



Lighthouse Route

Seafaring Heritage & Adventure

Come and celebrate the timeless romance of the sea. The Lighthouse Route journeys through an unforgettable landscape of coastal beauty and historic charm that has captured the hearts and minds of travellers for generations. Imagine the landscape as it was when Champlain and de Monts first arrived four centuries ago. Follow shoreline roads past rugged, wave-carved headlands and tranquil, island-studded bays. Discover historic towns and weathered fishing villages where legends of the sea come alive and the rhythm of life moves in harmony with the tides.

The Lighthouse Route follows Nova Scotia's South Shore, where the past is a part of everyday life. You'll find it along quiet country roads where ox teams still haul lumber, and coastal villages where fishermen still row wooden dories out to sea. Explore towns like Liverpool, with its privateer legends, and Lunenburg, where a working blacksmith still plies his trade amidst the beautifully preserved buildings of the old town district. And yes, we have lighthouses, over twenty of them, from the dramatic beauty of the famous lighthouse at Peggy's Cove to Yarmouth's towering Cape Forchu light.

Visitor Information Centres

- Barrington P3, 637-2625
- Bridgewater L5, 543-7003
- Caledonia L4, 682-2470
- Chester L6, 275-4616
- Clark's Harbour P2, 745-2586
- ✉ Halifax K7, 424-4248
- Hubbards K6, 857-3249
- Liverpool N5, 354-5421
- Lockeport O4, 656-3123
- Lunenburg L6, 634-8100
- Mahone Bay L5, 624-6151
- ✉ Peggy's Cove L6, 823-2253
- Tantallon K6, 826-2696
- Shelburne O3, 875-4547
- ✉ Yarmouth N1, 742-5033
- ✉ Provincial Visitor Information Centre

www.ssta.com
www.aboutyarmouth.com
www.halifaxinfo.com
www.queens.ca

Mahone Bay area





A lazy summer day at Peggy's Cove.



Kayaking at Prospect.

Artists have long been attracted to the South Shore's beauty, and their many studios, shops and galleries offer fascinating diversions along the way. Inland, the lovely rolling countryside holds special surprises—at a real working 19th-century farm, Ross Farm, Nova Scotia's Living Museum of Agriculture, and the legendary lakes and rivers of Kejimikujik National Park. Be sure to visit one of our many festivals for a memorable helping of our homespun music, friendly people, and delicious seafood.

333 The Lighthouse Route begins near the junction of Highway 103 and Route 3, and continues through **Goodwood** and **Hatchet Lake** toward the rugged shoreline.

OFF TRAIL ► The road to the left from **White's Lake** leads to picturesque **Terence Bay**, 13 km (8 mi.) away, a village with a sheltered beach. The SS *Atlantic* Memorial Park has a coastal boardwalk and an interpretive centre.

Near **Shad Bay** a road to the left leads to **Prospect**, 12 km (7.5 mi.) away, a scenic fishing village facing the open Atlantic.

333 From Shad Bay the Lighthouse Route proceeds along the heavily wooded coast through **Bayside**, **East Dover** and **West Dover**. At Bayside, visiting golfers are welcome to enjoy the challenge and excitement of a championship golf course overlooking the beautiful waters of Shad Bay.

As the road travels further out along the headlands, the land becomes more rugged and barren, and granite boulders and rocky outcroppings create a landscape of sea-carved beauty. The Lighthouse Route crosses the rocky headland toward the timeless magic of **Peggy's Cove**. The graceful lighthouse at Peggy's Cove sits high upon the smooth wave-worn granite of the coast, and is a

revered symbol of the sea-born spirit of Nova Scotia. 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. The lighthouse now does duty as Canada's only post office in a lighthouse. It even has its own special stamp cancellation, an image of the lighthouse. The smooth rocks of the shore here are great for exploring, but visitors are cautioned to stay well back from the water's edge—large waves can strike the shore without warning, especially in rough weather. The Peggy's Cove area offers restaurants, gift shops and accommodations.

Just west of Peggy's Cove, a short walking trail leads to a stone monument at the Swiss-Air Memorial Site, in memory of the lives lost when a plane crashed into the bay in 1998.

The Lighthouse Route now follows Route 333 through the weathered charm of **Indian Harbour** and along the scenic shoreline through **Seabright**, **French Village**, and **Glen Haven**. **Upper Tantallon** is a full-service community at the intersection of Routes 3 and 333.

3 To the right from Upper Tantallon, Route 3 leads to Lewis Lake Provincial Park, a recreation facility specially designed to be accessible for people with wheelchairs and for people with visual impairments.

The Lighthouse Route turns left on Route 3 and continues around **St. Margaret's Bay**. At **Queensland** visitors can choose from three popular sandy beaches: Cleveland Beach, Queensland Beach and Black Point Beach, which has a ramp providing wheelchair access.

Hubbards, a full-service community at the head of St. Margaret's Bay, has been a tourism destination since the mid-1800s. Hubbards Beach is a popular white-sand beach with the warmest salt water on the

South Shore, and Bishop's Park, on Shore Club Road, is a lovely picnic park with a gazebo overlooking Hubbards Cove. Every summer Saturday night since 1946, there has been a dance at the Shore Club, the last dance hall in Nova Scotia. Visit the **P** visitor service and interpretive centre at the head of the Aspotogan Trail.

