

Following In Anne's Footsteps: An "Anne" Itinerary For Prince Edward Island

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Going to Prince Edward Island to see the "Land of *Anne of Green Gables*"? Whether you are new to Anne's World through the movies or the books themselves, or a long-time fan of L. M. Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables*, there are plenty of places to see and explore to find Anne's World for yourself on beautiful Prince Edward Island.

Before you go to Prince Edward Island (PEI), you should order a *Visitors' Guide* prepared by the PEI Board of Tourism each year (call 1-888-734-7529) or order from the website www.peisplay.com (you will find lots of information on the website, too). The *Visitors' Guide* is packed with information on accommodations, restaurants, tour companies, sights to see, things to do, festivals and events, and lots more. A road map of PEI is included and will be invaluable in helping you plan your own trip. Public transportation is limited on PEI so you will want to consider renting a car if you are not driving your own; there are also taxis for hire, bus tours, etc. Some tourists are led to believe that biking around the Island is a common way of getting around but I would discourage this option. Bike trails are certainly abundant but for getting to the Anne sites around the Island, biking is difficult: traffic is thick in summer months, road shoulders are very skimpy, and the hills in the section known as Anne's Land can be daunting for many cyclists.

L. M. Montgomery used many places on PEI as inspiration for the places in her books and stories, many of which still exist and are available for the public to see. In many cases, she gave the places different names and sometimes set them in different parts of the Island to fit her purposes in the stories. This can lead to some confusion but, as long as you are aware of this, it will not be a big problem.

The sections below are put together with different levels of interest in Anne and L. M. Montgomery in mind, from those with a basic knowledge of the books (and movies) to those who have a wider interest in the life and work of L. M. Montgomery:

- Basic *Anne of Green Gables* Tour
- Movie Fans
- L. M. Montgomery Fans
- Vanished Sites
- Other PEI Attractions for Anne Fans

➤ Basic Anne of Green Gables Tour



Charlottetown to Hunter River: "Anne" traveled from Nova Scotia (Pictou) to Prince Edward Island by ferry, then took a train to 'Bright River' where she waited at the train station for Matthew. There are no longer any trains on Prince Edward Island but the rail bed has been transformed into a bike/pedestrian path called the Confederation Trail. Highway 2 follows the rail bed closely. To re-trace Anne's journey to Green Gables, follow Highway 2 (west) from Charlottetown to *Hunter River* ('Bright River' in the "Anne" books). Turn right (north) on Highway 13. Follow this route for about seven miles to *Cavendish* ('Avonlea' in the "Anne" books). ['Newbridge' in the "Anne" books is fictitious but would have been between New Glasgow and Cavendish; Anne's 'White Way of Delight' was purely imaginary.]

Cavendish ('Avonlea' in the *Anne* books): As you enter the outskirts of Cavendish, look for the entrance to Marco Polo Campground and turn right. Proceed to the gift shop: this is the original Hunter River ('Bright River') train station, moved from Hunter River to this location years ago-- the very train station that L. M. Montgomery herself used when traveling by rail on the Island (to Charlottetown, especially) and used as the 'Bright River' station in the "Anne" books. [*The 'Marco Polo,' known as the fastest sailing ship in the world wrecked off the Cavendish shore in 1886. L.*

M. Montgomery witnessed the wreck; she wrote about it in her journals and wrote a prize-winning essay about it at the age of 16. She also composed a poem about it.]

(Hint: a good Anne tourist will try to buy at least a little something at the gift shops connected to the various sites to help support the enterprises that are keeping the Anne of Green Gables legacy going on PEI. In other words, don't just take a picture and leave – spend some money!)

Next stop: 'Mrs. Rachel Lynde's house' (now the *Shining Waters Inn*). At the traffic light in Cavendish, go straight. The large yellow Victorian farmhouse on the right was the model for the Lynde house in *Anne of Green Gables*. In L. M. Montgomery's day, it belonged to her cousin Pierce Macneill. Originally, it stood across the road about where the Tourist Bureau now stands but was moved and turned around to rest in its present location.

Green Gables: Every Anne fan will want to spend some time at 'Green Gables,' the house L. M. Montgomery made famous as Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert's home that became home for Anne. The parking lot and entrance are on Highway 6, just a few yards west of the intersection in Cavendish. 'Green Gables' has been the centerpiece for the National Park since 1936 and thousands of visitors have toured it. The house has been furnished by Parks Canada to correspond to Montgomery's descriptions of it in the 'Anne' books. There is a charge for admission to the property.



