



Tulips & Tipples on Two Wheels - Regular Route

This 14km self-guided tour is a great way to see the main sights and beautiful colours of the tulip festival with a few stops for a drink and a bite to eat along the way, close to the route. You can do the whole tour or just a portion of it.

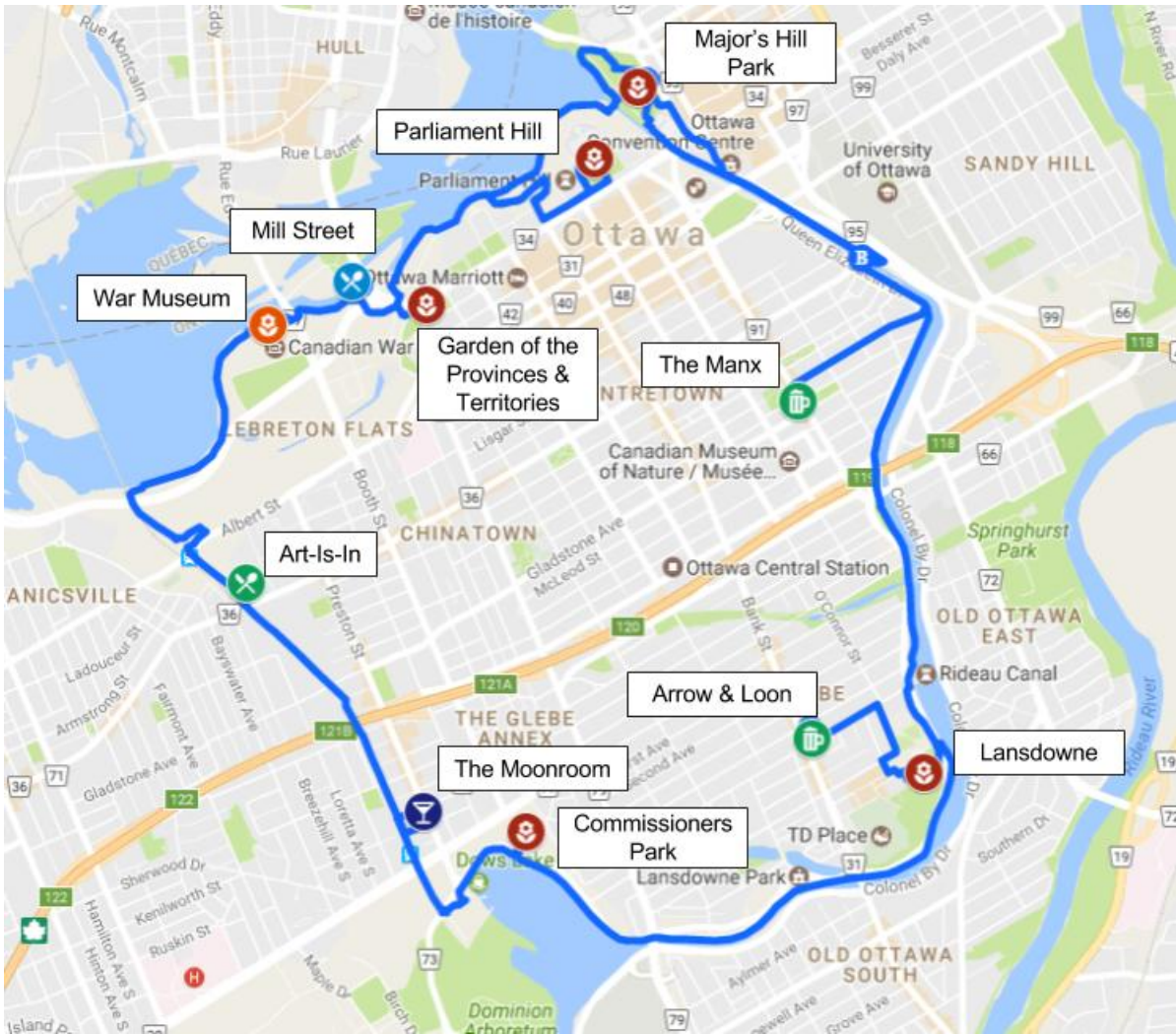
Experience Level: This tour is designed to get you around on car-free pathways and low-traffic streets, so is great for people of all ages with all kinds of

experience levels riding bikes.

Tips are provided for dealing with hills (which we avoid in our routes as much as possible!) and bike parking options.

Starting point: You can start from any point in the route, but it's easiest to go in a clockwise direction given the cycling facilities.

We're listing the routes from one start point, but have included information to complete the loop at the bottom of the tour. If you're using OC Transpo's rack and roll to get your bike in, Bayview is a great stop to disembark from if you're coming along the transitway, since it connects nicely to the Trillium (O-Train) Pathway.



Tulips - Commissioners Park

Commissioners Park is the traditional centre of activity for Tulip Festival and is one of the main free access areas. Stop here to see over 250,000 tulips - including the 150th anniversary tulip and for live musical entertainment and artists working among the tulips.

The best place to lock your bike is near to the Dow's Lake Pavillion or to the railing along the Rideau Canal on the water side of the section with the wooden promenade (out of the way of pathway users)

Tipples - Art-Is-In (7am to 4pm) 250 City Centre Ave #112
 or **The Moonroom** (after 5pm) 442 Preston St

Continue westward along the Rideau Canal Pathway, crossing the traffic loop at the end of Preston Street and following the pathway as it goes toward the Navy Building and then turn right on Navy Private to cross Prince of Wales Drive (note that this is an unsignalized crossing; alternatively you can cross at Preston and Prince of Wales and cut through the parking lot kitty corner to Dow's Lake) to the gravel pathway on the far side. Follow this to Carling and cross at the dedicated bike signal to access the Trillium (O-Train) Pathway.

