

YARMOUTH & ACADIAN SHORES



Where the stars align

There's a bit of magic in Yarmouth & Acadian Shores. It's quiet and peaceful, yet full of adventure. This is where the land meets the sea.

And where the darkest skies let the stars shine their brightest. It's where the food is fresh and local, and the music is too. It's where everything comes together. It's where the stars align.

This region is part of North America's first starlight destination—Acadian Skies and Mi'kmaq Lands—as designated by the International Starlight Foundation. Here you can discover dark skies like nowhere else, with brilliant stars from distant galaxies shining against the night sky. Enjoy a guided tour of the night sky at Deep Sky Eye Observatory, complete with onsite sky bubble accommodations. Or head to the world's first certified Starlight Hotel, Trout Point Lodge, for a luxury wilderness escape with gourmet dining and guided outdoor adventures.

Located within the UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Region, this region offers scenic coastal drives, quaint fishing villages, and untouched landscapes. This is where you can begin your Nova Scotia experience, exploring nature and culture.

Traditions, music, and food have been more than preserved here—they flourish. Immerse yourself in Acadian culture at Le Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse, a picturesque living history museum with costumed interpreters and onsite cafe. Be sure to try traditional Acadian dishes like fricot and rappie pie.

In downtown Yarmouth, stroll the Heritage District to see colourful murals and unique Victorian homes.

Experience the vibrant culture and joie-de-vivre this region has to offer!



48 Hours Exploring

Pubnico to Church Point

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

Visit **Le Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse** to learn about life in Pubnico, the world's oldest Acadian settlement, in the early-1900s. Costumed interpreters share stories of the time.

Afternoon

Stop in to the **Dennis Point Cafe** and lunch on an array of seafood options from chowder to lobster poutine. Check out **Tusket Falls Brewing** in Tusket or **Heritage Brewing** in Yarmouth to sample craft brew. Then, head for the coast to check out **Cape Forchu Lighthouse**.

Evening

Enjoy a casual dinner at **Rudders Seafood Restaurant & Brewery** on the patio overlooking the harbour.

Day 2

Morning

Explore the Heritage District and Downtown Yarmouth, visit the farmers market on Saturday mornings, visit a local museum like the **Firefighters Museum of Nova Scotia, W. Laurence Sweeney Fisheries Museum**, and **Yarmouth County Museum**.

Afternoon

Continue your coastal adventure as you head to **Mavillette Beach Provincial Park** and **Cape Saint Mary Lighthouse Park**. Splash in the waters of this 1.5-kilometre sandy beach followed by breathtaking vistas at the lighthouse park, just 5 minutes up the road.

Evening

Dine on succulent scallops from Digby, the **Scallop Capital of the World**. Then experience **Acadian Skies & Mi'kmaq Lands**, the first designated starlight destination in North America. Stay in a **CJA Yurt, Driftwood by the Bay** or **Cozy Point Retreat** and soak in the incredible dark skies.

Outdoor adventures

The Yarmouth & Acadian Shores region offers intrepid explorers an exciting array of off-the-beaten-path experiences for every fitness level.

Seaside walking trails await, Cape Forchu Lighthouse

Enjoy a magnificent ocean view from a past winner of “Canada’s Greatest Public Space.” Explore the Leif Erikson Park trails and look-off points in the 17-acre seaside park, and finish with visits to the museum, café, and local craft shop. Pedal your way here—a gentle, rolling ride, only 10 kilometres from Yarmouth.

Le Petit Bois Interpretive Trail, Church Point

Take a self-guided or guided interpretive walk to discover the Acadian history and natural beauty of the region. Observe local wildlife and unique plants, and learn about duck and owl habitats. A lighthouse-shaped observatory offers an outdoor deck and equipment for sea-bird and seal watching. Stop by the Acadian Interpretive Centre in the nearby Rendez-vous de la Baie Visitor Centre and learn about the fascinating history of the Acadians in this area.