Before touring the house, you will have a chance to see an exhibit about L. M. Montgomery and her work and then view a short film about her. A large barn has been constructed in the approximate location of the original barn; visitors can see some examples of farm life on PEI in the 1800s. When you get to the Green Gables house, you will enter through the front door and proceed through the front parlour (furnished with the black horsehair-upholstered furniture, lace curtains, and what-not corner shelf as described in *Anne of Avonlea*. Next, the sitting room with dining table, jam cupboard, and mantelpiece as described in *Anne of Green Gables*. Matthew's room is next to the sitting room and is furnished simply, as one would expect.

The spacious kitchen was the heart of the home and features the old "Waterloo stove" mentioned in Chapter 18 of *Anne of Green Gables*. Off the kitchen are the pantries with all sorts of kitchen equipment displayed. Note the cellar door in the floor of the 'dairy' pantry – this would have been where Anne came up with a pan of apples to discover Diana in the kitchen begging for help with Minnie May's croup (Chapter 18).

Upstairs are the bedrooms. Anne's room is furnished as described in Chapter 33 of *Anne of Green Gables*: green muslin curtains, low white bed, a little side-table with candle-stand for signaling Diana, and Anne's famous puffed-sleeve dress made in "a rich brown gloria" fabric. The spare room has an antique red-and-yellow tulip quilt on the bed; Marilla's room contains period furniture, a black lace shawl, and an amethyst brooch on the dresser. The fourth bedroom is set up as a sewing room. A short hallway leads to the 'hired-man's room' over the kitchen (the original house did not have a second floor on this wing – it was added in 1914).

Exit through the back porch and stroll Lover's Lane; after that, walk through the Haunted Wood (or what is left of it now that the Green Gables Golf Course has been re-styled and takes over much of that area). You will cross the brook that led to Diana's house (fictitious) and the school (Cavendish School was dismantled years ago but was located in the area). Violet Vale, the Birch Path, and the Dryad's Bubble were fictitious, but easy to imagine.

Macneill Homestead: To see the location of the Macneill Homestead where L. M. Montgomery wrote *Anne of Green Gables*, proceed across the highway and up the old lane. If you have not included admission for this site in your Green Gables ticket, you should go to the bookstore for this and an introduction to the site. [See below for more.] You can also drive to the Homestead—exit Green Gables parking lot, turn right, go through the intersection and turn right at the sign for “Site of L. M. Montgomery’s Cavendish Home.” Park in the parking area near the bookstore where you will enter. (Small admission charge) [There are more sites to see in Cavendish relevant to L. M. Montgomery. See Section on L.M. Montgomery sites below for these.]



Shore Road: A drive on the Shore Road (through the National Park) will lead you past Orby Head to Rustico Harbour – both featured in the Kevin Sullivan film of *Anne of Green Gables*. [See Section on Movie Fans below] No charge for the National Park after 5 pm. “Anne” and “Marilla” drove along this route to see “Mrs. Spencer” about taking Anne back to the orphanage.

Other points of interest from *Anne of Green Gables* outside Cavendish: Although there are ponds in Cavendish and one of them has been named “The Lake of Shining Waters,” it *not* the one L. M. Montgomery had in mind when writing *Anne of Green Gables*. Her “Lake of Shining Waters” is actually in Park Corner, about thirteen miles from Cavendish, where her favourite aunt and uncle (Campbell) lived, where her father Hugh John Montgomery grew up, and where L. M. herself visited often.

L. M. Montgomery’s name for New London Harbour was “Four Winds Harbour.” Travel west from Cavendish on Highway 6, around through Stanley Bridge (‘Carmody’ in the Anne books), to New London. [L. M. Montgomery’s Birthplace is at the intersection of Highways 6 and 20 – see below.] Turn right onto Highway 20 and drive through Spring Brook and French River to Park Corner. The harbour can be seen to your right most of the way.

Inspired by L. M. Montgomery’s Grandmother Montgomery’s dainty tea set, the “Rosebud Spray Tea Set” from *Anne of Green Gables* (see Chapter 26) is on display at the L. M. Montgomery Heritage Museum in Park Corner. Other items from L. M. Montgomery’s books and stories at this museum are: “Magog,” the china dog, Townsend Clock, Pulpit Stone, China Fruit Basket from *Anne of Ingleside* and *The Story Girl*; the Blue Chest from *The Story Girl* is at the Anne of Green Gables Museum (‘Silver Bush’). [See below for more on Park Corner sites.]

