



ABOUT HALIFAX

Halifax is the provincial and regional hub of Nova Scotia. It is, however, a small city by North American standards (2016 population 425,900).



History

The area around Halifax has been inhabited by native Mi'kmaq for millennia. Modern Halifax was founded on June 21, 1749 as a British military outpost. Easily defended and featuring the world's second largest natural harbour, Halifax proved its worth during the Seven Years' War against the French and later in the American Revolutionary War. On December 6, 1917, the collision of a munitions ship loaded with 2,500 tons of explosives resulted in the Halifax Explosion, which killed over 2,000 people and levelled the northern half of the city.

The city was quickly rebuilt, and during World War II Halifax was busier than ever, with British supply convoys assembling to start their perilous journey across the Atlantic as German U-boats lurked offshore. After the war, over a million immigrants to Canada passed through Halifax.

Orientation

The city of Halifax is on Halifax Peninsula, on the west side of the harbour, with Dartmouth to the east. The main landmark is the Halifax Citadel, on a high hill above the city, and it divides the city into three districts: the South End, representing the older, wealthier urban core south of the Citadel; the North End, the grittier northern suburbs destroyed by the Explosion; and the largely residential West End. The downtown core is sandwiched between the Citadel and the sea, making navigation a snap. Inhabitants of the city are known as Haligonians.



Art and Culture

Halifax is a major cultural centre within the Atlantic provinces. The city has maintained many of its maritime and military traditions, while opening itself to a growing multicultural population. Halifax has a number of art galleries, theatres and museums, as well as most of the region's national-quality sports and entertainment facilities. Halifax is also the home to many of the region's major cultural attractions, such as Halifax Pop Explosion, Symphony Nova Scotia, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, The Khyber, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and the Neptune Theatre.

Halifax's tourism industry showcases Nova Scotia's culture, scenery and coastline. There are several museums and art galleries in downtown Halifax. The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, an immigrant entry point prominent throughout the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, was opened to the public as a National Historic Site of Canada in 1999 and is the only national museum in the Atlantic provinces. The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic contains extensive galleries including a large exhibit on the famous Titanic, over 70 small craft and a 200-foot (61 m) steamship CSS Acadia. In summertime the preserved World War II corvette HMCS Sackville operates as a museum ship and Canada's naval memorial. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is housed in a 150-year-old building containing over 9000 works of art.



The waterfront in Downtown Halifax is the site of the Halifax Harbourwalk, a 3-kilometre boardwalk popular amongst tourists and locals alike. Many mid-sized ships dock here at one of the many wharfs. The harbourwalk is home to a Halifax Transit ferry terminal, hundreds of stores, Historic Properties, several office buildings, the Casino Nova Scotia, and several public squares where buskers perform, most prominently at the annual Halifax International Busker Festival every August.



Local gastronomy

Many restaurants in Halifax specialize in seafood dishes and some of the local specialties are scallops, mussels, and lobster. Nova Scotia is almost completely surrounded by water so it's no wonder why seafood plays such an important part in our food culture.

Digby scallops are known around the world for their delicious taste. The scallops are quite large and perfect for pan searing. Nova Scotia lobster can be found at the majority of local eateries, from high end restaurants to food trucks on the Halifax Waterfront. Seafood Chowder combines some of the seafood NS is known for into one delicious dish, which could include scallops, shrimp, lobster, mussels, haddock, and cod. Chowder pairs perfectly with NS craft beer. Craft beer is very trendy right now and Nova Scotia has more craft breweries per capita than any other province in Canada, there are currently over 50 craft breweries in Nova Scotia with 8 being in downtown Halifax.

Wild Blueberries are Nova Scotia's largest fruit crop and Oxford, NS is the blueberry capital of Canada. The Wild Blueberry Festival is held at the end of August and during this time many restaurants will feature these delicious little berries on their menu. Nova Scotia blueberry grunt recipes have been passed down through generations and dates back to the earliest settlers. From bistros to pubs, fine dining to having a drink on a patio at sunset, taste all that Halifax has to offer in downtown Halifax.

