

# TikTok for travel tips? For a recent trip, I planned everything around the app's advice

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Fiona Tapp Special to the Star

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TikTok led the writer to the New London Back Range Light Tower, a lesser-known historic landmark not far from popular Cape Tryon.

Tourism PEI/St. Clair MacAulay

A quintessential symbol of Prince Edward Island is the classic red-and-white lighthouse, once a lifeline for mariners, and now a siren call for photographers. While many dot the coastline, they often come with tour buses and gift shops. I wanted something quieter.

I found it at the New London Back Range Light Tower, near the fishing village of French River. On my morning visit, I enjoyed it alone, with only the gulls for company.

Not far from Cape Tryon's much more photographed lighthouse atop a sandstone cliff, this modest tower has stood watch since 1876. I didn't learn about it through a travel guidebook or blog; I was tipped off by a TikTok video, which sent me walking down a clay road — you can't drive right up to the historic structure — to find it on a field backed by the beach.

The lighthouse was just one of my serendipitous discoveries on my summer trip to [P.E.I.](#), which I'd planned in a whole new way. I based my itinerary entirely on TikTok research, but not on the polished cottagecore edits of travel influencers.

Instead, I went searching for uncurated snippets of real-life from locals just posting about the place they call home, [#PrinceEdwardIsland](#). Then I scoured the comments, which were sometimes snarky but often useful, serving up more tips (and counter-opinions) from other locals.



The fishing village of French River on P.E.I.  
Tourism PEI/Paul Baglole

When I researched where to have the best lobster roll, for example, one islander recommended skipping the long line at any Richard's shack and heading to [Clamdiggers](#) in Cardigan instead. Just to do my due diligence, I visited both, as well as the Lobster Barn in Victoria-by-the-Sea, which serves its version on a buttered bun with homemade mayo. Although it was a close contest, I'd agree that Clamdiggers offers the superior roll with the added crunch of celery.

P.E.I. is blessed with more than 90 beaches, so you can always find quiet coves and hidden bluffs, if you know where to look. While the red sands of Cavendish Beach are deservedly popular, I followed TikTok advice to the similarly vibrant but quieter Tea Hill Beach, near



Charlottetown, where the shallow waters are ideal for kids, stopping at nearby [Fin Folk Food](#) for sweet and tangy fish tacos served with mango slaw.

Insider pointers helped me avoid common snags, too; one clarified that the “dead end” near Thunder Cove Beach is actually a loop, so you can circle back for closer parking — a highly specific tip that saved me a long walk. I also stumbled on a video about sea glass that led me to Souris Provincial Park, where low tide revealed a rich collection of ocean-polished treasures.



The red-sand beach at Darnley.  
Tourism PEI/Paul Baglole

While watching a video on Charlottetown, I spied a colourful restaurant in the background. Pink Crow caught my eye with its neon-pink door, but it had opened just days before my visit, so I wouldn't have found it in any guidebook. The food was so delicious, I ate there twice during my stay. The wood-fired lobster and potato pizza gave me a taste of two P.E.I. staples, while the roasted oysters with pepperoni butter were particularly moreish.

Of course, ice cream from one of Cows' several locations is non-negotiable, but a TikTok tip also led me to [Holman's Ice Cream Parlour](#) in Summerside, where everything is handmade, from the cones baked in-house to the small-batch ice cream. The banana bread flavour was a family favourite.

Although my scrolling surfaced practical tips that made my travel easier, it also helped temper expectations — a reality check in a sea of Insta-perfect content.

For example, I wanted to visit Thunder Cove Beach in Darnley, home to an iconic “flowerpot” formation. But thanks to comments on a TikTok, I learned that the oft-photographed Teacup Rock is no more: Post-tropical storm Fiona toppled it in 2022.



Sad, but true: Thunder Cove Beach’s iconic Teacup Rock was destroyed by post-tropical storm Fiona in 2022.

Tourism PEI/Stephen DesRoches

So I arrived at the beach with a truer idea of what I’d find, and I could appreciate the beauty that’s still there. I climbed over rocks, went swimming in the ocean and sat in caves watching the waves. It was a trip highlight.

For travellers hungry for authentic experiences and recommendations, especially restaurants and attractions that haven’t yet made it to the mainstream, I found TikTok uniquely helpful. It gave me a chance to “see” the island before arriving, with all its quirks and secrets.