



# Toronto Ruby's Guide to the City

## Local recommendations for Rails World attendees from the Toronto Ruby meetup group.

Join them for the Clio x Toronto Ruby Day 1 Party at the CRAFT beer market on Thursday Sept 26th after Rails World. Be sure to drop by Clio's booth in the sponsor garden to register.

Big thanks to **Simmon Li, André Brown, Michael Brawn, and Mike Rose** for these recommendations.

👉

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## Travel & visitor tips

### Do you have any insider tips for Toronto? Public transportation, tipping culture, safety tips, things to avoid, etc?

Toronto is a relatively **safe city**, just be sure to have your wits about you like any major city.

**Public transport** is quite limited compared to other cities of Toronto's size. You can tap your credit card for transit, so you don't need to buy any passes. Apple/Google pay works on all TTC, GO transit. Don't fuss with passes, just set up your credit card as an express transit pass and tap your credit card for transit instead.

**Tipping culture** is out of control here. Some machines start at 18% and go up to 25% (!!!). Do not feel pressured to tip more than you can afford or want to. Feel free to select OTHER and enter your tip percentage or amount. You do not have to tip for takeout, even though the machines will prompt you to tip.

Use Green P lots and app for **garage and street parking**.

### What is Toronto best known for?

Food!

Multiculturalism  
Cultural diversity of people and (subsequently) food  
The CN Tower, but it's overrated.

## Neighborhoods

**What are the best neighborhoods to visit and why?**

**King West** - upscale party district, lots of awesome restaurants and night life!  
**Kensington Market & Queen West** - Great food & cool shops  
**Toronto Islands** - great open green spaces  
**Downtown Waterfront** - nice parks, water sport options  
**Mimico** - a city away from the city. Access to the waterfront, great park (Humber Bay)  
**High Park** - nice big green space  
**Church St.** - Great vibe. Toronto's gay village and one of the party districts  
**College & Spadina** - another party district  
**St. Lawrence Market** - Great food  
**Chinatown** - Great food  
**Front Street** - Great vibe  
**The Annex** - Korean food and Christie Pits park.  
**Riverdale** - a small farm (Riverdale West) and a big park with the Toronto city skyline view (Riverdale East).  
**Leslieville** - good access to cool shops and food while being near Woodbine Beach  
**Parkdale** - Tibetan food.  
**Roncesvalles** - to be near High Park and various shops and restaurants

## Eating & Drinking

**What's one thing we absolutely need to eat or try in Toronto?**

[Kensington Market area](#) has a lot of great food options. Feeling something different? Check out [The Jerk Spot](#) for some amazing Jamaican food. [New Ho King](#) is another spot that serves great Chinese food.

[Good Behaviour Ice Cream](#) on Westmoreland or [Queen St West](#). Get the freshly made waffle cone.

[C'est What pub](#)

[Reservoir Lounge Jazz Club](#)

[Chinatown](#)

Chinese BBQ

[The Owl](#) for (almost 24hr) Korean food in Koreatown. An iconic institution.

[Pai](#) is incredible Thai food! Michelin recommended 👍

[Oxtail Pho & Bahn Mi](#) (open till 4am!) highly recommended

**We're eating fancy tonight. Where do we go?**

[Ki Modern Japanese + Bar](#) - I love Japanese food, and it's a great spot

[Kost Restaurant](#) - <https://kosttoronto.com> Great view! Decent food. Pricey though.

[Lee](#), [Sara](#), [Mimi Chinese](#) anywhere King west

[Lao Lao Bar](#) for Laotian food. Delicious food and fun drinks

**Tonight we're going a bit more casual (let's say mid-range). What's the place, and why should we go there?**

[WVRST](#) - there are a few locations and they're all good, beer hall style great for groups!

[Cherie Bistro](#) - <https://www.thecheriebistro.com> Everything here is delicious.