329 Just past Hubbards the Lighthouse Route turns left on Route 329 and follows the ruggedly beautiful coastline of the Aspotogan Peninsula through small coastal villages such as **Northwest Cove**, **Bayswater** and **Blandford**. This peaceful scenic drive is often enjoyed by bicycle. At Bayswater Beach Provincial Park, visitors will find a peaceful seaside stopping place with a long white-sand beach and picnic area, and at Blandford there is a boat launch.

3 The Lighthouse Route continues around the peninsula to the end of Route 329 and turns left on Route 3. At **East River**, Grave's Island Provincial Park is an attractive coastal island park attached to the mainland by a causeway. The park features a campground, small beach, playground, and picnic area.

The Lighthouse Route continues to **Chester**, an historic seaside village noted for sailing, golf, stately homes, studio galleries, and relaxed lifestyle. It's a delightful place to stroll along tree-lined streets, take a boat tour of the harbour, or explore nearby islands by kayak. The Lordly House Museum is a fine example of Georgian architecture (see p. 138). The Chester Playhouse presents entertainment ranging from professional theatre to musical productions (see p. 141). The highlight of the summer season is Chester Race Week, the largest keel-boat regatta in Atlantic Canada, held in mid-August.



Lunenburg dock



Three Churches, Mahone Bay



Approx. touring distances along scenic route:
 Yarmouth–Shelburne 165 km
 Shelburne–Liverpool 120 km
 Liverpool–Lunenburg 120 km
 Lunenburg–Mahone Bay 10km
 Mahone Bay–Peggy's Cove 115 km
 Peggy's Cove–Halifax 45 km

Don't Miss!

**Old Town Lunenburg
UNESCO World
Heritage Site**
Over 250 years of heritage are preserved here.

The *Bluenose II*
Sail on the replica of the famous schooner on the dime, built in Lunenburg.

**Village Historique
Acadien, West Pubnico**
Discover more than 300 years of Acadian culture.

Ross Farm Museum
Churn some butter, build a barrel, plant a pumpkin.

Beaches
Experience the diversity of the shoreline from cobble stone to sand dunes.

**Queens Co. & Perkins
House Museums**
See Samuel de Champlain's original 1604 map.

Peggy's Cove
Mail a post card from the only post office in a lighthouse.

Dock Street, Shelburne
Shops, museums, and a gallery in an historic setting.

Fort Point Museum
Documents the historic capital of Acadie.

**Yarmouth County
Museum**
Over 20,000 artifacts relating to the sea, industry, business and life in Yarmouth County.




Mahone Bay Scarecrow Festival




Ross Farm Living Museum of Agriculture


Chester is also the starting point for an adventure to one of Nova Scotia's hidden treasures, the Tancook Islands at the mouth of Mahone Bay. An 8-km (5-mi.) passenger ferry service runs from Chester to **Big Tancook** and **Little Tancook** islands. The ferry runs two to six times daily. For further information, check at the Government Wharf in Chester. On both islands, there are many kilometres of quiet country roads and walking trails that offer ever-changing views of the bay. There are no services on Little Tancook, but Big Tancook features a café, convenience store and gift shops.


Chester Basin, once an important shipbuilding, barrel-making, and gold-mining community, has a number of registered historic homes, many featuring a version of the Gothic-style window.


 A side trip on Route 12 will take you to **New Ross**, where you can get a taste of rural life in the early 1800s at Ross Farm Living Museum of Agriculture. The museum includes a 60-acre working farm, a village school, and a store. There are demonstrations of various farm activities using old-time tools, and of course the farm animals are a popular attraction (see p. 139). Route 12 continues across to Kentville, on the Evangeline Trail.

 The Lighthouse Route continues to **Western Shore**, where an attractive shoreline park offers superb views of the bay and its islands. Nearby is **Oak Island**, where a mysterious system of tunnels and shafts originally discovered on the island in 1795 has inspired two centuries of treasure hunters, including American President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Currently, the island is not open to the public.

In the town of **Mahone Bay**, the narrow streets are lined with a unique collection of

studios and galleries of some of Canada's finest artists and craftspeople, specialty and general-needs shops, a pub, restaurants and cafés, and a  visitor information centre. Make sure you stop at the Settlers Museum (see p. 139). And keep your head up, the architecture in Mahone Bay is marvellous. The three waterfront churches form one of the most photographed scenes in Nova Scotia. Outdoor enthusiasts can experience the area through sailing or kayaking. Early in August, the town's annual Classic Boat Festival celebrates Mahone Bay's heritage of shipbuilding and sailing vessels.

 Route 324 heads inland through rolling farmland and forests, with many beautiful lakes. The winery in **Newburne** offers tours and tastings; you can also pick berries. The North Branch LaHave River runs through Newburne, and Indian Falls is within walking distance of a campground. Continue on to **Maplewood** and have a picnic amid the heritage plantings surrounding the Parkdale–Maplewood Museum, or come for one of their famous maple or blueberry suppers (see p. 139).

 From Mahone Bay the Lighthouse Route continues on Route 3 through **Mader's Cove** to Lunenburg.

Lunenburg is one of Nova Scotia's most historic and beautiful towns. Its colourful waterfront, narrow streets and captivating architecture radiate the flavour of the town's seafaring heritage. The early settlers of 1753 were primarily farmers, but they quickly turned to the sea for their livelihood, building a world-class fishing and shipbuilding industry. At the turn of the century Lunenburg's schooner fleet sailed the Grand Banks, competing with the fleets of New England to bring home the abundance of cod.



Golfing in Chester.



How you tour our villages is up to you.

