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PORT EXPLORER

Halifax NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

GENERAL INFORMATION Halifax, the capital city of Nova Scotia, is a cosmopolitan urban center that retains the spirit of its heritage, and warmth and charm of a small city.

As a cultural center, the city offers a vibrant art and music community. The summer calendar is filled with a number of festivals including the military tattoo, a 10-day film festival, and a weeklong jazz festival.

Along with its role as the cultural center of the province, Halifax is Atlantic Canada's headquarters for finance, scientific research, health care, military, government, and higher education.

One of the city's most attractive areas is the Historic Properties Development located along the waterfront. Once the center of Halifax's thriving sea trade, the early 19th century wood and stone buildings have been fully restored.

A short distance from the enchanting historic center is the rural region of the municipality of Halifax. With over 4600 miles of coastline, 1,000 lakes, and rolling highlands, Nova Scotia offers some of the most beautiful landscapes in all of North America.

HISTORY The native Mi'kmaq Indians were among the first inhabitants of the greater Halifax area. The first European contact was made by the Vikings around 1000 AD, but the coastal waters of Nova Scotia were not fully explored until the arrival of John Cabot in 1497.

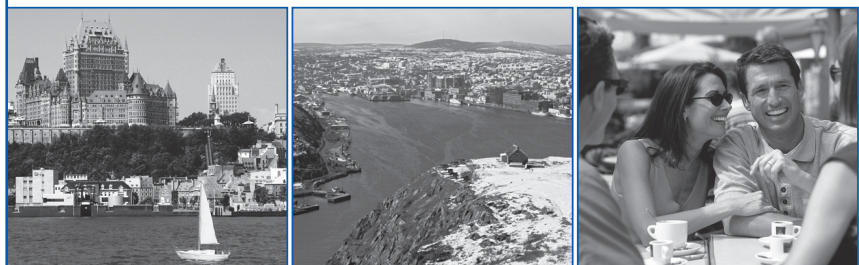
The British soon arrived, however, and for the next century the French and English vied for dominance of the area. In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht gave control to the British and the area was named Nova Scotia, the Latin word for New Scotland.

In 1749 Governor Edward Cornwallis along with 2,500 settlers arrived from England and founded the city of Halifax. Named after England's president of the Board of Trade, the city was Canada's first permanent British Town.

In 1755 the British distrust of the French led to the deportation of 10,000 French Acadians, many of whom relocated to Louisiana and Virginia. Their descendents are known as 'Cajuns' and their plight was immortalized in Longfellow's epic poem, Evangeline.

Following the American revolution a number of colonists loyal to the British crown fled to Nova Scotia and at the turn of the century, a large influx of Scottish immigrants arrived as they were expelled from their land by the Highland Clearances.

During the first half of the 19th century, Halifax grew to be an international leader in shipbuilding, lumbering, and fishing. In 1867, Nova



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Scotia was one of four provinces that joined the federation called the Dominion of Canada.

The first and second world wars once again brought Halifax to the forefront as its strategic harbor served as a key port and naval dockyard.

In 1917 the largest human-caused explosion prior to the nuclear age occurred when a French munitions ship and a Belgian relief vessel collided in the harbor. The devastating blast flattened a substantial portion of the city, killing 2,000 and injuring another 9,000 people.

Although Halifax's harbor still plays an important role in the economy of the city, a new breed of knowledge-based industries and products provide a growing share of the local job market.

#### HALIFAX POINTS OF INTEREST

**1 Historic Properties** is a fully restored 19th century warehouse district and a great place to experience the seaside charm of Halifax. Once the center of the city's thriving sea trade, the restored warehouses and cobblestone streets are now lined with an array of unique shops, cafes and pubs. Street vendors and musicians add color and music to this waterfront area.

**2 Maritime Museum** of the Atlantic is located in the historic waterfront area. The museum explores Atlantic Canada's nautical and marine history with displays on the R.M.S. Titanic, the Royal Canadian Navy, the C.S.S. Acadia, the Halifax Explosion and the Age of Steam.

**3 Art Gallery of Nova Scotia** contains an extensive collection of the Province's art with over 2,000 permanent works.

**4 Province House**, Nova Scotia's House of Assembly, is the oldest legislative building in Canada.

**5 St Paul's Church** was the first Protestant church in Canada, and Britain's first overseas cathedral. Of special interest is a piece of metal that is embedded in one of the church walls. It is a fragment of the Mont Blanc, one of two ships whose collision caused the Halifax Explosion of 1917.

