The best places to eat, sleep and play in Niagara Falls this fall and winter

With more than 50 million reviews and opinions, TripAdvisor makes travel planning a snap for the 50 million travelers visiting our site each month.
Niagara Falls is a top destination with a split personality of sorts. On the one hand—make that, on the one side—this natural wonder is a citizen of the United States and, on the other, it’s a citizen of Canada. Sure, each side shares proximity to the impressive falls, but that’s just about where the similarities end. A debate rages among travelers about which side of the Falls is best. One TripAdvisor Member from Ohio says, “there’s peace and quiet on the American side; it’s more like a park and very relaxing. You can also walk right up to the river. Just don’t fall in!” Taking the opposite view (pun intended), a TripAdvisor Member from New York says, “The Canadian side is the happening place; it has better views, more to do and is closer to the great Niagara wineries.” So which side is better? Visit both and decide for yourself!

Peak visiting season is May to September—and for good reason: The days are long and warm; the nights, cool and comfortable. And all of the most popular attractions, including the legendary Maid of the Mist (operating from April to October), are open. The off-season doesn’t turn Niagara into a ghost town. There are still a number of museums and cultural sites open year-round, and the Falls can’t exactly shut down. But snowfall into mid-April and sometimes bitterly cold temperatures do put a damper on most outdoor activities.

You’ll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.

PACKING TIPS

1. If you plan to visit both the U.S. and Canadian sides of the Falls, “be sure to bring your documentation.”—TripAdvisor Member, Buffalo, N.Y.

2. “Don’t forget to carry a waterproof camera and lint-free cloth or tissues to dry the camera lens between photos.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

3. “Wear comfortable footwear. I am down at the Falls almost every day, and I cannot get over the number of tourists dressed in spiked heels. They no longer look pretty, because they have a look of agony on their faces.”—TripAdvisor Member
NIAGARA FALLS BEST VIEWS

“For my money, the best view is from the base of the American Falls. It’s a spectacular view.”—TripAdvisor Member, Buffalo, N.Y.
Niagara Falls, Robert Moses Parkway, New York, 800 338 7890

“Don’t forget the view from Goat and Three Sisters Islands. There, you can wade (carefully) on the edge of the rapids above the Falls, if you’re so inclined.”—TripAdvisor Member, Buffalo, N.Y.
Goat and Three Sisters Islands, New York

From Table Rock on the Canadian side, “it’s a short walk to the overlooks and walkway along the gorge. Walk along the sidewalk for great views of Horseshoe, Bridal Veil and American Falls.”—TripAdvisor Member, Buffalo, N.Y.
Table Rock, 6650 Niagra Pkwy., Ontario

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Niagara Falls, New York and Ontario
2. Cave of the Winds, Goat Island, New York, 716 278 1796
3. Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory, 2405 Niagara Pkwy., Ontario, 905 358 0025
4. Niagara Science Museum, 3625 Highland Ave., New York, 716 282 2975
5. Fallsview Indoor Waterpark, 5685 Falls Ave., Ontario, 905 374 4444
6. Niagara Falls State Park, Prospect Street, New York, 716 278 1796
7. Bird Kingdom, 5651 River Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario, 905 356 8888
8. Niagara Gorge Trail, Whirlpool Street, New York
9. White Water Walk, 4330 Niagra Pkwy., Niagara Falls, Ontario, 877 642 7275
10. Daredevil Museum of Niagara Falls, 303 Rainbow Blvd. at 3rd St., Niagara Falls, New York, 716 282 4046

FAMILIES

“We have three children and we weren’t sure how they would enjoy a ‘walking tour.’ It turns out Mystery on the Lake was the highlight of our week. The kids loved the clues and trying to figure out where we would go next. We had a great time and met some great people.”—TripAdvisor Member, Timmins, Ontario
Mystery on the Lake – The Last Illusionist, Queen Street, Ontario, 866 386 2921

