

Historic and Scenic Circle Tour

Explore the Bay of Fundy and Oldest Settlement Road



(Parks Canada/C. Reardon)



Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail, the Bay of Fundy, Port-Royal NHS and North Hills Museum are “must see” Annapolis Royal Area attractions.

Annapolis Royal to Granville Ferry

About a quarter mile past the Tidal Power Plant, turn left for Port Royal, Canada’s Oldest Settlement Road and a Fundy Coast adventure. In Granville Ferry you’ll discover many picturesque homes, several of which are now B&Bs and artists’ studios. Parking areas offer scenic vistas of Annapolis Royal across the river. Half mile past Granville Ferry you’ll find North Hills Museum.

North Hills Museum

Operated by the Nova Scotia Museum and Annapolis Heritage Society, North Hills is one of the oldest houses in the province. (c.1764). The small, square, salt-box house is full of Georgian treasures, mostly from England. It showcases 1700s and 1800s art, 1714 to 1830 porcelain, 1700s glassware, plus elegantly crafted oak, walnut and mahogany furniture. An Acadian aboiteau from the nearby Melanson Settlement NHS is also on display.

Port-Royal National Historic Site

Continue to Pension Pies and Melanson Settlement National Historic Site, one of Canada’s best preserved pre-deportation Acadian archaeological sites, then on to Port-Royal NHS. The Habitation is a reconstruction of one of the first European settlements in North America, founded in 1605 by Sieur de Mons and Samuel de Champlain. Costumed interpreters bring history

to life with period demonstrations and descriptions of life in a 1605 fur trading post. The first cereal crops in the country were sown at the Habitation, the first European drama was written and staged in 1606, and the Order of Good Cheer, the first European social club held in North America, was started to help pass away the long winter nights. Discover Canada’s roots, and learn about French colonial life. www.pc.gc.ca

Port-Royal to Victoria Beach

Continue on to Victoria Beach, past a scenic lighthouse and an 18th century Anglican Church. At low tide walk the clam flats at Thorne’s Cove, explore old graveyards and enjoy a gorgeous view of the Digby Gut and Bay of Fundy. You can also fish off the wharf at Victoria Beach, the terminus for the Pony Express from Halifax in the mid 1800s.

Port-Royal to Fundy Shore

On your way back toward Granville Ferry, turn left onto Hollow Mountain Road. Travel through five miles of woodland over the North Mountain to reach the scenic Bay of Fundy. Turn left to visit Delaps Cove for camping and hiking adventures.

Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail

In addition to a scenic wharf and fishing fleet in Delaps Cove,

two trails offer a wilderness escape with panoramic vistas and access to the Bay of Fundy. See page 17.

Delaps Cove to Hampton

Follow the rugged coastline of the world-famous Bay of Fundy on the Shore Road, stretching 20 miles from Delaps Cove to Hampton. Winding along the tide-carved Fundy Coast, discover lighthouses, cobble beaches, and fishing wharves. Enjoy artists’ studios, salt water marine life, photography, birdwatching, hiking and kayaking.

After passing Litchfield, you’ll find Shore Road Seafood in Hillsburn before arriving in Parkers Cove. This is the largest wharf in the area and an active lobster fishing district. Fishermen schedule work around the 30-foot tides as the harbour is dry a portion of each day. At low tide, you can walk on the bottom of the Bay of Fundy floor and investigate inter-tidal marine life. If your visit is not at low tide, you may see the fishing fleet unloading their catch, or do a little fishing of your own.

Young’s Cove and Coastal Access Park

Continue east to Young’s Cove

Coastal Access Park. It includes a Bay of Fundy viewing area less than 10 minutes from the parking lot. Enjoy a picnic, hike along the shore, explore tidal pools, and be on the lookout for seals and fishing boats. On Fridays you can often join a local musical jam session at Young’s Cove’s Community Hall at 7 pm.

Hampton to Bridgetown to Annapolis Royal

Drive through Phinney Cove to picturesque Hampton. In Hampton, turn left off of the Shore Road, following the signs to Hampton Beach. Before you reach the beach and wharf, a great spot for mackerel fishing and spectacular sunsets, you’ll see the Hampton Lighthouse (circa 1911) on your right. Climb the tower for a bird’s-eye view of the bait sheds at the edge of the protected harbour and the long gravel beach near the wharf. There are two tidal, cobble beaches here for swimming and beachcombing.

Re-cross the North Mountain to Valleyview Provincial Park for great views, picnic tables and washrooms. Continue on to Bridgetown for a visit to Dawn Oman’s Art Gallery. Return to Annapolis on Hwy. 1 for Kayak Annapolis Royal and Action Jax or the #201 for Tom’s Pizzeria and Tupperville School Museum, used 1869-1970.