

KINGSTON

KINGSTON STUDENT AND YOUTH TRIP GUIDE

GRADES K-12

TIME TRAVEL



CURIOSITY STARTS HERE

Bring learning beyond the classroom with a visit to Kingston, Ontario. As Canada's first capital, Kingston is where history, science, the arts, culture, and outdoor adventure come together through hands-on experiences that inspire curiosity, creativity, and discovery.

Explore a 19th-century fortress, step inside Canada's oldest penitentiary, create art on the waterfront, uncover stories in museums, paddle along the shores of Lake Ontario, or experience live theatre in the heart of downtown. From curriculum-linked educational programs to team-building activities and extracurricular experiences,

Kingston offers engaging opportunities for student and youth groups of every age.

Whether you're planning a day trip, an overnight stay, or a multi-day adventure, Kingston makes it easy to build an itinerary that is educational, memorable, and uniquely your own.

**Small moments spark
big discoveries.**





WHY KINGSTON FOR STUDENT AND YOUTH TRAVEL

Compact, walkable, and easy to explore, Kingston brings Canada's stories to life through museums, historic sites, galleries, theatres, waterfront attractions, and outdoor experiences—all within close reach. Student and youth groups can discover Canadian history, science, technology, health care, environmental studies, civics, architecture, the arts, and more through interactive, curriculum-linked programming and unforgettable hands-on experiences.

Tourism Kingston is here to help every step of the way. From attraction recommendations and itinerary planning to accommodations, group dining, transportation logistics, and extracurricular activities, our team can help create a seamless and memorable Kingston experience for your group.

ATTRACTIONS

From historic sites and museums to arts, culture, and outdoor adventure, Kingston offers engaging experiences for student and youth groups of all ages. Explore the attractions below to build an itinerary that matches your group's interests, learning objectives, and schedule.



We're here to help! Tourism Kingston can assist with planning your itinerary and confirming current program details with participating attractions. As programs, availability, language options, and group capacities may change, we recommend confirming details in advance.

kingstonpentours.com

KINGSTON PEN TOURS

Explore one of Canada's most historic and recognizable correctional institutions through a guided tour of Kingston Penitentiary. Built in the 1830s and operated for nearly 180 years, the former penitentiary offers students a unique opportunity to learn about Canadian history, the justice system, and life inside a maximum-security institution. Tours explore the site's complex history and are best suited for older students and youth groups. Kingston Penitentiary is also a sought-after location for film and television productions. Guided tours are available in English and French from April to October.

At a glance

// Student/youth group activity
// Canadian history, justice, film
& television

// English/French
// April–October



Nearby experiences

// Tett Centre for Creativity & Learning
// Waterfront

// Canada's Penitentiary Museum
// Gord Downie Memorial Pier

forthenry.com

FORT HENRY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Learn about this strategic site's role through Canadian history, including the War of 1812, the safeguarding of the Rideau Canal in the 1830s, and as a British military fortress in the 1860s. Experiences range from 90-minute programs to day-long learning with overnight options. Programs are available in English and French from mid-May to early September. Programs are geared to grades 3–8, with some easily adaptable to older student groups.

At a glance

// Educational school programming
// Canadian history, the War of 1812,
military history

// Grades 3–8, adaptable for older groups
// English/French
// Mid-May–early September



Nearby experiences

// 1000 Islands Cruise
// Historic downtown
// Royal Military College campus

// Military Communications and
Electronics Museum

parks.canada.ca

BELLEVUE HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Once home to Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, Bellevue House showcases life in Upper Canada in the 1840s. Educational programs, available in English and French, align with social studies, history, and environmental studies curricula. Programs, which run from May through October, are recommended for grades 4–12. Customized programming can also be developed for your student group.

At a glance

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| // Curriculum-linked programming | // Grades 4–12 |
| // Social studies, history,
environmental studies,
early settlers | // English/French
// May–October |



Nearby experiences

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| // Waterfront Trail | // City Park |
| // Tett Centre for Creativity & Learning | // Queen's University campus |

murneytower.com

MURNEY TOWER MUSEUM

Built in 1846 as part of Kingston's defensive Martello tower fortifications, Murney Tower has been a museum since 1925. Visitors can explore three levels of the original fortification, while "Historian-in-Training" workshops for grades 4–8 bring the site's social and military history to life. Due to the tower's historic configuration, the museum is not physically accessible; however, it has a free virtual accessible field trip with games, descriptive audio tours in English and French, and more. The museum is open from May to September.

