

# Travel Time WITH CHASE & BUD | NIAGARA FALLS

At last. Our annual return from wintering in Florida last month approached the good old days of pre-COVID road trips. For the first time since the fall of 2019 restaurant dining rooms and hotel lobbies were open. Brands like Country Inn and Suites and La Quinta were offering free breakfast again.

We did encounter lots of masks, of course, especially in highway rest areas. We also found COVID-related signage virtually everywhere. Establishments urged patience due to staffing shortages and provided details on state/local COVID policies on masking and social distancing.

Still, a collective sigh of relief was in

## If You Go

For your best Niagara Falls experience, start with these websites to help guide your approach.

[www.niagarafallsstatepark.com](http://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com)  
for the American side.

[www.niagarafallstourism.com](http://www.niagarafallstourism.com)  
for the Canadian side

Thinking Canada? Don't forget the **ArrivCAN** app.

even starred in a 1956 movie "Niagara." Alas, with the advent of commercial airlines in the mid-1900's and the ability to reach more exotic honeymoon destinations, Niagara Falls' star began to fade.

We had to go. But how? Niagara Falls is actually three separate waterfalls (American and Bridal Veil and the much larger Horseshoe) on the Niagara River, which forms the US/Canadian border. The big choice? Visit the US side or cross the border. Advice came back fast, furious, and unerringly consistent. Forget the US side. The Canadian side is by far the best.

The reasoning? The Canadians have invested far more in tourist infrastructure and the city of Ontario is far more developed, with a range of high-end eateries,



The view from Canada to the American side is humbling. Water falls over American and Bridal Veil Falls (left) with 280 tons of force and over Horseshoe Falls (right) with a stunning 2,509 tons of force. The US and Canada share the 4+ million kilowatts of electricity produced.

the air. Fellow travelers smiled and nodded, even engaged in brief chats. The good old days!

So, we decided to include a uniquely "retro" stop on our way back to Bow—Niagara Falls. Back in the 1950's Niagara Falls was known as the premier honeymoon destination of the world. I had never been but had read about its first honeymooners—Vice President' Aaron Burr's daughter in 1801 and Napoleon Bonaparte's brother in 1804. It wasn't until the early 1900's and the advent of the automobile that the honeymoon cache really caught on, though. Marilyn Monroe

Alas, huge digital signs at the border warned us that the app ArrivCAN was required for entry. We ducked into a restaurant for lunch, and I pulled out my phone. Frustration. The app required internet access and scans of all our documents. I'd have to go back to the hotel.

Impossible timing. New York's Niagara Falls State Park would have to do. Disappointed, yes—at first. But within minutes of arriving, we were grinning and shaking our heads. The park (the first state park in the US) was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Think Central Park, the Biltmore Estate and the White House and US Capitol grounds. Expansive views of the falls are juxtaposed with intimate gardens. Plantings, pathways, and vistas complement each other and lead you right to the edges of all three falls. The result is at once serene and exciting.

And dog friendly! The sun came out and we strolled around with Maggie and Millie, amazed at the raw power of the water and thrilled that we could almost reach out and touch the falls.

Sadly, we had no time to descend to the Cave of the Winds or board the Maid of the Mist. But we left wanting to learn more. Take the Barrel Brigade, fifteen daredevils who since 1901 have thrown themselves over Horseshoe Falls in barrels and other contraptions (only ten survived). How about the Underground Railroad's Harriet Tubman leading four escaped slaves to safety in Canada over the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge in 1856? Bud, of course, was fascinated with the hydroelectric story.

We could see the glamour and high-rise casinos across the river, but we were immensely pleased with the up-close-and-personal feel of the American side. Which is for you? That depends on your personal choice and how much time you have.

accommodations, and a Vegas-like array of casinos. The riverside facilities and the mere range of viewing opportunities are spectacular.

But, but, but. Crossing the border can be a challenge these days. Think COVID. Plus, we had our Standard Poodles, Maggie, and Millie, with us. Then there was the timing. We only had one day and an overnight—and it was a gloomy, rainy day at that. Hmmm. We had our paperwork with us: passports and COVID vaccination cards, rabies and license documents for the dogs. We had hotel reservations on the US side but decided to go for the afternoon adventure on the Canadian side anyway.

**"IT IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT IT WOULD BE MORE SO IF THE WATER WENT IN THE OTHER DIRECTION."**

Attributed to Oscar Wilde

## SAFESITTER

**CLASSES FOR  
KIDS ENTERING  
GRADES 4-8**

**TO PREPARE THEM TO  
BE SAFE WHEN THEY  
HOME ALONE, WATCHING  
YOUNGER SIBLINGS  
OR BABYSITTING.**

### Safe@Home

**Friday, July 1 2022 from 9:00 - 10:00 AM at Bow High School, Room 2303**

Designed to prepare students entering grades 4-6 to be safe when home alone. Students learn how to practice safe habits, how to prevent unsafe situations, and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies. Student also learn a system to help them assess and respond to injuries and illnesses.  
\$45 Bow Resident | \$50 Non-resident

### SafeSitter® Essentials

**Wednesday, June 29 2022 from 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM at Bow High School, Room 2303**

Designed for students entering grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Students learn life-savings skills such as how to rescue someone who's choking, and helpful information like what to do if there's severe weather. The lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Student even get to use CPR manikins to practice choking rescue!  
\$75 Bow Resident | \$80 Non-resident

**Register at Bow Parks and Recreation.**

**For information call 223-3920 or email [parksandrec@bownh.gov](mailto:parksandrec@bownh.gov)**