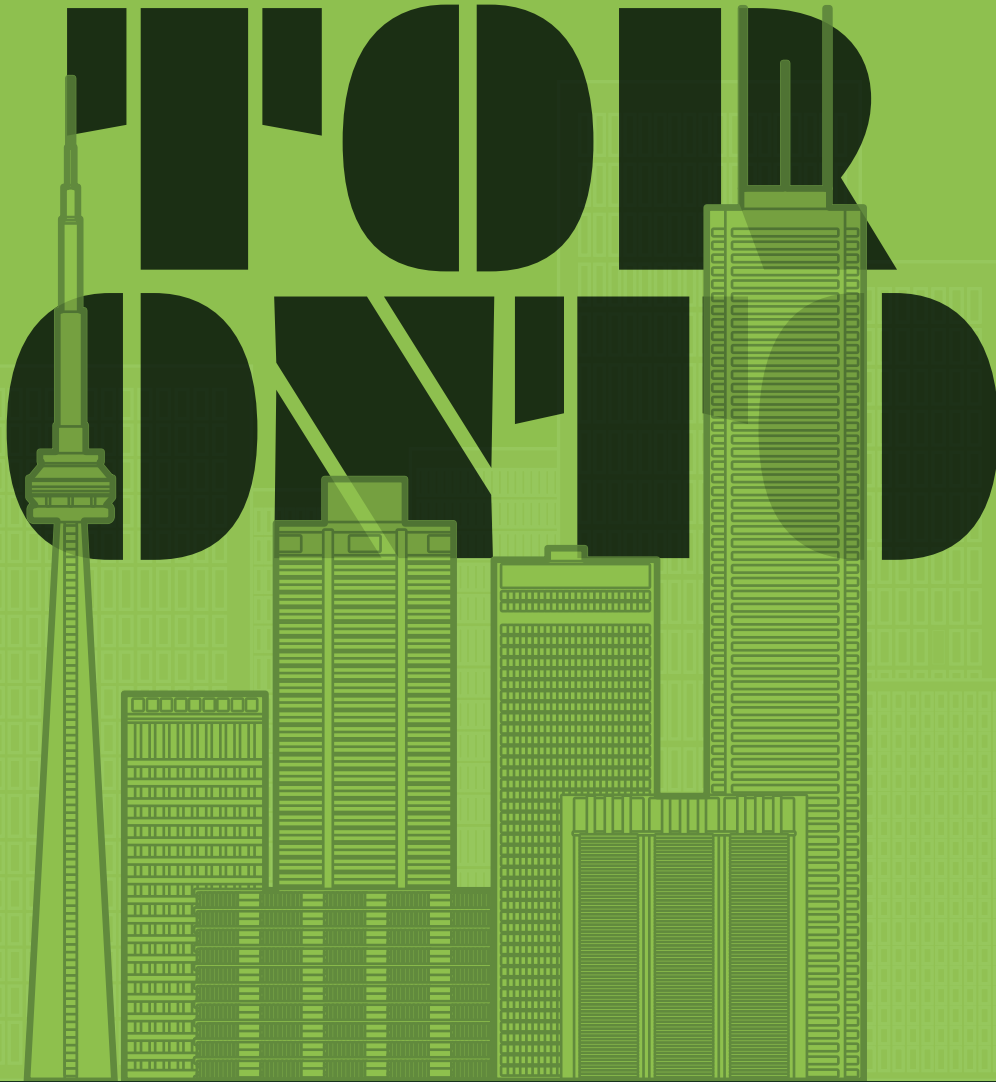


INSIDER'S GUIDE TO



DISCOVER A CITY WHERE THE APPEALS ARE ENDLESS

Welcome

**A MESSAGE FROM
BENNETT JONES**

The vibrant and dynamic metropolis of Toronto will welcome the legal world at the **2025 IBA Annual Conference**. The city's bustling energy will be on full display and we look forward to meeting our IBA colleagues and building new relationships throughout the event.

In this guide, we offer some practical tips on where to stay and what to do as you travel to Canada's largest city next year.

Toronto is one of the most multicultural cities in the world. Over 180 languages are spoken and almost half the population was born outside of Canada.