It’s why you came! “Awesome! Niagara Falls is something you HAVE to experience in person. Pictures, videos, etc., just don’t cut it. If you have small children though, this can be a VERY dangerous place! There are no fences of any kind preventing someone from falling or tripping into the falls; there are only guard rails that anyone could fall over, or a child could climb through.”—TripAdvisor Member, Janesville, Wis.
National Heli Tours, Niagara District Airport, 468 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil, Ontario, 905 641 2222

“The Fallsview Waterpark is amazing. There are many different slides, great food, great service, great price, great fun! I had to nearly peel my child off of the waterslide so that we could leave. We enjoyed the park for both days and would DEFINITELY go back.”—TripAdvisor Member, Weedville, Pa.
Fallsview Indoor Waterpark, 5685 Falls Ave., Ontario, 905 374 4444

“Nightmares Fear Factory is not for kids, so “be prepared to be spooked! You go into the haunted house with only your group—my husband and I were totally alone. Hold onto your companion—you never know what’s behind you!”—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nightmares Fear Factory, 5631 Victoria Ave., Ontario, 905 357 FEAR (3327)

ROMANCE

National Heli Tours offers special private tours for couples, as well as a romance package with champagne. “A helicopter ride over the Falls is a must-do.”—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

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“…something you HAVE to experience in person.”

“My husband and I stumbled on Oakes Garden Theatre. This park is so beautiful that we wished we could have had our wedding there. The gardens and architecture were wonderful, and there is also a restaurant hidden in there.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario
Oakes Garden Theatre, Entrance to Queen Victoria Park, Ontario, 905 371 0254

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Where to PLAY

BUDGET

“If you are into designer digs, Factory Outlet Mall is the haven of hot spots with Paper Denim, Versace, Coach, Marc Jacobs, Puma, DKNY. Incredible! Don’t forget to bring your credit card. I am a total fashionista and I need to go back!”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Factory Outlet Mall, 1900 Military Road, New York, 716 297 0933

ADVENTURE

“The Niagara Glen is a nature trail that goes down the gorge to the Niagara River. From there, you can view the rapids up close. The kids will enjoy climbing on the rocks on the way down.”—TripAdvisor Member

Niagara Glen Nature Area, Niagara Parkway, 905 371 0254

The Niagara Freedom Trail “has some of the nicest trails anywhere near Toronto. The gorge is simply breathtaking. Take advantage of all the lookout points for rests.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ontario

Niagara Freedom Trail, Ontario

“Words cannot describe the sensation of Niagara descending ON YOU! If you don’t want to get wet, don’t go onto Cave of the Winds’ Hurricane Deck. Despite the thin provided raincoat, I was soaked.”—TripAdvisor Member, Falls Church, Va.

Cave of the Winds, Goat Island, New York, 716 278 1796

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Cave of the Winds, Goat Island, New York, 716 278 1796

EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

“The Niagara Science Museum is an exciting place. An amazing collection of instruments and equipment that spans decades of our industrial past.”—TripAdvisor Member, Niagara Falls

Niagara Science Museum, 3625 Highland Ave., New York, 716 282 2975

Daredevil Museum was “pretty neat! The walls have stories and photos of the daredevils who went over the Falls and exhibits of actual barrels people used.” And the price is right: “You can’t beat free.”—TripAdvisor Member, Middletown, N.Y.

Daredevil Museum of Niagara Falls, 303 Rainbow Blvd., New York, 716 282 4046

“About a mile from the Canadian Falls is Dufferin Islands Park. Grab a bottle of wine and a picnic lunch and bike, hike or drive (free parking) over here for a little slice of nature. Red-winged blackbirds fly around your head, and there are great views of the skyline and the rapids upstream from the falls.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Dufferin Islands Park, Niagara Parkway between the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse and the Rapidsview Parking Lot

RELAXATION

“Serenity Spa by the Falls is amazing! The treatments are fantastic. It was great being pampered. They were extremely nice and genuinely interested. Great experience. Don’t miss it.”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Serenity Spa by the Falls, Marriott Niagara Falls Fallsview, 6740 Fallsview Blvd., 905 358 4048

“I’ve been back to the Butterfly Conservatory three times. We’ve taken family friends with us each time, and they loved it, too. If you’re looking for action, don’t go. If you’re looking for a neat way to spend an hour, the Conservatory is a great spot. It is really neat to see all the butterflies landing on people.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory, 2405 Niagara Pkwy., Ontario, 905 358 0025

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TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!

