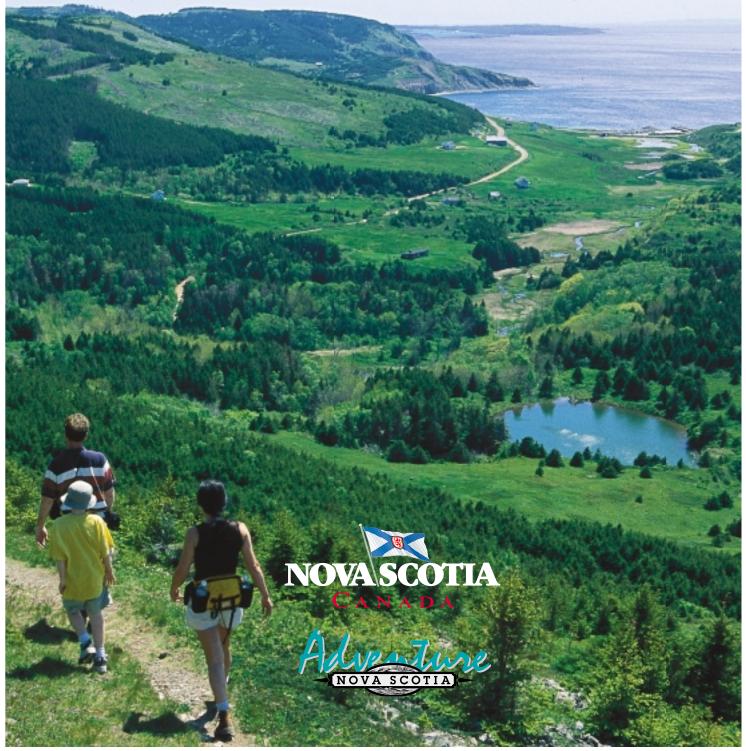
NOVA SCOTIA 2001 Guide for Nature & Outdoor Lovers





By Land

Highways from all points in the United States and Canada join the Trans Canada Highway from New Brunswick into Nova Scotia. VIA Rail Canada provides transcontinental train service; there are stations in Truro and Halifax. Call toll-free 1-800-561-3952.

By Air

Air Canada and its affiliate Air Nova provide daily flights to Nova Scotia from New York, Boston, Toronto, Montreal and St. John's, Nfld, with connections both worldwide and within Atlantic Canada. In partnership with Continental Airlines, they also service worldwide connections through Houston, Newark and Boston.

Nova Scotia is well-serviced with scheduled flights from continental Europe and the United Kingdom. Limousine service and car rentals are available at the Halifax International, Sydney and Yarmouth airports.

By Sea

Come to Nova Scotia by mini-cruise. Comfortable car-ferry trips range from a one to two-hour voyage to an overnight special with accommodations and entertainment.

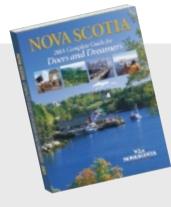
Bar Harbor, Maine—Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Bay Ferries Limited: phone 1-888-249-7245; (902) 566-3838.

Port-aux-Basques, Newfoundland—North Sydney, Nova Scotia. Marine Atlantic Reservations. 1-800-341-7981.

Wood Islands, Prince Edward Island—Caribou, Nova Scotia. Northumberland Ferries Ltd: In Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, call toll-free 1-800-565-0201. From other areas, call (902) 566-3838.

Portland, Maine—Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Prince of Fundy Cruises Limited. In USA and Canada call toll-free 1-800-341-7540 or, in Maine, 1-800-482-0955.

Saint John, New Brunswick—Digby, Nova Scotia. Bay Ferries Limited: phone 1-888-249-7245; (902) 566-3838.



For more information on Nova Scotia or to order your free Complete Guide for Doers and Dreamers call our reservation and information service– 1-800-565-0000 op. 812 (in North America) or visit our website at exploreNS.com

Cape Breton Highlands National Park

Welcome to Canada's Seacoast



EXHILARATING. INSPIRING. IMPRESSIVE. Nova Scotia's stunning natural beauty leaves no spirit unstirred, for the music of the ocean and the babble of the brook are siren songs for us all. Great heaving waves challenge the cliffs with a crash of white water; tides retreat from the land like a lingering sigh, leaving smooth red mud flats; freshets gurgle over glistening beach rocks; and warm waters play over white sand expanses. These are the treasures of our 7400-km (4600mi.) coastline, and never are they more than a half-hour's drive away.

Hike atop the sandstone headlands of the inspiring Bay of Fundy, where the world's highest tides subtly reshape the landscape with every coming and going. Stroll or cycle through the narrow lanes and pretty streets of centuries-old seafaring towns. And watch for rare wildlife as you paddle the meandering streams of Kejimkujik National Park. No matter the season, there are sights to be savoured and experiences to remember always.

The Nova Scotia Department of Tourism and Culture and the Nova Scotia Adventure

Tourism Association present this 2001 Guide for Nature and Outdoor Lovers. Nova Scotiaís tour operators and outfitters are proud of their reputation for friendly, reliable and professional service, and the Association is dedicated to providing the absolute best in quality goods and services for visitors while protecting and enhancing Nova Scotia's environmental, cultural, and aesthetic treasures. (See p. 26).

This Guide for Nature and Outdoor Lovers will tempt you with the variety and vitality of Nova Scotia's outdoor life. Each of our ten scenic travelways offers unique open-air adventures, from do-it-yourself afternoon outings to guided week-long excursions. For the ultimate in carefree vacations, leave the planning to the experts. Our excellent range of ready-made adventures, beginning on page 14 of this guide, make it easy to enjoy an exhilarating outdoor experience.

Divers, cyclists, sailors and surfers, kayakers, campers, hikers and birders. The ocean roars out its welcome, and our wilderness lakes echo the invitation. Experience our great outdoors. May you grow to love it as we do.



Trans-Canada Trail

THE CONSTRUCTION of a 16,800-kilometre, shared-use recreational trail represents a huge challenge, and Nova Scotia's community trail associations have embraced this challenge with amazing results! Explore a few of the fine community trails listed belowópart of this great national project.

Branch Road Trail (8km): This beautiful new trail starts on the edge of North Sydney and is just the latest incarnation of the Branch Road, which was originally a railway. When the rail line was abandoned, the corridor became a municipal road. Now the road has been transformed into a shared-use trail.



