Places of Interest: City of St. John’s

Historic Sites

1. **Signal Hill National Historic Site**
   As St. John’s most popular landmark, Signal Hill recalls the town’s historic past and communications triumph, as well as offering coastal hikes and colorful performances against sweeping views overlooking the Atlantic. Signal Hill was the site of St. John’s harbor defenses from the 17th century to the Second World War and where Guglielmo Marconi received the world’s first transatlantic wireless signal in 1901.
   

2. **Cape Spear Lighthouse**
   If you stand here, your back to the sea, the entire population of North America stretches out in front of you. And there’s nothing behind you until Ireland.

   **Where:** Blackhead Road, Cape Spear, St. John’s

3. **Terry Fox Monument**
   On April 12, 1980, Terry Fox dipped his artificial foot in the Atlantic Ocean off St. John’s, Newfoundland, to begin his journey across Canada in aid of cancer research.
4. **Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**  
It is one of the most iconic places in St. John’s to visit. Many activities include the tour of the building, and a museum. There’re also several prayer events scheduled here.

**Where:** 200 Military Road, St. John’s  
**Visit:** [https://thebasilica.ca/](https://thebasilica.ca/)

5. **Cabot Tower**  
Dominating the skyline and located overlooking the narrow entrance to St. John’s harbor, Signal Hill has been a key part of this province’s military and communications history and has shaped Newfoundland’s place in the world.

**Where:** Signal Hill Road, St. John’s  

6. **Jellybean Row Houses**  
John Templeton, one of the co-owners of Templeton’s – a locally owned and operated hardware store established in St. John’s in 1863 – came across a set of old paint chips dating back over fifty years.

**Where:** 245 Duckworth St, St. John’s  

7. **Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**  
A beautiful place to visit. Includes many weekly and scheduled events throughout the calendar.

**Where:** 16 Church Hill, St. John’s  
**Visit:** [http://www.stjohnsanglicancathedral.org/](http://www.stjohnsanglicancathedral.org/)

8. **Quidi Vidi Battery**  
Quidi Vidi Battery is a reconstruction of British coastal battery which was located on the site. In keeping with the 1812 period of reconstruction the site consists of a barracks, gun deck with two cannons and two carronades and a powder magazine; all of which is enclosed by a wooden palisade. It sits on an archaeological site which was excavated by the province of Newfoundland in 1965 and 1995.

**Where:** Cuckhold’s Cove Road, St. John’s  

9. **National War Memorial**  
When the First World War ended, there was considerable debate over the nature of the memorial that should be erected to commemorate Newfoundland and Labrador’s war dead. Many favoured a traditional monument, but others strongly advocated the foundation of an interdenominational post-secondary institution, primarily to train teachers. The second suggestion was supported by all the churches.

**Where:** 90 Water St., St. John’s  
**Visit:** [https://www.cdli.ca/monuments/nf/nationalNF.htm](https://www.cdli.ca/monuments/nf/nationalNF.htm)
10. Fort Amherst and Fort Chain Rock Military Batteries
Fort Amherst is located on the south side of The Narrows in St. John's harbour. It is a spot where many go to whale watch and view icebergs. But beneath the current lighthouse, you will find the remains of a WWII battery complex that consists of many rooms, stairways, old artillery guns, and much more.

Where: Southside Road, Fort Amherst, Fort Amherst, St. John's

Museum & Galleries

1. The Rooms
The Rooms is Newfoundland and Labrador’s largest public cultural space and home to its most extensive collection of artifacts, art and archival records. It is a proud custodian of our province’s colorful history and creative spirit. It draws upon its collections to bring the province’s rich stories to life in engaging, multi-sensory, experiences. This unmistakable building is designed to reflect and celebrate this city’s heritage. From its perch it offers unparalleled views of the harbor city.

Where: 9 Bonaventure Avenue, St. John’s
Visit: http://www.therooms.ca/

2. Johnson GEO CENTRE
Cut from the ancient rock of Signal Hill, it takes you deep underground to experience the story of our Earth and beyond. Through interactive exhibits and guided tours, you’ll discover the fascinating history of our planet, the incredible forces of nature that shaped our land, and the tragic story behind the sinking of the Titanic. Then, take your learning outside with a walk through our GEO VISTA PARK. As a top 5 TripAdvisor destination, the center makes a fantastic activity, rain or shine.

Where: 175 Signal Hill Road, St. John’s
Visit: http://www.geocentre.ca/

3. Heritage Shop Duckworth Street
Looking for the perfect treasure from Newfoundland and Labrador? Find meaningful gifts that reflect your unique travel experience. The Heritage Shop features the best in local cultural products and offers a wide range of art, craft, literature, food, gifts and souvenirs. Shop for a cause; all proceeds from the Heritage Shops go to the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, a non-profit dedicated to presenting the province’s unique culture and heritage.

