



## Tulips & Tots on Two Wheels - Flood Route

There are lots of family-friendly activities planned at Tulip Festival and bikes are a great way to get between these. The main spots for families are at Lansdowne and Commissioner's Park but we're suggesting a few other stops to keep the young ones (or just the young at heart!) entertained and happy.

This route is about 15km for the whole round, which might be a bit long for our littlest bike buddies, but you can do any portion of it on its own.

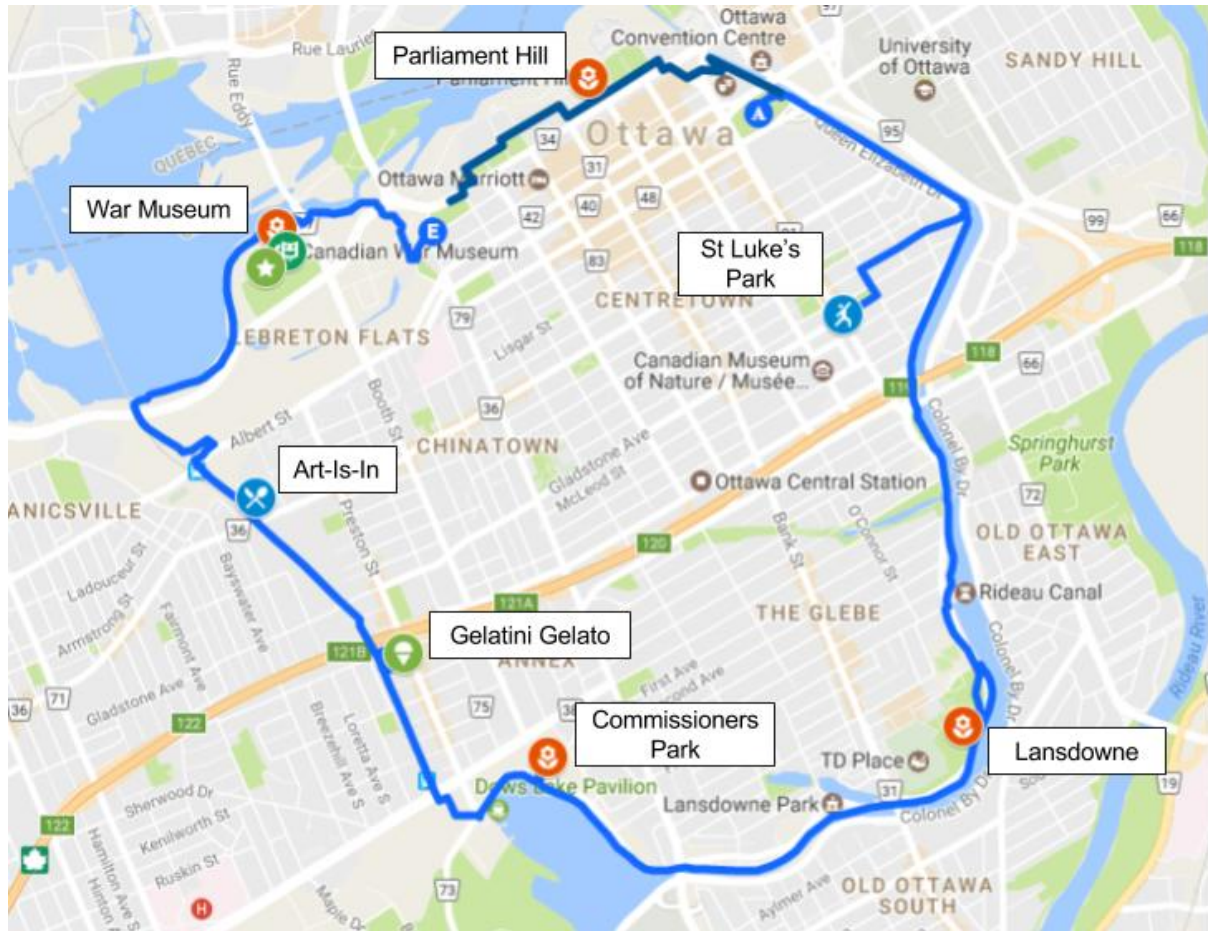
**Experience Level:** This tour is designed to get you around on car-free pathways and low-traffic streets, so are great for people of all ages with all kinds of experience levels riding bikes.

This route is intended both for families with kids on bikes or in bike seats and for families with kids in trailers. At one point, part of it isn't accessible to trailers and or you may prefer to avoid it if you've got your hands full with young kids, so we've given an alternative option for accessing that part of the tour or you can just skip it altogether.

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 are including 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 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 Pavilion 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)

**Tots - Gelatini Gelato** (344 Preston St)  
 or **Art-Is-In Bakery** (250 City Centre Ave #112)

Cross the street at Preston and then cut diagonally through the parking lot kitty corner to the Dow's Lake Pavillion until you meet the gravel path along the O-Train Corridor, then turn right. Follow this to Carling and cross at the dedicated bike signal to access the Trillium (O-Train) Pathway. Then follow one of the two directions below for your stop.

Gelatini Gelato - Who doesn't like a stop for ice cream?! Continue along until Young Street (just before you go under the 417), then turn right and go to the corner near Preston to lock your bikes. Turn and walk right (on the same side of the street) to meet with Gelatini Gelato.

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.

### **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 gelato, 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.

### **Tots - Canadian War Museum**

The Canadian War Museum is also a great place to stop for a snack in the cafe or to check out the museum itself (free on Thursday evenings from 5-8). The kids might also get a kick out of walking up the ramp onto the "roof" of the museum (accessed from the corner of the building furthest way from Booth Street).

### **Tulips - Parliament Hill**

Continue past Mill Street and go through the first tunnel under the Portage Bridge. Before the second tunnel, turn right to go up the hill, then turn left to cut through the Garden of the Provinces and Territories (there are nice tulip beds here too!). At the edge, continue east along Wellington to Bay, 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 pathway.

### **Tots - St Luke's Park Playground**

Time to burn off some energy at the playground! St Luke's Park at Gladstone and Elgin has a great fenced-off playground for kids to climb on.

Continue along the pathway. Turn off the path at Waverly, then continue down Waverly to Cartier, turn left, then turn right down Gladstone (it's calm at this section and has a counterflow lane). The playground is on your right.

### **Tulips & Tots - Lansdowne Tulip Gallery**

Get back on your ride and head back along Gladstone, Cartier and 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.

There is also a great play structure for kids at Lansdowne, so if they still have some energy to spare, set them loose!

**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.