Dartmouth Multi-Use Trail (6 km):

This walking and biking path winds through the urban heart of Dartmouth alongside the historic Shubenacadie Canal and lakes Banook and Micmac. It is popular with runners and gives a taste of the outdoors in the middle of the city.

Guysborough Nature Trail (35km):

The Guysborough Nature Trail was the first section of the TCT opened in Nova Scotia in 1995. It now extends 35 kilometers from the village of Guysborough into the provinceís interior. Visit the new MacAllister Bridge, a beautiful suspension bridge which crosses the Salmon River.

Mabou/Inverness (24 km):

Start from the Coal Mining Museum in Inverness and follow the old railbed through the isolated Cape Breton woods near Lake Ainslie and Glendyer. Bobcat, moose, and bald eagles are common sights. Finish your day at the Mabou hostel in the shadow of the brooding Mabou Highlands and stay for the ceilidh!

Musquodoboit Trailway (15 km):

Follow the Musquodoboit River through the rugged Granite Uplands of the Atlantic Interior. This section, which begins near Halifax and extends up the provinceís Eastern Shore, also features a network of side-trails designed for wilderness hikers.

Salt Marsh Trail (7 Km):

Four new bridges totaling 438 feet allow you to cross this abandoned railway causeway through the Cole Harbour Salt Marsh, one of the most productive wetlands in Nova Scotia. The amazing views and abundant wildlife are sure to please.

Shortline Trail (110 km):

The Shoreline Trail skirts the warm waters of the Northumberland Strait opposite Prince Edward Island and extends from the Town of Oxford to the Town of Pictou. Break up your journey with a stopover in lovely Tatamagouche, halfway between the two towns.

Visit our Nova Scotia website at www.trailtc.ns.ca for more information.

Explore Nova Scotia Museums



Nova Scotia's natural world is alive with wonder, and the Nova Scotia Museum family is the perfect place to begin exploring it. See sea slugs, dinosaur bones, birds and butterflies. Unearth the mysteries of our ancient landscapes, stroll through heritage gradens and orchards, and bend your ear to tales of high-seas adventures told by retired seafarers. The Nova Scotia Museum's 25 locations are spread throughout the province so that, through dynamic interpreters and interactive displays, you may discover more of Nova Scotia's natural world.

Imagine shipwrecks so thick that vessels are piled on top of each other. The waters off Nova Scotia have places like this, where 18th-century warships, 19th-century steamships and pirate shipwrecks hoard their grisly stories and sunken treasure in the trackless deeps. This summer visit the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic's "Shipwreck Treasures of Nova Scotia," a multi-media underwater odyssey that lets you discover the clues to the exhibit's shipwreck mysteries.

Join an expert from the Fundy Geological Museum as you search for fossils and semi-precious gems near the vaulting cliffs of Wasson Bluff, internationally famous for some of the world's oldest and smallest dinosaur fossils.

dinosaur fossils. Behold the stars of the sea in a shore-life aquarium and discover the secret habits of live butterflies at the Museum of Natural History. Hear the music of the wood-

Hear the music of the woodlands on one of the seven yearround walking trails at Uniacke Estate Museum Park, stroll beneath a canopy of trees along the beautiful gorge at the Balmoral Grist Mill, and take a hayride through the country lanes of Ross Farm Museum.

For details on museum sites, activities and publications Call 1-800-632-1114 or visit our website at http://museum.gov.ns.ca

Park It Right Here!

Enjoy fresh air, clean waterways and soul-satisfying scenery in places especially designed for hiking, camping, paddling and unexpected outdoor pursuits like beach volleyball, bat walks, cranberry picking and kite making. Nova Scotia's 22 provincial parks offer an exceptional range of options for the outdoor enthusiast, including sport tournaments, nature tours and heritage celebrations that highlight our natural and cultural riches



Behold native birds and wildlife, rare plants and photographicallyinspiring land- and seascapes. Fly your kite out over the 90-metre cliffs and sweeping red sand beaches of the Minas Basin; Blomidon and Five Islands provincial parks are threaded with numerous trails that skirt the shores of this dramatic tidal basin. Delight in a relaxing day of sand-castles and supervised swimming at Melmerby or Queensland Beach. Treat the family to a lake-side barbecue and concert in beautiful Whycocomagh Provincial Park, or take a guided tour along scenic trails and sandy beaches at Taylor Head and Crystal Crescent Beach.

Nova Scotia's provincial parks. We,re drumming up fun "naturally!



Wendy Scott



Making a Natural Connection

TIGHTEN YOUR LACES and take off on an extraordinary adventure! Hiking and walking in Nova Scotia are exhilarating, and satisfying surprises await around many bends in the trail—a boldly beautiful ocean panorama, a quietly grazing moose or a mountainside swathed in scarlet maples. Explore seacoasts, forests and towns threaded with hundreds of kilometres of formal and informal trails that showcase our stunning scenery and our rich natural history. Do it on your own, or hook up with experienced tour operators who offer a pleasing array of packages.

Discover Nova Scotia's landscapes and seascapes—each one unique and all uniquely inspiring. Behold the striking geological formations of the Bay of Fundy, where the retreat of the world's highest tides lets you walk on the bottom of the sea. Wander through old-growth forests that shelter deer, lynx and rare wild orchids. Stroll along fine-sand beaches and through pretty salt marshes alive with the music of birds. Explore rocky inlets hemmed in by rugged cliffs, and forest-topped highlands overlooking an azure Atlantic. Photograph sea spires, osprey, whales and waterfalls.

Walk it. Hike it. Embrace it. Connect with Nova Scotia's great outdoors. World-class wonders await you.

3

🛥 Port Mouton

Coastal Jaunts and Seaside Strolls

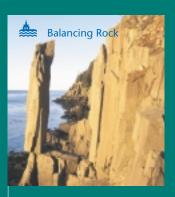
Saunter along the beaches or hike atop the 200-metre cliffs of Cape Chignecto Provincial Park, where 45 kilometres of coastal trails reveal rare wildlife habitat. Roam sweeping sand beaches and rugged headlands at Taylor Head and at Kejimkujik Seaside Adjunct, one of Canada's most pristine coastal wildernesses. And capture spectacular views of the Northumberland Strait while exploring the valleys, hills and forests of the superb 43kilometre Cape George Hiking Trail.

