



Magnolia Society International Annual Meeting 2010 Niagara Falls, Canada

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the meeting registration deadline? All registrations must be received by March 29, 2010. We cannot guarantee availability or pricing after that date; however, we will attempt to accommodate late registrations.

Do I have to make my own hotel reservations? No. The travel agent will make both meeting and hotel reservations for you. Of course, you may make your own accommodation arrangements, but remember to register for the meeting with the travel agent.

Do I need a passport in order to travel to Canada? Everybody except Canadian residents will require a valid current passport. All Americans were required to have a passport or a limited number of other documents effective June 1, 2009. For details, go to http://ottawa.usembassy.gov/content/content.asp?section=can_usa&document=borderissues_whtJune09

Which airport should I use? For American members, generally the lowest fares will be found by flying into Buffalo Niagara International Airport (BUF). For Canadian and overseas members, the best choice will be Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ). Hamilton International Airport (YHM) is located closer to Niagara Falls and may be an option for some Canadians.

What airport ground transport is available? Niagara Airbus offers ground transfers between Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo airports and Niagara Falls. On-line reservations (discount offered) may be made at www.niagaraairbus.com. Telephone 905-374-8111 for Niagara Falls, Ontario, 905-677-8083 for Toronto, and 716-835-8111 for Buffalo. For those attending the post-meeting tour, bus transfer will be offered on Monday, May

10th to Quebec City Jean Lesage International Airport (YQB) in the morning, Montreal Pierre Trudeau International Airport (YUL) for mid-afternoon and evening flights and Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) for evening overseas flights.

Is public transit possible for traveling between the airports and Niagara Falls?

Yes, it is possible, but it is not a short distance. From Toronto Pearson International Airport, you may use Mississauga Transit between the airport and Port Credit Go Station and use Go Transit from there to Niagara Falls. For Mississauga Transit schedules and trip planner, go to <http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/publictransit> . For Go Transit schedules, go to <http://www.gotransit.com/publicroot/en/schedule/trainbusschedule.aspx>. A taxi will be needed between the Niagara Falls Go Station and the Crowne Plaza Hotel. For schedule information for the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority from Buffalo airport, go to <http://www.nfta.com/metro/>. Travel from the airport to the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls NY and walk across the bridge. The Crowne Plaza hotel is on the Canadian side of the bridge.

What if I'm driving? Be sure to have your passport and car registration handy. There are limits on how much liquor and tobacco you can bring into Canada, and regulations about pets and firearms entering the country. Complete information is available on Google. Detailed driving instructions are at the end of this list of FAQs.

What is the hotel information for Niagara Falls?

April 28th to May 2nd - Crowne Plaza Fallsview, 5685 Falls Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2E 6W7 Telephone 1-905-374-4445 or toll-free 1-800-263-7135 Website <http://www.niagarafallscrowneplazahotel.com/index.php> .

Will my hotel room have a view? Yes. All rooms in our room block will have a view of the Canadian (Horseshoe) Falls, American Falls and the Rainbow Bridge.

Is breakfast included in the room rate? No. It was decided that in order keep the room rate reasonable that it would not be included. Furthermore, there are a number of breakfast locations in a variety of price ranges within a short walk of the hotel.

Does the hotel charge for parking in Niagara Falls? Yes. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is centrally located in Niagara Falls and there is a daily parking charge. We have negotiated a reduced rate of \$5.00 per day, in effect from April 25th through May 10th

What if the hotel room block sells out in Niagara Falls? Arrangements have been made with a second hotel within walking distance of the Crowne Plaza. Nevertheless, it is recommended that you register early.

What if my traveling companion would rather explore Niagara Falls than join me on the day trips? You register for the meeting. Your companion can spend the days as he or she chooses, then join you for dinner. The registration form includes an option to pay for dinner only on Saturday and/or Sunday.

