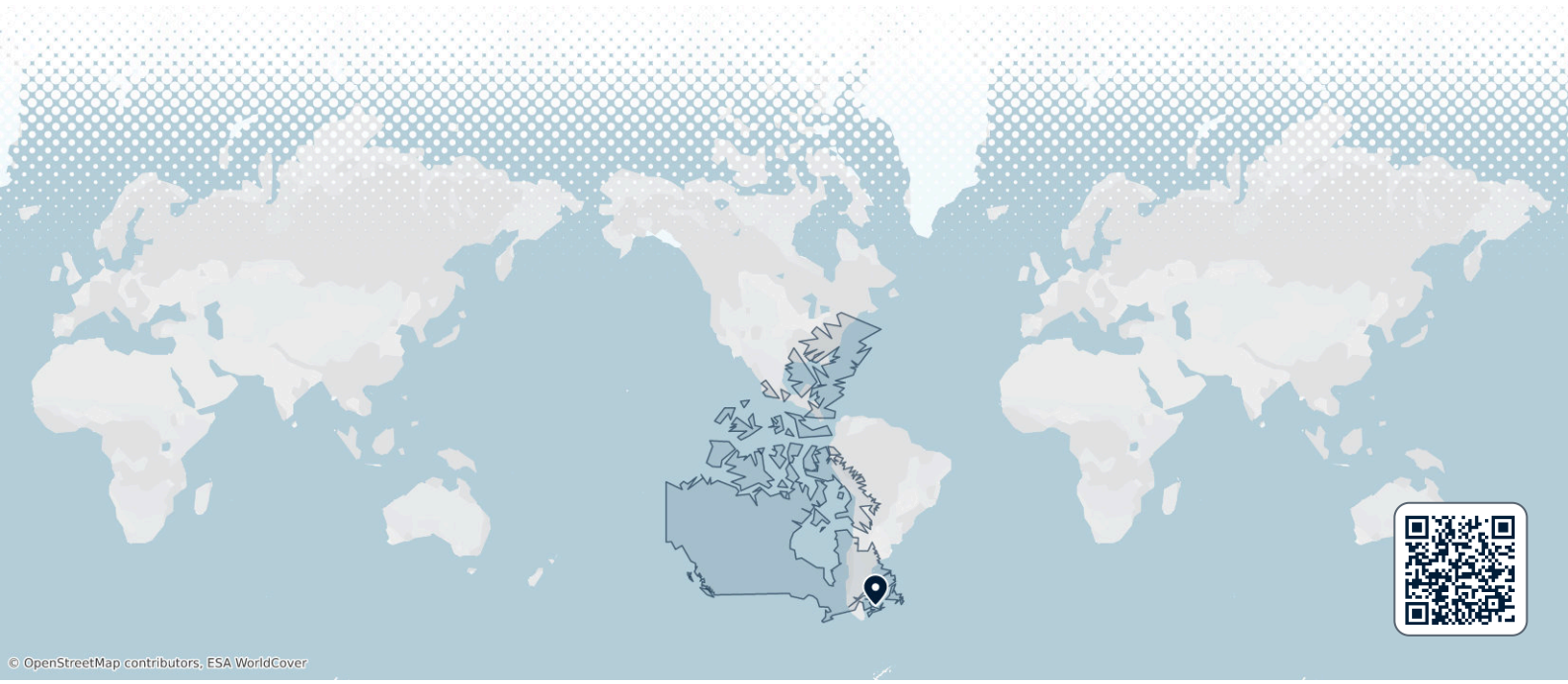


Charlottetown

Prince Edward Island · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Charlottetown is the capital of Prince Edward Island. It sits on a harbour on the island's south coast. The old centre is small, low-rise and easy to walk.

The city is known as the birthplace of Canadian Confederation. Visitors come for the historic buildings, the waterfront and fresh seafood. It is also the usual base for beaches and the Anne of Green Gables sites on the north shore. Two to three days is enough for the city itself.

