

NORTHUMBERLAND SHORE



Melmerby Beach Provincial Park

Northumberland Shore

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Experience warm-water beaches, charming towns and fab foodie finds

With more warm-water ocean beaches than anywhere else in Canada, this shore is Beach Country. There is always room for your beach towel, so don your swimsuit and sun hat and head out to Bayfield, Blue Sea, Caribou-Munroes Island, Heather, Melmerby, Northport, Pomquet, Rushtons, or Waterside Beach where the sparkling salt water averages more than 22°C (72°F) in the summer. Local producers of wine, spirits, craft beer, chocolate, and seafood are also dotted along this coastline, making for perfect pit stops as you beach hop.

But there is more along this quaint shoreline than beaches. This region is a burgeoning culinary destination with choices ranging from Atlantic Canada's first sustainable seafood restaurant at the 5-star Fox Harb'r Resort to handmade Appleton Chocolates. Farmers' markets can be found in Amherst, Pugwash, Tatamagouche, New Glasgow, and Antigonish, where just-harvested fruits and vegetables abound alongside one-of-a-kind handcrafted pieces by local artisans. Visit the GINstitute at Steinhart Distillery to craft your own gin, or Peace by Chocolate in Antigonish for a sweet treat.

Coastal accommodations are plentiful here, from cozy seaside cottages to campgrounds overlooking the Northumberland Strait. For a peek into this region's past, look no further than the Hector Heritage Quay in Pictou, the "Birthplace of New Scotland."

In New Glasgow, visit Viola's Way to learn the powerful story of Viola Desmond who stood up to racial inequality and became a Canadian civil rights leader.

Pictou Waterfront



Steinhart Distillery, Arisaig



48 Hours Exploring

Earlton to Antigonish

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

Start your day with a visit to **Sugar Moon Farm**. Savour their Maple Brunch, dining on pancakes, local bacon and sausage and maple syrup. Explore the **Rogart Mountain Trail** after breakfast. Then, stop into the **Earlton General Store**.

Afternoon

Head through Tatamagouche to **Jost Vineyards** in Malagash for a tasting. After, travel back to Tatamagouche where you'll find **Appleton Chocolates**, **Tatamagouche Brewing Co.**, and the **Creamery Square**. Head out for a walk or bring your bike and check out the **Butter Trail**.

Evening

End your day at the **Train Station Inn** and stay in one of their renovated cabooses or boxcars that are now unique overnight accommodations. Enjoy a locally inspired dinner menu in the dining car before heading to your car for the night. If time permits, visit **Blue Sea Beach** for sunset!

Day 2

Morning

Travel towards Pictou on scenic Route 6 stopping at **Lismore Sheep Farm** to pick up woolly treasures, **Seafoam Lavender Gardens** to meander through the lavender fields and shop for aromatic bath and beauty products. End the morning in Pictou visiting the **Hector Heritage Quay**.

Afternoon

Spend the afternoon lounging and swimming in the warm waters of the many beaches in this area. Visit **Caribou-Munroes Island Provincial Park**, **Melmerby Beach Provincial Park** or **Waterside Beach Provincial Park**. Or, if coastal hiking is your preference, keep driving, making a stop at **Cape George Lighthouse**. Then, spend the night in Antigonish.

Evening

End your day in **Antigonish**. Explore this busy town, enjoy craft beer at **Candid Brewing**, dine at **Gabrieau's Bistro** or **The Townhouse** and stay at one of the many accommodations in town.

Let your taste buds lead the way

Follow the flavours along the shore for a wide range of charming yet appetizing adventures. This region is ready for edible (and drinkable!) exploration.

Enjoy award-winning wine

Jost Vineyards, off Route 6, Malagash

Savour Nova Scotia's award-winning wine while relaxing on a sunny patio overlooking the lush vineyards. Meander through the rows of vines and enjoy locally inspired seasonal fare at the Seagrape Café. Daily tours and tastings offered.

Seaside cider

Vista Bella Farm: Cidery, Orchard, and Apiary, Malagash

With 110 apple varieties, plums, pears, and cherries grown in this established orchard, you will taste ciders like nowhere else. Explore this cidery, orchard, and farm on weekend afternoons from June to November. Try a cider tasting flight and pick up farm-fresh produce and honey at the on-site farm store and U-pick.