Meander down a beautiful secluded beach, tour historic sites and enjoy a picnic lunch flavoured with the tang of the Lighthouse Route's salty sea air. Stretch out on a white sand beach beside an Atlantic vista bordered by glacial land forms. The **Thomas Raddall Provincial Park** boasts a lovely 3-kilometre trail, punctuated with interpretive panels that explain the area's bird life, flora and fauna.

Tour the ecologically diverse **Thomas' Cove Coastal Reserve** overlooking the Minas Basin in the upper reaches of the Bay of Fundy. Here stunning views of the tide-hewn coastline are daily sculpted by the world's highest tides, alternating sparkling, island-dotted seascapes with vast and ruddy intertidal flats. Thomas' Cove boasts one short and two longer coastal trails. The 1-kilometre Cove Trail, a loop trail, offers an ideal short walk out to the shoreline via a tidal estuary—a feeding ground for the Blue Herons, and the Belted Kingfishers that nest in the nearby sand cliffs. Wend your way along the Economy Trail, a 3-kilometre clay-surfaced loop trail on a former logging road. Explore spruce forests, bird-filled marshes and mud flats. Then make your way down to the beach, skirting breathtaking coastal cliffs famous for their 325-million-year-old fossils. Turn inland along a tidal river, where the Headlands Trail opens onto excellent views of sandstone ledges, intertidal flats and the distant Economy Mountain before looping back through a dense spruce forest.

Seacoast Hiking and





Soaring Spectacle

Come face to face with one of Canada's natural wonders. For years the **Balancing Rock**—a slender, 7-metre column of basalt poised dramatically above the Atlantic surf has made **Tiverton**, an international port of call. Reach it via a superbly constructed, 1-kilometre trail. It's a hearty hike but worth every invigorating step.

Hike or walk along **Sentier Piau**, a 5-kilometre interpretive seaside trail that's perfect for photographers. Visit a cairn and small chapel marking the site of the first Acadian cemetery of the region; then follow the loop trail. Capture panoramic scenes of **St. Mary's Bay** and the long, rocky finger of **Digby Neck**, and end your walk at beautiful **Belliveau Cove**.

Light and Leisurely Walks

Team your walking tour with other outdoor pursuits. Historic seaside towns such as **Lunenburg**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, have been internationally recognized for their architectural beauty. Investigate a lightkeeper's home at **Port Bickerton's Lighthouse Beach Park**; and walk, skate or cycle along the 3-kilometre **Jitney Trail** in Pictou, where restaurants, museums and classical buildings celebrate Nova Scotia's strong

Scottish roots.

Travel an old graveltopped railway line along a series of causeways into the midst of picturesque, sheltered bays and salt marshes teeming with goldeneyes, herons and waterfowl. The **Cole Harbour Salt Marsh Trail** is a wonderful place for walking, mountain biking and birdwatching. Explore spits and barrier beaches along this unique coastline near the lovely Lawrencetown Beach.

Mabou highlands

Walking

Foot Loose & Fancy Free

Hike the many trails in **Cape Breton Highlands National Park**, where graceful eagles and grazing moose bring postcard-perfect scenery to life. Enjoy a challenging hike along the **Middle Head Trail** near Ingonish Beach, and explore the gravelled and planked pathways of the **Skyline Trail** as Pilot and Fin whales cavort in the Gulf waters near the Cabot Trail one of the most scenic coastal touring routes on earth.

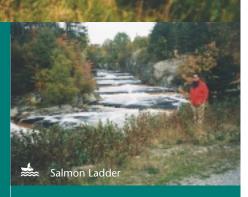
Stop for a while at Uisge Ban Falls Provincial Park, just a short detour from the Cabot Trail. Embark on an enchanting wilderness stroll through a mature hardwood forest and past a beau<u>tiful river that leads</u> to the base of a 15-meter (50foot) waterfall. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the bench beside the gully and relax in its perfect beauty. The 7-kilometre trail is well-constructed. level and clear of brush, making this a wonderful family outing.

Close Encounters with Nature

Revel in the range of hiking and sightseeing options available on the Fairmont Ridge Hiking Trail, a system of six stacked loop trails that lets you enjoy a range of outdoor adventures, from a 20-minute stroll to a hearty 4-hour hike. Bound across a hayfield, through a forest and down to a babbling brook via the Bridges and Ponds Loop, treasured for its abundant wildlife; see deer,



beaver, fox, muskrat, king fishers, owls and eagles. Hike along the Highfield Loop, which winds through oldgrowth hemlock, spruce and pine forests to a panorama of Antigonish Harbour and the coast of St. George's Bay. The Look off Loop provides a similar view but you'll work harder for it on this trail, which is characterized by a steady and invigorating climb. Descend from the Lookoff onto the Skyline Loop and into a steep-sided ravine, shaded by a towering old-growth forest and punctuated by an ocean view. Branch off onto the Ravines **Loop** under a canopy of maples and then onto the Back Loop through a hardwood valley sprinkled with sugar maples, beech and yellow birch.



Riverine Wanderings

Challenging hiking is sure to be found along the **Liscomb River Trail**, a 9.5-kilometre wilderness trail encircling the lower half of the Liscomb River. Interpretive panels reveal fascinating details about the area's diverse and little-disturbed animal and plant habitat. Follow the river upstream, past the brimming salmon pools, to a swinging bridge suspended over a 20-metre waterfall.



Get Psyched for Our Cycling

SNAP ON YOUR SADDLEBAGS and start pedaling! Cycling is one of the most invigorating and inexpensive ways to discover the province that boasts the most coastal cycling routes in Canada. Nova Scotia's rolling plains and cliff-edged mountains offer a limitless network of routes for casual and accomplished cyclists, allowing thousands per year to explore this beautiful province in a way that complements their interests and level of fitness.

Join a cycling group; choose a tour that suits your schedule and comfort level, or design your own faster-paced tour. Pedal down pleasant country roads through pretty river valleys. Witness the dramatic Bay of Fundy tides in a picturesque lobster port, and coast alongside the Atlantic Ocean where centuries-old fishing communities recall romantic legends of shipbuilders and smugglers.

Spectacular scenery, plentiful wildlife and first-class facilities guarantee a fun and fascinating tour filled with challenging climbs and downhill rewards.

Nova Scotia cycling—get psyched for it!

