Niagara Bound (and Determined to Get You There)

Ron Bauman May 20, 2024

Looking to escape your city and be enriched by the wonders of Niagara? Take a trip down to our peninsula, just a little over an hour from wherever you live¹.

Enter our world along the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW), the only major highway in and out of the area. To your left, see the rare glimpses of the sunny shores of Lake Ontario, with occasional views to Toronto and its suburbs. To your right, witness the stunning Niagara Escarpment in the distance, past the industrial parks and abandoned businesses.

Whether traveling from north, south or west-central Ontario, you will come together with your fellow travelers once highway 403 and the Red Valley Parkway merge together onto the four lanes of the QEW. Thrill seekers will not miss the adrenaline-pumping action you may find at Canada's Wonderland with our stop-and-go traffic live action gaming ride². You are the master of your own cart, as you will speed up from zero to 100 km per hour every 13 seconds, swerving from lane to lane in hopes to race past the other riders for a slight lead, before the traffic dissipates after the forgettable town of Beamsville.

We're expanding the fun! Sometime in the future³ will be dueling highways above the Welland Canal, as the Garden City Skyway will receive a twin. This promises to eliminate gridlock with two four-lane highways for Niagara and Toronto bound riders, getting you to all the Falls faster. On Boxing Day, the right lane will be closed for premium ticket holders⁴ trying to access the Outlet Collection of Niagara⁵

Looking for a slower pace visit to Niagara? Try GO Transit's elusive train service to the region, now with four trains connecting you directly from Toronto's Union Station to the Niagara Falls bus terminal, located just four kilometres north of the actual Niagara Falls! First train arrives at 11:24 a.m. with the last departure to Toronto at 9:06 p.m⁶. Thanks to regularly scheduled promises from the Government of Ontario for increased service over the last thirteen years, you can spend five hours a day on the train for only \$19 a round trip.

For the more affluent travelers who want to rise above the crowds, book a private flight to the St. Catharines Airport (YCM). For only \$149⁷ round trip from Billy Bishop Airport, cutting your

¹ Subject to change, time of day and how many nervous drivers are on the road

² Wait times may vary. For longer ride times, enter the highway between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekends

³ No actual date provide through the Government of Ontario – News Release, April 5, 2024

⁴ This is not an HOV lane

⁵ Expect longer wait times, but you will receive beautiful views of a potentially wintery Welland Canal as you slowly move over the Garden City Skyway

⁶ Only available on Saturdays. Sunday last departure is schedule for 8:17 p.m.

⁷ Last published price from 2016

commute from Toronto Island to only 15 minutes. Once you arrive with your private jet, your private car will bypass the peasants as you drive to the winery of your choice⁸.

Seafaring folk will enjoy the new hovercraft⁹ between Toronto Island and Niagara, with two stops in along the southern shore of Lake Ontario that will connect you to all the excitement Niagara has to offer.

So, whether by plane, train or automobile (or hovercraft), you can visit Niagara with the 8 million other tourists this summer. Come for the fireworks available, on Fridays and Sundays starting at sundown, followed by all the sparkling brake lights of the same traffic you experienced on the way here.

⁸ Price of airfare does not include private car, nor does it include matching big floppy hats and matching black jersey dresses

⁹ "Lake Ontario Express - Progress-to-date", last updated November 6, 2018