

TRAVEL WEEKLY

CANADA

big doings across the country



Big doings in 2017—it was Canada's 150th birthday and Montreal's 375th birthday—left much for visitors to continue to celebrate. Across the country, the focus was on infrastructure improvements, lively new developments, and emerging and restored neighborhoods, along with refreshed and expanded attractions. The lodging industry got on board, too. Among the 2017 happenings, two of Canada's most iconic historic hotels completed meticulous restoration and modernization projects, two new urban destination resorts opened, and a number of boutique hotels opened in various cities with an edgy fun, attitude.



rooms, some with private terraces, as well as a bar and a spa.

- › The Hyatt Regency Montreal revealed 269 renovated rooms in June 2017, with plans to unveil the hotel's new junior suites in spring 2018.
- › The Marriott AC, Canada's first AC property, is slated to open in February 2018 adjacent to the Palais de Congress convention center.
- › The 120-room boutique Birks Hotel is set to open in May 2018 on top of Birks, a beloved Montreal jeweler dating to 1869.
- › When the \$400 million Four Seasons Montreal opens in December 2018, it will include 163 guestrooms and 18 residences, three restaurants, a grand terrace and a direct link to the Ogilvy luxury store.
- › Set to open in spring 2020 as part of the H-shaped Quartier International, the eight-story Humaniti will be part of the city's first "smart vertical community." The hotel will include 193 rooms, outdoor swimming areas high above street level and meeting areas with sweeping views.

TORONTO

Jostling for position in an abundant Toronto hotel market are some notable new entrants, including a waterfront fitness resort and two petit charmers. Here, the details of those now available and on the horizon.

- › In September 2017, BISHA Hotel opened in the first eight floors of a 44-story building in the Entertainment District. The luxury boutique hotel, which features a guestroom floor designed by Lenny Kravitz, has four restaurants, including one by celebrity chef Akira Back, a 2,200-square-foot lobby bar, and a 44th-floor rooftop infinity pool and restaurant.
- › The Broadview Hotel opened in July 2017 in a restored 126-year-old building downtown. The 58-room boutique hotel includes a 7th-floor rooftop bar, vinyl record players in all rooms, and a cafe and bar on the ground floor that transforms into a cocktail and champagne bar in the evening.
- › In June 2017, the 433-room Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre opened as a multimillion-dollar renovation and rebranding of the International Plaza Hotel & Conference Center Toronto Airport.
- › As a fitting final touch on the \$40 million restoration completed in 2016 at the 301-room Omni King Edward Hotel, a \$6.2 million restoration of the 5,000-square-foot 17th-floor Crystal Ballroom was finished in April 2017.

MONTREAL

The millions of visitors who arrived in Montreal to take part in the city's 375th anniversary in 2017 were greeted by a broad spectrum of new possibilities in accommodations, with even more for 2018 and beyond. Here's a look at the highlights.

- › Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth reopened in July 2017 after a \$140 million project that restored the 950-room hotel while incorporating a contemporary style and all-new features such as gourmet dining options, an urban market featuring local producers and artisans, and the Agora event space. The Fairmont Gold 100-room hotel-within-a-hotel commands the top three floors.
- › The 269-room Hotel Monville opened in summer 2017 with 1,800 square feet of meeting space near Palais de Congress convention center.
- › Le Mount Stephen debuted in May 2017 in a 100-year-old Renaissance building in the city's Golden Square Mile. Combining historic ambiance with a modern design, the hotel has floor-to-ceiling windows in all 90

- › After multiple delays, the 30-story, 406-room Hotel X is set to open on the waterfront at Exhibition Place in 2018 (guestrooms and event space will be available early in the year, with the spa and fitness club opening in the spring). The lakefront urban resort features a sports and entertainment concept that includes a hotel tower with high-end dining venues, a stadium-style movie theater, art gallery, rooftop pool, three-story SkyBar and lounge with sweeping views of Lake Ontario. Other highlights include function space complemented by the 90,000-square-foot TEN X fitness facility with rooftop pool, multiple indoor tennis and glass-back squash courts, spinning studio, rooftop pool, golf simulator, health spa and kids' play area.
- › The Anddore House, a transformed 11-story Comfort Inn, is slated to open in January 2018 with 113 rooms and cutting-edge style, including the hotel's app, which turns the guest's phone into a room key and controls everything from lighting to room temperature and television.
- › The Adelaide Hotel Toronto (formerly Trump International Hotel and Tower) is in the midst of an extensive 18-month renovation, with plans for the 256-room hotel to be rebranded as a St. Regis Hotel when the makeover is complete in early 2019.
- › Nobu Hospitality plans to break ground in 2018 for its first Canada hotel, the Nobu Hotel Toronto, to be part of the redevelopment of the Pilkington Glass Factory that also includes 700 condos, retail and a Nobu restaurant.

