

Wondrous  
Experiences  
Start Here

2 Night Package  
Starting at \$129.99 per night  
**SAVE OVER \$54**



Celebrating 30 Years  
The Greatest Contest is here...

**CAPTION** **CAPTAIN COURTYARD**

Tell us how he turns an ordinary vacation into a wonder-cation



[www.nfcourtyardbymarriott.com](http://www.nfcourtyardbymarriott.com)

Share your  
best Caption & Win.  
Don't forget to share. The more  
you share, the more chances  
you have to win a  
WONDER-CATION.



How do you Turn a Vacation  
into a Wonder-cation?

**Just add water**  
(about 150,000 gallons per second)

... and the Niagara Falls Courtyard by Marriott

  
**COURTYARD**  
Marriott

[www.nfcourtyard.com/specialoffer](http://www.nfcourtyard.com/specialoffer)

5950 Victoria Avenue • Niagara Falls (Ontario) L2G 3L7 • 1-800-771-1123  
[www.nfcourtyard.com/recharge](http://www.nfcourtyard.com/recharge)





Discover why Niagara Falls  
is one of the most wondrous  
cities in the world!

## Table of Contents

Some Wonderful Niagara Falls Words of Wisdom	1 - 3
A Refreshing Experience with Every Stay	4 - 5
Top 5 Wonderstruck Experiences in Niagara	6 - 17
Through the Eyes of the Locals	18 - 19
Wonder-cation Contest	Back Cover



## Some Wonderful Niagara Falls Words of Wisdom

**The natural wonder** of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls is one of the most famous waterfalls. With heights of 176 feet, and a colossal 150,000 gallons of water crashing down per second (picture about one million bathtubs filled with water every minute), it is no wonder Niagara Falls is so wondrous.

Niagara Falls is approximately 12,000 years old (and so the history books tell us).

The Falls were created when melting glaciers formed massive fresh-water lakes, called the Great Lakes. One of the lakes, Lake Erie ran downhill

toward another, Lake Ontario. The rushing waters carved out a river in their descent and at one point passed over a steep cliff like formation, the Niagara escarpment. From the original Falls going over the Niagara Escarpment, the water began to wear its way back up the river. The path that it left is known today as the Niagara Gorge, a deeply-cut and very scenic river path.

There are three different Falls that make up Niagara Falls: The American Falls, The Bridal Veil Falls and The Canadian Horseshoe Falls.





## Honeymoon Capital of the World

The Bridal Veil Falls is named in honour of our visits from honeymooners. Since 1949, just under 1 Million "Honeymoon Certificates" were signed by the Mayor, which proves that guests spent their official "honeymoon" here.

According to Trip Advisor, Niagara Falls is one of the Top Destinations in Canada.



### War of 1812 Bicentennial

Bicentennial Celebrations of the War of 1812 began across Niagara in June 2012 and will continue until February 2015. The three year celebration marks 200 years of peace between Canada and the U.S. The War of 1812 played a pivotal role in the shaping of our nation,

and the impact on the residents of Niagara was tremendous. For three years, the residents of Niagara Falls lived on the front lines of this global conflict, with two major battles (Chippawa and Lundy's Lane) taking place within the boundaries of the present City of Niagara Falls. [www.discover1812.com](http://www.discover1812.com)

### Cultural Capital of Canada

Niagara's ongoing commitment to its strong cultural integration within the Region has helped earn its designation as the Cultural Capital of Canada for 2012. Local events included the opening of the Niagara Falls History Museum; A Walk Through History Cemeteries Tours; The Carmel Fine Art and Music Festival; and Niagara Falls Night of Art: Creative Currents. [www.niagaraculture2012.ca](http://www.niagaraculture2012.ca)

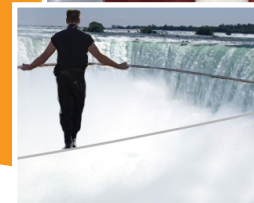
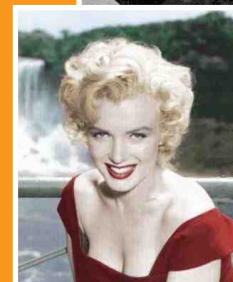
Niagara Falls was one of the #1 Canadian Destinations on Google Maps. Niagara Falls was searched more on Google Maps than any other destination in Canada last summer.