When to visit

June to September is the best time. Days are warm, the sea is swimmable in July and August, and summer theatre and festivals run. Many seasonal attractions, tours and restaurants close from October to May.

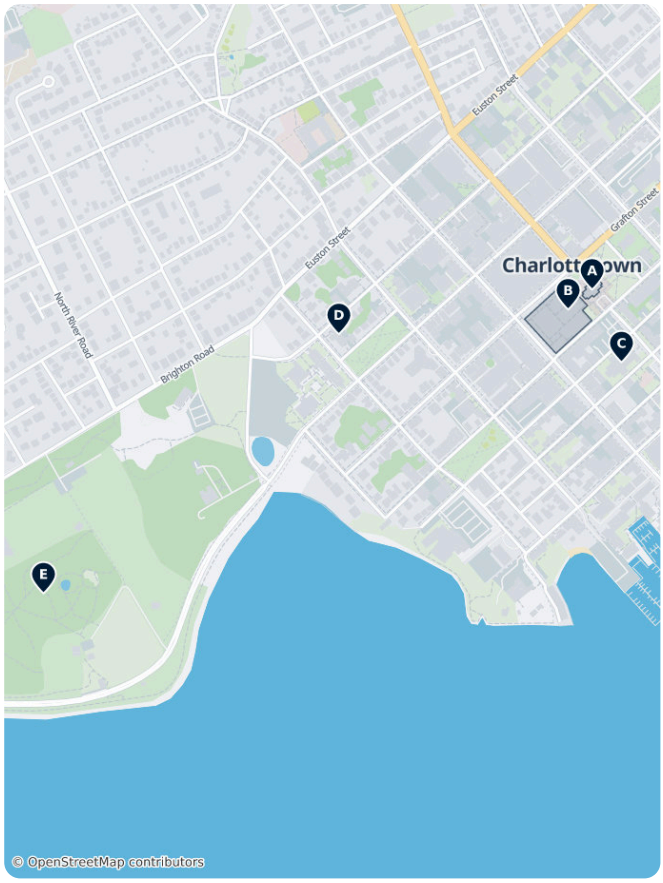
Autumn is mild and colourful but quieter. Winters are long, cold and snowy.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-2° / 7° Feels like -9°	-9° / -18°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-3° / 6° Feels like -10°	-10° / -19°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 9° Feels like -5°	-6° / -14°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 15° Feels like 2°	0° / -5°	13 rainy days · Dry air
May	Good Good for cycling	14° / 22° Feels like 10°	6° / 2°	12 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	12° / 7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	17° / 14°	12 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	17° / 14°	12 rainy days
September	Great Great for cycling	19° / 25°	14° / 9°	Dry air
October	Good Good for cycling	13° / 19° Feels like 9°	8° / 3°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 15° Feels like 1°	2° / -4°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 10° Feels like -5°	-4° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: July, August

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Province House is where the 1864 Charlottetown Conference met. It is a National Historic Site and the seat of the provincial legislature. The building has been closed for conservation work, so check the status on Parks Canada before you go.
- B Confederation Centre of the Arts is the main arts centre. It was built as a memorial to the Confederation talks and has theatres and an art gallery.
- C St. Dunstan's Basilica is the large Catholic church downtown. It has a Gothic Revival design and twin spires.
- D St. Peter's Cathedral is a small Anglican cathedral in a quiet churchyard near Province House.
- E Victoria Park is a waterfront park on the harbour. It has shaded paths, views over the water and the old cannons of Prince Edward Battery.
- Victoria Row and Great George Street are the best streets for a walk. Victoria Row is a pedestrian street with cafés and shops. Great George Street runs down to the harbour at Peakes Quay.

