Why Rent a Car in Charlottetown to Tour Prince Edward Island?

Prince Edward Island is a scenic, clean island with rolling hills, farms, small towns, fishing villages, lakes, parks, a coastline with sandstone carved by the sea, and much more! It doesn't get much better as a relaxing, fun place to explore, at your own pace, in a rental car.

There are several advantages of a rental car with GPS vs. a bus tour from a cruise ship.

- A bus tour follows a defined route, stops, and times. A rental car offers unlimited flexibility to stop along the route. You can deviate from the route to visit places of interest. The GPS coordinates in this driving tour will direct you to the next stop on the route. It's hard to get lost.
- It's not practical to take good photos on a bus tour except at defined stops. In a rental car, you can stop anywhere to take postcard photos.
- Everyone has a window seat and you can see a lot from the car. This is an advantage for people who want to minimize walking and for the mobility challenged.
- GPS allows you to view the scenery on your leisurely drive without being distracted by looking at a map. I bring my GPS from home because I am familiar with it, know how to enter the GPS coordinates, and it has maps for Canada. If you rent a car with GPS, do not leave the rental office until you know how to enter GPS coordinates in the format I use in this document.
- Sharing a rental car with 2 or 4 people is the lowest cost way to tour Prince Edward Island and you'll still have time for a walking tour of Charlottetown in the afternoon, before your ship departs.

Tom Sheridan

GPS Coordinates

This guide includes GPS coordinates for use in hand-held or vehicle GPS devices. Note that these devices can accept different formats. It's important to set your device to accept data in this format:

Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds shown as N ddd° mm' ss.ss",  W ddd° mm' ss.ss"

- If you bring your GPS from home, enter the coordinates into your GPS before you leave home.
- Bring a paper or electronic copy of this guide to the car rental to insure you know how to input GPS.
- Use your home computer to create maps for your tour. Open this guide in one window on your computer and open Google Maps in a second window. Copy and paste the GPS coordinates into Google maps to find sites, get directions, and route/time for travel by car, bus, walking, or bicycle. The coordinates can be used with any Bing or Google map format such as “map”, “satellite”, “earth”, or “terrain” to see detailed views of the location at any map scale.

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CAVEAT

Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan
Cruise ships dock in front of the cruise terminal. Sometimes a ship docks along a floating pier and tenders passengers to the Tender Dock shown on the map above. The terminal is a long, thin building. Ship's excursion buses enter the port security gate and line up on the northeast side, parallel to the terminal building. If you are on a ship's tour, you wait in the terminal until it's time to board your bus.

Charlottetown cruise terminal is a fun place to visit. There's free WiFi with tables and chairs to use your computer. Shops offer great souvenirs including moccasins. There's a cafe, Visitor Information, entertainment, and you can meet a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**Taxis and private tour vehicles park outside** the port security gate. If you are driving passengers back to the cruise terminal, there is a security guard near Weymouth St. She let me drop my wife off in the parking lot near the taxis so I could drive back to return the car. Most rental car companies pick up customers at the port security gate. Enterprise Rent-A-Car uses Founders' Hall, a better location, to pick up their customers.

The **walking route from the cruise terminal to Founders' Hall** is show by green dots on the map above. When you exit the terminal, turn left in front of the port security gate and walk along the water. This is a great spot for photos of your ship.

**Founders' Hall is a must visit location**

You'll find **Visitor Information** personnel with maps and tips on what to visit. At the **Reserve It Now Kiosk**, you can book guided walking tours, boat tours, and bus tours. You can also rent bicycles, and reserve tickets for the musicals at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. There is free WiFi. Public computers are available for your use. Outside, you'll find all kinds of tour buses including tours of the city.
Founders Hall  [http://www.foundershall.ca/](http://www.foundershall.ca/)  6 Prince St  GPS = N 46° 14' 1.24", W 63° 7' 16.89"

Canada’s Birthplace Pavilion - Step Back in Time & Experience History

In 1864, delegates to the Charlottetown Conference arrived at the Historic Charlottetown Waterfront on board the HMCS Queen Victoria where today, stands Founders’ Hall, Canada's Birthplace Pavilion. This heritage bilingual attraction tells the story of Canada from its inception in 1864 up until modern day. Adults $9.50  Usually, the hours are 9-5 daily.

**Using Google Maps to Find Car Rental Companies**

Google recognizes the word “near” in searches. Founders’ Hall is at 6 Prince Street, so let's open Google Maps and search for “car rental near 6 Prince St, Charlottetown, PEI Canada.”

