

# Toronto Cultures Tour



**VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS**

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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# Tour Summary

Toronto, Canada, is the world's most culturally diverse city: half of its people were born outside of the country and 140 languages are spoken in its homes. The result is a vibrant, fascinating city, full of diverse architecture, contrasting cultures, and multi-faceted communities. You don't need to travel the world... find old cultures - and new ones - right here in one place!

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# Introduction



When you think of Toronto, do you think of magnificent Hindu temples? Probably not! Welcome to one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world. Are you aware that 140 different languages are spoken in

Toronto's homes? Well, half of its five million residents were born outside of Canada.





Each of the cultural groups has its own exotic foods, customs and religion. In this city you may visit unusual temples, mosques, and churches, just as if you were

traveling abroad. You can even learn Japanese drumming and Celtic dances: you don't need to go to Japan or Ireland.



When you visit Toronto, you can participate in colorful festivals. Of course you won't find the pyramids, or a Taj Mahal, but you will experience thriving cultures.





Many Toronto restaurateurs serve food from their homeland, because they cater to people born in those countries. We'll mainly tell you about restaurants that do NOT tone down their spices to accommodate Western

taste buds, but you can also find dishes for those who prefer bland curries. The choice is yours.



There are also many incredible culinary bargains, such as all-you-can-eat Korean, Indian, Japanese or Chinese buffets.



You can hear Greek spoken in some streets and churches. You can drink Greek beer, study Greek dancing, and watch television broadcasts - directly from Greece.





Toronto's annual forty-year-old "Caribana" is the largest Caribbean festival in North America. During the two-week event, you can join a million people who love the music and dancing of the Islands.



Here you'll find famous teachers and performers of African, Japanese, and South Asian music and dance. While many customs are disappearing in the "old" country, change is slower here. Immigrants tend to cling to the culture they left.





There's not just one - but at least six - Chinatowns. The most convenient one downtown is at Dundas and Spadina, and it looks like Hong Kong.



Toronto's huge Chinese malls and supermarkets are mainly in the suburbs. These are as big as, or even bigger than,

malls in China. With over half a million people here, the Chinese are the largest single minority.



The large Chinese population also supports a lot of fascinating events, like a “Miss Chinese” pageant. The performer here is from the ancient Sichuan opera. The lady can change the masks on her face so

quickly, it will amaze you. Now, if you are looking for a particular cultural group, how do you find them in Toronto?





We'll get you started, but there's no single source of information. Look for locally-produced periodicals aimed at ethnic communities. On the web, search for "Toronto's Korean-speaking churches," for example, or "foreign tourist boards," and you'll find news of upcoming events.

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