In Old Town Lunenburg dozens of historic buildings and homes dating back to 1760 have been beautifully maintained. The streets still follow the original town plan of 1753. This extraordinary level of preservation led to the United Nations declaring Lunenburg's Old Town area a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995.

On the waterfront, the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic is an excellent museum complex that displays the history of commercial fishing in Atlantic Canada. The museum's dockside exhibits include the *Theresa E. Connor*, a restored saltbank schooner, and the *Cape Sable*, an early steel-hulled trawler. Adjacent buildings house an aquarium, three floors of exhibits, a theatre, a restaurant and a gift shop (see p. 139). Another museum is the Knaut-Rhuland House, a fine example of Georgian architecture. The Halifax & Southwestern Railway Museum preserves the rich and colourful history of the railway on the South Shore.

In Old Town you'll find a working marine blacksmith, and a dory shop on the waterfront that first opened in 1895 and still builds dories the traditional way. Many of Lunenburg's renovated historic buildings are now attractive inns, restaurants, shops and galleries. The ? visitor information centre is in a replica of a blockhouse. Guided walking and carriage tours of the town are available, and boat tours are popular as well.

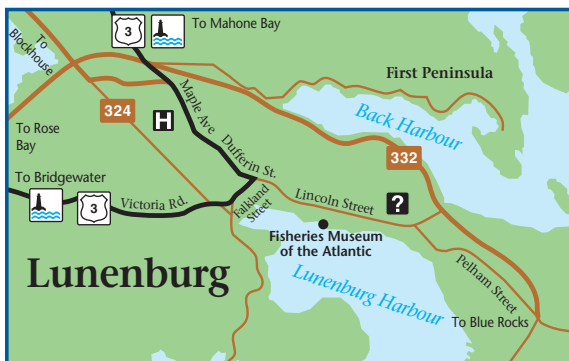
Lunenburg's shipyards produced many swift and able fishing schooners, but none more famous than the *Bluenose*. Built in 1921, the *Bluenose* was the undefeated champion of the North Atlantic fishing fleet and winner of four

international schooner races. Her fame won her an immortal place on the back of the Canadian dime. *Bluenose II*, a replica of the original schooner, was built here in July 1963 and is open to visitors when it's in port.

Lunenburg is also the site of several festivals, including the Lunenburg Craft Festival in July, and the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival, the Nova Scotia Folk Art Festival, and the Lunenburg Fishermen's Picnic and Reunion in August. In Lunenburg Harbour, divers can take guided tours to explore the *Saguenay*, a decommissioned 112-m (365-ft.) Canadian Navy destroyer which was sunk to create an underwater marine park.

332 The Lighthouse Route follows Route 332 along the picturesque coastline through **First South, Bayport** and **Rose Bay**. Past Bayport, a left turn towards **Feltzen South** leads to the entrance of the Ovens Natural Park, known for its dramatic seacliff nature trail that leads to several sea caves, two of which can be entered. The park is on the site of a major gold discovery in 1861, and visitors can pan for gold on the gravel beach (see p. 142). Nearby is the picturesque fishing port of Riverport.

At **East LaHave** you have a choice between two appealing alternatives. The LaHave Cable Ferry crosses the river to the neighbouring shore at LaHave, while the Lighthouse Route follows Route 332 along the scenic banks of the LaHave River to Bridgewater, returning back down the other side of the river on Route 331 to LaHave. A ferry has operated at this location since 1832, and as you cross the tidal waters of the LaHave River, the view is wonderful in all directions. Keep an eye out for ospreys and bald eagles, as several pairs nest in this area. The ferry (\$5, STC) runs every half hour, 7 am to 11 pm, and overnight on demand.



First settled in the 1600s, **Bridge-water** is now the thriving commercial hub of the South Shore. It offers services and amenities from shops and restaurants to a variety of recreational facilities, including two golf courses.

The Wile Carding Mill Museum has the original carding machines (c 1860) and a working waterwheel (see p. 139). The Des-Brisay Museum features displays of Lunenburg County's heritage and natural history (see p. 139). Enjoy a stroll through Riverview Park's old-growth forest and the 24-acre Bridgewater Woodland Gardens, or take a more vigorous walk on the Centennial Trail. At Shipyards Landing, you can watch boating activity on the LaHave River or launch a boat from the slipway.

One of the largest agricultural fairs in Nova Scotia, the South Shore Exhibition, takes place near the end of July each year.

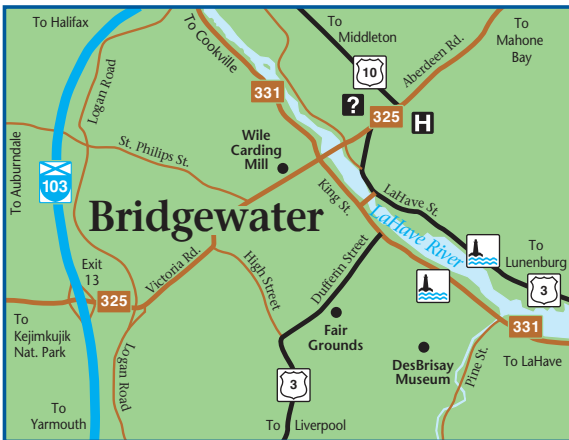
331 The Lighthouse Route continues on Route 331 beside the LaHave River to

LaHave, where the ferry from East LaHave lands. Just past LaHave, turn left to go to the Fort Point Museum, a former lighthouse-keeper's house and site of the Fort Sainte-Marie-de-Grâce National Historic Site, where Isaac de Razilly, the first governor of New France, landed with his settlers in 1632 (see p. 139).

