



## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 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>

Came from away and don't have a bike? There are many services that will rent one.

**RentABike Ottawa** (<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/>

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/>. Please see the website for information and tickets.

## Attraction Information

Attraction	Schedule/Cost (Canadian Dollars)	What You Need to Know
<p><b>Bank of Canada Museum</b></p> 	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/">https://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/</a></p> <p>Address: 30 Bank Street, Ottawa, Canada</p> <p>Hours: 1000-1700 seven days a week</p> <p>Cost: Admission is FREE!!!!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a small museum.</li> <li>• Very interesting exhibits on the system of money in Canada.</li> <li>• Good place to take school-age kids.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bonnechere Caves</b></p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.bonnecherecaves.com/">https://www.bonnecherecaves.com/</a></p> <p>Address: Bonnechere Caves 1247 Fourth Chute Rd, Eganville, ON K0J 1T0</p> <p>Hours 1000-1600</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opens the Friday of the May long weekend. Call ahead to make sure it is not flooded.</li> <li>• Bring a jacket, it is 10 degrees cooler than outside. You may get muddy.</li> <li>• Wear hiking shoes or sneakers.</li> </ul>






	<p>Tours are first come/first served.</p> <p>Cost:          Adult \$22.00          Age 13-17 \$15.00          Age 4-12 \$14.00          Under 4 is free, but must be carried.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a LOT of poison ivy—stick to the marked paths.</li> <li>• There are concessions, and outhouses/hand pump facilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ByWard Market</b></p> 	<p>Website:  <a href="https://www.byward-market.com/">https://www.byward-market.com/</a></p> <p>Address: See map in Appendix A          Heritage Hall          55 ByWard Market Square          Ottawa, ON K1N 9C3</p> <p>Hours: (Heritage Hall)          Sunday to Wednesday / 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.          Thursday to Saturday / 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Cost: Free to window shop; lots of stores/stalls/restaurants to spend in.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great bakery in the back, have Trudeau cookies.</li> <li>• Heritage Hall has many small sellers.</li> <li>• Area has stalls selling a variety of goods.</li> <li>• Many fashion-forward boutiques in the area.</li> <li>• York Street Market occurs on Sundays May to October.</li> <li>• BEWARE the Beavertails. If you know, you know.</li> <li>• The BSDCan Gelatocrawl happens here.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bytown Museum &amp; Locks</b></p>  <p>Has a Sensory Bag program on request.</p>	<p>Website:  <a href="https://bytownmuseum.com/">https://bytownmuseum.com/</a></p> <p>Address:          1 Canal Lane, Ottawa</p> <p>Hours:          Wednesday to Sunday 1000-1630          Closed Mondays and Tuesdays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very small museum located by the capital complex on the locks.</li> <li>• Walking around the locks is very interesting, and they are operational.</li> <li>• Parks volunteers operate the locks and are happy to talk to you about them.</li> </ul>




	<p>Cost: Adults: \$10.00 (less for children)</p>	
<p><b>Canadian Agriculture and Food Museum</b></p> <p><b>Special Exhibition of Ecuador: The Origins of Cacao</b></p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://ingeniumcanada.org/agriculture">https://ingeniumcanada.org/agriculture</a></p> <p>Address: 901 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, Ontario</p> <p>Hours: Daily 0900-1700</p> <p>Cost: E-tickets required: <a href="https://ingeniumcanada.org/agriculture/tickets">https://ingeniumcanada.org/agriculture/tickets</a> Adults: \$14.50 Youth (3-17): \$12.25 Under 2 are free</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a working farm with animals and equipment.</li> <li>• Due to zoonotic transmission, the museum does not want you to go ill.</li> <li>• There is little to no availability for food, so you may pack your own. There are water bottle refill stations.</li> <li>• They are stressing no weapons.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Canadian Aviation and Space Museum</b></p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://ingeniumcanada.org/aviation">https://ingeniumcanada.org/aviation</a></p> <p>Address: 11 Aviation Parkway in Ottawa, Ontario.</p> <p>Hours: Thursday – Monday 0900-1700 Closed Tuesday &amp; Wednesday</p> <p>Cost: E-ticket required: <a href="https://ingeniumcanada.org/aviation/tickets">https://ingeniumcanada.org/aviation/tickets</a> Adult: \$16.75 Youth (3-17): \$11.50 Under 2 are free</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hangar guided tours at 1130 and 1430.</li> <li>• Rocket adventures on Saturdays &amp; Sundays only.</li> <li>• Cold War exhibition.</li> </ul>





