

## **TORONTO Travel & Hotels**

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE A RED-EYE FLIGHT, ARRIVING THE MORNING OF CLASS, BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD SITUATIONS WHERE A FLIGHT IS DELAYED SUFFICIENTLY THAT BY THE TIME THE STUDENT ARRIVED, IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS.

The main venue for Toronto is the Holiday Inn Toronto Bloor-Yorkville, 280 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1V8. Some classes may also be held at Wonderworks, 79a Harbord Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1G4.

For general Toronto info, visit [www.toronto.ca/visitors/](http://www.toronto.ca/visitors/).

The Holiday Inn Toronto Bloor-Yorkville is located on Bloor Street West, and is within walking distance of several unique Toronto neighbourhoods. The hotel is located at the western edge of Toronto's Yorkville neighbourhood, known for shopping and designer boutiques. It is home to three museums, including the Royal Ontario Museum, and two movie theatres. Toronto's Whole Foods Market is in Yorkville's Hazelton Lanes shopping centre (just over 10 minutes on foot from the hotel). South of the hotel is the University of Toronto, which has a large campus spread over 180 acres, with amazing architecture from several different periods of Toronto's history.

To the west of the hotel is the Annex, a friendly neighbourhood with a vibrant commercial strip along Bloor Street, and a large student population. The Annex features several health food and organic grocery stores, coffee and tea shops, bookshops, new age stores, import stores, bars and pubs, concert halls, and a repertory cinema. Good bets for restaurants near the class venue include: Fresh (vegetarian), Real Thailand, Country Style (Hungarian), Future Bakery (European), Big Fat Burrito, Mount Everest (Indian and Nepalese), and Greg's Ice Cream (a local favourite).

### **Getting Into Toronto**

There are two airports you can fly into: Toronto Pearson International and Toronto Billy Bishop City Centre Airport (Toronto Island). Pearson is the main airport and is located in Mississauga, a western suburb of the city. Toronto Island is a smaller airport close to downtown with service from several Canadian and a few US cities including Chicago, New York, Boston and Washington.

#### **Toronto Pearson International Airport**

Toronto Pearson is located west of the city. Driving to downtown Toronto can take anywhere between 30 minutes to an hour. Taxis from the airport have flat rates to different parts of the city, and a taxi to the class venue is \$54 plus tip. To get back to the airport, you can take a regular metered taxi, which will likely be more expensive, or arrange for an airport taxi at the flat rate.

Public transit from the airport to the class venue takes about 55 minutes. The simplest way is to take the TTC 192 Airport Rocket bus from Terminals 1 or 3 to Kipling subway station (comes every 10-15 minutes) and then take the subway east to St. George subway station. The fare is \$3.00 cash, exact change only, for the full trip. You may be able to buy TTC tickets at a kiosk inside the airport near the bus stop. See [http://www3.ttc.ca/Riding\\_the\\_TTC/Airport\\_service.jsp](http://www3.ttc.ca/Riding_the_TTC/Airport_service.jsp) for more information.

You can also take the GO Transit 34 bus eastbound from Terminal 1 to Yorkdale subway station (comes about once an hour and costs \$5.35, buy your ticket from the driver), then take the subway south to St. George station (an additional \$3.00 fare). GO Transit buses have padded seats and luggage stowage, so they may be a more comfortable option. Total trip time is just over 45 minutes. A schedule is available at <http://www.go transit.com/publicroot/en/PDF/Timetables/CurrentBoard/Table34.pdf> .

### **Toronto Billy Bishop City Centre (Island) Airport**

The main airline that flies into Toronto Island is Porter Airlines ([www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)). Flying into the island airport can be less expensive than Pearson, and it is only about 15 minutes from the class venue on public transit. To get to the class venue from the airport, take the 90 second-long ferry ride to the foot of Bathurst Street (the ferry comes every 15 minutes). From there, you can take a free shuttle to Union Station (comes every 15 minutes) and take the University line subway northbound to St. George station. If you prefer, you can walk one block north from the ferry dock and catch the 509 Harbourfront streetcar east to Union Station, then take the subway from there on the same fare (\$3.00 cash, no transfer required). You can also take a taxi from the airport. Toronto Island Airport Taxi has a flat rate of \$35 to the downtown area, but if you take a metered taxi it will likely be a bit less expensive (depending on traffic).

