

SPECIAL DEALS MAKE FOR A WEEKEND OF FAMILY DAY FUN IN TORONTO

Family getaways to the city start from \$115 a night at www.SeeTorontoNow.com

TORONTO (February 10, 2011) – Start a family tradition and celebrate Ontario’s Family Day weekend in Toronto. Musical extravaganzas, outdoor adventures, fast cars, Chinese toys, Indian Maharajas and more make for a lot of classic Toronto family moments, for a lot less. Families coming to Toronto can book their February 18-21 weekend getaway at more than 95 Greater Toronto Area hotels starting from \$115 CAD a night by visiting www.SeeTorontoNow.com or by calling **1-800-499-2514**.

Here is a list of ideas for a fun Family Day weekend in Toronto:

Celebrate Family Day with two days of free programming brought to you by Bell at the new **TIFF Bell Lightbox**. A great way to explore all that there is on offer, families can enjoy free entry to the **Tim Burton** exhibit, Burton-themed family workshops that explore the use of special effects, free screenings fantastic films such as *Alice in Wonderland* and more.

The Tony-Award-winning musical **Billy Elliot**, presented by **Mirvish Productions** and based on the international smash-hit film *BILLY ELLIOT*, is on this February at the Canon Theatre. A joyous, exciting and feel-good celebration of one young boy’s triumph against the odds is cherished by children and adults of all ages.

Maharaja: The Splendour of India’s Royal Courts at the **Art Gallery of Ontario** spans from the beginning of the 18th century to the end of the British rule in 1947 and can be seen only in Toronto. The first exhibition to comprehensively explore the opulent world of the maharajas, and their unique culture of artistic patronage, features over 200 opulent objects looking at the legacy of the maharajas today. The exhibition is free to visitors ages 25 and under.

Playful Pursuits: Chinese Traditional Toys and Games are on display at the **Royal Ontario Museum**. The exhibition presents approximately 140 artifacts, including many on display for the first time, which illustrate toy-makers’ creativity and skill in fashioning charming and innovative playthings. Dolls, kites, cards, spinning tops, puzzles, and board games are just some of the many amusements that have entertained Chinese adults and children for 2000 years.

The **Bata Shoe Museum** celebrates Family Day and the Chinese New Year- the Year of the Rabbit with a special exhibition of whimsical artifacts featuring rabbit motifs. Museum goes born on the Year of the Rabbit - 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999- get in for free with identification.

From tea cups to tin cans; cardboard boxes to ice cream buckets; with the cost of admission families discover how everyday objects can become musical instruments in this Found Percussion workshop designed for all ages at the **Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art** on February 21 from 2:30-3:30pm. Turn non-musical objects into an orchestra of sound possibilities without musical experience necessary.

Free admission to the **Ontario Science Centre** is sure to bring the family together to experience many exhibit halls and join for a dynamic presentation of excerpts from correlated science and technology School Programs. In addition to this exhibitions such as *Whales / Tohora* and *Mirror, Mirror...Reflections on Body Image* are popular favourites.

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Free Family Day fun for kids of all ages is only footsteps away on **Toronto's Waterfront** presented by Redpath Sugar in partnership with The Waterfront BIA on February 21 all along the Waterfront, all day long. Enjoy ice skating, live music, dog sports demos, arts and crafts and even special appearances by Canadian Olympians!

Explore **Canada's National Tower (CN Tower)**: rocket to the top of the world in just 58 seconds aboard the world's No. 1 elevator ride in glass-fronted elevators with glass floor panels, the Look Out and world famous Glass Floor with its thrilling 1,122ft / 342m view straight down to the ground. All Family Day activities included with admission. Upgrade your ticket to include a visit to the Sky Pod, see The Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D film and experience the Himalamazon motion theatre ride. The CN Tower celebrates 35 years in 2011 and from February 18-21, 2011, purchase 3 CN Tower Observation Experience tickets for only \$35 (plus tax)*, a savings of up to 50%.

Toronto Zoo celebrates Family Day Weekend (Feb 19-2, 2011) that comprises of some wild fun and learning about zoo conservation. The indoor pavilion exhibits consist of family trees that will enable visitors to learn fun family facts about their favourite Zoo families. While at the zoo, visit the incredible 10-acre Tundra Trek featuring an amazing 5-acre Polar bear habitat complete with underwater viewing area. The Gorilla Rainforest home to Western Lowland Gorilla troop and newest addition Nassir, the Great Barrier Reef, and Zellers Discovery Zone* featuring Kids Zoo, Splash Island and Waterside Theatre are some places in the zoo, which fall under must visit section.

Children can '**Become a Knight**' this Family Day at **Casa Loma** by taking part in knight training, learning knight manners, attack and defense moves and conclude with a Knighting Ceremony, complete with certificate. The program takes place between 10:00am-12:00pm and is for kids between the ages of 5-10 years old at \$31.00 per child. For more events on all weekend long, visit the castle online.

The Canadian International Auto Show comprises the latest innovations to the greatest classics on display at the **Metro Toronto Convention Centre** to ogle by the whole family. The 2011 show presents a great array of contests, giveaways and other activities reserved for Family Day. Be sure to pick-up your copy of the Family Day Passport, a pocket-sized guide to everything you and your family can enjoy on February 21st, featuring special giveaways in concert with Icons: Camaro & Firebird. The Family Admission ticket is a great value including 2 adults, 2 kids age 12 and under for only \$40.00.

Jousting begins with **Medieval Times** for as low as \$80 for two tickets, three for \$111 or just \$136 for four tickets that include the two-hour live show and four-course medieval feast. When booking young knights should mention or enter discount code 2PV2, 3PV2, 4PV2 at time of purchase. The three offers may be combined only when purchased via phone. Just one code may be used per reservation if purchasing online. The offer is valid till 28 March 2011.

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) Day/Family Pass is available for \$10 a day providing unlimited one day travel for a group of up to six people, maximum two adults and not more than four children/youth 19 years of age or under. The pass is valid from the start of service until 5:30 a.m. the next morning.

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A handy Toronto **City Pass** lets travellers skip long lines to five of Toronto's best attractions for one low price 50 per cent off the ticket price. Participating attractions include CN Tower, Casa Loma, Ontario Science Center, Royal Ontario Museum and Toronto Zoo. Order online or purchase at any of the participating attraction.

Visitors to The Beach neighbourhood will experience non-stop entertainment free of charge on Family Day including fabulous animals from the Bowmanville Zoo in Kew Gardens from 11 am -4 pm. This is the chance to see a llama, an alpaca and even go for a camel ride (small charge for the ride). In addition to 350 stores, shops and services, there will be an array of events and concerts for both young and old promising a perfect family time.

Visitors can do this and more in Toronto. For a full calendar of events or to book a Toronto Family-Day long-weekend through Tourism Toronto, visit **www.SeeTorontoNow.com** or by calling **1-800-499-2514**.

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