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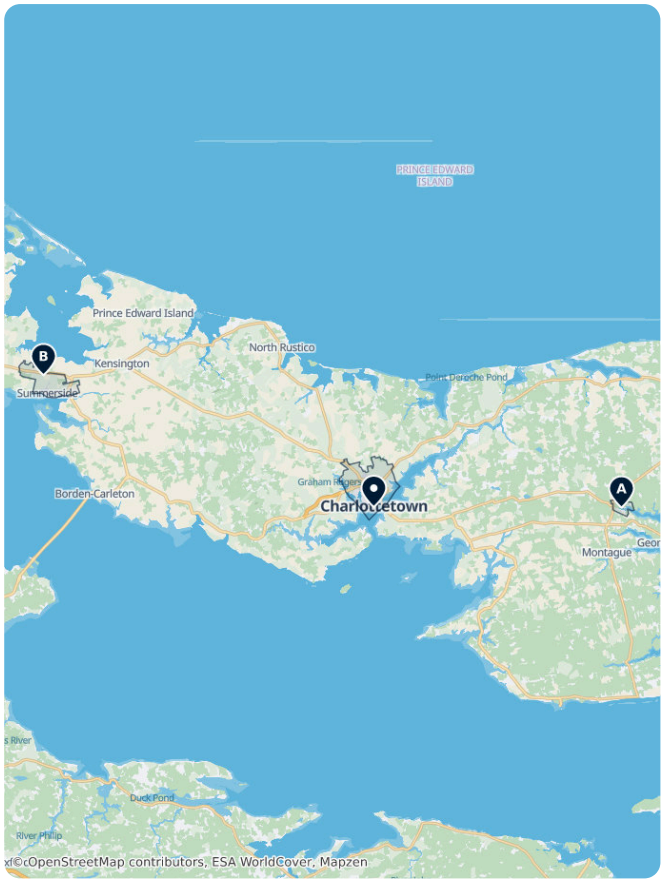
What to experience

- **Walk the waterfront.** Follow the harbour from Peakes Quay to Victoria Park. Harbour boat tours run in summer.
- **See a show in summer.** Live theatre and music fill the evenings at the Confederation Centre and other venues.
- **Cycle the Confederation Trail.** Rent a bike and ride out of town on the flat rail trail.
- **Spend a day on the north shore.** Beaches and dunes are within a short drive.

Day trips

All trips are one way from downtown, in order from closest to farthest. A car is the easiest way to reach all of them.

- **Cavendish and Prince Edward Island National Park**: about 30 to 40 minutes by car. Red sand beaches, dunes and the Anne of Green Gables heritage site.
- A Cardigan: about 45 minutes by car. A small eastern village on the water.
- B Summerside: about 1 hour by car. The island's second city, on the west side.



Where to explore

- Prince Edward Island is the province. Most visitors also see the north shore beaches and the rural east and west ends.
- Cabot Provincial Park is a provincial park on the west side of the island, with a beach and a campground.

Getting there

- **By air**: Charlottetown Airport (YYG) is about 10 minutes from downtown by car. It has flights to Toronto, Halifax, Montreal and other Canadian cities. Taxis are the usual way into town.
- **By car**: The Confederation Bridge links the island to New Brunswick at Borden-Carleton, about 45 minutes from the city. The toll is paid when you leave the island. Moncton is about an hour from the bridge, and Halifax is about 4 to 4.5 hours from Charlottetown.
- **By ferry**: A seasonal ferry runs from Caribou, Nova Scotia to Wood Islands, about an hour from the city. It runs seasonally, roughly spring to December, so check the schedule.
- **By bus**: Maritime Bus runs coaches to Moncton, Halifax and other Atlantic cities. There is no passenger rail on the island.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The historic centre is flat and compact. Most main sights are within a 15-minute walk of each other.
- **Public transit**: T3 Transit runs buses in Charlottetown and nearby towns. Cash fares need exact change. See T3 Transit.
- **By bike**: The Confederation Trail, a former railway line, passes through the city. It is flat and good for cycling.
- **Taxi**: Taxis work across the city. For beaches and the north shore, a rental car is more practical than buses.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The historic centre is flat and compact, and the main sights are close together.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The flat Confederation Trail passes through the city. Bike lanes downtown are limited.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for the city centre, which is small and walkable. A car helps a lot for beaches, the north shore and other parts of the island.
- **Parking**: Paid street parking and car parks are found downtown. They fill up on summer evenings.
- **Winter**: Snow and ice are common from December to March. Allow extra time.
- **Bridge toll**: The Confederation Bridge toll is paid when leaving the island, not when arriving.

