

20 great reasons to **FALL** for **St. Andrews by-the-Sea**

If you thought Saint Andrews was merely a summer destination, think again. As temperatures begin to drop and the pace gradually slows, there's still a surprising number of things to see and do - especially for a such a small town. In fact, you just might find yourself running out of time to experience it all. Here are the Top 20 Must-Do Activities and Sites to explore this fall.

Explore heritage homes and sites

Saint Andrews is a history buff's dream. You can get a glimpse of our past on nearly every street corner. There's a wealth of heritage homes, churches, buildings and five (!) National Historic Sites. In celebration of our past, many have plaques that tell the fascinating stories behind them. Not sure where to start? Check out the [Saint Andrews Civic Trust Online Walking Tour](#).



Photo by Cindy Kohler



Cross the ocean floor to Ministers Island

When the tide is low, you can enjoy the unique experience of getting to Ministers Island by walking, driving or cycling on sand that would have been completely submerged just hours earlier. Once you arrive, you're in for a real treat. The island was once home to Sir William Van Horne, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Get whisked back in time by taking a guided tour of the mansion and don't miss the collection of antique automobiles housed in the grandiose stables. *The last day to visit the island this season is Sunday, October 19, 2025.*

Tee off at the Algonquin Golf Course

Take your game to the next level by playing one of the most picturesque seaside golf courses you could ever imagine. Established over a century ago, the Algonquin Golf Course has been carefully reworked over the years to ensure it remains a top golfing destination. Most recently, the course was recreated under the guidance of Rod Whitman, one of Canada's most celebrated designers. The proof? Every one of Whitman's designs is in the Top 100 in Canada on SCOREGolf's biennial course ranking. *The golf course closes for the season on November 2, 2025.*



Walk or cycle the Van Horne Trail

Located in the heart of Saint Andrews, the Van Horne Trail is an 8.4 km loop that's bursting with beautiful scenery, especially when the foliage changes. Enter the trail from Water Street, and you can take in the lush forest, views of Pagan Point, the beach at Katy's Cove and (on a clear day) the bath house and mansion on Ministers Island. The eight-foot wide trail is very well-maintained and provides a dog-friendly, easy route that's accessible to hikers, cyclists, wheelchairs and strollers.



Lap up the charm of Water Street

Lined with boutiques, art galleries, cafes, bars and restaurants, Water Street is the main thoroughfare in town. It's the best way to enjoy the warm embrace of East Coast living. But make no mistake – there's nothing artificially manufactured to be seen anywhere along the street. Authentic small-town charm exudes on every corner, where friendly locals always make you feel right at home.



Hang with the locals

You'll definitely want to chill with these good-natured folks over an ice-cold beer or a fancy cocktail/mocktail at one of the many fine establishments peppered throughout the town. No matter where you hail from, they'll welcome you as one of their own in no time. (After all, a lot of them are "from away" too.) And the best part is you'll meet an array of characters whose backgrounds and vocations are as unique as the venues themselves.



The horror, the horror!

Who doesn't love a good ghost story? Aside from the deceased themselves, that is. If you dare, you can meet outside the old gaol (Celtic for jail) for a spooky ghost tour and walk through the local cemeteries. You'll hear some interesting and spine-tingling stories about local criminals and other shady characters at the gaol that was still in operation in the 1970s. And what better way to keep history alive than raising the dead? *Tours operate until the end of October, weather permitting.*



Must-see sea life

What's a visit to a coastal town without meeting some of its undersea inhabitants? At the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, you'll discover the wonders of local marine life through interactive exhibits and shows. And you can get some hands-on experience with fascinating sea dwellers at the touch aquarium that's popular with amateur marine biologists young and old. *The Huntsman closes for the season on October 13, 2025.*

Live! From Saint Andrews

For most music aficionados, there's nothing quite like enjoying it up close and personal. You can get your fill of live music performed by talented local artists at many of the restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars around town. Sing along, dance up a storm or just sit back and enjoy the vibes.



