

## LIGHTHOUSES & LEGENDS



*Come and celebrate the timeless romance of the sea. The Lighthouse Route journeys through an unforgettable landscape of coastal beauty and historic charm that has captured the hearts and minds of travellers for generations. Follow shoreline roads past rugged, wave-carved headlands and tranquil, island-studded bays. Discover historic towns and weathered fishing villages where legends of the sea come alive and the rhythm of life moves in harmony with the tides. The Lighthouse Route follows Nova Scotia's South Shore, where the past is a part of everyday life. You'll find it along quiet country roads where ox teams still haul lumber, and coastal villages where fishermen still row wooden dories out to sea. And yes, we have lighthouses too!*

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### DAY 1

Arrive at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport and transfer to downtown Halifax.

Halifax deftly blends the past with the present to produce a skyline dotted with elegant 18th- and 19th-century architecture alongside ultra-modern towers of glass and steel. The heart of Halifax is perfect for exploring on foot, with tree-lined streets, international restaurants, galleries, libraries and museums. Inviting sidewalk cafés beckon you to while away a few hours amid park-like, waterfront, and historic settings in the busy downtown, often with a backdrop of the bustling harbour, which entertains ship traffic from every corner of the globe. Explore what this “capital city by the sea” has to offer, such as:

- Tour the [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic](#), generally recognized as having the world's finest collection of wooden artifacts from Titanic. Halifax was the closest major port to the 1912 sinking and all of the recovered bodies were brought to Halifax, along with many pieces of wreckage. These fragments, including a near perfectly preserved deckchair and large pieces of oak carving, are featured as part of the museum's permanent exhibit.
- The [Art Gallery of Nova Scotia](#) houses the Province's collection of art unique to Nova Scotia and offers a range of exhibitions and programming, including the Maud Lewis (folkart) collection.

- The [Halifax Waterfront](#) is one of the most visited attractions in the province. With a sparkling water, working port as a backdrop, it's no wonder that the Halifax waterfront is home to a number of businesses and countless world-class events each year. From walk-a-thons, to Nocturne, the world-renowned Busker Festival to Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Halifax is a vibrant event city.
- Visit [Pier 21](#), the Canadian Museum of Immigration. Learn about the experiences of immigrants as they arrived in Canada, the vital role of immigration in the building of Canada and the contributions of immigrants to our country - all at one unique place. The Museum's main exhibition is dedicated to the years when Pier 21 was open as an immigration shed – it's Canada's version of Ellis Island.
- Visit the [Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market](#), especially lively on the weekends, but with storefronts that are open every day of the week. This is the oldest farmers' market in North America which moved into a new location a couple of years ago that now boasts nearly 140 weekend vendors and a green roof with spectacular views of the Harbour.
- At the [Alexander Keith's Nova Scotia Brewery](#), you can take an interactive tour of the brewery, where actors in period costume lead you back in time to learn about the famous beer, the historic brewery and the challenges of life in Halifax in 1863. Then swing by the Stag's Head Tavern for great music, games and of course to sample Alexander Keith's finest ales! Tours are one hour long, beginning the top of every hour.
- Become a soldier for a day at [Halifax Citadel National Historic Site](#), where the sounds of a modern, bustling port city are exchanged for the crack of rifle-fire and the skirl of bagpipes. The present Citadel was completed in 1856 and is the fourth in a series of British forts on this site. Today, the restored Citadel is a national landmark, commemorating Halifax's role as a key naval station in the British Empire and bringing history to life in Atlantic Canada's largest urban centre.
- Take a stroll along [Spring Garden Road](#) for good shopping and good food! This is one of the most popular streets in Halifax and a great spot for people watching! Grab a coffee at The Smiling Goat Organic Espresso Bar or sample the taps at Rockbottom Brew. While you're there tour the Halifax Public Gardens, a rare example of a formal Victorian garden.
- Explore the city's North End. From the ashes of the catastrophic Halifax Explosion, which shattered the City's North End on 6 December 1917, rose the [Hydrostone District](#), a splendid example of an English-style garden suburb. Completed in 1920, this well-preserved neighbourhood was designed according to the most-up-to-date yet practical principles of town planning. This morning, we suggest you visit this unique little part of Halifax's north end where the buildings are all variations on the same architectural theme and all constructed with "Hydro-Stone" concrete blocks and are aesthetically arranged along each side of wide treed courts. The houses and landscape contribute to a remarkable sense of time and place. The neighbourhood is an important achievement by the influential town planner Thomas Adams. The ensuing remerchandising of this shopping area has created a "retail theatre" of unique shops, eateries and services and has become a lively, vibrant place to shop, eat out, and enjoy the Hydrostone.