Bucket-list cycling, Gran Fondo Baie Sainte-Marie

Ride in the largest cycling event east of Quebec! Experience true Acadian hospitality with local music along the panoramic coast of St. Mary’s Bay, as you navigate inland and coastal roads. And after all that, fresh lobster and live music are your rewards. There are five rides for all skill levels, from 35 to 161 kilometres. The 2026 event will occur on September 12–13.

Sandford Drawbridge

Stop by the Sandford Wharf and check out the smallest operating drawbridge in the world. You can walk over the bridge and get a nice vantage point of the wharf, fishing boats and surrounding waters. Be sure to snap a photo of yourself atop this unique structure.



Mavillette Beach Provincial Park



Yarmouth

Ellenwood Lake Provincial Park, Deerfield

Overnight camping, supervised swimming, sensational stargazing, and walking trails make this park the ideal outdoor escape.

Frost Park, Yarmouth

Located in downtown Yarmouth, this well-shaded park features a 150-year-old, three-tier fountain and a compass-rose overlooking Yarmouth Harbour. Grab take out from a restaurant in town and enjoy a picnic lunch on a park bench. Or, visit during the holiday season when Frost Park is lit up with festive light displays.

Port Maitland Beach Provincial Park, Port Maitland

Stroll along this 1-kilometre sand-and-cobble beach or take a dip in the ocean. Pack a lunch to enjoy at the picnic tables overlooking the shore. The nearby wharf and fishing boats are favourites for painters and photographers.

Mavillette Beach Provincial Park and Cape Saint Mary Lighthouse Park

Two spectacular outdoor sites within a 5-minute drive! Mavillette is home to a breathtaking 1.5-kilometre sandy beach, backed by fragile marram grass-covered dunes protected by boardwalks. Low tide exposes sand flats; then the hot sand warms the water. Yoga, the Cape to Cliff Beach Run event, and surfboard rentals and lessons are available here. Take the short drive to Cape Saint Mary Lighthouse Park, where dramatic cliffs and breathtaking sunsets await. Pack a picnic and enjoy the ocean vistas, interpretive panels, viewing scope and a monument honouring those from Clare who have been lost at sea.

East Coast Wild Adventures, Tusket

Explore waters around the Yarmouth area on a stand-up paddleboard. Early birds can rise and shine with a sunrise paddle to start the day right. For the night owls, a scenic sunset paddle around Yarmouth Harbour may be more enjoyable. For everyone else, daytime tours, lessons and rentals are available.

Not-to-be-missed experiences

These suggestions will help you enjoy the definitive Yarmouth & Acadian Shores experience; it's renowned for its colourful fishing villages, rich Acadian culture, and laidback way of life since 1653.



École Dans l'Anse Resto Sur Mer

Seafood and seafaring

Tusket Island Tours, Wedgeport

Join local fishermen onboard their working lobster boat and discover a way of life that has fueled Nova Scotia for generations. Learn how to “pull” a lobster trap, and savour fresh seafood in a private island shanty while enjoying live Acadian music played by your fishermen!

Beachside lobster supper

Lobster Bay Culinary Experience, Argyle Lodge, Lower Argyle

Your culinary adventure begins with a guided walk to the beach, where you will help build a wood fire to boil your own freshly caught lobsters. The Argyle chefs will provide pots, lobsters, and local expertise.

Savour the Sea Oceanside Lobster Dinner

142 Jacquard Road, Wedgeport (Wedgeport Breakwater Wharf)

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind foodie adventure on the Tusket Islands! Your journey starts with a guided boat tour, led by local lobster fisher who'll share stories of life on the water—and maybe even get you clapping along to some lively local tunes. Once you dock, you'll be treated to a delicious lobster dinner made with fresh local ingredients, all while enjoying live music.

Experience 350 years of Acadian culture

Le Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse, West Pubnico

Savour home-cooked Acadian cuisine, hear the Acadian dialect, and learn about fishing and farming traditions at this early-1900s seaside village. Discover Acadian heritage as you meet costumed interpreters on this beautiful 17-acre site overlooking Pubnico Harbour.

Les Beaux Vendredis Seafood Suppers

Belliveau Cove

Enjoy fresh lobster, clams, and snow crab cooked on a wharf in Belliveau Cove. Admire the beautiful view of St. Mary's Bay and take in live music during this authentic Acadian experience on Friday evenings from late June through August.



