

Discover Kensington Market A Walking Tour of Kensington



Start at 355 College Street.

(Between Bathurst Street and Spadina Avenue)

1. 355 College Street.

In 1919, The **United Negro Improvement Association** (U.N.I.A.) was established at 355 College Street. It advocated race pride, bought and designed churches, and was a major social locale for the black community, with lectures, parties, and classes all under this roof.

1. Across the street at 340 College Street.

In 1996, services at Doctor's Hospital were absorbed by Toronto Western Hospital, and the former location of Doctor's Hospital is the new home for a long-term health facility called **Kensington Gardens**.

3. Walk west on College Street: South east corner of Bellevue Avenue and College Street.



St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Church

In 1858, Robert Denison donated the land at Bellevue Avenue and College Street, and **St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Church** was built. In 1862, Denison donated more land, and a school was built beside the church.

4. South west corner Bellevue and College.

In 1911, the **No. 8 Hose Station**, across from the church, became the first in Toronto to get a motor-driven fire engine. In 1972, it had a great fire and was rebuilt as a replica of the original.



No. 8 Hose Station

5. Walk south on Bellevue Avenue: 95 Bellevue Avenue.

In 1896, 95 Bellevue was home to a leading obstetrician, founder of the Hospital for Sick Children. Between 1920-1940, the Salvation Army ran this building as a rehabilitation house for women. Since WWII, it has been a childcare centre, now run by the City.

6. 91 Bellevue Avenue.

In 1887, 91 Bellevue Avenue was built and was home to the minister of College Street Presbyterian Church until the 1890s.

Today, it is **St. Stephen's Community House**, incorporated in 1974, a United Way member agency since 1975. It has been listed in Heritage Toronto's inventory of Heritage Properties since 1980.



St. Stephen's Community House

7. 87 Bellevue Avenue.

In 1992, 87 Bellevue Avenue was sold to **Homes First Society** and renovated to be used as affordable housing.

8. Corner Bellevue Avenue and Oxford Street.

In 1907, **Bell Canada's** central office was built at 91 Oxford Street, at the corner of Bellevue Avenue, but was closed in 1932. In 1954, it became home to Precision Vacuum Products.



Bell Canada's central office

9. Walk east on Oxford Street: Just east of Augusta Avenue.

In 1930, the Augusta Fruit store opened, first selling from a box on the sidewalk in front of Sonia Lunansky's first home. **Sonia's Park** (Oxford Street and east of Augusta Avenue) was named in her honour.

10. Walk south on Augusta Avenue, west on Nassau, south on Leonard Avenue.

Leonard Avenue: In 1899, **Toronto Western Hospital** took over the MacDonell farmhouse and replaced it with a hospital building in 1905. In 1957, half a block of houses and stores was demolished for a hospital parking garage and medical office building privately owned by the doctors. During the 1980s and 90s, it expanded again. The hospital's incinerator was closed in 1997 due to community concerns regarding public health.

11. Walk east on Wales Avenue: 67 Wales.

In 1912, **St. Christopher House** (a settlement house) was opened in a large house at 67 Wales Avenue, then Bellevue Place, across the park from where the Denisons had lived. In the

early days, settlement house workers lived in the house. In 1973, St. Christopher's House moved out of Kensington.

12. 29 Wales.

In 1884, 29 Wales Avenue was built and became the home of a local lumber dealer. During the construction of Kiever Synagogue, services were held in this house. Dan Heap, a local politician and Anglican priest, bought the house and later donated it to Homes First.

13. Walk north on Bellevue Avenue: At the corner of Bellevue and Denison Square.



In 1901, The **Kiever Synagogue** began as part of a congregation in the Ward. In 1979, it was the first Jewish building in Toronto to be designated a heritage property under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Kiever Synagogue

14. Just east of Kiever Synagogue on Denison Square.

In 1815, George Denison bought park lot 17 and half of 18, the land between Major and Lippincott Streets, and built **Belle Vue Estate** beside where the Kiever Synagogue is today. In 1889, Robert Denison sold Belle Vue, and it was demolished soon afterwards.

15. Walk north on Augusta Avenue, east on Baldwin Street, south on Kensington Avenue: 66 Kensington Avenue.

In 1928, **Sanci's**, a banana store, was opened. It was the only non-Jewish store in Kensington.

16. Just south of St. Andrew, on the west side of Kensington Avenue, through a laneway.

In 1888, **Kensington Place**, was built to house English construction workers. It is located just south of St. Andrew on the west side of Kensington Avenue through a laneway.

Kensington Place



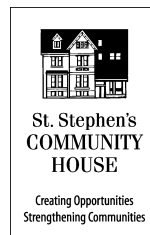
There are two other similar laneways in Kensington: **Fitzroy Terrace**, off of Kensington Avenue just south of Kensington Place and **Glenbailie Place**, with entry off of Spadina.

17. Walk east on St. Andrew: Corner of St. Andrew and Spadina Avenue.

In 1925, the **Labour Lyceum** was opened at the corner of St. Andrew and Spadina. It was a home for unions and the socialist movement, somewhere behind where the restaurant is today.

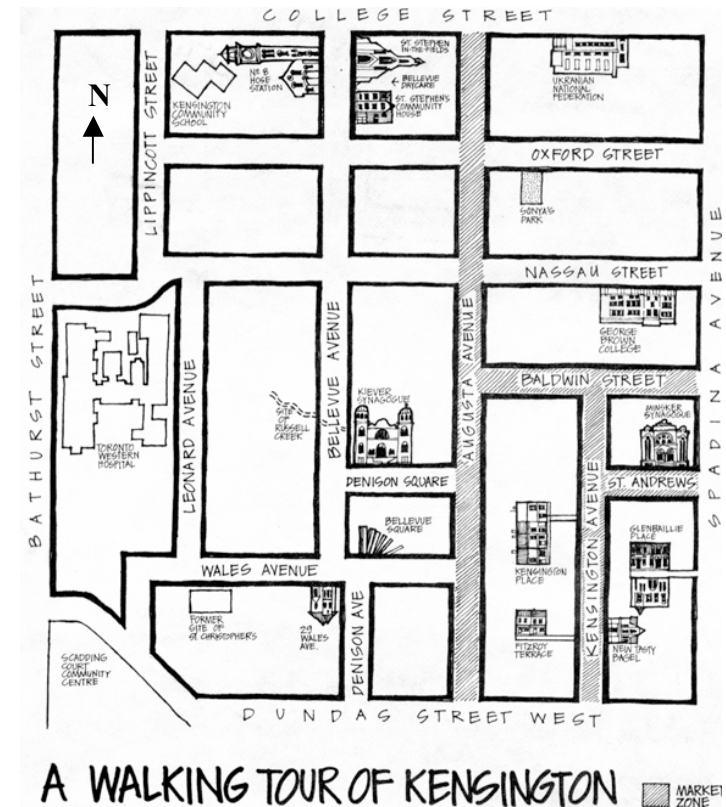
18. Just west of Spadina Avenue on St. Andrew.

In 1930, **Anshei Minsk** congregation was one of the first founded in Kensington. The synagogue was built where two small houses had stood. It became known as the Minsker Synagogue.



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Call us to book your group tour.

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A WALKING TOUR OF KENSINGTON

Approximate walking time 60-90 minutes

Discover Kensington Market

One of Toronto's most exciting neighbourhoods