

Notes on Traveling to Canada from the United States for RSMj 2024

1. Valid proof of citizenship and identity is required to enter Canada from the U.S.

Whether you are driving or flying to Toronto, please note that valid proof of citizenship and identity are required for all persons entering Canada. A valid U.S. or Canadian passport, passport card, or NEXUS card satisfies these requirements for U.S. citizens. A driver's license will not be sufficient for entering Canada. For more info on requirements for international visitors to Canada, please see <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/td-dv-eng.html#s3>

2. Cannabis is legal to purchase and use in Canada, but cannot be brought over international borders.

Please note that although cannabis can be legally purchased across Canada for medicinal and recreational use, it is illegal to bring cannabis into Canada from the U.S. and vice versa. Because of this, we also recommend that when going through customs, please be mindful of what you tell the customs officer is your purpose for travelling to Canada, and make it clear that you are attending an academic research conference instead of simply stating you are going to a "marijuana conference" in case that is misinterpreted and could raise questions about whether you are travelling with any cannabis.

3. Toronto has two airports.

Please note that Toronto, Ontario has two airports in its immediate vicinity:

- A. Lester B. Pearson International Airport (YYZ)
- B. Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (YTZ)

Pearson Airport is located in Mississauga, Ontario, which is approximately 27 km (17 miles) from the conference (Hilton) hotel in downtown Toronto. This airport is the larger of the two. The majority of international flights arrive at Pearson Airport.

Billy Bishop Airport is located on Toronto's Centre Island, which is approximately 3 km (1.9 miles) from the conference hotel. This airport is significantly smaller than Pearson Airport. Some flights from the Eastern U.S. may arrive at Billy Bishop Airport. Flying into Billy Bishop Airport may be slightly more convenient than flying into Pearson Airport because it is located in downtown Toronto, but is also often more expensive.

4. You can connect from the airport to the conference hotel by public transit.

Both Pearson Airport and Billy Bishop Airport have convenient public transit routes into downtown Toronto. In general, it is not recommended/necessary to rent a car if you plan to stay/explore within the Greater Toronto Area only, as traffic within and to/from the city is quite heavy and parking can be difficult to find/expensive.

- A. *How to get to the conference hotel from Pearson Airport*

Consider taking the 25-minute UP Express train to arrive in downtown Toronto from Pearson Airport. This train frequently travels between Pearson Airport and downtown Toronto's Union Station during certain

hours. More information about specific departure/arrival times can be found at this link:
<https://www.upexpress.com/en/up-express-stations/pearson-station/departures-and-schedules>.

The UP Express departs from Terminal 1 in Pearson Airport. If your flight arrive in Terminal 3, follow airport signage to the free Link Train between terminals. The Link Train operates 24/7 and runs every 4 minutes in peak times and every 8 minutes in non-peak times.

The conference hotel is a 13-minute walk or a 6-minute transit via subway from Union Station. If you choose to take the subway, St. Andrew Station is the closest station to the conference hotel.

Alternatively, a taxi from Pearson Airport to downtown Toronto costs approximately \$70-90 CAD and takes ~25 minutes in normal traffic. This is not recommended during peak times, since traffic to/from downtown Toronto can be very heavy.

B. How to get to the conference hotel from Billy Bishop Airport

Passengers arriving at Billy Bishop Airport on Toronto Island can connect to the mainland via the pedestrian tunnel (10-minute walk – pedestrian conveyer belts are available).

To get to the conference hotel, there is a free airport shuttle from Billy Bishop ferry terminal to Union Station. The conference hotel is a 13-minute walk or a 6-minute transit via subway from Union Station. If you choose to take the subway, St. Andrew Station is the closest station to the conference hotel.

Alternatively, you can take the #509 street car from Queen's Quay West at Bathurst Street East Side to Union Station (~10 minutes), and then take the subway to St. Andrew Station (~1-2 minutes).