Google places a black circle with a white, down-pointing arrow (icon at right) on the map at 6 Princess St.

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Google creates the map above with a list of rental car agencies near 6 Prince Street (Founders’ Hall).

**Caution:** Internet information on car rental locations may be wrong. Go to the parent company website to confirm the street address, open hours, etc. for the rental agency. Know the rental location BEFORE you book via the website or 800 number. The biggest mistake you can make is to rent from a location far away from the cruise terminal. The lady next to me at the cruise terminal, waiting for the rental shuttle van, discovered her rental car was at the airport.

The major rental car companies are on University St ~1 mile from the cruise terminal.

**Car Rental Pick Up Service**

Most rental car companies provide a shuttle van pick up service for customers with reservations.

**Caution:** Some rental car companies had incredibly poor, disorganized, pick up service in 2013.
My car rental in 2013 was a disappointment.

- The shuttle van driver arrived with a list of specific names of Smith, Jones, etc. Rather than take any of the dozen people who had reservations, he walked the parking lot looking for people on his list. I had a reservation, but was not on his list. When the shuttle driver returned, he had a new list with my name on it. Pick-up service was disorganized. It took forever to get to the rental car office.
- I returned to the rental office around 2:30 PM and asked for a ride back to the ship. I was told they would not give me a ride back to the ship before 3:30 PM. I could walk a mile or pay $6 for a cab. The Charlottetown office of this rental company was not only disorganized, their pick-up policy was stupid.

Finding a Charlottetown Rental Car Company with Excellent Pick Up Service for my 2014 Rental

I suggest you call rental companies and question the details of their pick up service. I called Enterprise Rent-A-Car (902-894-5004, at 384 University Ave, Charlottetown) and had a long conversation with the manager re customer pick-up. I was impressed, and rented with them for my October 2014 visit to Charlottetown.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car is the only car rental company that picks up customers at Founders' Hall at 6 Prince St. Your entire party walks to Founders' Hall. Call Enterprise to tell them you are ready to be picked up. Your party can get tourist information while waiting for you in a clean, comfortable building at Founders' Hall. My wife does not want to stand in a “parking lot” at the port security gate waiting for me to return with a rental car.

The pick up procedure is efficient. Only the drivers take the shuttle van to the rental office. When you return your car, Enterprise Rent-A-Car will drive you to any location in the city and drop you off provided there is room for their agent in your vehicle. If your vehicle has no extra room, drop your party off somewhere in the city, return the car, and have Enterprise Rent-A-Car drop you off to join your party.

Check whether/how your car insurance policy covers rental cars

My car insurance in the US is with Liberty Mutual. My policy provides the same insurance coverage for cars I own as for cars I rent in the US and Canada. However, rental car companies may hold me liable for “loss of use” if the vehicle is damaged and cannot be used as a rental until it is repaired. This could be very costly. Liberty Mutual recommends I get an insurance rider from the car rental company for “Loss of Use.”

Using the Enterprise.com Corporate Website  http://www.enterprise.com/car_rental/home.do

Enterprise Rent-A-Car corporate website does NOT recognize Charlottetown as a “Port of Call”. To find the University Ave office, enter “Canada” as in the box titled “Rent a car in:” and “Charlottetown” as the “Pick Up Location”. Click “Search”. The screen at right below appears. Select the 384 University STE A location.

The next choice is the type of rental car. The total price (excluding gas) for a car or van with unlimited mileage is ~ $70 to $95 CAD. That's a bargain price of $50 to $25/person for two or four people!

Book Early, car rentals are sold out ~ 2 months before your ship docks in Charlottetown!
Most of the car rentals are on University Ave about a mile from the cruise ship terminal.

This Map shows the route from Founders' Hall to Enterprise Rent-A-Car

SUNDAY Car Rental in Charlottetown

Cruise Ship Dock  GPS = N 46°13'58.1", W 63°07'03.8"
Airport  GPS = N 46°17'12.8", W 63°07'51.8"

The ONLY place to rent a car on Sunday is at the Charlottetown Airport. There is no pick up service for car rental, you'll have to take a taxi between the cruise terminal and airport. Charlottetown Airport is 5.2 mi (8.4 km) north of the cruise terminal. Taxis pick up at the parking lot outside the cruise terminal security gate.