➤ **Movie Fans**

Fans of the Kevin Sullivan films of *Anne of Green Gables* may be disappointed to learn that most of the scenes, including the Green Gables house, were filmed in Ontario, not Prince Edward Island. Here are the few PEI locations used in the films:

Orby Head – on the Shore Road in the National Park, a few miles from Cavendish. The scene in which Anne and Diana are standing on a cliff overlooking the Gulf of St. Laurence was filmed here. A parking area is available.

Rustico Bay —a few miles east of Cavendish. The scene was filmed along Highway 6 overlooking the bay, lighthouse, and fishing houses.

Dalvay-by-the-Sea – the Parks Canada hotel located in Grand Tracadie was used to represent the “White Sands Hotel” in the *Anne* films as well as in the *Road to Avonlea* television series. It is about 20 miles east of Cavendish. Follow Highway 6 to Brackley Beach, turn left on Highway 15, continue through Stanhope along the shore and Covehead Bay to Dalvay. There is a wonderful dining room here, serving lunch and dinner as well as afternoon tea.

Sea Cow Head – on the south shore a few miles west of the Confederation Bridge (see Fernwood on Highway 119 on the PEI road map).

➤ **L.M. Montgomery Fans**

As the author of *Anne of Green Gables* and many other books and stories, L. M. Montgomery is one of Canada's most famous persons. Her character "Anne Shirley" has made tourism one of Prince Edward Island's top industries. To learn more about L. M. Montgomery's life on Prince Edward Island, visit as many of the following sites as you possibly can – each one has a different part of the author's life story to reveal.

Macneill Homestead (Cavendish): This is where L. M. Montgomery's mother's parents lived and where L. M. was brought up after her mother died. Alexander and Lucy Macneill were the postmasters of Cavendish – the post office was a desk in their kitchen. L. M. wrote many of her short stories, poems, and four novels here, including her first and best-known novel, *Anne of Green Gables*. Although the house is no longer standing, the site has been beautifully landscaped and is dotted with pictures and quotations illustrating the house and its significance to the author and her career. Some of the old apple trees are still there, as well as the old stone dyke along the school lane, the red sandstone cellar, and the original well. (Small admission charge)

Cavendish Cemetery: At the corner of Highways 6 and 13, is where L. M. Montgomery and her husband Ewan Macdonald are buried. Look for two large evergreens and colourful flowerbeds that mark the graves.

Cavendish Post Office: On Highway 6, east of the intersection and next to the Cavendish United Church. This house was moved here several years ago. It is considered a duplicate of the original Macneill house that L. M. Montgomery grew up in. A wonderful display of the origins of Canada Post is worth a visit. Also, anything mailed here will be stamped with a "Green Gables" postmark.

L. M. Montgomery Birthplace: In New London at the intersection of Highways 6 and 20, about six miles west of Cavendish. This tiny home was the first and only home of Hugh and Clara Macneill Montgomery; their only child Lucy Maud was born here November 30, 1874. Clara died 21 months later of tuberculosis. On display here are L.M.'s wedding dress and other memorabilia, including some of her personal scrapbooks. (Small admission charge)

Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Museum: In Park Corner on Highway 20, about six miles west of New London. Originally the home of L. M. Montgomery's grandfather, Senator Donald Montgomery, Lucy Maud's father Hugh John grew up here and Lucy Maud visited here often. It was the inspiration for "Ingleside" in the *Anne* books. The home is on the shore of the Lake of Shining Waters and is still owned by the Montgomery family. It contains many original furnishings and artifacts that L. M. mentions in her books: the Rosebud-Spray tea-set from *Anne of Green Gables*; "Magog," the green-and-white china dog first mentioned in *Anne of the Island* and other *Anne* books after that; the Townsend grandfather clock from *Anne of Ingleside* and *The Story Girl*; the china fruit basket and the pulpit stone from *The Story Girl*. (Small admission charge)



Anne of Green Gables Museum: In Park Corner, on the western side of the Lake of Shining Waters. This was the home of L. M. Montgomery's Aunt Annie Macneill Campbell's family (including her closet friend and cousin, Frederica Campbell) and the home in which L. M. Montgomery married Ewan Macdonald in 1911. It was the inspiration for "Silver Bush" in Montgomery's *Pat of Silver Bush* and *Mistress Pat*. The kitchen contains the Blue Chest from *The Story Girl* and the house is full of L. M. Montgomery memorabilia including her crazy-quilt, photographs, and letters. Horse-and-buggy rides are offered for a nominal charge. (Small admission charge) <http://www.annesociety.org/anne/index.cfm?id=206>