<p><b>Canadian Museum of History</b></p>  <p><b>Canadian Museum of History</b> MUSÉE CANADIEN DE L'HISTOIRE</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.historymuseum.ca/">https://www.historymuseum.ca/</a></p> <p>Address: 100 Laurier Street, Gatineau</p> <p>Hours: Monday to Wednesday 0900-1700 Thursday 0900-1900 Friday to Sunday 0900-1700</p> <p>Cost: Recommended to book online prior to arrival, tickets are strictly timed. Adult: \$22 Child (2-12): \$15 Guided tour: +\$5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Across the bridge in Gatineau across from Parliament Hill.</li><li>• Awesome collection of First Nation's artifacts including totem poles.</li><li>• Interactive exhibits for children.</li><li>• Special exhibition on the first royals of Europe.</li><li>• Tickets are timed, and late entry will not be permitted.</li></ul>
<p><b>Canadian Museum of Nature</b></p>  <p><b>Special Exhibit: Bug Adventure!</b></p> 	<p>Website: <a href="https://nature.ca/en/">https://nature.ca/en/</a></p> <p>Address: 240 McLeod St, Ottawa, ON K2P 2R1, Canada</p> <p>Hours: 0930- 1600, open until 2000 on Thursdays Entry every 15 minutes</p> <p>Cost: General<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Adult: \$18</li><li>○ 13-17: \$16</li><li>○ 3-12: \$14</li><li>○ 2 and under are free</li></ul>Combo tickets for the museum galleries and Bug Adventure!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is a must-do museum. Plan to be there a whole day.</li><li>• The galleries are fascinating for the science-minded, and for all ages.</li><li>• Yes, the scorpions do glow in the dark. Take a blacklight!</li><li>• Special exhibit on wolves.</li><li>• Special exhibit of Indigenous artists from Nunavik</li></ul>






	<p>are available and run up to \$30 for adults.</p> <p>Free admission to the galleries after 1700 on Thursdays</p>	
<p><b>Canada Science and Technology Museum</b></p>	<p>Website:  <a href="https://ingeniumcanada.org/scitech">https://ingeniumcanada.org/scitech</a></p> <p>Address:            1867 St Laurent Blvd</p> <p>Hours:            Daily 0900-1700</p> <p>Cost:            E-tickets required:  <a href="https://ingeniumcanada.org/scitech/tickets">https://ingeniumcanada.org/scitech/tickets</a></p> <p>Adult: \$19            Youth (3-17): \$12.25            Under 2 are free</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oh Crap! Rethinking Human Waste temporary exhibition going on now.</li> <li>• Many other permanent exhibitions and interactive demonstration of Canadian science and technology.</li> <li>• This museum is a bit out and bus routes are complicated. Look for the large train.</li> <li>• This is interesting for adults, but excellent for children.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CF Rideau Centre</b></p> 	<p>Website:  <a href="https://shops.cadillacfairview.com/property/cf-rideau-centre">https://shops.cadillacfairview.com/property/cf-rideau-centre</a></p> <p>Location:            CF Rideau Centre 50 Rideau Street Ottawa, ON K1N 9J7</p> <p>CF Rideau Centre Hours:</p> <p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shopping mall with some upscale commercial stores.</li> <li>• You are able to enter at Mackenzie King and go through the mall to Rideau Street (elevators are nice, especially if it is raining)</li> <li>• Website has a map.</li> <li>• Don't recommend the food, ByWard Market has better variety.</li> </ul>





	<p>Saturday 10:00 AM-09:00 PM Sunday 11:00 AM-06:00 PM</p>	
<p><b>Chinatown (Ottawa)</b></p> 	<p>Website: (use Facebook, the website is having issues. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ottchinatown/">https://www.facebook.com/ottchinatown/</a>)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cost: Whatever you spend in restaurants and shops. They do have good dim sum.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dim sum is at lunchtime only.</li> <li>• This community was hard hit in 2008 and with COVID (racism).</li> <li>• Community organizations are very active.</li> <li>• May is Asian Heritage month, BSDCan week is Korea Week.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Diefenbunker</b></p>  <p>Has a Sensory Bag program on request.</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://diefenbunker.ca/tours/">https://diefenbunker.ca/tours/</a></p> <p>Address: 3929 Carp Road, Ottawa, Ontario K0A 1L0</p> <p>Hours: Wednesday – Friday 1000-1600 Saturday – Sunday 1000-1500</p> <p>Cost: Adults 18+ \$20.00 Youth 6-17 &amp; 15.50 Under 5 are free</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to buy tickets online in advance.</li> <li>• Closed 27 May 2024 &amp; 1 June 2024.</li> <li>• Masks strongly recommended.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• There are elevators, so mobility challenged folks can participate.</li> </ul>