Where: 158 Duckworth Street, St. John’s
Visit: http://www.historicsites.ca/

4. Newman Wine Vaults
The Newman Wine Vault tells the amazing story of a 300-year connection between wine produced in sunny Portugal, aged in the cool climate of Newfoundland and sipped by England’s aristocracy for generations. It’s all about pirates, port and profit.

Where: 436 Water Street, St. John’s
5. **Railway Coastal Museum**  
The fascinating story of how railway and coastal boats were once the province's only lifelines. Working model train, many boat models, 90' diorama of 1940's train. The unique gift shop features many beautiful railway gifts, clothing, books, toys and a wide selection of jewelry. There is an outdoor train park and "Mile 0" marker.  

**Where:** 495 Water Street West, St. John's  
**Visit:** [https://www.railwaycoastalmuseum.ca/](https://www.railwaycoastalmuseum.ca/)

6. **Crow's Nest Officers' Club**  
The Crow's Nest was originally known as the Sea-going Officers' Club during WWII. It still maintains its war-time look and feel with an extensive collection of gun shield art and memorabilia from the Battle of the Atlantic.  

**Where:** 88 Water Street, St. John's  
**Visit:** [http://crowsnestnl.ca/](http://crowsnestnl.ca/)

7. **Alexis Templeton Studio**  
Original and eclectic offerings. Beautiful ceramics, luscious chocolates from around the world.  

**Where:** 75 Quidi Vidi Rd, St. John's  
**Visit:** [http://alexistempleton.com/](http://alexistempleton.com/)

8. **James J. O'Mara Pharmacy Museum**  
Heritage Drugstore, a replica of a working Apothecary, with a set of oak drugstore fixtures (1879), show globes, shop bottles and many other pharmacy implements used in the preparation of different medications. Built in 1922 and operated as Peter O'Mara Drug Store until 1986. It has its original ornate tin embossed ceiling and maple hardwood floor. Designed along the traditional English style. It was opened as a museum in 1988, and named James J. O'Mara Pharmacy Museum in 1990.  

**Where:** 488 Water Street, Apothecary Hall, St. John's  

9. **Peter Lewis Gallery**  
The Peter Lewis Gallery is a distinguished and welcoming fine art gallery located in the heart of downtown St. John's, in one of the city's beautiful heritage properties. The Gallery celebrates a diverse collection of original works from regionally inspired artists including Peter Lewis, whose impressionistic style details local and international backdrops with unique and vibrant imagination. Packing and shipping packages available for hassle free transport of your souvenir of a lifetime.  

**Where:** 5 Church Hill, St. John's  
**Visit:** [https://www.peterlewisgallery.com/](https://www.peterlewisgallery.com/)

10. **Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador**  
Explore the heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador from the perspective of our traditional wooden boats. Exhibits display NL’s history from skin-covered kayaks used by indigenous peoples to the punts that were hauled ashore with the Cod Moratorium. The museum weaves personal experiences of people with
the broader story of fishing communities throughout the province. For a unique experience, visit boat builder in the shed or sign-up to take part in a boat building workshop.

Where: 273 Main Road, Winterton
Visit: http://woodenboatmuseum.com/

11. Royal St. John’s Regatta Museum
Colorful displays of 194 years of Royal St. John’s Regatta History. The unique six-person + coxswain racing shells and wonderful history behind the sport of rowing make for an interesting complement to the summer long activities on Quidi Vidi Lake.

Where: 3rd floor, Boathouse, Clancy Drive, St. John’s
Visit: http://stjohnsregatta.ca/museum/

12. Blackhead One Room School and Church Museum
Located in Blackhead village, near Cape Spear, is this beautifully restored one room school and church originally constructed in 1879. Their friendly guide will show you the school bell that the teacher would ring to summon the children to class and the wooden desks. A wealth of family history is stored in the genealogy exhibit which also includes a self-guided walking tour. Relax on the bench in the yard. In the spring, a scatter iceberg can be spotted in the Bay.

Where: 8 Blackhead Village Road, Blackhead, Cape Spear
Visit: http://www.blackheadmuseum.com/

13. The Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum
The Mission of The Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum is to preserve and interpret the history of The Royal Newfoundland Regiment from 1795 to present day of all units considered to be part of the Regimental family including the 166th (Newfoundland) Field Regiment and the 59th (Newfoundland) Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery of the Second World War through the active collection and exhibit of artifacts and educational outreach.

