water.
- **Ride the wheel.** The Niagara SkyWheel gives a calm view over the falls and Clifton Hill.
- **Walk or cycle the river trail.** The path leads north past the Whirlpool and gardens, and on to Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- **Visit in winter.** The falls partly freeze, and the Winter Festival of Lights fills the parks with displays.

Day trips

All trips are one way from the falls.

- Ⓐ Niagara-on-the-Lake: about 25 minutes by car. A pretty town on Lake Ontario with old streets, wineries and the Niagara Parkway for a scenic drive.
- **Niagara wine region**: about 30 to 45 minutes by car. Wineries and orchards lie along the lake, west of the city.
- **Toronto**: about 1.5 hours by car. A large city with a tall skyline, big museums and many restaurants.
- **Buffalo**, United States: about 45 minutes by car, plus the border crossing.



Getting there

- **By air**: Toronto Pearson (YYZ) is the main airport. It is about 1.5 hours from Niagara Falls by car. Buffalo Niagara (BUF) in the United States is also close, but you must cross the border.
- **By train**: VIA Rail and the GO train both serve Niagara Falls station. GO trains run year-round on weekends from Toronto, with a smaller weekday service. Check the schedule before you plan around them.
- **By bus**: Coaches run from Toronto to Niagara Falls, and are a common choice for day trips.
- **By car**: Toronto is about 130 km away on the QEW highway. The drive takes 1.5 hours or more in traffic.

Getting around

- **WEGO bus**: Niagara Parks runs WEGO buses year-round. The Blue Line connects the main attractions and meets at Table Rock, at the edge of Horseshoe Falls. Buy a 24-hour or 48-hour e-ticket online, or buy a pass at a Niagara Parks site. See WEGO.
- **Local bus**: Niagara Region Transit runs route 116/216 for the rest of the city.
- **On foot**: Clifton Hill and the falls are a 10 to 15 minute walk apart. Fallsview is on the hill. The Incline Railway links the falls area with the hill above.
- **By bike**: A paved trail follows the Niagara River from the falls toward Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- **To the US side**: You can cross on foot at Rainbow Bridge. Bring a passport and check entry rules before you go.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The falls, Clifton Hill and Fallsview are close together, but other sights are spread along the river.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

A paved river trail runs north from the falls and is popular in summer.

Food & drink

Most restaurants are in Clifton Hill, Fallsview and the hotels. Many are large and made for tourists. Prices near the falls are higher than elsewhere in the city. For a special meal, book a table at the revolving restaurant in Skylon Tower.

The Niagara region is Ontario's main wine area. It is known for **icewine**, a sweet wine made from frozen grapes. Taste local wine in the city or in nearby Niagara-on-the-Lake. Tipping of 15 to 20 percent is normal in sit-down restaurants.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Tourtière
A savory meat pie, traditionally made with pork, beef, or game, especially popular in Quebec.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Poutine
Fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, originally from Quebec and now popular nationwide.

Bannock
A simple fried or baked bread with roots in Indigenous cooking, found in many regional variations across the country.

Montreal-style Bagel · Bagel montréalais
A smaller, sweeter, denser bagel than the New York style, boiled in honey water and baked in a wood-fired oven.

Maple Syrup · Sirop d'érable
Syrup tapped from maple trees, mainly in Quebec and Ontario, used on pancakes and in baking and savory dishes alike.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Butter Tart
A small pastry shell filled with a sweet, gooey butter, sugar, and egg filling, sometimes with raisins or pecans.

Nanaimo Bar
A no-bake dessert bar from British Columbia with a chocolate-crumb base, custard filling, and chocolate topping.

DRINKS

Caesar
Canada's signature cocktail: vodka, Clamato juice (tomato and clam broth), and spices, served with a celery stalk.

Canadian Whisky
A lighter, smoother style of whisky than Scotch or Bourbon, often blended with rye.

Ice Wine
A sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine, produced mainly in Ontario's Niagara region and British Columbia's Okanagan Valley.

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Safety & health

Niagara Falls is a safe city for visitors. Normal city care is enough. Keep valuables out of sight in parked cars. The Clifton Hill area is crowded and loud late at night.

Stay behind the barriers at the falls. The rock and railings are wet from the mist and can be slippery. In winter, ice forms on paths and viewpoints, so wear boots with good grip. Bring a rain jacket in summer for the mist, and insect repellent for park walks.

History

The falls were formed by retreating ice after the last ice age. They have moved slowly upstream since then. The Niagara River area was home to Indigenous peoples long before European settlers arrived.

The region saw fighting in the War of 1812, including the Battle of Lundy's Lane in 1814 close to the falls. In 1859 *Charles Blondin* crossed the gorge on a tightrope. Tourism grew from the 1800s, and the falls became a famous honeymoon place. Hydroelectric plants on the river have supplied power since the late 1800s.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

