

## YARMOUTH & ACADIAN SHORES



*The southwestern most tip of Nova Scotia is renowned for its Acadian roots, colourful fishing villages, towering churches and the spectacular Cape Forchu Lightstation. Yarmouth is the hub of this region and is a great stopping point for hiking, fishing and seafaring adventures, while cultural enthusiasts can discover a bounty of local music, theatre, crafts, museums, galleries and historic architecture. The Acadian Shores have a history dating back over 400 years and contain French-speaking villages like Pubnico, the world's oldest Acadian community. Be sure to try out local culinary specialties, like creamed lobster and rappie pie.*

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### DAY 1

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

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 tree-lined 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. Explore what this “capital city by the sea” has to offer, such as:

- Tour the [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic](#), 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.
- The [Art Gallery of Nova Scotia](#) 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.
- The [Halifax Waterfront](#) is one of the most visited attractions in the province. With a sparkling water, working port as a backdrop, it's no wonder that the Halifax waterfront is home to a number of businesses and countless world-class events each year. From walk-a-thons, to Nocturne, the

world-renowned Busker Festival to Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Halifax is a vibrant event city.

- Visit [Pier 21](#), the Canadian Museum of Immigration. Learn about the experiences of immigrants as they arrived in Canada, the vital role of immigration in the building of Canada and the contributions of immigrants to our country - all at one unique place. The Museum's main exhibition is dedicated to the years when Pier 21 was open as an immigration shed – it's Canada's version of Ellis Island.
- Visit 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 weekend vendors and a green roof with spectacular views of the Harbour.
- At the [Alexander Keith's Nova Scotia Brewery](#), you can take an interactive tour of the 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! Tours are one hour long, beginning the top of every hour.
- Become a soldier for a day at [Halifax Citadel National Historic Site](#), where the sounds of a modern, bustling port city are exchanged for the crack of rifle-fire and the skirl of bagpipes. The present Citadel was completed in 1856 and is the fourth in a series of British forts on this site. Today, the restored Citadel is a national landmark, commemorating Halifax's role as a key naval station in the British Empire and bringing history to life in Atlantic Canada's largest urban centre.
- 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.
- 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.

Overnight: Halifax, NS

## DAY 2

Fill up with a hearty breakfast before you leave the city life and travel along the Lighthouse Route / Highway 103 towards Pubnico.

Follow Highway 103 to Exit 31 to [Le Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle Ecosse](#). Located on a beautiful 17-acre site overlooking Pubnico Harbour, Le Village (Historical Acadian Village of Nova Scotia) invites you to step back in time and discover a village depicting Acadian life, in the early 1900's.

Enjoy an Acadian lunch by the shore and then learn what life was like for Acadian families in the early 1900s. On site programs introduce visitors to the daily lives of Acadians. Girls learn skills such as sewing, doing laundry, cooking, making butter and candles. Boys learn skills such as tying knots, trying their hand at woodworking, watching the construction of a wooden lobster trap, learning the proper way to stack wood and helping in and planting the garden.

Continue along Route 3 to [Ye Old Argyle Lodge](#) (52 Ye Old Argyle Rd, Middle West Pubnico) for a guided kayaking tour of Lobster Bay! After kayaking, return to the shore for a hands-on cooking class in the dining room or on the beach. The Argyle is a unique luxury oceanfront lodge in a fishing village on Lobster Bay in Southwest Nova Scotia - be part of the unbelievable serenity of the water, the islands, the sunsets, the fields and the beautiful weathered cedar building. Be part of the unbelievable serenity of the water, the islands, the sunsets, the fields and the beautifully weathered cedar building!

Overnight: Pubnico, NS

### DAY 3

After breakfast, depart for the community of Ste. Anne du Ruisseau and a visit to [Eel Lake Oyster Farm](#), home of the “Ruisseau” oyster. Awaken your senses and taste the difference a Ruisseau oyster makes. This succulent oyster can be found nestled in the clean, cool waters of Eel Lake and is the pride of Eel Lake Oyster Farm. Upon visiting the farm, just 20 minutes east of Yarmouth on scenic Route 3, you can expect to find a family-owned business operating on a unique tidal lake. Take a boat ride tour out to see the habitat of the oysters, their stages of growth and how its grown out. Then sample the product and share a yarn with the “Oysterman,” who loves to tell a tale or two about his labour of love.