At a glance

// Educational school programming
 // Social history, military history,
 local history
 // Grades 4–8

// English/French virtual resources
 available
 // May–September; virtual option
 available



Nearby experiences

// City Park
 // Queen's University Campus

// Kingston waterfront
 // Agnes Etherington Art Centre

cityofkingston.ca

CITY HALL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Kingston City Hall provides a unique setting for students to examine civic history, representation, and the way historical narratives are shaped. The Beards & Biases program invites grades 4–8 to explore historical portraits through a guided scavenger hunt, group discussion, and creative poster-making activity that highlights overlooked stories. Available from May through October, the program supports curriculum connections in social studies, history, language arts, visual arts, and civics, and can accommodate up to 25 participants at a time.

At a glance

// Curriculum-linked programming
// Social studies, history, language arts, visual arts, civics

// Grades 4–8
// English/Other languages available
// May–October



Nearby experiences

// Confederation Park
// Kingston Food Tours

// Downtown Kingston
// Creative Walking Tour

fcsmuseum.com

FRONTENAC COUNTY SCHOOLS MUSEUM

The Frontenac County Schools Museum introduces students to the region's one-room schoolhouses and the classroom experience of the mid-1800s. Half-day and full-day programs are available to grades 2–8, offering a memorable way to connect classroom learning with local history. The museum also offers a virtual museum experience targeted to grades 2–4.

At a glance

- // Educational school programming
- // Local history, school history, social studies, early settlers
- // Grades 2–8; virtual experience for Grades 2–4
- // English
- // Spring, summer, fall



Nearby experiences

- // MacLachlan Woodworking Museum
- // Grass Creek Park trails
- // Waterfront picnic
- // Military Communications & Electronics Museum

kingstonpumphouse.ca

PUMPHOUSE MUSEUM

Housed in Kingston's first pumphouse station, which brought running water to the city's households in the 1850s, this museum offers both permanent displays and special exhibits that explore science, math, history, and engineering. Educational programs are offered year-round for Junior Kindergarten–grade 6.

At a glance

- // Educational school programming
- // English
- // Science, math, history, engineering
- // Year-round
- // JK–grade 6



Nearby experiences

- // Confederation Park
- // Downtown Kingston
- // Great Lakes Museum
- // City Hall

greatlakemuseum.ca

GREAT LAKES MUSEUM

Located at the historic Kingston Dry Dock, the Great Lakes Museum connects students to the maritime, environmental, and industrial history of the Great Lakes. Curriculum-based programs for grades 2-8 use hands-on STEAM learning to explore topics such as freshwater ecosystems, invasive species, pollution, lighthouses, optics, steam power, and the S.S. Keewatin. Programs are typically 60-90 minutes in length, with select ship-based programming available seasonally.

At a glance

// Curriculum-linked programming

// STEAM, freshwater, ecology,
maritime history, optics

// Grades 2-8

// English/French

// Programs vary; select seasonal
ship programming



Nearby experiences

// Kingston waterfront

// Murney Tower

// National Memorial to the Fallen

// Kingston Pen Tours

candemuseum.org

MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS MUSEUM

Discover the Military Communications & Electronics Museum through guided tours, hands-on activities, and artifact exploration. Year-round educational programs introduce students to the First and Second World Wars, United Nations Peacekeeping, and the evolution of military communications. Student groups can also put their critical thinking and teamwork to the test in the Camp X and Spymaster escape rooms, solving puzzles while exploring the museum's collections.

At a glance

- | | |
|--|--|
| // Educational school programming | suitable for grades 4–12 |
| // Military history, technology, communications, team building | // English; escape rooms offered in English/French |
| // Educational groups; escape rooms | // Year-round |



Nearby experiences

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| // Fort Henry National Historic Site | // Kingston waterfront |
| // Royal Military College campus | // Rideau Canal heritage experiences |

museumofhealthcare.ca

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HEALTH CARE

Housed in a 1901 building that was once a residence for nursing students, this is Canada's only standalone museum devoted entirely to the history of health and medicine. The museum offers year-round, hands-on, curriculum-linked guided programs for kindergarten-grade 12. Programs focus on a broad range of topics related to health and medicine, making important contributions to health learning and literacy. The museum is also home to over 35,000 medical artifacts that depict the evolution of Canada's medical history.

At a glance

// Curriculum-linked programming

// Health, medicine, history, health literacy

// Kindergarten–grade 12

// English

// Year-round



Nearby experiences

// Murney Tower Museum

// Breakwater Park

// Queen's University campus

// National Memorial to the Fallen

grandtheatre.com

KINGSTON GRAND THEATRE

Kingston Grand Theatre connects young audiences with live theatre, music, dance, and performance through its Grand OnStage school programs. A student group visit can add a memorable performing arts experience to an itinerary while supporting curriculum connections in drama, music, dance, and cultural learning.