NOTE: I would like to thank Brian Losie for reminding me that car rentals in the city are closed on Sunday, the only place to rent a car is at the airport.
Taxi fare (2014 prices) between the cruise terminal and airport is $15 plus tip. It's a fifteen minute ride.

Some of the taxi companies offer private tours of the island. The major companies are listed below:

- **City Taxi** 193 Kent Street  (902) 569-9999  (902) 892-6567  Book online at [http://www.citytaxipei.com/](http://www.citytaxipei.com/)

**Rental car agencies at the airport**

The airport location for rental cars is **Charlottetown Airport 250 Maple Hills Ave, Charlottetown, Canada**

There are four rental agencies:

- **Avis Car Rental**  [www.Avis.com](http://www.Avis.com)
- **Budget Car Rental**  [www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com)
- **Enterprise Rent-A-Car (National)**  [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com)
- **Hertz Rent-A-Car**  [www.Hertz.com](http://www.Hertz.com)

**Where to Drive from Charlottetown?**

I've been on private guided tours, the ship's bus excursion tours, and rented a car to tour Prince Edward Island. The island measures 103 miles by 45 miles. The two most common tour routes are:

1. North to Anne of Green Gables, the National Park along the sea, with stops at villages, and shops, or
2. West through the rolling hills and farm country to fishing villages and Confederation Bridge.

You can drive either route in a few hours and be back to Charlottetown in the afternoon. You could also drive both routes but you wouldn't have time for a walking tour of Charlottetown. Plot your own map with the coordinates on Google or Microsoft Bing to estimate your driving time/distance.

For more guides, see [www.TomsPortGuides.com](http://www.TomsPortGuides.com)
Prince Edward Island (map below)

Driving Tour North of Charlottetown = the most popular excursion

Driving Tour North
This route is 106 miles round trip and 3.5 hours driving time.

For more guides, see www.TomsPortGuides.com
This route has 23 scenic stops and points of interest. Bring your camera!!!
An advantage of a rental car is that all passengers have a window seat. My wife is comfortable sitting in the car. I like to walk the beaches, explore the scenic areas, and take photos. Driving time is 3.5 hours. Adding time to stop at Anne of Green Gables and a stop for lunch, the total time is ~ 5-6 hours. If you leave Charlottetown at 9 am, you should be back around 3 which should give you more than enough time for a walking tour of the city.

**Stops for this tour are shown on the map as A, B, C.**
The tour starts and ends at Founders' Hall in Charlottetown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAP</th>
<th>SITE NAME</th>
<th>GPS COORDINATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Founders Hall 6 Prince St, Charlottetown</td>
<td>N 46° 14' 1.24&quot;, W 63° 7' 16.89&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Enterprise Rent-A-Car 384 University Ave, Charlottetown</td>
<td>N 46°14'40.5&quot;, W 63°08'02.9&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>St John's Anglican Church on Rte 2 near Charlottetown</td>
<td>N 46° 18' 5.35&quot;, W 63° 12' 28.46&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There are many colorful churches on Prince Edward Island. St John's is close to Charlottetown as you are leaving the city on Rte 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D</th>
<th>Prince Edward Island Preserve Company</th>
<th>GPS COORDINATES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2841 New Glasgow Rd, New Glasgow, PE C0A 1N0, Canada</td>
<td>N 46° 24' 32.59&quot;, W 63° 20' 52.31&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tour buses stop here. It's a clean, comfortable site to taste samples, have a drink or snack, buy preserves, tea, Celtic jewelry, porcelain, etc. It's also a “good pit stop”; the toilets are very clean. See [www.preservecompany.com/](http://www.preservecompany.com/)
My wife wanted to stop at The Toy Factory. We had seen it on tours, but the buses don't stop here. The Toy Factory has wooden toys, stuffed animals, Le Toy Van and Popo Toys, fairy tale castles, princes, unicorns, doll houses, Budkin people, castles, knights, games, etc. The company ships toys, see [http://www.toy-factory.ca/](http://www.toy-factory.ca/)

There are several routes from Charlottetown to PEI Preserve Company. The driving route I use in this guide is Rte 2 from Charlottetown to Rte 13 North. I leave The Toy Factory on Rte 13 South to Rte 224 Northwest.
The Swimming Rock is a tiny park that you don't see from the road. You enter a stone driveway, go behind the trees, and walk down two flights of new, wooden stairs to the water. I learned about this photo spot from a private tour guide in Charlottetown.