Food & drink

The island is known for seafood. Try mussels, oysters and lobster, and look for lobster suppers in summer. Potatoes are a local crop and appear on many menus. Local ice cream is a popular summer treat.

Most restaurants are in the old centre, around Victoria Row, Great George Street and the waterfront. Book ahead on summer weekends. Tipping of 15 to 20 percent is normal in sit-down restaurants.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Tourtière
A savory meat pie, traditionally made with pork, beef, or game, especially popular in Quebec.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Poutine
Fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, originally from Quebec and now popular nationwide.

Bannock
A simple fried or baked bread with roots in Indigenous cooking, found in many regional variations across the country.

Montreal-style Bagel · Bagel montréalais
A smaller, sweeter, denser bagel than the New York style, boiled in honey water and baked in a wood-fired oven.

Maple Syrup · Sirop d'érable
Syrup tapped from maple trees, mainly in Quebec and Ontario, used on pancakes and in baking and savory dishes alike.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Butter Tart
A small pastry shell filled with a sweet, gooey butter, sugar, and egg filling, sometimes with raisins or pecans.

Nanaimo Bar
A no-bake dessert bar from British Columbia with a chocolate-crumb base, custard filling, and chocolate topping.

DRINKS

Caesar
Canada's signature cocktail: vodka, Clamato juice (tomato and clam broth), and spices, served with a celery stalk.

Canadian Whisky
A lighter, smoother style of whisky than Scotch or Bourbon, often blended with rye.

Ice Wine
A sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine, produced mainly in Ontario's Niagara region and British Columbia's Okanagan Valley.

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Safety & health

Charlottetown is a very safe city for visitors. Normal care with valuables in parked cars is enough.

Summer sun can be strong at the beaches, and the sea is cold. Bring insect repellent for walks in parks and woods. Winter needs warm layers and boots with good grip. Storms in late summer and autumn can cause delays.

History

The Mi'kmaq have lived on the island, which they call Epekwitk, for thousands of years. French settlers arrived in the 1700s. The British took the island in 1758. Charlottetown was founded soon after and named for Queen Charlotte.

In September 1864, leaders from the British colonies met here to discuss a union. This Charlottetown Conference led to Canadian Confederation in 1867. The city is called the birthplace of Confederation. Prince Edward Island joined Canada in 1873.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

