

## WARM WATERS & SWIRLING PIPES



*The warm, sparkling blue waters and wide sandy beaches of the Northumberland Strait make this region a vacation paradise. The Northumberland Shore offers more warm-water ocean beaches than anywhere else in Atlantic Canada! Freshly caught lobster, wild blueberries from Oxford and maple syrup from Sugar Moon Farm are just a few of the delicacies found in this region. Sample some award-winning wines while you enjoy the lush vineyards at Jost Vineyards in Malagash, renowned for their warm hospitality and perfectly chilled ice wine. This region was also the landing place of the first Scottish immigrants in Nova Scotia. From museums and heritage sites to kilt-swirling and pipe-skirling, toes are sure to get tapping in this that celebrates our Scottish culture.*

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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

Fill up with a hearty breakfast before you leave the city life and travel northwest to the Glooscap Trail / Hwy 102 towards Truro. Enroute you will find some interesting stopping spots:

- Visit the [Glooscap Heritage Centre](#) (75 Treaty Trail, Truro) to not only gaze at the 40-foot statue of Glooscap but to also learn about the Mi'kmaw - the Aboriginal group of Nova Scotia. The Glooscap Heritage Centre, located next to Truro, Nova Scotia, is dedicated to the celebration of Mi'kmaw heritage. The Centre also has a modern Visitor Information Centre and a Gift Shop with a First Nation focus. (If interested, there is a scheduled tour @ 10 am)
- For more than 100 years the streets of Truro have been adorned with beautiful, large elm trees. Following the discovery of Dutch elm disease in the town, the [Truro Tree Committee](#) was charged with the task of removing any diseased trees in order to slow its spreading to healthy elm trees. The loss of so many of Truro's stately elm trees to Dutch elm disease prompted the Truro Tree Committee to make the most of an unfortunate situation. Sculptor Albert Deveau commissioned to create the first of what has become a series of tree sculptures. There have been a total of 43 tree sculptures created ... of these, 32 pieces are on display around the town of Truro while 11 have been removed due to decay or vandalism. Drive around the town and see how many you can find!
- [Victoria Park](#) is one of Truro's greatest assets - a natural woodland park of roughly 400 acres in the centre of town. Lepper Brook, with its two sets of waterfalls, flows through a steep tree covered rocky gorge. Several walking trails follow along the brook allowing a close view of this unique setting. The first set of falls is named after the distinguished Joseph Howe who admired them during a visit in 1830. The next are the Waddell Falls, named after Susan Waddell Stevens, who donated the first land in 1888 containing the falls and gorge, thus beginning this park for the enjoyment of Truro citizens.

For brunch, travel to Earltown (just outside of Truro) to [Sugar Moon Farm](#) to savour their locally inspired maple brunch featuring all-you-can-eat whole-grain buttermilk pancakes, smoked sausages, maple baked beans and more. Then take a tour (and tasting!) of the working sugar camp.

Continue to make your way towards Antigonish. Enroute are the former industrial towns of New Glasgow / Stellarton / Westville whose highlights include:

- Explore Atlantic Canada's largest museum to discover the people, places and machines of Nova Scotia's industrial past at the [Nova Scotia Museum of Industry](#) in Stellarton. Push, pull, lift, drop and laugh as you enjoy acres of exhibits and interactive displays that highlight how technology and people worked throughout this province's history. Do your best to keep pace on the assembly line, test your strength at the weights and pulleys stations, get a workout at the water-powered pumps and bask in the spirit of invention as you marvel at Canada's oldest surviving steam locomotives, Samson and Albion. Featuring more than 36,000 artifacts, there's no better place to find out the true meaning of "Made in Nova Scotia" than the Museum of Industry! (147 North Foord St, Stellarton - Highway 104, Exit 24)
- The Pictou County Military Museum preserves, protects, and documents Canadian military artifacts. The museum houses a collection of over 12,000 objects, from regimental buttons, hat badges and uniforms to ship hat tallies and weapons, including a C1 Howitzer. The Museum also has a research and viewing room which displays over 1,000 military profiles, pictures and documents that are in our books of honour and remembrance. (2020 Queen St, Westville)

Overnight: Antigonish, NS

**DAY 3**

This morning, take a stroll around town or take a walking tour of the historical [St. Francis Xavier University](#) campus, which is consistently ranked in the top three undergraduate university experiences in Canada by MacLean's magazine. The university also plays a significant role in our Celtic heritage, offering a Celtic Studies program. St FX is one of the few universities offering the study of Celtic languages and the literature and history of the Celts from about 800 BC to the present. St FX is the only university in North America offering four years of Scottish Gaelic. Conclude your tour with a coffee on the patio of The Bauer Theatre where Festival Antigonish sells out their theatre shows every July and August.

Travel down Route 337 towards Cape George. Take a side trip to Cribbons Wharf for lunch of fresh fish and chips at Boyd's Seafood Gallery before meeting up with Captain Jamie MacGillivray to head out on a [Northumberland Bluefin Tuna Charter](#). Jamie is a 30-year veteran tuna fisherman (and lobster fisherman too!) who has been catching fish on the waters off of Nova Scotia for as long as he can remember. It all began in St. George's Bay and the Northumberland Strait, with his father – catching lobster, herring, scallops and tuna. Shortly thereafter, Jamie was living and breathing the salty air with nothing on his mind but the catch of the day. Along the way, see harbour seals and possibly bald eagles too!