**NOTE:** The Swimming Rock is point “F” on the map below. You can take two different driving routes.

You can continue from F to points G, H, I, and J at Teapot Rock. The drive from point F to J is 15.7 miles and takes 30 minutes. Since you have to backtrack on the same route back to point F, this route adds 31.4 miles and one hour to your total driving time. **The question is whether you would rather save that time and go directly from point F to Anne of Green Gables at point K on the map. It's your decision.**
Let me explain the sites along this driving route so you can decide if the “views” are worth the “time”.

The Swimming Rock is on Rte 6. Go south and follow Rte 6 (west) across Stanley Bridge. As you cross the bridge, look to the harbor on the north side of the bridge. If the fishing boats are docked, you may want to stop for a photo. Then, continue west on Rte 6 to points G and H.

| G   | New London Presbyterian Church | N 46° 27' 54.28", W 63° 30' 31.12" |
Lucy Maud Montgomery was the writer who created Anne of Green Gables. Anne is a fictional character described as a redheaded girl living on a farm near Cavendish, PEI. See [http://www.lmmontgomery.ca/](http://www.lmmontgomery.ca/). There is a small fee to visit the humble beginnings of this world famous author. (see photo below)

There is a General Store (photo at left) across the street from Lucy Maud Montgomery's Birthplace.

We just stopped for photos and drove on. Both of the buildings appeared to be closed when we were there in October.

My wife is a great fan and has read all the Anne of Green Gables books. She likes to stop at the store in Charlottetown to buy souvenirs.
Park in Hostetter's Viewscape lot for this picture across French River. You'll need a 10x lens.

This is the only tourist site in this driving tour guide that I have not visited. Teapot Rock is sandstone formation standing above the sea in front of a red sandstone cliff. On October 4, 2013, Teapot Rock was featured as a “stunning view of Prince Edward Island” by professional photographer Chris Rainier in the National Geographic Travel Magazine.

I'm sure you'll agree this is a “stunning view” when you see the photo on the following page. My pictures won't be professional, but this is the kind of natural beauty, I love to photograph in Prince Edward Island. The way wind, waves, and tide shape the red sandstone cliffs around the coast is very impressive.

Unlike most of the travel sites in this tour guide, you'll have to get out of the car and walk around to see Teapot Rock. You may be satisfied walking along the cliff and looking down at the rocks.

My goal is to walk the beach to photograph the rocks up close and personal. I also plan to walk along the top of the cliff.

I estimate it's a 3000 foot walk one-way from my parked car at Thunder Cove Rd to Teapot Rock. Assuming I walk along the beach and along the cliff, it will take about 45 minutes.
National Geographic (FREE) Computer Wallpaper Photo of Teapot Rock by Chris Rainier
There are two routes to Teapot Rock

1. Park your car at the end of Thunder Cove Rd near the beach and either walk along the cliff to look down at the rock or walk down to the beach and go west in front of the cliff to Teapot Rock on the west side of the cliff. If it is high tide, you may have to climb a short distance up the front face of the cliff along the water to get to the west side of the cliff.

2. Park your car at Twin Shores Camping Area and walk east on the beach to Teapot Rock. This is a long walk compared with walking from Thunder Cove Rd. Contact information = Twin Shores Camping Area 705 Lower Darnley Rd Darnley, PE C0B 1M0 Phone 902-836-4142  [http://www.twinshores.com/](http://www.twinshores.com/)  GPS =  N 46°33'46.0", W 63°39'56.4"
Check the tide tables for the day you will be in Prince Edward Island at [http://www.tides4fishing.com/ca/prince-edward-island/malpeque](http://www.tides4fishing.com/ca/prince-edward-island/malpeque)

The two closest locations to Teapot Rock where tide tables are reported are for Ellerslie and Malpeque.

I reviewed tide tables for these locations on October 6, 2014, the day I will be in Prince Edward Island. High tide of 0.8 meters is at 4:55 am; low tide of 0.4 meters is at 11:55 am. I would probably be at Teapot Rock around 10 am which is close to low tide. I assume I will be able to walk around the front of the cliff on the beach without need to climb the face of the cliff to stay above the water.

Car parking on Thunder Cove Rd near the beach  GPS =  N 46°33'44.0", W 63°38'26.2"
There are many places on Prince Edward Island called “Anne of Green Gables”. The map below shows the farm with the green roof and the haunted woods that was the setting for the book. It's on Rte 6, Cavendish Road, about 750 feet west of Rte 13. This is probably the most popular tourist site on Prince Edward Island.