## ELECTRICITY

Niagara Falls serves as a major source of electricity for Ontario. Hydro Electricity generated in Niagara Falls at the Sir Adam Beck 1 and Sir Adam Beck 2 power stations from redirected waterflow serves the electrical needs of Southern Ontario and Western New York.

## FAMOUS

Niagara Falls is famous on the Big Screen. Well known for its leading roles in "Niagara," featuring Marilyn Monroe in 1953 and "Superman II," featuring Christopher Reeve and Margot Kidder. Niagara Falls receives a best supporting role in "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" in the scene that shows the ship going over a waterfall. James Cameron, Canadian Film Director and Producer, and winner of three Academy Awards for Titanic, grew up in Chippawa, Ontario (just minutes from Niagara Falls).



## DAREDEVILS

Famous Address for Thrill Seekers, Attention-Seekers or as we like to call them Daredevils. Annie Taylor, "Queen of the Mist" was the 63 year old school teacher, who was looking for fame and fortune when she went over the Falls in a barrel along with her cat on October 24th, 1901. Jean Francois Gravelet, or "The Great Blondin" was the first of many tightrope walkers to cross the gorge of the Niagara River on a tightrope and live to tell his story.

### Sought out by the Stars

Niagara Falls has been on the radar of many celebrities and politicians around the world for centuries: King Henry VI, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Shirley Temple, Princess Margaret, Princess Diana with Prince William and Prince Harry, Christopher Reeve...the list is endless.

### 2012 was a Big Year for Famous Niagara Events

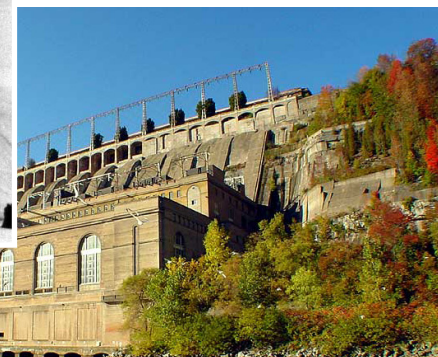
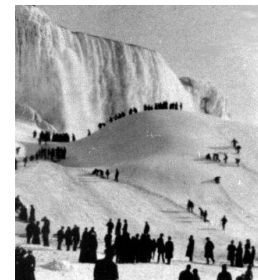
First there was the Wallenda Walk on June 15th, where Nik Wallenda courageously walked across Niagara Falls on a 550 metre wire in 25 minutes. The TV viewership was estimated in the millions.

Next was the Red Bull Crashed Ice Global Tour, which kicked off for the first time in Niagara Falls on December 1st. This event

called for extreme winter sports enthusiasts to race down a 460 metre icy track, four at a time, reaching speeds of 60 km/hr on ice skates. Yes you heard us correctly. Ice Skates.

### Flow of Water Stops for a Day

The flow of water was stopped completely over both Falls on March 29th, 1848 due to an ice jam in the upper river for several hours. This is the only known time this has occurred. The Falls did not actually freeze over, but the flow was stopped to the point where people actually walked out and recovered artifacts from the riverbed.







## A Refreshing Experience with Every Stay at the Niagara Falls Courtyard by Marriott

Welcome to the newly renovated Niagara Falls Courtyard by Marriott. We are just minutes from the majestic Niagara Falls and in the heart of the entertainment district. Every stay will be a new adventure. There is so much to do, and out of all the Niagara Falls hotels, the Courtyard by Marriott is in the “centre of it all.”

### Simply Refreshing

Discover a refreshing travel experience with every stay at the newly renovated Niagara Falls Courtyard by Marriott. Our reinvented lobby space was thoughtfully designed to provide the optimum balance between work, relaxation and comfort. Featuring flexible seating options from our contemporary, semi-enclosed lounge area with complimentary WiFi access, to more private media booths with high definition televisions.

Our refreshing enhancements continue as you check-in. Our individual welcome pedestals are designed for a more personal check-in experience, an interactive, touch panel GoBoard will help plan your stay and our 24 hour Business Centre and Market will assist with your around the clock travel needs. Above the Falls Tours, our on-site tour company will be your Niagara Falls guide showing you the magnificent sites and sounds with a fully narrated tour. We’ve thought of every detail to make your stay as relaxing and enjoyable as it should be.

### Relax & Recharge

At the Courtyard, our spacious guest rooms are designed for both comfort and functionality. With a contemporary new design, large well-lit work desks with ergonomic chairs, LCD flat screen televisions, complimentary WiFi and plenty of space to spread out, it’s easy to get things accomplished on your own terms.