A global centre of business, finance, technology and innovation, Toronto is the capital of Canada's most populous province. The Toronto Stock Exchange is the tenth largest in the world and the city is home to more corporate headquarters than anywhere in Canada. Bennett Jones' Toronto office is located at the very centre of the thriving Financial District.

Toronto has world-class dining, entertainment and cultural scenes. Bennett Jones will be hosting events during the conference and we hope you can join us as we share the best of our diverse and cosmopolitan city.



JOHN M. MERCURY
Executive Chair & Chair of the Board



DOMINIQUE T. HUSSEY
Chief Executive Officer

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Looking for verdict-worthy recommendations?
Keep an eye out for hidden gems from our partners.

The IBA Annual Conference sessions will be held at the:



**Metro Toronto
Convention Center**
255 Front St. W.

Hotels





1 **The St. Regis Toronto**
325 Bay St.

4 **Fairmont Royal York**
100 Front St. W.

2 **The Ritz-Carlton**
181 Wellington St. W.

5 **1 Hotel**
550 Wellington St. W.

3 **Shangri-La**
188 University Ave.



6 **Ace**
51 Camden St.

13 **One King West**
1 King St. W.

7 **Delta Toronto**
75 Lower Simcoe St.

14 **Radisson Blu Toronto
Downtown**
249 Queens Quay W.

8 **Hilton Toronto**
145 Richmond St. W.

15 **Sheraton Centre Toronto**
123 Queen St. W.

9 **Hyatt Regency Toronto**
370 King St. W.

16 **Sutton Place Toronto**
355 King St. W.

10 **InterContinental Toronto
Centre**
225 Front St. W.

17 **The Omni King Edward**
37 King St. E.

11 **Le Germain Toronto
Maple Leaf Square**
75 Bremner Blvd.

18 **The Westin Harbour Castle**
1 Harbour Square

12 **Le Germain Toronto
Mercer**
30 Mercer St.

19 **Toronto Marriott City Centre**
One Blue Jays Way

Breakfast

ALL RESTAURANTS ARE ALSO OPEN FOR LUNCH AND DINNER

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FOOD FACT

Maple syrup, a quintessential Canadian delicacy, is made from the sap of maple trees and boasts a rich, sweet flavor that enhances everything from pancakes to savoury dishes. Harvested in the spring, it's a natural, golden syrup loved for its deep, caramel-like taste and is a symbol of Canadian culture.

1 **1 Kitchen** (*inside 1 Hotel*)

A farm-to-table experience that features ingredients sourced from local farms, with a focus on sustainable and organic cuisine

2 **Azure** (*inside the InterContinental*)

A stylish restaurant which specializes in seasonal dishes, offering a menu inspired by coastal cuisines from around the world

3 **Bosk** (*inside the Shangri-la*)

A contemporary restaurant that offers a sophisticated dining experience with a menu that blends global flavours with locally sourced ingredients

4 **Café Landwer** (*University & Adelaide location*)

Mediterranean-inspired cuisine with multiple sites across Toronto, featuring a relaxed atmosphere where guests can enjoy a variety of dishes including brunch options

5 **Reign** (*inside The Fairmont Royal York*)

An upscale restaurant that offers a luxurious dining experience with a focus on contemporary Canadian cuisine with an elegant and refined ambiance

6 **Stratus**

A chic restaurant located in the TD South Tower known for its modern Canadian cuisine and stunning views of downtown Toronto

7 **TOCA** (*inside The Ritz-Carlton*)

A refined dining experience with a modern touch, offering a menu of fresh, seasonal dishes and an extensive wine list in an elegant setting

Lunch

ALL RESTAURANTS ARE ALSO OPEN FOR DINNER

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**FOOD
FACT**

Poutine is a beloved Canadian dish that consists of crispy fries topped with cheese curds and smothered in rich, savoury gravy. Originating from Quebec, this comfort food has become an iconic part of Canadian cuisine, enjoyed across the country.

