

48h TORONTO

The Entertainment District in Toronto is a wealth of possibilities, even if your getaway is short and swift.



Toronto's Entertainment District is prime hunting grounds for weekend warriors — those of the urban variety that is. To take full advantage, bring an empty stomach, credit cards and your A time-management game ... the full spectrum of culinary, shopping and cultural opportunities can overwhelm even the most organized.



3:00PM FRIDAY

CHECK IN & QUICK SNACK AT THE HOTEL BAR

The complimentary champagne at check in only reminds you of the meal you missed on the road. *Luckee* for you, today's hip boutique hotels are defined by their fabulous on-premise bars, and the SoHo Metropolitan is no exception. A basket of *siu mai* should render the weary rejuvenated.



4:30PM FRIDAY

WORKOUT & YOGA

For a weekend getaway, auditing that much-blogged-about yoga lesson may seem over eager, yet smart granted your upcoming gastronomical journey. Call ahead to speak with Dalton Brown — Toronto's fitness guru to the stars. He'll set you up with the right routines.



7:00PM FRIDAY

VINTAGE FLICK AT THE BELL LIGHTBOX

Those in the know prize the TIFF headquarters not as much for its star power during the annual September festival, but more for the exhibitions and insightful curation of iconic cinematic gems year round. What better way to spark conversation for the balance of the weekend?



9:30PM FRIDAY

LAST SEATING AT LUCKEE RESTAURANT

The day has been long, so why venture far when the best Peking Duck this side of the Pacific is just an elevator ride away? And since (a) foodies don't live on food alone, and (b) none of you are tonight's designated driver, live a little and give that dreamy bartender due latitude to prove his mixology mettle.

8:00AM SATURDAY

BREAKFAST IN BED

It'll take major incentives to pull you away from the goose-down duvet and Italian linens, but smartly you have checked off the door knob menu overnight, so an extra-hot latte and eggs benny arrive promptly at the top of the hour.

Art

The ROM is a leading museum of natural history and world cultures. If art is more your inclination, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery won't disappoint. There are countless art dealers along Yorkville and Queen Street. The SoHo Metropolitan Hotel even boasts its own collection, which includes the first public Dale Chihuly installation in Toronto, as well as a limited-edition artist print of the iconic Steve Jobs portrait by Albert Watson.





11:00AM SATURDAY

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM / BLOOR STREET SHOPPING

Your determination for a leisurely stroll to the ROM gave way when the concierge offers the complimentary hotel limousine. Your rationale: the ride affords the perfect opportunity to hear his insider's recommendations on all things Toronto. Good thing you arrive early for that must-see exhibit - you will appreciate the head start to cover all the designer boutiques on Bloor later.

Anchored by Holt Renfrew and refreshed with new flagship stores by high-fashion names such as Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Tiffany, Hermes and more, Bloor reigns as the golden mile of Canada.

12:00PM SATURDAY

LUNCH AT PLANTA

Chef David Lee's new vegetarian tour-de-force serves up his innovative cuisine in an elegant environment without the use of animal products. You order the coconut ceviche, but can't help dipping your fork in the macaroni 'bolognese' and truffle fries. Who knew ethical dining is so delicious?

3:30PM SATURDAY

MINI REUNION AT WAHLBURGERS

It's been said that friendship is best rekindled over beer, so when the sisterhood learns of your trip through social media, shopping must be interrupted for an impromptu get together. While once again friends fail to settle on whether Mark or Donnie is the cutest, it is resolved that Paul's tater-tots - extra salt but no ketchup - go best with a cold draft IPA.



Shop

While Bloor is the mecca of haute couture brands, other options abound in Toronto. The Eaton Centre is now home to mega U.S. retailers Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue, as well as new Japanese entry Uniqlo and perennial favourites Apple and Victoria's Secret. On Queen Street West, you get to create your own shade at Bite Beauty Lip Lab or give your bedroom that much-mulled-over make over with trinkets from CB2 ... *your call.*



6:00PM SATURDAY

GET READY FOR DINNER

Your preference is a 20-minute soak in the tub followed by full-on blow-out before an epic night out. The “low-maintenance” crew instead opts for a head start with cocktails at the hotel bar. A record is broken when you show up in time for a Kir Royale.

8:00PM SATURDAY

FRING'S

Susur Lee's collaboration with Drake – it's a dinner club not a mix-tape – is just a five-minute walk away, but since Louboutin heels and Toronto pavements aren't the best of buddies, the hotel limo was again quick to the rescue. The servers were tight-lipped about Champagne Papi's whereabouts or how the name Fring's came to be, but in between the marinated octopus and Mom's Meat Balls, you spot Susur and manage to snag him and his sons for a selfie.

11:00PM SATURDAY

CANDYLAND

Buoyed by a fourth visit from Fring's Sangria cart, you are ready for the risqué just in time for Candyland's first stage performance. An off-beat addition to the 6's nightlife, the burlesque venue features bottle service and obscure but inspired acts.



2:00AM SUNDAY

SWEET DREAMS

On the way back you text room service for some Chamomile and two bottles of Evian – indispensable prophylactics for that inevitable hangover after the big night. It'll take time to dissipate the excitement and energy, but soon you take refuge in the soft comfort of the hotel bed.



BOOK

As with any expedition, call ahead to book and avoid disappointments:

SOHO METROPOLITAN HOTEL soho.metropolitan.com 1-866-764-6658

LUCKEE RESTAURANT & BAR luckeerestaurant.com 1-416-935-0400

WAHLBURGERS wahlburgers.ca 1.416.489.8922

PLANTA plantatoronto.com 1.647.348.7000

FRING'S fringsrestaurant.com 1.416.979.9696

CANDYLAND thecandyland.ca

(Candyland is closed and will reopen as a new venue Spring 2017)

11:00AM SUNDAY



DIM SUM AT LUCKEE

No one's ever faulted for a late Sunday start, but eventually you give in to the craving for dumplings and spring rolls and soon you congregate at Luckee once more. Your collective appetites are still no match for all the classics and new additions — rainbow gow, siu mai with quail egg, lobster xia long bao — so a mental calculation is requisite to allocate space in the car for doggy bags.

3:00PM SUNDAY

LATE CHECKOUT

Alas, the weekend is over, but the next trip won't be far off. You remember to thank the concierge; his good graces and access to tickets may come in handy the next time Adele hits the ACC.

