

Start planning an unforgettable Family Day weekend in Toronto!

TORONTO (January 24, 2012) – This Family Day weekend, guests traveling to Toronto can enjoy a range of exciting and entertaining things to do and see all weekend long while in the city from Friday, February 18 to Monday, February 20, 2012.

Guests can also take advantage of Tourism Toronto's popular **Arts and Culture Package**, which includes hotel accommodations; tickets to the Casa Loma, the Ontario Science Centre's Leonardo da Vinci's Workshops or the Royal Ontario Museum's Maya: Secrets of the Ancient World; and 15% off at select The Bay locations. Rates start at \$150 and up. For more information please visit www.SeeTorontoNow.com or call 1-800-499-2514.

Family Day in Toronto adventures include:

- The **Beach BIA** is working hard to organize yet another fabulous Family Day Event for everyone. Expect great fun on February 20 from 11am to 4pm. Stay tuned as more information becomes available at <http://www.beachesbia.com/>
- With a variety of family-friendly events by the water, it's time to celebrate Family Day on Toronto's gorgeous waterfront. Below are some highlights to consider:
 - **The Harbourfront Centre** is hosting **FREE** skating from 10 am to 10 pm on February 20, as well as *HarbourKIDS: SK8* on the Natre!® Rink. This celebration of all things skate-related from a child's perspective, also offers family-friendly musical and visual arts performances that kick off on the World Stage 2012. All festivities are **FREE** and take place on February 19 and 20, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.harbourfrontcentre.com/harbourkids.
 - *Woofjocks* Canine Performance Team Demos at **Pawsway**, the first place in the world where pets, owners, and pet lovers can come together to enjoy exhibits, activities, special events and more. Besides face-painting, arts and crafts, and tons of free games and prizes courtesy of Dog Chow, guest can enjoy the *Woofjocks*, which are a high-energy dog/handler performance team specializing in interactive games and demonstrations of canine agility and obedience. All shows are **FREE!** <http://www.pawsway.ca/en/About/Discovery>
- **Kids-Fest at the International Centre** takes place Family Day Weekend from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is Canada's Largest Indoor Inflatable Show. Guests can bounce, laugh, play, run and scream in 80,000 sq. ft. of some of North America's largest indoor inflatables. The event also includes stage shows, face painting and for an extra free - a pony ride. General admission is **FREE** plus free parking, and \$25 for the Unlimited All Day Ride Band and \$15 for the Toddler Band (Toddler rides only). <http://www.kids-fest.ca/Toronto-Kidsfest.php>
- Celebrate Family Day together at the **Art Gallery of Ontario's Family Workshop: Shadows and Light** on February 20 from 1 pm to 4 pm for ages 6 and up (with a parent/caregiver). *Shadows and Light* allows attendees to venture into the magical world of shadows and light, and explore the subtle mysteries of the dark in this art making workshop. Projects include shadow puppets, tunnel books, glow-in-the-dark painting, and casting light projections. Family pricing: \$50 for 1 adult/1 child (pre-registered) with each additional child at a cost of \$10. <http://www.ago.net>

Queen's Quay Terminal at Harbourfront

207 Queens Quay West, Suite 405, Toronto, ON, CANADA M5J 1A7

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- Visit animal families during the Family Day weekend at the **Toronto Zoo** as they feature families such as the Western lowland gorillas, orangutans, Komodo dragons, and green tree pythons just to name a few. Open from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, there's no better way to spend quality time with the family than to visit these furry friends at the Zoo. <http://www.torontozoo.com>.
- The **NFB Mediatheque** is offering **FREE** family, hands-on animation workshops and tell-your-own-story. Offering three a day, the workshops start at 10 am, 12:30 pm and 3 pm. <http://www.onfnfb.gc.ca/eng/mediatheque/schedule.php?id=2757>.
- **Le Dolci**, Toronto's fun, foodie studio, is offering two Family Day Cupcake Decorating classes on February 20, from 10 am to 12 pm, and 2 pm to 4pm. Families are invited to do something fun and create together with 12 edible, mini, blank art canvases: cupcakes! This intro to Cupcake Decorating is for all ages, and includes servings of organic hot chocolate and treats for the kids and is being offered at a special Family Day discount rate of 2 for 1! Each student will go home with 12 of their very own decorated cupcakes and a goody bag for the kids. www.LeDolci.com.
- Canada's only trampoline park, **Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park**, located in Mississauga is the perfect venue for a unique and memorable family experience where teens, parents and kids learn to jump, leap and defy gravity on the patented all-trampoline walled playing court and enjoy activities such as Open Jump, 3-D Dodgeball and SkyRobics workouts. Extended Family Day hours are 11 am to 8 pm. <http://www.toronto.skyzonesports.com>.
- The **TIFF Bell Lightbox** is presenting *Bell Free Weekend*, a special long-weekend Family Day programming of two great **FREE** events. During *Bell Free Weekend*, on February 18 and February 19, all regular film screenings plus special family films and events at TIFF Bell Lightbox are completely free, courtesy of Bell. On February 20, TIFF offers more free family programming and workshops in celebration of Family Day. <http://tiff.net/>.
- **Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament** is presenting *Family Knights* where one child receives free admission with the purchase of one full-price adult admission. Guests who want to be swept away to an age of bravery and honor can find out more information at MedievalTimes.com.
- In addition to **The Drake Hotel's** usual weekend festivities of a live DJ and music in the Underground, they are hosting a family-friendly event for people who love music and want their kids to love it too. *Monkey Bunch* will perform on February 20 at 2:30 pm and will create a musical experience that a child can enjoy while his or her parent or caregiver enjoys it too. The Drake will also feature a mouth-watering brunch menu on February 20 served from 9am to 4pm. <http://www.thedrakehotel.ca>.
- The City of Toronto's many museums are offering a variety of entertaining things to do the Family Day weekend including:
 - **Gibson House:** Visiting was a winter activity for early settlers and the Gibsons have prepared the house for the visit. Plan to drop in on your neighbours and friends from Willow Dale 1851! The fire will be crackling and there will be treats and warm cider in the kitchen, and children can help out by rolling dough and preparing treats for the hearth.
 - **Fort York National Historic Site:** Kids can try an authentic War of 1812 soldier's drill, learn how officers trained with the sword, and experience a game that the Garrison children might have played. Visitors can tour the rest of the exhibits and walk the ramparts of this

