



Halifax Metro Area

Tour the Metro Area

Exciting. Eclectic. Romantic. 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.

Halifax has been a significant port city ever since its founding in 1749. Indeed the waterfront continues to be a hot spot, boasting some of the city's most stimulating entertainment and most fascinating historical landmarks. Take in the impressive displays and dockside historic ships at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic before heading to the nearby Historic Properties, where 19th-century privateers' warehouses have been transformed into a delightful array of specialty boutiques and restaurants. Day and night, the downtown area pulsates with the rhythms of local music and the excitement that characterizes life in a cosmopolitan centre. Here visitors can enjoy a boat tour of the harbour, savour a wealth of entertainment or indulge in the excitement of a waterfront casino.

Visitor Information Centres

Bedford K7, 490-5111

Dartmouth K7, Alderney Landing
490-4433

Elmsdale J8, 883-1132

Enfield J7, 873-2028

Halifax K7, Argyle at Sackville
490-5946

Halifax K7, Scotia Square 490-5963

✉ Halifax International Airport K7
873-1223, Open year-round

✉ Halifax K7, Waterfront
424-4248, Open year-round

Sackville K7, 869-4299

*Most Visitor Information Centres
are open mid-May to mid-October
(subject to change). Call the above
numbers or 1-800-565-0000.*

✉ Provincial Visitor
Information Centre

www.halifaxinfo.com

www.halifax.ca/visitors

Historic Properties, near the waterfront





Halifax boardwalk is always busy with activity.

Crossing the harbour on the ferry is a wonderful way to view the beautiful waterfronts of both cities. Visit the restored Historic Quaker House, the oldest house in Dartmouth. The Shubenacadie Canal Park invites nature lovers to stroll quiet, sun-dappled paths along the Shubenacadie Canal, the ambitious canal system that once linked Halifax with the Bay of Fundy.

Halifax is well-loved for its many parks, especially the Halifax Public Gardens, a 17-acre tribute to Victorian elegance and beauty. Excellent theatres and sensational music, from blistering Celtic beats to superb symphony, typify an entertainment scene that is more vibrant and varied than that of a city twice the size. The area offers top-notch shopping, from the specialty stores and exclusive boutiques of Spring Garden Road to some of the largest malls in Atlantic Canada.

Metro Area Approaches

The travelways of Nova Scotia enter the metropolitan area at a number of points.

Route 1, the Evangeline Trail, enters the Halifax Regional Municipality near Mount Uniacke and passes through Upper, Middle, and Lower Sackville en route to Bedford. You may also be entering the area via Highway 101. At Exit 4 on Highway 102, near Bedford, you have the option of proceeding through Bedford and on to Halifax via Route 2 or Dartmouth via the Bedford Bypass and Route 7, or following Highway 102 directly into Halifax.

Route 322, the Marine Drive, enters Dartmouth from the east. You can proceed to downtown Dartmouth on Pleasant Street, Route 322, or turn right on Highway 111, the Circumferential Highway, which bypasses downtown Dartmouth and leads to Halifax via the A. Murray MacKay Bridge.

Route 333, the Lighthouse Route, enters the metropolitan area from Peggy's Cove on Prospect Road. On the outskirts of Halifax, a right turn on Route 3, the St. Margaret's Bay Road, leads to downtown Halifax via the Armdale Rotary. A left turn on Route 3 leads to Exit 2 of Highway 103; a right turn here brings you into Halifax via Highway 102 and Bayers Road.

Founded in 1749 by Governor Edward Cornwallis and his company of 2,500 settlers, **Halifax** has a long and memorable history as a bastion of British strength in the New World. Built to counteract the growing strength of the French in North America, Halifax was recognized the world over for its strategic importance and excellent ice-free harbour.

The **Halifax Citadel**, an award-winning National Historic Site of Canada, is an excellent place to begin a tour of downtown Halifax. Built between 1828 and 1856, the massive star-shaped Citadel was one of the largest British fortresses on the continent, and its hilltop setting provided a commanding view of the city and harbour. This was the crown jewel in the Halifax defense system, with other fortifications located on McNab's and George's islands in the harbour.