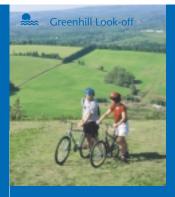
Medford

Ride the Seaside

Skirt the rim of the Atlantic Ocean along the Lighthouse Route, where jutting peninsulas and quiet, winding roads promise premier cycling adventures. Explore the rich Acadian culture of the **Pubnicos**. Strike out from Hubbards for a coastal loop around the Aspotogan Peninsula, home to fjords and fishing villages; and enjoy excellent oceanfront cycling at Vogler's Cove, **Risser's Beach, Blue Rocks** and Old Town Lunenburg.

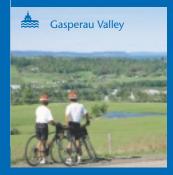
Unforgettable Bike Hikes

Spectacular scenery, flourishing wildlife and first-class facilities make the Cabot Trail one of North America's major cycling challenges. Tour the salmon-rich **Margaree River Valley**, the French fishing village of**Cheticamp**, and the soaring mountains of the **Cape Breton Highlands National Park**.



Pedal Perfect

From roller coaster speed to leisurely tours, variety means virtually endless touring opportunities in the **Annapolis Valley**. And you don't need to travel far to reach them. Pedal past the dramatic Fundy tides in picturesque **Hall's Harbour**, and cycle down centuries-old dykes that whisk you right into **Wolfville**.









Birding Spectacles

Birders and non-birders alike are impressed by seasonal birding spectacles. The mighty tides of the Bay of Fundy enrich extensive mud flats, which attract millions of southbound shorebirds in August. The massive flocks, mostly Semipalmated Sandpipers, concentrate on a rising tide, producing a remarkable display, best viewed at Grand Pré beach, the dykes behind the Windsor Information Centre, or the southern tip of Cape Sable Island. In June and July the **Bird Islands** of Cape Breton are a draw, with large numbers of Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, kittiwakes, and Great Cormorants. Hundreds of pairs of Bald Eagles nest in the province, most in **Cape** Breton, especially around Bras d'Or Lake. From October through March more than 500 concentrate in **Kings County**, and are the focus of the Eagle Watch festival.

Pelagic Birding

The food that entices the many whales into the **Bay of Fundy** also attracts thousands of seabirds. Taking any of the whale-watching trips will provide the opportunity to view shearwaters (Greater, Sooty, & Manx), storm-petrels (Leach's & Wilson's), phalaropes (Red & Red-necked), puffins, gannets, jaegers, and occasionally South Polar Skua.

Breeding Birds

Summer visitors enjoy the diversity of our breeding birds, especially our 22 species of wood warbler, including Mourning and Canada. In our widespread evergreen forests birders seek out Boreal Chickadees, Gray Jays, Black-backed Woodpeckers, Spruce Grouse, and White-winged Crossbills. Different species are sought in specialised habitats; Bicknell's Thrushes in the Cape Breton Highlands, Sharp-tailed Sparrows in salt marshes, and Piping Plovers on protected beaches.



The Islands

Migrant birds displaced over the ocean seek the nearest landfall, making Nova Scotia's islands attractive to birds and birders alike, especially in spring and autumn. Outer islands have the advantage, as they catch the birds first. Well-known island migrant traps with easy access for birders include **Cape Sable Island** (Shelburne Co), Brier & Long Islands (Digby Co.), Isle Madame (Cape Breton), **Big Island** (Pictou Co.), and Sober Island (Marine Drive, Eastern Shore).



Discover Birds of all Feathers in Nova Scotia

IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT the sounds of a Nova Scotia seacoast. Seabirds chatter merrily alongside towering granite cliffs. A songbird trills on its perch as hikers rest near a stand of sugar maples. An eagle soars slowly over the sparkling water of an inland sea.

This is Nova Scotia, one of the best birding destinations in North America. Its geographic position on the Atlantic Flyway and its diverse range of habitat attract over 445 species annually, making Nova Scotia's provincial list the third highest in Canada. To some birds, the East Coast is home year-round; to others, a place to nest or rest on the long journey south. Often it is the first land many weary vagrants see, thrown hundreds of miles off course by a tropical storm. Enjoy breeding birds in summer, migratory birds in spring and autumn, and Canada's finest winter birding in the frosty season.

Nova Scotia's birds-as diverse as they are delightful to see.







Explore the spectacular scenery of the highlands, Cape Breton's ultimate paddling destination.



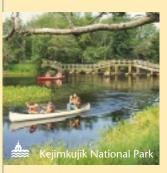
Seach ≤ Melmerby Beach

By Sea, Naturally

Blessed with sandy shores, salt marsh estuaries and the warmest waters north of the Carolinas, the **Northumberland Strait** invites family paddling among rock gardens and swaying kelp beds.

Naturalist's Delight

Skim the 200 peaceful lakes and waterways that flow through **Annapolis County**; or explore nearby **Kejimkujik National Park**, an idyllic setting for nature lovers and novice paddlers.



Coastal Explorations



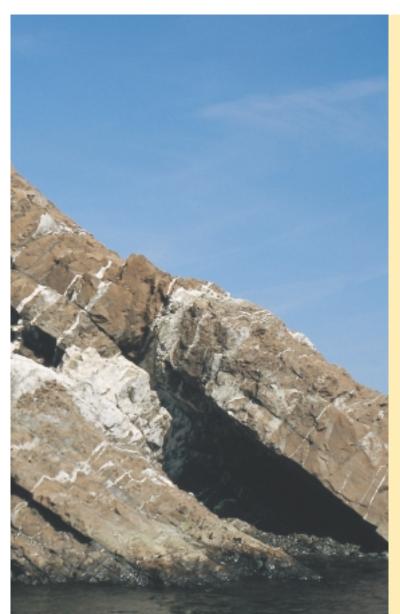
Let the Marine Drive acquaint you with our craggy Atlantic Coast. Shallow, protected bays, like **Shoal Bay** near **Tangier**, provide an excellent introduction. Farther afield, the **Tusket Islands** and **Canso** shore are breathtaking in their tranquillity.

Islands and Inlets

Sea Kay

From vibrant fishing villages to the most secluded coves, this shore has everything a kayaker dreams about. **St. Margaret's Bay** and **Mahone Bay** are blessed with wandering coastlines and dotted with uninhabited islands for exploring. Farther south, in **Kingsburg** and **Port Mouton** you'll probably see more birds and seals than people along the beaches of soft, pale sand.





vaking and Canoeing



A Paddler's Paradise

UNRAVEL NOVA SCOTIA'S 7400-KILOMETRE COASTLINE and it would stretch overland to the Pacific and back. Breathtaking coastal expanses peppered with lonely archipelagos, tide-hewn sea spires, sheltered inlets and bird-filled salt marsh estuaries are complemented by interior lakes and treelined rivers where log drivers once plied their trade. The scenery is outstanding, the solitude cherished and the variety exceptional, and this makes Nova Scotia an ideal paddling site for every taste and skill level.

