

HALIFAX



Halifax

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Halifax Waterfront

A vibrant capital city by the sea

Halifax is the historical and cultural capital of Atlantic Canada. K'jipuk'tuk meaning Great Harbour was the name given to the area by the Mi'kmaq who have inhabited Nova Scotia for more than 13,000 years.

Learn about the province's history both landside and seaside—tour the harbourfront by boat or kayak, or explore the beautiful waterfront boardwalk by bike or foot. Be sure to visit the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, featuring exhibits showcasing Canada's immigration story.

Just a short, 15-minute ferry ride for \$3.00 one-way across the harbour is Dartmouth. The downtown is compact and walkable, with locally owned cafés, restaurants, galleries, public art, bars, and craft breweries. Browse Portland Street, where you'll find a collection of interesting and inspired shop owners providing a unique local shopping experience.

Halifax also offers the ideal home base for day trips to other areas of the province with Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg, Wolfville, Eastern Shore beaches, and tidal bore rafting adventures just 60 to 75 minutes away.



Harbour Queen boat tour



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Did you know?

Queen's Marque on the Halifax Waterfront is one of the city's newest and architecturally unique areas. Featuring Atlantic Canada's first luxury boutique hotel, The Muir Hotel, restaurants and cafés, spa, art installations, and shopping, it's a must-visit!

Halifax Waterfront

One of the world's longest urban boardwalks spans the length of Halifax's waterfront for 4 kilometres (2.5 miles), from Pier 21 at the Halifax Seaport to Casino Nova Scotia.

Georges Island National Historic Site

Situated in the middle of the Halifax Harbour, this island was only opened to the public in 2020. Travel by boat to this mysterious national historic site and take a guided tour of historic tunnels, enjoy scenic views of Halifax and learn about the future of the island.

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Journey into Canada's and Nova Scotia's past at two waterfront museums. The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 celebrates Canadian immigration stories from past to present day. The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is Canada's largest and oldest maritime museum, showcasing thousands of artifacts, including those relating to the *Titanic* disaster.

Halifax Harbour cruises

Get a sea-level view of the city by sailboat, tall ship, boat tour, Zodiac, ferry, or Sea-doo! As an ocean city, it's a must to explore it by water. Captains and tour guides will provide unique perspectives of Halifax's skyline. If you're the romantic type, spend an evening cruising in the moonlight aboard one of the boat tours offered by Ambassatours or J. Farwell Sailing Co. Kids of all ages will enjoy the Harbour Hopper. Don't miss Halifax Harbour Tours' all-electric boats for an ultra-quiet and environmentally friendly tour.

Waterfront dining

Getting hungry? Plan to stop by the Queen's Marque district, Salt Yard Social, The Bicycle Thief, The BG - Halifax Beer Garden, Waterfront Warehouse, Water Polo, or Asia Restaurant to sample a local brew and enjoy a tasty lunch—waterfront views are included for free!

Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market

Start your day off with breakfast at the oldest continuously operating farmers' market in North America. Now at Pavillion 23 on Saturdays and Sundays, pick up Nova Scotia-grown fruits and vegetables, wine, beer, spirits, baked treats, and carefully crafted artisanal goods. Stop into Garrison Brewing to sample craft beer, located nearby.

Halifax on two wheels

Explore the city independently on a bicycle or e-bike rented from I Heart Bikes or cruise along on a two- or four-hour guided tour highlighting the best in Halifax. You can also rent a bike and head out of town for a self-guided adventure on all variety of multi-use trails.

Seaside Shopping

Visit unique shops along the boardwalk like Peace by Chocolate, East Coast Lifestyle, Amos Pewter, The Shops at Bishop's Landing and The Salt Yard to find a perfect souvenir from your trip.



Halifax Waterfront

Outdoor adventures

Experience Halifax through our pristine seacoast and Maritime landscapes. Halifax's outdoor activities, trails, and off-the-beaten path adventures will awaken the explorer in you.

