

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips



INSIDER TIP → **Enjoy art on Lake Ontario**

Traditional glass-blowers and sculptors, dance performances, concerts and numerous festivals in the *York Quay Centre* in Toronto's harbour → p. 38

INSIDER TIP → **The ultimate test of courage in Toronto**

Adrenaline high: without a railing and with just a thin steel cable you can take the *EdgeWalk* on the *CN Tower* high above the city → p. 35

INSIDER TIP → **Hungry for beavertail?**

At the *Byward Market* in Ottawa you can try beavertails, which is a type of fried pastry that is sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon → p. 53

INSIDER TIP → **Surfing**

A different kind of surfing: in the *Tidal Bore Rafting Park* you will ride a tidal bore in a rubber dinghy → p. 112

INSIDER TIP → **Canoe through a canyon**

The canyon of the *Parc national des Hautes-Gorges* in Québec is every bit as impressive as the Rockies → p. 71

INSIDER TIP → **Clowns and performers in Montréal**

The circus school *La Tohu* trains jugglers, mimes, tightrope artists and up-and-coming talent from all over the world – and also gives performances → p. 63

INSIDER TIP → **Native American cuisine**

Sagamité restaurant on the outskirts of Québec City serves refined Native American/Huron cuisine with lots of wild berries and other regional ingredients → p. 79

INSIDER TIP → **Visit the belugas**

Tadoussac on the northern shore of St. Lawrence is regarded as one of the best places for *whale watching* in the world. This is the southern-most habitat of the white whales (photo right) → p. 82

INSIDER TIP → **Hike with panoramic views**

The *Coastal Trail* in the Fundy National Park winds along the rugged coast where the tide fluctuates over 10 m/30 ft → p. 90

INSIDER TIP → **Log cabins by the seaside**

The long journey is worth it: with a little luck whales will cavort about in the sea in front of your cabin in the *Phare de Pointe-des-Monts* in Québec → p. 122

INSIDER TIP → **Icebergs in the summer**

On the northern coast of Newfoundland near *Twillingate*, massive icebergs drift past from early summer to mid-July → p. 103

INSIDER TIP → **The longest hiking trail in the world**

The Trans Canada Trail will stretch over 18,000 km/11,200 mi – the already completed *East Coast Trail* section in Newfoundland is especially beautiful → p. 102

INSIDER TIP → **An insight into the ecosystem**

The interactive exhibitions in the *Biosphère* in Montréal – on the former World Fair Expo 67 grounds – show the fascinating background of the Great Lakes, alternative energy, major environmental issues such as climate change and sustainable technologies (photo left) → p. 61

INSIDER TIP → **Big screen for sport fans**

Sporty Toronto: whether it is ice hockey, football or baseball, in the large *Real Sports* bar next to the Rogers Centre, all the big league games are broadcast and celebrated → p. 41

INSIDER TIP → **Québec's best delicacies**

Cheese and caviar, liqueurs and pies – the gourmet market *Le Marché des Saveurs* in Montréal stocks only the best products from all over the province – and the vibrant city market is just across the street → p. 65



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● *Toronto's affordable avant-garde*

A donation is welcome, but otherwise entrance to the *Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art* is free. You can see superb modern photography and installations. And the excellent galleries around Queen Street are also free → p. 38

● *Marvel at waterfalls*

Natural wonders and magnificent landscapes in Canada can be seen in the national parks, which require entrance fees. But not at the most famous: *Niagara Falls*. However, there is a fee for the parking → p. 48

● *Free music in Ottawa*

The nation's capital splashes out almost every weekend during the summer when it celebrates different festivals – be it blues, jazz or Canada Day. These free concerts are funded by the *National Capital Commission* → p. 48

● *Art is free in Québec City*

Québec's policy is that culture should cost its citizens as little as possible. Admission to the largest art museum, the *Musée national des Beaux-Arts* (photo), is free and provides the best overview of the artworks of the province → p. 78

● *Halifax: Sundays in the park*

In Halifax, Sunday afternoons are typically spent in the park. During the summer there are free concerts in the colourful greenery of the *Public Gardens*, only a few steps from the citadel → p. 93

● *Sunrise over the Atlantic*

Actually, the people on Newfoundland could set up a box office on the winding road to *Signal Hill*. In the port of St. John you can admire the finest and earliest sunrise in the New World, every morning, always free of charge → p. 101

● ● ● Dots in guidebook refer to 'Best of...' tips

ONLY IN EASTERN CANADA

Unique experiences

● *Paddling on Lake Opeongo*

Lakes, moose, cliffs, woods and solitude – that is the Canada that we all imagine. And on a canoe trip in the *Algonquin Provincial Park* you can live the dream – a tent and sleeping bag are available to rent (photo) → p. 45

● *Dinner with a view*

The *Cape d'Or Lighthouse* is perched on a high cliff above the Bay of Fundy and provides stunning panoramic views. This is where you can watch one of the largest tidal fluctuations in the world. The small restaurant next to the lighthouse serves typically Canadian fare – such as hearty chowder – and the freshest fish → p. 91

● *Through Montréal by bike*

Experience Montréal like a local – by bicycle. From the old town along the St. Lawrence canals into the university district of St-Denis. Rent one of the affordable *Bixi Bikes* that you will find at many sites throughout the city → p. 64

● *Enjoy the scenery of the Atlantic*

Cape Breton Island offers the wildest, most unspoilt and most beautiful panoramas on the east coast. Along the almost 300 km/186 mi long circular road, the *Cabot Trail*, colourful fishing villages, rugged cliffs, lush valleys and scenic highlands are lined up one after another – ideal to experience on a guided bike tour → p. 87, 121

● *Canadian maritime pub*

The cosy harbour pub *Split Crow* in the old town of Halifax serves good beer and good music. A different band performs almost every night while the guests enjoy their fish and burgers. A great atmosphere → p. 92

● *Along the river of the whales*

The St. Lawrence estuary is home to more whale species than anywhere else on our planet. Around the *Mingan Archipelago* you can see blue, fin and humpback whales and partake in scientific observations → p. 75



ONLY IN



DISCOVERY TOURS

1

EASTERN CANADA AT A GLANCE



START: 1 Toronto
END: 24 Halifax

19 days
Driving time
43 hours



Distance:
→ 3000 km / 1865 mi

COSTS: approx. C\$300 for petrol (car), for the boat tour to the 5 30 000 Islands C\$30 and for the admission to the performance in 17 Pays de la Sagouine C\$30–70

IMPORTANT TIPS: You can fly back from Halifax to Toronto or go by VIA-Rail – a good 24-hour panoramic trip.

All facets of Eastern Canada unfold along the route from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic: From the Niagara Falls to the cities, to the picturesque harbour town of

Each corner of this world has its own beauty. If you wish to discover the unique characteristics of this area, if you look for great tips on worthwhile stops, stunning locations, hand-picked restaurants or typical activities – these customized discovery tours are just the thing for you. Get started and follow the path of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

Nova Scotia: the country shows its best – especially during the Indian Summer in early October. Don't be afraid of distances – there are hardly any traffic jams in Canada and drivers are relaxed and considerate.

You should take at least two days for 1 Toronto → p. 32: take the time for a ride to the CN Tower, a stroll through the city, a shopping afternoon in Eaton Centre – and for all shoe fetishists a visit to the Bata Shoe Museum. After roughly a **two-hour trip on the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW, Hwy 403)** you will reach the first highlight of the

DAY 1–3

1 Toronto



130 km / 80 mi