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CPERC 2022

Canadian Pharmacy Education and Research Conference

JUNE 14-17 | St. John's, NL

THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND ST. JOHN'S

The local CPERC working group members from Memorial University want to ensure you make the most of your time while at CPERC! They have put together this [interactive GOOGLE MY MAPS](#) to help familiarize you with their city and to learn about their favorite places to eat, drink, shop and visit. Lisa Bishop, a faculty member at MUN, prepared the list below that will help you know before you go! (any questions just contact Lisa).

June weather: can range from 5 to 20 degrees, so best to dress in layers. Even if it seems warm out, make sure you take a sweater/coat as the weather can change quickly! Often a lot of rain/fog, especially in the morning that may burn off in the afternoon. Keep an eye on the weather forecast, as it will influence what you do during the day. We also have a lot of wind! It often feels a lot cooler when it's windy, esp if you're by the water (I often choose more inland things to do on windy days- not a good time to visit the coastal sites on windy days).

Note: there are 4 unofficial regions in St. John's, the east end (more fog, often a bit cooler), downtown (can often get fog because so close to the water), west end (further from the water so often less fog), and center city. The Sheraton is downtown/east.

Check out these websites

Destination St. John's: <https://destinationstjohns.com/>

Newfoundland Traveller's guide: <https://www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/trip-ideas/travellers-guide>

City of St. John's: <https://www.stjohns.ca/visiting-our-city/things-do>

Come Home Year 2022 <https://www.comehome2022.ca/>

Provincial Historic Sites with free admission for 2022 <https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2022/tcar/0506n01/>

Attractions / Walking Trails / Playgrounds

Quidi Vidi Village (The Gut)

Beautiful community in St. John's with a sheltered harbor. A must see!

Nice to walk around the pretty village, and it's close to the Sheraton. <https://destinationstjohns.com/a-day-in-quidi-vidi-nl/>

Mallard Cottage - Popular restaurant in the beautiful community

<http://mallardcottage.ca/menu.html>

Quidi Village Brewery

<https://www.quidividibrewery.ca/>

Plantation - small shop, local artwork <http://qvplantation.com/>

Quidi vidi pond - close to the Sheraton.

Close to the Quidi Vidi Village, but not walking distance with kids (a few min drive apart)
Nice walking trail around the pond - takes about an hour. Has a playground along the trail.

Bannerman Park (free)

A smaller park with Playground (swimming pool& splash pad closed until July). Pretty close to the Sheraton.

<http://www.bannermanpark.ca/>

Cape Spear (free, unless you want to go inside the lighthouse)

A must see - about a 15 min drive from St. John's. The most easterly point in North America.

Has a lighthouse and a small wakening train. It's often cool with the wind off the ocean (bring an extra coat)

<http://www.historicsites.ca/cape-spear/>

Strongly suggest taking a drive to Petty Harbour when you go to Cape Spear (can make a day out of it). Beautiful little community and a nice scenic drive along the way. See notes below.

Signal Hill (free, not sure about admission to get to the top of Cabot Tower)

A must see in St. John's, and just up the hill from the Sheraton. You can walk to the top of the building to look out, and it has a small gift shop. <http://www.historicsites.ca/signal-hill/>

There's also some good walking trails around the hill (North Head Trail is the most popular)

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/signalhill/activ/ran-hik>

Geo Centre (admission)

On the way up to Signal Hill so close by. Great for kids. Good for a rainy day

<https://www.geocentre.ca/visit/>

Fort Amherst Lighthouse

Other side of the harbor. Nice to walk around and see the harbour.

<http://www.hiddennewfoundland.ca/fort-amherst--chain-rock>

Lester's Farm

~10 min drive on Brookfield Road

In St. John's - a petting zoo. A great place to go for an hour to pet/feed the animals, then grab an ice cream and buy local produce in the store. Great for kids! Free, except if you want to buy some lettuce to feed the animals (just ask inside to buy the feed - I'd definitely recommend it!) Great way to pass an hour in the day

<http://www.lestersfarmmarket.com/onthefarm.html>

Bowring Park

A park in the city with walking trails, duck pond so can feed the ducks. Has a great playground! (all free). Suggest parking by the duck pond (pick up some bird food at the dollar store), then walk through the park to get to the other end (by the pool) to reach the playground. Takes about a 5-10 min walk from the duck pond, but a nice and easy walk with kids (lots of families/dogs walking).

(also has a pool/splashpad, but not open until July)

In the west end of St. John's, so is often a bit warmer and less fog

<http://www.bowringpark.com/>

Botanical Gardens (admission)

Memorial University's garden. Walking trail around flowers

<http://www.mun.ca/botgarden/visit/>

Miniature golf

Good to pass the time for an hour. On McDonad Drive. Not sure if open in June.

http://www.siradmiraljohns.com/index_m.html

Rooms (admission, but Admission is free between 6 - 9 pm on the first Wednesday evening of the month)

St. John's museum. Good for a rainy day

<https://www.therooms.ca/visit-us>

Get Air (\$\$)

Trampoline park. Good for a rainy day

<http://getairnewfoundland.com/prices>

Shopping

Downtown shops (Water Street)- best for newfoundland/local items. Also lots of restaurants

<https://www.downtownstjohns.com/discover/shopping/>

Avalon Mall - largest mall in the province, the only really good mall if you want to go shopping.