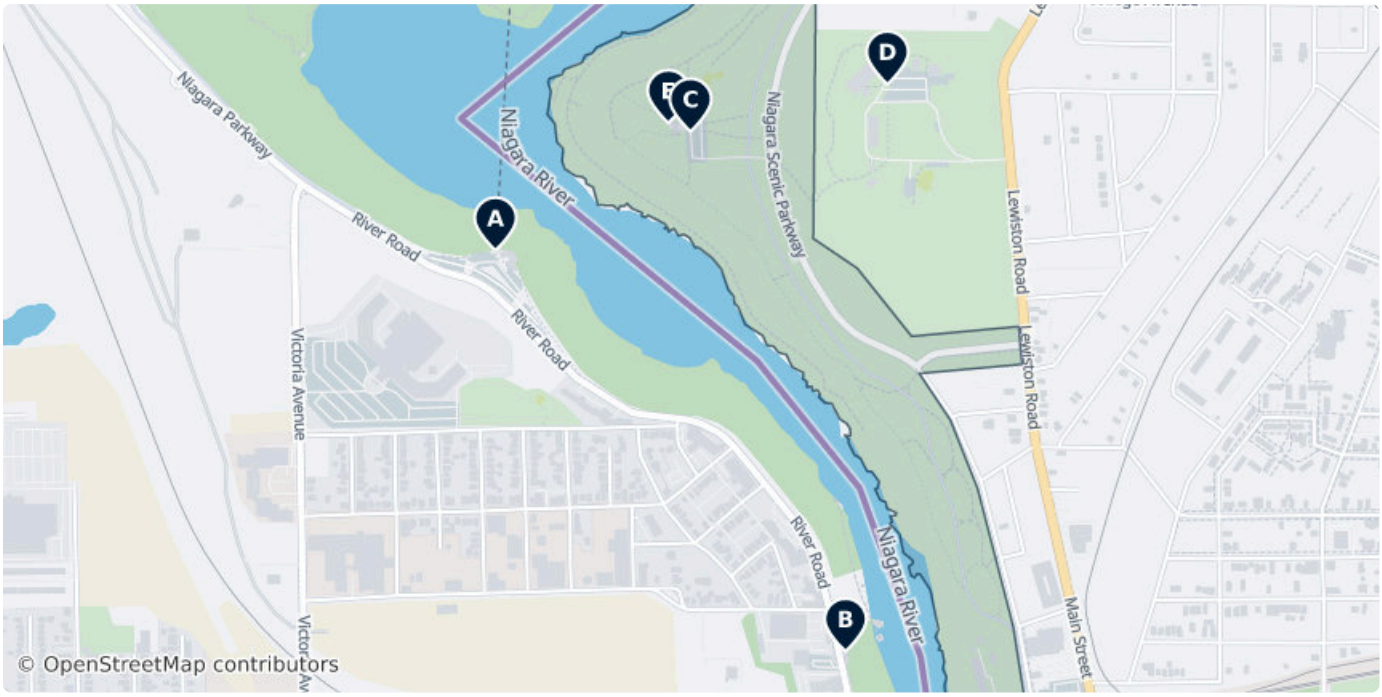
Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Niagara Falls Absolute Essentials

This selection highlights the geological power of the Niagara River corridor, focusing on the Niagara Whirlpool and the Great Gorge. The list features the Spanish Aero Car, a cable car suspended above the river since 1916, and the White Water Walk, a boardwalk positioned directly beside Class 6 rapids. It also includes the 109-acre Whirlpool State Park on the New York side, which offers clifftop trails and staircase access to the river's edge for views of the massive whirlpool.



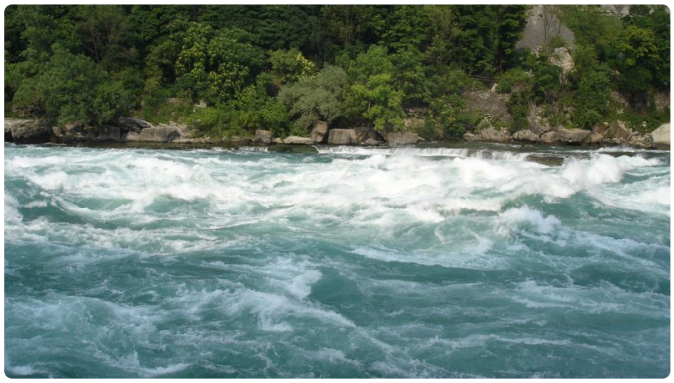


A Whirlpool Aero Car

The Whirlpool Aero Car or Spanish Aero Car is a cable car located in Niagara Falls, Ontario that transports passengers over a section of...

Niagara Parkway 3850, Niagara Falls (43.11802, -79.06882)

niagaraparks.com/niagara-falls-attracti... , +1 877-642-7275

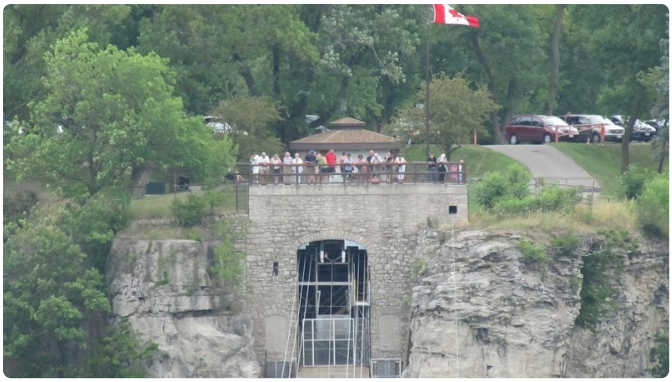


B White Water Walk

Take this walk to see foamy water under the Niagara Falls and admire their intact beauty from a very close distance.

River Road 4430, Niagara Falls (43.11102, -79.06045)

niagaraparks.com/visit/attractions/whit... , +1-905-374-1221



C Whirlpool State Park

Whirlpool State Park is a 109-acre state park located in Niagara County, New York, north of the city of Niagara Falls.

(Unnamed Road), Niagara Falls 14305, United States (43.12010, -79.06416)

E 窝铺

Observation area overlooking the turbulent rapids of the Niagara River Gorge.

(43.12024, -79.06468)

D Whirlpool State Park

Whirlpool State Park is a 109-acre state park located in Niagara County, New York, north of the city of Niagara Falls.

3179 Deveaux Woods Dr, Niagara Falls 14305, United States (43.12092, -79.05945)

nysparks.com/parks/105/, +1 (716) 284-4691

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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- White Water Walk — "Niagara Falls rapids (White water walk)" by Tanbirahmed, CC BY-SA 3.0
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