### **Toronto Public Transit**

Within the city of Toronto, you can travel any distance on the TTC, including buses, subways and streetcars, on a single fare. The cash fare is \$3.00 (exact change only), and transfers are required for most connections. You can also purchase tickets or tokens at a discounted rate at subway stations and at some convenience stores. Weekly passes, good for Monday through Sunday, are \$38.50, and Day Passes are \$10.75. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 2 people can both ride on the same Day Pass. Subways run from 6 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. and from 9 a.m. on Sundays.

The class venue is located just west of St. George subway station on both the Bloor and University subway lines. For details and maps, see <http://ttc.ca/> . If you need to plan a trip, there is a trip planner on the TTC website, or you can search for transit directions on Google maps.

### **Money**

In Toronto, as in the rest of Canada, American dollars are rarely accepted, although you will occasionally find an American quarter included in your change. Most banks will exchange major currencies, but you may need to go to a currency exchange for less common currencies. The closest bank to the class venue is Scotiabank, 332 Bloor St. W.

(at Spadina), 416-515-2850, [www.scotiabank.com](http://www.scotiabank.com). There is a currency exchange in the venue hotel. The next closest is Travel Currency Exchange, 1168 Bay (at Bloor), 416-413-0617, [www.marlintravel.ca](http://www.marlintravel.ca).

Canadian credit and debit cards use chip and PIN technology, and card readers in stores and restaurants may not be able to process payments if your card does not have a chip. This should not be an issue for cash withdrawals from ATMs, but check with the bank to be sure. Ontario has a 13% goods and services tax, which is added on to the cost of items at the cash register. Also note that pennies are no longer used in Canada, and cash transactions are rounded to the closest 5 cents.

## **Accommodations in Toronto**

### **General Notes**

The prices here are a general guideline, but it can pay to call several places and shop around, as well as checking the sites like [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) to see if there is a lower rate there. Note that if you need to take a subway that will add a few dollars a day to your cost of staying. Also, be aware that better prices can usually be had by booking as far in advance as you can. You can always cancel the reservation if something better comes along. Most hotels have discount rates for CAA/AAA, or Senior Citizens, some have discounts on the Internet and some, like the Comfort Inn, have member programs that you can join to accumulate points for a free night. **Prices are listed in Canadian dollars and may or may not include tax, which is 13%.**

Many of Toronto's major east-west streets are divided into East and West where they meet Yonge Street, the major street that runs north-south through the centre of the city, with a subway line running underneath it. Bloor Street, for example, is called Bloor Street East when it is east of Yonge, and Bloor Street West when it is west of Yonge. Also note that the street numbering for each of the East and West portions of streets begins at Yonge Street. So, for example, there are both a 280 Bloor Street West (the class venue), and a 280 Bloor Street East, but they are about 1.7 km (1 mile) apart, with Yonge Street in between them. It is important to include the West or East in a street name when you are looking up addresses or asking for directions.

### **Hotels**

Most hotels that are within walking distance from the venue are in the expensive Yorkville area, and their cost may not be feasible for most students. While there are a couple of less expensive hotels in the downtown area, most of the cheaper hotels are located a long commute away in the suburbs – at least one hour in rush hour. If you don't mind a commute, you can find some good deals on hotels near the airport, but you may find it easier and more enjoyable to stay close to the downtown area.

***Holiday Inn Bloor Yorkville (venue hotel)***

1-866-293-9089 // 280 Bloor Street West at St. George [www.holidayinn.com](http://www.holidayinn.com)

This hotel is in the Yorkville area, known for elegant dining, designer boutiques, antique shops, small courtyards and contemporary parks. It is also close to the Royal Ontario Museum, Royal Conservatory of Music, Casa Loma and the Bata Shoe Museum. Rooms have air conditioning and wireless internet. Breakfast is not included but there is a café in the hotel and a restaurant downstairs. The hotel also has a fitness centre and currency exchange. Rates are from \$148 per night during the summer months (checked on hotels.com). Parking is an additional \$22 per night.

