Ottawa BSDCan Family Plan Guide

Welcome to BSDCan and a member of the BSDCan Family Plan! We are very happy you have joined us, and we are here to help you have the best and safest experience. This guide is sharing our experiences. **Please ask us if you have any questions, or if you need any help.** We are happy to assist you, and we hope you join us in the market, in a museum, or on a tour.

History of Ottawa

Ottawa is a beautiful city on the Ottawa River. It has significant historical and political significance to the nation of Canada. Knowing the history of the region helps in planning what to see and do, and to appreciate the context of the experiences you have here.

The land is the unceded territory of the Anishinabeg Algonquin, and the Métis & Inuit have had a presence in the area. Ottawa has had cultural influence from these First Nations, France, England, Scotland and Ireland with a settlement for trade.

The name Odawa (later Ottawa) means “to trade” in the Algonquin language. Ottawa is located at the confluence of the Ottawa, Gatineau, and Rideau rivers. The Ottawa River is the 8th largest river in Canada, and is a tributary of the St. Lawrence. The Ottawa River serves as a border between Ottawa (in Ontario) and Gatineau (in Quebec).

The area has a unique geology, and if you wish to explore Bonnechere Caves, we can check the schedule and direct you—it is a trip you must plan for and be prepared to drive.

Ottawa was exposed to European influence starting in the 1600s as it was an area that served as an active transportation corridor for the region. The Rideau Canal was constructed in 1826-1832, which intensified growth in the region.

Queen Victoria chose Ottawa as the capital of Canada in 1857.

Stuff to do

There is so much to see and do in Ottawa that you cannot possibly get to all things in one week. There are tables in this guide for things that are suggested, and hints for each that we have learned through the years. We want you to have the best experience, whether you
have an adventure with an experienced person or on your own. This is an ongoing document, so it doesn’t include all things. There are places to look for things such as: https://ottawatourism.ca/en.

An important theme this year is purchasing tickets online ahead of your day. Sites are listed in this guide for each attraction. It is advised that you directly buy from the websites rather than ticket kiosks as some are not legitimate sellers.

Neighborhoods

Lieutenant Colonel John By was tasked to build the Rideau Canal in 1827. The colonel founded Bytown. A market was building was built where Heritage Hall now stands in today’s ByWard Market. The market district has many restaurants, pubs, fashionable boutiques, stalls, and Sunday markets. Many buskers and other entertainments occur on the streets.

Little Italy has many cafes with international food.

Chinatown is regenerating. Hit hard by the 2008 economic slide and then COVID, community organizations are very active, and there are many cultural festivals marking the holidays for the year. There is a Night Market currently for May 2024.

Parliament Hill

Ottawa is the capital of Canada. The most obvious things to do is tour Parliament Hill. There are free tours offered, so book through this site: https://rts.parl.ca/en-CA/home

Tours of the House of Commons, the Senate, and Parliament itself are available, and all have a unique history.

Be aware that at this time of year many schools from around the country are touring Ottawa, so the area can be very crowded and tours fill up quickly.

The area may be available to walk around outside. The grounds and statuary are spectacular and worth the time to see. The views of the river and Gatineau are also beautiful.

Getting Around

Ottawa’s attractions are often within a walking distance, but some may require a bus ride, train, or driving. The tables of attractions & festivals lists the addresses, and you can make a decision on travel from that. Google Maps is very accurate in Ottawa, and lists the buses/routes in real-time, and can give you routes/times for walking and biking.
Most **buses** can be boarded by U-Desmarais, the CF Rideau Centre on the Mackenzie King Bridge, or on Rideau Street (on the other side of CF Rideau Centre). You can pay in cash on the bus (exact change only), or go to a Shoppers Drug Mart and buy a pass that you can load/reload money for fares (Recommended, never expires). This pass also works for the trains. Just make sure you time things—during rush hour, transportation is packed and the bus may not stop for you.

**Weekend Bikedays**

Weekends in Ottawa and Gatineau have various areas that will be car-free so that if you are inclined to bike, walk, run, or skate you may do so in a safe area. Most of these areas are in scenic areas along the river, canal, and Gatineau Park. Please look at this website for more information: [https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/events/weekend-bikedays](https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/events/weekend-bikedays)

Came from away and don’t have a bike? There are many services that will rent one. **RentABike Ottawa** ([https://www.rentabike.ca/](https://www.rentabike.ca/)) has been in business for many years, and offers biking tours.

