

OVERCAST 21°C

[Subscribe](#) |
 [Subscription](#) |
 [Buy Photos](#)

Sunday, June 17, 2012

[Connect with Facebook](#) |
 [Login](#) |
 [Register](#)



Search this Site

Search [Waterloo Region Businesses](#)

[Full Text Archive](#) |
 Category Business Name

[Home](#) |
 [News](#) |
 [Sports](#) |
 [What's On](#) |
 [Opinion](#) |
 [Living](#) |
 [Community](#) |
 [More](#) |
 [Announcements](#) |
 [Jobs](#) |
 [Cars](#) |
 [Real Estate](#) |
 [Rentals](#)

[Classifieds](#) |
 [Flyers](#)

[FOOD](#) |
 [TRAVEL](#) |
 [FAITH](#)

[HOT TOPICS](#) |
 [LPGA](#) |
 [EURO 2012](#) |
 [K-W BYELECTION](#) |
 [OLYMPICS](#)

[Local ShopTalk](#) |
 [More](#)

Home > Living > Travel > Travel: The Fundy City

[Small](#) |
 [Large](#) |
 [Print](#) |
 [Email](#) |
 [Favourite](#) |
 [BOOKMARK](#)

Melody Wren | Fri Jun 15 2012 | 0 Recommend

Travel: The Fundy City

Saint John will surprise you with its downtown delights

SAINT JOHN — Among the many treasures for travellers to explore in this vast country, Saint John and the Bay of Fundy are shining jewels.

"Expect to be delighted" says Jillian McKinnon, a marketing official for Saint John, a port city of 70,000 on the coast of New Brunswick.

Expect to be surprised as well. Because while it's surrounded by rugged natural beauty and sleepy villages, the city itself has a modern and vibrant core.

King Street, the main thoroughfare, is referred to as "uptown" by locals. It's also sometimes described as the shortest, widest and steepest main street in Canada, climbing eight storeys. According to David Goss, author of the book *Saint John Curiosities* (Nimbus Publishing), local women have beautiful legs as a result of walking up and down this street.

Samuel de Champlain gave the city its name. He briefly stopped on nearby Partridge Island in the Bay of Fundy in 1604 and while there named the small river and harbour settlement he saw for Saint John the Baptist. The settlement's popular suddenly grew in 1783 when a fleet brought 2,000 Loyalists north from the United States. Saint John was formally established two years later and today has a population of



[1](#) |
 [2](#) |
 [3](#) |
 [4](#) |
 [5](#)

WagJag DEAL OF THE DAY KITCHENER / WATERLOO

BACK 50%
 COMPLETE 50% OFF at Back Steakhouse
 10 items remaining

[BUY NOW](#)

REGISTER WAGJAG NOW - FREE!

[Popular](#) |
 [Read](#) |
 [Recommended](#) |
 [Shared](#)

[Today](#) |
 [This Week](#) |
 [This Month](#)

- 5 free things to do in Chicago
- Travel: The Fundy City
- Travel: Elvis' spirit keeps tourists...
- Travel: Just looking, thank you
- Travel: Kayaking on B.C.'s Desolation...

70,000.

There was another wave of immigration, from Ireland, in 1847. Many of the newcomers were sick with cholera, however. They were quarantined on Partridge island and about 2,000 died there. Descendants of the survivors populated "Canada's most Irish city" and today they boisterously celebrate their heritage for almost two weeks around St. Patrick's Day each year.

Centrally located, the famous St. John Market was completed in 1876 and barely missed being destroyed by "the great fire of 1877" that swept through the city.

The market's architectural features include high ceilings and timbers resembling the ribs on boat hulls. Light coming in through celestial windows adds considerable grandeur to what is an everyday fruit and vegetable market. About 25 to 30 vendors here sell fruits, vegetables and handcrafted jewelry, including the ingenious Recycling Bin, run by Scott McDade, which showcases jewelry he fashions out of recycled materials, including pop tabs.

In the 1800s Saint John was at the forefront of Canada's shipbuilding industry and played a central role in making Canada a leader in the industry during the "great age of sail."

Fast forward to today and the ship theme continues with enormous cruise ships docking in the harbour. Close to 200,000 passengers disembark every year to enjoy day trips exploring the area, giving the local economy an enormous boost.

The dockings began accidentally in the 1980s when a cruise ship came into port with an emergency. Locals welcomed the passengers with bagpipes music and roses for the women, a custom that continues today the arrival of each cruise ship.

According to a local resident, "it feels like New York City" when cruise visitors fill normally quiet streets".

In 1983 the entire area of the Market Square in Saint John was converted from warehouses to fine restaurants, shops and nightclubs, transforming it into a character-filled streetscape. The conversions were done to fit sympathetically with local heritage buildings.

The new Saint John is also chock-full of artists and funky cafes that blend seamlessly with a relaxed and quaint, down home east coast feel. Well-planned indoor links direct pedestrians in any season from the Market Square to the aquarium, the Hilton hotel, Harbour Station, the market, library and the museum and a beach.

Among the many art galleries is one called Handworks, run by Shannon Merrifield and Cliff Turner, who share their passion for local art with works by 60 to 80 artists showing exclusively in their gallery. They feature a mixture of pottery, photography, ceramics, and glasswork (some fused with Bay of Fundy rocks).

Two other galleries include Peter Buckland Gallery and Trinity Galleries. Peter Buckland focuses on two dimensional works — contemporary painting, print making, and photographs.

Most head east from St. John to explore by car, on foot, on bicycles (or on skis in winter) the coast of the Bay of Fundy

St. Martins is a sleepy little seaside village with a population of 311 that springs to life when cruise ships docked at nearby Saint John. Tour buses now bring an annual 25,000 people through the village.