From LaHave, the Lighthouse Route continues on Route 331. **Crescent Beach** offers a wonderful curve of fine sand whose waters are popular with windsurfers. Turn left at the beach and follow the sign to **LaHave Islands**. The islands, both those connected by causeways to the mainland and the populated islands just offshore, retain the look and feel of "old-time Nova Scotia," and this flavour is captured in the Marine Museum on Bell's Island (see p. 139).

The Lighthouse Route continues along Route 331. Risser's Beach Provincial Park is a perfect family stop for walking and swimming, and a boardwalk over the salt marsh area has interpretive displays. Next are **Petite**

Rivière, Green Bay, which has a lovely beach for a stroll, and **Broad Cove**. **Cherry Hill** is a fishing village with a sand beach that's ideal for beachcombing and bird watching, and **Vogler's Cove** has an excellent view of Medway Harbour. The charming village of **East Port Medway** was established in the early 1800s. **Mill Village** is a picturesque community nestled at the mouth of the Medway, one of Nova Scotia's finest white-water rivers for canoeing and



White Point Beach

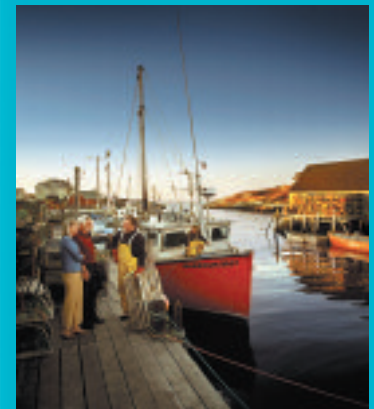
Experience fishing heritage on the Lighthouse Route

"When people come here they experience the real thing—it's authentic. They can board fishing vessels, talk with real fishermen and experience part of what it means to be Nova Scotian. I have complete respect for fisherman—their independence; their ability to think on their feet, even when the deck of a vessel is pitching and rolling in the waves; the way they face such danger year-round. It's an independence of spirit that permeates all aspects of their lives. Nova Scotia is a coastal experience—if you want to get away from everything that is artificial, come experience the reality of life in Nova Scotia. There's something about the salt air and the sound of the sea and the ocean waves that I think echoes deep within us. There'll be lasting memories that will stick with you for a lifetime."

– Heather-Anne Getson

Lunenburg Fisheries Museum

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





King's Orange Rangers at Fort Point Lighthouse Park.



Historic Dock Street, Shelburne

kayaking. In **Port Medway**, the attractions include the Port Medway Lighthouse Park and the Medway Head Lighthouse. Beach Meadows Park features a white-sand beach and striking views of Coffin Island. From **Beach Meadows** the Lighthouse Route follows a scenic coastal loop to **Brooklyn**, birthplace of country music star Hank Snow. The Brooklyn Marina and Waterfront Park offers special events all summer long.

3 From Brooklyn the Lighthouse Route continues to historic Liverpool, “Port of the Privateers”, the privateering capital of North America between 1760 and 1812. Located at the mouth of the beautiful Mersey River, **Liverpool** features a delightful array of attractions, waterfront trails, art galleries and gift shops. Fort Point Lighthouse Park, at the end of Main Street, commemorates this vivid period of history (see p. 142). Guided walking tours start at the lighthouse and visit over 30 historic sites dating back to 1763. Visitors can also relive the area’s past at the Queens County Museum, where a special display of Samuel de Champlain’s original map (circa 1604) commemorates the 400th anniversary of his exploration of the area (see p. 139).

Further down Main Street, in the former Town Hall (circa 1902) is the Astor Theatre, which has a year-round program of concerts, films and live theatre. The Sherman Hines Museum of Photography is also in the old town hall (see p. 140).

Just up from Main Street, the unique Rossignol Cultural Centre features the eclectic collections of Sherman Hines, from African wildlife to outhouses to an 1897 drug store (see p. 142). The Hank Snow Country Music Centre showcases two Cadillacs, guitars, music and memorabilia of Hank Snow’s life (see p. 142).

Liverpool hosts Privateer Days in early summer, with period dress and lively re-enactments of life in 1780.

8 North of town on Route 8, **Kejimkujik Scenic Drive** leads into the province’s scenic countryside, an area of quiet woodlands and lakes. In the charming village of **Milton**, trails wind among majestic pines, rhododendrons and wildflowers at Pine Grove Park—a haven for birds and wildlife. Stroll on a bridge-to-bridge loop along the Mersey River and visit the Milton Blacksmith Shop, a smithy from the 1900s (see p. 140). Further north, Ten Mile Lake is a great picnic spot. In **Caledonia**, experience the history of forestry and the local gold rush at the North Queens Heritage House Museum (see p. 140). The highlight of the drive is **Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site** (see Outdoors section), renowned for hiking trails, campsites, and incredible canoeing on wilderness lakes and rivers.

208 From the park, visitors can continue along Kejimkujik Scenic Drive to Annapolis Royal on the Evangeline Trail or return to Liverpool. A scenic alternative is Route 208 from **South Brookfield**, founded in 1799 by William Burke, passing through rolling countryside to **New Germany**, home to many Christmas tree farms, then along Route 10 back to Bridgewater.

