



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Nova Scotia



Lunenburg waterfront

DAY 1 - Arrive Halifax.

On arrival at Halifax International Airport you will be met outside customs and immigration by a representative of World Discovery who will take you by private car to your hotel.

DAY 2 - Halifax.

A day to explore this pleasant maritime city. Not to be missed is **Citadel Hill**, Canada's most visited national historic site, an oddly angled fort whose construction began in 1749 with the founding of the city. Stroll along the boardwalks of the historic waterfront with its shops, boutiques, restaurants and bars, and don't forget to take in the fascinating **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic** with its popular display on the *Titanic*.

DAY 3 - Drive via Peggy's Cove to Lunenburg.

Pick up your hire car and set off on your comprehensive tour through Nova Scotia. First stop is picturesque Peggy's Cove. This well known fishing village has a population of just 60 residents, although it does tend to get very crowded with tourists in the summer months, so it's wise to get there as early as possible (it's only 30 minutes away from Halifax) before the tour buses arrive in the late morning. As well as its picture-postcard wooden houses and wharves, Peggy's Cove is also known for its lighthouse. Continue south-west around Mahone Bay to reach the historic town of Lunenburg.

Distance Halifax to Lunenburg: 91 kilometres.

DAY 4 - Lunenburg.

Lunenburg was the first British settlement outside Halifax and has been recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site due to its well preserved Old Town with dozens of beautiful homes and buildings. The town was largely settled by Germans, Swiss and Protestant French, who took to fishing, and today Lunenburg has one of the major fishing fleets of the north Atlantic seaboard.

DAY 5 - Via Kejimikujik National Park to Annapolis Royal.

Your journey continues this morning as you head across the interior of Nova Scotia towards the Bay of Fundy. Stop off en route at Kejimikujik National Park, which contains some of the region's most pristine wilderness. Here you will have the opportunity to hike along the trails (best time: September and early October) or perhaps hire a canoe - the ideal way to explore this area of glacial lakes. In the afternoon reach Nova Scotia's western coast where you will check into your hotel in Annapolis Royal, the site of Canada's first permanent European settlement, Port Royal, founded by Samuel de Champlain in 1605.

Distance Lunenburg to Annapolis Royal: 157 kilometres.

DAY 6 - Annapolis Royal.

In 1710 the British defeated the French and changed the name of the town from Port Royal to Annapolis Royal in honour of Queen Anne. Fort Anne National Historic Site is one of today's main attractions, and houses an interesting museum depicting 400 years of history. Most of the town's sights are on or close to St George Street, the main thoroughfare. There is also a waterfront boardwalk with views across the Annapolis River to the village of Granville Ferry. The Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens are well worth a visit - there are 4 separate gardens - an Acadian garden, a 'Governor's' garden from when Annapolis Royal was the capital of British North America in 1740, a Victorian garden and a modern garden.

DAY 7 - Drive to Pictou.

A longer drive today as you head eastwards via Truro and along the 'Sunrise Trail' to Pictou, regarded as the birthplace of 'New Scotland', for it was here that the first Scottish immigrants landed in 1773. Pictou is an attractive town and its main street, Water Street, is lined with interesting shops and beautiful old stone buildings.

Distance Annapolis Royal to Pictou: 313 kilometres.

DAY 8 - Along the Ceilidh Trail to Chéticamp.

The Ceilidh Trail snakes along the western coast of **Cape Breton Island**, Nova Scotia's most scenic region. Settled by Scottish immigrants 'with fiddles in hand', the area is renowned for its strong musical heritage. Local fiddlers have been recorded by the Smithsonian Museum, and well worth a visit is the **Celtic Music Interpretive Centre** located on the main highway. At the heart of the Ceilidh Trail lies the town of **Mabou**, set among lush hills and quiet inlets, which is home to numerous musical families. It also offers good hiking opportunities and is well known for its local single malt whiskey. Your destination today is Chéticamp, gateway to Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Distance Pictou to Chéticamp: 296 Kilometres.

DAY 9 - Chéticamp.

Originally settled by fish merchants from Jersey, Chéticamp is now a vibrant Acadian community. The town has several museums, including Les Trois Pignons, which explains the history of hooked rugs, produced in the town by the local artisans. Whale-watching is

available in the summer months]; on a 3 hour trip you have a good chance of seeing pilot whales, fins, minkes and humpbacks, while eagles, moose and other wildlife are regularly seen along the scenic coastline of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. This region is famous for its seafood, so why not enjoy a lobster dinner at the well-regarded Sea Food Stop on Main Street?

DAY 10 - The Cabot Trail to Ingonish.

The 300 kilometre Cabot Trail around Cape Breton Highlands National Park is one of Canada's best known scenic drives. It winds and climbs around and over coastal mountains, with fabulous ocean views at every turn. Your route today will take you through the aptly-named Pleasant Bay, the picturesque fishing village of Bay St Lawrence at the northernmost tip of the island, and the unbelievably beautiful Meat Cove, to reach your overnight destination.

Ingonish, where you stay at the famous Keltic Lodge, has a superb beach, a long, wide strip of sand tucked in a bay surrounded by green hills.

Distance Chéticamp to Ingonish: 102 kilometres./

DAY 11 - Louisburg. Continue to Ben Eoin.

Spend the morning exploring Louisburg National Historic Site, which faithfully re-creates Fortress Louisburg as it was in 1744. The original structure was destroyed by the British in 1760 following General James Wolfe's famous victory over the French in Québec City. It was rebuilt in the early 1960s - the largest historical reconstruction in Canadian history. Free guided tours around the site are offered throughout the day. Workers in period dress take on the lives of typical fort inhabitants to provide an insight into the 18th century way of life at Louisburg. It's an extensive site, so be prepared for lots of walking! After the visit drive to Ben Eoin, a delightful spot overlooking the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Distance Ingonish to Ben Eoin: 183 kilometres.

DAY 12 - Drive back to Halifax.

A long drive today takes you back to Halifax.

Distance Ben Eoin to Halifax: 389 kilometres.

DAY 13 - Depart for home.

The day is at leisure in Halifax. In the evening drive to Halifax Airport to drop off your hire car and board your homeward flight.

DAY 14 - Arrive home.

Arrive London Heathrow in the morning.