1 Aera

A 38th floor restaurant housing a luxurious cocktail bar, an impressive sushi counter and an expansive open-air terrace

2 Aria

A sophisticated dining experience with an extensive lunch and dinner menu complemented by a curated selection of exquisite Italian wines

3 Chase

A hot spot with stunning panoramic views of Toronto's skyline alongside contemporary dishes that highlight local and seasonal ingredients

4 Jump

A vibrant restaurant serving modern American cuisine with a focus on fresh seafood and grilled meats

5 Leña

Imaginative yet rooted in tradition, Leña's cuisine showcases the vibrant essence of South American cooking, with unique Spanish and Italian influences

6 Miku

A 7,000 square-foot restaurant featuring a raw bar, sushi bar and a spacious patio

7 Minami

Sister restaurant to Miku, delivering innovative Japanese tapas, tasting menus and award-winning interior design

8 Modus

Located in the heart of the Financial District, specializing in refined Italian cuisine in a fine dining setting

Dinner

*RESTAURANTS ARE ALSO OPEN FOR LUNCH

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FOOD FACT

Hawaiian pizza, a polarizing yet popular dish, features a unique combination of savoury ham and sweet pineapple on a traditional pizza crust with tomato sauce and melted cheese. Despite its name, this pizza was actually created in Canada and has sparked global debate over the pairing of fruit with savoury toppings.

1 Alo

A top choice for a refined dining experience, featuring a menu that blends French classics with modern flair

2 Black and Blue*

A high-end steakhouse renowned for its premium cuts of meat, extensive wine list and elegant, contemporary ambiance

3 Byblos

A menu inspired by the cuisines of Lebanon, Türkiye and beyond in a luxe two-storey setting

4 Bymark*

Upscale Canadian cuisine in a stylish and refined atmosphere

5 Boehmer

For a taste of Toronto's vibrant nightlife and eclectic dining scene, stroll down the Ossington Strip. This trendy neighbourhood is packed with chic bars, artisan eateries, and unique boutiques. A great example is the long-standing Boehmer restaurant that offers a Spanish and German inspired menu.



**IAN C.
MICHAEL**
Partner

6 Canoe*

Perched atop the TD Bank Tower, providing a breathtaking view of Toronto's skyline paired with a menu that celebrates Canadian cuisine

7 Chotto Matte*

Combining Japanese and Peruvian influences to create a unique Nikkei dining experience

8 Daphne*

A stunning new restaurant in the Financial District offering a modern American menu

9 Don Alfonso 1890

An upscale Italian restaurant, located at the top of the Westin Harbour Castle, delivering impeccable service and stunning views of Lake Ontario

10 EPOCH Bar and Kitchen Terrace*

A verdant park-side kitchen terrace and patio within The Ritz-Carlton

11 Giuletta

College Street offers some excellent dining options just outside the downtown core. Giuletta is one of them, providing a chic and intimate dining experience with a menu that beautifully blends Italian and contemporary flavours.



**LINDA
MISETICH
DANN**

Partner,
Co-Head of Corporate
Department

12 Ki*

A sophisticated Japanese restaurant in Toronto's Financial District, celebrated for its sushi and sashimi as well as its extensive sake list

13 LOUIX LOUIS*

An opulent restaurant and bar known for its contemporary Canadian cuisine and extensive selection of spirits and cocktails

14 MARKED

A restaurant known for its creative dishes that blend South American flavours with local ingredients in a vibrant atmosphere

15**Nobu**

Canada's first restaurant from the iconic Nobu Hospitality Group, perfect for savouring expertly crafted sushi and inventive dishes

16**Planta Queen***

A fresh and inventive approach to plant-based cuisine with a focus on sustainability and flavour

17**Petros82**

An airy, contemporary restaurant, capturing the essence of modern Mediterranean dining

Distillery District & Yorkville

18**Cluny***

A French-inspired menu in a stunning brasserie setting, known for its classic dishes and artisanal breads baked on-site

19**Café Boulud***

Renowned for its French cuisine with a contemporary twist and crafted under the guidance of the celebrated Chef Daniel Boulud

20**Sassafras***

Nestled in the heart of Yorkville, a Toronto landmark known for its upscale Canadian cuisine and stylish ambiance

Bars

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**FOOD
FACT**

The Caesar is a classic Canadian cocktail, often enjoyed as a brunch staple. It's made with vodka, Clamato juice (a blend of clam and tomato juices), hot sauce and Worcestershire sauce, served over ice and garnished with a celery stick and a lime wedge.