Just about all of them find their way at some point to the Caves Restaurant to try its famous seafood chowder, the nearby sea caves and the two nearby covered bridges.

The adjacent beach offers stunning views and red cliffs, but don't even think about swimming. Water temperatures in the Bay of Fundy rarely go above 10 C. You can kayak into the caves at high tide. When the tide is out, you can walk on the ocean floor to the mouth of the caves.

Farther along the trail, Fuller Falls is worth a stop for a photo in front of the five-stage waterfall tumbling down East Fuller Brook to Melvin Beach. Then head across one of two suspension bridges in the area. The Heritage Sawmill on the Big Salmon River is another point of historical interest.

Settled in 1775, and rich in shipbuilding history, St. Martins is where the Fundy Trail begins. It continues for 16 kilometres north to Fundy National Park. The trail started in 1995 and will be complete in 2016. The guided walks offer views over the bay so spectacular I was close to tears.

Getting there:

Air Canada flies from Toronto to Saint John four times daily. It's a 2 hour flight.

Things to do:

Kitchener Top Jobs »

[Click for More LocalWork.ca Kitchener-Waterloo Jobs](#)

Sponsored Video »

New Look. New Feel. New Experience.



Drop your anchor for five minutes.

You could Win!
1 of 4 great treasures every month...

HH Workwear
Holly Harrison

LOWRANCE

\$\$\$ Gift Certificates

SPORTS STUFF
by

Click on the chest and fill out our survey to be qualified to win 1 of 4 great treasures.

Boatguide
www.boatguide.ca

Take a "walk and talk" architectural tour with local David Goss, author of Saint John Curiosities, for a historical and insider's view of Saint John. (or gosswalk@nbet.nb.ca)

Discover local history in the New Brunswick Museum in Market Square (www.nbm-mnb.ca or) and do visit to the Hall of Whales. Whale sightings are guaranteed.

Reversing Falls Harbour Tour: The jet-powered boat gives you a rush of adrenalin as you see for yourself the weird geographic feature that is the reversing rapids. The world's highest tides — rush up and over the St. John River, colliding spectacularly and the river actually reverses in the face of unstoppable power. (or www.jetboatrides.com).

Where to eat:

Start with a drink and some nibbles at Happinez, 42 rue Princess St., Saint John or www.happinezwinebar.com). A cosy, wine bar with special architectural features, centrally located.

Choices for dining are on the verge of overwhelming, but there are some musts.

With a focus on seafood, you can't go wrong with Saint John Ale House, 1 Market Square, St. John. (or www.saintjohnalehouse.com). "We're people of the sea" emphasizes Chef Jesse Vergen who has won awards for using locally grown produce. What he doesn't grow himself, he sources from local farmers. All of my own food intolerances (gluten and lactose) and allergies were worked into my meal seamlessly, or so it seemed.

Opera Bistro, 60 Prince William St. (or www.operabistro.com). Eye catching art by a local artist capture the music theme with menus propped up in folded music sheets and more music sheets hanging elegantly above the pastry case. Owners Margaret and Axel Begner came from Germany in 1992.

Urban Deli, 68 King St. (or www.urbandeli.ca) offers great food, bustling atmosphere, and free WiFi. It's a deli by day and an Italian dining room by night, featuring a traditional, progressive menu appealing to foodies in search of the scrumptious, enhanced by the aromas of bread baking. The Lemon Sour Cream pie is the popular house specialty.

The Caves Restaurant, 82 Bayview Rd., St. Martins ().


Treats

Freak Lunchbox: 18 King St. (or www.freaklunchbox.com). Packed with thousands of bulk candies and gags. Bacon-flavoured dental floss, for example.

Where to stay


Hilton Saint John, at Market Square (or www.hiltonsaintjohn.com). Centrally located and withing walking distance to local attractions. Ask for a room overlooking the Bay of Fundy. Even if you don't get one, the waterside boardwalk beside the hotel offers a great view. The York Bistro and Pub on the ground floor offers an impressive breakfast buffet.

- [Deals](#)
- [Flyers](#)
- [Coupons](#)






- 

[Long-Lasting Energizer MAX Alkaline Batteries](#)

[The Source](#)

- 

[30% Off Select New Spring Styles](#)

 <p>View local real estate listings</p>	 <p>View local car listings</p>	 <p>View local flyers & coupons</p>	 <p>View local job listings</p>	 <p>View local apartment rentals</p>
---	---	--	---	--

About Us

[About Us](#)
[Advertising Terms](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Corporate Sales](#)
[Guide to Kitchener Waterloo](#)
[Mobile](#)
[Site Map](#)
[Terms of Use](#)
[Work for Us](#)
[Baby Review](#)

Local Info

[Announcements](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Cars](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[Rentals](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Flyers](#)

Local Sites

[CambridgeTimes.ca](#)
[FlamboroughReview.com](#)
[GuelphTribune.ca](#)
[InsideHalton.com](#)
[KitchenerPost.ca](#)
[LondonCommunityNews.com](#)
[NewHamburgIndependent.ca](#)
[Orangeville.com](#)
[SouthWesternOntario.ca](#)
[WaterlooChronicle.ca](#)

Affiliates

[AutoCatch.com](#)
[Goldbook.ca](#)
[Insurance Quotes](#)
[Leasebusters.com](#)
[MyHolidayHomeRental.com](#)
[Save.ca](#)
[Toronto.com](#)
[WagJag.com](#)
[YAP!](#)

Daily Newspapers

[Guelph Mercury](#)
[Hamilton Spectator](#)
[Toronto Star](#)
[Settlement of Canadian
Copyright Class Action](#)



© Copyright 2012 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. | [Metroland News](#) | [Metroland Media Group Ltd.](#) | [Corporate Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertising Terms](#) | [Webmaster](#)