Where: CFS St. Johns, The Boulevard, St. John’s
Visit: http://rnfldrmuseum.ca/

Trail & Walks

1. North Head Trail - Parks Canada Signal Hill National Historic Site
The North Head Trail is Signal Hill’s most popular and most difficult hiking trail. This 1.7 km trail takes approximately 90 minutes and descends almost 500 feet. Hikers connect with the trail from Signal Hill’s top parking lot. From there they descend boardwalk stairs, follow a footpath to North Head at the entrance to the St. John’s Harbor, & hike along the narrows to Lower Battery Road. Parks Canada asks 1st-time hikers to check with the Visitor Centre.

Where: Signal Hill National Historic Site, St. John’s

2. The Grand Concourse
The Grand Concourse is an integrated walkway system for the cities of St. John’s and Mount Pearl and the Town of Paradise. Its 120 kms of walkways link every major park, river, pond and green space in the three municipalities. And at strategic points throughout all these areas are rest areas, playgrounds, storyboards and other features to make the walks as enjoyable as possible.

Visit: [https://www.grandconcourse.ca/mapping/](https://www.grandconcourse.ca/mapping/)

### Outdoor Activities

1. **Iceberg Quest Ocean Tours**
   Step aboard the Capo de Espera- a state of the art vessel. Relax on deck or in our windowed heated cabin while enjoying the incredible National Geographic coastline. Breathe in the fresh salty ocean air as we set sail past The Battery, Cabot Tower, through The Narrows enroute to Cape Spear. View majestic icebergs carved from the glaciers of Greenland. Witness mighty humpback whales at play in their natural environment.

   **Where:** 135 Harbour Drive, Pier 6, St. John's  
   **Visit:** [https://icebergquest.com/st-johns-boat-tours/](https://icebergquest.com/st-johns-boat-tours/)

2. **North Atlantic Zip Lines**
   Soar along the rugged coastline and view the picturesque fishing village of Petty Harbour from 10 zip lines ranging from 300 feet to 1,800 feet in length. Certified guides accompany participants. Displays on landing platforms explain the historical, cultural, and natural features of the area. High-powered telescopes enable tourists to observe the natural beauty of the area. This is Canada's longest zip line course. A must do on everyone’s bucket list!!

   **Where:** 32 Main Rd, Petty Harbour  
   **Visit:** [http://www.zipthenorthatlantic.com/](http://www.zipthenorthatlantic.com/)

3. **Glendenning Golf**
   Scenic 18 Hole Golf Course in St. John's

   **Where:** 120 Gabriel Road (Off Southlands Blvd), St. John’s  
   **Visit:** [https://www.glendenninggolf.ca/](https://www.glendenninggolf.ca/)

4. **Admiral's Green and Captain's Hill Golf Courses**
   The Pippy Park Golf Course consist of an 18-hole championship course and a 9-hole course. Both courses offer golfers a spectacular panoramic view of St. John's.

   **Where:** 460 - 464 Allandale Road, St. John's  

5. **Bally Haly Country Club**
   Open to the public, Bally Haly is Newfoundland's oldest golf and curling club and newly renovated with a trendy atmosphere and popular restaurant. Conveniently located on the outskirts of downtown in a country-like setting, it provides views of Cabot Tower, the Atlantic Ocean and more.
6. **Holly Jolly Hunt**
Holly Jolly Hunt is a holiday scavenger hunt done on your smartphone, that brings your entire family and friends together for holiday cheer. You’ll use the app to get points for each item you find. The goal is to capture as many items as you can in order to score as many points as you can. Along the way you’ll be asked to perform silly holiday themed tasks meant to bring laughter and smiles to everyone involved.

Where: 77 Water St, St. John’s

7. **Operation City Quest Scavenger Hunt**
Operation City Quest is an open world scavenger hunt, in which you use your smartphone to seek out 140+ items. The downtown adventure game is all walking, and perfect for family fun. Looking for things to do? Take a tour of our site, then tour your city.

Where: 77 Water St, St. John’s
Visit: [https://www.operationcityquest.com/Locations/St-Johns-NL](https://www.operationcityquest.com/Locations/St-Johns-NL)

8. **So-Full Food Tours**
Your guide will take you to a variety of locally-owned restaurants and cafes along Duckworth and Water Street for a delicious sampling from each of their menus. All the while intriguing you with historical accounts of times gone by, along with inside information about the ever-changing downtown scene.

Where: 115 Cavendish Square, St. John’s
Visit: [https://www.nlfoodtours.com/](https://www.nlfoodtours.com/)

9. **The St. John’s Haunted Hike**
If you dare, join the Rev. Thomas Wyckham Jarvis, Esquire, for Newfoundland’s most popular paranormal attraction, a guided ghostly tour through the haunted streets of St. John’s. Bring comfortable shoes & a willingness to believe. Voted St. John's Event of the year. Sun - Thu Evenings at 9:30pm.

