

ONTARIO THEATRE

Includes 9 shows in Toronto, Stratford and Niagara
October 1, 2019 - 9 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$4745 double/twin

\$5540 single

\$4475 triple



> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 10 seats; \$125 on next 6

> **Experience Points:** Earn 105 points from this tour.

Redeem **105 points** if you book by **June 27**.

Includes

- Transfer to and from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Toronto and return
- Current air transport taxes and security fees
- Airline luggage fees for 1 checked piece
- Coach transportation for 9 days
- 8 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- CN Tower with lunch in revolving restaurant
- Locally guided tour of Toronto
- Cirque du Soleil show *Alegria*
- Royal Ontario Museum
- Casa Loma
- Mirvish Theatres show TBA
- McMichael Canadian Art Collection
- *The Front Page* at Festival Theatre Stratford
- Tour of Stratford Festival costume warehouse
- Backstage tour at Festival Theatre
- *Billy Elliot* at Festival Theatre Stratford
- Choice of *Little Shop of Horrors* at Avon Theatre OR *Othello* at Festival Theatre
- Locally guided tour of Kitchener-Waterloo area
- St. Jacob's Market
- Choice of *The Neverending Story* at Avon Theatre OR *Merry Wives of Windsor* at Festival Theatre
- Locally guided tour of Niagara Falls
- Hornblower boat trip to bottom of Niagara Falls
- *Oh Canada Eh?* dinner theatre
- Skylon Tower with lunch in revolving restaurant
- *Brigadoon* at Shaw Festival Theatre
- *The Ladykillers* at Shaw Festival Theatre
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guides and Ontario driver
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **12 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners

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On With the Show!

Ontario is the place to be if you want to experience Canadian Theatre at its best. Toronto has firmly established itself as the Broadway of Canada, plus the long running Shaw Festival and Stratford Festival consistently attract the best of stage actors. You will see nine shows on this tour and an optional tenth.

TORONTO

Cirque du Soleil *Alegría* — Since it premiered in 1994, *Alegría* has been performed over 5,000 times and seen by over 14 million spectators in 250 cities around the world. *Alegría* takes its name from the Spanish word for "joy." Cirque du Soleil's literature describes the show as "an operatic introspection of the struggle for power and the invigorating energy of youth."

Mirvish Theatres — Mirvish has not released their show schedule for fall 2019, but *The Band's Visit* is the likely choice. It is a stage musical which opened on Broadway in 2017 and won 10 Tony Awards.

STRATFORD

With William Shakespeare as its foundation, the Stratford Festival has set the standard for classical theatre in North America for 67 years. The company creates stimulating, thought-provoking productions of Shakespeare's plays, as well as presenting other plays from the classical repertoire, while attracting the best stage talent. Four productions are included with a choice for two of them, plus an option for a fifth show.

The Front Page — Star reporter Hildy Johnson has had it with the newspaper business until he finds himself harbouring a death row escapee with a tale to tell. Hildy's challenge now is to outwit corrupt cops and rival journalists to get the scoop of a lifetime without losing the love of his life.

Billy Elliott — This spectacular show has heart, humour and passion, and won 10 Tony Awards in 2009 including Best Musical. Set in a small town, the story follows Billy as he stumbles out of the boxing ring and into a ballet class, discovering a surprising talent that inspires his whole community, and changes his life forever.

Little Shop of Horrors — One of the longest-running off-Broadway shows, this affectionate spoof of 1950s sci-fi movies has become a household name, thanks to a highly successful film version. Charming, tuneful and hilarious, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, *Little Shop of Horrors* never fails to entertain.

Othello — This gripping psychological drama is one of Shakespeare's best-known tragedies. Othello and Desdemona defy prejudice to be united in marriage, but deadly malice lurks where the newlyweds least expect it, as the one man Othello trusts the most resolves to destroy their happiness at any cost.

Merry Wives of Windsor — Shakespeare's rollicking comedy has been modernized to the 1950s. Pursuing two respectably married women at the same time, a would-be seducer fails to anticipate that his targets will, quite literally, compare notes. Nor has he reckoned on the mischievous spirit in which the wives will use their wits and wiles to teach him the error of his ways.

The Neverending Story — Immerse yourself in a world of fantasy, filled with spectacle and wondrous other-worldly creatures. This beautiful tale of childhood trials and the triumph of creativity will delight and inspire.

