

Ten Places to Visit In Niagara, Ontario

By Sandra Orchard, author of *Desperate Measures* (A Port Aster Secrets mystery)

- 1) **Niagara Falls** – of course. Also enjoy fireworks over the Falls, every Friday, Sunday and holiday in the summer. The Hornblower boat cruise up to the falls is also an experience not to be missed!
- 2) **Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and Butterfly Conservatory** – located along the scenic Niagara Parkway, this 99-acre park is a plant-lovers haven.
- 3) **Niagara-on-the-Lake** – take a horse-drawn carriage ride through this historic town, famous for its quaint shops, theatre and beautiful parks
- 4) **Marineland** – Featuring both marine and land animals and an extensive amusement park, with all rides including in the admission fee.
- 5) **Happy Rolph's** – located on the corner of Read Rd. and Lake Ontario in St. Catharines, this FREE petting farm, playground and trail system is the ultimate destination for young families.
- 6) **Lakeside Park Carousel in Port Dalhousie** – ride this hand-carved, antique carousel for only 5¢ then enjoy the beach.
- 7) **White Meadows Farms** – Visit their Sweet Shop for everything maple, from syrup to condiments to tea and coffee. On the weekends, enjoy a tour of the sugar bush and a meal in the Pancake House. On Effingham Rd, in Pelham.
- 8) **Short Hills Provincial Park** – This 1600-acre wooded park in the heart of Niagara is a hiker, biker and horse-rider's dream.
- 9) **Farmers' Markets** – Niagara is the heart of the tender fruit industry and the local farmers' markets and farm stands are the perfect place to stock up on cherries, peaches, strawberries, apricots, plums, pears and apples.
- 10) **Fall Fairs** – These family friendly destinations rotate through several Niagara communities, beginning with the Marshville Heritage festival on Labor Day weekend, that also features Christian music concerts.

Other Popular Destinations in Niagara include:

- 1) **For shoppers** – the new Canada One Brand Name Outlets Mall just off the QEW in Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 2) **Wine and Vineyard tours galore**
- 3) **Shaw Festival** – professional stage theatre productions from late Spring to early Fall

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