

# 10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT THE SMALLEST PROVINCE IN CANADA

Prince Edward Island (PEI) is a charming and picturesque destination that offers a variety of attractions and activities. Here's a glimpse of what makes PEI worth a visit:

**Why Visit PEI?** Scenic Beauty: The island is known for its stunning landscapes, including rolling green hills, red sandstone cliffs, and pristine beaches.



**Cultural Heritage:** Experience the rich history and culture of PEI through its historic sites, museums, and vibrant arts scene.

**Green Gables Heritage Place:** Tour the farmstead that inspired Lucy Maude Montgomery's "**Anne of Green Gables.**" Fans of Lucy Maud Montgomery's famous novel can visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum and other related sites.

**The Cradle of the Constitution** - Charlottetown is considered the "Cradle of Confederation" because it was the site of the Charlottetown Conference in 1864 which ultimately laid the groundwork for the Canadian Confederation, leading to the formation of Canada as a nation in 1867. The discussions and agreements made during this conference were pivotal in shaping the future of the Country. It's a significant part of Canadian history.

**The Bottle Houses:** Located in Cap-Egmont, these whimsical structures are made entirely of recycled glass bottles. It's a colorful and creative experience. Not far is the Buoy Tree pictured.

**Singing Sands Beach:** Found at Basin Head, this beach is famous for the unique sound its sand makes when you walk on it.



**Lennox Island First Nation:** Visit to learn about the Mi'kmaq culture, try traditional crafts, and taste local foods.

**Canadian Potato Museum:** Located in O'Leary, this museum celebrates the history and culture of potatoes with exhibits and even a potato sculpture garden.

**Seven's Pinballorama:** An arcade and museum in O'Leary featuring vintage and modern pinball machines.

**The Rossignol Estate Winery:** Visit PEI's oldest winery to sample locally produced wines and tour the vineyard.

**Have you ever visited Charlottetown or any other historic sites in Canada?**

**Prince Edward Island (PEI) has a diverse economy with several key industries.**

PEI is known as Canada's **"Potato Capital,"** producing over 25% of the country's potatoes. Dairy farming is also significant, along with blueberries, vegetables, and cattle.

**Fisheries and Aquaculture:** The seafood industry is a major contributor, with products like mussels, lobster, oysters, and clams.



**Tourism is a key contributor to PEI's economy,**

PEI attracts visitors with its scenic beauty, historic sites, and cultural events, making tourism a vital industry. In 2022, Prince Edward Island generated approximately \$467 million in visitor-related spending.

The island continues to see growth in tourism, with initiatives aimed at attracting more visitors and increasing revenue throughout the year.

**Bioscience:** The island has a growing bioscience sector focused on research and development.

**Advanced Manufacturing:** This includes aerospace and defense industries, which benefit from a skilled workforce and proximity to major markets.

**Renewable Energy:** PEI is a leader in wind energy and is exploring other renewable energy sources including solar panels, biogas, bio mass initiatives.

These initiatives are part of PEI's broader strategy to create economic wealth, improve environmental sustainability, and operate self-sufficiently while expanding its renewable energy cluster.

**Information and Communications Technology (ICT):** This sector is expanding, with growth in healthcare, software development, financial services, and gaming.



**Outdoor Activities:** PEI is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts, offering activities like cycling, hiking, golfing, and fishing.

Prince Edward Island boasts an impressive network of cycling trails, with over 115 routes to explore. These trails cater to all levels of cyclists, from beginners to experienced riders. With so many options, PEI is a fantastic destination for hiking enthusiasts as well.

Prince Edward Island is renowned for its excellent golf courses and is often referred to as the "**Golf Capital of Canada.**" With over 14 world-class golf courses, PEI offers a variety of stunning layouts from rolling hills to beautiful coastal views with breathtaking scenery.

PEI is known for its excellent brook trout fishing, with many rivers and streams offering opportunities to catch these beautiful fish. Although not native, rainbow trout have established healthy populations in many rivers on the island. Angling for Atlantic salmon is a time-honored tradition on PEI.

Smelt fishing is popular, especially during the smelt dip net fishery from April 1 to June 1



PEI is famous for its bluefin tuna fishing, particularly around North Lake Harbour, known as the "Tuna Capital of the World". Cod fishing is a staple of the island's fishing culture, with these fish being both a culinary delight and a popular target for anglers. Coastal areas provide opportunities to catch mackerel and striped bass.

Digging for your own clams and having a clambake on the beach, especially during low tide when clams are easier to find is a popular activity for Islanders. Just make sure to follow the regulations, such as checking for posted signage indicating open areas and adhering to the daily catch limit of 100 clams. Clambakes are a delightful way to enjoy freshly harvested clams. Many local restaurants and event organizers offer clambake experiences, where you can savour clams cooked over an open fire with traditional accompaniments like corn, potatoes, and seafood.