It's a must visit! The “official” name is: L M Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site

Hours: 9 am to 5 pm 7 days a week, May-October. Admission: $ 7.80 adult

When you enter the site, you'll see a short video introduction. After that, you are free to explore on your own.

There are several buildings, a shop selling drinks and snacks, the famous “lover's lane”, etc.

It's a picturesque and peaceful setting with many photo opportunities. Be sure to put on the hat with the red pigtails for a photo.

Great photo opportunity. My wife, Mary “thinks “young”

Lucy Maud Montgomery
Lover's lane

The original house

PEI and Cavendish are popular vacation areas

In the summer months, these areas are very crowded due to the variety of vacation opportunities including biking and hiking trails, beaches, water activities including fishing and catching your own lobster, camping, amusement parks, golf, etc. The tourist bureau states:

The beaches attract thousands of visitors from around the world... and the beaches are just the beginning. Swim in crystal blue water warmed by the Gulf stream. There's no shortage of things to do in the Cavendish area. Golf on world-class championship courses or play mini-golf with the kids. Try deep sea fishing, horse back riding, para sailing, sea kayaking, riding a roller coaster or visiting sites that make history come alive. Treat yourself to a quick snack or relax and enjoy a fine dining experience. You decide what kind of vacation you want.

Busy and active... quiet and relaxing... or a bit of both. In Cavendish and the Dune Shores, we leave that up to you! Cavendish is surrounded by small farming communities and fishing villages with an atmosphere all their own. Shop for antiques and unique art crafted by local artisans or explore a botanical garden, knowing that on PEI you're never far from the sea.

Prince Edward Island Is NOT crowded in the Fall Cruise Season

One of the really neat things about a fall cruise to Prince Edward Island it that it 's a beautiful place for a relaxing, leisurely driving tour. You won't encounter much traffic on the roads. It's like having the island to yourself. The National Parks are open and there is usually no admission fee.

Many of the stores are closed, but the major tourist sites are open. The only issue you will encounter is finding a restaurant open for lunch. Remember, no passenger on a cruise ship has ever starved to death. Have a hearty breakfast on the ship. Get your rental car around 9 am and you'll probably be back in Charlottetown by mid-afternoon. There are many excellent restaurants in Charlottetown. My favorite is the seafood restaurant at the corner of Prince and Water Street. In addition to seafood, you'll find other types of restaurants, a pub, and a brewery in Charlottetown.

Tom Sheridan
After Anne of Green Gables, point “K” on the map, the driving route enters Prince Edward Island National Park at Point “L” on the map. The route follows the coast to North Rustico where the tour buses stop for lunch. Then the route continues to stops “U, V, and W. This driving tour ends at point “W”. You can take any route you wish back to Charlottetown.

The fee to enter the park is normally $3.90 to $7.80 per adult. I've been to the park a couple of times in October and there was no one collecting fees at the entrance gate. The visitor information centers were closed, however you can get information from the park website or from Visitor Information in Charlottetown. See [http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/pe/pei-ipe/visit/tarifs-fees_e.asp?park=16](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/pe/pei-ipe/visit/tarifs-fees_e.asp?park=16)

Stops shown on this driving route map above from point “L” to “W” are primarily road pull-off areas and parking lots where you can take photos from your car, or walk a short distance for a better perspective of the shore.
Keep an eye out for wildlife.

As we entered the park, we spotted a fox coming from the woods. I slowed down and stopped. My wife opened her window and took some photos. We did not get out of the car.

The fox turned around, sat down, and started to scratch. It was not concerned about our presence. Eventually, it walked back into the woods.

One of the advantages of a rental car is that you can stop anywhere and you always have a window seat. My next stop was at point “M” on the map. It's a huge parking lot where tour buses stop. Because of the size and turning radius of buses, they can ONLY stop in large parking lots. In a rental car, I can stop at every scenic pull off in the park. That's what I did.
This is a large parking lot next to the beach. Just outside the parking lot you'll see a war memorial.

You can walk on the grass behind the fences along the shore for fantastic views. There are openings along the fence where visitors are permitted to walk out onto the rock formations.

I caution you that the rock formations are irregular. Be careful where you step. Also, the rocks can be very slippery when wet, especially if there is moss or other vegetation on the rocks.

