

Get to know the locals...

The Mi'kmaq Nation lived in the Atlantic Provinces and parts of the Gaspé Peninsula in the land known to them as Mi'kima'ki. The French arrived in what we now know as Nova Scotia in 1604 followed by the British, Scottish, Irish, and others of European descent. After the American Revolutionary War a group of African slaves who remained loyal to the British in return for freedom, known as the Black Loyalists, came to Nova Scotia. These distinctive cultural groups—Acadian (French), Gaelic, Mi'kmaq, and African-Nova Scotian - can be found today throughout the province and their stories are here to discover at heritage sites and interpretive centres across the province.

These cultures are expressed through music, dance, language, art, and way of life and have influenced each other in ways that make them unique to Nova Scotia. Try out a few steps at a ceilidh (kay-lee), listen to the beat of a drum at a First Nation powwow, or enjoy a fiddle tune at an Acadian kitchen party. Visit local artisans whose craft is influenced as much by these cultures as by the beautiful environment in which we live. You are invited to learn about how people in Nova Scotia live, work, and play.

Don't Miss Nova Scotia Cultural Activities:

Cape Breton Artisan Trail
www.capebretoncraft.com

Stan Rogers' Folk Fest
www.stanfest.com

Celtic Colours International Festival
www.celtic-colours.com

Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival
www.folkharbour.com

Yarmouth 250
www.yarmouth250.com

Nocturne: Art at Night
www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca



The Mi'kmaw Nation in Nova Scotia have embraced the tourism and travel industry in recent years. Visitors to the province can learn about this wonderful culture through interpretive centres such as the Glooscap Heritage Centre, events such as the Millbrook powwow or through customized experiences with elder Frank Meuse Jr. of Stone Bear Tracks and Trails.

More info: www.glooscapheritagecentre.com
millbrookpowwow.wordpress.com
www.stonebear.ca

Mi-Carême is an Acadian tradition celebrated mid-Lent where participants disguise themselves and visit their neighbors who have to guess their identity. This week-long event is celebrated in the Acadian communities of Chéticamp and Saint Joseph-du-Moine. Year round, visitors to Saint-Joseph-du Moine (on Cape Breton Island) may visit Le Centre de la Mi-Carême (Mi-Carême Centre). Here, local artisans construct beautiful masks which are used during the celebration and are also on display.

More info: www.micareme.ca



In September 2011, Nova Scotia will host the African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference, recognizing the province's position in this trail of international significance. Several sites around Nova Scotia interpret the history of the province's community of African descent including the Black Loyalist Heritage Site in Birchtown and the Black Cultural Centre in Halifax.

More info: www.blackloyalist.com
www.bccns.com

The Celtic Heart of North America represents the Celtic and Gaelic cultural experience on Cape Breton Island. The partners involved include the iconic attractions, events, and sites which represent this living culture. Together they present a total immersive experience in all things Gaelic—history, music, language, and dance.

More info: www.celticheart.ca