More information about getting to downtown Toronto from Billy Bishop Airport can be found here:
<https://www.billybishopairport.com/to-from/>

Getting Around and Staying in Toronto

1. Getting around Toronto

A good way to get around Toronto is using the TTC. Information about all TTC routes and schedules (including subway, streetcar, and bus services) can be found here: <https://www.ttc.ca/routes-and-schedules>. Below are links with further information about the TTC:

- TTC fares: <https://www.ttc.ca/Fares-and-passes>
- Subway and streetcar map: https://cdn.ttc.ca/-/media/Project/TTC/DevProto/Images/Home/Routes-and-Schedules/Landing-page-pdfs/TTC_SubwayStreetcarMap_2021-11.pdf?rev=d87caf017d7048408a636e3d63413806
- Bus routes: <https://www.ttc.ca/routes-and-schedules/listroutes/bus>
- Trip planner: <https://www.ttc.ca/trip-planner>
- Streetcar routes: <https://www.ttc.ca/routes-and-schedules/listroutes/streetcar>
- Information on accessing Toronto's most popular destinations via transit: <https://www.ttc.ca/riding-the-ttc/Explore-Toronto>
- TTC service to the airport: <https://www.ttc.ca/riding-the-ttc/Service-to-the-airport>

Note that if taking the subway, the closest station to the conference hotel is St. Andrew Station, located about a three-minute walk from the conference hotel via University Ave.

Another good way to get around Toronto, particularly downtown, is using the Bike Share program.

Information about the program and about finding a bike can be found here:

<https://bikesharetoronto.com/>. If you plan to use the Bike Share program while you're here, consider downloading this app: <https://bikesharetoronto.com/mobile/>. Information about pricing, including pay-as-you-go and day pass options, can be found here: <https://bikesharetoronto.com/pricing/>.

Ubers and Lyfts are also plentiful in Toronto, but note that prices can surge and Toronto traffic is often quite heavy. It likely won't be necessary to rent a car while you're here, unless you plan on leaving the city.

2. Toronto weather in July

In July in Toronto, daytime temperatures typically range from about 18°C (64°F) to 27°C (81°F). The average humidity is 68% and average wind speed is 10 km/h, and there are typically about 11 days of rain.

3. Converting USD to CAD

A currency converter from USD to CAD can be found here:

<https://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/exchange/currency-converter/>

Conversions are based on Bank of Canada exchange rates, which are published every business day by 4:30 PM ET.

Things To Do in Toronto

1. Events and shows throughout the city

Over the RSMj conference weekend the Toronto Blue Jays will be playing locally at Rogers Centre. The Jays will be playing against the Detroit Tigers from July 19th-July 21st. Sunday games at Rogers Centre are Jr. Jays Sundays with an emphasis on activities and entertainment for kids. For more information or tickets you can visit the below link:

[Toronto Blue Jays Schedule](#)

There are also several concert venues throughout the city. During the summer Budweiser Stage hosts outdoor shows. If you are planning to arrive early the Red Hot Chili Peppers will be playing July 17th, and Train will be playing over the weekend on July 20th. For more shows and details see the below link:

[Budweiser Stage Shows](#)

Finally, there are other live shows throughout the city to see including musicals (Wicked and Tina Turner the Musical) and Cirque de Soleil ECHO. See more details below:

[The Official Mirvish Website | Tickets to the Best Theatre in Toronto](#)

[Shows in Toronto | Cirque du Soleil](#)

Toronto also hosts festivals and markets regularly. A few to check out involve the Panamerican Food Festival in Nathan Phillips Square (right near the hotel) and the Distillery District Summer Market. See more details below.

<https://2024.panamfest.com/>

<https://www.thedistillerydistrict.com/events/>

2. Toronto Staples

Toronto is home to a variety of fun and notable tourist stops. Some popular ones involve the Royal Ontario Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, Ripley's Aquarium, Casa Loma, St. Lawrence Market, Hockey Hall of Fame, and of course the CN Tower.

3. Toronto Neighbourhoods to check out

Toronto has lots of diverse neighbourhoods full of great restaurants, nightlife, and shopping. Some of the best known neighbourhoods involve Chinatown, Korea Town, Little Italy, and Little Portugal. Other popular neighbourhoods involve Kensington Market (full of vintage shops), Trinity Bellwoods (breweries and trendy restaurants as well as Toronto's most popular park), Liberty Village (lots of bars, pubs, and coffee shops), and Church-Wellesley Village (Restaurants, shops, and nightlife that that focus on being an inclusive and safe space to LGBTQIA+ communities).

Another fun summer activity involves taking a day trip to Toronto Islands. The island is a scene and nature focused spot that is great for spending a day outside or at the beach. The island can be reached through ferry. The summer schedule and information around the ferry can be found at the below link.

[Toronto Island Ferry](#)

4. Day Trip to Niagara Falls

Toronto is about a 90-minute drive without traffic (131 km or 81.4 miles) away from Niagara Falls, making it a great day trip to check out the waterfalls and other tourist attractions. If you won't be driving there is a train service that can take you from downtown Toronto to Niagara. To view the train route and schedule visit the link below.

[Toronto to Niagara Go Train Schedule](#)