



9. FALL IN THE CAPITAL

Every fall, as the days get shorter and temperatures drop, vibrant colours take over the landscape. This spectacular show, known locally as the Fall Rhapsody, lasts only a few weeks but attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to the parks and natural spaces in the National Capital Region.

From the heart of the capital to the peaceful greenbelt and beyond, there are many unique and fascinating places to enjoy the fall colours in the National Capital Region.

Popular autumn destinations (source)

- **Hiking and walking:** The options are endless on where you can hike or walk in the capital. There are trails in Gatineau Park and the Greenbelt, paved multi-use pathways in Ottawa-Gatineau, and parkways open exclusively for active use!
- **Downtown Ottawa:** From downtown, you can walk, bike, or take public transit to parks, gardens, attractions, and beautiful views of the Ottawa or Rideau River shorelines. Downtown Ottawa is loaded with architectural gems and bustling with shops, cafés and restaurants, which are sure to enhance the Fall Rhapsody experience.
- **The Greenbelt:** The Greenbelt is a place for nature and for people. It is a vast, protected green space showcasing a mosaic of landscapes, including farms, forests, sand dunes, wetlands, and natural trails. In the greenbelt, you can enjoy a fall-themed picnic, take a family hike under colourful leaves, or visit a local farm.
- **Gatineau Park:** A favourite among local residents and visitors, Gatineau Park often reaches visitor capacity in the fall. To avoid the crowds, some people will head deeper into the park, towards Meech Creek Valley, Philippe Lake, or Luskville Falls. The trails in these areas lead to lakes, lookouts, and scenic covered bridges. On weekends, the NCC offers a free shuttle to Gatineau Park.

