



HOURS IN...

TORONTO

Canada's biggest city has everything you'd expect from a major metropolis, including fantastic food, a vibrant bar scene and one absurdly tall building.

■ Ask most Australians what they know about Toronto and they'll likely answer "not much", which is surprising given it's the fifth-largest city in North America. While it might not have the profile of LA or New York, it's not short on charm. The world's most multicultural city, Toronto boasts 200 different ethnicities and 130 languages. There's a kaleidoscope of neighbourhoods including five Chinatowns, two Little Italys, a Little India and even a Little Poland. Throw in a lakeside location, the nearby Niagara Falls and a thriving film industry and Aussies' lack of interest seems downright ridiculous.

The Royal Ontario Museum houses six million items. Inset: arthouse flick *Crash* was set in Toronto.

TRAVEL



GQ
INFO

GETTING THERE

United Airlines flies daily from Sydney and Melbourne to Toronto, via Los Angeles and San Francisco, offering some of the best value business-class fares to North America and lie-flat beds. unitedairlines.com.au



WHERE TO STAY

THOMPSON TORONTO
Located in the up-and-coming Entertainment District, this boutique hotel is a stylish haven of dark wood and discreet service. Spend the day admiring the view from the Vegas-style rooftop bar and pool before feasting on high-end Italian cuisine in the hotel's restaurant, Scarpetta. Acclaimed New York chef Scott Conant is at the helm. thompsonhotels.com



WHERE TO EAT

THE BLACK HOOF
A carnivore's delight, the Black Hoof specialises in charcuterie, much of which is hand-sliced by chef Grant van Gameren at the bar. Think sweetbreads poached in milk, rabbit terrine dotted with caramelised apple and chicken liver mousse. It's still receiving rave reviews two years after opening and you can't book, so arrive early. 928 Dundas St West.



WHERE TO DRINK

CANOE RESTAURANT
Don't be put off by the somewhat rustic, diner-style name. Canoe specialises in regional Canadian artisanal fine dining with a hearty side-dish of fine views from its position on the 54th floor of the TD Bank Tower. A clean, stylish venue in which to enjoy tea-smoked duck breast with foie gras or Alberta lamb loin with heirloom beans. oliverbonacini.com/canoe.aspx



WHERE TO BUY

DRAKE GENERAL STORE
After some quirky knick-knacks for family and friends? Drake has transformed the dowdy gift shop into a mecca for Canadian kitsch. This is the place to make a beeline for if you're looking for an adult colouring book, some gnome-inspired dinnerware, a same-sex wedding cake figurine or a Mountie napkin. drakegeneralstore.myshopify.com



WHAT TO DO

TORONTO ISLANDS
Providing a picturesque respite from the CBD, this 230-hectare string of islands in Lake Ontario is only a 20-minute ferry ride from Toronto's waterfront. Connected by a network of bridges and canals, the islands boast lush green lawns, meandering waterways and sandy beaches. Hire a bike, jump in a kayak or just lie back with a picnic and admire the skyline. toronto.ca/parks/island



WHEN TO GO

SUMMER
Unless you're a fan of minus-40 degree temperatures, don't visit in the depths of winter (Dec/Jan). Things start to thaw out in March and build up to a humid crescendo in July. The best time weather-wise is May to early June but film buffs will want to plan their trip around the city's prestigious international film festival (8-18 September, 2011). tiff.net/the/festival

