



'Tis the season to enjoy the best of Canada

Although some CAP Attractions may close over the holidays, most of Canada's museums, art galleries, parks, historic sites and other cultural treasures are open and offering special programming. Keep reading this newsletter for highlights of activities across the country.

Don't forget to check an attraction's website to be sure they are open over the holidays. You'll find a link to their website within the CAP Attraction directory. Click [here](#) to get started.

MAKING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CAP

How can you get even more out of your Cultural Access Pass? Why not follow a special tour or attend an event?

Many attractions offer guided tours, workshops and a chance to go behind the scenes. Tours are a great introduction to Canadian culture. They can provide information about our history, make connections to the objects of our past and the creators of our cultural future. Check the [Cultural Access Pass calendar](#) or your favourite CAP Attraction's website for upcoming events near you!

NEWEST ATTRACTIONS

This month, another 9 attractions have joined the CAP program and invite you to discover all they have to offer!

Join thousands of visitors from around the world and explore [Lougheed House](#) a 14,000 square foot mansion, National Historic Site and Museum in Calgary. Enjoy lunch or brunch in the restaurant, take a stroll through the gardens and find the perfect gift in the Treasures Gift Shop.

The [Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery](#) reflects the story of the diverse peoples of the Red Deer River Valley, from pre-contact First Nations culture to the beginnings of the city of Red Deer. Discover local, national and international art and history as it is featured in regularly changing exhibits at the MAG.

See North America's largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles - more than 240 carriages, wagons and sleighs - at the [Remington Carriage Museum](#). The Museum is located only minutes from the Waterton Lakes National Park, south of Calgary in Alberta.

Learn about the Okanagan Valley's transformation from wide open cattle range to beautifully manicured, symmetric orchards at the [BC Orchard Industry Museum](#). Children of all ages will love the 50-foot working model railway, and everyone will enjoy a browse in the Gift Shop which is full of uniquely Okanagan items.

The [BC Wine Museum](#) in Kelowna displays historic bottles, labels, wine-making equipment and artefacts from the rich history of viticulture and winemaking - Etruscan, Greek and Chinese - while local Okanagan artefacts and exhibitions help you explore the history of the region.

Innovative pioneers played hockey on frozen lakes, organized polo matches on open grasslands, rowed in local regattas, and competed in all manner of sporting events in the Okanagan Valley and beyond. Visit [The Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame Museum](#) and celebrate the pioneers of sport and those that followed.

[The Okanagan Heritage Museum](#) holds a large collection of First Nation artefacts and the Ethnography Gallery offers visitors a chance to explore collections from Central and South America, Asia, Oceania, and Africa. Go back in time and visit a pioneer Chinese grocery store or step inside a trading post built in the 1860s.

Come see the [Okanagan Military Museum's](#) significant collection of artefacts from the Boer War, World War I and World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and contemporary military operations. A visit to this museum will give you a greater understanding of, and connection to, Canada's proud military heritage.

Bring a picnic lunch and explore [Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse](#), a coast artillery fort built in the late 1890s to defend Victoria and the Esquimalt Naval Base. Signs, audio and video stations, and friendly, knowledgeable staff tell the stories of this national historic site.

Don't miss out - visit the website often for the most up-to-date [list of attractions](#) to visit for free with your Cultural Access Pass!

WHAT'S ON AT CAP ATTRACTIONS NEAR YOU THIS MONTH?

With more than 1,000 CAP Attractions across the country, there is bound to be something thrilling happening at an attraction near you! We can't tell you about all of them, but we do have some suggestions to offer you.

Visit a CAP attraction's website to find all the details.

St. John's, NFL - Discover where the popular holiday tradition of the Christmas Tree comes from and why evergreen trees are important to our forest and river friends throughout the winter. Visit the [Fluvarium's](#) Kids Club website for details.

Halifax, NS - See Canada's visual culture from an Eastern perspective at the [Art Gallery of Nova Scotia](#). Their take on Canada's art history, *A View from the Atlantic*, is an historical tour, which stretches from pre-contact work by First Nations artists to contemporary art.

Montreal, QC - Create your own animated greeting card at the [Montreal CineRobotheque](#). Each weekend in December, you and your family can design an original greeting card that you can send to your nearest and dearest!

Gatineau, QC - Vote for your favourite tree at the [Canadian Museum of Civilization's](#) Christmas Tree Decorating Challenge featuring a stunning display of trees lavishly decorated by local community organizations. The winner will be invited back next year to decorate an even larger tree.

Ottawa, ON - From Boxing Day into the New Year, the [Canada Aviation and Space Museum](#) welcomes the chance to engage children of all ages in special aviation-themed workshops, crafts and presentations at the Museum, and to create memorable moments for families.

Toronto, ON - Visit a castle this Christmas and have your photo taken with Santa Claus! [Casa Loma](#) is Canada's foremost castle complete with decorated suites, secret passages, an 800-foot tunnel, towers and stables. Santa is at the castle on weekends from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm but will leave at 1:00pm on Dec 24.

Edmonton, AB - Tour the Wild Alberta Gallery at the [Royal Alberta Museum](#) with one of their knowledgeable interpreters to look at Alberta's wide array of wildlife. The tours vary in focus: from overviews of the gallery to looking at conservation issues around the province.

Kelowna, BC - Watch an artist at work, visit an art exhibition or take in some live theatre at the [Rotary Centre for the Arts](#). CAP members receive **2 for 1 Tickets** (50% off) for any *RCA Presents* performance.

Vancouver, BC - Every weekend the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#) offers unique activities geared towards 5 to 12 year-old visitors and their families. On Saturdays they offer *Art Tracks*, child-oriented tours led by artists, educators, dancers, musicians and others offering new ways of looking and thinking about art.

DO YOU KNOW?

What was the very first Cultural Access Pass attraction?

the idea for the cap program was first tested by the [art gallery of ontario](#) in toronto.