Overnight: Halifax, NS

## DAY 2

Depart downtown Halifax and head to Beechville for a tour that's a new and unique way to explore the BLT Trail! [Segway Nova Scotia](#) (meet at the Coca Cola Plant on Lakeside Park Drive in the Lakeside Industrial Park) will take you on a supervised tour along the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Trail. This

BLT Tour is in many ways a nature experience. The BLT trail is well maintained, and excellent for new or inexperienced riders. Once the training and orientation is completed, head out on the trail towards Timberlea - along Blue Jay Way. Make a quick stop at Six Mile Falls and then continue along Frasers Mill Walk. At Cranberry Lake, turn around and make the trek back to your starting point. This entire Segway experience lasts about 2 hours.

Travel along Route 333 to visit the village of [Peggy's Cove](#), where the graceful lighthouse sits high upon the smooth wave-worn granite of the coast. The tiny harbour below the lighthouse is a masterpiece of seasoned fish sheds and colourful fishing boats, making it one of the most photographed places in Canada.

Follow along Route 333 until you reach Hwy 3, the Lighthouse Route. Before leaving the Peggy's Cove loop, you might want to make a stop at [Acadian Maple](#), a family owned and operated business who have been involved in the maple industry in Nova Scotia for over 30 years. Acadian Maple is the largest purchaser and processor of Nova Scotia produced maple syrup. Exporting to markets worldwide, and constantly developing new products, Acadian Maple continues to grow. An agri-tourism center in the Upper Tantallon location along with a retail shop sees in excess of 30,000 visitors a year.

Early summer settlers traveled for many miles by sea to [Chester](#), a captivating seaside hamlet, and their descendants are still sailing the pristine waters to unspoiled islands today. Each August, Chester Race Week hosts the largest keelboat regatta in Eastern Canada and the ocean wraps itself around the 18-hole golf course. Charming restaurants, shops, art galleries, an art fair, free Sunday night concerts in the bandstand and a full line up of professional theatre make this a great place to drop anchor and find your magic.

Overnight: Western Shore, NS

### DAY 3

Continue along the scenic Lighthouse Route to explore the coastal village of [Mahone Bay](#), an artist's haven with such shops as Amos Pewter, Birdsall Pottery, Spruce Rugs, The Quilt Shop, etc. Local must-tastes stops include [The Biscuit Eater](#) and [JoAnne's Market](#).

Visit the seafaring town of [Lunenburg](#), where the colourful waterfront, narrow streets and captivating architecture radiate the flavor of the town's rum running and ship building heritage. Old Town Lunenburg is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site (one of three in the province!) and is home to Nova Scotia's famous racing schooner, Bluenose II (which is also featured on the Canadian ten-cent piece).

- Stop by for a tasting at [Ironworks Distillery](#), a boutique distillery housed in an old ironworks building which now makes vodka from apples grown in the Annapolis Valley! In addition to the vodka, they also make blueberry, raspberry and cranberry liqueurs from local berries and of course, being as Lunenburg is a rum-running town, they make rum distilled straight from Crosby's molasses as well.
- Get up-close-and-personal with the seafood and seafaring history in Lunenburg with a visit to the [Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic](#). Included with the museum pass is access to the working wharf, where you can explore retired fishing schooners, chat with their captains, feel the creatures of the sea in the touch tank and even learn how to shuck a scallop!

- The [Windbag Company](#) recycles old sails into new bags of all sizes, shapes and colours! This is a great example of recycling at its best!
- Stroll with [Lunenburg Walking Tours](#) as they take you along routes that delve into the stories that can't be seen from the street. The path: the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic wharves, Fishermen's Wharf, Fishermen's monument, Zwicker property, barque Picton Castle berth, Dory Shop, Shipyard Alliance and much more.
- Lunenburg is filled with fresh seafood that can be found at some of the best restaurants in the province: [Fleur de Sel](#), [Salt Shaker Deli](#), [The Old Fish Factory](#), [Rime Restaurant & Wine Bar](#), etc.

Overnight: Lunenburg, NS

## DAY 4

Travel inland to explore [Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site](#). The main part of Kejimikujik was first established as a National Park in 1968, being recognized for its old growth forest, rare wildlife and traditional Mi'kmaq waterways. The park took its name from Kejimikujik Lake, which is a Mi'kmaq word believed to mean "tired muscles" – a reference to the effort it took to canoe across the lake. Keji's canoe routes had been used by native inhabitants for thousands of years as they traveled between the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Coast. They also made their mark while on those journeys, leaving stone carvings, or petroglyphs, on large boulders. These Mi'kmaq petroglyphs can be seen on guided tours and contain images of traditional Mi'kmaq life, including hunting, fishing and wildlife.