At a glance

- // Educational school programming
- // Student and school groups
- // Drama, music, dance, performing arts, cultural learning
- // English
- // Performance schedule-dependent



Nearby experiences

- // Downtown Kingston
- // Confederation Park
- // City Hall National Historic Site
- // Artillery Park Aquatic Centre

queensu.ca/millermuseumofgeology

MILLER MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY

Located on the Queen's University campus, the Miller Museum of Geology offers hands-on, curriculum-linked programs in earth and environmental science for school groups of up to 30 participants. Programs explore topics such as rocks and minerals, meteorites, dinosaurs, fossils, palaeontology, and the geology of the Kingston area. Instructor-led programs are offered year-round, Monday-Friday, and can be adapted for a range of grade levels from kindergarten through secondary school.

At a glance

// Curriculum-linked programming

// Earth science, environmental
science, geology, fossils, minerals

// Kindergarten–12 and post-secondary

// English

// Year-round, Monday–Friday



Nearby experiences

// Queen's University Campus

// Agnes Etherington Art Centre

// National Memorial to the Fallen

// Murney Tower

agnes.queensu.ca

AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE

This public art gallery on the campus of Queen's University features historical and contemporary art collections, including The Bader Collection, with more than 500 early modern European artworks and four works by Rembrandt. The Agnes offers thematic programs for grades 1-12 that combine guided exhibition tours with hands-on artmaking activities. School programs are available from early October to mid-December and from mid-January to early April.

At a glance

- // Educational school programming
- // Visual arts, art history, exhibitions, artmaking
- // Grades 1–12
- // English
- // Early October–mid-December; mid-January–early April



Nearby experiences

- // Queen's University campus
- // Murney Tower Museum
- // Breakwater Park
- // Downtown Kingston

kingstonsymphony.ca

KINGSTON SYMPHONY

The Kingston Symphony is a professional orchestra offering live performances, music education, and community programming for audiences of all ages. Its youth ensembles, including the Kingston Youth Orchestra, Youth Strings, and A-Strings, provide young musicians with professional leadership, ensemble development, and performance opportunities, creating strong connections for visiting school and music groups.

At a glance

// Student/youth group activity
 // Youth, secondary school,
 music group

// Orchestral music, live performance,
 youth ensembles, music education
 // English
 // Event/program-dependent



Nearby experiences

// Kingston Grand Theatre

// Queen's University campus

// Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts

// Downtown Kingston

tettcentre.org

TETT CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY AND LEARNING

The Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning is a waterfront arts hub offering creative programming, workshops, and rental spaces suited to youth, school, and community groups. Teen-focused programs such as Creative Futures support young artists through hands-on workshops, mentorship, portfolio development, and exhibition experience.

At a glance

// Student/youth group activity

// Youth, teens, community groups

// Visual arts, creativity, workshops,
mentorship

// English

// Program-dependent



Nearby experiences

// Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts

// Breakwater Park

// Queen's University Campus

// Kingston waterfront

woodworkingmuseum.ca

MACLACHLAN WOODWORKING MUSEUM

Discover the art and science of woodworking through hands-on learning at the MacLachlan Woodworking Museum. Interactive programs explore local habitats, biodiversity, craftsmanship, and environmental stewardship through engaging activities. Habitat Heroes introduces kindergarten-grade 6 students to ecosystems, while Nailed It! gives kindergarten-grade 8 students hands-on experience with wood, tools, design, and age-appropriate building projects. Programs are available from February through October for groups of up to 20 participants.

At a glance

// Educational school programming

// Science, technology,
environmental education, outdoor
education, woodworking

// Kindergarten–grade 8

// English

// February–October



Nearby experiences

// Grass Creek Park

// Frontenac County Schools Museum

// Fort Henry National Historic Site

queensu.ca/theisabel

ISABEL BADER CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts is a waterfront arts venue at Queen's University offering professional concerts, student performances, and cultural programming suited to youth, school, and music groups. Event-based experiences connect students with live music, emerging and professional artists, and university-level performing arts in a world-class performance setting.

At a glance

- // Student/youth group activity
- // Youth, secondary, school and music groups
- // Music, live performance, performing arts, arts education
- // English
- // Event/program-dependent



Nearby experiences

- // Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning
- // Breakwater Park
- // Queen's University campus
- // Kingston waterfront

ACTIVITIES

From outdoor adventures and city tours to team-building experiences and evening entertainment, Kingston offers a range of activities for student and youth groups. Explore the options below to enhance your itinerary with experiences that fit your group's interests, schedule, and energy level.



lore

ahoyrentals.com

AHOY RENTALS

Located on Kingston's waterfront, Ahoy Rentals offers outdoor activities such as kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding, and sailing experiences. This is a strong seasonal add-on for youth groups looking to experience Kingston from the water.

