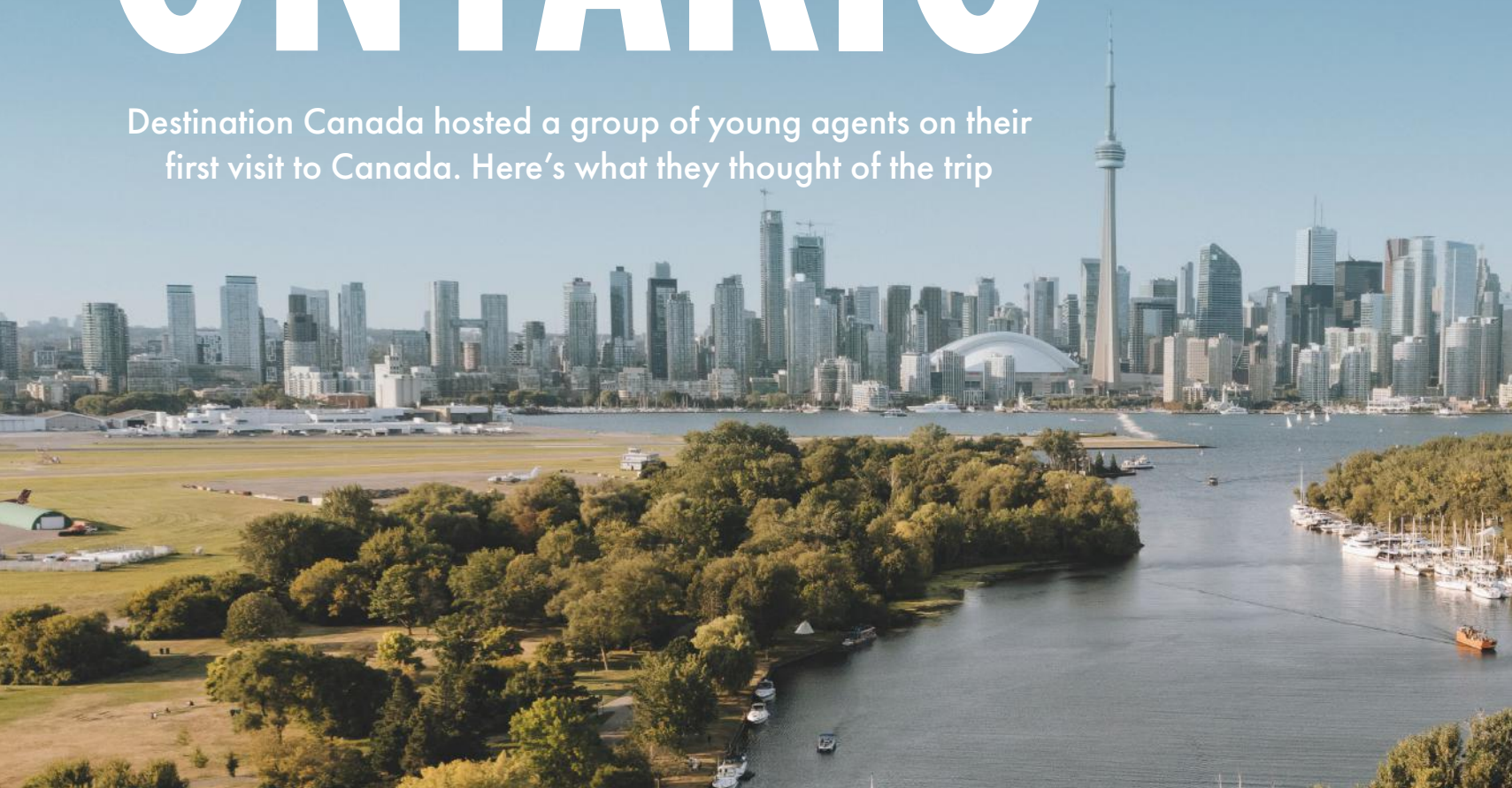


FIRST-TIME FAM TO CANADA: ONTARIO

Destination Canada hosted a group of young agents on their first visit to Canada. Here's what they thought of the trip



Is Canada one of the few places in the world where the reality is actually better than Instagram? That's what a group of 17 agents set out to discover on a Destination Canada fam trip in October, aimed at those who had never visited the country. Travel Weekly joined the group to find out what agents thought before and after the trip. Here are some of their highlights.