During the summer months, period-uniformed soldiers drill and bagpipers play on the historic parade, and guards in sharply-pleated MacKenzie tartan kilts stand sentry at the gates. Guided tours are available. At midday, cover your ears—the firing of the



The Halifax
Public Gardens



Halifax Farmers'
Market



Pier 21 National Historic Site



Don't Miss!

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Introduce yourself to
Nova Scotia's folk art
and maritime art.

International Tattoo

Capture the spirit as a cast of
thousands entertains you:
military bands, singers,
acrobats & more.

Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada

Cover your ears for the
noon gun!

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Learn about Nova Scotia's
marine history—the Navy,
Days of Sail, *Titanic* and more.

Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia

Trace the roots of Nova
Scotia's Black communities
dating back to the 1600s.

Casino and Historic Properties

Try your luck, then browse the
shops, pubs and restaurants.

Neptune Theatre

Enjoy fine performances in our
"jewel box of a theatre."

Pier 21

Experience the stories of
Canada's immigrants.

Museum of Natural History

Dig into dinosaur lore, unearth
the facts about flora and fauna.





The Queen Mary II visits Halifax Harbour.

noon-day gun is a Halifax tradition dating from the late 1800s. (See p. 83.)

From atop Citadel Hill, the panorama of city and harbour is a sight to be seen. There is an excellent view of one of the city's most famous landmarks, the **Town Clock**, which was constructed in 1803 upon the request of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent. The hills of historic Halifax descend to the second-largest natural harbour in the world, now a busy international port that regularly welcomes ships from around the world.

Like many port cities, much of Halifax's livelihood and indeed its culture are centred on its waterfront.

Starting on Marginal Road, follow the harbour's edge through a delightful series of open-air plazas, parks, historic sites and waterfront attractions. Pier 21 is the last remaining immigration shed in Canada; here a million immigrants, refugees, war brides and children began their lives as Canadians. Their stories are kept alive in multimedia presentations and genealogical records (see p. 84).

At the corner of Salter and Lower Water streets, take a tour of Alexander Keith's Nova Scotia Brewery, an historic stone building which has been restored to its original purpose of making beer (see p. 85). The building also houses a farmers' market on Saturdays, when it becomes a busy centre of activity with live music, international foods and a selection of the province's best produce and crafts.

Across from The Brewery, join up with the waterfront boardwalk, which skirts the old sea-wall lined with massive seagoing tugboats and winds through Summit Plaza and Sackville Landing. The bronze statue of a World War II sailor stands at Sackville Landing to honour the thousands of sailors who have passed through the port of Halifax. Nearby, a simple monument remembers the wartime contributions of the Merchant Marines, thousands of whom perished while bringing critical supplies to Europe during World War II.

A little further on, the **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic** (see p. 84) commemorates the city's vital link with the sea and





Dining on the waterfront boardwalk.



Halifax Citadel National Historic Site.

seafaring life. The museum proudly displays over 20,000 maritime artifacts. Be sure to visit the displays commemorating the catastrophes of the Halifax Explosion and the “unsinkable” *Titanic*.

One of the museum’s most recognized treasures rests dockside. Visitors can board the elegant *CSS Acadia*, Canada’s first hydrographic vessel and also one of the first ships to extensively chart the Arctic Ocean floor. The *HMCS Sackville*, the last of the World War II convoy escort corvettes, has been restored as a memorial to all those who served in the Canadian Navy. When in port, the world-famous schooner *Bluenose II* docks at the Maritime Museum and offers sailing tours of Halifax Harbour (see p. 85).