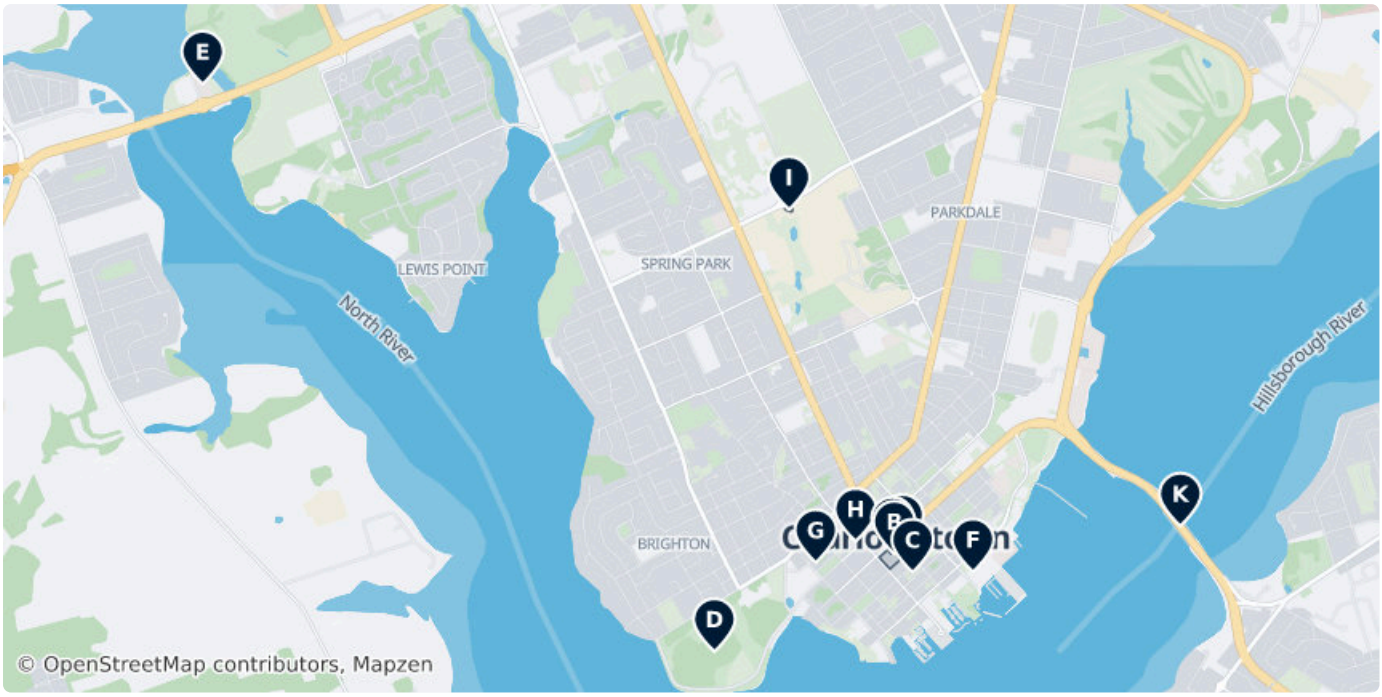
Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Charlottetown Essentials

Charlottetown, the "Birthplace of Confederation," preserves its 19th-century history through landmark sites like Province House and the Gothic Revival St. Dunstan's Basilica. The city's cultural hub, the Confederation Centre of the Arts, showcases Canadian visual and performing arts, while Victoria Park offers sprawling green space and harbor views. Local culinary traditions are centered at the Farmers Market and the historic Founders' Food Hall, providing a comprehensive look at Prince Edward Island's political, architectural, and maritime heritage.





A Province House

Province House is where the Prince Edward Island Legislature, known as the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, has met since 1847.

Richmond Street, Charlottetown, PE C1A 8G8, Canada
(46.23500, -63.12600)

pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/pe/provincehouse, 902-566-7050



B Confederation Centre of the Arts

Confederation Centre of the Arts is a cultural centre dedicated to the visual and performing arts located in the city of Charlottetown,...

Queen Street 130, C1A 1J1 Charlottetown
(46.23463, -63.12664)

confederationcentre.com/en/



C St. Dunstan's Basilica

St. Dunstan's Basilica is the cathedral of the Diocese of Charlottetown in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. It is named for St.

(46.23367, -63.12523)



D Victoria Park

Victoria Park is a waterfront park in the city of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

C1A, Canada (46.22946, -63.14045)

E COWS Creamery

Production facility and museum offering guided tours of the ice cream-making process, cheese aging rooms, and the screen-printing of signature apparel.

(46.25958, -63.17977)

cows.ca

F Founders' Food Hall and Market

Waterfront market located in a refurbished 1906 railway car shop, featuring local food vendors, artisans, and a demonstration kitchen.

(46.23370, -63.12059)

Mo–Th	10:00–18:00
Fr–Sa	10:00–20:00
Su	12:00–17:00

foundersfoodhall.com, +1-902-569-3091



G St. Peter's Cathedral

St. Peter's Cathedral, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, was founded in 1869 as a result of the influence of the Oxford Movement.

(46.23418, -63.13267)

H Charlottetown City Hall

Charlottetown City Hall is the seat of City Council in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

(46.23531, -63.12961)

charlottetown.ca, +1 902 566 5548

I Charlottetown Farmers Market

Year-round Saturday market hosting local farmers, craftspeople, and food producers. It focuses on Prince Edward Island organic produce and prepared international cuisines.

