



Historic & Cultural Tour

(1/2 day to day; 23 km or 14 miles)

This tour is meant to introduce you to some of the major events in Halifax's History while also taking you through many of our key neighbourhoods. We hope through this tour you come to know and love this great city we Haligonians get to call home.

Key Neighbourhoods: Waterfront, South End, Downtown, Hydrostone, North End

Tips // Things to Do:

- Catch incredible views atop the award winning Halifax Central Library
- Cycle our tree lined streets
- Explore the up and coming North End of Halifax, home to many trendy cafes, restaurants, and breweries
- 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
- Familiarize yourself with the major historic populations creating Halifax today. The Mi'kmaq 1st nation, the French Acadians, and the British.
- Visit the Fairview Cemetery, the largest gravesite for the Titanic

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 has some narrow traffic heavy streets with no bike lanes. If you wish to skip the North End, see Option 3.
- This route has three different options:
 - Option 1: Fairview Cemetery to see Titanic Graves
 - Option 2: Skip the Fairview Cemetery & continue to the North End
 - Option 3: Skip the Fairview Cemetery & North End

Attractions // Highlights:

1. 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 larger green one towards the mouth of the Harbour). 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.

Original 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.

2. Acadian Expulsion

Here it is also important to note a major historical event in the founding of Halifax. In the period between 1755 and 1764 the British removed by force approximately 11,500 Acadians (total population of 14,100) and deported them along the 13 colonies reaching as far south as Louisiana (Cajuns are direct descendants of the Acadians). Acadians were the French settlers in this area, naming the area in which they settled Acadia, meaning the land of plenty.

Looking out towards George's Island, this was home to 1 of 4 forts use in the imprisonment of the Acadians before deportation.

3. 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 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 it's 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.

4. 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.

5. Pier 21

Pier 21 is often compared to Ellis Island in New York. Between 1928 and 1971, over 1 million immigrants passed through its doors. Pier 21 was one of three main entry points at the time, the other two being Victoria, BC and Quebec City. Pier 21 today is home to the Canadian Museum of Immigration. During the months of May to Oct the Museum is open 7 days a week from 9:30 am AST to 5:30 pm AST. A general ticket is \$12.61.

6. 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.

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

8. 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.

9. Halifax Commons

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.

10. Fairview Cemetery (Titanic Graves)

As the closest port with rail access, Halifax sent out two ships to rescue any survivors from the Titanic. Already at sea, an American Freighter was able to reach the site quicker and all survivors were sent to New York. As a results, the ships sent from Halifax were known as the Death Ships, equipped with an undertaker and priest. What they brought back was more then 121 victims of the Titanic Tragedy. On the outskirts of Halifax, you can find the final resting place of those victims, many whom remained unidentified, at the Fair View Cemetery.

11. 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 an 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.

12. The 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 paint their homes.

13. 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, not to miss views.

14. 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.

15. 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, St. Paul's.

16. Province House

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

17. Old Burying Ground

This cemetery was the primary burial ground in Halifax for many years. It was established the same year as the founding of the city (1749) and is said to have over 12,000 people interred here. Only 1,200 graves are marked with headstones. There are 167 blacks in unmarked graves as was customary at the time, and 4 Mi'kmaq first nations are buried here.

18. 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.

19. Historic Properties

Halifax was established due to it's maritime advantage. Becoming a busy port there was an increasing need for shops, services and storage at the water's edge. Wharf As a result, a series of warehouses were built to serve this purpose and are today known as Historic Properties or Privateers

20. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Due to Halifax's rich maritime history the Maritime Museum was established as an educational resource for the public. Offering numerous exhibits, the museum is known for its collection documenting the Tragedy of the Titanic and the Halifax Explosion. The museum is open 7 days a week during the months of June to Oct from 9:30 am AST to 5:30 pm AST. May there are restricted hours on Sundays. General Admission is \$9.55.



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 the bent Lampposts.
- **SEE HIGHLIGHTS 1, 2 & 3**
- When you are done here continue down the boardwalk for about **376 m**. You will see the Seaport Farmer's Market (HIGHLIGHT 4 on your LEFT) shortly after the wooden boardwalk ends.
- Once you are ready to continue to Pier 21 and the Immigration Museum continue heading straight on the road way directly in front of the Farmer's Market, this street doesn't have a name and is more an entrance to the port. Continue straight through the stop sign and you will see an old Train cart on your left. This is Pier 21 and the Immigration Museum. Please see HIGHLIGHT 5

I ♥ BIKES

- To reach Point Pleasant Park continue in the same direction keeping the harbor on your left hand side, make your way out to the main road, making a left onto Marginal Road.
- **Marginal Road is the primary access for train and truck traffic to the Port of Halifax. Please watch out for the train tracks making sure to cross them perpendicular to your bike tire. While the tracks have been filled they can catch people by surprise.**



- It will look and feel like you are biking through an actual industrial port. You are going the right way.
- Follow this street until the end, make a left and you will arrive to the park. See HIGHLIGHT 6.
- Exit the park at the Young Street Exit.
- Bike to the end of Young Ave. At the four way stop continue 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 7.
- 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 8.