<https://shopavalonmall.com/>

Bars/restaurants (more casual)

George Street (classic!)

Some NL themed pubs (often with live music) - O'Reilly's, Bridie Molloy's

Green Sleeves often has live music as well

<http://georgestreetlive.ca/>

Ches's - Classic if you want fish and chips (ie. Deep fried cod and French fries). They may ask if you want "dressing" - this is like the stuffing that goes in turkeys (fries, dressing and gravy is a must-try!) Good for a lunch <http://www.chessfishandchips.ca/>

Chafe's Landing

In Petty Harbour (about 10-15 min from St.John's)

Another casual restaurant, bigger menu than Ches's and a little nicer. Beautiful community to explore.

<https://www.chafeslanding.com/>

The Rooms Café - on the top floor of the Rooms museum (beautiful view of the city). No charge to enter if you're going to the restaurant. Great for lunch or supper. https://www.therooms.ca/visit-us?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=SEM&utm_campaign=2018#dining

Other nice restaurants in down-town area (especially for fish)

Saltwater <https://saltwaterrestaurant.ca/>

Blue on Water <https://www.blueonwater.com/restaurant/menu/>

Magnum and Steins <http://www.magnumandsteins.ca/>

Merchant's Tavern <http://themerchanttavern.ca/>

Fish Exchange <https://sjfx.ca/>

Theatre / Shows

Dinner Theatre

Spirit of Newfoundland usually have regular dinner theatre showings. Fabulous if you can get in to see one. Usually has a Newfoundland theme. (not great for young kids, but strongly recommended if you want and adult night out). June schedule not posted yet, but keep an eye out.

<http://www.spiritofnewfoundland.com/>

Arts & Culture Centre

Have a variety of shows/plays throughout the year

<https://artsandculturecentre.com/stjohns/Online/default.asp>

Outside of St. John's, but within driving distance

Petty Harbour

Only about a 20 min drive outside of St. John's. It's close to Cape Spear, so would be a good idea to do Cape Spear, then take the turn-off to Maddox Cove, it will take you to Portugal Cove. Great little community to visit, walk around. Much like a traditional outport fishing village, so worth the drive.

Mini Aquarium - can see the various sea creatures from around NL (also a touch tank). Great for kids!

Planned to open in June, but not sure the date <https://www.miniaqua.org/>

Chafe's Landing Restaurant - nice casual restaurant, popular for lunch or supper. Pretty popular <https://www.facebook.com/ChafesLanding/>

Tinkers Ice Cream Shop - Popular ice cream shop in Petty Harbour <https://www.facebook.com/tinkersicecream/>

Salmonear Nature Park (free and a must see for kids! Worth the drive)

Wildlife Park ~30-40 min drive

takes ~ 1 hr or so to walk around. Can see all NL animals (these are rescue animals)

We usually go out in the morning and pack a picnic lunch (not many restaurants out that way, so better to bring food)

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/wildlife/snp/>

Manuels River Interpretation Centre & Walking Trails

<https://manuelriver.ca/>

About 20 min outside of St. John's to the west. If the weather is foggy/rainy in St. Johns, it could be clear/sunny in Manuels (check the Weather Network).

Great for a family get away for a few hours. Interpretation centre is great for kids (about the fossils) - prefer the guided tour if they have it.

Walking trails are free and easy walking for kids. One right behind the interpretation centre is a beautiful walk around the river, takes about a ½ hr. If you go under the overpass down the trail, you can see the fossils in the shale rock (fun for kids). About 15-20min walk down the trail to get to the shale rock (need to cross over the 2nd bridge and stay to the left of the river to get to the shale rock in the side of the cliff). This is also a nice easy walk by the river for kids.

Bergs Famous Ice Cream - just down the road from the Interpretation Centre (can see it from the parking lot). Nice treat while you're out that way. <https://m.facebook.com/bergsfamousicecream/>

Boat tour

Witless Bay/Bay Bulls are the best ones (about 25-30 min drive). You may see whales or ice bergs, guaranteed to see lots of puffins and other birds. I'd suggest these boat tours over the ones out of St. John's Harbour. Definitely worth it, and the kids would love it.

<http://www.obriensboattours.com/rates-schedules/>

<https://gatheralls.com/gatheralls-puffin-whale-watch-newfoundland-tour-rates/>

Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve

Hiking trails, viewing of birds.

<https://www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/top-destinations/cape-st-marys>

Le Manche Park

About a 45 min drive

Nice walking/hiking trail (part of East Coast Trail)

<http://www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/PlanYourTrip/Detail/211795>

Ferryland Picnic (not sure if they're open in June)

About a 45 min drive.

This is pretty popular. Can book a picnic - walk out to the lighthouse and they'll have a picnic ready (can also take your own food if you didn't want to order the food, esp for the kids). It's just past Le Manche Park, so can do both in one day. They also have an archaeological dig site, not sure if you can book it for June, but interesting to look around. Also have a

<http://www.lighthousepicnics.ca/>