### Dine, Morning, Noon & Night

Early Riser? Join us at the break of dawn for our hot and cold breakfast buffet, featuring your morning favourites. Steak and Seafood Lover? Look no further than our newly renovated Keg Steakhouse & Bar, which is located in the lobby of our hotel. Comfort Food Cravings? Join us right next door at T.G.I. Friday’s. You’ll come for the food, but stay for the fun.

### Small Meetings, Big Experiences

Small meetings deserve a big focus. With over 1200 square feet of newly renovated meeting space, customized meeting packages, and our professional meeting planners, your next meeting or event is sure to be a rewarding experience. When it comes to planning small meetings, consider the hotel that focuses on big experiences.

### A New Discovery with every Stay

A refreshing experience is just around the corner at the Courtyard, because of our central location. We are just minutes from the world famous Niagara Falls, the Fallsview Casino, Casino Niagara, Clifton Hill, The Scotiabank Convention Centre, Gale Centre and just a short drive to Niagara-on-the-Lake’s picturesque Wine Country and some of the most memorable Niagara golf course experiences. It’s a New Stay every time you visit the Niagara Falls Courtyard by Marriott.







# Top 5 Wonderstruck Experiences in Niagara

Niagara Falls is a place of wonder. It's much more than a day-cation or stay-cation destination. Niagara Falls has evolved into a four-season, week long wonder-cation destination filled with rich history, culture, agriculture, entertainment and adventure.

We want your time here to be the most enjoyable it can be, so be prepared to get wonderstruck as we share the Top Five Most Refreshing Spring Experiences in Niagara.

## #1 Niagara's Wine Country

Wow your taste buds in Niagara's Wine Country. The Niagara Peninsula is one of Ontario's most acclaimed grape growing and winemaking districts. There are ten distinct growing areas that stretch along the rolling hills and back roads of Twenty Valley, through

St. Catharines, to the shelter of the Escarpment in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The most difficult part will be choosing which of the 70 wineries to visit. For the full list, visit [www.niagarawineryguide.com](http://www.niagarawineryguide.com). Here's our suggestion, visit them all. After all, research has proven that red wine (in particular) is full of antioxidants which may be beneficial to your health.



## FUN FACT #1

Moderate consumption of red wine is shown to reduce risk of heart disease, stroke and may even reduce the likelihood of developing diabetes.





# Top 5 Wonderstruck Experiences in Niagara continued...

## #2 The Great Outdoors

Niagara Nature. Golfing, Biking, Hiking. Niagara is well-known for our natural wonder, Niagara Falls, but many people are unaware of our other natural beauty, the great outdoors, compliments of Mother Nature.

**Golf** - Niagara has joined the ranks of the world's premier golf destinations in terms of challenge, design aesthetics,

course conditioning, facilities and service. The Top Five Recommended Courses: Grand Niagara, Hunters Pointe, Legends on the Niagara, Whirlpool and Peninsula Lakes.

### Walk, Hike or Bike

Walking has been identified as one of the favourite physical activities of Canadians. The Niagara Region has many recreational trails that are perfect for walking, hiking or biking. The next time you are in town, be sure to pack your hiking shoes, sunscreen, plenty of H2O and we'll provide the incredible scenery. Here are our top two "must-tackle" trails.



### The Niagara Escarpment

(a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve) is the top of the list for hikers. It's a world unto itself, encompassing farms, recreation areas, sweeping

scenic views, 1675 foot cliffs, streams, wetlands, rolling hills, waterfalls, wildlife and so much history. The Niagara Escarpment's hiking trail is most commonly known as the Bruce Trail, which starts at Queenston Heights and takes a diagonal path 773 km through Southern Ontario to the tip, Tobermory on the Bruce Trail.

### The Niagara River Recreation Trail

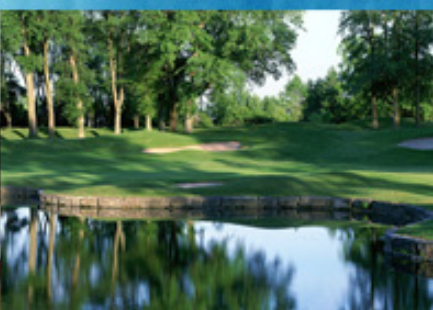
This 56 km scenic paved trail runs parallel to the Niagara River from historic Fort Erie in the South to Fort George in the North. At the halfway point, you can't miss the natural wonder, Niagara Falls.

