

Sample Canadian Maritimes Tour

Day 1 – Arrive **NOVA SCOTIA – HALIFAX** – We'll be flying from various cities to Halifax today for a wonderful performance tour. Upon arrival, catch the Airporter shuttle for the transfer to the hotel. In the evening, we'll get together for a "Welcome" dinner,

Day 2 – **HALIFAX** - We'll spend the day at the hotel rehearsing and getting ready to amaze our Canadian audiences! Non-singers are welcome to listen in or you might want to visit the beautiful Halifax Public Gardens, a rare example of a Victorian garden that has survived intact. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is also very worthwhile; and, of course, you can always get start on your souvenir shopping. Our tour manager will arrive at the hotel this evening.

Day 3. – **HALIFAX** – We'll meet our tour manager for breakfast at the hotel, then board the waiting motor coach and say hello to our local guide – we're off to see the sights of Halifax. We'll visit St. Paul's Church and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, located at the historic waterfront. Next, we'll spend time at the Citadel National Historic Site, timing our arrival so we can watch the Noon Gun Ceremony. After a break for an independent lunch, we'll visit Fairview Cemetery, where many of those who perished in the Titanic disaster repose. You're sure to enjoy a visit to Nova Scotian Crystal to see a spellbinding demonstration of the traditional craft of mouth-blowing and hand-cutting crystal. Back at the hotel, we'll have to time to freshen up before going out to dinner.

Day 4 – **PEGGY'S COVE, HALIFAX** – This morning we'll head to delightful Peggy's Cove, well-known for its white-and-red lighthouse and rock-strewn landscapes. One of the highlights of the day will be a special lunch at the Sou'wester Restaurant. On our return to Halifax, the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure for you to explore the waterfront (and perhaps shop for a special treasure). We'll rendezvous for dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 5 – **LIGHTHOUSE ROUTE, DIGBY** – Today we'll drive along the Lighthouse Route, which traces the south shore of Nova Scotia. Let your imagination roam as you take in the rugged headlands – carved over the centuries by the sea – and the contrasting bays dotted with islands. We'll visit the charming, historic coastal village of Mahone Bay, home to three famous wooden churches. After time to meander among its century-old houses and browse in some of the artisans' shops, we'll continue to Lunenburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A walk along the charming tree-lined streets shows the town's strong European heritage. Travel next to the town of Digby, located on the Bay of Fundy (home to the world's largest tides). After checking in to our pleasant hotel for a one-night stay, we'll have dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 6 – Annapolis Valley, Grand Pre, NEW BRUNSWICK-MONCTON – This morning we'll drive through the lush Annapolis Valley en route to the Grand Pre National Historic Site. This is the site of the church and the 17th century Acadian village that became the setting for Longfellow's narrative poem *Evangeline*. After time to explore the memorial gardens and the stone church, be sure to throw a penny into Evangeline's well for good luck. Soon it will be time to continue our journey, for tonight's destination is Moncton, New Brunswick. We'll check in at our hotel and then have dinner.

Day 7 – Hopewell Cape , PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, Summerside, Charlottetown – Our first stop today is Hopewell Cape on the Bay of Fundy, where we'll see the Hopewell Rocks – also known as the Flowerpot Rocks. Created over thousands of years by the bay's awesome tidal forces, these formations are a natural wonder must-see! Twice each day the high tides flood the beach. And whether we're here at low or high tide, there will be some amazing sights to see. Next, we'll head to Prince Edward Island, the smallest and most densely-

populated Canadian province. Those who wish can purchase a boxed lunch to enjoy on the motor coach. After crossing the nine-mile-long Confederation Bridge, we'll drive to Cap-Egmont to visit the unusual Maisons de Bouteilles (Bottle Houses). Next, head to Summerside to sample the world of Celtic performing arts at the College of Piping. We'll take a tour and see a short performance of bagpiping and Highland dancing. We'll check in to a hotel in nearby Charlottetown for a two-night stay. We'll dine in Summerside or wait until we arrive in Charlottetown,

Day 8 – Touring Prince Edward Island – Today we plan to visit two wonderful Anne of Green Gables sites – the Museum at Silverbush and Green Gables Heritage Place in PEI National Park. A stroll along the boardwalk in the scenic fishing village of North Rustico will be a peaceful interlude before we take time to sample local foods at Cheeselady's Gouda near Winslow and the PEI Preserve Company in New Glasgow. You're sure to enjoy the bountiful lobster supper in New Glasgow before we head back to Charlottetown for our second overnight.

Day 9 – Ferry to NOVA SCOTIA – This morning we depart for the Wood Islands Ferry Terminal to catch the car ferry back to Nova Scotia. You may hear the warm greeting *caid mille failte* (a hundred thousand welcomes) upon returning to this delightful island! Continue to Baddeck, the beginning and ending of the Cabot Trail. It was here that Alexander Graham Bell built his summer home – *Beinn Bhreah* – where he did much of his work. At the Alexander Graham Bell Museum, located across from the Bell estate, we'll see hundreds of artifacts and photos. After settling into the Silver Dart Lodge for a two-night stay, it's time to enjoy a wonderful "Taste of Nova Scotia" buffet dinner featuring regional dishes.

Day 10 – Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Cheticamp, Baddeck – This morning we'll meet our local guide who will join us on an amazing journey. We'll travel first to Cheticamp and take a whale watching boat tour (weather permitting). Then we're going to have a picnic lunch and visit the Cheticamp Acadian Museum, which illustrates traditional crafts and the Acadian way of life. We'll also visit the massive 19th century *L'Eglise St. Pierre* – St. Peter's Church. Next travel the world-renowned Cabot Trail through Cape Breton Highlands National Park, where the mountains meet the sea. The park preserves vast tracts of majestic highlands and coastal wilderness – some of the last remaining protected wilderness in Nova Scotia. Dinner will be waiting when we arrive back at our hotel after what is sure to have been a glorious day,

Day 11 – Return Home – All too soon our tour is coming to a close. After breakfast we'll drive back to Halifax. If time permits, a stop will be made at the Halifax Public Gardens. Your tour manager will be sure everyone arrives at the airport in plenty of time to check in for your return flights to the U.S. We hope you had a great time.