OFF TRAIL ► South of Liverpool is the scenic Western Head/Mersey Point Loop (directions available from Fort Point Lighthouse), which brings you to the Western







Barrington Woolen Mill Museum



Black Loyalist Museum

Head Lighthouse, where surfers, a variety of sea birds, and harbour seals are often seen, along with a view of Coffin Island Lighthouse in Liverpool Bay.


 The Lighthouse Route continues south on Route 3 through the summer resort areas of **White Point**, **Hunts Point** and **Summerville Centre**. Summerville Beach Park, a popular picnic area, has a beautiful white-sand beach and a salt-water lagoon. Route 3 joins Highway 103 just past Summerville Centre.

 The village of **Port Mouton** is set in a coastline of white sandy beaches with crystal-clear waters, which makes it a haven for divers to explore shipwrecks and natural wonders. At the Spectacle Island Dive Park, divers can explore a variety of dive sites, from shipwrecks to natural wonders. The *Matthew Atlantic* is an artificial reef that is accessible to novice divers and even to snorkellers. The former Port Mouton schoolhouse now hosts an array of artisans and a hostel.

OFF TRAIL ▶ Off Highway 103 in **Port Joli**, nature lovers will find one of the South Shore's premier outdoor experiences waiting for them at **Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct**, which covers 22 km² (8.5 sq. mi.) of unspoiled Atlantic coastline on the Port Mouton Peninsula. The

first trail passes through the forest, beside small pockets of bog, over coastal dunes to the beach at Harbour Rocks and on to the end of St. Catherine's River beach (5 km/3 mi. return). Part of the beach is closed to public access from late April to early August, during the nesting season of the endangered piping plover. Harbour Rocks is well known as an excellent location to view seals. The second trail branches from the Harbour Rocks Trail, crosses an extensive bog by boardwalk, and follows the edge of the coast to Port Joli Head, looping back along the shoreline to Harbour Rocks (9 km/5.5 mi. return).

OFF TRAIL ▶ A left turn off Highway 103 on the East Port l'Hebert Road leads to Thomas Raddall Provincial Park, which offers scenic hiking trails, sand beaches, and secluded camp sites, and is a favourite destination for campers and day visitors.

 A little further along, the Port l'Hébert Pocket Wilderness features a 3-km (2-mi.) interpretive trail that leads through mixed hardwood forest to the head of Port l'Hébert Harbour and a saltmarsh wildlife reserve, where you may see bald eagles, Canada geese, herons, ducks and many other species. The Lighthouse Route continues through **Sable River**, where the Sable River Provincial Park offers a picnic area surrounded by a relaxing oasis of greenery.

 From Sable River, the Lighthouse Route turns left to **Lockeport**, which is renowned for its fine white-sand beaches. There are five of them in and around the town, including Crescent Beach, a stunning 1.5-km (1-mi.) scimitar of sand that was once featured on the back of the Canadian \$50 bill. The attractive visitor centre at Crescent Beach offers parking,  visitor information, canteen, gift

shop, scenic lookoff, change rooms, and shower facilities. Lockeport is a popular spot for windsurfing.

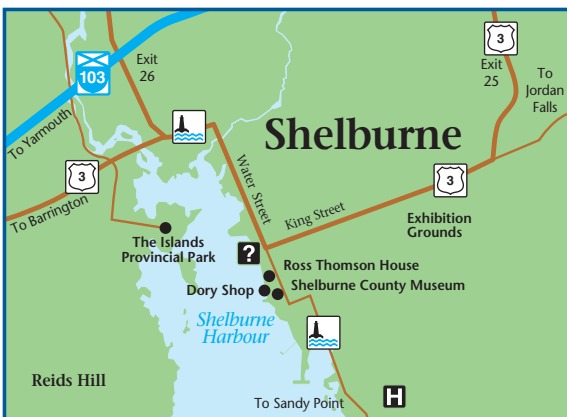
Also worth investigating in Lockeport is Nova Scotia's first Registered Historic Streetscape, made up of five houses built by descendants of Jonathan Locke between 1836 and 1876. The houses offer an interesting cross-section of historical architecture with excellent examples of Colonial, Georgian and Victorian styles. A walking-tour guide book is available at the Little School Museum, which displays artifacts from early settlers (see p. 140). From the town, Carter's and Gull Rock lighthouses can be seen. This is also a great birding area, with ocean beach, salt marsh, freshwater pond and forest habitats.

The Lighthouse Route continues on Route 3 to Jordan Falls, then turns left to follow the shore of a peninsula, through **Jordan Ferry**, **Jordan Bay**, with its impressive ocean view, and **Sandy Point**, with a lighthouse park.

The next stop is **Shelburne**, a town whose rich history and picturesque charm has captured the hearts of many and attracted the attention of the film industry.

Shelburne was settled on May 4, 1783 when 3,000 United Empire Loyalists, who had maintained allegiance to the British Crown during the American Revolution, arrived by ship from New York City, creating an instant boomtown in the wilderness. The Loyalists continued to arrive in large groups until, in 1784–85, the population was nearly 16,000.

The town's history comes alive in a harbourside stroll along Dock Street, where 18th-century houses and more recent commercial buildings have been restored and revitalized. Many waterfront events feature re-enactments, and visitors can watch barrels being produced in the factory. This historic area also holds a fascinating complex of museums. The Ross-Thomson House (see p. 140) contains the oldest restored store in North America. Nearby, the Shelburne County Museum presents displays and artifacts on the county's intrigu-



ing history and impressive shipbuilding heritage. The museum houses the oldest fire-pumper in North America (see p. 140). The Dory Shop, on the waterfront, produced about 350 sturdy work boats each year in the early 20th century, and museum visitors can still watch them being built by hand (see p. 140). Many visitors each year come to Shelburne to trace their family roots, and the Shelburne County Genealogical Society on Water Street has extensive records and research facilities (see p. 142). The Muir-Cox Shipyard, last of the wooden shipbuilding yards on the waterfront, is now an interpretive and boatbuilding centre (see p. 140).