There's no shortage of ways to enjoy Nova Scotia's interior and coastal waterways. Take the family on a protected day tour, or challenge yourself to a guided multi-day excursion through the flora, fauna and centuries-old fables of our vast water world. Sleek, manoeuvrable sea kayaks nose you into nooks and crannies where few can venture; bring your own craft or rent from a wide range of dedicated outfitters and tour operators. Head inland, with canoe or kayak, where the rhythm of the sea gives way to the call of loons on the lakes and whispering riverside pines.

Ribbon-like rivers, lakes and coastal expansesómore than twice as long as the country in which we live. It's great to paddle your own canoe. It's even better to do it here in Nova Scotia.

Bay of Fundy

Medway River

Nova Scotia's **Bay of Fundy** attracts one of the greatest concentrations of marine life in Eastern Canada. Its shoreline is a geological marvel, sculpted daily by the world's highest tides. However, its 8-knot currents will challenge the most experienced paddlers, so you might prefer a guided tour to **Five Islands** or **Cape Chignecto**. Their sprawling beaches shelter semiprecious stones and 300-million-year-old fossils.





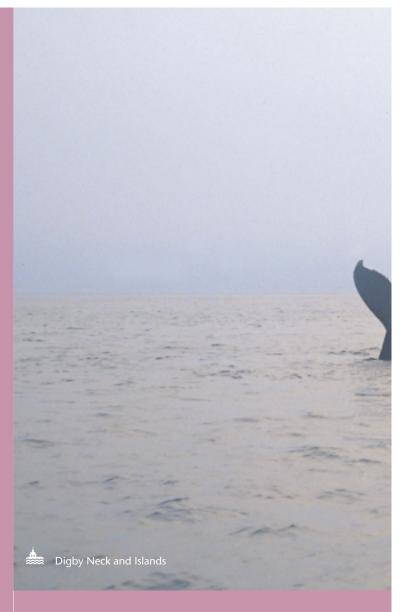
See Nova Scotia's Wonders of the Water

IMAGINE 50 FEET of dark, glistening flesh, shaped around a swift, swimming torpedo; 50 tons of muscle and bone circling in the waters beneath your seemingly tiny vessel.

Few things can compare to the thrill of being just metres away from the hulking mass of a whale. See the sun play on its smooth hide. Hear the whoosh of spray from its blowhole, and keep the cameras rolling. Our nature cruises get you up close to these awesome, and often playful, gentle giants.

And, where there are whales, there are seabirds; whole symphonies of them! Hear them calling from the rocks. See them wheeling through the air and landing on the cliffs, while harbour seals bask on sun-drenched rocks. Encounter the creatures of our water-world, for thrills and chills you'll delight in remembering.





Common Whale Species

Fin whale

These are the second biggest whales in the world, usually around 20 metres (60-70 feet). Most often, they're spotted offshore, but they also show up closer inland. You're likely to see them in spring, summer and fall, usually swimming in small groups.

Minke whales

One of the smallest (6 to 9 metres/20 to 30 feet) and most commonly seen species in our neighbourhood. Minkes usually travel alone.

Northern Right whales

These were hunted into near-extinction and despite decades of preservation, they are the world's most endangered whales. About 300 of them are thought to make up the Atlantic population — most of them spending their summers in the Bay of Fundy. About 15 metres (50 feet) long.

Humpback whales

Friendly whales and real showboats. About 15 metres (50 feet) long, they breach the ocean surface in spectacular fashion. Humpbacks often travel in groups.

Whale, Seabird and Nature Cruises

Back Off Digby Neck



Enormously Entertaining

The southern part of the bay, particularly around **Digby Neck** and the nearby islands, is a rich feeding ground for whales, bustling with some of the largest species. Here, you have a very good chance to see the endangered Northern Right whales, Fins, Humpbacks, Minkes, and harbour porpoises. Occasionally, Sperm, Blue and killer whales find their way here while seals and puffins feed in the Bay all summer. You can see them all from the comfort and safety of a variety of tour boats, from Zodiacs to specially built enclosed ships. The many tour boats share their whale sighting information by radio, so that means you have a great chance to see some.

Magnificent and Memorable

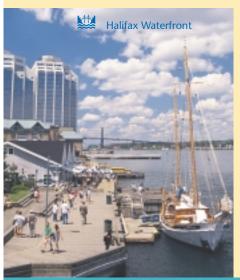
Much of the island's coastline, especially the Northwest, is ideal whale watching territory. Look for Fins, Humpbacks, and Pilot whales. And if you're really lucky, you might even spot other rarities: Beluga and Sperm whales, or Blue and Sei whales. Also, cruise to the **Bird Islands** to see the wonderful collection of exotic and rare seabirds. The two islands are an official bird sanctuary, a spring and summer home for Atlantic puffins, black guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes, and more.



Sailing

SLICE ACROSS THE WATERS of the brilliant, blue Atlantic, or gently rock at anchor in a sunny, sheltered bay. Sailing is a respite from a busy life on land, and it showcases the solitary beauty of our seacoast. Captain your own vessel, learn the ropes under a seasoned salt, or relax on a chartered tour of tiny coves and island-studded bays where pirates plied the waters and legends remain. Here, sailing and schooners are world-renowned. Discover Nova Scotia by sea.





Set Sail from the City

The enormous natural harbour is the capital's reason for being. Explore it and see the city teeming with life as you cut through the waters on a sailboat, grand or small. If the *Bluenose II* is in port, take a morning or afternoon cruise and let the world unfold from the deck of the legendary schooner. Or, do it yourself on a boat that fits your skills. Plenty of charters and tours.

Golden Moments

The Bras d'Or Lakes, a sprawling inland sea in the heart of Cape Breton is a sailor's dream-its ruggedly beautiful setting a magnet for celebrities or anyone who just loves sailing. Lots of quality operators offer charters and tours.



Where Sailing is a Way of Life

The cradle of Nova Scotia's sailing traditions. Every harbour has its own allure, character, and legends. Trace the old routes of rumrunners through the inlets and islands of St. Margaret's Bay for a brilliant day skimming over the sea. Try the splendid waters of Mahone Bay, dotted by 365 islands, providing enough adventure for every day of the year. Or take a "learn to sail" vacation along this historic shore.

