

LIGHTHOUSE ROUTE

This trail along the south shore from Yarmouth to Halifax is a tour of Nova Scotia's seafaring heritage: lobster traps piled high on the wharves, fishing nets spread on the docks, and boats bobbing in the harbours ready for the next day's catch. Along the way the picturesque lighthouses and the bellowing foghorns romance the traveller, while serving as beacons to the seamen coming in and out of the rocky coves and foggy fishing ports. Folklore includes stories of shipwrecks, tales of rum-running and legends of buried treasure.

While much of this coastal road runs beside beautiful dense forest, enormous granite boulders dominate the barren landscapes around Indian Harbour, Peggy's Cove and West Dover.

Perched on these gigantic slabs of granite overlooking the sea, Peggy's Cove is a classic picture postcard fishing village. Captured by a multitude of artists and photographers, it is the most visited fishing village in Nova Scotia, and yet, somehow it is surprisingly uncommercialized. The lighthouse which also serves as the Post Office, stands alone, buffeted by the surf, and begging to be immortalized in one more photograph.

The picturesque seaside town

of Lunenburg was founded in 1753 on the site of an ancient Indian village and former French fishing post. The French, German and Swiss settlers excelled in boat building, their vessels ranking among the world's finest. The legendary Bluenose schooner was built here. Positioned on a peninsula, Lunenburg has both front and back harbours. Its architecture, names and traditions still reflect the community's European roots.

The charming town of Mahone Bay was founded in the 1750s by New England immigrants who favoured making Nova Scotia a 14th colony. It is still a popular summer retreat for Americans. Suggestive names like Sacrifice Island and Murderer's Point recall the days of pirate attacks, clashes with the Indians, and privateer raids. Three churches standing side by side at the head of the harbour make this town easy to identify.

The tree-lined community of Liverpool features the early architectural style of the New Englanders who settled here in 1795. Widow's walks can be seen atop many of the fine old colonial homes. Some of the old buildings have been converted into museums, but the County Courthouse still serves its original purpose.