Looking for bike rentals? Visit Mac's Bike Rentals, which is conveniently located just outside the hotel grounds. Explore Niagara at your own pace or ask about their self-guided tours. [www.macsbikesniagara.com](http://www.macsbikesniagara.com)

## FUN FACT #2

Bruce Trail Day is an annual event celebrating Canada's oldest and longest footpath, hosted by the Bruce Trail Conservancy and each of its nine Bruce Trail Clubs. 2013 Bruce Trail Day planning is underway and locations have not yet been confirmed. Stay tuned for updates at [www.bruce trail.org](http://www.bruce trail.org)









# Top 5 Wonderstruck Experiences in Niagara continued...

## #3 Family Fun Entertainment

Niagara Falls has become one of the most popular destinations for family fun. It is a city full of entertaining and fun experiences, “funertainment” as we like to call it. From man-made attractions to Mother Nature inspired creations, you’ll never hear the words “I’m Bored” in this city.

### Man-Made Attractions

Clifton Hill is definitely a contrast to the majestic natural wonder, but it receives 10 out of 10 scores from children of all ages on the fun factor. It is definitely the “Street of Fun.”

From the fun houses to the haunted houses to the Niagara SkyWheel, this street will have your children entertained for hours.

[www.cliftonhill.com/attractions](http://www.cliftonhill.com/attractions)

### Mother Nature Inspired

Niagara Falls is also home to some more educational attractions that are both parent and kid-friendly.



### The Bird Kingdom

is truly a tropical adventure. They are the world’s largest free-flying indoor aviary, featuring 400 birds flying free in 50,000 square feet of tropical rainforest, a 40 foot

waterfall, tropical plants, exotic reptiles and so much more.

**The Butterfly Conservatory** is located on the grounds of the Botanical Gardens. This magical attraction features more than 2000 colourful, tropical butterflies floating freely in a rainforest setting. During your visit, you may even get to experience the very first flight of a butterfly through the Emergence window.

**The Maid of the Mist** is an attraction that is a combination of Man-Made and Mother Nature inspired. It is the second most popular attraction, right behind the majestic natural wonder. This half hour journey will be the thrill of a lifetime. The Maid departs from the Canadian docks, passing the base of the American Falls, taking you into the basin of the magnificent Canadian Horseshoe Falls. Be prepared to ‘soak’ in the excitement and explore the roar of the Falls.

## FUN FACT #3

Clifton Hill owes its name to Captain Ogden Creighton, a half-pay officer in the British army who had served with the 70th and 81st Regiments in various parts of the world. He had plans for a town site with custom homes which he named Clifton, presumably after Clifton on the gorge of the River Avon in Bristol, England.





# Top 5 Wonderstruck Experiences in Niagara continued...

## #4 Hit the Jackpot With Some Around the Clock Fun

This city could also very easily be called the “City that Never Sleeps.” This mini Las Vegas has become a popular “hot spot” for the adventure-seekers. From the Fallsview Casino to Casino Niagara, Niagara Falls has become well-known for its casinos.

### The Fallsview Casino

The largest and most elegant gaming resort in Canada. Experience over 3000 slot machines, 130 gaming tables, a poker room, dozens of boutiques and the Avalon Theatre, where you'll see some of the biggest headliners in show biz.



### Here are some of the upcoming headliners:

Christmas on Ice – Nov 22nd – Dec 8th  
Jersey Nights – Jan 3rd – 13th  
38 Special – Jan 18th  
Al Jackson – Jan 21 – 22nd

**Casino Niagara** has been providing non-stop entertainment for over 16 years. Located at the bottom of Clifton Hill, right across from the American Falls, this gaming house features 1,500 slot machines, 40 gaming tables, including the largest poker table in Ontario, weekly comedians at Yuk Yuk's and free live music on weekends.

## FUN FACT #4

Many casinos do not have clocks or windows, as it increases the sense of freedom.