**Hop-on-hop-off Bus Tours**

This is a private company (**Grayline Ottawa**) that has a bus route. It has a live tour guide, and audio devices with languages other than English or French: [https://www.getyourguide.com/ottawa-l285/hop-on-hop-off-double-decker-bus-in-ottawa-t32180/](https://www.getyourguide.com/ottawa-l285/hop-on-hop-off-double-decker-bus-in-ottawa-t32180/)

This tour has stops at a good number of museum/s and attractions, and allows you to get off to look & experience, then re-board for another stop.

It can be a nice way of seeing the whole city before you choose specific things to visit.

The cost of this starts at $35.

**Some things to know (from experience):**

1. Make sure you check the schedule.
2. To get your money’s value, start this FIRST THING IN THE DAY. The tour takes time, and this tour has a time-limit based on the tour you have purchased.
   a. Each stop will be time-limited, so be sure you have specific things in mind to see at each stop.
b. You will have to wait for the bus to pick you up. This takes time from the next thing to see.

3. **NEVER** go on a day that it is forecasted to **rain**. You will be the wettest you have every been in your life—the bus acts like a syphon.

4. **Be aware that rain is forecasted for every day of the conference and summit in 2024.**

Heard about the Amphibuses? These are bus tours that feature a vehicle that serve as a bus and a boat. A company that is frequently used is **Lady Dive** [https://ladydive.com/](https://ladydive.com/). Please see the website for information and tickets.

### Attraction Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Attraction</th>
<th>Schedule/Cost (Canadian Dollars)</th>
<th>What You Need to Know</th>
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</table>
| **Bank of Canada Museum** | Website: [https://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/](https://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/)  | • This is a small museum.  
• Very interesting exhibits on the system of money in Canada.  
• Good place to take school-age kids. |
|                       | Address: 30 Bank Street, Ottawa, Canada |                                                            |
|                       | Hours: 1000-1700 seven days a week |                                                            |
|                       | Cost: Admission is FREE!!!! |                                                            |
| **Bonnechere Caves**  | Website: [https://www.bonnecherecaves.com/](https://www.bonnecherecaves.com/)  | • Opens the Friday of the May long weekend. Call ahead to make sure it is not flooded.  
• Bring a jacket, it is 10 degrees cooler than outside. You may get muddy.  
• Wear hiking shoes or sneakers. |
|                       | Address: Bonnechere Caves 1247 Fourth Chute Rd, Eganville, ON K0J 1T0 |                                                            |
|                       | Hours 1000-1600 |                                                            |
| **ByWard Market** | **Website:** [https://www.byward-market.com/](https://www.byward-market.com/)  
Address: See map in Appendix A  
Heritage Hall  
55 ByWard Market Square  
Ottawa, ON K1N 9C3  
Hours: (Heritage Hall) Sunday to Wednesday / 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Thursday to Saturday / 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Cost: Free to window shop; lots of stores/stalls/restaurants to spend in.  
| • There is a LOT of poison ivy—stick to the marked paths.  
• There are concessions, and outhouses/hand pump facilities.  
| **Bytown Museum & Locks** | **Website:** [https://bytownmuseum.com/](https://bytownmuseum.com/)  
Address: 1 Canal Lane, Ottawa  
Hours: Wednesday to Sunday 1000-1630  
Closed Mondays and Tuesdays  
| • Very small museum located by the capital complex on the locks.  
• Walking around the locks is very interesting, and they are operational.  
• Parks volunteers operate the locks and are happy to talk to you about them.  
| **Tours** | **Cost:**  
Adult $22.00  
Age 13-17 $15.00  
Age 4-12 $14.00  
Under 4 is free, but must be carried.  
| • Great bakery in the back, have Trudeau cookies.  
• Heritage Hall has many small sellers.  
• Area has stalls selling a variety of goods.  
• Many fashion-forward boutiques in the area.  
• York Street Market occurs on Sundays May to October.  
• BEWARE the Beavertails. If you know, you know.  
• The BSDCan Gelatocrawl happens here.  
| **Heritage Hall** | **Website:** [https://www.byward-market.com/](https://www.byward-market.com/)  
Address: See map in Appendix A  
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Ottawa, ON K1N 9C3  
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| **Heritage Hall** | **Website:** [https://bytownmuseum.com/](https://bytownmuseum.com/)  
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Closed Mondays and Tuesdays  
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| **Canadian Agriculture and Food Museum**  
**Special Exhibition of Ecuador: The Origins of Cacao** | **Website:**  
https://ingeniumcanada.org/agriculture  
**Address:**  
901 Prince of Wales Drive,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
**Hours:**  
Daily 0900-1700  
**Cost:**  
E-tickets required:  
https://ingeniumcanada.org/agriculture/tickets  
Adults: $14.50  
Youth (3-17): $12.25  
Under 2 are free  
- This is a working farm with animals and equipment.  
- Due to zoonotic transmission, the museum does not want you to go ill.  
- There is little to no availability for food, so you may pack your own. There are water bottle refill stations.  
- They are stressing no weapons. |
| **Canadian Aviation and Space Museum** | **Website:**  
https://ingeniumcanada.org/aviation  
**Address:**  
11 Aviation Parkway in Ottawa, Ontario.  
**Hours:**  
Thursday – Monday 0900-1700  
Closed Tuesday & Wednesday  
**Cost:**  
E-ticket required:  
https://ingeniumcanada.org/aviation/tickets  
Adult: $16.75  
Youth (3-17): $11.50  
Under 2 are free  
- Hangar guided tours at 1130 and 1430.  
- Rocket adventures on Saturdays & Sundays only.  
- Cold War exhibition. |
| **Canadian Museum of History** | **Website:** [https://www.historymuseum.ca/](https://www.historymuseum.ca/)  
Address: 100 Laurier Street, Gatineau  
Hours: Monday to Wednesday 0900-1700  
       Thursday 0900-1900  
       Friday to Sunday 0900-1700  
Cost: Recommended to book online prior to arrival, tickets are strictly timed.  
       Adult: $22  
       Child (2-12): $15  
       Guided tour: +$5  
| - Across the bridge in Gatineau across from Parliament Hill.  
- Awesome collection of First Nation's artifacts including totem poles.  
- Interactive exhibits for children.  
- Special exhibition on the first royals of Europe.  
- Tickets are timed, and late entry will not be permitted. |

