

DownTown Living

Finding the best areas of Downtown Toronto for college students and young adults

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Introduction

Background –

Students entering the University of Toronto and young professionals entering the workforce want to live in exciting downtown Toronto. Before relocating though they want to make sure they're making the most of their new location and answer a few questions like – are there plenty of coffee shops where they can study and get their much needed caffeine hit? Is there a variety of eating options and places to relax?

Problem –

Finding the best area of Toronto for students and young adults to live.

Interest –

Young newcomers to the city of Toronto finding the best places to live that meet their interests.

Data Acquisition and Cleaning

Data Sources –

Data for Toronto Boroughs, Neighborhoods and zipcodes was found in this [Wikipedia Article](#). Latitude and Longitude was found in this [spreadsheet](#). I retrieved data on the venues from FourSquare. Average cost of rent is available on <https://zumper.com>.

Data Cleaning –

All data that was scraped and downloaded was put in a single table that I then narrowed down further to only include the Burroughs "Downtown Toronto". I ensured all null references and missing data was removed. Since this data was looking at all venues I wasn't worried about outliers and Zumper.com already calculated the averages of rent for me so I didn't have to deal with outliers there.

Methodology –

After cleaning the data I narrowed in on just the Neighborhoods in Downtown Toronto and their respective geographical coordinates–

	PostalCode	Borough	Neighborhood	Latitude	Longitude
50	M4W	Downtown Toronto	Rosedale	43.679563	-79.377529
51	M4X	Downtown Toronto	St. James Town, Cabbagetown	43.667967	-79.367675
52	M4Y	Downtown Toronto	Church and Wellesley	43.665860	-79.383160
53	M5A	Downtown Toronto	Regent Park, Harbourfront	43.654260	-79.360636
54	M5B	Downtown Toronto	Garden District, Ryerson	43.657162	-79.378937
55	M5C	Downtown Toronto	St. James Town	43.651494	-79.375418
56	M5E	Downtown Toronto	Berczy Park	43.644771	-79.373306
57	M5G	Downtown Toronto	Central Bay Street	43.657952	-79.387383
58	M5H	Downtown Toronto	Richmond, Adelaide, King	43.650571	-79.384568
59	M5J	Downtown Toronto	Harbourfront East, Union Station, Toronto Islands	43.640816	-79.381752
60	M5K	Downtown Toronto	Toronto Dominion Centre, Design Exchange	43.647177	-79.381576
61	M5L	Downtown Toronto	Commerce Court, Victoria Hotel	43.648198	-79.379817
66	M5S	Downtown Toronto	University of Toronto, Harbord	43.662696	-79.400049
67	M5T	Downtown Toronto	Kensington Market, Chinatown, Grange Park	43.653206	-79.400049
68	M5V	Downtown Toronto	CN Tower, King and Spadina, Railway Lands, Har...	43.628947	-79.394420
69	M5W	Downtown Toronto	Stn A PO Boxes	43.646435	-79.374846
70	M5X	Downtown Toronto	First Canadian Place, Underground city	43.648429	-79.382280
75	M6G	Downtown Toronto	Christie	43.669542	-79.422564
85	M7A	Downtown Toronto	Queen's Park, Ontario Provincial Government	43.662301	-79.389494

With that information I made a call to the FourSquare API to determine some of the venues in the area. Coffee shops and cafes were the top 2 most common venue –

```
Out[62]: Coffee Shop      11
         Café             6
         Gastropub        5
         Japanese Restaurant 3
         Hotel            3
         Thai Restaurant   3
         Bookstore         3
         Bakery            3
         American Restaurant 2
         Bubble Tea Shop   2
         Name: categories, dtype: int64
```

I then checked to see which Neighborhood had the largest variety of venue as well as determining the frequency of each venue in the neighborhoods.

	Neighborhood Latitude	Neighborhood Longitude	Venue	Venue Latitude	Venue Longitude	Venue Category
Neighborhood						
Berczy Park	66	66	66	66	66	66
CN Tower, King and Spadina, Railway Lands, Harbourfront West, Bathurst Quay, South Niagara, Island airport	80	80	80	80	80	80
Central Bay Street	62	62	62	62	62	62
Christie	10	10	10	10	10	10
Church and Wellesley	79	79	79	79	79	79

I took these results a step further sorting them by top 10 venues –

	Neighborhood	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue
0	Berczy Park	Coffee Shop	Seafood Restaurant	Cocktail Bar	Bakery	Pharmacy	Beer Bar	Farmers Market	Cheese Shop	Breakfast Spot
1	CN Tower, King and Spadina, Railway Lands, Har...	Italian Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Café	Park	French Restaurant	Bar	Gym / Fitness Center	Intersection	Bakery
2	Central Bay Street	Coffee Shop	Clothing Store	Bubble Tea Shop	Middle Eastern Restaurant	Hotel	Sandwich Place	Cosmetics Shop	Bookstore	Plaza
3	Christie	Café	Grocery Store	Playground	Candy Store	Italian Restaurant	Baby Store	Coffee Shop	Wings Joint	Electronics Store
4	Church and Wellesley	Coffee Shop	Japanese Restaurant	Sushi Restaurant	Restaurant	Gay Bar	Café	Fast Food Restaurant	Hotel	Mediterranean Restaurant

Once I got an idea of which neighborhoods had the most coffee shops and largest variety of spots I moved on to cost of rent. I created a bar chart to illustrate most and least expensive.

Discussion –

Throughout this study we looked at a lot of elements that might be appealing to a young person either attending college at the University of Toronto or moving to the city as a young professional. All of the neighborhoods have a variety of eateries and coffee shops but based purely on price of a 1 bedroom apartment I would recommend St James neighborhood.