A spa day getaway

You may already be thinking you need to relax and rejuvenate after all this activity. Fortunately, you've got more than one option when it comes to spoiling yourself with a well-deserved spa day. Whether you prefer being pampered in a traditional indoor spa or at an outdoor Nordic spa surrounded by nature, you'll come out ready and eager to take on the second half of our recommendations.

Discover our French roots

Walk in the footsteps of the explorers who set out to establish a permanent French settlement at Saint Croix Island in 1603. You can learn about the fascinating stories of Pierre Dugua and Samuel de Champlain at the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site or do your own exploring at one of the museums right here in the town.



A toast by the fire

Embrace the cool evening weather by enjoying a cocktail and great food on the patios and decks of our many restaurants and bars. Several places like Noble by the Sea, the Chandler Room and the Algonquin Resort offer blazing fireplaces and cozy blankets to help keep the goosebumps at bay.

Follow your art

Pablo Picasso said, "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." That's where Sunbury Shores Arts and Nature comes in. You can unleash your inner artist by taking one of the many courses offered at this creative space, including life drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery, stained glass and more. Or if you prefer to leave art to the experts, there are always great exhibitions on display at the gallery.



The really, really big chill

Admittedly, this next activity is not for the faint of heart. The cold plunge is gaining popularity all over the world. So, if you've got the courage, we've got some of the most scenic locations to get into this bone-chilling trend - next to the lighthouse at Pendlebury Point or at the historic Saint Andrews Blockhouse.

Get your caffeine fix

Some people claim they can't function without their daily dose of java. Or several doses for that matter. The great news is you have three great options - all conveniently located on Water Street. You can immerse yourself in the local coffee scene and enjoy a tasty treat while you're at it by visiting Honeybeans, McGuire Chocolate Company or Drewhaven Café & Restaurant.

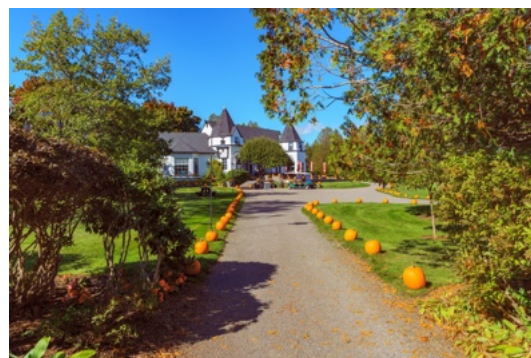


Life's a breach

Fundy Bay is home to an incredible variety of wildlife, the stars of which are the whales. Embark on a thrilling whale-watching adventure with one of our five tour operators who all work together and share sightings with one another. You can even choose which type of vessel you'd like to make the journey on, including a multilevel catamaran, the speedy zodiac or a majestic tall ship. [Explore your options here.](#)

Nothing garden variety about it

One of the most stunning attractions in Saint Andrews is Kingsbrae Garden. In addition to the immaculately maintained flowers, trees and shrubs, what makes this garden even more special are the larger-than-life sculptures situated throughout. Whether you're on a stroll, enjoying a relaxing picnic or taking part in the annual pumpkin festival, it's pretty hard to find a more idyllic setting. *Kingsbrae Garden closes October 19, 2025.*



Park yourself somewhere beautiful

You don't have to look far to find green space around here. Best of all, you can become one with nature without even leaving the town limits. Read a book amongst the foliage while you listen to the calming sounds of the water fountains in Centennial Park or take in the fabulous view at the waterfront Elizabeth Park.

Foodies rejoice

Despite the diminutive size of the town, Saint Andrews offers an impressive variety of culinary delights. Many boast locally sourced vegetables, fruits, meats and seafood, yet each manages to find a way to put a unique twist on those ingredients. You can indulge your senses with virtually any style of meal – from refined, world-class dining to casual, comfort food. There's literally something for every palate.



Photo by Cindy Kohler

Evidence of a higher power?

When you combine the clean, salty air of the bay with arresting water views, the resulting sunsets are nothing short of spectacular. While the fantastic display of colours can be enjoyed from anywhere in town, our favourite vantage points are from the lawn of the historic Blockhouse and the wooden pier at the wharf.