A City of Skating - A Look Into Toronto’s Best Skate Trails

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Chances are, you live within walking distance from at least one of the 148 city or community-run skating rinks that have opened this winter. It’s easy to overlook the extensive network of both indoor and outdoor rinks that sprawl across the city, but each winter, Toronto boasts more skating rinks than all of its subway stations, shopping malls, and sports stadiums *combined*.

Moreover, many frequent skaters, including myself, often take for granted that each of the 148 skating rinks can be used free of charge. While Denver offers an abundance of parkland and Kansas City provides fare-free public transit, Toronto stands out among world-class cities with its plentiful skating rinks that are open to all.

To take advantage of Toronto’s captivating skating scene, go beyond your neighbourhood rink and check out these three popular skating destinations. Each location is ideal for a weekend trip with family or a special date this Valentine’s Day.

Most *Unique*: The Bentway Skate Trail

Nestled under the Gardiner Expressway, this figure eight loop is one of a kind. Come for the free hot chocolate (every Monday 5:00 - 9:00 pm) and stay for the colourful woven arches, which are inspired by the northern lights, that stretch across the skate trail.

Most *Iconic*: Nathan Phillips Square

In front of the famous TORONTO sign and under the giant arches wrapped in Christmas lights, the skating experience doesn’t get more vibrant than at Nathan Phillips Square. Get here easily via the subway and make a day out of it by shopping at the Eaton Centre afterwards.

Most *Beautiful*: Colonel Samuel Smith Skating Trail

Take a break from the bustling downtown rinks and set your sights on this serene, picturesque figure eight trail which meanders through dotted evergreens. The loop provides the perfect environment to clear your head and breathe in fresh air coming off of Lake Ontario.