| **Canadian Museum of Nature** | **Website:** [https://nature.ca/en/](https://nature.ca/en/)  
Address: 240 McLeod St, Ottawa, ON K2P 2R1, Canada  
Hours: 0930-1600, open until 2000 on Thursdays  
       Entry every 15 minutes  
Cost: General  
       - Adult: $18  
       - 13-17: $16  
       - 3-12: $14  
       - 2 and under are free  
       Combo tickets for the museum galleries and Bug Adventure!  
| - This is a must-do museum. Plan to be there a whole day.  
- The galleries are fascinating for the science-minded, and for all ages.  
- Yes, the scorpions do glow in the dark. Take a blacklight!  
- Special exhibit on wolves.  
- Special exhibit of Indigenous artists from Nunavik |
| **Canada Science and Technology Museum** | Website: [https://ingeniumcanada.org/scitech](https://ingeniumcanada.org/scitech)  
Address: 1867 St Laurent Blvd  
Hours: Daily 0900-1700  
Cost: E-tickets required: [https://ingeniumcanada.org/scitech/tickets](https://ingeniumcanada.org/scitech/tickets)  
Adult: $19  
Youth (3-17): $12.25  
Under 2 are free | - Oh Crap! Rethinking Human Waste temporary exhibition going on now.  
- Many other permanent exhibitions and interactive demonstration of Canadian science and technology.  
- This museum is a bit out and bus routes are complicated. Look for the large train.  
- This is interesting for adults, but excellent for children. |
| **CF Rideau Centre** | Website: [https://shops.cadillacfairview.com/property/cf-rideau-centre](https://shops.cadillacfairview.com/property/cf-rideau-centre)  
Location: CF Rideau Centre 50 Rideau Street Ottawa, ON K1N 9J7  
CF Rideau Centre Hours:  
- Monday 10:00 AM-09:00 PM  
- Tuesday 10:00 AM-09:00 PM  
- Wednesday 10:00 AM-09:00 PM  
- Thursday 10:00 AM-09:00 PM  
- Friday 10:00 AM-09:00 PM | - A shopping mall with some upscale commercial stores.  
- You are able to enter at Mackenzie King and go through the mall to Rideau Street (elevators are nice, especially if it is raining)  
- Website has a map.  
- Don’t recommend the food, ByWard Market has better variety. |
| **Chinatown (Ottawa)** | Website: (use Facebook, the website is having issues. [https://www.facebook.com/ottchinatown/](https://www.facebook.com/ottchinatown/)  
Location:  
Somerset Street west of downtown Ottawa. It runs from Bay Street in the east to Preston Street in the west. Signs for Chinatown continue along Somerset until Preston Street, and Chinese/Asian restaurants can be found even farther west.  
Cost:  
Whatever you spend in restaurants and shops. They do have good dim sum. | • Dim sum is at lunchtime only.  
• This community was hard hit in 2008 and with COVID (racism).  
• Community organizations are very active.  
• May is Asian Heritage month, BSDCan week is Korea Week. |
| **Diefenbunker** | Website: [https://diefenbunker.ca/tours/](https://diefenbunker.ca/tours/)  
Address:  
3929 Carp Road, Ottawa, Ontario K0A 1L0  
Hours:  
Wednesday – Friday 1000-1600  
Saturday – Sunday 1000-1500  
Cost:  
Adults 18+ $20.00  
Youth 6-17 &15.50  
Under 5 are free | • HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to buy tickets online in advance.  
• Closed 27 May 2024 & 1 June 2024.  
• Masks strongly recommended.  
• Guided tours are awesome and worth the time. They have a self-guided recording, but not as good. Tours are about 1 hour, then you may explore on your own.  
• There are elevators, so mobility challenged folks can participate. |

