



**Annapolis Royal Branch**

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# Eco-tourism Adventures



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Ocean Explorations

Whether you board a traditional boat or a zodiac, you're sure to enjoy your whale watching adventure off nearby Digby Neck.

**Whale Watching**

Whale watching adventures await you about an hour drive from Annapolis Royal from June to Sept. The Bay of Fundy's great tides create a rich ecosystem that supports abundant wildlife, whales and seabirds. The waters off the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, from Brier Island up to Digby Neck, are important feeding areas. Enjoy minke, humpback and fin whales, harbour porpoises and Atlantic white-sided dolphins. Right whales are often seen. Sperm, sei, orca and blue whales have also been spotted.

Humpback whales, "clowns of the sea", are the most likely to be seen. They breach (jump out of the water), flipper slap and tail lob the most (bring the tail out of the water and slap it on the water). They also spy hop, coming out of the water nose first, to look at people.

Finbacks are some of the largest at 60-80 feet, second only to the Blue. Minke are the smallest of the group of whales in the Bay at about 30 feet in length. They are quite friendly and often come close to the boats to delight visitors. You might even see the rare North Atlantic Right whale. Only about 350 are still living.

You may also encounter seals, dolphins and harbour porpoises. Most often seen are the Grey Seal and Harbour Porpoise. The Grey

Seal is larger with a noticeably square head. Most abundant are the Harbour Porpoises. White-sided dolphins often run with the boats, swimming playfully and jumping out of the water.

This area of the Bay of Fundy is located on the Atlantic Flyway, a major migration route for many species of sea birds, shorebirds and waterfowl. Birdwatching is a special added plus with Puffins, Gannets, Cormorants, Shearwaters, Petrels and Ducks, both common Elders and American Blacks.

**Bay of Fundy**

Explore the scenic shores of the Annapolis Basin and the Bay of Fundy. Take a close-up view of the flora and fauna. See p. 8, 18 & 22.



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