What about currency exchange? Visitors to Canada should use Canadian currency. Although American currency will generally be accepted, do not expect to receive fair exchange at hotels or retail outlets. Currency may be exchanged at all Canadian banks, Canadian airports and other currency exchange outlets. Generally, you will receive a better exchange rate by making purchases using your credit or debit card. Visa and Master Card may be used almost anywhere in Canada. American Express is also popular, but not accepted in all retail stores. You may also get a good currency exchange rate by using your debit card at an ATM (Automated Teller Machine). We cannot guarantee that all foreign debit cards will be accepted by Canadian ATMs, but many will be. You should consult your bank before traveling. Debit card service charges will vary, although some of the most popular foreign cards may be used at no cost. This will vary from bank to bank. Higher service charges always apply when using an ATM not located in a bank. You are advised to inform your bank and credit card company when traveling outside your country to avoid purchase refusals. Also, it is recommended that you carry at least two cards in the event that a problem arises with one of them. Currency exchange rates have been very volatile over the last few years. In general, the value of the Canadian dollar rises and falls with the price of oil. As of November 4, 2009, \$1 US will purchase \$1.06 Canadian, £1 will purchase \$1.75 Canadian and €1 will purchase \$1.57 Canadian.

What is the cancellation policy? You may cancel your registration until March 29, 2010, by telephone or e-mail. You will receive a full refund less a 10% administration fee. After March 29th, registrations may only be cancelled in the event of a personal or family emergency. If you have hotel accommodations with the Crowne Plaza hotel and you do not check-in, or cancel within 30 days of arrival, you will be charged a minimum of one night's room rate plus applicable taxes.

Will I need Health Insurance? Everybody except Canadian residents is strongly urged to have out-of-country health insurance while traveling in Canada. Canadian Universal healthcare does not cover foreign residents.

What weather should I expect? The weather is generally pleasant and mild in Eastern Canada in early May. The average temperature is 15°C (60°F). Nevertheless, during your visit, prepare for significant weather variations, from chilly and wet to quite warm.

What kind of footwear should I bring? Bring good walking or hiking shoes and prepare for possible wet weather. Boots should not be needed.

Will any event require significant physical fitness? Yes. During the pre-meeting tour on Friday, April 30th, our hike into the Niagara Gorge will be somewhat challenging. A less demanding alternative will be offered that afternoon.

Can I extend my trip in Niagara Falls? Yes. The conference hotel rate is available for up to three days before and after our meeting.

POST-MEETING TOUR

What is included in the tour? Seven nights accommodations at prestigious hotels in Eastern Canada's four great cities. Full breakfasts every day. Lunch six of the seven days. A grand finale banquet. Transportation between cities, admission fees, guided tours, taxes, gratuities and baggage handling.

What is the hotel information for the Post-meeting Tour? We will be lodging on the following nights at the hotels listed.

May 3rd - Marriott Courtyard Downtown **Toronto**, 475 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 1X7 Telephone 1-416-924-0611 or toll-free 1-800-847-5075 Website <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yyzcy-courtyard-toronto-downtown/>

May 4th and May 5th - Marriot Courtyard Downtown **Ottawa**. 350 Dalhousie Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 7E9 Telephone 1-613-241-1000 or toll-free 1-800-341-2210 Website <http://www.marriottcourtyardottawa.com/>

May 6th and May 7th – Grand Plaza Hotel, 505 rue Sherbrooke Est, **Montreal**, Quebec, Canada, H2L 4N3 Telephone 1-514-842-8481 or toll-free (Canada and United States) 1-800-561-4644 Website <http://www.grandplazamontreal.com> .

May 8th and May 9th - Hotel Manoir Victoria, 44 Côte de Palais, Vieux-**Québec**, Québec, Canada G1R 4H8 Telephone 1-418-692-1030 or toll-free (Canada and United States) 1-800-463-6283 Website <http://www.manoir-victoria.com/>

May 10th – Comfort Inn Niagara Falls Hotel, 4960 Clifton Hill, **Niagara Falls**, Ontario, Canada, L2G 3N4 Telephone 1-905-358-3293 or toll-free 1-800-263-2557 <http://www.niagarafallscomfort.com> .