Station House Bed & Breakfast (see *Shining Scroll* 2003): In Kensington, about 7 miles from Park Corner, on School Street. This lovely frame house with its distinctive mansard-roof was the original train station in Kensington and was moved to its present location when the stone depot was finished. It is privately-owned and beautifully restored for use as a B&B. This original depot was the one L. M. Montgomery used often when taking the train to Bideford and other points west; it is also where she met Prime Minister John A. Macdonald in 1890. Her Grandfather Montgomery introduced her to Macdonald; they were invited to ride his special train from Kensington to Summerside as guests of the Prime Minister and his wife (see the entry for August 11, 1890, in *Selected Journals of L. M. Montgomery 1889-1910*, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston).



Bideford Parsonage Museum: In Bideford, on the western side of Malpeque Harbour. Take Highway 2 from Kensington, past Summerside, through Miscouche. Take Highway 133 north to Ellerslie and then to Bideford. The Parsonage was the home L. M. Montgomery lived in when she taught school in Bideford in 1896-7. It was here that her hostess Mrs. Estey baked a cake, accidentally flavouring it with liniment; L. M. immortalized the incident in *Anne of Green Gables*. The property has been beautifully restored and is open to visitors. (Small admission charge) <http://www.bidefordparsonagemuseum.com/>

Lower Bedeque School: This is the third (and last) one-room school where L. M. Montgomery taught in 1897-8. She boarded across the road at the Leard home (privately-owned). There she met and fell in love with Herman Leard; L. M. recounts this story in the first volume of her journals (see April 8, 1898, entry in *The Selected Journals of L. M. Montgomery, 1889-1910*, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston). (Small admission charge)

➤ Vanished Sites

Macneill Homestead: Although the house itself where L. M. Montgomery wrote *Anne of Green Gables* and many other works was torn down years ago, the site itself has been restored so that the red sandstone cellar, the well, and even some of the trees that Montgomery was so fond of can be viewed by Montgomery fans. Artifacts from the Macneill family can be seen in the bookshop and an introduction to the property and the author's life there is given to visitors.

Prince of Wales College ('Queens' in the Anne books): The teachers' college in Charlottetown that L. M. Montgomery attended in 1893-4 was a large frame building at that time; it was replaced by a brick building in later years and is now the home of Holland College. Prince of Wales College merged with St. Dunstan's College to become the University of Prince Edward Island, now located on the outskirts of Charlottetown.

Cavendish School: The one-room school building was moved from its original site in Cavendish years ago and the lumber re-used.

Cavendish Presbyterian Church: The original Presbyterian Church the L. M. Montgomery attended (and had "Anne" attend) was located on the site where the Cavendish cemetery is now. A new church was built east of the intersection in the early 1900s and still stands there today. L. M. Montgomery was the organist for a time and met her husband Ewan Macdonald here when he was minister. A memorial service is held each summer in this church in honour of L. M. Montgomery.

"Haunted Wood" and "Lover's Lane:" Both of these portions of the Green Gables property, so important to the *Anne* books as well as to L. M. Montgomery, are being reduced to a minimum because of golf-course development.



➤ **Other PEI attractions for Anne fans**

L. M. Montgomery Institute and International Symposium: This symposium is held every two years (since 1994) at the University of Prince Edward Island, sponsored by the L. M. Montgomery Institute. Scholars and dedicated fans of L. M. Montgomery attend the four-day conference.
<http://www.lmmontgomery.ca/>

Confederation Centre in Charlottetown – The musical production of *Anne of Green Gables* has been featured here for over forty years. A must-see for all Anne fans!
<http://www.confederationcentre.com/en/home/onstage/charlottetownfestival/anneofgreengables/lmmontgomery.aspx>

Harbourfront Theatre in Summerside – "Anne and Gilbert," a highly-acclaimed musical based on Anne and Gilbert's romance, is another must-see.

Cavendish Figurines in Borden-Carleton -- Figurines depicting *Anne of Green Gables* scenes are created here in the factory at Gateway Village. Tourists can see figurines being created in all stages, including hand-painting the decorations. Many Anne products are available in the gift shop and tourists can dress up in Anne costumes for a photograph.



Avonlea Village in Cavendish – this newly-developed commercial site has many family activities based on Anne's "Avonlea." Some of the buildings here were moved from other locations on PEI. The one-room school was originally the Belmont School; L. M. Montgomery taught there in 1896-7. She attended the Long River Church when visiting in the Park Corner area.