Belvedere Avenue 100, C1A 8C4 Charlottetown (46.25292, -63.13472)

Sa 09:00–14:00

charlottetownfarmersmarket.weebly.com

J Confederation Centre Art Gallery

National art museum housing over 17,000 works, focusing on Canadian contemporary and historical art, including the Robert Harris Collection.

129 Grafton St, Charlottetown C1A1K9, Canada (46.23485, -63.12678)

confederationcentre.com/whats-on/categories/art-gallery/



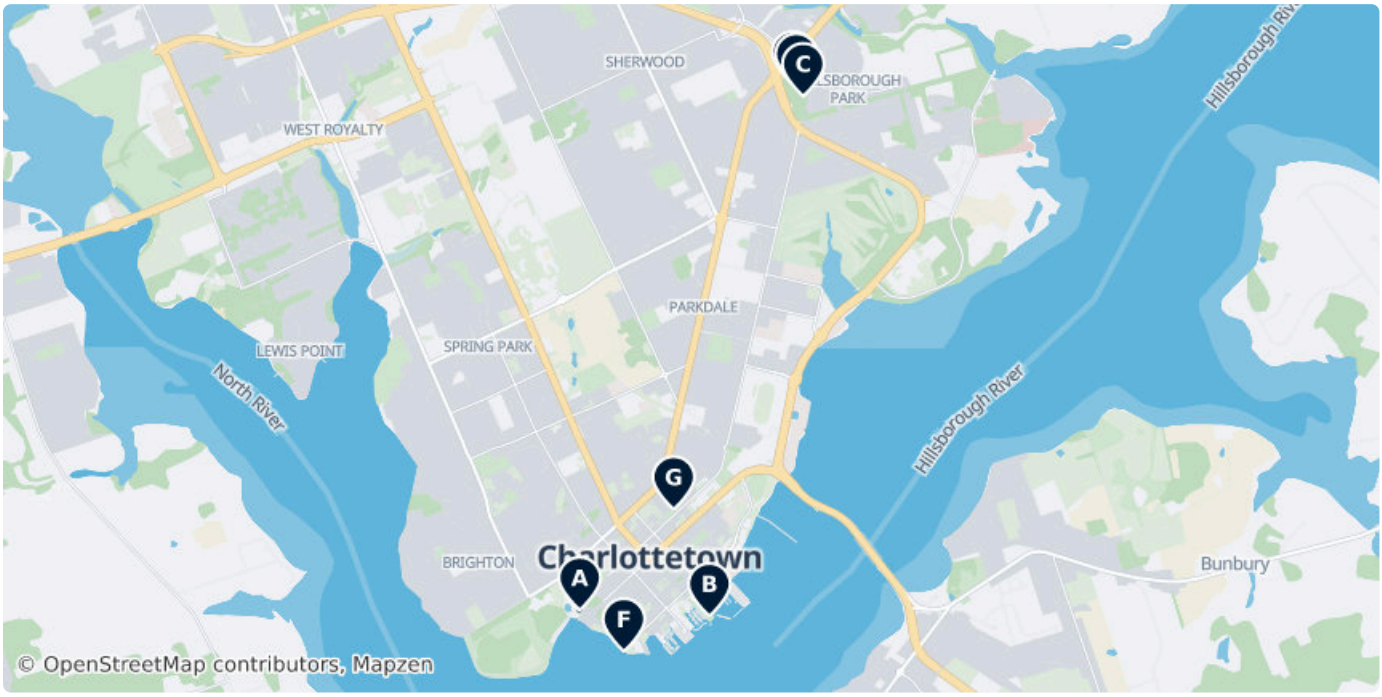
K Hillsborough Bridge

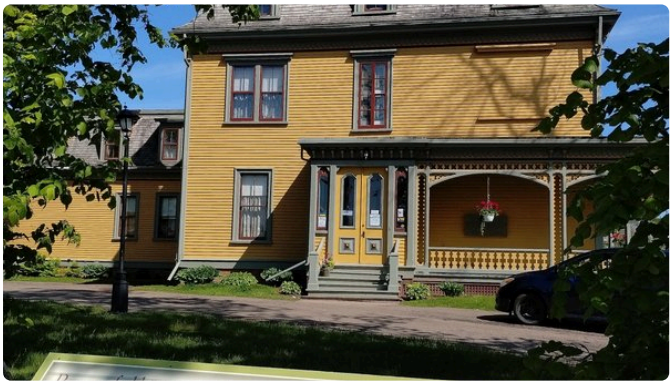
The Hillsborough River Bridge is a bridge crossing the Hillsborough River estuary between Charlottetown and Stratford in Queens County,...

Trans Canada Hwy, C1B, Canada (46.23613, -63.10466)

Charlottetown: Editor's Choice

This curated selection highlights Charlottetown's architectural history and ecological conservation efforts. Explore the Victorian elegance of Beaconsfield Historic House, an 1877 villa, and honor local heritage at memorials dedicated to Irish settlers and the Mi'kmaq people. The list also features interpretive viewpoints along the city's green corridors that explain forest management practices, including the ecological importance of snag trees and hardwood thinning for local biodiversity.





A Beaconsfield Historic House