Shelburne also features a variety of services including widely-acclaimed eateries, The Osprey Theatre and a **2** visitor information centre. The Islands Provincial Park, east of Birchtown, is a picnic park and campground with wooded and oceanview sites.

203 Just past Shelburne, Route 203 offers an opportunity to explore one of Nova Scotia's most pristine wilderness areas. The road follows the Roseway River and its network of lakes, passing through the small villages of **Lower Ohio, Middle Ohio** and **Upper Ohio** to the Tobetic Wilderness Area, which covers the headwaters of the Sissiboo, Jordan, Roseway, Clyde and Tusket rivers.

3 The village of **Birchtown** was first settled by about 1,500 Blacks who came to Shelburne with the Loyalist migration in 1783. At the time, this was the largest free Black settlement in North America. The village was named in honour of General Birch, the New York commandant who gave protection to Black Loyalists who supported the British during the Revolutionary War. The Black Loyalist Heritage Site on Old Birchtown Road commemorates the village's rich history and its cultural contribution to the province (see p. 140).

From Birchtown, the Lighthouse Route turns left and follows the coast through the quiet villages of **Gunning Cove, Roseway** and **Ingomar**.

OFF TRAIL ▶ At **Port Clyde**, a right turn takes you past an excellent golf course to the village of **Clyde River**, and from there, the unpaved Upper Clyde Road is a delightful scenic side trip along the Clyde River, where you can enjoy birding, canoeing and bicycling. This loop road rejoins the Lighthouse Route near Shelburne.

324 From Clyde River the Lighthouse Route continues on Route 309. At **Port La Tour** a cairn commemorates Fort Saint Louis, built



Brant Geese, Cape Sable Island

in 1627 by Charles Saint-Etienne de la Tour. The actual location of the fortress is a matter of debate, with some evidence indicating the fort was located near Sand Hills Beach.

OFF TRAIL ▶ Past Port La Tour, the Lighthouse Route leads to **Smithville** and **Baccaro**, where the Baccaro Lighthouse offers a terrific vantage point for watching seabirds.

309 From Port LaTour, the Lighthouse Route skirts the eastern shore of Barrington Bay. Sand Hills Beach Provincial Park offers a beautiful natural setting with two curved beaches, one leading to the other. Boardwalks lead through the fragile dunes to the beach, and there are washrooms and change rooms for swimmers.

2 **Barrington** is an attractive village with several historic attractions. The replica of the Seal Island Light was built in 1979 as a lighthouse museum (see p. 140). Enjoy the panoramic view of Barrington Bay from the top. The massive Fresnel lens is the one that warned vessels away from the Seal Island shore.

Nearby, the Old Meeting House, built in 1765, was used by the early settlers for public meetings and as a place of worship. The oldest nonconformist church in Canada, it is now operated as a provincial museum (see p. 140).

The Barrington Woolen Mill, built in 1882, was in production until 1962, making it the last operating 19th-century mill in Nova Scotia. Now a provincial museum, it brings to life the days when small water-powered mills were a common part of life in rural Nova Scotia. The museum features displays of original machinery, exhibits on sheep-raising and wool-processing on the South Shore, and a large mural made up of handwoven pieces, which includes the origin of the Nova Scotia Tartan (see p. 140).

Barrington is also home to two local museums. The Cape Sable Historical Society Centre has displays on local history (see p. 140), and the Western Counties Military

Museum in the old courthouse features displays of historic military artifacts and uniforms (see p. 140).

3 The Lighthouse Route continues on Route 3 to the busy service centre of **Barrington Passage**, then turns left on Route 330 to Cape Sable Island, a noted birding destination.

330 **Cape Sable Island**, the most southerly point in Atlantic Canada, is the home of the famous Cape Island boat, first built by Ephraim Atkinson at Clark's Harbour in 1907. Today the design is a standard for small boats that require high stability and efficiency in the North Atlantic. A typical Cape Islander is 11.5 m (38 ft.) long, with a 3.5-m (12-ft.) beam. It draws little water, sitting right on top of the surface, and is used primarily in the lobster fishery.

The first village on the island is **Centre-ville**, where the Archelaus Smith Museum features local history and displays on lobster fishing and shipbuilding (see p. 140).

2 **Clark's Harbour** is a busy fishing town largely populated by descendants of pioneers from Nantucket and Cape Cod who came here after 1760. Colourful fishing boats fill the harbour, while fish plants and boatbuilding yards dominate the shoreline. Beyond the town, a road leads to The Hawk, a first-class birdwatching area which offers an excellent view of the stately Cape Sable Light, the tallest in Nova Scotia at 31.5 m (101 ft) high.

The Lighthouse Route continues around Cape Sable Island and returns to Barrington Passage.

3 In **Shag Harbour** you can climb the tower in the Chapel Hill Museum for a panoramic view of the sea and outlying islands (see p. 141). At night the lights of several lighthouses—at Cape Sable, Bon Portage Island, Seal Island and Woods Harbour—are visible from this point. The rocks around Seal Island, called the Sea Wolves by Champlain, wrecked hundreds of ships before the building of the first lighthouse in 1830. The post office in Shag Harbour has a special stamp cancellation commemorating the sighting of a UFO which crashed and sank here in 1967.

