

CAPITAL CITY BY THE SEA



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 treelined 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. Indeed the waterfront continues to be a hot spot, boasting some of the city's most stimulating entertainment and most fascinating historical landmarks. Day and night, the downtown area pulsates with the rhythms of local music and the excitement that characterizes life in a cosmopolitan centre. We have the most pubs per capita in all of North America, so stopping in to enjoy live music and a brew is a must. Feast at culinary hot spots and award winning restaurants dedicated to seasonal, locally found seafood and produce and Nova Scotia wines. Explore the outskirts of the city, from the spectacular Peggy's Cove to the rustic shores of Eastern Passage.

DAY 1

Arrive at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport and transfer to downtown Halifax.

This afternoon, check out [Pier 21](#), Canada's National Immigration Museum. (1055 Marginal Rd, Halifax). The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 opened as a National Museum of Immigration in 1999, offering visitors the opportunity to delve into the immigrants' experiences and to possibly discover a family connection to a place that offered hope for a better life. Visitors can now take an emotional journey through the stories of the immigrants, seeing and listening to their experiences as they arrived in Canada after days at sea. For anyone with an ancestor that entered Canada through Halifax, the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is a must-visit destination that offers the opportunity to connect with your family's past and to gain insight into what it was like as an immigrant arriving in Canada for the very first time.

Overnight: Halifax, NS

DAY 2

Start the morning with a City Tour with [Halifax Tour Guys](#) . The tour includes visits to the Halifax Citadel, Public Gardens, Flemming Park, Point Pleasant Park, Titanic Burial Site, Halifax Explosion, War 1812, Maritime Museum and more.

After the tour, drop by the Brewery Market for an immersive tour of the Alexander Keith's Nova Scotia 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!

This afternoon, take some time to explore Halifax on your own and find some interesting stories! Suggestions include:

- Tour the [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic](#) (1675 Lower Water Street) is 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.
- Don't miss 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 vendors and a green roof with spectacular views of the Harbour.
- The [Rum Runners Cake Factory](#) (1479 Lower Water Street) in Bishop's Landing serves up a "Delicious Piece of Nova Scotia History". All Rum Runners cakes use real rum or whiskey bottled at beautiful Glenora Distilleries on Cape Breton Island, making it a truly Nova Scotian product. Next door, [Sugah!](#), makes confections crafted by hand using century old techniques and pure, simple ingredients. Chocolates and confections feature such unique ingredients as sea salt harvested on Nova Scotia's Atlantic Coast, dried cranberries and blueberries from Lunenburg County and more.
- The [Art Gallery of Nova Scotia](#) (1723 Hollis St) 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.

Overnight: Halifax, NS

DAY 3

This morning, 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.

This afternoon, become a “Soldier for a Day” at the [Halifax Citadel National Historic Site](#) (5425 Sackville St., Halifax). Over five hundred thousand British soldiers served at the Halifax Citadel between 1749 and 1906. Many left their mark on the new nation of Canada. Now you too can leave your mark by becoming a ‘soldier for a day’ and experience life in a far-flung colony of the British Empire. Step back in time to 1869, as Canada was emerging from colony to nation, and find out what life was really like for the “redcoats” by living it yourself. Upon entering the historic Orderly Room at Parks Canada’s Halifax Citadel National Historic Site, all participants will sign their enlistment papers before receiving their soldier’s pay, the famous “Queen’s Shilling.” Participants will be fitted for an authentic uniform consisting of a cotton shirt, wool kilt, sporran, red wool Highland “doublet,” wool socks, boots, spats, and a Glengarry bonnet bearing the brass badge of the 78th Highlanders. Once properly turned out, participants will venture to the parade square for their first lesson in foot drill. It may be hot, it may be dusty, or it may be foggy and raining, but this is the life of a soldier! After perfecting the foot drills, participants will learn how to handle and fire an original Snider-Enfield rifle. Then enjoy a private in-depth tour of the Citadel’s rooms, walls and tunnels. Finally, all participants will “stand down” and enjoy refreshments in the Sergeant’s Mess.

Overnight: Halifax, NS

DAY 4

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

Head down to the waterfront for a tour of downtown Halifax and Dartmouth with [Segway Nova Scotia](#) (Sands at Salter, 5049 Salter Street, Halifax). It’s the new and unique way to explore the city! Your guided tour of the beautiful & historic Halifax Waterfront will take you along the boardwalk, stretching from Nathan Green Square to the Seaport District. Drop in to NovaScotian Crystal; see Theodore Tugboat, CSS Acadia & HMCS Sackville; glide by the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic towards “The Wave” at Sackville Landing. Observe the activities at Sands at Salter as you make your way towards Pier 21. Tours & the waterfront spin include training, a chance to stop for pictures, and time to enjoy the sites.

This afternoon, depart Halifax and take some time exploring the area around the city. [Peggy’s Cove](#) is a must-see, where the graceful lighthouse sits high upon the smooth waveworn granite of the coast. The tiny harbour below the lighthouse is a masterpiece of seasoned fish sheds and colourful fishing boats, making it one of the most photographed places in Canada.

Overnight: Indian Harbour, NS

DAY 5

After breakfast, make your way back towards Halifax. We recommend completing the “Peggy’s Cove Loop” by travelling on Route 333 towards Tantallon. Just before the road ends, take a quick visit to [Acadian Maple Products](#), a family owned and operated business that’s been making delicious maple products for over 30 years. Acadian Maple is the largest purchaser and processor of Nova Scotia produced maple syrup. Exporting to markets worldwide, and constantly developing new products, Acadian Maple continues to grow. Their agri-tourism center in the Upper Tantallon location along with a retail shop sees in excess of 30,000 visitors a year.

This afternoon, eat your way around the north end of the city with the [Halifax North Craft Beer & Food Walking Tour](#). Meet in the lobby of the Prince George Hotel (1725 Market Street). In a very short amount of time, the North End of Halifax has blossomed into one of the city’s most thriving culinary destinations. Come with us as we sample the best of East Coast craft beer and taste an amazing range of local specialties at Halifax’s hottest new restaurants, many of which are showcasing the best of locally-produced Nova Scotian fare. Get the inside scoop on the city’s finest new chefs, the growing local food scene, and the history of this unique and ever changing neighbourhood. Not a beer fan? Don’t worry – with over 8 food tastings included on this tour you will be fully satisfied with some of the best the Halifax food scene has to offer!

No visit to Halifax or Nova Scotia would be complete with a visit to one of our local watering holes ... especially as Halifax is known for having the most pubs per capita in Canada! [Durdy Nellie’s Authentic Irish Pub](#) (corner of Argyle and Sackville Streets) is one of Ireland’s most famous landmarks and while the Halifax location may not sit in the shadows of a 15th century Castle, they are surrounded by some of Nova Scotia’s most famous landmarks. So come sit back, soak up the atmosphere and enjoy some genuine Irish charm! Not authentic enough? How about taking in the authentic Celtic Kitchen Party that takes over from 8:30 – 10:30 pm every Thursday night featuring some of the best traditional musicians around!

Overnight: Halifax, NS

DAY 6

This morning, explore the other side of the harbour with a visit to Fisherman’s Cove in Eastern Passage for a walk along the beach and boardwalk. Fisherman’s Cove is both frozen in time and constantly evolving. Nestled in a centuries old fishing community is the home to a unique collection of gift shops and art galleries, a restaurant, ice-cream canteen and fish n’ chip shack. It’s a feeling of being in a rural fishing community yet only minutes from the city.

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!