Nathan the Wise — In 12th century Jerusalem, a wealthy Jew whose daughter loves a Christian faces a dangerous question from the Muslim sultan: which is the one true faith? As moving as it is humorous, this rarely seen masterpiece of the 18th century Enlightenment celebrates the common humanity that unites us all.

NIAGARA

Founded in 1962 on the work of George Bernard Shaw, Niagara-On-The-Lake's Shaw Festival is another of Ontario's great theatre destinations. The Festival produces plays from and about Shaw's era and contemporary plays that share Shaw's provocative exploration of society and celebration of humanity.

Oh Canada Eh? — In this musical celebration of Canada, meet singing Mounties, a hockey player, lumberjacks, Anne of Green Gables, Klondike Kitty, and other great Canadian characters while enjoying songs and scenes from across our country. This is a dinner theatre in Niagara Falls.

Brigadoon — Stumbling upon a magical village that appears out of the Scottish mist for one day every century, Tommy, a modern boy, meets Fiona, a girl from the past. Should he stay with her in Brigadoon, or return to the world he knows and never see her again? This feast of song and dance from Lerner and Loewe has been entrancing audiences for more than seven decades.

The Ladykillers — This comedy tour-de-force is set in 1950s London where five oddball crooks pose as an amateur string quintet in order to rent a room from an elderly lady. It is supposed to be the nerve centre for their greatest ever heist, but things soon start to get complicated.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR SHOWS — Please choose at time of booking to be guaranteed your preferred shows.

October 5: Choose between two performances at 8 pm — *Little Shop of Horrors* at Avon Theatre **OR** *Othello* at Festival Theatre. Your tour fare includes **one** of these shows.

October 6: Choose between two performances at 2 pm — *Merry Wives of Windsor* at Festival Theatre **OR** *The Neverending Story* at Avon Theatre. Your tour fare includes **one** of these shows.

October 6: You can book an extra show — *Nathan the Wise* at Studio Theatre. Cost is \$64 per person (plus 5% GST). Transportation from hotel to theatre and back is included.

Itinerary

Tuesday, October 1: *Meals: D*

We fly on Westjet from Victoria to Toronto and a transfer is provided into downtown. Our accommodation for the next three nights is at the Chelsea Hotel. It has an excellent location just off Yonge Street, three short blocks from the giant Eaton Centre. The hotel still ranks as the largest in Canada with 1,590 rooms. It has a restaurant (with many others close by), a spa, and indoor pool. Meet your fellow travellers during a welcome dinner.

Wednesday, October 2: *Meals: L*

The morning is free time. At noon, we go to the **CN Tower**, one of the tallest buildings in the world at 1,815 feet, and enjoy a panoramic view of Toronto. Are you brave enough to stand on the glass floor? Lunch is included in the revolving restaurant and, as we go around every 72 minutes, the panorama is constantly changing. A sightseeing tour of **Toronto** with a local guide passes landmarks such as the CN Tower, the stadiums of Rogers Centre and Air Canada Centre, Eaton Centre, Queens Park, City Hall, and the Lake Ontario waterfront. We visit districts like Yorkville and drive along famous streets including Bay, Yonge, and Bloor. Tonight, we go to Ontario Place and thrill to **Cirque du Soleil's Alegria**, starting at 8 pm.

Thursday, October 3:

We visit the venerable **Royal Ontario Museum** which exhibits an amazing collection of Ontario memorabilia. This afternoon, we tour **Casa Loma**, Toronto's fabulous castle built by Sir Henry Pellatt between 1911 and 1914, and today used in many movie productions. It has 98 rooms, secret passages, and two towers, and cost \$3½ million to build. Tonight, we go to one of the **Mirvish Theatres** for a show to be announced.

