

SECRETS OF CHARLOTTETOWN
WALKING TOURS

the

Secrets Travel Guide

Turn the
page to start
the
discovery!



Secrets of Charlottetown: Secrets Travel Guide

Discover the storied past...

Discover a few secrets of the city. PLUS historic places to dine, a few tucked-away spots, and some local Island songs to enjoy during your stay in Charlottetown, the island's capital since 1768.



It all started with a 196-year-old letter...



*An age-mottled, time-worn book lay buried, deep in the Prince Edward Island public library archives. A book which contained an excerpted **196-year-old letter**. A letter in which one brother advised the other on his love life.*

*Intrigued and inspired by the letter's contents, **PEI novelist, and romantic-at-heart Jessica** decided to use it, along with multiple other historical resources, **to create** a company called **Secrets of Charlottetown Walking Tours**... A walking tour company that features **Charlottetown secrets, legends and folklore**...*

Secrets of Charlottetown Walking Tours is a **boutique-sized** company that believes in the **luxury of a great story, well told**. Featured on **CBC Radio** Charlottetown's *Island Morning Show*, as well as **TripAdvisor**'s Top 10 Tours in Charlottetown list, the company is **local & independent**.

It's a female-owned business that is **officially registered** with the City of Charlottetown.

Drawing on the culmination of over **12 years dedicated** to the art and **craft of storytelling**, Secrets of Charlottetown Walking Tours loves the **romance of the past** and puts that **heart and soul** into each and every tour.

These stories are **tailored to discerning visitors** who enjoy the **exclusive experience** of small group sizes.

Tours have been **given** to **visitors from 3 continents** and **7 countries**, including **New Zealand, Switzerland** and **South Africa**.

Past tour participants include the **Girl Guides of Canada P.E.I Chapter**, the **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan** and the **Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada**.

A few secrets of Charlottetown

Discover a few secrets...



As you stroll the brick-paved historic downtown streets, watch for the street lamps. They are modeled the after old-fashioned gas ones. But in the 1840s before they installed gas ones, after nightfall, the only light was from oil lamps in houses along the street. In fact, you had to be careful when you walked along because you just might have sunk knee-deep into a mud puddle if you didn't carry your own lantern!

As winter snow fell on the rooftops and sidewalks of Charlottetown in 1797, Captain John “Hellfire Jack” Stewart, wrapped warmly in layers of winter clothing, walked along a Charlottetown street, his broadsword strapped to his side. As he strode along, he saw John MacDonald up ahead—his neighbor (and bitter political rival). He yelled an insult at MacDonald.

MacDonald pulled out his dirk (a small Scottish knife) in response. But their duel was cut short when Stewart couldn't swing his sword arm—his winter clothes were too bulky! No blood was shed. Stewart decided to prove that the pen was mightier than the sword, and ended up writing the first history of the island in 1805.



Below the stately and historic beige stone walls of Province House, lies a secret. In the dark, quiet basement, a tunnel connects the Confederation Center, Province House & the George Coles Building. But most Charlottetown residents didn't even know the tunnel existed. That is, until the 1980s, when P.E.I.'s premiere, Catherine Callbeck (the province's first female premiere) used it to avoid angry protestors.



But that's not the only tunnel! The Bonded Warehouse on Water St. is rumoured to have a tunnel used during Prohibition to secretly carry illegal liquor down to the docks and into the hands of the rumrunners.

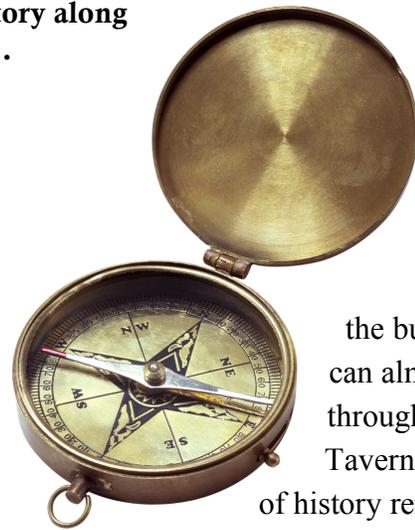
A taste of Charlottetown:

Enjoy some morsels of history along
with your dinner...

