Warm tones welcome guests to the city in the autumn, and Ottawa has events in every shade. Celebrate the magic, mystery and majesty of Canada’s capital with visits to our National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian War Museum, red-hot musical acts at CityFolk Fest, plus spirits, suds, and more fall fun.

Colours of the Rainbow

There’s no question, Québec’s Gatineau Park is the ultimate fall colours destination. With so much to see, it can be hard to know where to start. Try the colourfully named Pink Lake, with its spellbinding and well-maintained trails, and lookout posts with a fall vista for the ages!

Art Folks

You don’t have to be an art buff to find yourself immersed in the creativity carefully housed in our National Gallery of Canada. Intriguing pieces anchor the re-imagined Canadian and Indigenous Galleries, opening in 2017. They include collections of Indigenous Art from Aboriginal Peoples of Canada that showcase unique artistic practices outside of established western art canons.

Operating outside traditional definitions of folk music is CityFolk – a four-day music festival at Lansdowne that includes international headliners from all genres and a harvest of local music that spills out of neighbouring businesses along Bank Street!

Get Spooky… and Sudsy

Known as a safe and beautiful city, Ottawa has a bit of a spooky past. Join Haunted Walks during their favourite time of the year as they lead brave groups through creepy elements of the capital’s history, including the halls and cellblocks of internationally recognized haunted hot-spot, the old Carleton County Jail.

Calm your nerves with a pint at Beau’s Oktoberfest in nearby Vankleek Hill. Or take one of Brew Donkey’s Brewery Tours and meet the innovative, local brewmasters who have the city and region positively hopping. Last count finds the area home to at least two-dozen microbreweries and growing. Brew Donkey tours operate Saturdays and Sundays. You’ll want to raise a glass to the city’s suds scene.

Don’t Forget

A visit to the stunning Canadian War Museum is unforgettable. The profoundness of this museum’s content is conveyed from the moment you arrive. The building itself immediately conjures admiration for its arresting architecture features, such as its 24-metre high (78 feet) copper fin with windows that spell out “Lest we forget” in Morse code. Then into Memorial Hall to see the headstone of the unknown soldier.

National Remembrance Day ceremonies are held at the museum and also at the nearby National War Memorial, where the tomb of the unknown soldier lies. Across from the memorial, opposite Parliament Hill, is Major’s Hill Park, which offers spectacular fall views of both Parliament and the Ottawa River.