Make your way towards Yarmouth, your host town for the next 2 nights. If time permits, there are a number of attractions enroute:

- [Wedgeport Sport Tuna Fishing Museum](#) - A museum and interpretive centre, featuring mementos and pictures from the 1930s to the '70s of the Sport Tuna Fishing Capital of the World. Fishing exhibits, fish tank, touch tank, Acadian history, Wedgeport general history & videos and a nature trail.
- [Eglise Ste-Anne Church](#) is the oldest Acadian parish on mainland Nova Scotia. Located in Ste Anne du Ruisseau. A municipally registered heritage property, the architecture and decor of Eglise Ste-Anne Church speaks eloquently of local faith and artisanship. In 1999, a painting of the annunciation was found in the church rectory's attic, and is believed to have entered the collection of the church through its founder Father Sigogne in 1799.
- The [Argyle Historical Baptist Church](#) was built c. 1877, and is representative of rural Protestant Churches erected by the Planters. This particular location is significant, in that genealogical records and fieldstones in the accompanying graveyard date to 1762. It is rare to find so many fieldstones as intact as in this location
- The [Argyle Township Court House](#) is the oldest standing courthouse in Canada (a National Historic Site), built in 1805 and restored in 1982. Includes cell-block, jail-keepers' quarters, furnished courtroom, grand jury room and judges' chambers. Guided tours.

Overnight: Yarmouth, NS

**DAY 4**

This morning, explore Yarmouth at your leisure. Suggestions include:

- [Laurence Sweeney Fisheries Museum](#) – This museum was created by Mr. Sweeney's son and daughters to tell the story of the men and women of Laurence Sweeney Fisheries Limited. Explore the Sweeney marine heritage through unique exhibits: a simulation of a traditional fishing wharf, complete with fishing, processing and ship repair sheds, wharf decks and even a coastal freighter. About 90% of the material used in the museum is authentic, carefully preserved during the deconstruction of the original Sweeney Fisheries buildings and painstakingly reassembled to create a scaled-down reproduction of the working waterfront of Yarmouth's past. Walk across the floor, built of authentic wharf planks, visit the buildings, flip through the pages of history. Stand in the wheelhouse of the coastal freighter and picture yourself as ship's captain, running cargo to the Caribbean. Nothing is roped off in this interactive museum - come in for a unique and authentic experience of history, hands-on!
- [Yarmouth County Museum](#) – an award winning museum with over 20,000 artifacts that document Yarmouth County's heritage in an historic former church. The museum also houses the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest ship portrait collection in Canada.
- [Western Branch of Art Gallery of Nova Scotia](#) – The Western Branch is the only satellite gallery in Canada. Its establishment helps fulfill the Gallery's mandate of making art more accessible across the province and bringing the visual arts and Nova Scotians together. Currently featuring *Birding: Folk Art in Flight*, a whimsical exhibition of birds of all shapes, sizes and colours from the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia folk art collection.
- [Firefighters' Museum of Nova Scotia](#) - discover the history of firefighting in this province. Imagine the clang of the fire bell, the smell of smoke and the feel of hot steam as firefighters of the past raced to save burning homes in communities across Nova Scotia. See the types of fire engines used from the 1800s to the 1930s. Marvel at antique hand-drawn and operated engines such as Canada's oldest horse-drawn steam engine, an 1863 Amoskeag Steamer. Take the wheel of a 1933 Chev Bickle pumper and see collections of antique toy fire engines, shoulder crests, patches and badges from fire departments around the world.
- [Heritage Properties Walking Tour](#) – Walk along a number of the oldest streets in Yarmouth and see some of their finest examples of Heritage Properties. Many of these lovely homes are a testament to the golden age of sail.