This is a national park with safety warnings as required. When the Park Service believes it is reasonably safe to walk out on the rocks, there will be openings in the fence and the path will be clear as shown in the photo below.

However there are other areas of the park where there are signs prohibiting access. For your safety, PLEASE obey the signs!
Prince Edward Island National park is a narrow, wooded sliver of land stretching 40 km along the northern coast fronting the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The park includes superlative red sandstone cliffs, sand dunes, offshore bars, submerged estuaries, and some of Canada's longest and most popular beaches. The park is accessible from anywhere along the north coast.

This map shows the Park Entrance Gate at Cavendish, the Parking Lot, and the War Memorial. From the Park Entrance Gate turn left at the fork in the road. When you leave the parking lot, continue straight on, going east along the Golf Shore Pkwy in the National Park.
These photos were taken near point “M” on the map. These are typical views along the Coastal Drive Parkway, however, each rock formation is different.
Roadside pulloff – Walk down the stairs to the beach

N 46° 29' 49.58", W 63° 21' 9.83
This is one of the few places where you will find birds on the rocks. Pull off Gulf Shore Parkway into the circular parking area. Walk along the trail to the cliff. Be very careful, the cliff is very steep. You can walk a short distance along a narrow ledge toward the birds.

My 10x lens is marginal for this type of photo. A 20 or even a 50x lens would be better.
These cliffs are quite high. Be careful walking around this area and be careful of your footing when you stop for a photo.
The Lighthouse Gift Shop was open when we visited in October 2013, but the Cafe was closed. We really weren't interested anyway. North Rustico has a pretty harbor with colorful small buildings near the fishing boats, but everything was closed and there were only a few fishing boats.

The map below shows the driving route from Ann of Green Gables to North Rustico.
Where to stop for lunch in North Rustico?

You may want to stop for lunch in this area, but I caution you that many of the cafes and restaurants are closed or have limited hours in the fall. On May 20, 2010 we were in North Rustico and everything was open. On October 3, 2013 everything was closed when we visited North Rustico.

One advantage of a ship's bus excursion is that restaurants will open for the tour bus, but probably close when the bus leaves. I was on a driving tour of Cabot Trail near Sydney Nova Scotia and stopped at a popular restaurant in October. It was closed for the season, but was opening for the tour bus. The manager said that he would serve our party, but would not begin to serve us until the ship's tour bus arrived and the restaurant was closing when the tour bus left. I estimated that bus was an hour behind me, so I left. I went to a small, local restaurant. Small local cafes tend to be open year round.

Lobster Supper is popular for bus tours. The bus had just left and the restaurant was closing when we arrived.

By The Bay Family Restaurant  GPS = N 46°27'25.9", W 63°18'50.9"

It’s a few blocks away from Lobster Supper. We had good fish and chips.

Tips on finding restaurants:
• Do a Google Map search for “Restaurants near North Rustico, Prince Edward Island, Canada.”
• Trip Advisor is an excellent source of information on restaurants.
• Ask the locals for suggestions on restaurants and cafes that are open.

From North Rustico go south on Rte 6 and follow the GPS to Points U, V, and W. The tour ends at “W”

Brackley Beach parking lot  GPS = N 46°25'43.8", W 63°12'01.8"

Brackley beach has gorgeous sand dunes see http://www.tourismpei.com/Green-Gables-Shore/Brackley-Beach
There are fishing boats, and colorful fishing shanty's next to the harbor. The lighthouse is across the street.
This is a large parking lot next to endless, sandy beaches.  

From this point, take any route you wish back to Charlottetown.

Driving Tour West from Charlottetown to Confederation Bridge

On our May 19, 2011 cruise to Charlottetown, we took the ship's bus excursion to Confederation Bridge. I liked this tour. I'm not sure I would drive in a rental car from Charlottetown to Confederation Bridge. The reason is that it could be a boring drive along the Trans Canada Highway.

Our bus tour took a scenic route that crisscrossed the back roads of Prince Edward Island. This tour wasn't simply about the destination, the journey was a key part of the tour. We spent most of our time leisurely, and comfortably, riding through the countryside. The island is very attractive with gentle rolling hills and farmland. We saw a gazillion churches of many denominations. The horses on the farms were beautiful animals.

Our tour guide went into great detail to tell us about the island, the people, the sights, etc. She was very good. We stopped at Gateway Village Visitors Center next to the entrance/exit of Confederation Bridge. Gateway village is an impressive area with many shops. Then we stopped for photos next to the bridge at Marine Rail Park. Our final stop was in the town of Victoria to take photos of the fishing village and lighthouse.  

