



# Nova Scotia

## The Sea Bound Coast

Lunenburg

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We humans are curious by nature, and one of the ways we seek to satisfy our curiosity, is to travel and experience different locations and cultures. Some of us seek to make records of our experiences by making beautiful photographs of our travels to share with family and friends, and some of us make photographs hoping to capture images that will serve as entries in International Exhibitions of Photography.

Experienced travel photographers pay attention to many details when making their travel itinerary. Seasonal colors, annual events and festivals, famous

landmarks and available time, all play a role in the planning. Using the Internet, contacting local tourism departments, and articles such as this, are some of the ways to gather information. The availability of seasonal information, sunrise and sunset times make the game of travel photography much easier. Talking one-on-one with people who live in the area, or have visited the area, is yet another source not to be dismissed. Not only does it add to the number of tripod holes to look for, it can add information about the ways to enjoy a region's culture, and local food experiences.

If you've ever considered adding the province of Nova Scotia to your "bucket list," I can personally vouch for both the photographic opportunities and the local fare, "Lobster anyone?"

Just think about the possibilities! You have probably admired many beautiful captures taken in the quaint little village of Peggy's Cove, home to one of the most famous lighthouses worldwide. A famous geological wonder of Nova Scotia is the Bay of Fundy. Along its shores, you'll witness the highest tides in the world, go whale watching, arrange a picnic lunch on the ocean floor, and maybe even find a few pieces of local agate or amethyst. The shores along the Atlantic coast of the province are lined with fishing communities and towns. Depending on the timing of your visit you might find wharves stacked high with



Gull Taking Off

lobster gear, fishing fleets ready for the high seas, or witness our famous 4-masted schooner, the Bluenose, in full regalia. And did you ever dare to dream about world famous seafood served from the finest restaurants and roadside diners throughout your travels? Seafood chowder for lunch will suffice you, only 'til you think about where you'll stop for supper and what scrumptious dish you might choose. Oh, the seafood choices!

This article could go on for ages, trying to explain the different seasons and what your expectations should be from each of them. It would be remiss, not to mention the weather. Take a look at the map and be aware of the amount of Atlantic coastline that plays an important role in the daily forecast. Be prepared for all kinds of weather including fog and rain, because it will determine what you accomplish daily in the itinerary below.

For the purpose of this exercise we are going to assume you will arrive by air, during the summer months, when all the parks, the hotels and restaurants are open, in anticipation of summer travellers just like you. An 8-day itinerary follows. Do some research on each of the areas mentioned and investigate annual festivals and events that might coincide with your dates. Look at websites, for local pictures of lighthouses, historic landmarks and hiking trails and anything else that might be of interest to you, or your travel companion(s). Note that this itinerary includes but a portion of this beautiful Canadian Province, so before your planning is complete you might be persuaded to add enough time to drive the famous 'Cabot Trail' of Cape Breton, discover the geology of the Five Islands Provincial Park and maybe take a side trip to Prince Edward Island, via the 'Confederation Bridge'. So let's get started!



Yarmouth Lobster Boat

**Day 1**—Land at the Halifax International Airport 30 minutes from the port city of Halifax. Rent a car and drive to the city, check into a hotel and spend the rest of the day seeing the sights. Check out historic Citadel Hill, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and enjoy your first seafood dinner after a walk on the waterfront.

**Day 2**—Drive to Peggy's Cove, and scout out the area. The lighthouse is of course the biggest draw to the Cove, but the fish shacks, the wharf and the boats are also a great part of the visual experience. Drive on to visit the Aspetogan Peninsula and the wharves of that community. Then on to Mahone Bay, to experience the beauty of the little town, the famous scene of the three churches, and the harbour, dotted with sailboats. The annual Wooden Boat Festival is



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Rope and Buoy

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*Deer with Tongue Out*

packed with lots of fun. If you are lucky the waters will be still, offering wonderful reflections of the boats in the harbor. Ten minutes west you'll find the quaint artists' haven called Blue Rocks and then on to Lunenburg, home to world famous ship builders throughout history. Visit the Fisheries Museum, right on the Wharf, and if you are lucky, the pride of Nova Scotia, The Bluenose, might be in the harbor. Check in to your room and decide which of the restaurants to visit for another lovely seafood feast.

