



Architectural & Neighbourhood Tour

(1/2 Day to Day; ~ 20 km or 12 miles)

This tour is meant to introduce you to the various types of Architecture in Halifax as well as take you through our variety of neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods: Waterfront, South End, Schidville, Downtown, North End, and the Hydrostone.

Types of Architecture: Victorian, Georgian, Brutalist, Italianate and Modern

- Victorian
 - 2nd Empire – this architectural styles stems from France; primarily identifiable by a Mansard or 2 tiered ornate roof
 - Queen Anne Revival – considered a mix of all preceding English styles before it
- Georgian
 - Most notable by the symmetry
- Brutalist
 - Distinguished by prevalence of concrete slabs, dominated in the 1970s
- Italianate
 - Known for flat roofs, similar to Georgian but more ornate with cornices and round headed windows often with a storm porch

Tips // Things to do:

- Catch incredible views atop the award winning Halifax Central Library
- Explore the up and coming North End of Halifax, home to many trendy cafes, restaurants, and breweries
- Take advantage of the plethora of architecture styles in Halifax to create stunning backgrounds for photo ops.
- Visit the oldest Martello Tower in Canada
- Retrace Halifax's role as a military bastion as you explore fortress relics in Point Pleasant Park later making your way in the center of it all, Citadel Hill



Notes // Safety Tips:

- On road riding is required for this route. Please ride with care and don't be afraid to hop off your bike and walk if you feel nervous. You can always hop back on. **Riders ride at their own risk.**
- When leaving your bike unattended please make sure it is securely locked and in a visible, high traffic area. You are responsible for any equipment rented from I Heart Bikes.
- The North End of Halifax was some narrow traffic heavy streets with no bike lanes. If you are not confident riding on road with traffic. This route is not for you.

Attractions // Highlights:

1. Drunken Lampposts

These drunken lamp posts are more formally called “The Way Things Are” and are a permanent art installation by Chris Hanson & Hendrika Sonnenburg. Meant to depict some rather predictable behaviour found on the harbor front we can begin to make sense of their meaning. The Fountain is the lamp post separated from the other two and normally spouts water from its base into the Harbour. The other two are referred to as Got Drunk, Fell Down. Perhaps the second lamp post is a concerned bystander making sure the other is okay.

2. Halifax Harbour

Looking out towards the Harbour we can easily spot George's Island (the smaller island with the Lighthouse) and MacNab's Island. The Harbour's first name was Jipugtug given by the Mi'kmaq first nation. It has since been anglicized as Chebucto. The Halifax Harbour is the second deepest natural harbor in the world.

Originally founded as a Military base against the French, there are various fortresses that we can see today in Halifax. For example, George's Island is home to Fort Charlotte. You may be able to see some of the stone walls and the mast then used for communication between neighbouring forts. MacNab's the much larger island towards the mouth of the harbor also has a number of fortresses.



MacNab's Island is mainly uninhabited, but you can book a water taxi out to the island for a day trip. The island is quite large and bikes are recommended.

3. Seaport Farmer's Market

The Seaport Farmer's market was built in 2010 to enable Farmers and vendors to sell 7 days a week to the public. We recommended visiting the farmer's Saturday morning to get an authentic feel for the bustling market. There are ample options for breakfast and coffee or to get a picnic to go. A visit to the green roof is a must.

4. Point Pleasant Park

Point Pleasant Park is the largest green space on Peninsular Halifax with over 39 km of trails and 75-hectares in size. Home to many historic fortresses we recommend a visit to the Prince of Wales Tower, the oldest Martello Tower in North America along with some general wondering and exploration around the park. We have included a map here for your purposes. A local theatre company, Shakespeare by the Sea, offers showings of Shakespeare throughout the summer and Black Rock Beach is located at the base for swimming.

5. Young Ave

Young Ave was once home to the wealthiest residents of Halifax. The street is filled with historic homes which are easily identified by the blue emblem. In recent years, Young Ave has been the subject of debate as older more historic homes are being demolished and replaced.