At a glance

// Extracurricular add-on

// Youth groups

// Outdoor recreation, waterfront experience, team building

// English

// May–October



Nearby experiences

// S.S. Keewatin

// Great Lakes Museum

// Downtown Kingston

// City Park

hauntedwalk.com

THE HAUNTED WALK OF KINGSTON

The Haunted Walk of Kingston combines storytelling, local history, and mystery through guided walking tours designed for private, educational, and youth groups. Tours are available for groups of 12 or more, with options that can suit schools, camps, and youth organizations looking for an engaging after-hours or extracurricular experience. Some tours include mature or spooky subject matter, so program selection should be matched to the age and comfort level of the group.

At a glance

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| // Student/youth group activity | // English; select tours available |
| // Youth groups, older students, camps | in French |
| // Local history, storytelling, evening activity | // Year-round |



Nearby experiences

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| // Historic downtown | // Springer Market Square |
| // Kingston waterfront | // City Hall National Historic Site |

improbableescapes.com

IMPROBABLE ESCAPES

Improbable Escapes offers immersive escape room experiences that challenge groups to work together, think creatively, and solve puzzles under pressure. With indoor, outdoor, and online game options, it is a strong fit for team building, evening programming, or a memorable free-time activity for student and youth groups.

At a glance

- // Extracurricular add-on
- // Student and youth groups
- // Team building, critical thinking, problem solving
- // English
- // Year-round
- // Program-dependent



curiosity

Nearby experiences

- // 1000 Island Cruise
- // Confederation Park
- // Springer Market Square
- // Creative walking tours

kingstontrolley.ca

KINGSTON TROLLEY TOURS

Kingston Trolley Tours offers a group-friendly way to see the city's major historic sites, waterfront, and limestone architecture. Groups can use the trolley as an orientation tour, a transportation-friendly sightseeing option, or a private charter experience with a guide.

At a glance

// Student/youth group activity

// Student and youth groups

// City orientation, local history, architecture, sightseeing

// English

// Seasonal / booking-dependent



Nearby experiences

// Historic downtown

// 1000 Island Cruise

// Confederation Park

// Fort Henry National Historic Site

screeningroomkingston.com

THE SCREENING ROOM

The Screening Room is an independent downtown cinema that offers a relaxed indoor option for student and youth groups. Private cinema rentals or curated film outings could work well as an evening activity, rainy-day option, or complement to arts, media, or cultural programming.

At a glance

- // Extracurricular add-on
- // Student and youth groups
- // Film, media, arts, culture
- // English
- // Year-round / booking-dependent



encore

Nearby experiences

- // Kingston Grand Theatre
- // Kingston Food Tours
- // Springer Market Square
- // Confederation Park

ITINERARIES

Build an itinerary that suits your adventure. Whether you're planning a one-day visit or a multi-day experience, Kingston offers a variety of attractions, dining options, and hands-on activities for student and youth groups. These sample itineraries are designed to inspire your planning and can be customized to fit your group's interests, learning objectives, and schedule.

ONE-DAY HISTORY & CIVICS TRIP

- // Fort Henry National Historic Site
- // City Hall National Historic Site
- // Bellevue House National Historic Site or Murney Tower Museum

A strong fit for social studies, history, civics, Canadian identity, early settlement, and the War of 1812,, this itinerary combines military history, civic life, and 19th-century society.

ONE-DAY STEM & INNOVATION TRIP

- // PumpHouse Museum
- // Great Lakes Museum
- // Miller Museum of Geology

A hands-on itinerary for groups interested in science, engineering, freshwater ecosystems, maritime history, earth science, fossils, minerals, and geology.

ONE-DAY ARTS & CREATIVITY TRIP

- // Agnes Etherington Art Centre
- // Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning
- // Kingston Grand Theatre
- // The Screening Room

A flexible option for groups interested in visual arts, performance, creative development, film, and cultural learning.

TWO-DAY OVERNIGHT TRIP

- // **Day 1:** Fort Henry National Historic Site, either Kingston Pen Tours or Bellevue House National Historic Site, group dinner, and The Haunted Walk of Kingston
- // **Day 2:** Canadian Museum of Health Care, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, and Kingston Trolley Tours

This overnight itinerary combines early settlers, history, the War of 1812, health care, arts, architecture, and city highlights with a group-friendly stay.