Further north, Cable Wharf boasts enticing restaurants, shops, and the manufacturing site for Canada’s only mouth-blown, hand-cut crystal. Visitors to the display room can observe the artisans at work, shaping and detailing these sparkling works of art (see p. 86). Beside Cable Wharf Theodore Too, the full-sized replica from the TV series *Theodore Tugboat*, welcomes children and adults alike to educational tours of the harbour. Cable Wharf is also the departure point for harbour tours, nature tours, deep-sea fishing excursions, a water taxi, and a ferry to lovely McNab’s Island. Once a vital part of the harbour defences and home to almost a hundred military families, McNab’s is now peopled solely by summer visitors who make day-trips to explore the wooded trails and historic ruins, stroll amid the abundant wildflowers, and bask in the tranquility.

Just past Cable Wharf is the terminal for the oldest saltwater ferry system in North America, in operation since 1752. It is a delightful and inexpensive way to view the harbour and its waterfronts, bridges and skyline.

The waterfront boardwalk is liveliest near **Historic Properties** (see p. 86). Stretching over three square blocks, these timber-frame buildings and stone warehouses were orig-

inally built in the late 1700s and early 1800s to safeguard the booty captured by ruthless privateers. One of the buildings was the centre of operations for adventurer, privateer and businessman Enos Collins. In his later years, Enos Collins founded Nova Scotia’s first bank, and on his death in 1812, Collins was reportedly the wealthiest man in all of British North America.

By day, Historic Properties bustles with tourists and shoppers drawn to the picturesque buildings and specialty boutiques. By night, it is the city’s epicentre of entertainment. Whether you’re strolling the waterfront, dining in a fine restaurant, sipping ale at a pub or testing your fortune at the harbourside casino, everywhere the air simply crackles with excitement.

And that’s not the half of it. Halifax’s historic downtown area offers a myriad of other sights and sounds within walking distance.

Just two short blocks uphill from the Historic Properties, visitors will discover a group of elegant, Italianate buildings built by wealthy merchants after the block was razed by fire in 1859. This is the Granville Mall, and it now contains a delightful array of interesting shops, businesses, and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University, whose founders include Anna Leonowens, the governess for the King of Siam in *The King and I*. The Anna Leonowens Gallery, which is open to the public, features the work of students and visiting artists (see p. 85).

At the corner of George and Hollis streets, the **Art Gallery of Nova Scotia** (see p. 85) has an impressive collection of over 10,000 pieces of contemporary Nova Scotian, Canadian, British and European artwork. The museum itself is a testament to the quality of its collection; its ornate facade, created in 1864, features an excellent 4-m (12-ft) sandstone carving of Britannia.

Uphill from the Art Gallery is **Province House** (see p. 84), the seat of provincial government. This building is valued as one

of Canada’s finest examples of Georgian architecture.

Nearby, at Barrington and Prince streets, stands **St. Paul’s Anglican Church** (see p. 84). Built in 1750, just a year after the founding of Halifax, St. Paul’s is the oldest building in the city and was the first Anglican church in Canada. As you step through the front doors, glance upwards to see the shaft of wood that was blasted into the wall by the force of the Halifax Explosion in 1917. The church offered itself as an emergency hospital during the disaster, and has preserved the embedded piece of wood as a powerful reminder of the tragedy that claimed over 2000 lives.

At the corner of Sackville and Argyle streets, you can experience world-class performances at **Neptune Theatre** (see p. 86). Just down the hill, on Barrington Street, people of all ages can have lots of fun exploring the fascinating world of science at the Discovery Centre (see p. 85).

Another fascinating glimpse into the city’s colourful past can be found in its oldest cemetery, **the Old Burying Ground**, located at the corner of Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road (see p. 84). In use from 1749 to 1844, it is now maintained as a public museum park. Interpretive signs help locate stones of historic significance.

A stroll up Spring Garden Road to South Park Street leads through one of the most exciting and attractive shopping districts in Halifax. Well-appointed shops offering the latest fashions, fine art, crafts and gifts vie for attention with stylish bistros and rooftop cafés. At night the neighbourhood is abuzz with pedestrian traffic, as people anticipate a delightful evening of excellent music, food and entertainment at one of the many restaurants, theatres, pubs or jazz clubs.