Completed in 1877 for merchant James Peake Jr., this Victorian mansion features original gas chandeliers, ornate plasterwork, and views of Charlottetown Harbour.

Kent Street 2, Charlottetown (46.23190, -63.13348)

Mo–Sa 09:00–16:00

peimuseum.ca



B Aboriginal Garden Display

Located in Confederation Landing, this display features indigenous plants and educational markers honoring the Mi'kmaq people's traditional knowledge and connection to the land.

Charlottetown C1A, Canada (46.23148, -63.12055)

ourculturalcapital.ca/projects/23/Aboriginal_Garden_Disp...

C The Forest

A wooded section of the city's trail system showcasing native tree species and providing a natural canopy for local wildlife and hikers.

16 Oakwood Cres, Charlottetown C1A, Canada (46.26730, -63.11119)

D 11. Hardwood Thinning

An interpretive viewpoint explaining the silviculture practice of removing select trees to improve the health and growth rate of the remaining forest stand.

Charlottetown C1A, Canada (46.26813, -63.11221)

E 10. Snag Trees

This educational stop highlights the ecological role of standing dead trees, which provide essential nesting sites and food sources for birds and insects.

Charlottetown C1A, Canada (46.26798, -63.11189)

F Irish Settlers Memorial

A waterfront monument commemorating the thousands of Irish immigrants who arrived in Prince Edward Island during the 19th century.

Charlottetown C1A, Canada (46.22905, -63.12908)

