



# Orientation to Ontario

## CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

### Did You Know?

Ontario is the most multicultural province in Canada. Half of all newcomers to Canada settle in Ontario. Over 100 languages are spoken here. There are many ways to enjoy diversity and celebrate your own heritage.

### MEDIA

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) is a publically funded national broadcaster. The CBC provides local and national news coverage and cultural programming on TV, radio and online. Learn more at [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca)

There are many ethnocultural newspapers published in Canada. The National Ethnic Press and Media Council provides a list of publications on their website [www.nationalethnicpress.com](http://www.nationalethnicpress.com)

Many television and radio stations broadcast in multiple languages. OMNI TV is a multicultural network that has programming in Mandarin, Cantonese, Italian, Punjabi and other South Asian languages. For more information, visit [www.omnitv.ca](http://www.omnitv.ca)

### FOOD

There are ethnic markets and major supermarkets that sell imported products and produce from all over the

world. The best way to learn about local markets and restaurants is through “word of mouth” so talk to people in your community, at your place of worship and search online.

- All major supermarkets carry many foods used in international cuisines. Some supermarkets have 1-2 aisles devoted to international food ingredients.
- To find a listing of ethnic stores, visit [www.yellowpages.ca](http://www.yellowpages.ca)
- Apps are available that will guide you to ethnic grocery stores and restaurants. To find these, go to the appropriate app store depending on your platform.
- Restaurant review websites also organize listings by cuisine type, including vegetarian.
- Farmers’ markets allow vendors to sell produce and other products throughout the year. These markets are held in buildings, parking lots or parks on specific days. You can find a market in your area at [www.farmersmarketsontario.com](http://www.farmersmarketsontario.com)
- Seasonal foods – to learn more about when fruits and vegetables are in season, visit Ontario Foodland at [www.ontario.ca/foodland](http://www.ontario.ca/foodland)

## FESTIVALS AND CULTURAL CENTRES

There are many museums, theatres and cultural centres in large and small communities across the province.

Funded by / Financé par



- **Museums:** visit [www.museumsontario.org](http://www.museumsontario.org) to get a listing of museums.
- **Film:** search online or in your local newspaper for a film festival in your community.
- **Theatre:** visit Theatre Ontario at [www.theatreontario.org](http://www.theatreontario.org) for a listing in your community.
- **Art:** for a listing of art centres/ galleries, search online for one in your community.
- **Music and Dance:** search online or in your local newspapers for a local event.
- **Canada Day:** celebrations are held across Ontario on July 1.
- **Aboriginal events:** to see Ontario's listing of National Aboriginal Day events, visit the Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada at [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca).
- **Francophone festivals:** for a listing of festivals and other events, visit [www.voyagesontario.com](http://www.voyagesontario.com).

For many more events, visit [www.festivalsandeventsOntario.ca](http://www.festivalsandeventsOntario.ca) or [www.summerfenguide.ca](http://www.summerfenguide.ca).

To learn about festivals and cultural events happening in your community, visit [www.ontariotravel.net/en/home](http://www.ontariotravel.net/en/home).

Cultural and multicultural festivals including art, film, food and music are held throughout the year. Community centres and libraries often have information about local festivals. Local and ethno cultural media will promote cultural events. Some examples of festivals include:

- Caribana, a celebration of Caribbean cultures [www.caribanatoronto.com](http://www.caribanatoronto.com)
- DesiFest, a South Asian music festival <http://desifest.ca>
- The International Dragon Boat Race Festival in Toronto <http://dragonboats.com>
- Winterlude in Ottawa, [www.canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1416239267950](http://www.canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1416239267950)
- Oktoberfest in Kitchener, [www.oktoberfest.ca](http://www.oktoberfest.ca)
- Ontario Pride, [www.ontariotravel.net/en/play/lgbt/pride](http://www.ontariotravel.net/en/play/lgbt/pride)
- Toronto African Film & Music Festival, [www.torontoafricanfilmmusicfest.com](http://www.torontoafricanfilmmusicfest.com)

- Fiesta London Mexican Festival, in London [www.fiestalondon.ca](http://www.fiestalondon.ca).
- Latin Arts Festival in Toronto, <http://ontariolatinartsfestival.ca>.
- Brantford International Villages Cultural Festival, [www.brantfordvillages.ca](http://www.brantfordvillages.ca).
- Belleville Waterfront and Ethnic Festival, [www.bellevillewaterfrontfestival.com](http://www.bellevillewaterfrontfestival.com).

## SPIRITUAL

Ontario is a secular society, but people of all faiths are free to worship as they choose. You can find churches, mosques, synagogues and temples in the local phone directory or by searching online.

- Mosques and Islamic Centres <http://muslimcanada.org>.
- Synagogues - [www.cjccc.ca](http://www.cjccc.ca) or [findlink.at/syndir](http://findlink.at/syndir).
- Hindu Temples - [www.shaivam.org](http://www.shaivam.org).
- Sikh Temples - [www.worldgurudwara.com](http://www.worldgurudwara.com) or [findlink.at/stemples](http://findlink.at/stemples).
- Buddhist Centres - [www.buddhist.ca](http://www.buddhist.ca) or [findlink.at/bcentr](http://findlink.at/bcentr).
- Anglican Churches - [www.anglican.ca](http://www.anglican.ca).
- Roman Catholic Churches - [www.catholiclinks.org](http://www.catholiclinks.org).
- United Church of Canada - <http://locator.united-church.ca>.
- Baptist Churches in Canada - <http://baptist.ca>.