# Top 5 Wonderstruck Experiences in Niagara continued...

## Niagara Festivals and Events

In Niagara, we have plenty of reasons to celebrate. With 12 distinct communities to choose from, there is always a festival or event happening every weekend. From the celebration of local culinary cuisine and wine to outdoor entertainment and events, Niagara is definitely a place full of wonderful experiences. Here are a few of our favourite hang-outs

### Fort Erie

Ridgeway Spirit of Christmas  
Dec 6 - 7

Flames over Niagara  
Dec 7th  
[www.weareforterie.com](http://www.weareforterie.com)

### Grimsby

Grimsby Christmas Farmers' Market  
Every Thursday until Dec. 7th  
[www.grimsbyfarmersmarket.ca](http://www.grimsbyfarmersmarket.ca)

### Lincoln

Wrapped up in the Valley  
November 23rd/24th  
[www.20valley.ca](http://www.20valley.ca)

20 Valley Winter Winefest  
Jan. 11th and 12th  
[www.20valley.ca](http://www.20valley.ca)

Handmade Market - Fielding Estates Wines  
Nov. 22nd - 24th  
[www.handmademarket.ca](http://www.handmademarket.ca)

### Niagara Falls

Winter Festival of Lights  
Until Jan. 31st  
[www.wfol.com](http://www.wfol.com)

TD Rink at the Brink  
Dec 1st - Feb 1st  
[www.wfol.com](http://www.wfol.com)

Floral Showcase Annual Christmas Display  
Until Jan. 15th  
<http://www.niagaraparks.com/niagara-falls-events/calendar.html>

Blue Christmas - Butterfly Conservatory  
Nov. 30th - Dec. 19th  
[www.niagaraparksheritage.com](http://www.niagaraparksheritage.com)

Christmas Tree Decoration Party  
Heartland Forest - Dec. 1st  
[www.heartlandforest.org](http://www.heartlandforest.org)

Christmas by the Falls  
Dec. 7th and 8th  
<http://www.fallsconventions.com/attendee-events-calendar.html>

Big Band Christmas with Ross Wooldridge  
Dec. 14th  
<http://www.fallsconventions.com/attendee-events-calendar.html>

Montreal Guitar Trio  
Nov. 30th  
<http://www.fallsconventions.com/attendee-events-calendar.html>

### Niagara-on-the-Lake

Taste the Season  
Weekends in Nov  
[www.wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/events](http://www.wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/events)

The Art of Holiday Entertaining  
Saturdays and Sundays in December  
[www.peller.com](http://www.peller.com)

Niagara Ice Wine Festival  
Jan. 10th - 26th  
<http://www.niagarawinefestival.com>

### Pelham

Outdoor Christmas Market  
Dec 6th  
<http://www.pelham.ca/Residents/CommunityEvents/ChristmasInPelham/tabid/751/Default.aspx>

### Port Colborne

Poor Angus  
Nov. 29th

Toronto All Star Big Band  
Dec. 1st

Twilight Jazz Ensemble featuring Juliet Dunn & Peter Shea  
Dec. 15th  
[http://portcolborne.ca/page/upcoming\\_events](http://portcolborne.ca/page/upcoming_events)

### St. Catharines

Ridley Christmas Market  
Dec. 6th - 2-7pm  
2 Ridley Road

Santa's Shop Downtown/Candlelight Walk/Movie Night  
Dec. 6th - 21st  
<http://mydowntown.ca/calendar/events/view/santas-shop-downtown-4th-annual-candlelight-walk-who-gives-a-fork-movie-night-at-market-square>

### Thorold

Shop to Win Event  
November 25th  
<http://www.whatsonthorold.com/event/shop-win-downtown-thorold/7407>

### Wainfleet

Christmas in the Village  
Nov. 24th  
<http://www.marshvilleheritagefestival.com>

### Welland

Horsedrawn Sleigh Ride  
[www.warneranchandpumpkinfarm.com](http://www.warneranchandpumpkinfarm.com)

### West Lincoln

Holiday Wine Release  
Nov. 30th  
[www.thirtybench.com](http://www.thirtybench.com)

## FUN FACT #5

New Year's Eve is one of the most exciting events in Niagara Falls. It's one of the largest FREE events in Canada. Hosted by ET Canada and filled with performances from a variety of talented musicians, fireworks and the beautiful natural wonder as your backdrop.





## Live Like the Locals for a Day.

We want to invite you to walk in the shoes of a Niagarian for a day. Dine where we dine. Shop where we shop and discover why it is that we love this place we call home. Dorothy was right when she tapped her ruby reds, "There's no place like home."

Here are some of Niagara's best kept secrets:

### Dine

Niagara is stacked with delicious flavours.