Grab a lunch of fresh fish on the waterfront at The Red Shed Food Truck before walking down the street to [IMO Foods Ltd. Canada](#) (26 Water Street, Yarmouth). IMO Foods Ltd. opened its doors in 1968 to produce European-style canned fish in Yarmouth. The factory location was chosen for its close proximity to the rich herring resources available in the cold waters of the Bay of Fundy and nearby Atlantic coastal waters. The plant is located within sight of the wharf, where herring and other species are landed, ensuring a steady supply of top quality fillets. Constant attention to quality and continual upgrading of equipment has helped to maintain IMO Food's place in the world markets. See for yourself with a guided tour why IMO Foods is a fully integrated plant, capable of filleting fish for immediate processing or to be held frozen, in their two million pound capacity cold storage facility. Then taste their highest volume product - naturally-smoked herring fillets.

Take a drive out to [Cape Forchu Lightstation](#) (1856 Cape Forchu, Hwy #304, Yarmouth). Stretch your legs with a walk around The Leif Ericsson Park, a new development of walking paths, picnic sites, and benches with views, located at the southern tip of the site, surrounded by water and offering great photo opportunities. Along the way, find "hidden treasures" though select geo caches on site.

Overnight: Yarmouth, NS

## DAY 5

After breakfast, make your way north of Yarmouth towards the Clare region. Enroute is Sandford Drawbridge (40 Ross Durkee Road, Sanford). Sandford is a quaint little fishing community, and one of the main reasons that people like to visit here is to see what is noted to be the smallest working drawbridge in the world. This small drawbridge was built so that the fisherman and visitors can cross from one side of the Sandford wharf system to the other without having to travel out to the road and around.

This afternoon, meet [June Deveau at her Galerie Studio](#) (7236 Route 1, St. Alphonse, Meteghan). June is an Acadian artist who will take you on a journey to discover some of the hidden gems of the area which are the inspiration for her work. The "Inspiration to Creation" experience provides an authentic Acadian experience, exploring various art forms, learning about the Acadian culture, visiting scenic and cultural stops as well as offering you the opportunity to create a personal keepsake of your own. You will explore with all your senses the traditions and flavors of this unique culture.

After your artistic experience, make your way inland to [Trout Point Lodge](#). Arrive early so you can take advantage of all that Atlantic Canada's only member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World has to offer.

After dinner, weather permitting, walk with a staff astronomer to go star gazing from the Lodge's vantage as one of the best places for astronomical observations in North America, with dark & clear night time skies. The views are breathtaking and can at times include amazing meteor showers. Using the Lodge's Meade 10" telescope brings heavenly bodies into even greater clarity.

Overnight: East Kemptville, NS

## DAY 6

After check-out, travel to the Clare Region to the [Rendez Vous de la Baie Visitor Centre](#) in Church Point to experience the colourful history and culture of the French Acadian Shore. Take an engaging guided tour along "la Baie Sainte Marie" to visit architectural masterpieces (including the largest wooden church in North America); visit Smugglers Cove and learn about the cave frequented by rum runners; learn how history has shaped the Acadians into resilient master of adaptation; see a restored water powered sawmill; and of course sample more traditional Acadian food.

Head towards Halifax following the Evangeline Trail, which parallels the Fundy coast, passing through some of North America's earliest European history and the delightful villages and orchards of the Annapolis Valley. It's a journey that spans 400 years of settlement, a journey that will take you past forts, farms and fishing villages, a journey rich in culture, diversity, charm and natural beauty. Enroute, you will find:

- Digby is known as "The scallop capital of the world". Located in the southwestern portion of the province, Digby offers visitors a wide variety of interesting activities, dramatic natural attractions,

comfortable accommodations, and is close to the best whale watching in North America. Experience dramatic sunrises over the beautiful Annapolis Basin and glorious sunsets over the Bay of Fundy. A stroll along the Admirals Walk on the waterfront will bring you to the Admiral Digby Museum, various shops, cafes, restaurants, and historical sites. The town offers a full service marina, a heritage centre, several Fishermen & Soldiers Memorials, and a picturesque fisherman's wharf harbouring the world famous scallop fleet ... all of which await your photographic skills!