6. Oland House

Built in 1867, this home is the medieval, castle like house on your left. Its style is considered to be Richardsonian-Romanesque. At the time theft and intrusion was still common said to influence the small narrow windows.

7. South Park Victorian Houses

This block of Victorian homes is said to be amongst the finest in Halifax. Stop for a good look and photo op or two.

8. Schmidville

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Schmidville was the very first suburb built outside the walls of the Halifax Citadel. It is the area bound by Morris, Queen, Clyde and South Park Street. Historically the smaller homes were said to be inhabited by the tradesmen of the day where the larger more stately homes on Morris Street were owned by Doctors, Lawyers, and Politicians. We suggest cycling through the side streets and enjoying this very human scale neighbourhood in the Heart of Downtown Halifax.

9. Dalhousie University and King's College

Dalhousie University is the largest post secondary institution in Atlantic Canada. It is home to over 20,000 undergraduate students each year. The original buildings were designed by Andrew Cobb and are easily identifiable in their Georgian, stone style. In recent years the University has added numerous new buildings to their campus that all meet LEED certification.

If the Georgian Style of Dalhousie's historical buildings is of interest to you we suggest taking an extra 15 minutes to visit King's College, the oldest Chartered University in Canada.

Before leaving campus we can quickly note the Killam Library, Brutalist architecture at its best. It's worth noting the design as we make our way toward the new Halifax Central Library to contrast difference in architectural styles. It is often said that this building was designed to deter students from the outside world and focus them towards their studies.

10. Spring Garden Road

Spring Garden Road is said to be the busiest street East of Montreal being Halifax's prime shopping district. The name is due to the natural spring that is said to run beneath it.

11. Public Garden's & Band Stand

Founded in 1867 the public gardens is the oldest Victorian Gardens in North America and the Latin on the gates "E Mari Merces" translates into wealth from the sea. We recommend locking up your bikes upfront as bikes are strictly prohibited, and taking 15 to 30 minutes to explore the park. Washrooms and a café are located inside.



The Band Stand (Victorian) at the Center of the Park is impeccably cared for and was designed as gift to the queen in the 1887.

12. Citadel Hill & Clock Tower

Citadel Hill is the center of the military defense system built by the British. Every day there is a noon gun to remind us Haligonians of the time and a sentry change can be seen on the hour every hour. Positioned atop a glacial drumlin, the view from the citadel can see from one end of town to other. This was important to maintaining contact with the other fortresses. Looking up you can see similar masts to those spotted earlier on George's Island. At the time these fortresses were active a flag, symbol and hoist system was used to communicate between one out post to the other. Admission is charged to enter the Citadel.

The Town Clock is one of the finest examples of Palladian Architecture. It is winded two times a week by citadel staff and was a gift from the queen to encourage a more prompt garrison in Halifax.

13. Halifax Common's & Armoury

The commons is a favourite sunning spot by Haligonians. Normally filled with picnickers, games of baseball, dog walkers, kite flying, and more it is Halifax's oldest park. Looking to the East Side you should spot the Armoury (Romanesque Revival). The Halifax Armoury was the first building to be lit with electricity in Halifax and is recognized as the first building to use fink trusses at each corner to achieve a wide open space with no other supports necessary.

14. Hydrostone Market

In 1917, two ships collided in the Halifax Harbour causing the 2nd largest man made explosion. The North End of Halifax was devastated. The explosion killed over 1600 people and left over 9000 wounded. The Hydrostone was built as a result of that explosion. Many homes were destroyed due to fires caused not by the explosion by overturned stoves within the wooden homes.

Hydrostone is a inflammable material that was then used to reconstruct the area. The architectural style here is noted by the prevalence of hydrostone on the main level with the upper portion made from wood. We suggest biking



through out some of the smaller side streets present in this neighbourhood to get a feel for this English style suburb designed by Thomas Adams.