Point Pleasant Park

Situated in the south end of the Halifax peninsula is an historic 75-hectare wooded park criss-crossed with 39 kilometres (24 miles) of easy winding trails and wide paths. Visitors can experience beautiful coastal views, forested trails, and preserved ruins of early fortifications as they explore the park.

Halifax Public Gardens

The Halifax Public Gardens are among the oldest Victorian gardens in North America. This 16-acre oasis in the heart of Halifax is a designated National Historic Site of Canada and is perfect for a relaxing stroll or enjoying nature with the family (including the kid-favourite duck pond). Grab take-out from a local restaurant and picnic on the lush lawns.

Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park

Enjoy three white-sand crescent beaches with boardwalks giving easy access to the first two beaches, just a short drive from downtown Halifax. Swim, sunbathe, or hike the nearby 10-kilometre (6-mile) Pennant Point Trail.

Rum Runners Trail, Halifax to Lunenburg

Hop on a bike and pedal your way from Halifax to Lunenburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This 119-kilometre multi-use trail has multiple access points as it takes you through several coastal communities, including Chester and Mahone Bay.

Halifax Ghost Walk

Take part in this ghost walk if you dare! Walk through downtown Halifax as your guide, Dusty, shares tales of ghosts and spirits derived from Nova Scotian folklore.

Sable Island National Park Reserve

At Sable Island National Park Reserve, 300 kilometres off the coast of Halifax, discover the shape-shifting island that is home to hundreds of wild horses, archaeological treasures, and the largest breeding colony of grey seals in the world. Whether arriving by air or by sea, all visitors to the island are welcomed by insightful Parks Canada staff.

Surfing at Lawrencetown Beach

Head just 45 minutes out of the city to Lawrencetown Beach where experienced instructors offer surfing lessons. Try something new and learn the basics of the board. All equipment included.

Shubie Park and Shubenacadie Canal Waterway, Dartmouth

Explore nature at this 16-acre urban park. Featuring over 9 kilometres of wooded walking trails with some winding along the historic Shubenacadie Canal Waterway. Paddle, walk or cycle along the canal, stretching from the Halifax Harbour to the Bay of Fundy!



Point Pleasant Park

Unexpected discoveries

Nature Folk, Dartmouth

Experience Nova Scotia's first indoor Nordic Spa on the Dartmouth Waterfront. Relax as you enjoy private infrared sauna rooms, body work, and a movement studio.

Fisherman's Cove

Located in a centuries-old authentic fishing community, Fisherman's Cove in Eastern Passage features a variety of gift shops and art galleries, and it's a great spot to grab a snack or fresh seafood and stroll the boardwalk. Visit nearby MacCormack's Beach Provincial Park which offers beautiful views of McNabs and Lawlor Islands.

Georges Island National Historic Site



Taste fresh, local ingredients from land and sea

Halifax has your favourite foods! Whether you like flavours from around the globe or down-home cooking; prefer adventurous tastes or old favourites, or some combination of all of the above, you will find it here.



Brunch at Drift

Local food tours

This is one of the most delicious ways to get around the city! Meet local chefs and taste their creations as your guide drives you across the city during this five-stop food tour. Sample seafood, the iconic Halifax donair, Nova Scotia wines and more on a tasty trip with Taste Halifax Food & Beer Tours. If you prefer to travel by foot, check out Curated Food Tours for an all-inclusive walking tour exploring food in one of Halifax's urban neighbourhoods.

Surrender to your sweet tooth

Indulge yourself with a sweet treat at The Middle Spoon Desserterie & Bar, Sweet Hereafter Cheesecake, Café Taiyaki 52, Freak Lunchbox, Dee Dee's Ice Cream, Le French Fix Café, LF Bakery, Pane e Circo, Dessert Yard, Peace by Chocolate, or Rousseau Chocolatier.

Sip and sail

Departing from Queen's Wharf on the Halifax Waterfront, J. Farwell Sailing Co. offers sailings aboard their 50' catamaran where you can sip on a locally crafted beverage as you soak in harbour views. Wine lovers will enjoy the Wine & Cheese Sunset Sail. Taste four Nova Scotia wines as you motor sail along the North West Arm, admiring the coastline.