<p><b>National Gallery of Canada</b></p> 	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.gallery.ca/">https://www.gallery.ca/</a></p> <p>Address: 380 Sussex Drive Ottawa, ON K1N 9N4 Canada</p> <p>Hours: 0930-1700, except Thursdays (closes at 2000)</p> <p>Cost: Booking tickets ONLINE is a must, even for the free Thursday nights: <a href="https://tickets.gallery.ca/">https://tickets.gallery.ca/</a> Adult: \$20 Student (with ID): \$10 11 and under: Free</p> <p>On May 30,2024 (Thursday) 1700-2000 admission is free, and there are refreshments and a DJ.</p>	<p>Special exhibits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kan Azuma</li> <li>• Radical Stitch (beading)</li> <li>• Stan Douglas</li> <li>• Beware of the traffic, strictly obey the crossing signals or you will pay with your life.</li> <li>• Yes, there is a giant spider sculpture.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rideau Canal</b></p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNESCO world heritage site.</li> <li>• Built in 1812, still in use today. Boats travel through to the St. Lawrence Seaway.</li> <li>• Nice area to walk/bike.</li> <li>• Does have some canal/river cruises.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Royal Canadian Mint</b></p> 	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.mint.ca/en/visit-the-mint/ottawa-mint">https://www.mint.ca/en/visit-the-mint/ottawa-mint</a></p> <p>Address: 320 Sussex Drive Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLOSED on Mondays</li> <li>• You may visit the Boutique without a ticket. It is open Tuesday – Sunday 1000-1700</li> <li>• <u>The tours are worth it!</u> Some of us have been</li> </ul>



	<p>Hours: Tours: Tuesday – Sunday 1015 - 1600</p> <p>Cost: Recommended to buy tickets online ahead Adults (18+): \$12 5-17: \$8 Under 4 are free</p>	<p>annually for years, and we still find it fun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Here is Rick Mercer at the mint: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iFiH78ltS0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iFiH78ltS0</a></li> </ul>
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## Festivals 2024

Festival	Schedule/Cost (Canadian Dollars)	What You Need to Know
<p><b>Canada-Wide Science Fair</b></p>	<p>May 26-3, 2024</p> <p><a href="https://cwsf.youthscience.ca/#/?lang=en">https://cwsf.youthscience.ca/#/?lang=en</a></p> <p>Where: <b>Carleton University, Fieldhouse</b> 85 University Road, Ottawa, Ontario - K1S Canada</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is free, but you must register.</li> <li>There is a virtual option you can register for.</li> <li>There is a dedicated YouTube channel: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/YouthScienceCanada">https://www.youtube.com/c/YouthScienceCanada</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Chinatown Night Market</b></p>	<p>May 31- June 2, 2024</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/ottchinatown/">https://www.facebook.com/ottchinatown/</a></p> <p>Friday: 1400-2300 Saturday: 1100-2300 Sunday: 1100-2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dancing, music, and food in Ottawa’s Chinatown.</li> <li>Check out the Facebook page for up to date news. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The website is having issues and won’t load.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Le Grand Poutinefest</b></p>	<p>05/30/2024 – 06/02/2024</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/843603737526684">https://www.facebook.com/events/843603737526684</a></p> <p>Where:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A festival of all things poutine in Gatineau!</li> <li>Music, inflatables, games, candy available. Practice your French.</li> <li>Open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5/30: 1700-2100</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p>Les Promenades Gatineau, 1100 boulevard Maloney Ouest, Gatineau, Québec</p> <p>Cost: Entry is free, Poutine is not.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5/31: 1700-2100</li> <li>○ 6/1: 1200-2100</li> <li>○ 6/2: 1200-2000</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Buses do run to Gatineau with no extra cost.</li> </ul>
<b>OM</b>	<p>05/31/2021 - 06/01/2024</p> <p><a href="https://www.cityofom.com/">https://www.cityofom.com/</a></p> <p>Where: <b>Lansdowne Park</b> 1015 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 3W7</p> <p>Ticket cost: \$81.21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5K fun run 1 June 2024 with an 0730 start.</li> <li>● Holistic workshops all day from beginner to expert levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend</b>	<p>May 25-26, 2024</p> <p>Multi-day running event; 10K, 5K, 2K, and kid's marathon.</p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.runottawa.ca/">https://www.runottawa.ca/</a></p> <p>Fees: 10K: \$115.00 5K: \$50.00 2K: \$35.00 17K: \$180.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This is occurring the weekend before the Developer Summit and BSDCan.</li> </ul>

## References

*About Ottawa / Ottawa Tourism.* (n.d.). Retrieved April 27, 2024, from

<https://ottawatourism.ca/en/about-ottawa>

*Bonnechere Caves.* (n.d.). Retrieved April 27, 2024, from <https://www.bonnecherecaves.com/>

*Ottawa River.* (n.d.). Retrieved April 27, 2024, from

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ottawa-river>





## Appendix A: Map of ByWard Market