Visitors looking for a few moments of blissful serenity will find it across South Park Street in the cool oasis of the **Halifax Public Gardens** (see p. 85). Since it was established as a civic garden in 1867, this has



The annual Multicultural Festival on the Dartmouth waterfront.



Touring at Chebucto Head

been a haven of meandering paths, sun-kissed fountains, lively duck ponds and formal Victorian flower beds.

A short stroll from the Gardens is the **Museum of Natural History** on Summer Street. This highly popular facility features displays on the province's flora, fauna and geological history, from dinosaurs to eagles and life on the ocean floor. The museum also presents traveling exhibits and displays on the history of indigenous peoples (see p. 84).

Beyond Downtown Halifax

One of Halifax's most beautiful and architecturally interesting buildings is **St. George's Round Church** on Brunswick Street. Built in 1799–1800, the church was clearly influenced by Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, who had a fascination with round buildings. After extensive fire damage in 1994, the church was restored using 19th-century techniques. Nearby, the charming **Little Dutch Church**, built in 1756, was the first Lutheran Church built in Canada.

In the beautiful setting of Admiralty House on the Stadacona Base, naval history is presented at the **Maritime Command Museum** (see p. 84).

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, at the corner of Robie Street and University Avenue, is a storehouse for Nova Scotian public and private documents of historical significance, as well as audio-visual and genealogical materials, photographs and old newspapers (see p. 86).

253 One of the city's favourite parks, the **Sir Sandford Fleming Park**, overlooks the sailboat-dotted Northwest Arm. The land for the park was donated to Halifax in 1908 by Sir Sandford Fleming (1827–1915), who

was the creator of Standard Time, designer of Canada's first postage stamp, and engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The park's distinctive tower, locally known as "The Dingle," was built in 1912 to commemorate the first elected assembly in the British Empire, which was first convened at Halifax on 2 October 1758. The park features walking trails, canteen facilities and beaches (see p. 86).

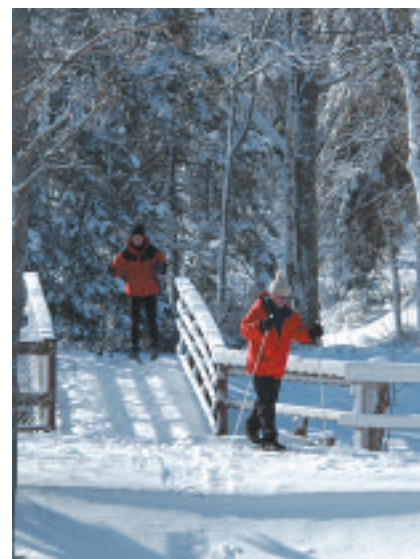
A scenic drive out Purcell's Cove Road leads to **York Redoubt National Historic Site of Canada**, built in 1793 under the direction of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent. Today the park's commanding view of the entrance of Halifax Harbour makes it an ideal place to enjoy an afternoon picnic. The historic fortifications, which include tunnels, powder houses and enormous muzzle-loading cannons mounted along the battery, are in excellent condition (see p. 84).

Continuing from York Redoubt, Purcell's Cove Road winds through the salty and romantic fishing villages of **Portuguese Cove** and Ketch Harbour. Take the turnoff just before Ketch Harbour to visit the Chebucto Head Lighthouse, which stands on a ruggedly beautiful headland from which whales are often sighted in July and August.

This coastline is rich with tales of tragic shipwrecks, bloodthirsty privateers and bold sea adventures. Not far from **Ketch Harbour**, the oldest continually operating lighthouse in North America stands on rocky Sambro Island. First erected in 1758, the Sambro Island Light has endured over two hundred years of this seafaring history and today continues to guide ships into the safety of Halifax Harbour.

Continuing on, a left turn on Sandy Cove Road leads to a pleasant view of Sambro Island and the Sambro Island Light.