Where: Anglican Cathedral, Church Hill, St. John’s
Visit: [https://www.hauntedhike.com/](https://www.hauntedhike.com/)

**Parks**

1. **Bowring Park**
Less than 10km west of downtown St. John's you will find a beautiful old-style english park, Bowring Park. Visitors can enjoy feeding ducks and swans, walking or cycling the meandering trail network, viewing the historical monuments and a range of outdoor activities and recreational facilities.

Where: 305 Waterford Bridge Road, St. John’s
2. **Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden**
A place to explore and play, MUN Botanical Garden has cultivated gardens and meandering trails nestled in our boreal forest. You’ll discover beautiful displays of traditional and native plants, perennial and vegetable gardens, and a few surprises. Stop to feed the ducks in our pond then pause in the café for coffee or lunch. A gardener’s paradise, a place to inspire, come step into nature.

**Where:** 306 Mount Scio Road, St. John’s
**Visit:** [https://www.mun.ca/botgarden/](https://www.mun.ca/botgarden/)

3. **Bannerman Park**
The park is bounded by Rennie’s Mill Road, Circular Road, Bannerman Road and Military Road. The park was formed on land set aside for public use by Governor Bannerman in 1864. Bannerman Park remains a well-used and attractive park, and a good example of 19th century public park design, reflecting the British parks of that time.

**Where:** Military Rd, St. John’s

4. **Harbourside Park**
This delightful park was built opposite the National War Memorial to commemorate the 1583 proclamation by Sir Humphrey Gilbert claiming Newfoundland. Harbourside Park is the venue for the City of St. John’s free Music at Harbourside lunchtime concert series, on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. throughout the summer. The park features two striking statues of a Newfoundland dog and a Labrador Retriever.

**Where:** Water Street East, St. John’s

5. **Pippy Park**
A beautiful park in a quiet country setting, located in the heart of the city. Attractions include camping, walking trails, golf, Botanical Garden, Fluvarium, driving range, Memorial University, Arts and Culture Centre, National Research Council, Provincial Legislature, YM/YWCA, One of the best parks in Eastern Canada.

**Where:** 15 Mt.Scio Rd, St. John’s
**Visit:** [http://www.pippypark.com/](http://www.pippypark.com/)

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**Aquariums**

1. **Ocean Sciences Centre Marine Public Education Program**
Visitors are welcome year-round to visit our resident harp seal facility from an outdoor visitors viewing platform. Since 1988 the Ocean Sciences Centre has organized and played a continuous role in public awareness in marine sciences through its Marine Public Education Program. Each summer we invite visitors of all ages to our outside touch tank and Seal Facility where student interpreters discuss research conducted at the OSC, marine mammal and sealing issues, and introduce the curious to a variety of native sea creatures.

**Where:** Marine Lab Rd, Logy Bay
**Visit:** [https://www.mun.ca/osc/oscedu/](https://www.mun.ca/osc/oscedu/)
2. **The Suncor Energy Fluvarium**
   The Fluvarium, meaning windows on a stream, is in the heart of Pippy Park. The Fluvarium showcases spectacular views of inside Nagles Brook through large viewing windows. See brown trout in their natural habitat & learn about local wildlife & freshwater ecosystems. Our two floors of exhibits provide visitors with a unique look at local ecology through interactive exhibits, story boards, & live animals exhibit!

   **Where:** 5 Nagle's Place, St. John's  
   **Visit:** http://fluvarium.ca/

### Fun Games

1. **Jack Axes**  
   Jack Axes is the first indoor axe throwing to come to St. John's Newfoundland. It provides a unique social experience in a safe comfortable environment.

   **Where:** 152 Water St, St. John's  
   **Visit:** https://www.jackaxesinc.com/

2. **Escape Quest**  
   Escape Quest is an escape room experience in downtown St. John's

   **Where:** 156 Duckworth St, St. John's  
   **Visit:** http://escape-quest.ca/

3. **Get Air Newfoundland**  
   Get Air Temecula is the premier indoor trampoline park. Have fun with trampoline dodgeball and dunking, foam pit, the ninja course, birthday parties and more.

   **Where:** 63 Thorburn Rd, St. John's  
   **Visit:** http://getairnewfoundland.com/

4. **Holiday Lanes Bowling**  
   A fully 12-lane 5-pin bowling alley with automatic scoring.

   **Where:** 27 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's  
   **Visit:** https://www.holidaylanes.org/

5. **TRAPPED Escape Room St. John’s**  
   TRAPPED is an escape room experience in downtown St. John’s

   **Where:** 152 Water Street 3rd Floor, St. John’s  
   **Visit:** https://trapped.ca/locations/stjohns.html

6. **Axtion Climb**  
   A family indoor adventure park with amusement rides, bumper boats, climbing walls, ropes course, bouncy castles and even an indoor 100-foot-long snow tubing hill.

   **Where:** 55 Hebron Way, St. John’s  
   **Visit:** https://axtion.ca/