Terre Rouge

72 Queen St.

Around sunset, if you gaze at the gently worn red bricks of that now houses Terre Rouge restaurant on Queen St., you imagine men in tri-corn hats and knee breeches saunter doors. Though the original building, called Cross Keys constructed in the 1770s, no longer stands on this spot, its aura The tavern saw the first meeting of parliament (since the official building wasn't yet constructed). It also served as a church of sorts for visiting ministers! It even held the first gatherings of the Masons, who came to the island in the 1790s.



the building
can almost
through its
Tavern,
of history remains.

building wasn't yet

MerchantMan Restaurant

23 Queen St.

As James Peake, top hat in hand, stood on the corner of Queen St. & Water St., he saw opportunity. A local merchant and ship builder, he built this red brick building to look like one far older than its 1856 creation date. Today, its main level has been converted into the MerchantMan restaurant, perhaps in honor of Mr. Peake. (Now, James didn't have a big commute to work, because, if you walk just a bit further up the block, to 50 Water St., you can see James Peake's home, which was built in 1835 and is made of island brick.) If you happen to have a drink at the MerchantMan bar, keep an eye out for the former owner and his friends, who may have some colourful tales to tell!

John Brown Grille

132 Richmond St.

Green maple leaves wave in the early evening breeze and strings of white fairy lights cast a warm glow on outdoor diners. Named after John Brown Jr., who built the Brown Block, this area would eventually become what is now Victoria Row and the John Brown Grille.

The restaurant housed various businesses, including a dance club, a tea room and a drug store, until it became what it is today. But did you know that it's rumoured to be haunted by one of the former owners?



Secrets Unlocked

Read on to discover a few more secrets...



A secret in stained glass

As you wander past the limestone-and-sandstone home of ship builder John Young, built in the 1890s in the Scottish Baronial style, at the intersection of Kent and West streets, you might notice something in one of the windows...

Take a closer look and you just might see the stained glass fleur de lis etched into one of the windows on the first floor.

Old Protestant Burying Ground

Along University Avenue just a couple blocks from the downtown historic core, leafy oaks shade a wrought-iron fenced cemetery. It's called the Old Protestant Burying Ground. This cemetery served the island for generations, starting back in 1784. In fact, one man who lived during the American Revolution — Phillips Callbeck — and featured in one of the Secrets of Charlottetown tour stories — is buried here.



City Hall

When you stroll by City Hall, which was built in 1888, and used as not only city hall but also the jail and fire hall, be sure to pay close attention to the clock tower. What you see may surprise you. Because embedded into the brickwork is a sundial, and a painting. Can you find out just where? (And, some say, city hall is haunted, though by who—or what—no one quite knows...!)



P.E.I Playlist

While you're here discovering secrets of Charlottetown or out exploring the island, why not slip in your ear buds as you're walking along the beach searching for sea glass, or strolling down Victoria Row?

The Nellie J. Banks by Manchester Run

This is a great ballad that chronicles rum running on Prince Edward Island in the early 20th century when Prohibition was in effect (P.E.I had one of the longest prohibition terms in the country, in fact!)

Tales of the Phantom Ship by Lennie Gallant

Guess I have a soft spot for sea chanties, because this one is another one about ships – but pay close attention to the lyrics, because this is about a ghost ship that's been sighted for over 300 years! (And Lennie Gallant is an Island singer/songwriter who is practically an institution — definitely worth it to see him live if you get the chance while you're here.)

Bud the Spud by Stompin' Tom Connors

A PEI classic. I think practically every Islander has heard this song. Take a listen — you just might become an honorary Islander that way! There's also the Stompin' Tom Center, at Skinner's Pond, that you might want to check out, which even has various exhibits and free live music daily. (Oh and there's a potato museum in O'Leary that you might be inspired to visit, too, after hearing this song!

The Great Escape by Meaghan Blanchard

If you're looking to listen to a island folk artist, Meaghan is great. As is this song. I heard her play live once at the Downtown Charlottetown New Year's Eve celebration. If she's performing on PEI, you may want to catch her show.

The Last Saskatchewan Pirate by Captain Tractor

A personal favorite of mine! Now that you've heard a few Island songs, you'll see how this one pays homage to the best of the East Coast song traditions, while keeping things fun and playful!

Happy exploring!

I hope you enjoyed these secrets! If you'd like to discover even more with a tour, you can visit:
www.secretsofcharlottetown.com



Secrets of Charlottetown Walking Tours

Runs Tues-Sat at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

May – Oct

Meets at corner of Queen & Water St. by MerchantMan restaurant
Charlottetown, PEI

www.secretsofcharlottetown.com

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