Can I explore cities on my own instead of taking the daily bus tours? Yes. On any day when we are not traveling between cities, you are welcome to explore on your own. We have specifically chosen central hotel locations so that you can do this. Please note that during the post-meeting tour, May 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 are traveling days and you need to be on the tour bus. Please also let us know the day before if you are planning to explore on your own so that we are not looking for you.

Will I need hotel accommodation on May 10th if I am taking the post-meeting tour? Airport transfers will be offered on May 10th to certain airports as the bus returns to Niagara Falls. See “What Airport Ground Transport is Available?” All others returning on the bus to Niagara Falls will need overnight accommodation unless your destination is within a short driving distance of Niagara Falls. Expect the bus to arrive in Niagara Falls in the evening.

Do I have to return on the bus on May 10th? No. You may make your own travel plans if you wish to stay longer in Quebec City or go elsewhere. Please inform us in advance if you are making alternative travel arrangements on or after May 10th.

May I extend my trip in Canada and not rent a car? Yes. Generally, public transit is offered between downtown and airports in each city (or you may use a taxi), and Via Rail service is offered between Niagara Falls, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City multiple times each day. Intercity bus service is also available. For rail schedules, go to <http://www.viarail.ca>. Do not expect the frequency of rail service to be comparable to what is offered in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe.

DETAILED DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

From Detroit, cross into Canada using the Ambassador Bridge, then follow Highway 3 east until you reach Highway 401. Continue east on Highway 401 until near Woodstock, then switch to Highway 403 east. Continue on Highway 403 until you reach Burlington, at which time you should watch for the QEW (Queen Elizabeth Way) to Niagara Falls. You will travel over a very high bridge known as the Burlington Skyway and later another one known as the Garden City Skyway in St. Catharines. Continue on the QEW until you reach Highway 420 and follow it into Niagara Falls. Exit Highway 420 at the last exit before crossing back into the United States. Turn right onto Falls Avenue and the Crown Plaza Hotel will be on your right.

From Port Huron, Michigan, cross into Canada using the Blue Water Bridge and follow Highway 403 east until you reach Highway 401 near London. Continue east until near Woodstock, then switch back to Highway 403 east. Continue on Highway 403 until you reach Burlington, at which time you should watch for the QEW (Queen Elizabeth Way) to Niagara Falls. You will travel over a very high bridge known as the Burlington Skyway and later another one known as the Garden City Skyway in St. Catharines. Continue on the QEW until you reach Highway 420 and follow it into Niagara Falls. Exit Highway 420 at the last exit before crossing back into the United States. Turn right onto Falls Avenue and the Crown Plaza Hotel will be on your right.

From Buffalo, cross into Canada using the Peace Bridge. Turn right onto Goderich Street, right again onto Queen Street, and at the end, turn left onto Niagara Boulevard. This becomes the Niagara Parkway, which will provide you with a scenic drive into Niagara Falls and past the falls themselves. After passing the falls, turn left onto Clifton Hill and turn right onto Falls Avenue. The Crowne Plaza Hotel will be on your left.

From Niagara Falls, New York, cross into Canada using the Rainbow Bridge. Turn right onto Falls Avenue, right again onto Hiram Street, right again onto the River Road, right again onto Clifton Hill and another right turn onto Falls Avenue. You will be making an almost full circle. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is on your left.

From Toronto and points east in Canada, travel west on Highway 401 until you reach Highway 403 in Mississauga. Travel on Highway 403 until you reach the QEW. Follow the QEW to Niagara Falls. Switch to Highway 420 and travel into Niagara Falls. Exit Highway 420 at the last exit before crossing into the United States. Turn right onto Falls Avenue and the Crown Plaza Hotel will be on your right.