

Toronto Shopping Guide

From the fancy to the frugal, hidden gems can be discovered in all corners of the City, but certain streets and areas are paved with more gold than others. Here's your map to discovering the next great treasure.

The Best Toronto Streets, Markets and Hot Spots for Shopping

Bloor Street West (Yorkville)

Los Angeles has Rodeo Drive, New York has Fifth Avenue, and Toronto has Yorkville. Bloor Street West between Yonge Street and Avenue Road has every top high-end designer name you can think of within a few steps of each other. Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Tiffany's, Prada, Michael Kors, Cartier and Holt Renfrew's flagship department store all side-by-side. For fashionistas on a budget, a search through Winners can find you runway-worthy looks at discount prices. Just a few streets north of Bloor Street just off Avenue Road will bring you to Yorkville and Hazelton Lanes which hosts a variety of interesting boutiques, cafes and restaurants. **TTC Stop:** Bloor Station or Bay Station.

Yonge Dundas Square

Probably the most famous junction in Toronto is Yonge Street and Dundas Street. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of stores that range from everything from high end, to bargain basement prices. Here is where you will find the famous Eaton Centre. This shopping neighbourhood houses Toronto's Hard Rock Cafe and is often filled with street vendors. **TTC Stop**: Dundas Station

Queen Street West

It's a vibrant area that hosts a combination of chic, shabby, trendy and vintage shops. There's no denying it's been the default of "cool" for decades and here you will find the most unique and eclectic shops compared to anywhere else in the City. Unique boutiques with textiles, button shops, bead stores and indie fashion to offer you some interesting one-of-a-king purchases. Queen West Fashion District is a must visit if you are into making your own clothes, crafts or jewellery. The heart of this fashion hub can be found on Queen Street West between University Avenue and Spadina Avenue. TTC Stop: St. Andrew Station

Kensington Avenue (Kensington Market)

This is a fun place to walk around. Famous for its vintage shops, street markets and flea markets, you will think that you have stumbled upon the greatest neighbourhood yard sale in history. Kensington Avenue offers interesting graffiti art of local artists, colourful racks of clothes lining the sidewalks with an unpredictable mix of vintage clothing, accessories, and collectibles. There are also many fruit and vegetable markets and a fabulous cheese store. You'll find Kensington Market between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street. TTC Stop: St. Patrick Station and walk westbound for 15 mins on Dundas Street West to Kensington Avenue.

Spadina Avenue

Spadina Avenue, between Dundas and Front Street is also known as the Fashion District. Although, that may sound glamorous, it really isn't. That is not to say you won't find some amazing merchandise and bargains here. If you have the time and patience to sort through some of the outlet stores here, you will be able to get some great stuff, for cheap prices. **TTC Stop:** St. Andrew Station + walk westbound on King Street West for 10 mins to Spadina Avenue.

Honest Ed's in the Annex

Honest Ed's is a Toronto landmark and an entertaining shopping experience, Ed's is a one-of-a-kind bargain centre that has everything from wine to twine. Neon and garish, the giant bargain centre opened in 1948 by Ed Mirvish who literally built an empire from an orange crate. Either way, you will find yourself in a very cool neighborhood of Toronto called the Annex, which boasts many fashionable boutiques and restaurants, including those of Little Korea or Korea Town. Located at 581 Bloor Street West. **TTC Stop:** Spadina Station + 9 min walk.

St Lawrence Market

Close to downtown and central to the historic St. Lawrence neighborhood, the St Lawrence Market hosts over 120 specialty merchants at this premier market. Every Sunday, the North Market is open to show and sell antiques & collectibles. From Sunday to Saturday, you will find all the food specialty vendors located in the South Market. The Market Gallery on the second floor displays changing exhibitions that reveal the cultural, physical and social development of Toronto through paintings, photographs, maps and fine art dating back to the 19th Century. Located at 95 Front Street East. Please note that St. Lawrence Market is closed on Mondays. **TTC Stop:** Union Station and walk eastbound 10 mins to Jarvis Street.

