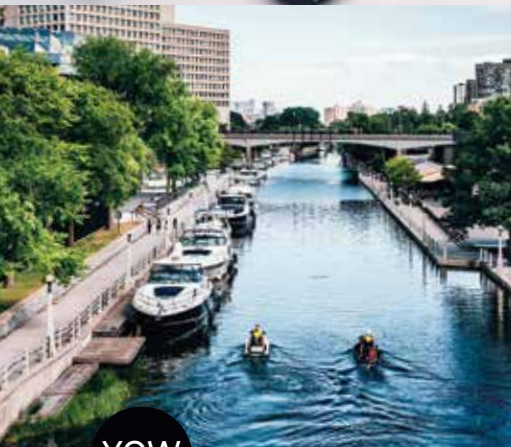


TIME OUT



YOW

OTTAWA

You've got an extra day to check out Canada's capital. Here's what you do. **BY LAURA BYRNE PAQUET**

THE COMMON GREETING in every store, "hello-bonjour," tells only part of Ottawa's story. Sure, the capital reflects Canada's English-French heritage, but the city is increasingly multicultural. You're as likely to nosh on takeout shawarma—Ottawa is home to one of the country's largest Lebanese-Canadian communities—as *tourtière* (meat pie). The neo-Gothic buildings on Parliament Hill are the best-known landmarks, and the nearby Rideau Canal pathways are magnets for joggers and cyclists. But to truly take the city's temp, head west on the O-Train Confederation Line to gobble maple-bacon doughnuts at SuzyQ and see indie plays at the Great Canadian Theatre Company in Hintonburg.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The infinity pool at Nordik Spa-Nature; Soif's sunchoke flatbread; Pure Kitchen; BBees Knees at Jabberwocky; The Rideau Canal; Doughnuts from SuzyQ.

Indigenous Theatre

DRINK

Jabberwocky's clever cocktails include a BBees Knees mixed with beeswax-washed gin and spiced honey. At Zoe's, a blend of rye whiskey, single malt scotch and maple syrup called The Statesman arrives inside a tiny glass cabinet, wreathed in cedar smoke. In Gatineau, Québec, north across the Ottawa River, award-winning sommelier Véronique Rivest presides over a diverse wine list at Soif. And Brew Donkey Tours runs bus day trips to craft breweries.

EAT

If you're nursing a hangover, poutine—a mélange of fries, cheese curds and gravy—from S&G Fries & Burgers may be the cure. On the healthier side, the Mystical Bowl at Pure Kitchen brims with avocado and crispy lime tofu. Money no object? At 44-seat Atelier, two-time Canadian Culinary Championships winner Marc Lepine frequently revises the 12-course tasting menu.

GET OUTDOORS

Work off your meal by hiking to the Carbone Willson Ruins in Gatineau Park, then relax in a hot tub among rocky outcrops at Nordik Spa-Nature. Or zip-line 120 feet above the Ottawa River when Interzip Rogers opens this summer. In winter, dodge crowds on the world's largest skating rink, the frozen Rideau Canal, by gliding under a stone bridge to Patterson Creek.

BE ARTSY

In 2019, the National Arts Centre launched its Indigenous Theatre department—the world's first such national program. RBC Bluesfest (July 9 to 19, 2020) has grown beyond blues to become one of Canada's largest outdoor music festivals. At the National Gallery of Canada, don't miss North Shore, Lake Superior, Lawren Harris' ethereal 1926 painting.

FRED CATTROLL (INDIGENOUS THEATRE); SHAMIT TUSHAKIRAN (PURE KITCHEN); SISOLE/ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES PLUS (THE RIDEAU CANAL); WILL CAREY (SUZYQ)