

# Spend a weekend in Ottawa during tulip time

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CORRESPONDENTS

Tulips haven't always been just a pretty face. In the 1600s, tulips started a craze because they were prized for their beauty, rarity and status. Bulbs were sold by weight, usually while they were still in the ground. Fortunes were doubled in the blink of an eye. Poor men became rich, and rich men became filthy rich - without doing a day's work.

In the wildly speculative marketplace, even the threat of government crackdowns couldn't halt the illegal trading of the hottest commodity in 17th century Holland. The bottom fell out of the market during 1637, when a gathering of bulb merchants could not get the usual inflated prices for their bulbs. Word quickly spread, and the market crashed.

Tulipmania still exists. People swarm the countryside the world over to view tulip fields in bloom.

The Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa began in 1948 when Queen Juliana of the Netherlands presented Ottawa with 100,000 tulip bulbs. This

gift was given in appreciation of the safe haven that Holland's exiled royal family received during World War II, and in recognition of the role Canadian troops played in liberating the Netherlands. While the family was in Ottawa, Princess Margriet was born. This information is well-known in Canada, particularly Ottawa, but not to people in the U.S.

The Ottawa Tulip Festival May 3-19 features millions of tulips, creating an exotic mosaic of color and beauty. This year's festival celebrates Australia's tulips.

Ottawa is host to over five million spring-blooming tulips and other flowers that are planted in masses along the Rideau Canal, Governor's House, Parliament Hill, national museums, outside the Casino (45,000 tulips) and other government buildings.

Downtown at Major's Hill Park is the Community Art Garden with 200 five-foot tall painted tulips, concerts, and the International Friendship Village.



Millions of blossoming tulips draw visitors to Ottawa. This year's festival celebrates Australia's tulips.

Not to be missed in Ottawa are the world-famous tulip beds at Dow's Lake. Commissioners Park at Dow's Lake features 300,000 blooms and a display that relates the story of the gift of tulips and lasting friendship between Canada and the Netherlands. For a real experience visit the Vin Rail Tulip Cafe in Ottawa. Dine in the midst of the tulip beds, where a new French chef will give you an opportunity to eat tulips in tulip yogurt or tulip petals in your salad.

Festivities culminate on the final weekend (May 17-18) with the Canadian Parade of Lights on Dow's

Lake, followed by fireworks. Gatineau, on the Quebec side, features the Tulip Explosion floral show highlighting tulip designs by Australian and Canadian floral designers.

## GREEN CAPITAL

Ottawa is situated at the junction of the Rideau, Gatineau and Ottawa Rivers. Samuel de Champlain was the first European to explore the region in 1613. The construction of the Rideau Canal in 1832 created a link to the St. Lawrence River. Capital of Canada since 1857, Ottawa is known as the "Green Capital."

Surrounded by an "emerald necklace" of parks and wilderness areas, it offers endless bike paths and recreational trails. Ottawa's Parliament is accessible to the public. Go to the Visitors Welcome Centre for information.

Peace Tower offers the best view of the surrounding area from the observation deck.

Also worth seeing are Rideau Hall, the historic residence and office of Canada's Governor General. You can tour the residence and gardens, and enjoy the 19th century architecture while listening to free outdoor concerts. Nearby, Rideau Falls tumble into the Ottawa River.

Ottawa's museums include the Canadian Museum of Civilization and

## IF YOU GO

- Check Web site, [www.tulipfestival.ca](http://www.tulipfestival.ca).
- For Tulip Festival information call (800) 66TULIP.
- For Ottawa visitor information call (800) 465-1867.

Children's Museum, the Canadian Museum of Nature and National Gallery of Canada.

Gatineau Park offers hiking trails, bike paths, in-line skating, camping and wildlife. The Ottawa River boasts some of the best whitewater rafting in North America.

Ottawa is a terrific destination that offers something special for everyone in the family. It's about a nine-hour drive from Detroit or a little over two hours by air from Windsor. It's a good destination.



# The Glass Museum opens a window to the past

BY JENNIFER WILMES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sunlight streams through the windows of The Glass Museum in Dunkirk, Ind., shining on a colorful part of Indiana history.

The museum in the state's self-proclaimed glass capital is filled with about 6,500 pieces of glass from 115 factories from around the world, including local glass factories, Indiana Glass Company and Saint-Gobain Containers.

For most people in town, the museum "is part of their heritage," curator Mary Newsome said.

Since glass production at Indiana Glass has stopped, the museum is even more important because it preserves the area's history, said Newsome, a former Indiana Glass employee. Most of Newsome's time at

## IF YOU GO

**What:** The Glass Museum, a collection of more than 5,000 pieces from 115 factories from around the world.  
**Where:** 309 S. Franklin St., Dunkirk, Ind. Call (765) 768-6872 for more information, or e-mail [dunkirklibrary@netscape.net](mailto:dunkirklibrary@netscape.net).  
**Open:** May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.  
**Admission:** \$2 per person, children under 11 accompanied by an adult admitted free

the museum is spent cleaning and rearranging the glass bowls, decanters, vases and mugs and variety items that fill the display cases and cover the walls.

Newsome has been curator since 1997, when former curator Kenneth Webster died at age 89. Webster had been curator of the museum since 1977, soon after the museum

was completed. "He had a soft spot in his heart for the glass industry," said Dunkirk Roy Sneed, president of the board of the Dunkirk Public Library, which owns the museum. "He deserves some credit for the start of the museum."

After Webster retired, he was at the museum five to six days a week, bringing in glass

and donations without pay. "It was a work of pride from his heart," Sneed said.

"He would buy a piece with his money or the museum's money, when there was some, and then he would dedicate it to the museum," Sneed said. "He wasn't above coercing someone (into donating a piece.) He was such a likable fellow. It was hard to say no to him."

In 1968, Indiana Glass designer Thomas Connolly started creating a new line of glass called Greenwich Flint-Craft.

Today, approximately 20 pieces of this line are housed at

the museum, just minutes away from where the pieces were produced.

Connolly, who lives in Muncie, said he has fond memories of his 23 years at the Dunkirk factory. "To create something that appealed to the consumer was gratifying," he said.

The 350 pieces in the line are sought today by collectors from "coast to coast," Connolly said. "They are hot collector items." The richly colored and uniquely shaped vases, bowls and decanters in Connolly's line are completely mouth-blown and hand crafted. Items in the museum are tagged with

the name of the designer and the kind of glass or line to which each piece belongs.

Most items in the museum have been donated or loaned by factories or private owners.

The museum was built in 1976. Its construction was prompted by efforts from the Dunkirk Lions Club, the city, the glass factories and the Dunkirk Public Library. The museum was designed by former Indiana Glass designer and library board president Arthur Harshman.

Glassmaking started in Dunkirk in the late 1880s after productive natural gas wells were discovered in the area.

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## The Creation



"In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth"  
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