15. North End

The North End of Halifax is known today for it's strong sense of community and eclectic feel. In more recent years the city has seen a high number of trendy cafes, restaurants, breweries, and shops open in this area. This is where we suggest you plan your lunch. As you ride this neighbourhood keep your eye peeled for more colourfully painted homes. Predominant throughout the Maritimes there are many myths as to where this style originated but the stronger theory seems to be the connection to the sea where fishermen used their fog cutting colourful paint to then paint their homes.

16. Halifax Central Library

The Halifax Central Library was named by CNN as one of the top 20 buildings in 2014 and is said to be one of the most beautiful libraries in the world. The building was designed to look like a stack of books and the stair case to emulate those of Hogwarts in Harry Potter. Here we recommended locking up your bikes and making your way by stairs or elevator to the top floor. Here you will find more great views.

17. Argyle Street

Argyle Street is known for it's nightlife due to the number of pubs, restaurants, and patios. Here we recommend hopping off your bikes and walking along the street as you make your way toward city hall.

18. City Hall & Grand Parade

Welcome to City Hall. Over the years City Hall has been used for many different purposes including the original police station and jail. Harry Houdini himself actually escaped in 1896 after asking the local police to lock him up. At the other end of Grand Parade is oldest building in Halifax and the very 1st Protestant Church in Canada.

19. Province House



An fine example of Palladian architecture, Province house is the longest serving legislative building in Canada.

20. Government House

Government House is Georgian in style and was built entirely from materials sourced right here in Nova Scotia. Daily guided tours are available during the months of July and August and are approx.. 30 minutes in length. This building is home to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and is normally used to host royalty over the years.

21. Bank of Nova Scotia

Lock your bikes up and take a peak in the very first Bank of Nova Scotia. This building was built by Canadian Architect John McIntosh Lyle and in Renaissance inspired in style. The Architect made every attempt to invoke the place and environment in which it was set.

22. Benjamin Weir House

A favourite in Downtown Halifax, the Benjamin Weir House is well care for and one of few Rococo-Italianate buildings in Nova Scotia. A quick peak to the rear of the buildings presents a Romeo and Juliet style balcony characteristic of this style.

Route Notes

Departing from I Heart Bikes

- Continue along the Halifax Boardwalk (pedestrians have the right of way) so that the Harbour is on your left hand side.
- In **285 m turn left** out towards platform with bent Lampposts.
- **SEE HIGHLIGHTS 1 & 2**
- When you are done here continue down the boardwalk for about **376 m**. You will see the Seaport Farmer's Market (HIGHLIGHT 3 on your LEFT) shortly after the wooden boardwalk ends.



- When you are done at the market turn right onto MARGINAL ROAD the street in front.
- In **213 m** you will reach your 1st stop sign TURN LEFT
- In **235 m** you will reach a 2nd stop sign TURN LEFT on Barrington Street
- Continue along Barrington for about 862 meters staying RIGHT you will reach a 3rd stop TURN LEFT onto YOUNG AVE. See HIGHLIGHT 4.
- Continue down Young Ave heading towards Point Pleasant Park. After 160m on your right you will spot a castle like house HIGHLIGHT 5.
- Continue to end of the street another 732 m.
- Cross the street and take the right path entering the park. In 81 m turn left onto the main path.
- In 397 m take the 3rd right to the Prince of Wales Martello Tower. See HIGHLIGHT 6.
- Turn around and exit the park the same way you came returning to Young Ave. You get two chances to cycle down this quaint street.
- At the end of Young Ave continue STRAIGHT through the intersection onto SOUTH PARK.
- In 603 m you will see HIGHLIGHT 7 (Victorian Style Homes) on your right.
- At the intersection ahead take a LEFT on UNIVERSITY AVE. You will stay on this street until the very, very end. ~ 1km.
- You should see the QUAD ahead, the grass patch, with Georgian Style Stone buildings in a “Open U” fashion. The Killam Library is on your right. See HIGHLIGHT 8.
 - If you wish to visit King’s College stay to the left of the QUAD, then turning RIGHT to go behind the buildings. If you head straight for a bout 215 m you will enter Kings College after crossing through a parking lot.