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national treasure.

- **Mackenzie House:** Guests of Mackenzie House will learn more about the early Black community in Toronto, including those who published newspapers. Print a souvenir copy of Mary Ann Shadd Cary's newspaper, *The Provincial Freeman*, in the re-created 1850's print shop.

For more information about the City of Toronto's other museums and all their Family Day events and programming visit www.toronto.ca/museums.

- Families can enjoy **Family Archery at Casa Loma** which caters to children and their parents. Join their NCCP trained archery coach, Shawn Adams, for an opportunity to learn the history and techniques involved in the ancient sport of archery. With only three classes that day, the hands-on workshop is suited to beginners and will afford all participants the chance to develop and hone their archery skills. Each participating child must be at least nine years of age and must be accompanied by a participating adult. The classes are very popular and are limited to five children and five adults per session. <http://www.casaloma.org/>
- **The Gardiner Museum** will feature a Family Drumming Workshop on February 20 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. From tea cups to flower pots; cardboard boxes to ice cream buckets; tin cans to one-of-a-kind pottery pieces discover how traditional everyday objects can become musical instruments in this Found Percussion workshop designed for the whole family. Participants will turn non-musical objects into an orchestra of sound possibilities, with a focus on improvisation and creative music making. The Workshop will be a unique, inclusive and extremely fun way to spend Family Day and is free with admission. <http://www.gardinermuseum.on.ca>.
- The **Delta Chelsea Hotel** in Toronto, Canada's largest hotel, is offering its guests two **FREE** movie admission tickets to any Cineplex Entertainment Theatre in Canada with any overnight stay at the hotel. While there, families can enjoy the hotels five restaurants, Family Fun Zone, indoor pools with waterslide, and much more! <http://www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/ontario/delta-chelsea/>
- Book the *Love Your Family* package for Family Day at the **Westin Harbour Castle** for \$189 and receive vouchers from Harbourfront Centre for 2 for 1 skate rental (an \$8 savings) and 15% discount on Lakeside Eats. <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1084>
- Guests of the **Radisson Admiral Hotel** for the Family Day Package pay only \$159 and receive complimentary parking and \$15 off an annual family membership at the Museum of Inuit Art in the Queen's Quay Terminal. <http://www.radisson.com/toronto-hotel-on-m5j2n5/ontoront>
- For cultural buffs, some impressive exhibits to visit during the Family Day Weekend are:
 - The Leonardo da Vinci's Workshop at the **Ontario Science Centre** which runs until March 18, 2012.
 - The **Royal Ontario Museum's** Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World running until April 9, 2012

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This year's Heritage Week will take place the week of February 20, 2012 and is themed "Defending a nation" to commemorate 2012 as the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812, a significant and defining event in Canadian history. <http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/Programs/Heritage-Week/Heritage-Week-2012---Toronto.aspx>

Get to Toronto on Via Rail Canada www.viarail.ca; get around on the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), the city's local transit system www.ttc.ca; and see the sites with the Toronto CityPass which provides admission into five top attractions <http://www.citypass.com/toronto>

For further information on Toronto or to plan and book a Toronto hot deal, travelers should visit www.SeeTorontoNow.com or call 1-800-499-2514.

About Tourism Toronto

Tourism Toronto, Toronto's Convention and Visitors Association, is an industry association of more than 1,200 members established to sell and market the greater Toronto region as a remarkable destination for tourists, convention delegates and business travellers around the globe. Tourism Toronto operates in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture as Regional Tourism Organization 5, representing the cities of Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton. For more information please visit www.seetorontonow.com.

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