The life of a lighthouse keeper was hard and sometimes lonely. **Bon Portage Island** was the home of noted author Evelyn Richardson, whose book *We Keep A Light* described her life on the island when she and her husband tended the light in the 1930s and 40s. The island is now a research centre and bird sanctuary, and the Fresnel lens from the lighthouse is on display at the Seal Island Light Museum in Barrington.





The Cape Forchu lighthouse with the *Cat* ferry arriving.


At **Woods Harbour** the lighthouse, built in 1900, sits on a rock ledge in the harbour.

Many of the small towns and villages along this coastline, like Woods Harbour, West Pubnico and Wedgeport, depend on the sea for their livelihood. Colourful fleets of longliners, trawlers and scallop draggers work the offshore fishing grounds, while smaller craft like lobster boats harvest the inshore areas. All along this shore, fishermen collect rockweed, a type of seaweed used as fertilizer, and Irish moss, a seaweed that is the source of a natural additive used in many foods, including ice cream and gelatin. You may see the small open rockweed boats, almost buried under their towering cargo, as they approach the wharves for unloading.

In **Middle East Pubnico**, the Church of the Immaculate Conception was built in 1919. Its cemetery contains the grave of Simon d'Entremont, who, in 1836, was the first Acadian elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.

335 Off Route 3 to the left, Route 335 leads to the French-speaking communities of **West Pubnico**, **Middle West Pubnico** and **Lower West Pubnico**. Settled in 1653 by Acadians, these villages make up the oldest Acadian settlement in the province. In Middle West Pubnico, a monument displays millstones used here in 1699. At West Pubnico, there are two sites dedicated to preserving the area's rich heritage, and a cenotaph commemorating the founding of the village and the lives lost in the two world wars. Le Village Historique Acadien restoration features period homes and fish houses, artifacts, and plenty of Acadian joie-

de-vivre. The Abbotts Harbour Lighthouse has been moved to Le Village Historique Acadien (see p. 141). Le Musée Acadien, a home-stead dating back to 1864, has costumed interpreters and offers various programs and demonstrations throughout the summer (see p. 141). Chez Nous à Pombcoup is an annual village festival held here in early August. The many islands in the area can be explored by sea kayak.

 At **Roberts Island**, a 1.5-km (1-mi.) interpretive trail leads through the Goose Creek Marsh wetlands management area. The wetlands include an area of dykelands constructed by Acadian settlers in the late 1800s. Here birdwatchers may glimpse herons, osprey, geese, kingfishers, and several species of ducks. Near Roberts Island on Route 3 is the Glenwood Provincial Park, whose broad, shady picnic sites and tree-lined lake offer a choice resting spot.

The Lighthouse Route follows the picturesque shore to **Ste-Anne-du-Ruisseau**. The Church of Ste. Anne is a magnificent structure with high, vaulted ceilings featuring beautiful paintings, and ornate stained glass windows. The church was built in 1900 near the site of the original parish chapel, built in 1784. It is open to the public, with interpretive guides in the summer (see p. 141).


A little further along is **Tusket**, settled in 1785 by Dutch United Empire Loyalists from New York and New Jersey. The Argyle Township Courthouse, built in 1805, is the oldest standing courthouse in Canada. The courthouse has been carefully restored and is open to the public, with interpretive guides

in summer. Upstairs, the airy courtroom offers insight into the judicial processes of the 1800s, while the restored cells in the basement give a view of the hard life of those the judgements went against (see p. 141).

334 From **Arcadia**, turn left on Route 334 to go to **Wedgeport**. The waters off the coast teem with schools of sleek, powerful tuna, and the town of Wedgeport was once known as the Sport Tuna Fishing Capital of the World. It was the site of the World Tuna Cup Match from 1937 to 1976, and attracted such luminaries as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart and Ernest Hemingway. Today, Wedgeport is home to the Sport Tuna Fishing Museum and Interpretive Centre (see p. 141). The museum is also the starting point for a 5.4-km (3.4-mi.) interpretive nature trail that leads through coastal woodlands and along the Tusket River Estuary.

Many of the coastal areas in this region were settled by Acadians, some as early as 1653 and others after the expulsion of 1755. In Wedgeport, the Butte-de-la-Croix is an historic site commemorating the first mass held here in 1769 for the returning Acadians. Marked by a cross, the site remains a symbol of Acadian courage and perseverance. The site also features a saltmarsh boardwalk and a magnificent view of the Tusket Islands. The Festival Acadien de Wedgeport is held at the end of June.

OFF TRAIL ▶ Off Route 334, remnants of Acadian dykes can be found at **Pinkney's Point**, a thriving small Acadian fishing community on a peninsula.

 The town of **Yarmouth** is an historic seaport whose proximity to New England and rich offshore fishing grounds contributed to the town's development and prosperity. Yarmouth's attractions are described in the Evangeline Trail section of this guide.

304 The Lighthouse Route ends, appropriately, at one of Nova Scotia's most dramatic and historically significant lighthouses. The Yarmouth Light stands on the rocky point of **Cape Forchu**, named by Samuel de Champlain in 1604. Follow the Yarmouth waterfront north to Vancouver Street, then take scenic Route 304 to Cape Forchu. The original lighthouse, built in 1839, was replaced by the current structure in the 1960s. Rising 23 metres above the ground, the lighthouse's two-million-candlepower beam can be seen over 30 nautical miles out at sea. In addition to a picnic area and trail, there is a canteen, gift shop and lighthouse interpretive centre.

