

# Explore the quirky side of Canada at these lesser-known spots

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A town where they make beauty products out of seaweed and pies the size of basketballs. A prairie city with great Shakespeare and a nude beach. And not one but two towns with potato museums.

Folks in Texas (especially Rangers fans) know about Toronto. They've probably heard of Montreal and Vancouver. But there's so much more to Canada, some of it wacky. Here's a look at some of the lesser-known spots you should check out in 2017, the year of **Canada's 150th birthday**.

## **Sooke, British Columbia**

This is a town that caters to both higher-end and super-casual travel with equal aplomb. On the deluxe side, the **Sooke Harbour House** is a lovely inn set in a stunning garden on a bluff overlooking the ocean a half-hour or so west of Victoria. Their on-site restaurant started doing farm-to-table cuisine before Instagram was invented, and the food and wine are superb.

On the other end of the style spectrum is Mom's Café, which packs 50 apples or more into each pie. They look more like basketballs than pastries, and they taste as good as they look. There's also a great coffee house called **Stick in the Mud**, and there's a local woman who gathers seaweed in the harbour and uses it to make a line of beauty products called **Seaflora Skincare. vancouverisland.travel**.

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