And finally we come to one of Halifax's favourite summertime getaways, which lies just beyond the village of **Sambro**. Follow



The trails of Shubie Park are for all seasons.

the signs to Crystal Crescent Beach's three secluded coves with turquoise-blue water, fine white-sand beaches and beautiful natural surroundings.

Discovering Dartmouth

Dartmouth has a long and rich history as a prosperous city. It was established in 1750, just a year after the founding of Halifax, and was officially amalgamated as part of the Halifax Regional Municipality in 1996.

Dartmouth is most appreciated for the fact that its development areas have not eliminated the presence of nature but have worked hard to complement it, and this is what has made it so popular with nature lovers, cyclists, walkers and paddlers. Aptly called the "City of Lakes," Dartmouth's 23



Pro stock racing series at Scotia Speed World



Learn about Nova Scotia's black heritage at the Black Cultural Centre.

lakes provide opportunities for kayaking, windsurfing, canoeing and swimming. Lake Banook is a world-class paddling course, where weekly and championship regattas are held. Dartmouth features many parks and walking trails and easy access to the unspoiled coastal beauty of the Eastern Shore.

To reach Dartmouth from Halifax, visitors can drive over the harbour on either the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge or the A. Murray MacKay Bridge. Others may wish to take the longer scenic route around the harbour through Bedford, or cross the harbour by ferry.

The Dartmouth waterfront park is a great place to start exploring this historic and dynamic city. Boardwalks stretch out to the east and west of the ferry terminal, providing visitors with an excellent view of McNab's Island, George's Island and the two bridges. At 2 Alderney Landing, a multipurpose facility, you might shop at the market in the morning and see an original play at Alderney Theatre in the evening. The Peace Pavilion reflects in its architecture the virtues of equality, unity, order and reason. The pavilion displays historically or culturally significant stones and bricks contributed by countries all over the world.

The Shubenacadie Canal, which in the 1800s connected Halifax Harbour with the Bay of Fundy through an intricate, 115-km (70-mi.) course of lakes and locks, terminated in Dartmouth near the junction of Alderney Drive and Portland Street.

A group of Quakers moved their Nantucket Island whaling business to Dartmouth after the American Revolution. The **Quaker House** on Ochterloney Street, built in 1786, is representative of their residences during their years of living and working here. In summer, guides in period costume offer tours of this charming house and share details of Dartmouth's fascinating early history (see p. 83). Further along Ochterloney Street is Dartmouth's oldest church, Christ

Church. The weather vane atop the steeple depicts Halley's Comet.

Another of Dartmouth's historic houses is **Evergreen House** (c 1867) on Newcastle Street, once the home of renowned folklorist and writer Dr. Helen Creighton, who collected thousands of stories and songs from rural and coastal Nova Scotia and preserved them for future generations. The **Dartmouth Heritage Museum** is located in Evergreen House, with exhibits displaying Dartmouth's history from pre-colonial times to the present. The museum also provides gallery space in support of current visual arts and culture. (See p. 83.)

207 Route 207, Portland Street, begins at the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal and stretches through Cole Harbour to the Marine Drive. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, **Cole Harbour** was a major supplier of produce to Halifax markets. The **Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum** preserves and promotes Cole Harbour's natural and cultural history (see p. 83).

7 The **Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia**, at the corner of Route 7 and Cherrybrook Road in **Westphal**, is a key cultural facility dedicated to preserving and promoting Nova Scotia's Black history and culture. Blacks have played an important role in Nova Scotia's history since the first Black person, Mattieu da Costa, arrived in 1606. The centre's museum highlights historic influxes of Black settlers—the Black Loyalists who fled the American Revolution, the Maroons from Jamaica in 1796, and the American slaves after the war of 1812—and features travelling art and cultural exhibits that celebrate the contributions and achievements of Blacks worldwide (see p. 85).

318 Among Dartmouth's most popular attractions are the broad tree-shaded trails

that border the banks of the beautiful Shubenacadie Canal, weaving through the forest and linking up with the extensive fitness trail along Micmac and Banook lakes. The canal-side trails, mostly wheelchair-accessible, run for 2.5 km (1.5 mi.) on each side. Water still cascades over restored locks, and interpretive signs posted along the canal detail the construction of the locks.

