



Central Coastal Region

Culture and the Stories That Shape Us

Pjila'si. Bienvenue. Fáilte. Welcome. The Central Coastal region's cultural roots run as deep as the waters that have shaped Abegweit, the Mi'kmaq's name for this little island cradled in the waves. Whether you're a history buff or culturally-curious, you'll find plenty of treasures to unearth as you visit National Historic Sites, tiny communities, heritage buildings, monuments, and more.

Take some time to discover the tapestry of cultures, people, and stories that have shaped our region and you'll find even more reasons to be smitten with PEI.

The legacy of the Island's first inhabitants, the Mi'kmaq Nation, remains alive and strong in the Central Coastal region. A must-visit along the North Shore is **Darnley**, a stunning coastal community west of Kensington. The area served as a summer portage route for Mi'kmaq traveling from Lennox Island to the North Shore via the Malpeque Bay.

As you continue your travels along Route 20, take note of the **Darnley Bridge**. Once known as Burial Point because human skeletons were unearthed during the bridge's construction, it was eventually confirmed to be a sacred Mi'kmaq burial site.

Another historic hotspot on the North Shore is **Rustico**, the Island's oldest Acadian settlement. This vibrant French community retains and celebrates its language, authentic Acadian food, and cherished cultural traditions, including lively music and dance.



For a deeper dive into Acadian history, head to the **Farmers' Bank of North Rustico**. This National Historic Site is both a symbol of Acadian survival and an important monument of PEI architecture.

While you're in the area, take a walk along North Rustico's waterfront boardwalk and you'll find the recently installed **Bronze Fisherman Statue**. It's an important tribute to the longstanding contributions that fishing has made to PEI's culture and rural communities.

Further east, along the Tracadie Bay, you'll happen upon the majestic **Glenaladale Estate**, a very special place is filled with centuries of history and significance. While the House is not open this season, visitors are invited to bring along a picnic to enjoy on the grounds or simply take a quiet walk through the woodlands. Interpretive displays and students will be on-site to provide insights into the history of the place.



On the South Shore, make your way to **Skmaq-N-Port-La-Joye-Fort Amherst National Historic Site of Canada**. Here, you'll learn more about how the struggles for control of North America affected the Island's early settlers and its Mi'kmaq founders.

Have a penchant for exploring walkable, historic villages? **Victoria-by-the-Sea** on the South Shore will make you swoon. Founded in 1819, you'll feel like you've stepped back in time as you explore this charming, tiny seaside community filled with colourful and majestic homes, unique artisan shops, and stunning vistas.

Be sure to visit **Victoria's Seaport Museum**, located in the lighthouse to learn more about its history through the golden era of seafaring commerce.



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