If I did drive a rental car to Confederation Bridge, I would find some scenic stops along the way to avoid a boring drive on a major highways.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAP</th>
<th>SITE NAME</th>
<th>GPS COORDINATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cruise Terminal</td>
<td>Water &amp; Weymouth Sts, Charlottetown</td>
<td>N 46°13'58.1&quot;, W 63°07'03.8&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
<td>6 Prince St, Charlottetown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Enterprise Rent-A-Car</td>
<td>384 University Ave, Charlottetown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Borden-Carleton, Gateway Village Visitor Information Centre</td>
<td>N 46°15'18.7&quot;, W 63°41'45.1&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Marine Rail Park next to the bridge</td>
<td>N 46° 15' 3.42&quot;, W 63° 42' 15.13&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Victoria lighthouse</td>
<td>N 46° 12' 51.06&quot;, W 63° 29' 21.58&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
<td>6 Prince St, Charlottetown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more guides, see www.TomsPortGuides.com
Located in the heart of Gateway Village just off the Confederation Bridge, the Visitor Information Centre is the perfect place to start your memorable PEI vacation. Our friendly vacation planners are waiting to help you with your PEI vacation planning including.

Open year round. Daily, 9 am-4:30 pm. 100

Gateway Village

Gateway Village portrays a turn-of-the-century PEI streetscape encompassing an exposition pavilion, food and retail services, liquor store, etc. The 29-acre development also includes a three-acre park.

A unique adventure awaits as you experience the legends of our land, sea and people. Admission is free with plenty of parking for cars, tour buses and motor homes. All facilities are wheelchair accessible and friendly courteous staff will ensure your visit is memorable.

Food and retail services promise a unique experience as you savour Island food products and shop for someone special. There is an Anne of Green Gables store. This statue (photo at right) is on display outside.

Crossing Confederation Bridge?

The price is $ 45/car collected when you leave Prince Edward Island via the bridge. This covers a round-trip crossing of the bridge.

Note: There is a 1.1 meter (43 inch) high wall along the bridge to serve as a windbreak and to “minimize visual distraction”. The bridge is designed so you can't see much when you drive over it. People who have driven over the bridge complain “you can't see anything.”

I would not want to pay $ 45 to drive over an 8-mile bridge unless I really wanted to get to the other side. This is NOT a bridge for sightseeing!

Be sure to stop at this park. You'll have a great view of the bridge for photos.

The bridge connects Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. This curved, 12.9 km (8 mile) long bridge is the longest in the world crossing ice-covered water, and is one of Canada’s top engineering achievements of the 20th century.
The water can be covered with ice for FIVE months, so a special design was used for the bridge supports. Note the rust colored “collars” at the base of the columns. The collars cause the ice to raise up and break under its own weight as it falls down. This prevents ice from damaging the bridge.

For information on crossing the bridge, see [http://www.confederationbridge.com/](http://www.confederationbridge.com/)
Victoria is a fishing village. The Lobster Barn was being re-roofed when we visited. (Photo Below)

Conclusions About Renting A Car

There are several choices for shore excursions.

- You could spend all day in Charlottetown relaxing, shopping, and having great seafood. We've done it and enjoyed it.
- Normally, I don't like bus tours because of the rigid schedule and inability to take photos from the bus. However, I loved the bus tour to Confederation Bridge. The guide made that tour! The bus took a route that crisscrossed the island. We saw a lot and learned a lot. The only limitation was that I couldn't take good photos from the moving bus.
- My wife and I paid $200 + tip for a private, 5-hour tour to Anne of Green Gables and the area north. The tour was great, but I decided I could do the same thing for <$100 in a rental car. I did it, and enjoyed it.

My goal in writing this guide was to describe rental car touring as an option for your shore excursion. Renting a car is not for everyone, but it works for me and is now my preferred shore excursion in Charlottetown.

I wish you a great cruise,
Tom Sheridan
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
User feedback helps me make corrections and improve the format and content in my quest to produce the “ultimate” port guides. I welcome offers to collaborate with me or provide materials for use in my guides.

PLEASE Help “spread the word” about my website
The only negative feedback I get is, “I wish I knew about your port guides before my vacation”. Please tell your friends and post a reference to my guides and website on the blogs. To receive email notification when new guides are available, send your email address to me at TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

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Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

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