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What's the TOUR
How to Get Around

If there's no snow on the ground, a “bicycle is actually a great way to travel in this city. If you can bring a bike...do it! The recreational trail along the Niagara River takes you to numerous attractions, and you won’t find a better trail anywhere. I’ve seen a few tourists with those ‘fold up’ bikes, and I’m sure they’re really glad they brought them.”—TripAdvisor Member

“Once you’ve had your fill of the Falls, the Niagara Scenic Trolley will take you around a three-mile route within Niagara Falls State Park, making stops along the way. For a bargain price ($2 adult/$1 child) you receive an all-day pass that allows you to re-board as many times as you wish.”—TripAdvisor Member

“If you can, leave your vehicle at the hotel and...WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES!”—TripAdvisor Member

WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

“The kids would probably like the Flying Saucer Restaurant. It’s shaped like a flying saucer, with cutey menu items.”—TripAdvisor Member, Niagara Falls, Ontario

Flying Saucer Restaurant, 6768 Lundy’s Lane, Ontario, 905 356 4553

“Much of Niagara Falls is overpriced, but Antica is reasonable, with great service and fabulous food for young and old alike.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Antica Pizzeria, 5785 Victoria Ave., Ontario, 905 356 3844

“On the N.Y. side, purchase a Passport to the Falls, which includes the Maid of the Mist, Cave of the Winds, Observations Tower, the Trolley and more, for $33 ($26 for children 6-12; under five, free).”—TripAdvisor Member

ROMANCE

“The service was excellent, the food was exquisite and we were given a table with a full Falls view. It was our first time to Niagara Falls after being married for 13 years, but the staff of the Rainbow Room made us feel like we were back on our first date.”—TripAdvisor Member, Minitonas, Manitoba

Rainbow Room Fallsview Restaurant, Crown Plaza Hotel, 5685 Falls Ave., Ontario, 905 356 4447

“The Red Chateau is a MUST for anyone looking for a romantic, cozy dinner“ away from the tourist crowds. “We enjoyed the atmosphere, the yummy food and the glow of the huge, warm fireplace. The timing was perfect, allowing you to enjoy each course and each other!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, Ontario

The Red Chateau, 5815 Main St., Ontario, 905 354 4812

“I couldn’t believe that a restaurant in Niagara Falls would, in a flash, transport me back through the years to the sensational culinary delights of the very finest of Paris bistros, but Paris Crepes did! It looks like Paris, it smells like Paris, it TASTES like Paris!”—TripAdvisor Member, Sackville, New Brunswick

Paris Crepes Bistro, 4613 Queen St., Ontario, 289 296 4174

BUDGET

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Rainbow Room Fallsview Restaurant, Crown Plaza Hotel, 5685 Falls Ave., Ontario, 905 356 4447

“La Galera reminds me of my husband’s hometown in Mexico. The food is delicious, service is excellent and the prices are reasonable.”—TripAdvisor Member, Niagara

La Galera, 6621 Niagara Falls Blvd., New York, 716 283 4274

“Colosso Taco has lots of character and history. If you go drinking in Niagara Falls, odds are you’ll end up here. The Chicken Finger Taco is yummy.”—TripAdvisor Member, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Colosso Taco, 2440 Pine Ave., New York, 716 284 1498

“Sandstone Grillhouse. We had an individual pizza each; they were large and delicious and we ended up doggie-bagging almost half!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, Ontario

Sandstone Grillhouse, 5467 Victoria Ave., Ontario, 905 354 7225

Want more information on Niagara Falls? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Niagara Falls or any other destination you choose.
WHERE to eat

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

Not far from the Niagara Falls area, “The Peller Estates Winery Restaurant is gorgeous, and the dining experience wonderful. They have vegetarian appetizers and entrees.”—TripAdvisor Member, Canada

Peller Estates Winery, 290 John St. E., Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, 905 468 4678

Head to Taki for “absolutely flawless sushi. I cannot say enough good things about this restaurant. After years of going to Japanese restaurants around the world, it really rates a perfect ‘10’.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kentucky

Taki, 5500 Victoria Ave., Ontario, 905 357 7274

“In a sea of chains and neon signs, it was such a pleasure walking into cozy, Koutouki,” a Greek restaurant serving “superbly flavourful” food.—TripAdvisor Member, Oshkosh, Wis.