Friday, October 4: *Meals: D*

As we leave Toronto, our first stop is at one of Canada's most celebrated art galleries, the **McMichael Canadian Art Collection**. It showcases 6,000 works by the Group of Seven, Tom Thomson, Emily Carr, Clarence Gagnon and other contemporaries, as well as First Nations, Inuit and other artists who have made a contribution to Canada's artistic heritage. The sprawling galleries have a beautiful woodland setting along the Humber River Valley. Following the busy 401 freeway, we journey west through Kitchener to Stratford and stay three nights at the Best Western Arden Park Hotel. The small town of **Stratford** became the home of the largest classical repertory theatre in

North America thanks to the dream of Tom Patterson. In the early 1950s, he conceived the idea of a theatre festival devoted to the works of William Shakespeare. His vision won the support not only of Stratford City Council and an enthusiastic committee of citizens but also of the legendary British actor and director Tyrone Guthrie, who agreed to become the first Artistic Director. The initial performance was on July 13, 1953, when actor Alec Guinness spoke the opening lines of *Richard III*. Tonight, we go to the Festival Theatre for a performance of **The Front Page**, starting at 8 pm.

Saturday, October 5: *Meals: B*

First, there is a **backstage tour of Festival Theatre**, visiting the props, wardrobe, wigs, and makeup departments. Next, we take a behind-the-scenes tour of the **Stratford Festival Warehouse** where thousands of costumes and props from many years of shows are stored and catalogued for future use. During the rest of the morning, you can visit the Gallery Stratford, shop the vibrant downtown, do a tea tasting with a certified Tea Sommelier, explore the Perth Museum, or take a self-guided walking tour of history and architecture. At 2 pm, we attend **Billy Elliot** at the Festival Theatre. There is a choice of two shows at 8 pm: **Little Shop of Horrors** at the Avon Theatre or **Othello** at the Festival Theatre. One show is included.

Sunday, October 6: *Meals: B*

With a local guide, we explore the rolling countryside east to Kitchener. Not to be missed is the huge **St. Jacob's Market**, with over 600 vendors demonstrating the vibrant agricultural heritage of the Waterloo region. Back in Stratford, there is a choice of two shows at 2 pm: **The Neverending Story** at Avon Theatre or **Merry Wives of Windsor** at Festival Theatre. One show is included. Tonight at 8 pm, there is an option to see an extra show, **Nathan the Wise** at Studio Theatre (see details on page 2).

Monday, October 7: *Meals: B,L,D*

Leaving Stratford, we have a two-hour drive east through Hamilton to **Niagara Falls**. A sightseeing tour of the Niagara area is conducted by a local guide. Niagara is one of the world's mightiest waterfalls, measured by its great width of over 1,000 metres, its water volume of about 750,000 gallons per second and its height of 50 metres. We ride the Hornblower (formerly **Maid of the Mist**) for an awesome view of the Horseshoe and American Falls from the river, see the floral clock, and stand at Table Rock. Lunch is included at a Niagara icon, Table Rock Restaurant, which looks direct-

ly out at the brink of the falls. We settle into the luxurious Hilton Hotel for a two-night stay. The hotel has a prime location across the street from the huge Niagara Fallsview Casino and just over one block from the waterfront Victoria Park. Every room has a view of the falls. Tonight, we attend the hilarious dinner show, **Oh Canada Eh?**

Tuesday, October 8: *Meals: B,L,D*
The morning is free time to revisit some Niagara Falls viewpoints. We have lunch in the revolving restaurant atop **Skylon Tower** and enjoy a fabulous view of the Horseshoe and American Falls. Then we drive into **Niagara-on-the-Lake**, a quaint town of historic buildings and interesting shops, and home to the **Shaw Festival**. It was started in 1962 by lawyer and playwright Brian Doherty, who

organized eight weekend performances of George Bernard Shaw's *Don Juan in Hell* and *Candida* under the title "Salute to Shaw". Currently, the Festival produces about ten plays each season, with over 800 performances and audiences totaling about 300,000 people. Today, we attend the matinee performance of the musical, **Brigadoon**. Afterwards, we have a farewell dinner in Niagara-on-the-Lake, followed by our last performance, **The Ladykillers**, at the Shaw Festival Theatre at 8 pm.

Wednesday, October 9: *Meals: B*
We drive back to Toronto Airport for an afternoon flight on Westjet to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 27, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$250 discount on first 10 seats and \$125 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 27.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 27, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From May 28 to June 27, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From June 28 to July 26, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From July 27 to August 27, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 27, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from airlines and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo credit: Stratford Festival

Activity Level: Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some steps, mainly to/from your theatre seats. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to/from Toronto; request a cart or wheelchair at airline check-in if this could be an issue for you. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

e-points: This tour earns 105 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until June 27.

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