

# Prince Edward Island Circle Tour

## Dartmouth to Wood Islands

Your journey will begin in Caribou, where you will board the Caribou-Woods Islands ferry to Prince Edward Island(PEI). Examine the sailing schedule and make any required reservations. PEI is separated from the rest of Canada by the Northumberland Strait. Northumberland Provincial Park, 3 kilometres east of the Wood Islands ferry, is our top pick for tonight. Since this is such a popular park, reservations are needed. From late May to mid-September, the park is open.

**Driving Distance – 180 KM**

## Wood Islands to Georgetown (via the Kings Byway)

Before you head out on the Kings Byway today, you may want to stop by Wood Islands Provincial Park, a day use park with the island's most photographed lighthouse. Take Highway 4 to Little Sands, which is named after the sandy beach that connects Wood Islands and High Bank. The intersection of Highways 4 and 18 is located north of High Bank. Take Highway 18 via Guernsey Cove to Cape Bear from here. Turn right onto Beach Road as you reach the Beach Point neighbourhood, and a short drive will carry you to beautiful white sand beaches.

To get to Murray Harbour, stay on Highway 18A. You'll cross the Murray River and reach the town of the same name less than 10 kilometres down the route. Murray Harbour North, another small fishing wharf, is reached via the Kings Byway. You'll get a clear view of the Seal Islands and the bay's mussel leases from here. After passing through Gaspereaux, you'll come to the intersection of Highway 17 and the Panmure Island Route. A narrow man-made causeway and a beautiful sandy beach connect the island to the rest of PEI. Return to Highway 17 and, after crossing the Sturgeon River, take a detour to Buffaloland Provincial Park on route 317 before arriving in Georgetown, your destination for today.

**Driving Distance – 93 KM**

## Georgetown to Rustico

The path winds its way around Cardigan and Boughton Bays, passing through small towns along the way. Today, make Spry Cove your first stop. Go on through Howe Bay and Fortune Bridge, past the brightly coloured houses that are popular in this part of Canada. Canoeing is common in this region, and the backwaters are home to cormorants and herons. Turn right onto Hwy 2 and head northeast from Rollo Bay West. Souris is the largest city in Eastern Kings County, surrounded by the Souris River, Colville Bay, and farmland. From here, ferries to the Magdalen Islands depart. Basin Head is about 12 kilometres from Souris. There is a beautiful golden sand beach that sings as you step on it.

The self-proclaimed Tuna Fishing Capital of the World is North Lake. On a clear day, the tuna boats in the Gulf of St Lawrence can be seen off in the distance. At the intersection of Highways 16 and 336, you can either take a detour to Greenwich or carry on to St Peters. Turn right on Route 219 at Tracadie Cross and head for Rustico for your overnight stop.

On the northern shores of Queens County, there's a lot to see and do – this is where author Lucy Maud Montgomery based her popular "Anne of Green Gables" novels. Prince Edward Island National Park is also located there. Sand dunes, barrier islands, and sand spits, beaches, sandstone cliffs, wetlands, and forests are all included within the park. Green Gables and Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Sites are both part of L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site. Return to Rustico and camp in your preferred place, or go on to the Darnley Beach area. Enjoy beachcombing and clam fishing, as well as one of the finest swimming and sunbathing beaches on the island.

**Driving Distance – 219 KM**

#### **Rustico to Cedar Dunes Park**

To begin your exploration of Princes County, travel south west to the town of Summerside. Begin your visit to Summerside by taking a walk through the downtown area. Rest and enjoy the ocean breeze and beautiful seaside as you drive along the coast. The view of the red stone cliffs and the Cape Egmont Lighthouse, which stands watch for the fishermen, is stunning from the Cape Egmont wharf. A visit to Barlow's Pond and Old Mills Park in Wellington, which includes a Welcome and Interpretive Centre, a dam and fish ladder, a walking bridge across the pond, a Gazebo, boardwalks, and walking paths, is a must.

Back on Highway 11, you'll pass through Victoria West and St-Chrysostome. The road rejoins Route 2 just outside of Mt Pleasant and proceeds to Portage. The land is very low and boggy for the next 18 kilometres, with few points of interest. Mill River Provincial Park in Woodstock provides opportunities for outdoor recreation and camping. Take Route 143 out of Woodstock and then Route 148 south to O'Leary. The PEI Potato Museum honours the province's most successful export. Continue south to Cedar Dunes Provincial Park and West Point. This could be an excellent spot for a night's camping. You will fall asleep to the sound of the waves kissing the shore here, making you feel like you're camping on the beach.

**Driving Distance – 143 KM**

#### **Cedar Dunes Park to Summerside (via North Cape)**

The views to the west gradually overtake you as you move along the coast. Steep, brick-red cliffs that seem to have been torn from Mother Earth's side give way to gentle sand beaches before rising again to form stunning new peaks. You'll find places worth stopping "just to see" all along the North Cape Coastal Drive. You'll want to find safe places to pull off the road and spend some time just looking at the sea, or even exploring its shore, as you drive along the coast. A variety of scenic lookouts are available for this reason. If the tides and winds are right as you approach Miminegash, you may be fortunate enough to see Irish Moss harvesters.