Koutouki Greek Cuisine, 5745 Ferry St., Ontario, 905 354 6776

HIDDEN GEMS

Lola’s “is a great cafe close to Niagara Falls. If I lived close by, I wouldn’t be writing this review. I’d keep this little gem a secret. Our sandwiches were all delicious, and the service was very good. If I ever make my way back up to Niagara, I’ll certainly stop again.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tampa, Fla.

Caffe Lola, 507 Third St., New York, 716 282 5652

“Wine On Third is a can’t-miss, must-see GEM in Niagara Falls. The service was perfection. The food was perfection. The atmosphere was perfection. Come to the U.S. side of Niagara Falls, hit up the casino and DO NOT miss Wine On Third!”—TripAdvisor Member

Wine On Third, 501 Third St., New York, 716 285 9463

The name doesn’t lie. Buzzy’s New York Style Pizza truly serves up pie that will transport you right to “Little Italy” in the Big Apple.

Buzzy’s New York Style Pizza, 7617 Niagara Falls Blvd., New York, 716 283 5333

“Perfection.”

SPECIAL EVENTS

Taste some of the finest wines the region has to offer at the Taste of the Season, when 22 wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake present their best autumn offerings. Part of the cost of a wine pass goes to CarbonZero, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Niagara. (Weekends throughout November)


Millions of lights shimmer along the Niagara Parkway in front of the Falls, forming creative displays, from Disney® animations to Canadian wildlife displays and more during the Winter Festival of Lights. (November 5 – January 31)

Winter Festival of Lights, Various venues, Niagara Falls, Ontario, 905 374 1616, http://www.wfol.com

Ring in the New Year with free concerts, a beer garden, food, dancing and an elaborate fireworks show over the Falls at the Niagara Falls New Year’s Party In Niagara. (December 31)

New Year’s Party In Niagara, Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, Ontario, 905 374 1616, http://www.wfol.com
“Comfort Inn The Pointe was directly across from the American Falls. It was clean, well-lit and had a great continental breakfast. The price was the best considering we had a free breakfast and free parking. I would recommend this hotel to anyone, especially families.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cartersville, Ga.

Comfort Inn The Pointe, 1 Prospect Pointe, New York, 716 284 6835

“Courtyard Niagara Falls was a superb hotel. The facilities are good: a small gym, lovely indoor pool and a laundry room that came in handy. The hotel was in a quiet area of town and centrally located so that all of the attractions were within a reasonable walk.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bucks, England

Courtyard Niagara Falls, 5950 Victoria Ave., Ontario, 905 358 3083

Winner of the 2010 Travelers’ Choice® Award for Family Hotels, the Country Inn is “highly recommended! Our kids loved it! Fallsview Waterpark and Clifton Hill were only minutes away. The swimming pool and hot tub were big enough to accommodate plenty of guests.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ottawa, Ontario

Country Inn & Suites Niagara Falls, 5525 Victoria Ave., Ontario, 905 374 6040

Inside, the Sterling Inn is mesmerizing. Our room was gorgeous, with a fire place, refrigerator, spacious bathroom and a two-person Jacuzzi. The location of the hotel allows you to escape from the buzz and to relax in a romantic setting.”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Sterling Inn & Spa, 5195 Magdalen St., Ontario, 289 292 0000

“We love the Doubletree Resort Lodge & Spa. Our room was spacious, clean and had a great view; we could see the river on top of the falls. The location is great, close to everything, yet set back just a bit so it feels safe, without all the craziness of Clifton Hill. We highly recommend this hotel to couples.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hamilton, Ontario

Doubletree Resort Lodge & Spa, 6039 Fallsview Blvd., Ontario, 905 358 3817

“Red Coach Inn was built in the 1920s and retains its Old World charm. Our room was a one-bedroom suite, filled with antique furniture. There was a complimentary fruit and cheese platter, with a split of champagne provided for our first day. A great place to stay and reasonably priced.”—TripAdvisor Member, Binghamton, N.Y.