- When you are done return to the QUAD and University Ave where you entered.
- Turn around and head back down University Ave returning the intersection where you turned on. This time head straight into Schmitzville. HIGHLIGHT 9.
- After passing through intersection TURN LEFT onto Birmingham. The 3rd left.
- After 1 BLOCK turn LEFT onto CLYDE. At the end of this street cross the street to enter Victoria Park. You will see Spring Garden Road and the Public Gardens directly ahead after turn right into the Park. See HIGHLIGHT 10 & 11.
- When you wish to continue exit the Public Gardens and TURN LEFT onto SOUTHPARK . After 1 block you will TURN RIGHT onto SACKVILLE.
- You will see the Halifax Citadel on your LEFT.
- You will make your only left turn available to the entrance of the Citadel about 1.5 blocks down the street.
- When you reach the top, cycle the perimeter of the Citadel. SEE HIGHLIGHT 12.
- EXIT Citadel Hill on the opposite side of where you entered. Stay LEFT at the bottom and Turn RIGHT entering the roundabout. You will take your 3rd exit onto COGSWELL. The park should be immediately on your RIGHT.
- When you see a CROSSWALK turn RIGHT into the park. SEE HIGHLIGHT 13.
- When you wish to continue exit the park at the NE corner. When your right shoulder is closest to the harbor you are facing North.
- Entering the small roundabout there you will take the exit onto AGRICOLA STREET (You may want to see HIGHLIGHT 14 before taking this step)

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- Continue on Agricola for 1.5 km. At the third set of lights you will turn RIGHT onto YOUNG STREET.
- Ride for 1 BLOCK and you will see the Hydrostone Market ahead with a small green park. Enter this Park and check out HIGHLIGHT 15.
- When you have finished exploring the Hydrostone you will need to TURN RIGHT on GOTTINGEN after exiting the park you initially entered at the Hydrostone.
- Stay on GOTTINGEN for 1.8 km. After your third set of lights take your first LEFT onto PORTLAND.
- TURN LEFT ONTO BRUNSWICK.
- You are now heading back downtown toward the Halifax Central Library.
- Stay on this street for ~ 4 Blocks. You will pass the Citadel on your right.
- At the end of the street, go straight across Spring Garden to the large glass building, the Halifax Central Library. See HIGHLIGHT 16.
- When you are done at the Library ahead back across Spring Garden Road to the old Library where there is a statue of Sir Winston Churchill. Cutt through this park either by foot or by bike.
- Take a LEFT and then a QUICK RIGHT and ANOTHER LEFT on ARGYLE.
- ARGYLE is a one way street in the other direction but is often closed in part completely to vehicular traffic. We recommend walking your bikes here. See HIGHLIGHT 17.
- 1.5 blocks on your LEFT you will see the Nova Center, home to the Halifax Convention Centre.
- City Hall will be about 1 block past that on your RIGHT. See HIGHLIGHT 18.
- To continue on exit Grand Parade/ City Hall on the opposite side of where you entered. Head straight across Barrington Street (note the Mural on your RIGHT) onto GEORGE STREET.

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- After one block, at intersection TURN RIGHT onto HOLLIS.
- Province House is immediately on your RIGHT. HIGHLIGHT 19.
- The Bank of Nova Scotia is the LEFT at the very end of Province House. See HIGHLIGHT 20.

- Continue down HOLLIS for ~2.5 blocks. HIGHLIGHT 21 is on your RIGHT. In order to enter Government House hop off you bike pier into the grounds while you walk around to the Barrington Street Entrance.
- Return to Hollis HIGHLIGHT 22 is directly in front of Government House on Hollis Street.
- Continue down Hollis for 1 more block. Turn LEFT onto MORRIS.
- TURN LEFT ON LOWER WATER.
- 350 m on RIGHT is SALTER. TURN RIGHT.
- You are now back at I Heart Bikes!

Suggestions? We are always looking to improve our riders experience. Let us know what we missed.



Last updated March 2019

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