







Jam-packed with food, shopping, and fantastic art, Ontario's capital is a multicultural metropolis.

BY SARAH ELTON

or all its Frenchiness, Montreal can't compete with Toronto when it comes to true international flavor. In the past four decades, Canada's largest city has drawn hundreds of thousands of immigrants from all over the world—especially Asia—to its Lake Ontario shores. Now more than 70 languages are spoken in the city, which glitters as Canada's largest and perhaps hippest. (It doesn't hurt that Hollywood regularly sets up shop to shoot movies and for the annual international film festival.) Though the metropolis covers a lot of ground, everything your family could possibly want is right downtown. Here, commercial neighborhoods rub up against residential ones, and you can step from one culture to another within a few blocks. So for a lesson in global art and cuisine and eye-popping architecture, grab the stroller and hit the pavement.









Clockwise from left: Toronto's famous Queen Street West; Kensington Market; dumplings from Asian Legend; Chinatown; inside Ella + Elliot; one of the many Victorian homes in Trinity-Bellwoods.







This trendy (yet comfy) bistro serves locally grown foods and native cured meats, like wild boar.

2 ASIAN LEGEND 418 Dundas St. W., (416) 977-3909 Watch chefs make succulent, superaffordable dumplings through the window to the back.

3 CHIPPY'S 893 Queen St. W.,

(416) 866-7474 Every Canadian town worth its salt has a chippy (a fish-and-chips spot); this hole-in-the-wall has the city's best fries and filets.

STORES

4 FRESH BAKED GOODS -274 Augusta Ave., (416) 966-0123 Buy hoodies with witty sayings and retro dresses for kids and moms

S ELLA + ELLIOT -188 Strachan Ave., (416) 850-7890

This boutique brings European (Italian, Swiss, Swedish) design to Toronto in the form of chic kids' furniture, gear, and gifts.

ACTIVITIES

6 TRINITY-BELLWOODS PARK Queen St. and Strachan Ave. The 37-acre park has a playground and wading pool and is home to a colony of rare white squirrels.

7 MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY CANADIAN ART 952 Queen St. W., (416) 395-0067 Perfect for short attention spans,

this one-floor museum is on a street full of fantastic galleries.

8 CHINATOWN -Dundas St. and Spadina Ave. As you walk south on Spadina, check out the dragon-sculpture gateway and hit King's Noodle House '296 Spadina').

Chinatown-Kensington & Trinity-Bellwoods

Chinese-Canadians form one of the country's largest ethnic groups, and south of College Street, you can get your fill of bubble tea and lychee in Chinatown. Walk west to Kensington Market and you're in a completely different world: Vest-pocket clothing stores with racks of Latin American futbol jerseys operate cheek by jowl with any number of mom-and-pop eateries, from Jamaican to Vietnamese. Then head southwest to Trinity-Bellwoods via the TTC streetcar system. This may be home to Toronto's galleries, vintage shops, and swanky brunch spots, but the Bugaboo-to-mimosa ratio is about even, so people won't roll their eyes at your stroller.