**Day 3**—In the morning, stroll through the town and along the waterfront. Or you might want to see the sights sitting in a horse drawn carriage. Lunenburg features homes with what is known as the 'Lunenburg Bump' (a dormer above the front door). Each one



*Buoys in the Paint Shop*

is unique to the house or building, making for interesting sights at every turn. When you arrive and when you leave, you should check the scene from across the harbor. Shots of the town with its iconic red buildings are a photographic 'must do.' Say your goodbyes to Lunenburg and drive west. There are numerous white sand beaches along the South Shore of Nova Scotia. If you want to add a stroll on one, as part of the vacation aspect of your trip, the easiest one to access is at Summerville Center where you park and walk a short boardwalk to the beach. Our beaches are our best kept secrets. It won't take long to figure out why Nova Scotia is nicknamed "Canada's Ocean Playground." Okay, wipe the sand off your feet and get back in the car. You are headed for Barrington or more specifically Clark's Harbor. This is where you'll find the biggest concentration of wharves and fishing boats. Just off in the distance you'll sight the tallest lighthouse in the province, 101 feet. When you leave the island, calculate your time and take a side trip to the Pubnicos for more wharves and fishing communities. From here you can drive to Yarmouth and make a sunset visit to the scenic Cape Forchu Lighthouse before you retire. When planning, you might want to check out the Yarmouth to Portland Ferry Service, which could give you an alternative arrival and departure location by car.

**Day 4**—Today's adventure, will require an early rise and shine. Drive east through the French Shore of Nova Scotia. The Acadian fishing villages of St. Anne's, Meteghan, Saulnierville and Church Point. You'll discover a busy shipyard, and be amazed at the size and character of charming old churches, open for public viewing. Eglise Sainte-Marie, is one of the largest and tallest wooden structures in North America. Ready for more seafood? Today's adventure will also bring you east to Digby, home of the world-famous scallop dragger fleet. In September it is also the location of the Wharf Rat Rally, and because of the crowds, you will need to know this ahead of time. Now you are off to the historic sites of Annapolis Royal, the 1<sup>st</sup> permanent European settlement in North America (1605). Here you will find the grounds of Fort Anne, and the renowned Historic Gardens, a 17-acre horticultural paradise. A short drive from the town you can visit Port Royal National Historic Site, the Habitation. Annapolis Royal is full of historic bed and breakfast accommodations sure to tickle your fancy.



*Humpback Tail on the Bay of Fundy*

**Day 5**—In the morning finish the locations described above and then let the day take you up the valley through some of the finest agricultural land anywhere. You'll see beautiful orchards and crops of every description as well as dairy farms, beef and chicken farms, and lovely old farmhouses. Being mindful of the Bay of Fundy tide times you will make your way over the north mountain to Hall's Harbour for the lowest tide, either today or tomorrow morning. This is where the highest tides in the world are best understood. The evidence is found by witnessing the high-water mark on the wharf, at the same time that there is no water left in the harbour. Amazing! Make your way to the Wolfville area. Majestic Bed and Breakfast accommodations are plentiful in Wolfville and surrounding area. Enjoy the beautiful view of Cape Blomidon across the Minas Basin, and maybe visit a vineyard/eatery to sample locally produced wines and foods. Maybe take a stroll on the dykes, established by the Acadians in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Day 6**—Check the tide times and make the trip to Hall's Harbour if that was not accomplished yesterday, and spend the rest of the day investigating local Wineries, Vineyards, and the gorgeous grounds of The Land of Evangeline. Check your travel time with the annual migration of shore birds that prepare themselves for the long flight south on the shores of the Minas Basin. The flight patterns are a sight to behold. Now you are off again to the city of Halifax to spend the night, or you might choose a location closer to Peggy's Cove. Yes, you already went there, but you will want another chance with different conditions. Let's hope for the perfect light with lovely clouds and a good amount of surf for those iconic waves splashing on the rocks. (Frankly, this photographer is still waiting