Sandford Drawbridge



Trout Point Lodge

Did you know?

Climb to the very top of Cape Forchu Lighthouse! That's seventy-seven steps if you're counting. During this one of a kind tour enjoy panoramic views of Cape Forchu and Yarmouth Harbour, and learn about the life of a lightkeeper.

Great White Expeditions, Lower West Pubnico

Join leading shark experts on an adventure with Atlantic Shark Expeditions to experience Great White Sharks up close, from an underwater shark cage or onboard a boat!

Night hike and stargazing at its best

Acadian Skies & Mi'kmaq Lands, located in Argyle, Clare, and Yarmouth municipalities, is the first designated starlight destination in North America. Soak up the history of the stars, mythology, and astronomy under the skies over Acadie. Enjoy a guided night hike leaving from Le Petit Bois in Church Point, participate in the Starlight Festival, or indulge in stargazing at Trout Point Lodge, a certified Starlight Hotel in East Kemptville. Be sure to book the Nocturnal Sky Theatre Experience at Deep Sky Eye Observatory for a guided tour of the night sky. Make it a getaway and fall asleep under the stars in their onsite, heated sky bubbles with clear vinyl roof.

Starlight Luxury Escape

Trout Point Lodge, East Kemptville

Indulge in a luxury wilderness escape at the world's first starlight hotel, Trout Point Lodge. Savour an artfully prepared Nova Scotia gourmet dinner, and experience on-site outdoor adventures like forest bathing, guided hiking, foraging, mountain biking, kayaking and canoeing, then relax in the wood-fired hot tub. In the evening join the staff astronomer who conducts nightly stargazing excursions.

Acadian Shores artisans

Paintings, pottery, carvings, folk art, and other unique pieces inspired by the people, land and sea of this region will make the perfect memento from your visit. Be sure to stop by individual studios or the outdoor art market in Bellevue Cove on Sundays from July to September.

Living Wharves

Splice rope for lobster traps with a fisherman, while breathing in the ocean air and feeling the breeze. Don't miss "Living Wharves," a hands-on opportunity for visitors to discover the tools and skills of our fishery and hear tall tales from real fishermen. Visit website for more information.

Seaside distilling

Boatskeg Distilling Co., Lower West Pubnico

This boatbuilding shop turned craft distillery offers up small batch vodka, including Salted Caramel flavoured vodka. Sample their signature cocktails when you stop by. Live music is also offered on some evenings.

Discover Acadian history

Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos, West Pubnico

Step back in time and immerse yourself in the rich history of the Acadian people through music, crafts, and food sampling, with the world's oldest Acadian history at your fingertips.

Local brews and vineyards

Wine & Beer Tours of Nova Scotia

Enjoy a guided tour as you sit back and sample some of Southwest Nova's best craft beverages. Round out your experience by selecting a tour that includes a lobster boil at a lighthouse or a beachside oyster shuck and lobster dinner.

Suds and serenity

Tusket Falls Brewing Company

Sample a craft beer on the spacious patio as you bask in the tranquil nature surrounding this picturesque location.

Dig for Clams!

Clare Visitor Information Centre

The Acadians, and the Mi'kmaq before them, have been expertly digging delicious clams along the tide-washed shores of Saint Mary's Bay for centuries. Enjoy getting your hands in the sand as you learn this age-old art from a local expert. Over 20 dates offered.



The CAT ferry, Bar Harbor

Getting Here

Travellers can walk or drive aboard The CAT ferry in Bar Harbor, Maine, USA and enjoy a relaxing journey to Nova Scotia. For sailing times and reservations:

www.ferries.ca/thecat 1-877-762-7245

Yarmouth & Acadian Shores



Le Village historique acadien, West Pubnico



Did you know?

Acadians are descendants of French settlers who arrived in Nova Scotia in the early 1600s. Acadians have maintained their culture, and they love sharing this with visitors. Jump into the joie-de-vivre by sampling Rappie Pie, practicing your French with the locals, and learning how invigorating a "grou tyme" can really be.