Back on land, continue to follow Route 337 around Cape George, offered referred to as “the mini Cabot Trail” to Route 245 and make your way to Pictou.

Overnight: Pictou, NS

**DAY 4**

Adopt-a-Lobster at the [Northumberland Fisheries Museum & Hatchery!](#) The Lobster Stock Enhancement Research Project was established in response to the steady decline in lobster landings in Fishing Area 26A seen since the 1980s. This year-round project aims to promote the future health of lobster fishing by restocking the depleting resource. The Adopt a Lobster program helps to successfully raise and release lobsters back into the ocean as well as provide history and education to our visitors. On site, you can see the 'lobster birthing tank' and examine live lobsters from infancy to 4-5 weeks old. After adopting your lobster, you can release it back into Pictou Harbour at the end of the dock.

After adopting your lobster, head next door to the [Hector Heritage Quay](#), a living-history attraction that tells the story of 18th-century Scottish migration to the New World and the role of Ship Hector in making Pictou the “Birthplace of New Scotland”. Travel back in time through the centre and then step on board the full-size replica of Ship Hector dockside.

No visit to Pictou would be complete without stopping by [Mrs MacGregor's Shortbreads](#) to sample – or buy – some of the best shortbreads in Canada!

Head out of town along the Sunrise Trail to the [Seafoam Lavender Farm](#). Located on the pastoral shores of Nova Scotia's Northumberland Strait lie the beautiful rows of lavender at Seafoam Lavender Farm. Between the earthy aromas of the surrounding deep forest; the light hint of salt spray; and the heavenly aroma of lavender, a visit to Seafoam Lavender Farm causes sensory overload – but in a

very good way! This small, family-owned/operated agricultural business produces superior-quality, direct-from-the-farm lavender products. Each product is individually made in small batches to ensure freshness. Learn “Lavender 101” and sample the variety of their products from essential oils to ice cream!

Continue to travel along Route 6 towards Tatamagouche. Along the way you will find:

- [Lismore Sheep Farm](#) (1389 Louisville Rd, River John), is a working farm with over 300 sheep from which they make lovely woollen products: wool pillows, comforters, rink seats, blankets; yarn and hand-knit items; sheepskin slippers and mitts. Also wool felting supplies, and birch knitting needles and crochet hooks. (It’s a great photo-op!)
- If you love mechanical and innovative things, [Sutherland Steam Mill Museum](#) located in Denmark is the place for you! Explore this 1894 saw mill and discover Nova Scotian ingenuity in a mill once powered by steam, which could turn out four times as much lumber as a water-powered one! For nearly 70 years, Alexander Sutherland and his family produced carriages, sleds, windows, and fancy gingerbread trim, which were shipped on the old railway line beside the mill. Today that line transports cyclists and other recreationists as part of the Trans-Canada Trail System. See many examples of the Sutherlands’ resourcefulness throughout the mill. Rain barrels on the roof provided fire protection, a bathtub was used for soaking shingles and recycled cream separator was converted into a band-saw. See demonstrations of how power was transferred through belts and pulleys, while enjoying hands-on exhibits. (3169 Denmark Rd, Hwy 326, Denmark)
- Over two decades of offering nothing but finest pork products expertly prepared in the Pork Shop way have earned them a world class reputation for quality. No trip to the Northumberland shore is complete without stopping at Denmark to experience [The Pork Shop](#), where they pride themselves in using only the freshest products available on the market. The pork is purchased from two local companies, O.H Armstrong and Antigonish Abattoir. All meat products are gluten free with no filler or by products and are smoked with maple wood chips (no liquid smoke is used in any product. (3412 Hwy 326, Denmark)

Travel to the quaint village of Tatamagouche along the shores of the Northumberland Strait. It is a thriving tourism community boasting art galleries, museums, craft shops, restaurants, cultural centre, and a marina.

Overnight: Tatamagouche, NS (NOTE: We highly recommend staying at the [Train Station Inn](#). The original train station, which dates back to 1887, is now one of Nova Scotia’s most unique bed and breakfast experiences with its spacious cabooses and furnishings reflecting its railway past. Each of the seven cabooses have been renovated into deluxe accommodations with railway memorabilia, private baths and various amenities.