Sustainable seafood with a view

Cape Cliff Dining Room, Fox Harb'r Resort, Wallace

While widely known and acclaimed for its seaside golf course and for being Nova Scotia's only 5-star resort, Fox Harb'r is also home to Atlantic Canada's first sustainable seafood restaurant, which overlooks the 18th hole and the Northumberland Strait.

Savour some maple syrup

Sugar Moon Farm, Earltown

Bring your appetite to feast on pancakes and local maple sausages and get a behind-the-scenes look at how Sugar Moon Farm makes maple syrup. Bring your hiking boots and camera to explore the onsite trail.

Eat in Antigonish

Although most noted for being a university town, the culinary scene in Antigonish has been blossoming in recent years. Come hungry and pay a visit to a local restaurant, cafe, pub or food truck like Gabriel's Bistro, The Townhouse, or Main Street Cafe, just to name a few!

Making spirits bright

Steinhart Distillery, Arisaig

Caldera Distilling, River John

Enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour and tasting at these distilleries along the Northumberland Shore, each with their own unique story. Visit Nova Scotia's first "Ginstitute" at Steinhart Distillery, and sample whisky and rum at Caldera Distilling, who use ingredients grown on their estate farm.

Sweet treats

Appleton Chocolates, Tatamagouche

Peace by Chocolate, Antigonish

At Appleton Chocolates you can observe a chocolatier at work hand-dipping chocolates enveloping sweet Nova Scotian flavours of blueberry, cranberry, cherry, and maple syrup. Stop in to Peace by Chocolate to not only pick up decadent chocolates made onsite, but learn the inspiring story of the Hadhad family who fled Syria amidst war for new beginnings in Canada. Be sure to also visit their shop in downtown Halifax!

Northumbrewland Shore

Craft beer lovers will be right at home here. Stop into craft breweries all along this shore. Visit Tatamagouche Brewing Co., then Backstage Brewing in Stellarton. Continue on to the Antigonish area where you will find Half Cocked Brewing Company, Oak Manor by Burnside Brewing, and Candid Brewing.

Dine in Tatamagouche

This bustling village is the perfect stop for lunch or dinner to refuel you for more exploring or winding down after a busy day. Check out the variety of vendors at the farmer's market on Saturdays, Big Al's Family Restaurant & Lounge, Chowder House on Main, Nook & Cranny, or, enjoy a delicious seafood meal in a carefully restored dining car at the Train Station Inn.



Outdoor adventures

Get outside and enjoy the rolling farmlands, bright red bluffs, and sparkling blue sea.



Fox Harb'r Resort



Keppoch Mountain

Seaside golf at its best

If golfing with saltwater vistas in your eyeline makes your day, don't miss playing a round in Fox Harbour at Fox Harb'r Resort, which has been consistently ranked among the top Destination Resorts in Canada and is one of only five 5-star resorts in the country. Northumberland Links, ranked #91 on ScoreGOLF's Top 100 Courses in Canada (2024), near Pugwash will challenge your swing in the sun and salt air overlooking the Northumberland Strait. Other notable courses in the region include Brule Point Golf Course, near Tatamagouche, and Abercrombie Country Club and Glen Lovat Golf Club, both in New Glasgow.

A great time on The Great Trail

Pack a picnic or pick up lunch from a restaurant in town and enjoy a leisurely walk along the nearby Butter Trail, part of The Great Trail in Tatamagouche. Highlights of the trail include the Creamery Square and the Tatamagouche Farmers' Market, Train Station Inn, Patterson Wharf Park, Nelson Park, and views of Tatamagouche Bay.

Hiking Trails at Sugar Moon Farm

Explore the 6.2-kilometre Rogart Mountain Trail through the maple forest year-round. The maple canopy is green and full during the summer, vibrant and colourful during the fall. Enjoy a winter hike or snowshoe, and see the sap running during the early spring.

Keppoch Mountain adventures

This former alpine ski hill turned four-season adventure park offers up 40 kilometres of non-motorized, multi-use wilderness trails perfect for hiking, biking, trail running and snowshoeing. Mountain bikers will be thrilled by 30 kilometres of mountain bike trails, with one for every skill level. Shuttles are available to bring you and your bike to the top of the mountain.

