

Welcome to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island

Fashioned by the mighty Atlantic, these open-armed Canadian provinces beckon you for chats, chowder and the chance to see whales breach in the distance.

Watery Wonderland

Scanning the horizon from the blustery clifftop, you discern a fine spray shooting up from what appears to be an upturned boat, before it suddenly vanishes. Seconds later, whooshing up, the enormous whale-body arcs and rolls into the air, slapping its broad tail flukes against the icy surface. Such moments of aquatic wonder aren't uncommon in Atlantic Canada: perhaps as you bike past a lupine-fringed red-sand beach on Prince Edward Island, fly-fish the abundant rivers of New Brunswick, mount a tidal bore wave aboard a dinghy in Nova Scotia, or contemplate the passing of ice-bergs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Light the Way

Welcome to what's perhaps the lighthouse capital of the world. Reached by winding sealed and unsealed roads, countless wind-swept craggy coves provide the photogenic backdrops for these picture-perfect beacons, many still in service. More house volunteer-operated museums, where you can climb to the top to marvel at the ocean and wonder about how many lives have been saved over the years by these Maritime sentinels. Not all lighthouses are open or in great shape, but they're universally in wild and wonderful locations, poignant reminders of a lost age.

A Foot-Tapping Good Time

Here's a culture defined by fiddle playing and wearing out the dancing shoes. Maritimers are well-practiced in the art of partying and like nothing more than to share the good times with all who visit. If these come-one-come-all get-togethers don't make you tap your feet, check your pulse. Outdoor festivals fill the summer calendar as locals make the most of long daylight hours. Folks of Acadian and Gaelic roots each celebrate their heritage through their own distinct music and all are invited: be there by six!

Shellfish Bliss

Gear-up with your bib, pick and lobster fork and forget about getting butter in your hair: crustaceans (lobster, crab, shrimp) and bivalves (scallops, mussels, oysters) form the mainstay of Atlantic Canada's marine bounty. Confused about how to get the meat out of that lobster leg? This thoughtful bunch often supplies you with instructions on the placemat of how to master the beast with your chosen utensils. Part surgeon, part warrior, part gourmand, the experience of eating these briny critters is almost as good as they taste.



Why I Love Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island

By Benedict Walker, Writer

My arrival in Halifax began as one of those rainy, weary, almost-missing-your-flight kind of mornings, after weeks of long days on the road. Always the penny-pincher, I opted, despite my lethargy, for the airport shuttle over a taxi. As the only passenger I sat up front with the driver, who regaled me with his latest tales as if I were an old friend. His warm demeanor soon thawed my frosty mood – these were people who'd already welcomed me many times and captured my heart. I was home, safe. Visit and you'll see what I mean.

For more about our writers, see p280

Above: West Point Lighthouse, Cedar Dunes Provincial Park (p166), Prince Edward Island