HALIFAX

Halifax, a city with some 414,000 inhabitants, is the capital of the province of Nova Scotia. It is a lively and colourful combination of urban and rural living at its best, on the scenic shores of one of the world’s best natural harbours. Halifax is also the ideal departure point for exploring the nearby Atlantic coast, from Peggy’s Cove to Lunenburg.

WHAT TO DO

HALIFAX CITADEL ★★ Season: Daily from early May to the end of October, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Perched high on the large hill dominating downtown Halifax, the Halifax Citadel offers commanding views of the city and its harbour. The star-shaped fort was built to defend the city against attackers. http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/ns/halifax

HARBOUR TOUR ★★ Season: between May 1 and October 31 (depending on tour) There are many types of tours available, including the popular Harbour Hopper. Explore Halifax by land and sea aboard an amphibious vehicle, visiting the city’s main points of interest. It’s a fun and fascinating way to take in the history and sights of Halifax, one of the best natural harbours in the world! Ambassatours: 1751 Lower Water St, Halifax 902-420-1015 www.ambassatours.com

HISTORIC PROPERTIES ★ The Historic Properties, a group of restored warehouses on the Halifax waterfront, are bounded by Upper Water Street, Duke Street and Cogswell. Today the 18th century wood and stone buildings house specialty shops, restaurants and bars and are connected by waterfront boardwalks. After a good meal, take a stroll along the Halifax harbourfront and enjoy the sights!

NEARBY

PEGGY’S COVE ★★★ Peggy’s Cove is a picturesque little fishing village lined with colourful sheds built on stilts. Don’t miss the iconic Peggy’s Cove lighthouse, the most photographed lighthouse in Canada.

LUNENBURG ★ Lunenburg was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. This colourful fishing port was once a pirates’ lair. Don’t-miss experiences include sailing on the Bluenose II, a replica of the legendary schooner featured on the Canadian 10-cent coin: a splendid way to explore the magnificent Atlantic coastline. bluenose.novascotia.ca

© Petrov Vadim - Fotolia
© iStockPhoto, Mathew Singer
© Alexander Keith
WHERE TO EAT

FREDIE’S FANTASTIC FISHHOUSE ($)  
There are many Fish & Chips spots all over Halifax, but Fredie’s Fantastic Fish House really stands out among them. The owner, Tammy, is very customer-service oriented, and is dedicated to serving fresh, consistent fare at low prices. The menu features Lobster Rolls, Fish & Chips, fries, fish burger, seafood chowder and other seafood delights. Open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
8 OLAND CRESCENT, HALIFAX  
902-450-3474  
WWW.FREDIESFANTASTICFISH.COM

MORRIS EAST ($$)  
Morris East offers up both classics and inventive pizzas cooked in an authentic wood-fired oven from Italy. The emphasis is on fresh locally-sourced ingredients, with a menu that changes with the seasons. In addition to pizza, you will find sandwiches, soups and salads, as well as nightly specials. Open Sunday-Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
5212 MORRIS STREET, HALIFAX  
902-444-7687 / MORRISEAST.COM

THE WOODEN MONKEY ($$)  
Vegans, vegetarians and meat-eaters alike will find something to please their palate at the Wooden Monkey. The restaurant’s commitment to health and the environment is reflected in its emphasis on fresh, local, organic produce and free-range meat from Nova Scotia farms. Vegan, gluten-free and raw menu items are clearly identified, as are those containing dairy products or nuts. What more could you ask for? Open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. (until 10 p.m. on Friday-Saturday).  
1707 GRAFTON STREET, HALIFAX  
902-444-3844  
WWW.THEWOODENMONKEY.CA

CHIVES ($$$)  
Chives was one of the restaurants at the forefront of the local food scene in Halifax. Sophisticated dishes like jumbo Cape Breton snow crab ravioli with pork belly, pâté of Quebec foie gras and coldwater shrimp-crusted Atlantic salmon all showcase fresh, locally-sourced ingredients. Open daily from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
1537 BARRINGTON STREET, HALIFAX  
902-420-9626  
WWW.CHIVES.CA

THE BICYCLE THIEF ($$$)  
The Bicycle Thief offers North American food with an Italian soul, in an atmosphere that is elegant and sophisticated yet relaxed. Be sure to try one of the rich, creamy handmade pasta dishes, and leave space for a decadent dessert! Open daily from 11:30 a.m.  
1475 LOWER WATER STREET, HALIFAX / 902-425-7993  
WWW.BICYCLETHIEF.CA

STORIES FINE DINING ($$$$)  
Stories is all about the stories… From the restaurant with its creative team and fine Canadian cuisine, its quality locally-sourced ingredients, its partnerships with farmers, foragers and fishermen, to its guests who choose to celebrate their “continuing story” here… Enjoy a fine dining experience in a warm intimate setting. The menu offers fresh, inventive dishes showcasing local ingredients such as seafood, Atlantic salmon, beef and bison. A meal to remember! Open Tuesday-Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
5184 MORRIS STREET, HALIFAX  
902-444-4400  
WWW.STORIESDINING.COM

FESTIVALS

TD HALIFAX JAZZ FESTIVAL  
Dates: July 9 to 14, 2019  
The TD Halifax Jazz Festival (formerly known as the Atlantic Jazz Festival) is the oldest jazz festival and the largest summer festival in Atlantic Canada. Founded in 1987, the event attracts up to 65,000 visitors, has 450 volunteers and features more than 350 local musicians. Come immerse yourself in the world of jazz! www.halifaxjazzfestival.ca

HALIFAX SEAPORT BEERFEST  
Dates: August 9 and 10, 2019  
Atlantic Canada’s largest beer festival is a two-day summer showcase of beers and ciders from the region & around the world www.seaportbeerfest.com

ATLANTIC FILM FESTIVAL  
Dates: September 12 to 19, 2019  
The Atlantic Film Festival, which is celebrating 38 years in 2018, is an eight-day celebration of film, media and music from around the world. It’s a festival that turns Halifax – a charming and historic coastal city – into an international Mecca for the arts, abuzz with filmmakers, industry types and film lovers. www.finfestival.ca

PRISMATIC ARTS FESTIVAL  
Dates: September 12 to 22, 2019  
Prismatic is a national multi-disciplinary arts festival that supports the professional development of culturally diverse and Aboriginal artists and brings their new works into the spotlight. The festival’s mandate is to promote the pursuit of artistic excellence through collaboration, innovation and dialogue. www.prismaticfestival.com