Exploring Bedford & Sackville

Bedford, which wraps around the quiet north end of the harbour between Halifax and Dartmouth, is one of Atlantic Canada's fastest-growing communities. The tree-lined Bedford Highway, which follows the harbour shore for most of its length, is peppered with artists' studios, restaurants, and many unique shops and businesses.

On the Bedford Highway lies **Hemlock Ravine Park**, a beautiful natural expanse which is a reminder of one of Nova Scotia's great love stories. The park grounds were once part of an estate built by Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, for his beloved French mistress Julie St. Laurent. Because of his royal position, Edward was forbidden to marry her. When he later returned to England, he married a German princess and fathered Queen Victoria. The park's gently-winding paths meet at the heart-shaped Julie's Pond—a special gift to her from Edward. The estate's only surviving building, the music rotunda located across the highway, is not open to the public.

Mount St. Vincent University Art Gallery features travelling exhibits of local, national and international artists, as well as a permanent collection of works by regional artists (see p. 84).



Experience urban energy in Metro Halifax

"What I love about Halifax is the energy, the feeling you get here that's so unique. It's such a vibrant city, with modern buildings, contemporary architecture and lots to do, but it's all steeped in such history. You'll see incredible Greek Revival architecture right next to a modern glass building, it's fascinating. And the spirit, the soul of this city is simply intoxicating. Of course, as a port city we have our fair share of bars, pubs, taverns, and clubs. If you're into theatre, fine dining or martinis, the city offers all that too, more than you might think. And then, during the day, you can visit one of our amazing museums, stroll the beautiful boardwalk along the harbour, shop, or do whatever moves you. It's all here. What's particularly great about Halifax is that we have all this incredible urban life in such a compact, very walkable city. You really can't miss."

Dennis Campbell

Ambassatours

Visit novascotia.com to watch videos of this and other exciting Nova Scotia experiences.



Halifax is known for its great shopping.

Scott Manor House, in the heart of Bedford, dates back to the earliest days of British settlement. The house was built in 1770 as a later addition to the fortifications constructed by Captain John Gorham in 1749. This gambrel-roofed mansion has been furnished with period antiques and opened to the public as a museum (see p. 83).

Yachting, rock climbing, lawn bowling, canoeing and hiking are popular summer sports in Bedford. Admiral DeWolf Park on the waterfront is the site of special events and activities that continue all throughout the summer. **2** A visitor information centre is located on the Bedford Highway in the former Moir's Mill Pumphouse, a Provincial Heritage Property.

In **2 Sackville**, the Fultz House Museum contains artifacts and displays detailing the extensive agricultural development and rich cultural past of the Sackville–Beaver Bank area (see p. 83).

Beyond Bedford and Sackville

2 Outside Sackville, Route 2 leads to **Waverley**, situated on one of the series of lakes and watercourses forming the old Shubenacadie Canal system. Waverley's history as an early gold-mining community is remembered at the Waverley Heritage Museum (see p. 83).

The growing community of **Fall River** offers accommodations, service stations and a variety of shops. On the right is the Old Guysborough Road, 3 km (2 mi.) from the



Atlantic Jazz Festival, Halifax

shimmering lakes of the Waverley Game Sanctuary. Exit 6 from Highway 102 provides access to the Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum (see p. 83) and to the Halifax International Airport. There are **2** visitor information centres located at both places.

At **Grand Lake** visitors can stop for a rest at Laurie Provincial Park, which has a campground, picnic facilities and a boat ramp beside the still waters of Grand Lake. Past Grand Lake, travellers will come upon **Oakfield**, site of Oakfield Provincial Park, a picnic park with a small beach.

Near **Enfield**, turn right on Highway 102 to return to the Halifax International Airport and to Halifax itself. Route 2 continues on through Shubenacadie to Truro, on the Glooscap Trail.