Explore Cape George Hiking Trail

Leading you along the coast through meadows and forests to cliffs with panoramic views of St. George's Bay, these 33 kilometres of looping trails are a great way to explore our wilderness. There are three serviced trailheads with information kiosks and maps: Cape George Heritage School, Cape George Lighthouse, and Ballantyne's Cove Tuna Interpretive Centre where you can also visit to learn about the history of tuna fishing in the area.

Four seasons of adventure in Wentworth

In the winter, Ski Wentworth is the place to be for ski and snowboard lovers, boasting the largest ski area in the Maritimes. When the snow melts, mountain bikers can hit up Wentworth Bike Park, Nova Scotia's only lift-accessible downhill bike park, with over 30 kilometres of trails to explore.



Not-to-be-missed experiences

The Northumberland Shore offers so much history, culture, and natural beauty to explore! Plan your road trip around these don't miss attractions for fun at your own pace.

Hook rugs with your friends

Deanne Fitzpatrick Rug Hooking Studio, Amherst

Enjoy a cup of tea and a homemade oatcake as you learn about the many materials and hand-dyed fabrics used in rug-hooking. Then, settle into the calm oasis of the knitting room, where you'll be guided by an experienced instructor to try your hand at this traditional, colourful Maritime craft.

Retrace the steps of a Scottish immigrant

Hector Heritage Quay, Pictou

Board the Ship *Hector* replica and retrace the steps of the many Scottish immigrants who left their homes in search of a better life in the New World. This historic voyage marked the beginning of large-scale immigration to North America and is the reason Pictou became known as "the birthplace of New Scotland".

Buttery-good fun

Creamery Square, Tatamagouche

The waterside Creamery Square offers an engaging blend of activities, culture, and heritage experiences, including the Heritage Centre, Grace Arts Centre and Ice House Gallery, historic Grain Elevator, Saturday morning Farmers' Market, shops, and the Butter Trail for walking or cycling.

"Made in Nova Scotia"

Museum of Industry, Stellarton

Behind the story of Nova Scotia's industrial past, you will discover technology, steam engines, cars, and coal mining. Costumed interpreters, interactive exhibits, and fascinating artifacts—including the nation's oldest steam locomotives—tell the story of Nova Scotia's early thriving industries.

Discover Local Sea Heritage

Northumberland Fisheries Museum, Pictou

Explore a rich array of artifacts from shipwrecks, a lighthouse, and an operating, one-of-a-kind lobster hatchery featuring an aquarium with rare coloured lobsters.

Ginstitute by the Sea

Steinhart Distillery

Go behind-the-scenes at award-winning Steinhart Distillery to craft your very own spirits. With ocean views as your backdrop, forage for ingredients and select from an array of spices and citrus to create your unique flavours with the distiller. Savour German-inspired local delicacies, paired with Nova Scotia cocktails, as you perfect your craft.

Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

Antigonish

Throughout July and August enjoy professional productions at the Bauer Theatre on the St. Francis Xavier University campus.

Unexpected discoveries

Lismore Sheep Farm, River John

This working farm is home to 100 sheep, and here you can pick up colourful hand-knit blankets and mittens, sheepskin slippers and mitts, and other wool products and knitting supplies.

Seafoam Lavender Gardens, Seafoam

During a behind-the-scenes experience, you'll be surprised to learn about the versatility and health benefits of this fragrant and beautiful herb.

Luxury Spa at Fox Harb'r Resort, Wallace

Escape to the ocean's edge to indulge in luxury at the five-star Fox Harb'r Resort. This uniquely Nova Scotian spa experience starts with an Oxford blueberry antioxidant smoothie and a relaxing foot bath of local sea salts and soothing lavender, followed by an ocean-inspired spa treatment, including either sea stones or local clay and seaweed.

Domes & Dinner, Wallace

Book an escape to the 36-acre property at Wallace River Ranch & Domes. Cozy up for the night in a geodesic dome complete with private hot tub. Interact with the animals like goats and ponies that call the ranch home. Dine at nearby Wiley's on the Wharf, complete with locally inspired menu and water views!