NIAGARA FALLS

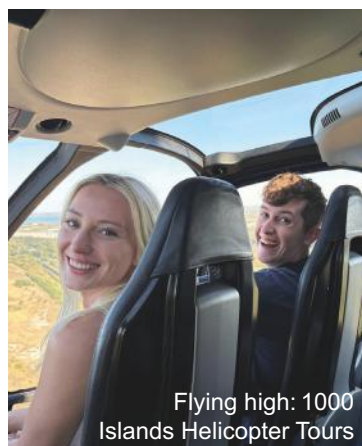
- Explored Niagara Falls three ways: with Niagara City Cruises, with WildPlay ziplines and on a scenic flight with Niagara Helicopters.
- Gained fresh perspectives of the falls at Niagara Power Station through its new underground tunnel experience and observation deck, followed by an immersive 3D journey at Niagara Takes Flight.
- Enjoyed behind-the-scenes

access to Niagara Illumination Tower, creating their own colour combinations to project on the falls.

- Discovered the charming streets, cafes and restaurants of Niagara-on-the-Lake, home to almost 40 of Canada's oldest wineries.

TORONTO

- Enjoyed a city tour of Toronto, strolling around its lively Distillery Historic District, which is filled with street art, cafes and music venues.
- At Ontario's number-one attraction, Little Canada, seven regions are rendered in miniature. Agents loved the museum so much they never left, leaving tiny 3D-printed figurines of themselves to be placed in Little Canada as a lasting memento of the trip.
- Soaked in city views from 351m



- above the ground in the revolving restaurant at the CN Tower.
- Hopped aboard a Via Rail train from Toronto to Kingston, enjoying access to a private lounge and views over the Canadian countryside from the train's comfortable business-class carriage.

KINGSTON

- Jumped aboard the historic Kingston Trolley tram to soak up local maritime history at the Great Lakes Museum and SS Keewatin.
- Watched military demonstrations and experienced living history at Fort Henry, Ontario's first Unesco World Heritage Site.
- Learnt about the rich past of Kingston Penitentiary and tales of notorious escapes by its inmates.
- Had Kingston's eerie past and ghostly tales brought to life on a haunted walking tour.
- Discovered the 1000 Islands region with Rockport Cruises, then saw them from above on a flight with 1000 Islands Helicopter Tours.
- Continued their Canadian adventure, departing Kingston with Via Rail bound for the country's capital, Ottawa.



Heathrow: the group prepare to board their Air Canada flight



AGENTS' VIEWS: BEFORE AND AFTER



Lily Jones,
Travel By
Hannah

PRE-TRIP:

"I've sold Canada a lot and clients

always return raving about the scenery and people, so I had high expectations. I heard whispers of farm-to-table dining, fresh Atlantic seafood and wine, which I was keen to investigate."

POST-TRIP: "Niagara Falls was my favourite experience. In Toronto, I loved how lively and multicultural it felt. Every corner had a different vibe, and the food was amazing. I was impressed at how different each city felt from the next, even though we didn't travel huge distances. I'd tell clients to pack comfy shoes and leave a bit of flexibility in their plans – there are so many little surprises and side trips worth squeezing in!"



Mya Fairweather,
Oyster Travel

PRE-TRIP:

"Due to Canada's size and each

province's differences, there's a lot I didn't know about the destination. I felt Canada was a country for everybody, with its diverse landscapes, contemporary cities, wildlife, culture and adventure."