- The historic town of Annapolis Royal is a beautiful community which was originally inhabited by a strong Mi'kmaq community before it became home in 1605 to some of North America's earliest European settlers. Stroll down St. George Street, one of the oldest streets in North America. The Annapolis Royal area has gained a reputation as a vibrant centre for cultural activity, and over the years it has become a magnet for visual artists, craftspeople, performers and writers.
- The farming town of Wolfville is the agriculture heart of Nova Scotia. Tasty stops in this area include:
  - [Foxhill Farm & Cheese House](#) crafts over 20 varieties of cheese using milk from their own herd of Holstein cows. The Rands are a 6th generation dairy farm family who are strongly committed to using quality fresh milk for a truly unique dairy product. They proudly plant the seed to grow the grass to milk the cow to make specialty products for their customers. But it's not just cheese they make! Their yogurt, gelato and fresh pasteurized non-homogenized milk packaged in glass bottles are so popular that they have become known as "The Annapolis Valley Dairy Store".
  - From crisp Annapolis Valley apples to fresh sweet corn, [Noggins Corner Farm Market](#) has the Valley's finest selection of locally grown fruits and vegetables in addition to homemade jams, fresh local honey, mouth-watering pies and freshly baked bread. And delicious, fresh apple cider as well. They are open year round, 8 am to 8 pm, thanks to have a large greenhouse on site for fresh produce in the winter too! (10009 Highway #1, Wolfville)
  - Take a drive around the [Starr's Point Agritourism Loop](#) which has a number of experiences that are within walking distance or visible of the tide. Visitors can bicycle, walk or take a leisurely drive to each of the various experiences on these quiet roads overlooking luscious green fields and the long winding dykes.
  - [Domaine de Grand Pre Winery](#) is one of the oldest wineries in the Province and is home to one of the best winery restaurants in the world, Le Caveau. Nova Scotia's agricultural region is quickly becoming known as "wine country". There are currently 22 grape growers nurturing over 400 acres of vines producing award-winning wines. The earliest vines in Nova Scotia were planted in 1611 by Champlain's hardy band of settlers. Today our internationally successful varieties are: Marechal Foch, DeChaunac, Baco Noir, Leon Millot, Seyval Blanc and L'Acadie Blanc. Additional wineries in the area that you can tour and taste are [Blomidon Estate Winery](#), [Gaspereau Vineyard](#), [L'Acadie Vineyards](#), [Lucketts Vineyards](#), and [Planter's Ridge](#)
  - [Grand Pre National Historic Site](#) is Nova Scotia's 3<sup>rd</sup> UNESCO Heritage Site. The site and interpretive centre commemorates Grand-Pré area as a centre of Acadian settlement from 1682 to 1755 and the Deportation of the Acadians, which began in 1755 and continued until 1762.
- The town of Windsor is known locally as the "town of firsts": The great game of hockey was FIRST played in Windsor around 1800, on Long Pond by the boys of King's College, Canada's FIRST College. (The [Windsor Hockey Heritage Museum](#) is conveniently located at the historic Haliburton House Museum. It serves as host to a treasure trove of hockey heritage including

artifacts and memorabilia from the earliest days of hockey's beginning.) Windsor was home to Judge Thomas Chandler Haliburton, North America's FIRST recognized writer of humour, and one of the most quoted authors in the English language (Learn more at the historic [Haliburton House Museum](#)). Windsor is the giant pumpkin capital of the universe - the FIRST world champion giant gourds were grown on the farm of Howard Dill, who launched an international pumpkin growing craze and is the creator of [Dill's Giant Atlantic Pumpkins](#) – visit the farm and get some seeds to take home and grow your own.

Overnight: Halifax, NS

## DAY 7

Time to depart Nova Scotia with fond memories ... and a full belly!