Winners - Various Locations

Winners sells designer labels at up to 60% off regular prices. The stores are large and requires a lot of sorting and searching, but the payoff is worth it. There are about 20 stores in Toronto, but here are four to start you off. www.winners.ca

- 35 Front Street East (Yonge St & Church St) (416)-362-0213
- Scotia Plaza, 40 King Street West (416) 360-8162 (PATH) 110 Bloor Street West, TTC Stop Bloor Station (416) 920-0193
- 444 Yonge Street, TTC Stop College Station (416) 598-8800

The Hudson's Bay Company

Canada's oldest corporation has several different store chains in Toronto and thousands across Canada. The flagship store is right across from the Toronto Eaton Centre on the corner of Yonge Street and Queen Street. The Bay is a good old fashioned department store with everything from clothes to household items, and a place to have a little lunch. The Bay is particularly famous for its Hudson's Bay Blanket, sold for more than two centuries! 176 Yonge Street @ Queen Street (416) 861-9111 - TTC Stop: Queen Station; 44 Bloor Street East @ Yonge Street (416) 972-3333 - TTC Stop: Bloor Station

The Best Malls in Toronto

Toronto Eaton Centre

220 Yonge Street (corner of Yonge Street & Dundas Street)

Guest Services: (416) 598-8560 / Web address: www.torontoeatoncentre.com

Mall hours: Monday-Friday: 10:00am-9:00pm / Saturday: 9:30am-7:00pm / Sunday: 11:00am-6:00pm (Department stores and restaurants my vary) A major landmark of the downtown core and major tourist attraction, the Eaton Centre is a shopping giant. With over 200 stores and a million customers each day, the mall boasts clothing stores like Hollister, Forever 21, H & M, Michael Kors, Coach, Zara, Ann Taylor, J. Crew, Nine West and Aldo, as well as stores for electronics like Apple. Stores for toys, books, home décor and just about everything else you could need.

Public Transit: Take the TTC Yonge-University-Spadina Subway Line to Dundas Station or it's a 15 minute walk from the Air Canada Centre.

Yorkdale Shopping Centre

3401 Dufferin Street (by Hwy 401 & Allen Road)

Guest Services: (416) 789-3261 / Web address: www.yorkdale.com

Mall hours: Monday to Friday: 10:00am-9:00pm / Saturday: 9:30am-9:00pm / Sunday 11:00am-7:00pm (Department stores and restaurants may vary)

At one time the largest mall in the world, Yorkdale is still one of Toronto's upscale key destinations for suburban shoppers, with more than two hundred and fifty stores, and it keeps on growing. A recent expansion brought in even more brand names. This includes a new, stylish third-floor food court with a patio. For the kids check out the Disney Store or have lunch at the Rainforest Café. You can also take in a movie at the Famous Players Silver City Cinemas.

Public Transit: Take the TTC Yonge-University-Spadina Subway Line to Yorkdale Station.

Sherway Gardens

25 The West Mall (by the QEW &The West Mall)

Guest Services: (416) 621-1070 / Web Address: www.sherwaygardens.ca

Mall hours: Monday to Friday: 10:00am-9:00pm / Saturday: 9:00am-6:00pm / Sunday: 11:00am-6:00pm

Located in the west-end of Toronto near Etobicoke's southwest corner, Sherway Gardens is awkward to reach by TTC but worth the effort. This relaxing mall makes you feel at home with indoor gardens, a small gallery featuring paintings by local artists. There are all the major stores like Club Monaco, The Gap, Aritzia, Michael Kors, Holt Renfrew, Abercrombie and Fitch, HMV and Juicy Couture.