1 **43 Down** *(inside the Sheraton Centre)*

A hot spot that comes to life at night, known for its artisan cocktails and eclectic menu

2 **Bar Raval**

With Gaudi-esque wood panels and a distinctive Barcelona-inspired atmosphere, a hidden gem for cocktail enthusiasts

3 **Clockwork**

A bustling, easy-going, lobby lounge at The Fairmont Royal York, serving bubbles, creative cocktails and small plates

4 **Coffee Oysters Champagne**

A swanky pink-and-gold-hued restaurant and cocktail bar with a wide variety of oysters and the largest champagne selection in Canada

5 **Craft Beer Market**

Home to 160 beers on tap, comfort-food cuisine and daily happy-hour, with something for every zythophile

6 **Elephant & Castle**

Serving up traditional British pub fare in a welcoming, relaxed environment between the Financial and Entertainment Districts

7 **King Taps**

Offering a vibrant atmosphere, an extensive craft beer selection and a gastro-pub menu, a top pick for after-work drinks



Library Bar

The Library Bar at The Fairmont Royal York exudes classic elegance, offering a stylish setting for cocktails and light bites. With its rich wood paneling and cozy atmosphere, it truly feels like a luxurious retreat in an actual library.



KWANG LIM

Vancouver Managing Partner



Liquid Courage

For an authentic speakeasy experience, head to Liquid Courage. This hidden bar features a menu of expertly crafted cocktails and a chic, vintage-inspired setting.



MARTIN J. VALASEK

Partner



NBA Courtside

An ideal venue for enjoying NBA games and cheering on the Raptors with an impressive collection of basketball memorabilia



Real Sports

Combines a high-energy sports bar experience with a diverse menu of American favourites and a 39' big screen, ideal for cheering for the Maple Leafs



Reservoir Lounge

This captivating retro speakeasy blends nostalgia with live jazz music and showcases both legendary artists and emerging talent all while serving superb martinis.



MAUREEN M. WARD

Partner



Walrus

A popular after-work watering hole featuring an elevated pub-style atmosphere with a diverse menu of classic comfort foods and local beers

Coffee

*MULTIPLE LOCATIONS AVAILABLE



FOOD FACT

A Double-Double is a popular coffee order from Tim Hortons, consisting of two sugars and two creams in a cup of coffee.

While Starbucks and Tim Hortons are readily available on every corner, here are a few of our favourite independent coffee shops:

1

Balzac

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Forno*

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Neo Coffee Bar*

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Dineen*

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Maman

Activities

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1 Art Gallery of Ontario

Housing a vast collection of artworks spanning centuries and continents with pieces by renowned artists such as the Group of Seven, Henry Moore and works from European masters

2 Bata Shoe Museum

Dive into the fascinating world of footwear at the Bata Shoe Museum. This one-of-a-kind museum features an extensive collection of shoes from around the world and across history, providing a unique and insightful look into cultural and fashion trends over the ages.



**STEPHEN W.
BOWMAN**

Vice Chair &
Managing Partner,
People and Talent

3 Casa Loma

Toronto's only castle, transporting visitors to a bygone era with its majestic architecture and lush gardens

4 CN Tower

An iconic symbol of Toronto, offering breathtaking panoramic views from its observation decks and glass floor—if you dare!

5 EdgeWalk

For an unforgettable thrill, try the EdgeWalk at the CN Tower. This adrenaline-pumping adventure lets you walk hands-free around the outside, dangling 1168 feet above the ground, providing unparalleled views of Toronto and beyond.



**PERRY
SPITZNAGEL
KC**

Vice Chair & Partner

6 Distillery District

A pedestrian-only village known for its Victorian-era industrial architecture, artisan shops, galleries, bars and restaurants

7 Kensington Market

A vibrant and eclectic neighbourhood famous for its bohemian vibe, indie shops, vintage boutiques, multicultural eateries and street art

8 Ripley's Aquarium of Canada

A delight to visitors with interactive exhibits showcasing diverse marine life and a mesmerizing underwater tunnel

9 Royal Ontario Museum

Canada's largest museum of world cultures and natural history, featuring the leading gallery on the Dawn of Life, along with outstanding exhibits on dinosaurs, Chinese art, meteorites, geology and Canadian Indigenous culture

10 St. Lawrence Market

A food lover's paradise, offering fresh produce, gourmet specialties and diverse international cuisines in a bustling market atmosphere

11 Peameal Bacon Sandwich at Carousel Bakery

A visit to the St. Lawrence Market wouldn't be complete without trying the iconic peameal bacon sandwich. Head to Carousel Bakery inside the market for a delicious, savoury treat that's been a local favourite for years.