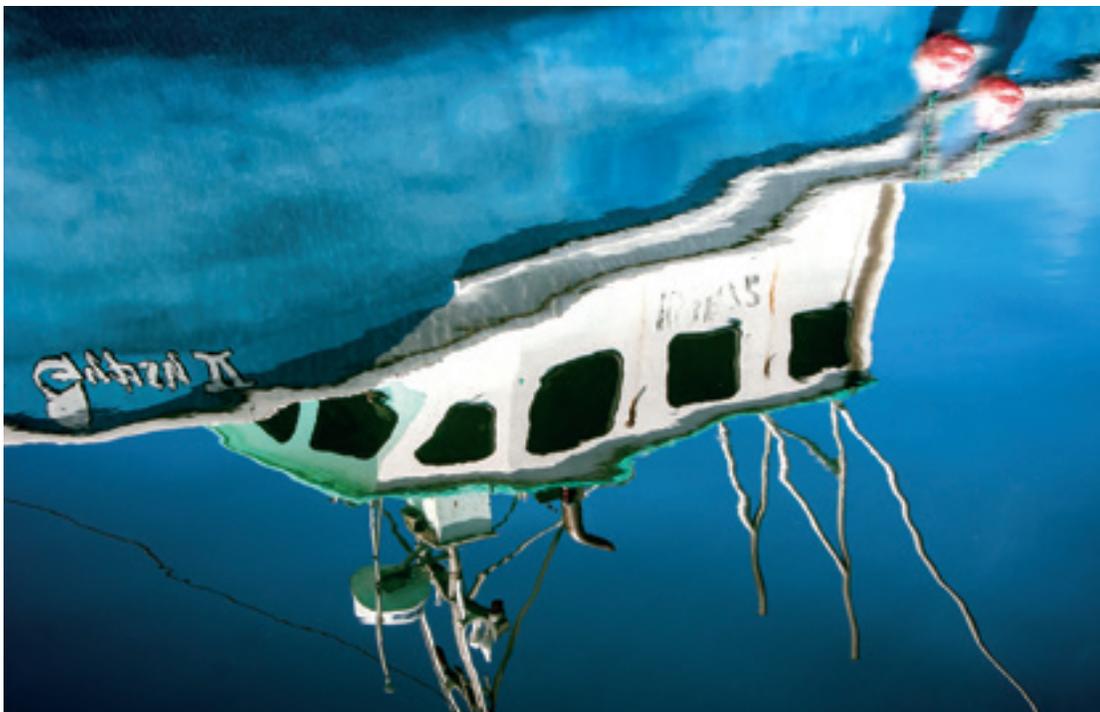
to make that shot and I live only two hours away!) Be there for morning light...come on, you can do it.

**Day 7**—Sunrise at Peggy's Cove and the choosing is up to you. Will you shoot from a distance, or will you be up close? Are there puddles to reflect the lighthouse in? Will you shoot images from the wharf as well? Will you take the harbour cruise? There are so many choices! Then make your way back to the city and choose where you can experience one last meal, consisting of the finest seafood anywhere. Maybe you'll find some entertainment, and relax in style. Your week has expired and tomorrow you fly home with your memory cards full of wonderful Nova Scotia images.

**Day 8**—Rise and shine! Pack your bags.... Arrive at the airport in time for your flight, or if you've managed to plan further time, you will drive past the airport and do another loop of Nova Scotia that includes the magical highlands of Cape Breton with a side trip to the beautiful province of Prince Edward Island.

There are a lot of possibilities. How you decide to visit Nova Scotia is up to you and the experience you have depends on the amount of homework you do ahead of time, and the type of adventure you desire. Will it be just about making images, or will there be a vacation aspect to it? And one other condition applies as well. Actually, consider this your warning! The amount of stops you will be able to make in a day will depend entirely on how many conversations you strike up with local fishermen along the way. Nova Scotians love to tell stories, which are vivid and lengthy. Be wary of all the conversations that start with "Long story short!"

Enjoy your planning and enjoy your travels, wherever they take you. ■



*Gypsy V Reflection*