**6 Citadel Hill**, is one of Halifax's premier attractions. Built by the British to defend the city from enemy attack, the Citadel is Canada's most visited National Historic Site. You will discover the history of this fascinating site as soldiers in 19th century dress of the 78th Highland Scottish Regiment depict the life of the fortress during that time.

**7 Old Town Clock**, resting on the side of Citadel Hill, stands watch over the harbor and has become the city's most distinct symbol. Built on the orders of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, the clock's workings arrived from England in 1803.

**8 Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History** is one of Atlantic Canada's finest natural history museums. Exhibits include a real whale skeleton, life-size models of dinosaurs, and the Mi'kmaq and archaeology gallery.

**9 Halifax Public Garden**, begun in 1866, is the oldest Victorian style garden of its type in North America. The 17 acre garden includes fountains, ponds, ducks, swans, and formal floral displays.

#### Beyond Halifax

**Dartmouth**, located across the harbor, can be reached by ferry. The town was first settled by Quaker Whalers from Nantucket and remains a part of the greater Halifax municipality. It now houses Canada's largest Coast Guard base and the Bedford institute of Oceanography.

**The Lighthouse Route** follows Nova Scotia's South Shore where the past is a part of everyday life. The journey takes you through the historic old fishing towns and past the many lighthouses that dot the rocky shore and sandy beaches. One of the highlights of the route is the picturesque fishing village of Peggy's Cove, one of Atlantic Canada's most visited sites. The lighthouse resting on the gently rounded granite boulders has become the symbol of the spirit of coastal Nova Scotia.

**The Evangeline Trail** follows Nova Scotia's Fundy coast from the seaport of Yarmouth to the suburbs of Greater Halifax. Among the trails highlights are the picturesque French-speaking Acadian villages, the Grand Pré National Historic Site, the first permanent French settlement of Port Royale, and the port town of Digby, home of the world's largest scallop fleet and one Nova Scotia's best whale watching locations.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Halifax and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, please be advised to take only necessary items and to secure any valuables onboard.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS** Bargaining: Most shops have set prices. Bargaining is not a custom in Nova Scotia.

Tipping: A 15% tip in restaurants and taxis is customary.

Local Cuisine: Many of Nova Scotia's restaurants are set in refurbished historic homes or quaint pubs. The main staple is seafood, including Malpeque oysters, Fundy lobster, and Digby scallops. A variety of fresh berries and fruits are harvested locally and make for some mouthwatering desserts.

Drink Specialties: The Jost and Grand-Pré wineries produce local wine, but most restaurants include a list of imports, especially from France. Regional and locally brewed beers are quite popular as well.

Did you know...

- Nova Scotia's official Flower is the Mayflower.
- Nova Scotia's official Bird is the Osprey.
- Nova Scotia's official Dog is the Duck Tolling Retriever.
- Nova Scotia's official Tree is the Red Spruce.
- Nova Scotia's official Berry is the wild Blueberry.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** Historic Properties is noted for one-of-a-kind specialty shops, craft stores, and a wide range of retail outlets. A short walk from the properties is Granville Mall and Barrington Place Shops. The Spring Garden Road area offers four indoor centers featuring over 250 shops and services. Among its many shops, you will find fashions from Atlantic Canada's premier designers and folk art handcrafted by artisans from all over Nova Scotia. Shops are generally open from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm. Other shopping malls include Halifax Shopping Center and Scotia Square. The Halifax Farmers Market is located at the Brewery Market on Lower Water Street. It offers produce and flowers, crafts, music, meats, fish, and produce.

Unique to Nova Scotia is 'Cheticamp hooking' in which pure wool is hooked onto burlap backings in intricate floral designs. Items produced from this traditional craft include rugs, tablemats, wall hangings, and other household items.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The unit of currency in Canada is the Canadian dollar. While most retail centers and site seeing venues accept U.S. dollars, the exchange rate will be high and your change will be given in Canadian dollars. It is advisable to exchange currency at banks or exchange bureaus which are located throughout the city.

**POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES** The main Post Office is located at 1680 Bedford Row.

There are a few public telephones available near the port. Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.225.5288

MCI: 1.800.888.8000

**TOURIST INFORMATION** The main Tourist Information Office (International Visitors Center) is located on the waterfront directly behind the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. There is also a visitor center at the Historic Properties located in the Red Store Building. Very often there is also a small tourist information kiosk on the pier.

**TRANSPORTATION** Local taxis will be available on the pier. It is recommended that a price be agreed upon with the taxi driver before leaving the pier.

