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Unique ways to experience Canada in the spring

There are many experiences that you can only have in Canada in the springtime, from encounters with puffins against a backdrop of shimmering icebergs, to urban festivals celebrating tulips oroutine, to glorious hot springs in the Rocky Mountains.

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By Lola Augustine Brown



In British Columbia, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates 40,000 blooming cherry trees with a series of events throughout the city.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DESTINATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

Here's how you can get the most out of a spring visit to Canada, enjoying more intimate encounters with places that can get busy at other times of the year.

Blooming urban adventures

Each May in Ottawa, Ontario, the Canadian Tulip Festival brings two weeks of live music, arts and cultural events, and fireworks among the glorious, bright, and fragrant blooms. Close to one million tulip bulbs are planted in Ottawa each year, in thirty different locations, so the city is awash in colour, and to wander through its parks in the springtime is delightful.

Cherry blossom festivals across the country celebrate the beauty of cherry trees in full bloom. In April, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, in British Columbia, includes a huge picnic under the cherry trees (complete with entertainment and food trucks), bike tours, foodie events, as well as lights and lanterns adorning the trees at night. In Toronto, Ontario, some 2,000 cherry trees were planted sixty years ago. When they bloom in late April and early May, locals delight in walking routes beneath the trees. Victoria, British Columbia, is also proud of its many cherry trees and, because it's the city with Canada's mildest climate, the trees can bloom as early as late February.