[7 West Cafe](#) - open 24/7, old church architecture, great ambiance -

<https://www.7westcafe.com>

[Fall Bright Tavern](#) for hearty Canadian

[C'est What pub](#) for the beef ribs

[Rol San](#) for easy Chinese food

[Banjara](#) for Indian

[Chop Chop](#), family-run restaurant opposite a cool [taproom](#) you could also visit while in the area

**Give us your best street food recs. What should we order?**

Street meet! The Italian sausage is usually a good buy, there are carts all over the city.

Food trucks by Nathan Phillips Square - Also a good photo op ([TORONTO sign](#))

[Birria Catrina](#) breakfast tacos

[Ginger](#) for dirt cheap Vietnamese

[Felfel](#), Palestinian shawarma

**If we don't eat meat or am vegan, where should we definitely go?**

[Greens Vegetarian Restaurant](#) on College

Most places in Toronto have vegan options. But here is a list of specialized vegan restaurants:

<https://veggieinthe6ix.com/vegan-restaurants-toronto/>

[Fresh](#). Get the onion rings.

[PLANTA](#) for lunch/dinner, or [Bloomer's bakery](#) for vegan sweet treats

**I'm a coffee snob. Where are you pointing me?**

[Jimmy's Coffee](#) is great, locations around the city.

Neo Coffee Bar - <https://www.neocoffeebar.com/location/bay-x-college-neo-coffee-bar/>

Neo coffee bar

## Nightlife

**I'd love a night in a bar chatting with friends. Where should I go?**

[C'est What](#) on the East end - hidden away underground, great prices and food.

[Ruby Soho](#) on the west end

Church Street (pick any pub) - this is also the LGBTQ village!

[Japas](#) - bar with Japanese tapas and darts machine

**Where are the best live music bars in Toronto?**

[The Rex](#) for jazz.

[Lula Lounge](#) - Salsa music and dance - <https://www.lula.ca>

[The Reservoir Lounge](#) - Swing and Jazz - <https://www.reservoirlounge.com>

[DROM Taberna](#) - eclectic - <https://www.dromtaberna.com>

[Reservoir Lounge](#) Jazz Club

[Drom Taberna](#)

### **If someone doesn't drink, what's a good option for a night out?**

Tagging along! A lot of places offer non-alcoholic options a plenty these days!

Go dancing (includes classes and then social dancing):

<https://torontodancefridays.com/events/>

Board game cafe: <https://www.snakesandlattes.com>

[Lob](#), [FreePlay arcade bar](#) for the retro games

[Freeplay Toronto](#) for video games. They sell alcohol but you don't have to drink

### **Where can you personally be found on a night out? (No, your home doesn't count this time.)**

Dancing! <https://torontodancefridays.com/events/>

Church St Village for queer nightlife

Strolling around the different neighborhoods, getting bites to eat and/or meeting cats. Toronto doesn't have many typical landmarks but it has lots of distinct neighbourhoods that are great to explore.

### **If I have a full free day in Toronto, what would you recommend I do? (museums, hikes, boat tours, anything at all!)**

Royal Ontario Museum, Gardiner Museum, Toronto Island - if you're going to the island, take a water taxi, the ferry can be a wait if you're in a hurry!

Royal Ontario Museum - <https://www.rom.on.ca/en>

Art Gallery of Ontario - <https://ago.ca>

Bicycle Tour - <https://torontobicycletours.com> OR <https://www.pedaltoronto.com>

Watersports at Toronto Islands - <https://paddletoronto.com>

Kensington Market - <https://kensingtonmarket.to>

Ripley's aquarium, Art gallery of Ontario, any AirB&B food tour, Weekend GO train + uber to dNiagara Falls

Visit the Toronto Islands, 10-minute ferry ride and then you can spend anywhere from an hour to a full day there

## **Anything else to add?**

Join the ["ruby on rails link" slack](#) #toronto

Stroll along the waterfront it's great

Come to the Clio x Toronto Ruby party on Thursday!

**Coworking spaces** (with hotdesk 50-60 per day):

- WeWork: 357 Bay St., Toronto, ON M5H 4A6
- Workhaus: 56 Temperance St 7th Floor, Toronto, ON M5H 3V5