



# SHOP AND EAT TORONTO-STYLE

## Shop Toronto

Queen Street West (between Bathurst & Gladstone) – this is where you go to find everything hip, trendy and cool. You don't need to pick up a fashion magazine to get a sneak preview of the season's new trends, just walk down Queen Street West. Young, vibrant and bohemian, this neighbourhood is often compared to the SoHo district of New York or London. It's a hangout for many artists and musicians, with its many music stores, cafes, and clubs. A few of the older bars, such as the Cameron, the Horseshoe Tavern, Rivoli and the Bovine Sex Club, have become hot spots in the area.

Hazelton Lanes Shopping Centre (87 Avenue Rd) - a premiere shopping centre with more than 65 stores and services. Located in the heart of beautiful Yorkville, in downtown Toronto, Hazelton Lanes features premium fashion and lifestyle brands, making it a vibrant shopping destination. Mix and mingle in its Oval Square – a gathering space for the community with comfy seating and free WI-FI connectivity.

Toronto's fashion credentials are edgy and inventive however it's the vintage scene that shines through as unique. The biggest concentrations of vintage shops are in Kensington Market and Parkdale. Both are great





neighbourhoods to wander and discover your next new find. Aside from being affordable retail therapy, vintage shopping in Toronto is sure to refresh your wardrobe and buy a previously loved outfit that will make you feel like a million bucks – even if you only spent \$10. Shop like a local at these five of the city's best vintage finds.

Courage My Love, a bohemian fashionista's boutique (14 Kensington Ave) stock exotic costume jewellery, repurposed dresses to eccentric retro barware.

Thrill of the Find (1172 Queen St East) specialize in European labels like Prada, Gucci, and Chanel. It won't take long to find your thrill in this well laid out shop. >>





» Cabaret Vintage (672 Queen St West) is for the offbeat bride-to-be with a high-end selection of vintage wedding dresses to fit styles from bohemian to full-on-flapper. This decadent little boutique is also equipped to outfit the groom with a jacket, blazer, tie and cufflinks.

I Miss You Vintage (63 Ossington Ave) is one of Toronto's more upscale vintage stores and houses an elegant selection of cocktail dresses and women's clothing from the 60's and 70's.

Stella Luna (1627 Queen St West) is a tiny hole-in-the-wall boutique in a space no bigger than a walk in closet. Vintage brands like D&G, Allan Cherry and Holt Renfrew.

## Eat Toronto

Street food has arrived in Toronto in a big way. Loosely connected to the Food Truck movement but distinct in its own right, street food in Toronto has expanded beyond Indian and Pakistani eats to include a wide range of cultural influences and cuisines. Most

notable are Avo (Portuguese street eats) and Kim's a La Cart (Korean), both are part of the expanding vendor line-up at 214 Augusta. There's also Hawker Bar on Ossington, the just-opened restaurant that sells Singaporean street food and TUM vendors including ESE that cooks up LA style Mexican Food.

Keep it conventional and get your teeth stuck into these five foodie finds:

Get a taste of Toronto's very popular Japanese izakaya bar scene at Guu Sakabar (559 Bloor St West). Sit at the front zashiki room with recessed seating or at the more lively communal tables in the back. Enjoy copious pints of Sapporo, a large variety of sake and Japanese-style cocktails like chu-high vodka sodas. Balance it all out with deep-fried chicken karaage, tuna tataki, pork belly pie bibimbap and udon which are great for sharing.

On Ossington Ave you'll find dozens of late-night bars vying to get you inside but Oddseoul is one that has soul. Run by two Korean brothers who grew up in Philadelphia, the drinks range from awesome cocktails





to cheap beer while the menu offers amazing, shareable Korean and Philly-inspired dishes like spicy Korean chicken wings or acorn squash poutine.

If you're looking for one of the best late night experiences in the city, head to the unpretentious 416 Snack Bar (181 Bathurst St). Enjoy cheap drinks and way-better-than-average snacks like perogies, Yorkshire pudding or Trini doubles – snacks that totally hit the spot when you've had a few too many drinks.

Bar Isabel (797 College St) have some of the best cocktails in the city (get the 'old flame'!) and casual Mediterranean-inspired shareable food.

Although the entrance and hallway of Kensington Mall may seem a little seedy at first, once you enter Cold Tea (66 Kensington Ave) you'll see why people love it. You'll be greeted by a lovely lady selling dim sum snacks to compliment the Pabst Blue Ribbons, cheap drinks and delicious cocktails at the bar. On a nice day there's a backyard patio with two long rows of picnic tables with red, chequered covers.

Whatever you plan on doing for the day be sure to end it with a kick-in-the-pant cocktail at Melody's Bar (Gladstone Hotel, Queen St West). It's named as one of the top ten bars in the world by Condé Nast Traveller. Introduce yourself to their cocktail Diva, Sandy, and have her knock together a Full Metal Jacket for you. [AC](#)

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