



Downtown Halifax (2 to 4 Hrs; ~ 11 km or 7 miles)

This route can be completed in as little as two hours however we recommend planning for a commitment of four giving you time to experience each of the destinations and stop for lunch.

This self-guided route allows you to stop n' go as you like while you explore Downtown Halifax's primary sights & attractions.

FAQ: Did you know that people living in Halifax are known as "Haligonians"?

Highlights:

Halifax Waterfront, Farmer's Market, Point Pleasant Park, Public Gardens, Spring Garden Road, Citadel Hill, Halifax Central Library, City Hall, Argyle Street, and Pizza Corner.

Key Neighbourhoods: Downtown, Waterfront, South End

Tips // Things to do:

- Try a donair, poutine or lobster roll at Pizza Corner
- Grab a soft serve ice cream at the Dairy Bar
- Get your photo with the Drunken Lamp Posts
- 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
- Catch incredible views atop the award winning Halifax Central Library
- Take your pick for a patio on Argyle Street
- Get a selfie at the internationally recognized Botkin Mural outside Freak Lunch (if you haven't had ice cream yet, Freak Lunch Box has amazing milkshakes.)

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.

Highlights // Attractions:

1. Drunken Lamp Posts

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 harbour 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 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 a feel for when the market is bustling. 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. The Public Gardens

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 out front as bikes are strictly prohibited, and taking 15 to 30 minutes to explore the park. Washrooms and a café are located inside.

6. 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.

7. Citadel Hill

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.

8. 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.

9. Pizza Corner

Pizza Corner developed as local landmark as it originally had three pizza shops, one on each corner. Due to it's proximity to Argyle Street, known for it's night life, pizza corner is known for it's late night pizza & donairs.

10. 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.

11. 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.



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.
- Continue down Young Ave heading towards Point Pleasant Park 892 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 4.
- 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 where you originally entered head straight through the intersection onto South Park Street. Stay on South Park for about 1 km
- At your third set of lights you will see the Public Gardens on your LEFT. See HIGHLIGHT 5 and 6.

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- 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 7.
- EXIT the opposite side of the Citadel of where you came in. STAY RIGHT at the end of hill TURNING RIGHT onto a protected bike lane. Follow this lane skirting the base of the Citadel. It will take you back to Spring Garden Road ending directly in front of the Halifax Central Library. See HIGHLIGHT 8.
- 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 . You are now at Pizza Corner! See HIGHLIGHT 9.
- To continue take a QUICK RIGHT at Pizza Corner and then 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 10.
- 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 11.
- 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.
- Take GEORGE STREET directly back to the waterfront. Due to construction you will need to take the sea bridge to reach I Heart Bikes.



You are not permitted to ride your bikes on the sea bridge.

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

Last updated March 2019

Lost? Give us a call we will put you back on track **902 406 7774**
Line Busy? Call our Support Line at **902 719 4325**.

www.iheartbikeshfx.com
1507 Lower Water Street

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