Take a guided walk from the Interpretive Centre and stroll along the Mersey River and see common inland species such as the common loon, the Barred owl, warblers, woodpeckers, and other northerly and southerly species ... there are over 178 bird species identified in Keji!

This afternoon, there are over 381 km<sup>2</sup> of scenic inland wilderness country to explore. Your choice: bike a trail through the woodlands and along the water's edge; hike one of Keji's 15 trails that cut through a wide range of forest, including Acadian Forests, red maple floodplains, windswept pinetrees and old growth hemlocks; or canoe along waterways once used by the native Mi'kmaq.

Depart Keji and make your way back towards the Atlantic Ocean through the Privateering town of [Liverpool](#) to White Point Beach Resort, one of Nova Scotia's oldest and most popular oceanfront beach vacation destinations.

Overnight: White Point, NS

## THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2014

This morning, take a leisurely stroll along the mile-long white sand beach. Or check in at The Boat House to learn how to Standup Paddleboard (SUP) on the lake with the folks from [Liverpool Adventures Outfitters](#).

After you clean the sand from your toes, depart White Point and travel along Route 3 or Hwy 103 to continue your adventure to the Loyalist Town of [Shelburne](#). This small fishing community, nestled on

the third finest natural harbour in the world, was once the fourth largest community in North America when, during the American Revolution in 1783, about 3000 United Empire Loyalists arrived in ships from New York City and the population quickly grew to more than 10,000. The United Empire Loyalists, who maintained allegiance to the British Crown during the American Revolution, created an instant boom town in the wilderness. The population, which had grown so quickly, then decreased within twenty years to a few hundreds as the Loyalists moved to other destinations.

After lunch, visit Shelburne's Waterfront Heritage District, which retains an aura of the 18th century. Learn first-hand how to make a Shelburne Dory – and what makes it different from a Lunenburg Dory – at [The Dory Shop](#). Then take one out for a spin on the harbour!

Visit Birchtown, the first free black settlement in Canada with the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists. The new [Black Loyalist Centre](#) will officially open on June 6 and honours the Black Loyalists and their ancestry. On site you can walk the Black Burial Grounds, visit St. Paul's Anglican Church, take a stroll along the Heritage Walking Trail and visit the Centre.

This evening, hop on board the "Brown Eyed Girl" for a special cruise on Shelburne Harbour with [Shelburne Harbour Boat Tours](#). Watch as Captain Ken hauls your dinner from the harbour floor and First Mate Sherri proceeds to cook your lobster and serve with her world famous potato salad, melted butter and fresh baked roll.

Overnight:            Shelburne, NS

## DAY 6

Make your way to the [Shelburne County Museum](#) that highlights the Loyalist connections in the area. Each September, Shelburne plays host of one of Canada's premier wind-driven events ... The Whirligig & Weathervane is the first of its kind in North America and has been judged the "Best Community Event in Nova Scotia" and is a guaranteed "family-pleaser" event. Experience a part of this festival by making your very own "Bluenose Bill" whirligig!

Depart Shelburne and being to travel back towards Halifax with a visit enroute to Liverpool. The town of [Liverpool](#) has long been known as the "Port of the Privateers" in recognition of when prohibition in the United States allowed Liverpool to become a rum running centre in the 1920's. Today, in addition to the traditional industries, Liverpool is renowned for its cultural and natural landscape and is the home to several international festivals, artisan galleries and cultural centres. Take a stroll along the waterfront or visit Fort Point Lighthouse.

Return to Halifax. This evening, we highly recommend a farewell to Nova Scotia dinner at the [Five Fishermen Restaurant](#) (1740 Argyle Street, Halifax). This historic restaurant has been home to a number of prestigious businesses that have played significant roles in Halifax's history. For many years in the early 1800's, it served as the first school in Canada to offer a free education. It is for this reason that the building has the distinction of being a protected Heritage site. The building then changed hands to a new proprietor, Anna Leonowens. Her purpose was to start up an Art school, thus the Halifax Victorian School of Art was born. Eventually the art school moved to a new location and became the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. It wasn't long after Anna left the building that it was taken over

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by the Snow family. Snow & Sons would enjoy a bustling business running a mortuary and would play a significant part in the Titanic disaster.

Overnight:           Halifax, NS

## **DAY 7**

Time to depart Nova Scotia with fond memories ... and a full belly!