*Note: There is also a Holiday Inn Toronto Yorkdale, which is a different hotel located about 30 minutes away.*

***Madison Manor Boutique Hotel***

416-922-5579 // 20 Madison Avenue at Bloor <http://madisonmanorboutiquehotel.com/>

This hotel is a converted Victorian mansion with 23 guestrooms with various sizes of beds, all with private ensuite bathrooms. Rooms are furnished in the style of English Country Inns with features ranging from fireplaces to balconies and alcove windows. Rates range from \$89 to \$194 depending on season of the year, size, location and features of the room. Rooms are air conditioned and have a telephone and hi-speed wifi. Continental breakfast is included. The hotel is located next to a pub, which can be noisy at night, depending on which room you are staying in, but the hotel has gotten positive reviews from students and other travellers. The class venue is 2 blocks away (4 minutes on foot).

**Hostels and Guest Houses**

Check for whether linens are provided and I.D. is necessary. Some of these have age requirements. You may be able to find deals or discounts on [www.hostelbookers.com](http://www.hostelbookers.com) or other websites.

***The Planet Traveler's Hostel***

647-352-8747 // 357 College Street, west of Spadina <http://theplanettraveler.com/>

Located at the north end of Toronto's eclectic Kensington Market, The Planet Traveler is a green, sleek, spacious and clean hostel in a fully restored historic building that features a rooftop bar, laundry room and communal kitchen. Linens are provided. Breakfast is included and there is free wifi and free local calls. Beds in a 6-person dorm (3 bunk beds, one shared bathroom per dorm) are \$30 per night. Lockers are separate from the sleeping area and have integrated power outlets. Private rooms can accommodate up to 3 people in 2 beds and cost \$75 per night, or \$90 for 3 guests. A student who stayed here in the past said it was very clean and newly renovated, and she liked that it was an environmentally-friendly building. The class venue is a 20-minute walk away, or you can take the 510 Spadina streetcar north to Spadina station and walk from there (15 minutes total trip time).

### ***The Clarence Park***

647-498-7070 // 7 Clarence Square at Spadina <http://www.theclarencepark.com/>  
Highly rated on hostelbookers.com, this hostel is located in Toronto's entertainment district, close to the CN Tower, Rogers Centre, the TIFF festival hall, night clubs, and the Island Airport. Free wifi, a rooftop deck, self-serve laundry, a fully-appointed kitchen, on-site café, and guest events every weeknight. Linens are provided and rooms are air conditioned. Private rooms are \$70 to \$90 per night, with a private bathroom and full-size bed. Dorm beds are \$25 to \$30, with privacy curtains and ensuite bathrooms. A 10% deposit is required in order to guarantee the reservation. On-site parking is \$10 per day. To get to the class venue, take the 510 Spadina streetcar north to Spadina station and walk from there, or walk to St. Andrew station and take the subway north to St. George (22 minutes total trip time with either method).

### **University Student Residences – May to August ONLY**

During the summer months, a few of the student residences at the University of Toronto rent rooms on a daily or weekly basis. The terms and prices are different for each residence, and linens may be required. A few options are listed below. Additional options are summarized here: [http://housing.utoronto.ca/summer/Residence-Features\\_2012.aspx](http://housing.utoronto.ca/summer/Residence-Features_2012.aspx).

### ***New College Residences – Wetmore Hall, Wilson Hall and 45 Willcocks***

416-946-0529 // 40 Willcocks Street at Spadina <http://www.ncsummer.utoronto.ca/>  
Availability for 2013 is May 4 to August 24 only. These three student residences in the south Annex area feature single beds in single or double rooms with air conditioning and shared washrooms. Linens are provided, and there are kitchen and laundry facilities on each floor. Rooms include wired internet (requires an Ethernet cord, available for \$5 at the front desk). Rates are \$42 per night for a single, \$64 for a double for up to 5 nights, and \$34 for a single, \$54 for a double for 6 to 28 nights, with additional discounts for longer stays. Student discounts are also available with valid ID. Accommodation tax of 13% is added if you reserve for less than 29 nights. Breakfast is available on weekdays for \$7 at the adjacent dining hall. Paid parking is available at University of Toronto lots. The residences are about a 10-minute walk from the class venue, or you can take the 510 Spadina streetcar north to the subway and walk from there (also about 10 minutes).

