

Cultural Attractions



Cultural tourism is defined as travel directed toward experiencing the arts, heritage, cuisine and special character of a place. Canada's rich history and heritage can be explored in a number of ways.

Cultural attractions consist of historic sites, museums, cultural events, points of interest, educational programs, learning vacations and other opportunities to explore in a way that is educational, inspirational and enriching.

The maps show attractions that are recognized by the Canadian government to commemorate significant heritage places. The system of National Historic Sites and cultural World Heritage Sites provide insight into the history and rich cultural heritage of Canada. These sites are located in urban, rural or wilderness settings. They may be sacred places, battlefields, archaeological sites, structures or districts. Many are still used for work and worship, commerce and industry, education, habitation and leisure. The sites are fascinating to visit because they are an integral part of what we are, not simply what we were.

More than a thousand museums, members of the Canadian Heritage Information Network, are located on the maps in the Atlas. These heritage destinations include art galleries, natural science museums, gardens, aquariums, archives, planetariums, zoos, historic sites and more.

Cultural attractions depicted in the Atlas include National Historic Sites, World Heritage Sites and museums. See the References and Links section for information on other cultural attractions, such as festivals, performing arts centres and botanical gardens.