Citadel Distilled - Raise Your Spirits Experience Halifax Citadel National Historic Site

Discover the history of alcohol in the British Military, visit the barrelling room and of course, savour a tasting of three citadel-aged spirits, crafted just up the street by Compass Distillers and aged on-site at the Citadel. A kilted 78th Highlander will host this experience offering after-hours access to this historic and iconic Halifax fortress.



Water Polo



Lot Six

Take the ferry for fun and food

Hop aboard a harbour ferry from Halifax to Dartmouth and plan to stop at one of the many noteworthy food joints in town. Stop by the Alderney Landing Market on Saturdays or visit The Canteen, Oxalis, Dear Friend, Battery Park Beer Bar & Eatery, and the Wooden Monkey, all offering lunch and dinner. For a quick bite, stop by Two If By Sea Café, Humble Pie Kitchen, Yeah Yeah's Pizza, or Evan's Fresh Seafood. Sample a craft beer or cider at Battery Park Beer Bar & Eatery, Lake City Cider, or Darty Brewing Co.

Urban eats—fresh and local

Fresh, local ingredients find their way onto restaurant menus across the city. Unique executions and flavour combinations paired with local wine and beer are easily found in Halifax. Visit Mappatura Bistro, Highwayman, Eliot & Vine, Barrington Steakhouse and Bar, Unchained Kitchen, Studio East, The Ostrich Club, Drift, Black Sheep, Hop Scotch Dinner Club, or Field Guide.

Sure to please the palate

While there is no shortage of exciting new dining experiences in Halifax to satisfy any craving you may have, these consistently awesome establishments have been welcoming diners for years, and there are good reasons why! Lot Six, The Bicycle Thief, and The Press Gang have all received much acclaim and will leave you satisfied!

Did you know?

During the summer months a segment of Argyle Street (which is aptly Argyle patterned) is designated for pedestrians and cyclists only. Pull up a seat at one of the many patios for a craft beverage and meal, enjoy lunch at Gahan Nova Centre, or simply admire the streetscape as you stroll through.

Historical escapes

History buffs can immerse themselves in the fascinating cultural, maritime, and military heritage of a town founded in 1749.



Halifax Citadel National Historic Site

Halifax's star-shaped fortress has stood watch over the city since the mid-1700s. See for yourself how the 78th Highlanders bring the historic fort to life and don't miss the firing of the Noon gun. Get suited up in an authentic uniform of the Queen's army; take part in foot drills, firearms training, and a tour of the Citadel and be sure to check out the A City Shaped by Conflict exhibit and art by Mi'kmaq artist Leonard Paul. Return to the Citadel in the evening for a ghost tour highlighting bizarre legends and stories of the fortress.

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Canada's largest and oldest maritime museum is the ideal place to learn about Nova Scotia's rich and storied maritime history. Collections include over 20,000 photographs plus artifacts relating to the *Titanic* disaster. Be sure to visit the exhibit Ta'n me'j Tel'keknuo'ltiek: How Unique We Still Are, a reflection of the deep connections to both land and waters of Mi'kma'ki that Mi'kmaq people have.

Army Museum Halifax Citadel

For over 60 years, the Army Museum Halifax Citadel has fascinated and inspired thousands of visitors from around the world. Housed in an actual military fortress, the museum tells a powerful story of Canada's soldiers.

Africville Museum: UNESCO Place of History & Memory and Park

Receiving a UNESCO designation in 2024, the museum stands in a replica of the church that was the heart of Africville, with audiovisual kiosks, pictures, descriptive panels, and artifacts telling the story of Africville, an African Nova Scotian community that was destroyed in the 1960s. Walk through Africville Park and take in the interpretive panels showing the history, families and daily lives of former residents of Africville.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Interactive exhibits allow you to experience what it was like to immigrate to Canada through Pier 21. Then, take a look at how newcomers have influenced Canada, trace your roots at the Scotiabank Family History Centre, and test your knowledge at the Canadian Citizenship Test Table.