**ANDREW
BOZZATO**

Partner

**12 Theatres:
Elgin & Winter Garden, Royal Alexandra and Princess of Wales**

Hosting world-class performances ranging from Broadway hits to local productions in beautifully restored venues

13 Toronto Eaton Centre

A bustling shopping destination in the heart of downtown Toronto, featuring over 250 stores, including major retailers and upscale boutiques

13 Toronto Islands

Full of beaches, parklands and bike paths, reachable by boat from Jack Layton Ferry Terminal or water taxi along the Harbourfront



Parks

1 Cherry Beach

3 Woodbine Beach Park

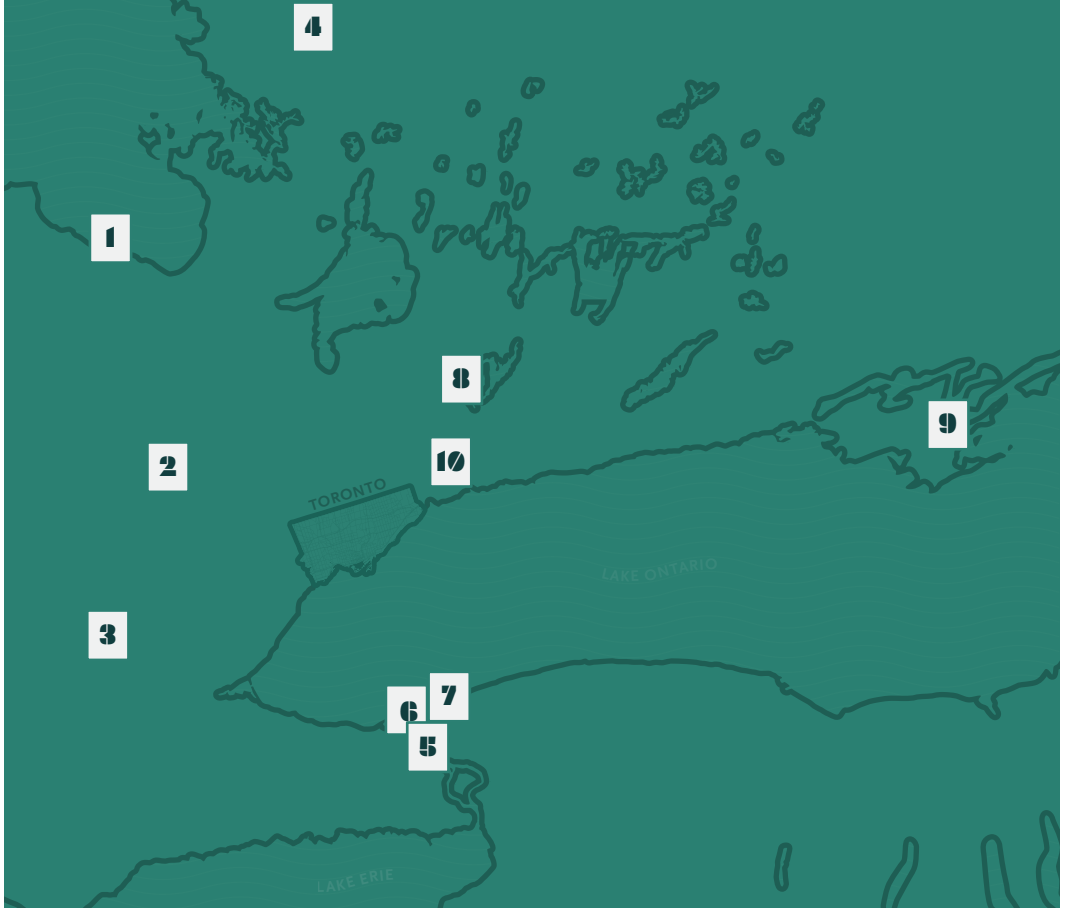
5 Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat

2 Trillium Park

4 Don Valley Brickworks Park

6 Bluffer's Park

Further Afield



**FOOD
FACT**

Canada is the world's largest icewine producer. This distinctive dessert wine is made from grapes that have frozen while on the vine. It is available in both red and white varieties.