TWO-DAY OVERNIGHT MUSIC TRIP

- // **Day 1:** Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts, Queen's University, group dinner, and an evening Kingston Symphony or live performance
- // **Day 2:** Joe's Music Mill at the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning, a music workshop or youth ensemble experience, and a student performance or exchange by arrangement

This overnight itinerary combines live performance, music education, university exposure, and hands-on music experiences.

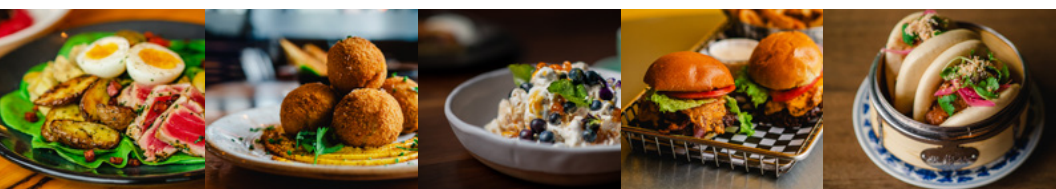
OUTDOOR & TEAM-BUILDING ADD-ON DAY

- // Ahoy Rentals
- // Improbable Escapes
- // Kingston Trolley Tours

A flexible add-on for groups looking to include outdoor activity, teamwork, and a guided city overview.

GROUP DINING

From downtown favourites to popular restaurants in the west end and east end, Kingston offers a variety of group-friendly dining options to suit every taste and budget. Whether you're planning a quick lunch between attractions, a sit-down dinner, or searching for late-night bites after a busy day of exploring, you'll find welcoming options to keep your group energized throughout the city.



Find the perfect restaurant for your group.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| // Atomica | // Jack Astor's |
| // Baja Craft Kitchen | // Lone Star Texas Grill |
| // Boston Pizza | // Mandarin |
| // Chuck's Roadhouse | // Mesa Fresca |
| // Dianne's | // Milestones |
| // HEIST Restaurant + Wine Club | // Smoke 'N Barrel |

Capacity for group reservations varies among restaurants. Some establishments have private dining rooms for groups.



PLACES TO STAY

From convenient accommodations to modern hotels designed for groups, find the perfect place for your student group to stay in Kingston.



DOWNTOWN

- // Delta Hotels by Marriott Kingston Waterfront
- // Donald Gordon Hotel and Conference Centre
- // Holiday Inn Waterfront
- // Kingston Marriott Hotel
- // Residence Inn by Marriott Kingston Water's Edge

CENTRAL

- // Comfort Suites Central
- // Comfort Inn & Suites Princess Street
- // Courtyard by Marriott
- // Days Inn by Wyndham Kingston
- // Holiday Inn Express and Suites – Kingston Central
- // Quality Inn & Conference Centre

MID-TOWN

- // Doubletree by Hilton
- // Home2 Suites
- // Strata Hotel

EAST END

- // Hampton by Hilton

WEST END

- // Candlewood Suites Kingston West
- // Holiday Inn Express Kingston West
- // Quality Inn West

SEASONAL STAYS

- // St. Lawrence College
- // Queen's University

PLANNING SUPPORT

Whether you're organizing a day trip, overnight stay, or multi-day experience, Tourism Kingston is here to help. From itinerary planning and curriculum-linked attractions to accommodations, dining, and transportation logistics, our team can help you create a memorable Kingston experience for your group.

Before you book

To help us recommend the best experiences for your group, consider the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| // Preferred travel dates | // Dietary or meal requirements |
| // Grade level or age group | // Motorcoach and parking needs |
| // Group size | // Overnight accommodation requirements |
| // Curriculum or learning objectives | // Preferred free-time or evening activities |
| // Accessibility requirements | |
| // Language preferences | |

Motorcoach parking

Seasonal motorcoach parking is available at 294 King Street East, in front of the Kingston Custom House and across from the Kingston Marriott Hotel.

Motorcoaches may also discharge passengers at available metered spaces or designated Loading and No Parking zones; however, parking and idling are not permitted in these areas.

A motorcoach pump-out station is available at Rideau Acres Campground, 1014 Cunningham Road, Kingston.

We're here to help! Tourism Kingston can assist with confirming current motorcoach parking locations, regulations, and arrival details, as information may change seasonally.

CONNECT WITH TOURISM KINGSTON

Tourism Kingston can help you plan a student or youth group itinerary, including attraction connections, curriculum-linked and educational program options, overnight accommodations, group dining, transportation logistics, and extracurricular activities.

Ashley Bradshaw

MANAGER, TRADE AND MEDIA

Tourism Kingston

ashley@tourismkingston.com

613-530-6639



visitkingston.ca/travel-trade



KINGSTON