Saturday 10:00 AM-09:00 PM  
Sunday 11:00 AM-06:00 PM |

**Has a Sensory Bag program on request.**
### National Gallery of Canada

**Website:** [https://www.gallery.ca/](https://www.gallery.ca/)

**Address:**
380 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1N 9N4  
Canada

**Hours:**
0930-1700, except Thursdays (closes at 2000)

**Cost:**
Booking tickets ONLINE is a must, even for the free Thursday nights:  
[https://tickets.gallery.ca/](https://tickets.gallery.ca/)  
Adult: $20  
Student (with ID): $10  
11 and under: Free

On May 30, 2024 (Thursday)  
1700-2000 admission is free, and there are refreshments and a DJ.

**Special exhibits**
- Kan Azuma
- Radical Stitch (beading)
- Stan Douglas
- Beware of the traffic, strictly obey the crossing signals or you will pay with your life.
- Yes, there is a giant spider sculpture.

### Rideau Canal

- UNESCO world heritage site.
- Built in 1812, still in use today. Boats travel through to the St. Lawrence Seaway.
- Nice area to walk/bike.
- Does have some canal/river cruises.

### Royal Canadian Mint


**Address:**
320 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G8

- CLOSED on Mondays
- You may visit the Boutique without a ticket. It is open Tuesday – Sunday 1000-1700
- The tours are worth it! Some of us have been
Festivals 2024

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Festival</th>
<th>Schedule/Cost (Canadian Dollars)</th>
<th>What You Need to Know</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada-Wide Science Fair</td>
<td>May 26-3, 2024</td>
<td>• This is free, but you must register.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://cwsf.youthscience.ca/#/?lang=en">https://cwsf.youthscience.ca/#/?lang=en</a></td>
<td>• There is a virtual option you can register for.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Where: Carleton University, Fieldhouse</td>
<td>• There is a dedicated YouTube channel:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>85 University Road, Ottawa, Ontario - K1S</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/YouthScienceCanada">https://www.youtube.com/c/YouthScienceCanada</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinatown Night Market</td>
<td>May 31- June 2, 2024</td>
<td>• Dancing, music, and food in Ottawa’s Chinatown.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.facebook.com/ottchinatown/">https://www.facebook.com/ottchinatown/</a></td>
<td>• Check out the Facebook page for up to date news.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday: 1400-2300</td>
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<td>Saturday: 1100-2300</td>
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<td>Sunday: 1100-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Le Grand Poutinefest</td>
<td>05/30/2024 – 06/02/2024</td>
<td>• A festival of all things poutine in Gatineau!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Where:</td>
<td>• Open</td>
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<td>o 5/30: 1700-2100</td>
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Hours:
Tours: Tuesday – Sunday 1015 - 1600

Cost:
Recommended to buy tickets online ahead
Adults (18+): $12
5-17: $8
Under 4 are free

annually for years, and we still find it fun.
• Here is Rick Mercer at the mint:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iFiH78ltS0
Les Promenades Gatineau, 1100 boulevard Maloney Ouest, Gatineau, Québec

Cost:
Entry is free, Poutine is not.

OM
05/31/2021 - 06/01/2024
https://www.cityofom.com/

Where: Lansdowne Park 1015 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 3W7

Ticket cost: $81.21

• 5K fun run 1 June 2024 with an 0730 start.
• Holistic workshops all day from beginner to expert levels.

Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend
May 25-26, 2024

Multi-day running event; 10K, 5K, 2K, and kid’s marathon.

Website: https://www.runottawa.ca/

Fees:
10K: $115.00
5K: $50.00
2K: $35.00
17K: $180.00

• This is occurring the weekend before the Developer Summit and BSDCan.

References


Appendix A: Map of ByWard Market