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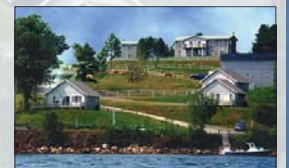
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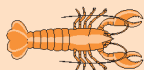
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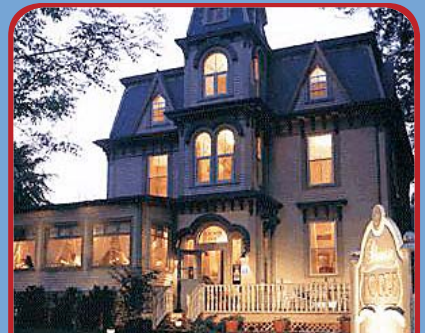
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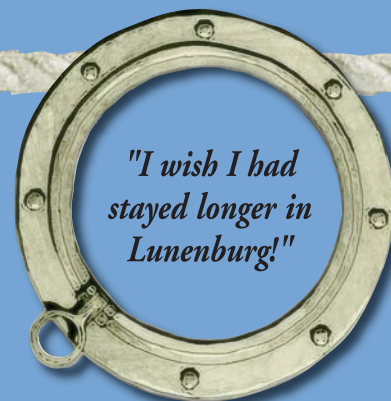
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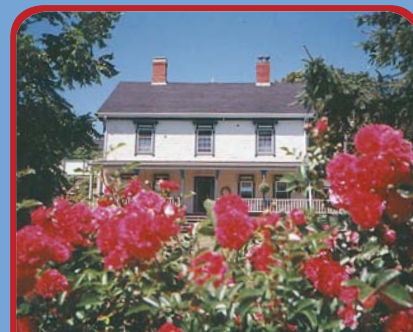
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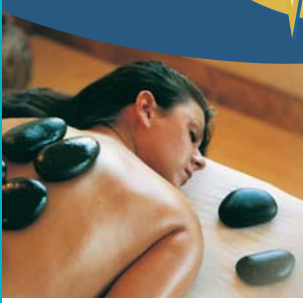
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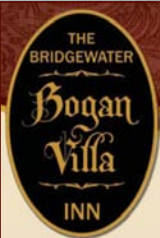


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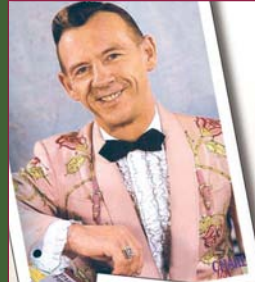
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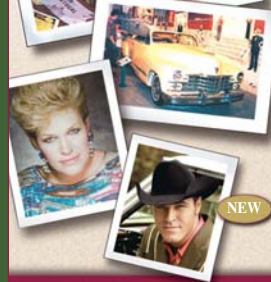
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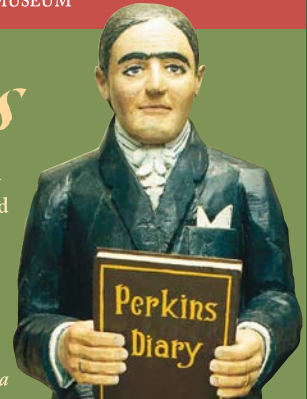
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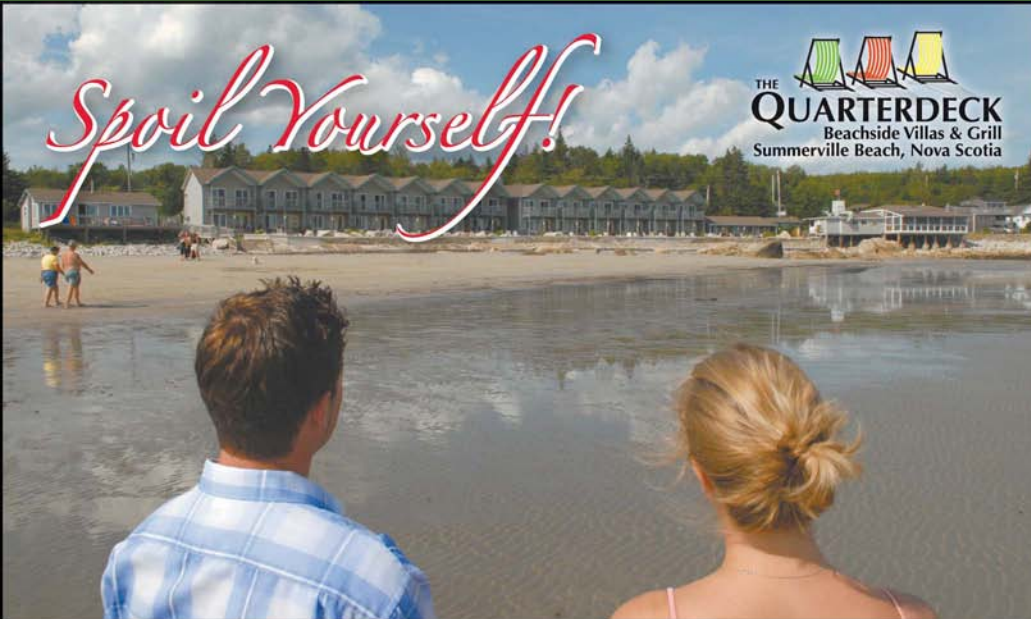
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