POST-TRIP: "Being able to see Niagara Falls by cruise, zipline, helicopter and the behind-the-scenes illumination tour was incredible. It was an exciting way to get ideas for city breaks. Another standout moment for me was the helicopter tour over 1000 Islands; ticking off one of the Great Lakes of Canada was a special moment. I was right about how inclusive the country is – it truly does offer something for everyone."



Adele Croft,
Colchester
Travel

PRE-TRIP:

"I was looking forward to visiting

Niagara Falls. I've mainly booked escorted tours to the Rockies for older couples, so I assumed Canada as a destination was best suited to older clientele."

POST-TRIP: "My favourite area in Toronto was the Distillery District. It was trendy and great for experiencing live music with small, independently owned bars, shops and restaurants. I was surprised how friendly the Canadian people were and how reasonably priced it was. I'll be encouraging clients to enhance their itinerary by booking helicopter trips, food tours and using the Via Rail service as an alternative to internal flights."

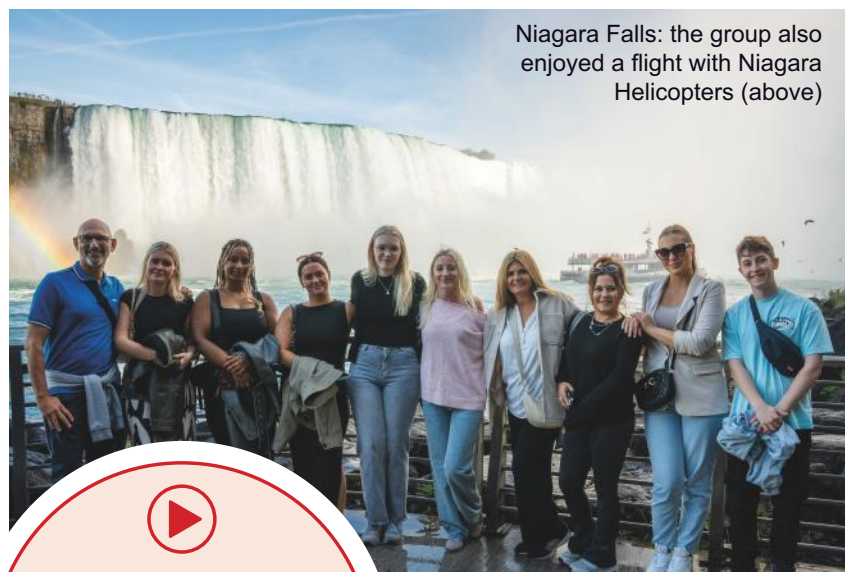


Christopher Sheldon,
Triangle Travel

PRE-TRIP: "I've sold popular options such as

Rocky Mountaineer and self-drive holidays to Canada, but sometimes I'm unsure what there is in the cities. I'm really looking forward to the scenery and excited to try poutine for the first time."

POST-TRIP: "I absolutely loved Little Canada, looking at all the little figurines and the detail in each region was outstanding. Two tips from me are: reserve the dining experience at CN Tower as it includes the observation deck, but you get to skip the queues. And don't pre-book flights between airports as Via Rail is so easy to use and the business-class seats are definitely worth the little extra cost."



Niagara Falls: the group also enjoyed a flight with Niagara Helicopters (above)



Watch videos of the agents' adventures by following @travelweeklyuk on Instagram and checking out the Canada highlights

Plus, see next week's **Travel Weekly** to read about the first-timers' fam trip to Quebec



Dining in the sky: CN Tower

FLY WITH AIR CANADA

Air Canada operates up to 26 flights a week from Heathrow to Toronto, while for clients needing regional flights, there are seasonal summer services from both Edinburgh and Manchester. On board, guests can expect varied inflight entertainment, meals and a flight time of less than eight hours. Find out more at: aircanada.com

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CANADA