

Attractions in the Kingston area



Stunning Kingston, city of limestone, is the Gateway to the 1000 Islands of the St Lawrence Seaway and the historic [Rideau Canal](#), which connects Canada's capital city of Ottawa to Kingston on Lake Ontario. This UNESCO designated waterway is 202km in length and contains a total of 45 locks.

Kingston, with centuries of [history](#) behind it, provides an abundance of choices of things to see and do.

Visit Kingston's downtown core, with its iconic [City hall](#) dating to 1844. Stroll along the edge of Lake Ontario or visit the [market square](#) where locals and visitors have been shopping [the market](#) for fresh produce or unique finds for over two centuries! As you walk the streets, you might even sense the presence of Kingston's most famous lawyer and Canada's first Prime minister, [Sir John A McDonald](#). A large statue of him can be found at the corner of King and West in [Kingston City Park](#) although in recent years, he has become a controversial figure due to his part in creating the residential school system that removed many indigenous children from their families.

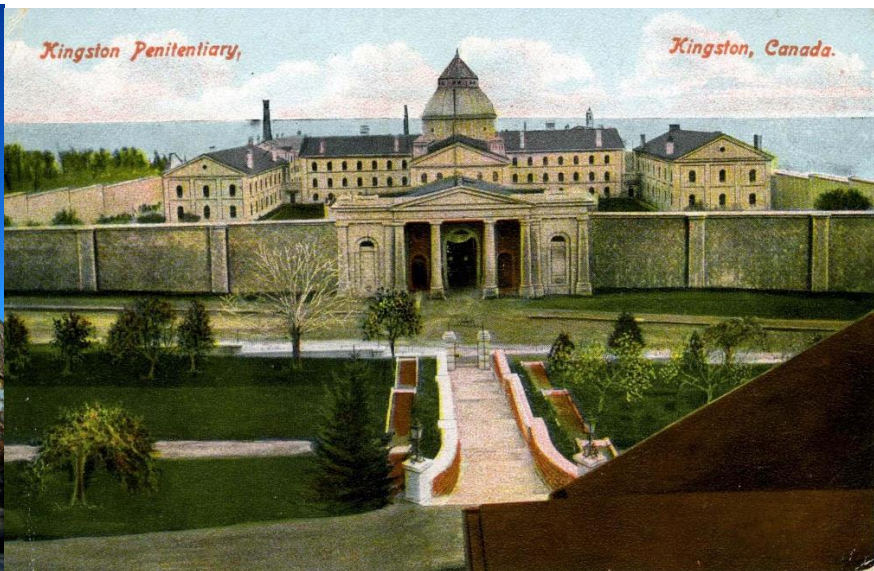
Kingston's vibrant downtown also offers many restaurant and pub choices that cater to its large number of students and visitors. Take some time to enjoy the good flavours that Kingston has to offer!

Prefer to do your sightseeing from the water? [Sightseeing cruises](#) are available from downtown Kingston or travel east approximately 20 minutes to [Ganonoque Boat Line](#) which offers multiple 1000 Islands boat tours including one with a stopover at [Boldt castle](#).

If you are looking for a shorter water excursion, take the 20 minute (free) [ferry](#) from Kingston to [Wolfe island](#) and enjoy a scenic drive around the island. This rural area contains a very large [windfarm](#), visible from the Kingston waterfront, which provide significant power to the region.



Eager to explore beyond the city centre? Kingston's nearby [Fort Henry](#) can transport you back to 1812, a time before Canadian confederation when the British created a strategic fortification to protect the Kingston Royal Naval dockyard. The former dockyard is now home to Canada's prestigious [Royal Military College](#), Canada's only federal institution with "degree granting" powers. This institution has been training future military officers since 1876.



To the West of the city centre lie two more famous Canadian institutions. The first, [Queens University](#), is one of Canada's prettiest campuses with its sprawling collection of mostly limestone buildings. Its most well-known feature is the clocktower shown in the left photo above. The university is particularly well known for the high standards of its business and engineering schools as well as its high quality nursing and biosciences programs. A walk around the [campus](#) on a sunny day can be an enjoyable experience with a visit to the campus bookstore always a fun way to pass some time.

If you are interested in the darker side of Kingston, drive a little west of the city to see the, recently closed, Kingston penitentiary (photo above right) This maximum security facility has housed many of

Canada's most infamous prisoners during its use from 1835 to 2013. More recently it has become a location being marketed for [Hollywood productions](#) due to its historical and imposing structure and infamous history. While never used as a site of executions, it is nonetheless rumoured to be haunted due to the violent death of a prisoner in 1897. Kingston claims to have a number of haunted locations, and even offers a [haunted walk](#) to several of them!

Finally, just an hour west of Kingston and a short ferry ride on the [Glenora Ferry](#), lies the beautiful Prince Edward County peninsula. This quiet farming area, with excellent soil conditions for grape growing, continues to develop numerous [wineries](#). While of a smaller scale than those in the Niagara region, "the county" as it is known locally is developing a reputation for an abundance of high quality boutique wineries. If you choose to enjoy this locale, allow some time to check out some the local eateries and the town of Picton before returning to Kingston either by ferry or via the 401 highway.

However you choose to spend your time in the area, you are sure to return home with fond memories, new friends and an interesting story or two. And whether or not you see a ghost, you might just discover that one visit to this former centre of Upper Canada is not enough...