### ***89 Chestnut***

416-977-0707 // 89 Chestnut Street at Dundas St. W. <http://www.chestnut.utoronto.ca>  
This student residence is located south of the University of Toronto, close to the Art Gallery of Ontario, Chinatown, the Eaton Centre, and trendy Queen Street West. It was recently converted from a standard hotel, so all rooms are spacious with 1 or 2 beds, ensuite washrooms and air conditioning. Linens are provided, and there is housekeeping service once per week. There is a fitness centre and laundry facilities onsite. Internet is included but you need to register for access if you are not a UofT student. The residence's cafeteria serves breakfast and dinner. Rooms are \$99 per night for a single or double. Parking is \$24 for a 24 hour period. To book a room, go to the "Rates and Reservations" page on the site and click the link for short-term summer accommodation. To get to the class venue, take the University line subway north from nearby St. Patrick station 3 stops to St. George (less than 15 minutes total trip time).

### ***Loretto College***

416-925-2833 // 70 St. Mary St. at Bay

<http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/loretto/summer/default.asp>

This student residence is located on St. Mary Street, in a quiet area at the eastern edge of UofT. It is steps from Yonge Street, which has many stores and restaurants, and close to the upscale Manulife shopping centre, which has a large Indigo bookstore and movie theatres. Loretto College is a modern air conditioned residence featuring well-appointed single and double rooms with large windows, comfortable common rooms with televisions, laundry facilities and a Chapel. Linens are provided and changed weekly. Single rooms have shared washrooms and doubles have ensuites. There is a minimum 3 night stay. Daily rates are \$44 for a single, \$72 for a double. Weekly rates are \$189 for a single, \$325 for a double. Breakfast, lunch and dinner can be purchased at the nearby cafeteria. There is no parking onsite, but there are both underground and covered parking lots a few blocks away on Charles Street near Yonge. The class venue is a 10-15 minute walk away, or you can take the subway one stop from either Museum or Bay stations (about 10 minutes, door to door).

## **Bed & Breakfasts and Inns**

### ***Annex Quest House***

416-922-1934 // 83 Spadina Road, north of Bloor <http://www.annexquesthouse.com/>

The Annex Quest House in North America's first and only Vastu home away from home. The main building offers eighteen ecologically friendly and tranquil rooms – each with an ensuite bathroom and bevelled copper sink. All rooms have free wifi, mini-fridge, and air conditioning. The guest house offers a scent-restricted environment and has a shared patio for guest use. Parking and laundry are also available. Rates are from \$95 plus tax per night and \$545 plus tax per week for a single. The class venue is 5 blocks away (8 minutes on foot).

### ***Annex Garden B&B***

1-877-922-6522 or 705-738-9449 // Bathurst and College area

<http://www.torontobandb.com/annexgarden.htm>

This B&B is located in a beautifully renovated historic home close to Toronto's Little Italy, with air conditioning, high-speed internet and a home gym, and offers both rooms and short-term rental apartments. Rooms have ensuite bathrooms with air-jet soaker tubs and all-cotton linens. Singles are from \$130 per night, doubles from \$150, triples from \$180, and a suite is \$145 plus 13% tax. A hot breakfast is included and there is free on-site parking. Note: there are two small dogs in residence. To get to the class venue, take the 511 Bathurst streetcar north to Bathurst station and take the subway east to St. George (about 16 minutes).

## **Apartments**

You may be able to find an apartment for short-term rental online through such websites as [www.tripadvisor.ca](http://www.tripadvisor.ca) or [www.kijiji.ca](http://www.kijiji.ca). One student found a room for rent in a house through [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com) and was very happy with his experience.