### Steak and Seafood

For the best steaks and seafood in town, take 10 steps to our very own Keg Steakhouse & Bar, located in our hotel lobby. Take an intimate atmosphere and pair it with some of the most mouth-watering, grilled to your liking steak and succulent seafood and our local Niagara wines... Delicious. Did we mention our limited time, sweet Dungeness Crab menu is on only until June 2nd? May we tempt your taste buds with our Sirloin and Dungeness Crab or Crab and Shrimp Sirloin? Yes, that's right, only 10 steps away.

### Casual Comfort Food Classics

If you are craving casual comfort food classics, then get ready for a journey full of flavour at T.G.I. Friday's: Buffalo Wings, Chicken Quesadillas, Jack Daniel's Burgers, Sizzling Chicken and Cheese, Cajun Chicken and Shrimp Pasta, Baby Back Ribs and so much more. In Here It's Always Friday and Always Fun for Families and Friends.

### Pizza

Antica Pizzeria is famous amongst the locals for

the best wood fired napoletana in Niagara Falls. With over 20 different kinds, the hardest part will be deciding which one to try.

### Mexican Inspired Food

Take a short drive outside of the tourist area for the best Mexican in Niagara, Frijoles Fresh Mex. The ingredients are so simple, yet so fresh. From their custom made Burritos, to their American or Baja Style Tacos, this hot spot is one you'll be writing home about.

### Asian Influenced Cuisine

Suisha Gardens, nestled just behind the heart of the entertainment district, features a sushi bar, noodle bar and 11 teppan yaki tables. Start practicing your chopstick skills and pack along your appetite for some of the most flavourful Spicy Tuna & Dynamite Rolls, Tempura Udon Soup, Hibachi Steak and Teppan Scallops.

### Great Flavour from the Greek Gods

Opa! Koutouki is one of those 'word of mouth' restaurants that you have to experience. Their neighbour-like friendly service, generous portions and tasty food (Spanakotiropita, Elliniki, Kalamaria, Saganaki), will have you craving these flavours from the Greek Gods of Niagara.

### Decadent Desserts

Designer Delights provides delightful cupcake creations to make your sweet tooth happy. From their classic vanilla cupcake with vanilla buttercream to their more decadent salted

caramel or red velvet delights, will have you dreaming of these sweet sensations until your next visit.

### Healthy Treats

CC Swirls has the attention of our taste buds. Their concept is simple, but so delicious and fun. Let your imagination wander. Just pick your favourite healthy yogurt flavours, add your swirliest toppings, weigh your cravings and enjoy!

### Retail Therapy

Canada One Factory Outlets. It's about a 30 minute walk from our hotel, or a short WEGO Shuttle ride. With over 40 brand name stores to choose from, you'll have lots of fun finding some great fashion and home accessories for less. You can check out the latest deals here: [www.canadaoneoutlets.com/deal.php](http://www.canadaoneoutlets.com/deal.php)

### Hidden Treasures

Niagara-on-the-Lake, often called the loveliest town in Ontario, has a long and distinguished history. We as locals love to explore the historical sites, delightful retail establishments, quaint cafés and farmer markets. Allow plenty of time to browse in the shops of the Heritage District, because it's a shopping experience full of hidden treasures.

Jordan Village is also a quaint town brimming with things to do and see. Here you'll experience culinary delights, award-winning wineries, unique shopping, as well as hiking and biking paths.

Virgil is another hidden gem in Niagara, filled with antique shops, boutiques, several fine dining establishments and wineries.

### Family Focused Fun

We as locals like to play tourist for a day or two throughout the year and love to visit the Butterfly Conservatory, Clifton Hill, Bird Kingdom and many of the attractions mentioned under family fun entertainment. Niagara is definitely a place full of family focused fun. Another great place to take the family for the day is Safari Niagara. This 100-acre, privately owned and operated nature park, is home to more than 500 animals, reptiles, and birds. Heartland Forest is not only a partner, but is truly a unique nature attraction local families love to visit. It's where fun meets education.

### Adventure

Many of the top wonderstruck experiences are also some of the locals' favourite spots to frequent. From hitting the greens to sipping wine in Wine Country and all of the weekly festivals and events, we truly love this place we call home.

### Nightlife

It just happens that some of the best Nightlife in Niagara is just footsteps away from the hotel. Niagara's Bar District is the ultimate nightclub experience consisting of Jack's Cantina, the Spicy Olive Bar and Grille, Yank's Old Niagara Bar & Grill and Blush Ultra Lounge. It's also known as the Centre Street Shuffle, as you can literally shuffle from bar to bar.