Public Transit: Sherway Gardens is accessible by TTC and Mississauga Transit routes. Take the Yonge-University-Spadina Subway Line to Bloor Station. Transfer to the TTC Bloor-Danforth Line to Kipling Station. Take the 123 Bus towards south – 123 Shorncliffe towards Long Branch via East Mall and Sherway. The bus stops are located on the Ring Road on the south side of the shopping centre, nearest Door #7

Fairview Mall

800 Sheppard Avenue East (by the 404 & Sheppard Avenue)

Guest Services: (416) 491-0151 / Web Address: www.fairviewmall.ca

Mall hours: Monday to Friday 10:00am-9:00pm / Saturday 9:30am-8:00pm / Sunday 11:00am-6:00pm

Located in the north end of Toronto, Fairview Mall has gone through a few renovations since it first opened its doors. Today, the mall has 175 stores like Apple, Hollister, BCBG, Forever 21, American Eagle and more. It's a mix between the usual suspects and smaller, hard to find boutiques. It's a great place to bring your kids (and your inner child), with a LEGO store, Toys Toys, Kiddie Kobbler and, for games, FG Bradley's and Calendar Club. If you love chocolate, make a beeline for Laura Secord or Godiva Chocolatier. Fairview Mall also has Silver City Cinemas.

Public Transit: Take the TTC Yonge-University-Spadina Subway Line to Sheppard. Transfer to the TTC Sheppard Line to Don Mills Station - look for signs directing you to Fairview Mall (Sears entrance).

PATH - Toronto's Underground Downtown

www.toronto.ca/path/

Toronto's underground pedestrian tunnels are not just an ideal way to walk between places during the really hot and cold months, but they offer 29 kilometres (18 miles) of shopping, services and entertainment. The PATH offers you 1200 shops and services related to fashion, flowers, books, food courts, health services and even shoeshine booths.

Access: You can access the PATH via the Air Canada Centre, Union Station, through all the major Bank Towers surrounding the ACC, Brookfield Place, Hockey Hall of Fame and the CN Tower. **You can ask for a PATH Map at the Convention Services Desk in Harmony Marketplace.

Outlet Malls

These Outlet Malls are definitely worth the trek to the outer skirts of the Greater Toronto Area. You will likely need the day for travel and power shopping – but it will be well worth the investment. These Malls are accessible by public transit, but not advised as you will spend over 2 hours in travel for just one way. Explore the websites before venturing out to ensure you make the most of your shopping experience. Remember to bring a friend, dress for comfort and let the shopping begin!

Heartland Town Centre

6045 Mavis Road, Mississauga (40 km west of downtown Toronto)

Guest Services: (905) 677-5480 / Web address: www.heartlandtowncentre.com

Mall hours: Monday to Friday: 10:00am-9:00pm / Saturday: 9:30am-6:00pm / Sunday: 12:00pm-5:00pm. However, operating hours varies with each store.

Being at Heartland will typically turn into an all-day venture and you'll find some real deals here. The shopping complex is massive and the stores are sporadically spread out just a little over 4 quadrants. This means you might have to jump into your car once, twice or three times to "store hop" which can get tiring, but can add a little bit of fun to your shopping experience. Most of the major retailers you find in Toronto's various shopping malls maintain an outlet version here.

Car: Take Hwy 401 West toward London. Exit and turn left onto Hurontario Street. Right onto Britiannia Road West, take a Right onto Mavis Road. (40 minutes)

Vaughan Mills

1 Bass Pro Mills Drive, Vaughan (Hwy 400 & Rutherford Road)

Mall hours: Monday to Saturday: 10:00am-9:00pm / Sunday: 11:00am-7:00pm

Guest Services: (905) 879-2110 / Web Address: www.vaughanmills.com

Although it's outside the City, many Torontonians find Vaughan Mills worth the trek for its many designer outlet stores. Disney, Lacoste, True Religion Levi's, Tommy Bahama and Tommy Hilfiger all have outlets at the mall, as well as Gap and Guess factory stores, and a Holt Renfrew Last Call. Special stores include, Legoland Discovery Centre, Bass pro Shops Outdoor World and Pro Hockey Life for all the gear. If you want to take a break from all that shopping, you can bowl a few games at Lucky Strike Lanes.

Shuttle Service: The Westin Harbour Castle Hotel offers Shuttle service twice daily. Visit the Concierge desk to reserve your seat.

Car: Take Hwy 401 to Hwy 400 north toward Barrie. Take Exit 32 for Bass Pro Mills Drive – travel time: 40 mins)