Lunenburg Marine Park

Perhaps the best diving neighbourhood on the Eastern Seaboard because of one imposing tenant: the sunken Canadian destroyer, the **Saguenay**. The 110metre (366-foot) ship has everything a diver is looking for: swim-throughs, passages and hatches; familiar sea creatures such as mussels, jelly fish and eels to the exotic blood starfish, pink coralline algae, and friendly harbour seals. A great spot for snapping underwater photos.



Spectacle Marine Park and Area

Farther down the Lighthouse Route, Port Mouton Bay has 16 dive sites. The new artificial reef, **Matthew Atlantic** sits in clear waters about 15 metres deep, offering novice divers the sort of setting usually only accessible to experts.

Diving

EXPERIENCE THE RUSH of adrenalin as you perch on the brink of an encounter with the ghosts of maritime history. Then drop into clear Atlantic waters, where thousands of sunken vessels await you in the eerie light that filters from the surface. Spy eels, seals, starfish and sea ravens, and behold the gentle sway of hydroids and the flashing bellies of a school of mackerel. Wreck diving is Nova Scotia's most popular underwater adventure, and these underwater treasures make fascinating places to explore. Enhance this summer's wreck diving experiences with an in-depth, land-based exploration of sunken vessels at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic's fascinating exhibit "Shipwreck Treasures of Nova Scotia." Come on, take the plunge!

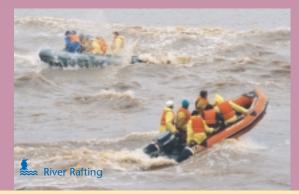
River Rafting



Saltwater Whitewater

A guaranteed adrenaline rush: rafting along a surging river with a bunch of soaking, shrieking people. The extra-ordinary force of the **Bay of Fundy's** tides

creates a tidal bore that actually sends the flow of the Shubenacadie River back-wards. That translates into a churning, roaring adventure of whitewater rafting.



Surfing

SURFING? IN NOVA SCOTIA?! Youíd better believe it! Southern Nova Scotiaís rugged coastline and long, sandy beaches offer as many surfing opportunities and challenges as anywhere in the world. Revel in reef breaks; steep, fast beach breaks; and right and left point breaks that really get you moving! Nova Scotia's waters are crystal clear and clean, and the tours, rental services and lessons are top-notch. Seize the challenges, thrills and spills of world-class surfing. Let it ride in Nova Scotia!

Lawrencetown Beach

Southern Nova Scotia has sandy beaches and scores of inlets to challenge both beginner and expert. Prime time is August through November, when the water's warm and tropical storms

kick up powerful surf. The water goes from about 4 Celsius in winter to 20 in summer, but no matter the season, a wetsuit is recommended.





NOVA SCOTIA

Make the Most of Nova Scotia Your Way, Everyday?

Start off on an adventure and follow Nova Scotia's travelways.

Nova Scotia is divided into ten unique scenic travelway routes which follow the slower-paced and scenic coastal roads. In Nova Scotia you can follow the signs to find attractions, scenic views, festivals, restaurants, accommodations, campgrounds, museums and parks.



A Word to the Wise...

The Government of Nova Scotia provides this publication only as a primary source of information. No promises, representations or warranties of any kind are made or implied concerning any aspect of the products or services described herein. The Government of Nova Scotia is not responsible for any errors or omissions contained in this publication. As in any commercial relationship, parties should exercise prudence and care to ensure that each is capable of meeting the expectations of the other. Individuals are advised to contact operators respecting insurance coverage. Taxes are extra unless stated.

For more information on Nova Scotia or to order your Free Doers and Dreamers Guide, call our reservation and information service– 1-800-565-0000 op. #812 (in North America)

(in North America) or visit our website at **exploreNS.com**

Choose from 66 Natural Ways to Enjoy Our Great Outdoors.



www.adventurenovascotia.com

Code of Ethics

Ensuring that the environmental, social, cultural, economic and aesthetic needs and expectations of the community and their customers are included in the formulation of policies, plans and decisions, and result in the provision of quality goods and services.

Ensuring operations are designed and conducted in a manner that will conserve resources, minimize or eliminate environmental damage, and where possible, enhance environmental situations.

Continually evaluating new information, technologies and services, thus providing themselves and their employees with opportunities for development, environmental education and protection, and improved customer service.

Acting with a spirit of cooperation within the industry and related sectors to foster greater public awareness of the economic, social, cultural and environmental significance of tourism.

Enhancing our natural, historic, cultural and aesthetic resources as a legacy for present and future generations, through encouraging establishment of parks, wilderness reserves and protected areas.

Complying with relevant Federal, Provincial and Municipal legislation.

For more information on the NSATA contact:

Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia NSATA Secretariat 1099 Marginal Road Suite 201, Halifax NS Canada B3H 4P7

tel (902) 423-4480 or 1-800-948-4267 fax (902) 422-0184 www.adventurenovascotia.com

Nova Scotia Adventure Tourism Association Membership Directory

Canoeing

Hinterland Adventures and Gear Weymouth, NS BOW 3T0 web www.outdoors.com/hinterland Tel 837-4092 or 1-800-378-8177 Fax 837-5196

Jolley Country

Adventures Ltd. RR 1, 191 Marble Mountain Road West Bay, NS BOE 3L0 web www.jolleyadventure.com Tel 625-5184 Fax 484-5711

Spring-Haven Canoe

RR 3, Box 156 Tusket, NS BOW 3M0 web www.springhavencanoe.com Tel/Fax 648-0146

Cycling

Adventure Quest Expeditions Inc.