## DAY 5

Take some time this morning to check out the charming town of Tatamagouche:

- [The Creamery Square Heritage Centre](#) combines several community museums, exhibits, collections and archives for the Northumberland Shore region. This unique heritage complex features a Creamery exhibit describing the production of our famous Tatamagouche butter; displays on our local history and lifestyle of the 19th and 20th centuries; the Brule Fossil

Collection featuring 290- million-year-old fossil trackways; The Anna Swan Display which tells the story of local giantess; and a heritage boatbuilding shop with a replica of an 18th century shallop. The North Shore Archives provides an extensive collection of maps and documents, as well as genealogical records of local families; census, obituaries and cemetery records; pictures and photographs, and local history on people, places and events. (39 Creamery Rd, Tatamagouche)

- Visit [Sara Bonnyman Pottery](#) studio where you can see her workshop and watch her most weekday mornings throwing pots on her wheel. Sara focuses on making functional stoneware. Informal guided tours are available most afternoons. View Sara's large collection of antique Nova Scotia pots and enjoy the vibrant gardens that surround her studio. Sara's inspired rug-hookings and hand-woven baskets from Ghana are also on display, along with the world-famous Moss Shaving Scuttle. (326 Maple Ave, Tatamagouche)
- Located in Tatamagouche, the Northumberland Arts Council Fraser Cultural Centre promotes arts, crafts and cultural activities in the North Shore area and helps to preserve and present the heritage of the region. The Centre houses the Fraser Gallery, an exhibition on Nova Scotian giantess Anna Swan and a Visitor Information Centre. We also offer Internet access for our visitors. Special events are held throughout the year. (362 Main St, Tatamagouche)
- Discover the [Balmoral Grist Mill Museum](#), tucked away in a wooded gorge on the Matheson Brook just minutes from Tatamagouche. During demonstrations, see the mill in action, just as it would have been when Alexander McKay built it in 1874. Experience the sights and sounds of wooden gears, shafts and pulleys turning the original Scottish granite millstones as they turn grain into flour. Take in the aroma of over 135 years of maple wood smoke used to dry oats in the kiln. Treat yourself to the experience of a waterside grist mill from Nova Scotia's past. Ramble along the 1-km walking trail as it winds along a scenic gorge and mill stream. (660 Matheson Brook Rd, Balmoral Mills)
- Visit Tatamagouche's newest operation, the [Tatamagouche Brewery Company](#) which just opened in June 2014. The owners, the Jost Family, are ensuring that their new undertaking has all the makings of being just as successful as their wines (see Jost Vineyards!). This family owned and operated microbrewery, located in a converted old butcher shop, makes small batches of tasty handcrafted beer.

Just outside of Tatamagouche is the tiny community of Malagash, home to [Jost Vineyards](#) which is situated on the shores of the Malagash Peninsula near Blue Sea Beach. These award-winning wines are the product of the numerous varieties of grapes grown on site. Tour the vineyards and winery shop and then the best part ... sample their selections!

Drive to Wallace and check-in at [Fox Harb'r Golf Resort & Spa](#). Since opening in 2000, Fox Harb'r has been consistently ranked among the top Destination Resorts in Canada by leading travel consumer reports and industry peers. Fox Harb'r is one of only five 5-star resorts in Canada. The resort offers classic elegance on a grand scale with a variety of activities including the award-winning Fox Harb'r championship golf course designed by Golf Hall of Fame architect Graham Cooke, the par 3 course, the tennis center, the sporting lodge featuring skeet shooting and sporting clay, a luxury spa and wellness center, a private 4885 foot airstrip, deep sea marina, the Five-Star Great Room dining room and The Willard restaurant for casual dining.

This afternoon, try your hand at clay shooting, a unique offering at this exclusive resort on Nova Scotia's Northumberland shore. You will feel an overwhelming sense of power as you shoot and shatter a disk in mid projection. Closely replicating the true field conditions of an upland game or waterfowl shoot,

sporting clays are a year-round activity enjoyed by both men and women, from beginner to the more experienced. Expert instruction for the safe and proper use of a firearm will be made available. The 15-acre sporting clay course includes 24 shooting stations and a Pheasant walk up. Each shooter is required to move from one designated station to another to complete the course. Each station presents shooters with a variety of targets thrown at different angles and speeds.

Overnight: Wallace, NS

## DAY 6

Enjoy your surroundings this morning before making the 30 minute drive to your next experience - [Pugwash Disc Golf!](#) Disc golf is played much like traditional golf but instead of a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc, or Frisbee®. The sport was formalized in the 1970's, and shares with "ball golf" the object of completing each hole in the fewest strokes (or, in the case of disc golf, fewest throws). Disc golf shares the same joys and frustrations of traditional golf, whether it's sinking a long putt or hitting a tree halfway down the fairway. There are few differences, though. Disc golf rarely requires a greens fee, you probably won't need to rent a cart, and you never get stuck with a bad "tee time." It is designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages, male and female, regardless of economic status. Try it out for yourself!

Depart Pugwash and make your way back towards Halifax. Enroute, check out [Masstown Market](#) - a thriving family business that began as a farm-gate operation in the spring of 1969, and has grown to become a local landmark thanks to their tradition of quality foods, great selection, and friendly service. The market has large, bright displays of the finest fruits & vegetables, daily fresh "made from scratch" baked goods, famous chowders and soups, locally made ice cream, meat counter, garden centre, gift shop and more! Chat with knowledgeable fishmongers about the latest Bay of Fundy and Atlantic waters fish and seafood landings. Then climb to the top of the lighthouse for a panoramic 360° view of the mouth of the Bay of Fundy ... the province's only "inland" lighthouse!

Make your way back towards 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 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!