



Tulips & Tipples on Two Wheels - Flood 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.

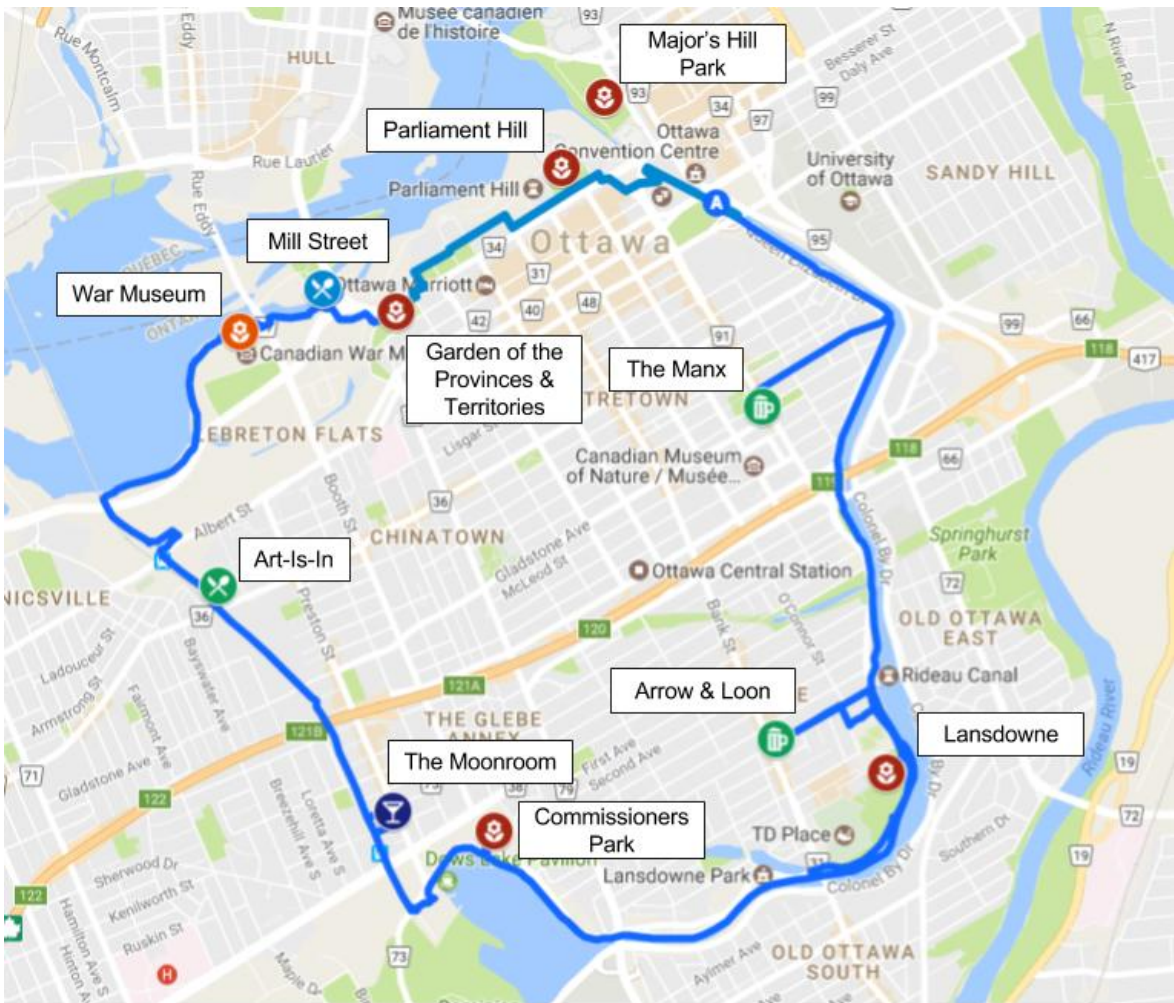
Experience Level: This tour is designed to get you around on car-free pathways and low-traffic streets, so is great for people of all ages with all kinds of

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 tipples, 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

From the Garden of the Provinces and Territories, continue east along Wellington and then cross Wellington at Bay to the Library and Archives Building, turn right, and then turn left into the parking lot next to Library and Archives. Follow this to the end, then turn right to go through the parking lot and then join the pathway slightly to your right and then the street in front of the Supreme Court. Continue along this road to the stop sign just before the automobile entrance to the Hill, then turn right. Before you get to Wellington Street again, turn left into Parliament Hill via the pathway.

Tulips - Major's Hill Park

There's not really a good way to get to Major's Hill Park from Parliament Hill without walking, nor is there really anywhere up here to lock your bike. If you still want to check out Major's Hill still, continue to the Chateau Laurier side of Parliament Hill nearest to Wellington Street, and exit the Hill just in front of East Block and continue left; lock your bike to a pole near the Chateau Laurier (there are one or two there) and then go down the stairs and along the canal side of the Chateau Laurier to access Major's Hill.

Otherwise, cross Wellington at Elgin and then turn left at the crosswalk from Sparks Street to the War Memorial, then continue to the opposite crosswalk and cross the street again and go down the hill next to the National Arts Centre, turn left at the bottom, and then descend the stairs to access the Rideau Canal Pathway detour (there are a couple of short flights of stairs here you'll have to dismount for, but there are bike ramps that will make this easier). Continue along the Canal Pathway.

Tipples - The Manx or the Lieutenant's Pump

Continue along the pathway. At Waverly Street, exit the pathway to cross Queen Elizabeth Drive, and continue down Waverly to just before Elgin Street. You can park your bike in the Lieutenant's Pump bike racks just to your left at this corner and head to The Manx (if you can get in!) or the Lieutenant's Pump for your tipple.

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.