Site 8, Box 40 Elmsdale, NS BON 1M0 web http://www.navnet.net/-quest/ Tel 883-1974 Fax 883-7495

Atlantic Canada Cycling

PO Box 1555, Station Central Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3 web www.atl-canadacycling.com Tel 423-2453 Fax 423-2452

Freewheeling Adventures RR 1 Hubbards, NS B0J 1T0

RR 1 Hubbards, NS B0J 1T0 web www.freewheeling.ca Tel 857-3600 1-800-672-0775 Fax 857-3612

SeaSpray Cycle &

Outdoor Centre 1141 White Point Road Dingwall, NS BOC 1G0 web http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/ seaspray.cb Tel/Fax 383-2732

Hiking and Walking Tours

Atlantic Canada Nature Safaris PO Box 33051

Halifax, NS B3L 4T6 web www.atlanticcanadasafaris.com Tel 455-3595 1-877-455-3595 Fax 484-6584

Discover Acadia

Vacations Inc Box 40, Port Williams NS BOP 1T0 web www.glinx.com/users/discover Tel 1-888-277-3144 Fax 542-1107

Earthsea

Box 95, Riverport, NS BOJ 2W0 web www.auracom.com/earthsea Tel 766-4129

Gaboteux Tours/Les Tours du Gaboteux

Petit Etang, NS BOE 2M0 e-mail jean.eileen.timrick@ ns.sympatico.ca Tel 224-2940

Halifax Trading And

Guide Post 1586 Granville St. Halifax, NS B3J 1X1 web www3.ns.sympatico.ca /haltandgp Tel 492-1420 Fax 492-1443

Into The Wilderness

...Expeditions 5th Floor Pickford & Black Bldg. Historic Properties, 1869 Upper Water Street Halifax, NS B3J 159 web www.aberdeen-itw.com Tel 425-9453 or 1-800-928-7245 Fax 425-4984

Scott Walking Adventures

1707 Pryor Street Halifax, NS B3H 4G7 web www.scottwalking.com Tel 423-5000 or 1-800-262-8644 Fax 423-5019

Spirit Adventure Tours

RR 1, Kennetcook, NS BON 1P0 e-mail didkspad@fox.nstn.ca Tel 634-2414 Fax 632-2144

Sailing

Cape Breton Lake Charters

RR 1, Big Pond, NS BOA 1H0 web www.alongshore.com Tel 828-2476 Fax 665-4929

SouWester

Adventure Tours PO Box 22, Bridgetown NS BOS 1C0 web www.souwesteradventures.com Tel 665-4004 or 1-877-665-4004

Super Natural

Sailing Tours RR 1, St. Peters NS BOE 3B0 web www.aco.ca/super Tel 535-3371 or 1-800-903-3371 Fax 535-2209

Scuba Diving

Divers World 2 Lakeside Park Drive, Unit 11 Halifax, NS B3T 1L7 e-mail divrwrld@fox.nstn.ca Tel 876-0555

Sea Kayaking

Fax 876-7079

AquAdventures Acadie 64 Coolens Road, Shad Bay NS B3T 2B7 web www3.ns.sympatico.ca/ aquaventures Tel/Fax 852-5322

Atlantic Paddle Explorers

Box 1500, Truro, NS B2N 5V4 web www.atlanticpaddleexplorers.com Tel 896-1208 Fax 893-4942

Cape Breton Seacoast Adventures

Wreck Cove, NS BOC 1H0 web www.members.tripod.com/ adventure_4u Tel 929-2800 or 1-877-929-2800

Coastal Adventures

PO Box 77, Tangier, NS BOJ 3H0 web www.coastaladventures.com Tel/Fax 772-2774 1-877-404-2774

Coastal Spirit Expeditions Box 1, River John, NS BOK 1N0

web www.coastalspiritexp.com Tel 351-2283 The area code for all of Nova Scotia is **902**. The area code must be included whenever you call long distance.

Dragonfly Outfitters

41 Appian Way Dartmouth, NS B2X 3G1 web www.dragonflyoutfitters.com Tel 435-9799 Fax 435-0818

Eagle North Canoe & Kayak Rentals

299 Shore Road RR 2 Dingwall, NS BOC 1G0 e-mail eaglenorth@ns.sympatico.ca Tel 383-2552 Fax 383-2550

Isle Madame Water & Sky Paddling Adventures

Box 228, Arichat, NS BOE 1A0 web www.islemadame.com/ waterandsky Tel 226-9371 Fax 226-0212

Kayak Cape Breton

RR 2, West Bay (Roberta) NS BOE 3K0 web www.kayakcapebreton.com Tel/Fax 535-3060

North River Kayak Tours & Boat Rentals

RR 4 Baddeck, Cape Breton NS BOE 1B0 web www.northriverkayak.com Tel 1-888-865-2925 Tel/Fax 929-2628

NovaShores Adventure

49 Nottingham Dr Stillwater Lake, NS B3Z 1G4 web www.novashores.com Tel/Fax 449-1726

Paradise Kayak Tours & Outdoor Shop

200 Bymes Lane Catalone, NS B1C 2E8 e-mail kayak@cbnet.ns.ca Tel/Fax 733-3244

Rossignol Surf Shop

PO Box 610, Liverpool NS BOT 1K0 web www.outdoors.com/surfshop Tel 1-877-990-3733 Fax 354-2560

Valley Canoe & Kayak Company

Box 1253, Wolfville, NS BOP 1X0 web www.glinx.com/paddler Tel 680-6768 Fax 585-1059

Whale, Seabird and Nature Cruises

Basin Charters Box 404, Digby, NS BOV 1A0 web www.basincharters.com Tel 245-8446

Bird Island Tours

Big Bras d'Or, NS BOX 1B0 web fox.nstn.ca/~birdisld/ Tel 674-2384 Fax 674-2742

Brier Island Whale & Seabird Cruises

Seabird Cruises PO Box 1199 Westport, NS BOV 1H0 web www.municipalities.com/ briwsc Tel 839-2995 Fax 839-2075

Cabot's Landing Whale &

Nature Tours Dingwall, NS BOC 1G0 web bally.fortunecity.com/cavan/88 Tel 383-2340

Captain Cox's

Whale Watch Capstick, NS BOC 1E0 web www.atlanticonline.ns.ca/captcox Tel 383-2981

Four Wind Charters

180 Hillside Drive St Marg. Bay, NS BOJ 1G0 **Tel** 492-0022

Mariner Cruises

Box 1264, Westport, NS BOV 1H0 web www.marinercruises.ns.ca Tel 839-2364

Mcnab's Island Ferry

& Nature Tours Box 183, Shearwater, NS BOJ 3A0 web www.mcnabsisland.com Tel 485-4583

Murphy's On The Water

Box 2378, Halifax, NS B3J 3E4 web www.murphysonthewater.com Tel 420-1015

Ocean Explorations (Zodiac) Whale Cruises

Box 719, Tiverton, NS BOV 1G0 web www.oceanexplorations.ns.ca Tel 839-2417 Peggy's Cove Whale Watch Peggy's Cove, NS BOJ 2N0 web www.peggyscove.com Tel 456-3411

Petite Passage Whale Watch

RR 4, Digby, NS BOV 1A0 Tel 245-6132

Pirates Cove Whale Watch Box 624, Tiverton, NS B0V1G0 web www.tartannet.ns.ca/pcove Tel 839-2242

Puffin Boat Tours

Box 33, Englishtown, NS BOC 1H0 web baddeck.com/puffin Tel/Fax 929-2563 or 1-877-2PUFFIN

Seavisions Ltd.