Red Coach Inn, 2 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, New York, 716 282 1459

“I’d say the Falls Motel is the best bang for your buck! The staff was amazing – very kind, and helpful. Yeah, the rooms were a bit small and outdated, but who cares! They were clean and equipped with a mini-fridge, TV, microwave, coffee maker, and A/C unit.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Falls Motel, 5820 Buffalo Ave., New York, 716 283 3239

“Days Inn Niagara Falls Buffalo is a large, very new and modern looking motel. My room was very spacious and luxurious, with two huge king beds. Neighboring motels charged the same rates for double beds. The bathroom is very nicely laid out, with plenty of room. An excellent value.”—TripAdvisor Member, Plymouth, England

Days Inn Niagara Falls Buffalo, 2821 Niagara Falls Blvd., New York, 716 743 9224

“From the moment we arrived at Strathaird Bed and Breakfast we felt like we were visiting old friends. We stayed in the Rose Room—the bed was the most comfortable we had slept in for many weeks. We have stayed in B&Bs all over the world and this is one of the best.”—TripAdvisor Member, Australia

Strathaird Bed and Breakfast, 4372 Simcoe St., Ontario, 905 358 3421

“The Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel is the nicest place I’ve ever stayed. The hotel is new and in immaculate condition. When making a reservation, ask for a room on the side of the falls, as high up as you can go. I was on the 18th floor, and the view was spectacular. The hotel is also within walking distance to the Falls.”—TripAdvisor Member

Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel, 310 Fourth St., New York, 716 299 1100

“I love the Marriott Niagara Falls. It’s pricy, but worth it. We had a Jacuzzi in our room with a king-size bed and a front sitting room with a fireplace. Magnificent. My husband and I sat at the window in awe of the view as we enjoyed a slow bottle of wine. A great way to unwind. Great hotel, great service, great food.”—TripAdvisor Member, Quebec

Marriott Niagara Falls Fallsview Hotel & Spa, 6740 Fallsview Blvd., Ontario, 905 357 7300

“We had a wonderful time at the Sheraton on the Falls. The staff was exceedingly courteous and helpful. Our room (we were upgraded - a very nice surprise) was delightful and the view magnificent. To sit on the sofa in the afternoon with the fireplace aglow, watching the Falls out of the panoramic windows was amazing.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Sheraton on the Falls, 5875 Falls Ave., Ontario, 905 374 4445

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Where to STAY

HIDDEN GEMS

A newer home specifically designed to be a B&B, at the Villa Gardenia, “you don’t walk into someone’s living room and step over kids and pets on the way to your room. There’s a separate entrance for guests, and the family has their own private space. We would recommend Villa Gardenia to anyone and everyone. Seriously —there was nothing we didn’t like!”—TripAdvisor Member, Fountain Valley, Calif.

Villa Gardenia Bed & Breakfast,
4741 Zimmerman, Ontario, 905 358 1723

“The innkeepers at the Hillcrest Inn made us feel like we were staying with old friends. The Inn is about a half-mile from the Falls, yet retains a very cozy, small town feel. We had a different breakfast each morning, and each was equally delicious. It was nice coming back from sightseeing all day to a special treat (always something chocolate) in our room.”—TripAdvisor Member, Maryland

Hillcrest Inn, 1 Hillcrest St., New York, 716 278 9676

“I can’t say enough about Lion’s Head Bed and Breakfast. It was just wonderful in every respect. The food is beyond excellent. The rooms were immaculate, and the beds soooo soft. However, I think what we will miss most of all is Helena’s hospitality. She’s vivacious, full of local knowledge and great stories. You won’t be disappointed here!”—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Ga.

Lion’s Head Bed and Breakfast,
5239 River Road, Ontario, 905 374 1681

“Seriously—there was nothing we didn’t like!”

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