Art-is-in (7am to 4pm) is a great place for brunch or sandwich on what is usually said to be the best bread in town. It's at City Centre and is easily accessed from the Trillium pathway - just continue on the pathway until you pass under Somerset Street, then turn right into the parking lot before passing the City Centre building and turn left to head to Art-is-in. There's bike parking out front and to get back on the route just retrace your steps.

The Moonroom (after 5pm) is a great place to get small plates and creative cocktails. To access, exit the pathway at Pamilla Street and park your bike near the corner of Preston on one of the Preston's ring racks or tree cages; just retrace these steps back to the pathway on your way out.

Tulips - Canadian War Museum

Those who use the Ottawa River Pathway as part of their regular route to get around town will be familiar with the beautiful "secret garden" of tulip beds that flank the pathway on the river side of the Canadian War Museum near Booth Street. After your tipple, continue north along the Trillium Pathway to where it meets the Ottawa River Pathway and turn right to continue to the War Museum. If you want to lock your bike, the War Museum has parking near their back cafe (which is also a good place to stop for a bite to eat).

Tipples - Mill Street

Toronto-based Mill Street Brew Pub opened in the once long-vacant Mill building along the Ottawa River a few years ago, turning into a very popular MUP-side stop all summer long. Continue east from the War Museum tulip beds to meet with Mill Street just before the pathway passes under the Portage Bridge. Mill Street has ample bike parking and a wide variety of eats and drinks on their menu.

Tulips - Garden of the Provinces and Territories

Continue toward Parliament Hill on the pathway, passing under the Portage Bridge via the first tunnel, but before the second tunnel turn right parallel to the tunnel to go up the hill to the Garden of the Provinces and Territories where there a few tulip beds.

Tulips - Parliament Hill

When you are finished checking out the tulips at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories, head back down the way you came and go through the second tunnel and continue toward Parliament Hill along the Ottawa River Pathway. At the Bank Street sign (just past the small tunnel and bridge over the little creek), turn right to go up to Parliament Hill.

Note that this is a pretty big hill to climb and this tour has you go back down the hill. You can optionally ride up the hill to meet with the Bank Street corner of Parliament Hill if you're feeling energetic (you can do it!), walk your bike up the hill for the rush of riding back down it (there's no shame in that!) or lock your bike up to a pole and walk up the stairs. There are

bike racks at the side of Parliament Hill or you can bring your bike with you while you look at the tulips. Either way, this is one of the most impressive venues of the Tulip Festival, photo-wise.

Tulips - Major's Hill Park

Head on back down the hill and turn right once you meet the pathway again. Ride toward where the River Pathway meets the Canal Pathway at the Rideau Canal Ottawa Locks, just below the Bytown Museum (a great stop to learn about the city and to get a coffee or popsicle). Cross the locks at the second set of locks from the bottom (these are wider than the lowest and easier to get your bike across!) and then turn left to go up the hill to access Major's Hill (this time bring your bike with you whether you are riding or walking). At the top of the hill, turn right to go into Major's Hill Park. This is another venue with an impressive backdrop (Parliament Hill!) for photos.

Tipples - The Manx or the Lieutenant's Pump

Off road route (Before 5pm) - Continue toward the Chateau Laurier on the pathways that cut through Major's Hill Park and take the ramp on the canal side of the hotel down and along the promenade, then enter the access ramp through the bike rental stand (dismount your bike here - there are stairs!), then use the wheel ramp to go down the stairs (hold your brake while you decline - it'll slow your bike down!), then get back on your bike and you're on the Rideau Canal Eastern Pathway.

On road route (After 5pm) - This is the one on-street section of the ride (until the Mackenzie cycle track is completed sometime this month, though currently a part of it has a bike lane), but if you follow these directions your interaction with vehicles will be limited. Continue through Major's Hill Park on the pathways heading toward the Byward Market side of the Chateau Laurier, exiting the park at the very corner closest to the hotel. Wait for a break in traffic (one will happen because of the light timing), then cross to the far side of Mackenzie Avenue, then continue along it to the lights. Go through the intersection and access the bike lane along the Government Conference Centre. Access the Rideau Canal Pathway at the lights at Daly. Continue to the Corktown Footbridge (at Somerset) and cross, then turn left to continue along the pathway.

Tulips - Lansdowne Tulip Gallery

Get back on your ride and head back along Waverly to the pathway. Turn right to go toward Lansdowne Park. Ride to the Canal Ritz and cross Queen Elizabeth Drive, then turn left to go along the pathway that runs along the other side of the Drive, then turn right to go in the back entrance of Lansdowne.

One of the main activation areas of the tulip festival is Lansdowne Park, where the Lansdowne Park Tulip Gallery will be. At Lansdowne there will be Floral exhibits and installations, international friendship activities and entertainment, tulip legacy plaza, tulip art celebrations, interactive family programming, 65th Anniversary Fireworks, Tulip Café, and

much more. Much of this location is a paid area (\$15 for entry and free for children 12 and under), but you can probably also scope the tulips from outside of the paid area.

Tipples - The Arrow & Loon

(The Glebe - 5th Avenue at Bank)

This local pub, with a nice patio and ample bike parking outside (on both 5th and 4th avenue; it has entrances on both sides), is a good place to stop for a bite to eat and a pint of a local craft beer to cap off your ride.

From Lansdowne, go out the side entrance beside the Cineplex Theatre to Holmwood, turn right and follow the street down O'Connor, then turn left at 5th Avenue. Ride down 5th Avenue to the intersection with Bank. The pub is on your right.

Tulips (Loop) - To connect with the beginning of the tour as it's listed here, head back down 5th avenue to the Canal Pathway and turn right to ride along the pathway to Dow's Lake Pavillion. Commissioners Park is across the street.