

MYSTERY IN THE MARITIMES

Uncover the Atlantic Ocean's secrets, plus burgeoning food and arts scenes in Nova Scotia's capital city, Halifax

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For centuries, ships have sailed through Halifax harbour, famous for its fascinating seafaring history and a base for the British military since 1749.

Now, visitors arriving by sea are immersed right away in the lively atmosphere of its 2.5-mile boardwalk, filled with restaurants, cafes and soaring art installations. Stroll along this working harbourfront, which glows at dusk with roaring fire pits and scenic views of George Island and Halifax's sister city, Dartmouth.

The popular Harbour Hopper adventure tour is a good way to learn about the city's maritime heritage, as entertaining tour guides regale sightseers with epic stories while pointing out notable landmarks. Look out for one of Canada's top tourist attractions, Citadel Hill; spot the distinctive Old Town Clock built in 1803 to improve soldiers' timekeeping; and the Victorian-era public gardens established in 1867.

For further insight into the port's rich history, get lost in the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The largest museum in Canada contains centuries of seafaring tales, including one of the world's greatest collections of artefacts from the *Titanic*. Follow up with a visit to the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, which houses fascinating immigration stories.

Waterfront dining ranges from upscale seafood restaurants to street stalls offering

casual fare, with top picks including Dave's Lobster and Cow's Ice Cream at the Salt Yard. Or for tempting cocktails and local cuisine with a modern twist, head to Drift or Five Fishermen for exceptional seafood.

If you're staying longer, explore other areas of Nova Scotia with a scenic road trip along the Lighthouse Trail to Peggy's Cove Lighthouse. This iconic landmark has inspired artists and lit up stormy nights for generations of seafarers.

Continue through the picturesque coastal town of Mahone Bay for waterside views of its famous 'three churches' before arriving in Old Town Lunenburg. Step back in time to 1753 when this Unesco World Heritage Site was founded and admire architecture built by German and Swiss immigrants on the Lunenburg Walking Tour. Learn about marine conservation at the Fisheries Museum before a rum tasting at the Ironworks Distillery, then take a stroll along the harbour to the Beach Pea Kitchen for a delicious dining experience.

Cruise lines homeporting or calling at Halifax in 2024 include Norwegian Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Hurtigruten, Celebrity, Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruises, Seabourn, Silversea, Regent Seven Seas and American Queen Voyages. **CT**

+ For more tips on your favourite cruise destinations, go to cruiseandtravel.co.uk



Clockwise from above: Lunenburg waterfront; the iconic Peggy's Cove Lighthouse; the Museum of Immigration at Pier 21; dusk over Halifax Harbour



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