



Ontario Staycation Guide: Elora & St. Jacobs

Tucked away in southern Ontario, **Elora** and nearby **St. Jacobs** offer a perfect combination of dramatic natural scenery and small-town charm. The **Elora Gorge** features steep cliffs, cascading rivers, and scenic walking trails that glow with autumn colours each September and October. The village streets are dotted with art galleries, boutique shops, and inviting cafés where visitors can savour local treats while enjoying the crisp fall air.

St. Jacobs adds a unique cultural layer, renowned for its famous farmers’ market offering fresh produce, baked goods, and handmade crafts. The surrounding countryside presents picturesque drives framed by golden and crimson foliage, ideal for photography or leisurely exploration. Whether strolling along riversides, sampling artisanal foods, or admiring the gorge, the area captures the essence of autumn in Ontario.

Highlights

- Explore the stunning Elora Gorge with its dramatic cliffs and riverside trails.
- Wander through heritage streets filled with art galleries and boutiques.
- Visit the iconic St. Jacobs Farmers’ Market for fresh produce and handmade crafts.
- Experience Mennonite culture and countryside charm nearby.

Suggested Itinerary (2 Days)

Day 1

- » Hike the Elora Gorge in the morning.
- » Enjoy lunch at a riverside café.
- » Explore Elora’s galleries and boutiques.
- » Stay overnight in a cosy local inn.

Day 2

- » Start the day at St. Jacobs Farmers’ Market.
- » Browse for seasonal pies, preserves, and crafts.
- » Visit Mennonite heritage sites in the countryside.
- » Evening stroll by the Grand River before heading home.

Seasonal Tips

- Best time to visit: late September to mid-October for peak colours.
- Pack layers – warm afternoons, crisp mornings, and cool evenings.
- Arrive early at the market to avoid crowds and get the best finds.
- Support local artisans and farmers for a true community experience.

Notes