Many Clydesdales and Belgians can be seen working or relaxing in the pastures as you travel through the area. Enjoy an exotic treat while you're in the city... if you dare! The Seaweed Pie Café provides you with the opportunity to sample a delectable seaweed pie dessert. Stop farther up the road to take in the breathtaking dunes of Skinner's Pond. It's a short drive from there to Tignish and North Cape. North Cape has long been known for its natural wonders, such as North America's longest natural rock reef and the 'meeting of the seas.' You can walk out about a

kilometre onto the reef at low tide and see the Gulf of St Lawrence and the Northumberland Strait merge together over the reef. It's an excellent spot for watching seals. Sunsets don't get any better than this for those who live for them. People come here only to see the incredible panoramic view of the sea. Tignish is known for its harbour, church, and sense of community. Make a point of stopping at Jacques Cartier Provincial Park on your way from Tignish to Alberton. The shore road then leads to Alberton, a busy town, and Northport, a neighbouring town. The next stop is Bideford, where author Lucy Maud Montgomery worked as a schoolteacher at the local one-room school from 1894 to 1895. Make time to visit Green Park before returning to Summerside.

**Driving Distance – 198 KM**

### **Summerside to Charlottetown (Route 225)**

You have the next two days to explore Charlottetown and the surrounding area at your leisure. Summer is a lively time to be visiting this special east coast area, so we recommend checking out any local festivals and music. Consider paying a visit to Founders Hall or joining the Fathers and Ladies of Confederation on a guided walking tour of the Historic District. It is important to pay a visit to Historic Great George Street. Stop by St Dunstan's Cathedral Basilica, one of the city's many beautiful churches. Visit the Province House National Historic Site of Canada, which is also a Charlottetown landmark and the official Birthplace of Confederation. Take a stroll through Victoria Park or gaze out over Charlottetown's waterfront. Explore Charlottetown on foot, then "splash" into the water with Harbour Hippo Tours for a relaxing harbour cruise or a Tartan Air seaplane air tour.

Today, we recommend going south-east on Highway 1 through Cherry Valley to Point Prim and Wood Islands to complete your loop of Prince Edward Island. Take some time to re-explore Wood Islands, where your Prince Edward Island tour started, before returning to Charlottetown via Mt Stewart, Frenchfort, and Marshfield. Orwell Corner Historic Village is a good place to start, and the Croft House Selkirk Cultural and Interpretative Centre is just south of Eldon. Both are fascinating stops. Along the way, look for the Point Prim turnoff between Belfast and Pinette. Turn left at the end of the road into the woods to reach the Point Prim light.

Established in 1846, the lighthouse is the island's oldest and only round lighthouse. We recommend having a picnic here. Continue to Wood Islands on the Trans Canada Highway. Look for the turn-off to Simon's Beach at Flat Creek if you want to take a quick detour. A gorgeous sandy beach in a stunning setting can be found here. Spend time here before continuing your drive if you didn't visit Wood Islands Provincial Park at the start of your PEI trip. We'll abandon the Points East Coastal Drive here and rejoin it just outside of Mount Stewart, where the Hillsborough Canadian Heritage River nearly divides Prince Edward Island in half. This 45-kilometer waterway, which flows east to west and is a rich breeding area for birds and other land and sea creatures, was designated in 1997. Continue south on Highway 2, stopping at the Scotchfort Scenic Look Off. The Hillsborough Canadian Heritage River is commemorated by a memorial at this First Nations site. It's just a quick drive back to Charlottetown from here.

**Driving Distance – 72 KM**

### [Charlottetown to Sackville \(via Confederation Bridge\)](#)

Today, you'll take the Trans Canada Highway to Cornwall to visit Red Sands Beach, which is located on Queens County's southern shores. Turn left at the Cornwall Shopping Centre and follow Route 19 south. This is farming land, with houses and cottages strewn along the road and along the coast. Stopping at the West River Causeway to stretch your legs is a good idea. During the summer, many local boat owners moor their boats here, and local kids enjoy jumping off the two bridges that make up the crossing. The road turns left and heads east at New Dominion. Travel to Rocky Point, directly across from Charlottetown, via Fairview.

The Point is located on one of the harbor's entry shores. The National Historic Sites of Fort Amherst and Port La Joie are now covered. As you proceed along the route, it will round the point and head west along the Island's south shore. Cumberland is the name of the town, and the shore provides a beautiful view of St. Peter's Island and a view of Nova Scotia across the strait. You can get a better view of St. Peter's Island through ripening grain fields and look southward toward Rice Point from Nine Mile Creek. On the mudflats, you can walk from Rice Point to St. Peter's Island at low tide. You'll have to swim if the tide is high, so don't linger too long. Turn left at the Canoe Cove Junction. You can go down to Canoe Cove Park by driving another 0.6 km (0.4 miles) and turning left at the corner. Before going westward towards Hampton and Victoria, stay and play on the beach. Victoria Park, just before Victoria, is a great spot for a picnic overlooking the strait. Turn left off the highway onto Route 10 in Tryon. Be cautious because the turn is on a right-hand curve, and if you turn left, you can go over the crest of the road and onto the side road. Down the hill, turn left, then right onto the small bridge spanning the Tryon River after a short stretch.

Now you've arrived in the heart of potato country. The first clear spot to see the Confederation Bridge is near Cape Traverse. Continue on Route 10 until you reach Borden, where the bridge begins. The Confederation Bridge, which spans ice-covered water for 12.9 kilometres (8 miles), is the world's longest. It is a toll bridge, and the toll is paid at the toll plaza in Borden – Carleton when leaving Prince Edward Island. Drive over the bridge to Sackville, New Brunswick, and set up camp for the night.

**Driving Distance – 193 KM**

### [Sackville to Halifax](#)

If you don't have much time left until your RV vacation ends, today is your last chance to visit Halifax's many attractions before returning your RV. If you want to stay on the road a little longer, we recommend going to Amherst, Pugwash, and Tatamagouche today. Visit Cape Breton National Park before returning to Halifax via Sydney and Liscome. If you want to extend your trip, take a look at our other East Coast itineraries.

**Driving Distance – 213 KM**