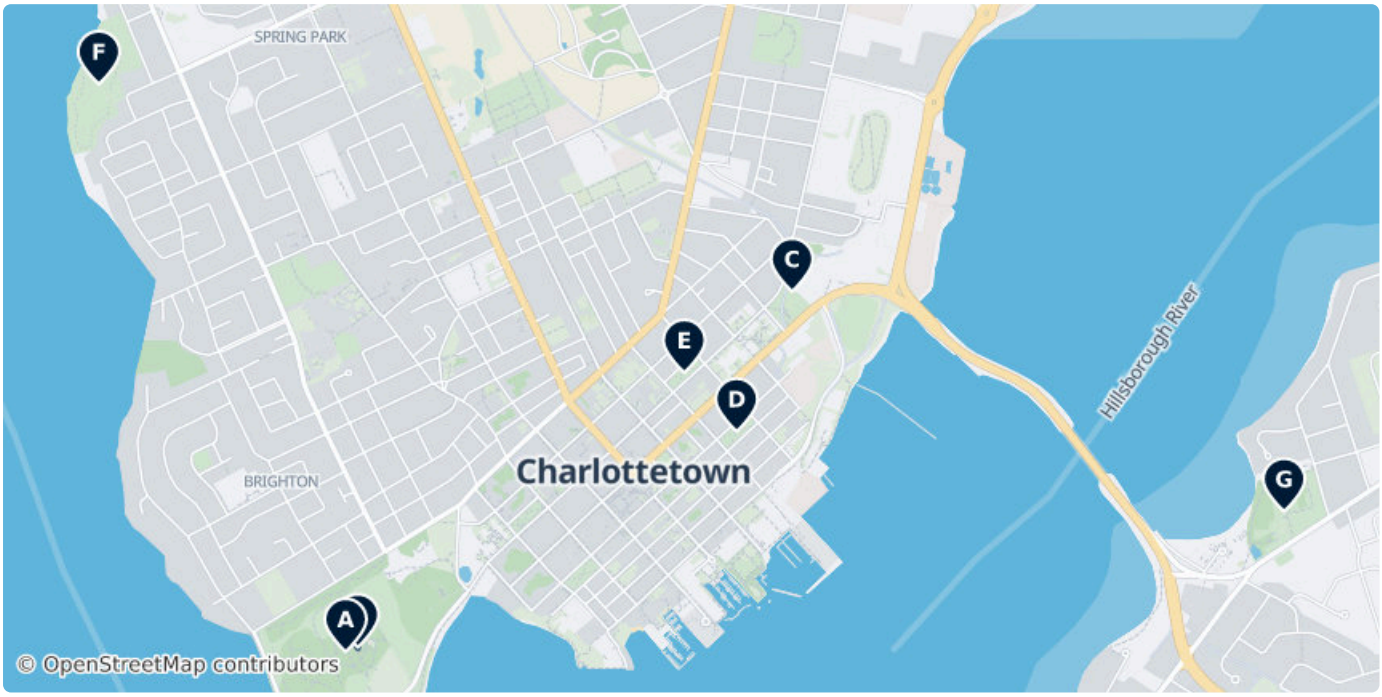
G Mark Butcher Memorial Chairs

Hand-carved wooden chairs dedicated to the legacy of Mark Butcher, a prominent 19th-century Charlottetown cabinetmaker known for his distinctive furniture designs.

18 Old King Sq, Charlottetown C1A, Canada (46.23884, -63.12411)

Tranquil Parks & Ponds

Explore Charlottetown's green spaces, from the expansive Victoria Park with its harbor-facing boardwalk and historic battery to the quiet, centuries-old urban squares of the original 1771 town plan. This selection includes Hillsborough and Kings Squares, which offer historic monuments and mature tree canopies. Discover the wooded trails surrounding Dead Man's Pond, the community gardens at Robert Cotton Park, and the Confederation Trail access point at Joseph A. Ghiz Memorial Park. These locations provide a mix of maritime views, local history, and recreational paths.





A Victoria Park

Victoria Park is a waterfront park in the city of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

C1A, Canada (46.22946, -63.14045)

B Dead Man's Pond

A secluded body of water located within Victoria Park, surrounded by a network of wooded walking trails and associated with local folklore.

(46.22961, -63.13987)

C Joseph A. Ghiz Memorial Park

Named after a former Premier of Prince Edward Island, this urban park serves as a key entry point to the Confederation Trail and features a playground and basketball courts.

(46.24151, -63.11885)

D Hillsborough Square

One of Charlottetown's four original 1771 planned squares, this green space is surrounded by historic architecture and offers a quiet retreat in the city's east end.

(46.23682, -63.12153)

E Kings Square

Part of the city's 18th-century town plan, this square contains the Charlottetown Cenotaph and is shaded by a dense canopy of mature deciduous trees.

(46.23880, -63.12406)

F Queen Elizabeth Park

A waterfront green space on the banks of the North River featuring open lawns and views of the harbor entrance.

(46.24845, -63.15240)

G Robert Cotton Park

Features extensive community gardens, a disc golf course, and walking trails through a mix of landscaped areas and natural woodland.

(46.23415, -63.09503)

DATA SOURCES

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- 11. Hardwood Thinning — "Casale Fusco" by booking.com
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