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



IF YOU WISH TO SKIP THE NORTH END AND FAIRVIEW CEMETERY SKIP AHEAD TO OPTION 3.

- EXIT the opposite side of the Citadel of where you came in. STAY LEFT at the end of hill then RIGHT to enter 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 9.

Option 1: Fairview Cemetery to see Titanic Graves:

- Exit the Halifax Commons where you entered turning right to continue down Bell Road. You will approach a major intersection.
- You will bike directly through to the other side (Quinpool Road) and take your very first and sudden right on WINDSOR STREET.
- Windsor Street will take you directly to the Fairview Cemetery and has a bike lane for most of the journey. You will be on here for approx. 3 km.
- Eventually you will see the Fair Cemetery on your left. There are numerous entry points. See suggest hoping off your bike when you arrive and crossing the street by foot to enter the park. See HIGHLIGHT 10.
- When you are done exploring the Fairview Cemetery, you will travel back along Windsor Street approx. 1.3 km until you reach Young Ave on your left. TURN LEFT ONTO YOUNG AVE.
- Young Ave will take you directly to the Hydrostone Market approx. 4 blocks. See HIGHLIGHT 11.
- To continue the rest of this route, hop ahead to: Hydrostone to Downtown.

Option 2: Skip Fairview Cemetery & continue to the North End:

- To continue to the North End and skip the Cemetery extension, exit the Halifax Commons at the North East corner. There is a small roundabout here as well as a large red/brown stone building. If you are facing North your right shoulder will be closet to the harbour. (See HIGHLIGHT 12 before taking this step.)
- Entering the roundabout you will exit onto Agricola Street.



- 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 12.
- To continue the rest of this route, hop ahead to OPTION 3 Hydrostone to Downtown.

Hydrostone to Downtown (For options 1 & 2)

- To continue back downtown from the Hydrostone you will need to turn via Agricola Street. Depending on what option you did before you may have already biked down this street.
- You will need to turn left onto YOUNG STREET traveling about 1.5 blocks before turning LEFT onto AGRICOLA STREET.
- You will travel along Agricola Street for 1.5 km until reach a roundabout. You will want to cycle through taking your second exit (continuing straight). You are now on NORTH PARK street.
- Continue to your second round about taking your 3rd exit, and then take your immediate RIGHT so that the Citadel is directly on your right (RAINNIE DRIVE). Here you will find a protected bike lane.
- Hugging the Citadel and staying right you will shortly join up with Brunswick Street.
- After passing through a set of lights, this street will end and you will see the Halifax Central Library directly in front.
- We suggest hopping off and walking your bike across the street. See HIGHLIGHT 13.

Option 3: Skip the Fairview Cemetery & The North End:

- EXIT the opposite side of the Citadel of where you came in. STAY RIGHT at the end of the hill TURNING RIGHT onto a protected bike lane (RAINNIE DRIVE). 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 13.



Continuing from the Halifax Central Library:

- 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. Cut through this park either by foot or by bike.
- Take a LEFT and then a QUICK RIGHT and ANOTHER LEFT onto 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 14.).
- 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 15.
- 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.
- After one block, at intersection TURN RIGHT onto HOLLIS.
- Province House is immediately on your RIGHT. HIGHLIGHT 16.
- Continue down HOLLIS for ~2.5 blocks. HIGHLIGHT 18 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.
- The Old Burying Ground Highlight 17 is directly in front of the Barrington Street Entrance of Government House.
- Return to Hollis and continue straight 1 block and at the set of lights take a left onto MORRIS and then another LEFT onto LOWER WATER.
- Stay on LOWER WATER FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE. WE recommend turning RIGHT onto SALTER (your first RIGHT street ~ 2 blocks down).
- Both Historic and the Maritime Museum are accessible from the Boardwalk. Due to construction you will need to use the Seabridge. You must walk your bikes on the Seabridge.



- Once you reach the Boardwalk turn LEFT.
- There is a sign when you have reached Historic Properties. See HIGHLIGHT 19.
- When you are ready to head on to the Maritime Museum turn around (so that the water is on your LEFT HAND SIDE and continue down the boardwalk.)
- When you exit the Seabridge you will see the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic directly in front of you. See HIGHLIGHT 20.
- To reach I Heart Bikes continue down the boardwalk about 2 minutes!

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

Last updated March 2019