1 Blue Mountain

A popular ski resort town located near Collingwood, Ontario

In addition to winter sports, it offers activities year-round such as hiking, mountain biking, and golfing. The area is known for its picturesque landscapes and the Blue Mountain Village, a hub for shopping, dining and entertainment. If you want to get away for a couple of nights we recommend staying at the The Westin Trillium House hotel.

2 Millcroft Inn & Spa

Millcroft Inn & Spa offers a tranquil experience with outdoor hot and cold pools, saunas and a serene natural setting. It's the perfect place to relax and recharge after the IBA conference that is only one hour away from Toronto.



KATHERINE HUTCHINSON

Senior Manager,
International Business
Development

3 Langdon Hall Country House Hotel & Spa

Just outside Toronto, offering a luxurious escape with elegant rooms, a world-class spa and fine dining

Set on 75 acres of gardens and woodlands, it provides a tranquil retreat with top-notch service, beautiful surroundings and a restaurant ranked Best Destination Restaurant in 2024 by Canada's 100 Best.

4 Muskoka

Often referred to as "cottage country," a scenic region in Ontario known for its abundant lakes, forests and rugged beauty

It's a popular retreat for outdoor enthusiasts, offering opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking and enjoying nature. JW Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka Resort & Spa is a great resort hotel from which to explore the area.

5 Niagara Falls

A world-renowned natural wonder straddling the border between Canada and the United States

It consists of three majestic waterfalls—Horseshoe Falls, American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls—with the Canadian side offering stunning views and various attractions like seasonal boat tours, casinos and parks.

6 Niagara Wine Region

Just a short drive from Toronto, the Niagara wine region is a picturesque retreat featuring rolling vineyards and award-winning wines. It's an ideal spot for a leisurely day trip, offering scenic tours and tastings that showcase the best of Ontario's wine country.



PATRICK T. MAGUIRE KC

Vice Chair & Calgary
Managing Partner

7 Niagara-on-the-Lake

A picturesque town situated where the Niagara River meets Lake Ontario

The area is renowned for its well-preserved 19th-century architecture and scenic vineyards. There are lots of hotel options to choose from including Pillar and Post Inn @ Spa, Harbour House Hotel and Prince of Wales Hotel.

8 Port Perry

A charming lakeside town in Ontario known for its historic downtown and scenic views of Lake Scugog

A visit isn't complete without stopping at The Pantry Shelf for afternoon tea, where you can enjoy freshly baked treats in a cozy, inviting atmosphere.

9 Prince Edward County

Located on the shores of Lake Ontario, a rural gem known for its picturesque landscapes and sandy beaches

This region is also famous for their local wineries and artisanal food scene. The 13-room Drake Devonshire is a great base to explore the area.

10 Thermëa Spa Village

A wellness haven located just outside of the city centre

The spa features a thermal experience with a wide array of wellness installations including saunas, baths and rest areas, as well as a selection of restaurants.

Getting Around

UP Express

For a quick and efficient journey between Pearson International Airport and downtown Toronto, consider taking the UP Express train. Trains run every 15 minutes from Pearson Airport Terminal 1 and take approximately 25 minutes to reach Union Station in downtown Toronto. You can pay for the ride by tapping your credit card.

Ride-Sharing Services

Uber and Lyft are widely available and convenient for getting around the city. Simply use their respective apps to request a ride.

Taxis

Taxis can be hailed on the street, by your hotel or ordered in advance. Common taxi companies include Beck, Co-op, Diamond and Crown, among others.