RR 1 Ingonish Beach, NS BOC 1L0 web www.ingonish.com/ seavisions Tel 285-2594

Whale Cruisers

(Cheticamp) Ltd PO Box 183 Cheticamp, NS BOE 1H0 Tel 224-3376

Adventure Tour Operators

Canadian Birding Inc. 144 Bayview Drive Whites Lake, NS B3T 1Z1 e-mail maybank@ns.sympatico.ca Tel 852-2077

Canadvac Travel Service

Box 188, Caledonia, NS B0T 1B0 e-mail canadvac@fox.nstn.ca Tel 682-2116

Down to Earth

Adventures Box 6073, Halifax, NS B3J 3S9 web www.downtoearthadventures.com Tel 420-8967

High On Life Island

Adventures RR 4 Site 1 Comp 8 Baddeck, NS BOE 1B0 Tel 929-2659

Island Eco Adventures Box 34, Baddeck, NS BOE 1B0 Tel 295-3303

Sea Visions Whale Watch RR 1, Ingonish Ferry, NS BOC 1L0 web www.capebretonet.com/ ingonish/seavisions Tel 285-2628 or 285-2684

White Point Beach Tours Box 900, Liverpool, NS B0T 1G0 web www.whitepoint.com Tel 421-1569

River Rafting (Motorized)

Shubenacadie River Adventure Tours

10061 Hwy #215 Shubenacadie, NS BON 2H0 web www.shubie.com Tel 261-2222

Shubenacadie River Runners Ltd

8661 Hwy #215 Maitland, NS, B0N 2T0 web www.tidalborerafting.com Tel 261-2770

Skiing

Ski Martock/ NS Ski Area Association

RR 3, Windsor, NS BON 2T0 web www.martock.com Tel 798-9501

books and resources

SELF-GUIDED BICYCLING TOURS

The Nova Scotia Bicycle Book Gary Conrad Mountain Bike Nova Scotia Kermit deGooyer & Geoff Brown

CANOEING AND KAYAKING

Sea Kayaking in Nova Scotia Scott Cunningham

Coastal Nova Scotia Joanne Light

Canoe waterway web site www.trails.gov.ns.ca

SAILING

Cruising Nova Scotia Nimbus Publishing

Cruising the Eastern Shore Mike Cox

HIKING AND WALKING BOOKS Hiking Trails of Nova Scotia Michael Haynes

Hiking Trails of Cape Breton Michael Haynes

Hiking Trails of Halifax Michael Haynes Nature & Hiking Guide to Cape

Breton's Cabot Trail David Lawley

Explore Cape Breton Pat O'Neil

Hiking trails web site www.trails.gov.ns.cal

BIRDING

Birds of Nova Scotia Robbie Tufts

NS bird information line (902) 852-2428

WHALES

A Guide to Whale Watching in the Maritimes David Lawley Whales in the Bay of Fundy Tim Beatty

WHALES

Dive Nova Scotia Video **Contact Splash Water Sports** 445dive@ns.sympatico.ca

NATURE GUIDES

Fundy Shore Eco Tour Nimbus Publishing

Marine Drive Nature Tour Nimbus Publishing Discover Nova Scotia's Beaches, Parks and Natural Sites Patty Mintz

Nova Scotia wildlife viewing guide Julie Tower & Anne Camozzi Discover Nova Scotia, the ultimate Nature Guide Gary Saunders

Many of these books are available at:

NS Government Website www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/consumer/ publications

FOR YOUR INFORMATION & SAFETY

Boating Safety

To make your boating time on the water more enjoyable, order a free copy of the Safe Boating Guide from the Canadian Coast Guard, Office of Boating Safety, 1-800-267-6687, or from Customs and Excise, Pier 21, 1113 Marginal Road, Box 520, Halifax, NS, B3J 2R7. 426-2071. Safe boating information is also available from the Canadian Red Cross Society: 1-888-577-7267.

Search and Rescue information may be obtained by writing to the Rescue Coordination Centre, HMC Dockyard, Dept. of National Defence, Halifax, NS, B3K 2X0. 427-8200.

For information on high and low tides, call the Tide-A-Phone (1-888-775-0790). In either English or French, it will give the predicted times for tides anywhere in the province.

The Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans publishes nautical charts and books designed to promote safety on Canada's waters. For more information on charts, contact the Canadian Hydrographic Service, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 4A2. 426-2373; fax 426-7827.

Diving

The diving industry is regulated in Nova Scotia. It is illegal for divers to take lobsters or scallops. For a complete list of regulations, contact the N.S. Underwater Council (425-5450, ext. 325). For other information, try the East Coast Diving Website: www. chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/EastCoastDive/ns. htm, South Shore Tourism Assn (624-6466), and the Artificial Reef Society (624-1557; hmcsfraser@hotmail.com).

Canoeing and Sea Kayaking

For more canoe information, including lesson times, contact Canoe Nova Scotia, 5516 Spring Garden Rd, Box 3010 South, Halifax, NS, B3J 3G6. 425-540, ext. 316. For information on flat-water racing and marathon racing, contact the Canadian Canoe assn, Atlantic Division, at Canoe Nova Scotia's address. For more on kayaking and canoeing, try the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Assn, Box 398, Merrickville, Ont., K0G 1N0. (613)-269-2910; fax (613) 269-2908.

Camping

Nova Scotia seems to have been created with campers in mind. Our verdant woods, clear streams and endless seacoast provide idyllic settings for campers of every stripe. Around the province, you'll find a compelling range of possibilities, from tent-andtrailer towns to isolated campsites, accessible only by canoe. We have campsites in both national parks, 22 provincial parks, and more than 130 privately owned campgrounds. Government inspectors ensure that all of the privately owned ones have hygienic water and toilet facilities. When you do go camping, please make sure to stay only in designated campsites. It is illegal to camp indiscriminately (in parking lots, or by shopping malls and beaches, for example).

For more details and information, see the campground listings in the Scenic Travelway sections of the Nova Scotia Doers and **Dreamers** Guide.

Stormont