**Delicious Cuisine:** Savour fresh seafood, particularly PEI mussels and oysters, as well as locally grown produce.

You should definitely attend one of the many lobster suppers taking place in PEI during the season of which there are two... The first runs from early May to the end of June, and the second from mid-August to mid-October. This allows for fresh



lobster to be available throughout the warmer months. For traditional lobster suppers, some popular spots are the **New Glasgow Lobster Suppers**: this family-owned restaurant has been serving up traditional lobster suppers since 1958 and is a sit down and be served restaurant. **Fisherman's Wharf Lobster Suppers**: Situated in North Rustico, this spot offers a 60-foot salad bar along with fresh lobster and other seafood but you serve yourself. **Lobster on the Wharf**: Overlooking the Charlottetown waterfront, this restaurant provides a scenic dining experience with fresh lobster and other seafood options. **Cardigan Lobster Suppers**: Another great option, known for its delicious seafood chowder and all-you-can-eat mussels. **The Fiddling Fisherman**: Located in Souris Harbour, this unique experience includes a lobster fishing trip followed by a meal on the boat.

**Have you ever tried a traditional lobster supper before?**

**Harness racing** is a beloved tradition on PEI, blending sport, history, and community in a unique and exciting way. Harness racing is a form of horse racing where horses race at a specific gait, either trotting or pacing, pulling a two-wheeled cart called a sulky from which the driver steers the horse.



PEI has a long history with harness racing, dating back to the late 19th century. The sport has deep roots in the island's culture. Harness racing events are community-oriented, bringing together families, friends, and racing enthusiasts. The atmosphere is often festive, with food, entertainment, and activities. PEI is home to two major harness racing tracks, **Red Shores at Charlottetown** and **Red Shores at Summerside**.

These tracks host numerous races throughout the year, including the prestigious Gold Cup & Saucer race, which attracts top drivers and horses from across Eastern Canada. They also have casinos attached so you can lose your money two ways.

**THE MUSIC SCENE:** in PEI is a blend of traditional and contemporary styles, with a strong emphasis on community and cultural preservation. Whether you're into Celtic music, jazz, blues, bluegrass or country, there's something for everyone to enjoy on the island.

Located in a restored 1937 barn, the Trailside Music Hall offers intimate performances by local and visiting artists. Known for its exceptional acoustics, the Historic St. Mary's Church hosts the Indian River Festival, featuring a mix of Celtic, jazz, and classical music. Charlottetown's Confederation Centre of the Arts hosts a variety of performances, including theater, music, and dance

One of Atlantic Canada's largest music festivals, **Cavendish Beach Music Festival** features country music stars and attracts tens of thousands of visitors. The **Mutual Festival of Small Halls** is a popular festival held in various churches across the island, showcasing folk and gospel music in intimate settings. **TD PEI Jazz & Blues Festival** is held in Charlottetown; this festival celebrates jazz and blues with performances by top musicians from the island and beyond.

Spend a fun-filled day at the Musical Village Acadian and discover the rich cultural and musical fabric of the Evangeline region.

Ceilidhs (pronounced "kay-lee") are traditional social gatherings that highlight music, dance, and storytelling. In PEI, ceilidhs are a cherished part of the cultural heritage, often featuring fiddling, step dancing, and songs that reflect the island's history and roots. These events are typically held in community halls and offer a relaxed, interactive environment where everyone can join in the fun.

Kitchen parties are similar to ceilidhs but are usually held in someone's home. They involve friends and family gathering around the kitchen or living room to sing, dance, and enjoy music together. These gatherings are known for their warm, welcoming atmosphere and often include homemade food and drinks. Both ceilidhs and kitchen parties are great ways to experience the vibrant music and community spirit of PEI.

**Have you ever attended a ceilidh or kitchen party, or are you planning to?**



**PEI LIGHTHOUSES:** There are 63 lighthouses on PEI according to a 2016 census with 35 still active and 7 which are privately owned. How cool would that be to live in a lighthouse! PEI boasts the highest concentration of lighthouses in North America.

On average, you can find one lighthouse every 55 kilometers along the island's scenic coastline. You can book a room for the night at the West Point Lighthouse located in Cedar Dunes Provincial Park has stunning views of the Northumberland Strait.

Some of the lighthouses are accessible but others you can only view from the outside.

These lighthouses not only serve as navigational aids but also as beautiful photo backdrops and historical landmarks.