VANCOUVER

Two new hotel projects made a big splash in 2017 on the scene of Canada's perennial West Coast charmer:

- › The \$640 million Parq opened in September 2017 as an "urban resort" in downtown Vancouver, directly connected to BC Place and the Rogers Arena. At the heart of the development are the 329-room JW Marriott and The Douglas, a 188-room hotel that is part of the Marriott Autograph Collection. Both hotels have access to Parq's amenities, including downtown's only casino, eight restaurants and lounges, a fitness center, a world-class spa, a 30,000-square-foot park located six floors above street level, and 60,000 square feet of meeting and event space that includes Vancouver's largest hotel ballroom.
- › In February 2017, the \$360 million Trump International Hotel & Tower opened with 147 residential-style rooms; the city's first poolside lounge, Drai's Vancouver; the Trump Champagne Lounge; an award-winning Chinese fine-dining restaurant; The Spa by Ivanka Trump; and 15,000 square feet of meeting and event space.

EDMONTON

A mixed palette of hotels is infusing new energy as the Edmonton hotel landscape expands:

- › After extensive renovation, in November 2017, Coast Hotels opened the 156-room Coast Nisku Inn & Conference Center in Nisku Industrial Business Park, the largest industrial business park in Western Canada.

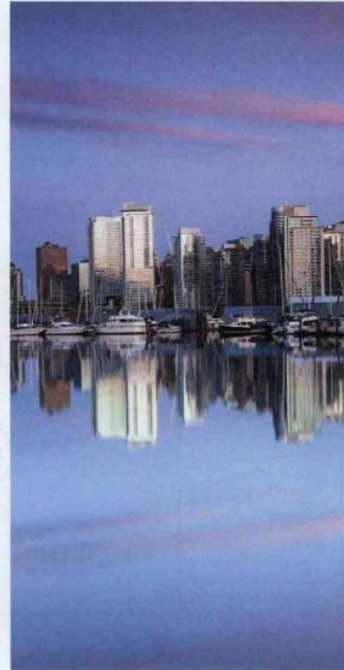
The essentially new hotel features 24,000 square feet of meeting space, an entertainment and business center, and a 15,000-square-foot atrium that has been transformed to include a pool, a water park with slide and spray deck, open-concept dining, an espresso bar and cafe, and a health club.

- › The Crash Hotel, a 104-room boutique hotel, opened next to Rogers Place arena downtown in December 2016, featuring Denizen Hall, a local hot spot for its cutting-edge music, creative cuisine and retro arcade.
- › In January 2017, the distinctive tilted glass tower Hyatt Place Downtown opened with free WiFi and remote printing, the 24/7 Galley Menu, fitness center, hot tub, complimentary full breakfast and seven meeting rooms.
- › By the end of 2018, the city's \$2.5 billion ICE District development will be home to a 356-room JW Marriott, across the street from the Rogers Place indoor arena (scheduled for completion in 2018), new home to the Edmonton Oilers pro hockey team. By 2020, the development will include two office towers, a casino, a city arena, condos and the Winter Garden public event space.

ELSEWHERE IN CANADA

A sampling of other high-profile developments throughout the country includes:

- › **Calgary:** The city's hip East Village neighborhood welcomed the 14-story Hilton Garden Inn in November 2016, and the 155-room Alt Hotel by Germain Group is slated to open by December 2018, featuring an artsy style and large loft-style windows. Meanwhile, Kensington Riverside Inn, a Relais and Chateaux property, debuted a new restaurant, Oxbow, in spring 2017.
- › **Ottawa:** In spring 2017, the Westin Ottawa opened a new 3,000-square-foot rooftop ballroom on the 22nd floor, featuring a video wall and sound system that can be customized for events and a specialty suite to host pre-event activities.
- › **Winnipeg:** The Holiday Inn Winnipeg Airport wrapped up a \$10 million renovation in fall 2016 that created a new open concept in the lobby restaurant and lounge, reception area and business center; renovated all meeting rooms (new state-of-the-art sound system and AV); and gave the guestroom floors a complete makeover, with new enlarged guest bathrooms, enhanced LED lighting, flat-screen HDTVs and new custom designed furniture.
- › **Halifax:** The DoubleTree by Hilton Halifax Dartmouth opened in September 2017 after a \$12.5 million renovation revitalized the former Holiday Inn Halifax Harbourview. The hotel has a new indoor pool, an expanded fitness center, Narrows Bistro, 15,000 square feet of meeting space and 204 all-new guestrooms and suites, many of which overlook the Halifax Harbour.
- › **Quebec City:** Hotel Quartier opened in June 2017 in the city's growing commercial district near Jean Lesage International Airport. A member of the Ascent Hotel Collection, the property offers 140 guestrooms, six meeting rooms and Barolo Pasta & Grill.
- › **Victoria:** In May 2017, the 464-room Fairmont Empress completed a \$60 million project that has restored the Grand Dame's historic style while incorporating a modern infrastructure and style.



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