Museum of Natural History

Discover the stories and science behind Nova Scotia's natural landscape plus culturally significant artifacts and displays. Don't miss the interactive exhibit P'jilasi. Meaning "welcome" in Mi'kmaq, this immersive experience invites visitors to engage, learn and reflect on Mi'kmaq history, culture, and traditions.

Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia

Visit this museum and cultural gathering place for a deeper understanding of Canada's oldest and longest standing Black communities, rooted right here in Nova Scotia. Explore the rich history of and contributions made by Black Nova Scotians which continue to shape our province today.





Halifax Waterfront

Atlantic Canada's shopping destination

From hyper-local shops to international brands, Halifax is offering up some of the best retail therapy on the east coast.

Spring Garden area

This is the place to be for the best in urban, boutique shopping east of Montreal. Find locally owned fashion boutiques and upscale consignment, well-known Canadian brands like Lululemon and Roots, and shops like Jennifer's of Nova Scotia showcasing locally crafted goods. Make a day of it and fill your shopping bag with unique apparel, shoes, skin and beauty products, sleepwear, handmade creations, foods, and home décor, all in walking distance of one another.

Downtown and Halifax Waterfront

You're sure to come away with a treasure after browsing the shops at one of the many locally owned downtown Halifax businesses. Check out the trendy boutiques, art galleries, and shops along Barrington, Grafton, Granville, and Hollis Streets, stroll the Halifax Waterfront, and visit vendors at the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market, shops in Bishop's Landing and the charming Historic Properties.

North End and The Hydrostone

Eclectic and thoughtfully curated shops and unique, local foods can be found in these neighbourhoods, including ethically made and sustainably sourced boutiques for clothing, art, and jewellery. Discover one of a kind gifts, housewares, and fashion when you take time to explore this historic and diverse area of the city.

Downtown Dartmouth

Cross one of the harbour bridges or ride the ferry across the harbour to Downtown Dartmouth. Quaint and welcoming local shops offering everything from comic books to fashion and locally handmade creations to records can be found in this walkable area of the city.

Outlets, Retail Hubs and Malls

Visit Dartmouth Crossing, Bayer's Lake, Bedford Commons, Sunnyside Mall, Mic Mac Mall, or Halifax Shopping Centre for the widest selection of national and international retailers and big box stores in eastern Canada.

48 Hours Exploring

Halifax and area

Mix and match these 48-hour road trips located throughout this guide to create a Nova Scotia adventure all your own or click [here](#) for more itineraries and trip ideas.

Day 1

Morning

Grab a coffee and stroll the 4-kilometre **Harbourfront Boardwalk**, exploring museums and shops as you go.

Afternoon

Order a take-out lunch and picnic in one of the city's green spaces like **Point Pleasant Park**. Then, enjoy a harbour boat tour on the **Tall Ship Silva or the Harbour Hopper**. Then, head up **Spring Garden Road** for boutique shopping.

Evening

End your day under twinkling lights sipping a local craft beer on the pier at **The BG - Halifax Beer Garden**.

Day 2

Morning

Stroll the **Public Gardens**, a green oasis in the heart of the city, followed by watching a rousing re-enactment of 19th-century military activities at the **Halifax Citadel National Historic Site**.

Afternoon

Explore town on a guided bike tour with **I Heart Bikes** or rent a bike for an independent adventure. Foodies will enjoy spending the afternoon sampling local eats with **Curated Food Tours**.

Evening

Dine downtown or along the waterfront where you can choose from dozens of restaurants—from fine dining to quick and casual. Grab dessert and a night cap at the **Middle Spoon Desserterie**. Take in a show at **Neptune Theatre**, located downtown or **Shakespeare by the Sea** in **Point Pleasant Park**.

Did you know?

Located at the corner of Queen Street and Spring Garden Road, the Halifax Central Library has received many accolades since it opened, including winning the national Governor General Architecture Medal. Said to resemble a stack of books, the library is a high-tech, sustainable, accessible, cultural hub of downtown.