Located on a beautiful oceanfront property, Point Prim Chowder House is highly praised offering a variety of locally sourced seafood dishes. The lobster roll, seafood chowder, and fresh oysters are particularly popular among visitors. A perfect spot to relax and enjoy a meal within walking distance of the Point Prim lighthouse.

**Have you visited any of these lighthouses, or are you planning to explore them on your next trip to PEI?**





**PEI Gardens:** Prince Edward Island is home to several beautiful gardens that you can visit. Here are some notable ones:

**A.A. MacDonald Memorial**

**Gardens:** Located in Georgetown, this is PEI's largest municipal garden, featuring over 60 colorful flower beds and Canada's largest ship's wheel.



**Gardens of Hope:** Situated in New Glasgow, this garden includes a butterfly house with imported tropical butterflies and a respite cottage.

**Victoria Park:** Found in Charlottetown, this park features colorful displays of annual and perennial flowers, as well as a self-guided arboretum tour.

**The Dunes Gallery, Gardens & Café:** Located in Brackley Beach, this garden is known for its statues and beautiful water gardens.

**Green Gables Heritage Place:** Inspired by the "Anne of Green Gables" novels, this garden offers 19th-century landscapes and trails.

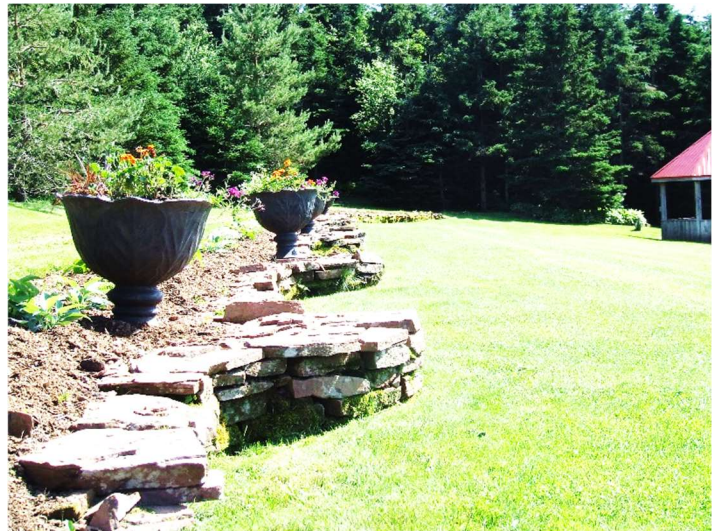
**Island Lavender Distillery Farm:**

Situated in New London, this farm offers lavender products and beautiful gardens.

**MacPhail Woods Ecological**

**Forestry Project:** Located in Orwell Corner, this garden features native plant nurseries and wooded trails.

**Montgomery Park:** In Charlottetown, this park honors author Lucy Maud Montgomery with a life-size statue and a literary trail.



These gardens offer a mix of natural beauty, artistic creativity, and historical significance, making them perfect spots to explore and enjoy.

**The People:** Last but definitely not least, Prince Edward Island is known for its friendly, welcoming, and close-knit community. The people who live on the island, often referred to as Islanders, have a strong sense of community and pride in their heritage with a mix of Acadian, Mi'kmaq, and Scottish influences.

Islanders are known for their warm hospitality and friendliness. They are always ready to welcome visitors and make them feel at home.

Their sense of community is strong, with many local events, festivals, and gatherings that bring people together.

Islanders have a deep connection to the natural environment, valuing their beautiful landscapes, coastlines, and outdoor activities.

Most Islanders have a strong musical background and can either sing or play an instrument or both while step dancing. That's why Ceilidhs and kitchen parties are such common social events.

**Arts and Crafts:** The island has a thriving arts and crafts scene, with many local artisans creating pottery, textiles, and other handmade goods.

To sum things up, you'd be hard pressed to find a reason not to visit PEI.

PEI is the smallest Canadian province both in land area and population.

Area: Approximately 5,660 square kilometers (2,190 square miles).

Population: Around 160,000 residents.

PEI offers a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural experiences, and outdoor adventures, making it a delightful destination for travelers.

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I would be remiss however not to include a tourist attraction that brought many tourists to PEI but has since been destroyed by Nature.

**Teapot Island**, also known as Teacup Rock, was a beloved and iconic rock formation at Thunder Cove Beach on Prince Edward Island.

Unfortunately, it was destroyed by post-tropical storm Fiona in September 2022. The rock formation was famous for its unique shape, resembling a teacup sitting on the water, and was a popular spot for tourists and locals alike.



It's always sad to lose such natural landmarks, but it's also a reminder of the powerful forces of nature. **Have you ever visited PEI and seen Teacup Rock before it was destroyed?**