Car Services

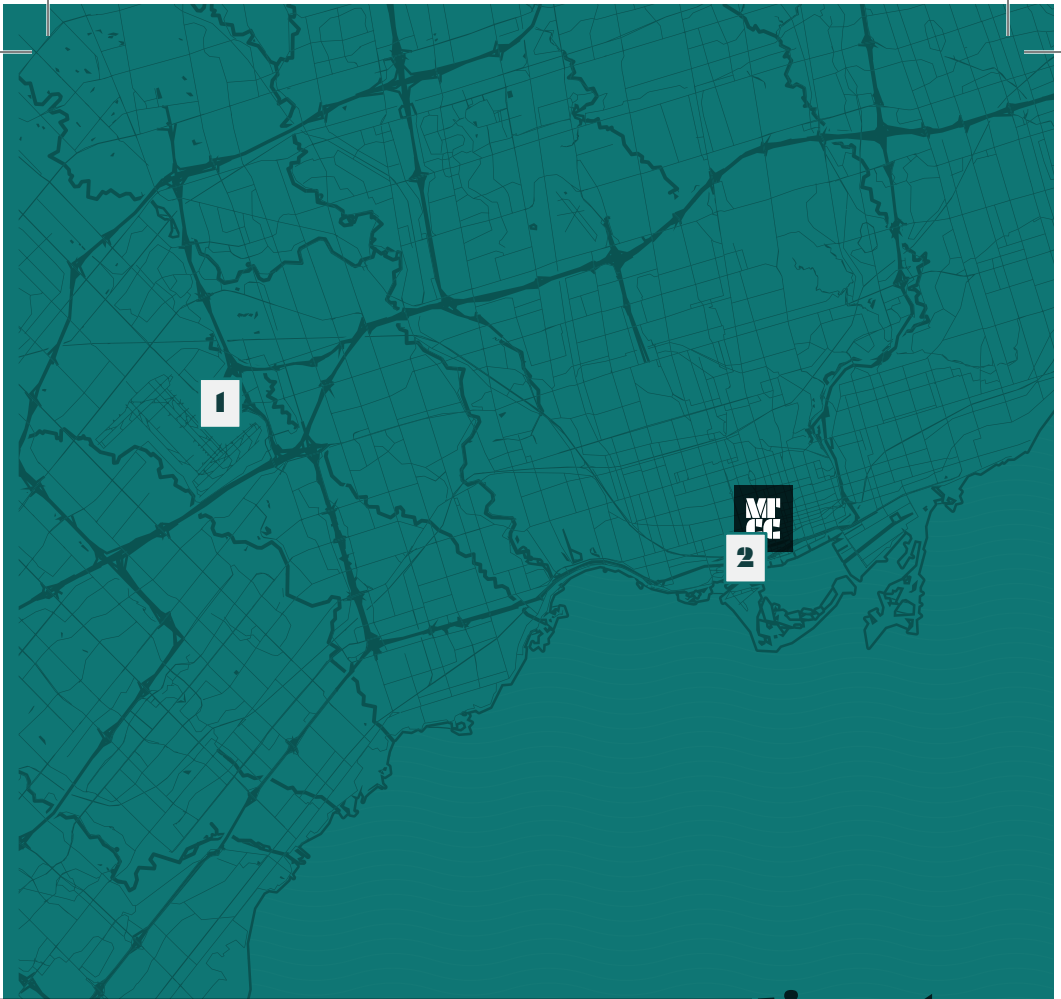
For a private and pre-arranged option, consider reputable car services such as Cullitons, Black Car Limo or Aeroport Taxi & Limousine Service.

Public Transit

Toronto's public transit system, operated by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), includes buses, streetcars and subways, providing extensive coverage throughout the city. Purchase tokens, tickets or a Presto card for convenient access. You can also pay by tapping your credit card.

Walking and Cycling

Downtown Toronto is pedestrian-friendly, with many attractions within walking distance. Rental programs like Bike Share Toronto offer a convenient way to explore the city on two wheels.



Airports

1 Toronto Pearson Airport (YYZ)

Main hub for international and domestic flights

2 Toronto City Billy Bishop Airport (YTZ)

Conveniently situated in the heart of the city, offering primarily domestic and Northern U.S. flights

See You Soon!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Toronto next year! Our incredibly diverse city is full of life and at the heart of business and law in Canada. I first moved to Toronto when I joined Bennett Jones in 2007 and this international city quickly became home. We always revel in showing Toronto off to the world and eagerly await the opportunity to host you at the 2025 IBA Conference.



PREET K. GILL

Toronto Managing Partner

IBA TORONTO
November 2-7, 2025

If you have any questions feel free to contact us at iba@bennettjones.com



Bennett Jones

While the venues in this guide were suggested by our exceptionally cool lawyers and staff, Bennett Jones makes no warranty as to the fitness of these recommendations to fill your free time in Toronto. We are not liable for any uncontrollable cravings, sudden outbursts of mirth or mayhem or other unexplained desires to explore and experience our city. Enjoy your visit to Toronto!