

Nova Scotia Photo Trek

Highlight Photo Tours

18-25 August 2019

Our Mentor: Reed Hoffmann

The group will be led by renowned photography instructor Reed Hoffmann. His career has spanned more than four decades, the first two with jobs at newspapers in the Midwest, South and East. Reed began teaching in the '90s with a class on photojournalism at Rochester Institute of Technology. Managing his paper's conversion to all-digital in 1997, he was then asked to speak at conferences around the country about that process. In 2000 Reed left his last newspaper and spent the next few years helping dozens of news and other organizations around the country convert to digital. Now based in Kansas City, he divides his time between assignments and teaching photography. His corporate clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Getty Images, NBC, Children's Mercy Hospital, EPA, Reuters, Nikon, Lexar, Lowepro, Best Buy, Blue Pixel, Eco-Challenge and Mark Burnett Productions. In 2002 he also began a long career teaching the Nikon School of Photography, creating and teaching the classes and managing the other instructors. Every year Reed leads many hands-on photography workshops, ranging from weekend treks in the U.S. to two-week trips abroad. These include the first workshop by Highlight Photo Tours, held in Quebec City in 2018. Reed has received several industry honors, being named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, a Lexar Pro Elite photographer and a Microsoft Icon of Imaging. More information can be found at <http://reedhoffmann.com/>.

Main Trek

This is the proposed itinerary for the 2019 Nova Scotia photo trek. It is based on a scouting trip I took to Nova Scotia in August 2017.

Arrival; Tuesday August 20

Travelers are welcome to arrive at Halifax (airport code YHZ) at their leisure during the day. There will be no scheduled activities on that day. Accommodations: The Hollis Halifax a DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel. Double occupancy. See reviews at https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Hotel_Review-g154976-d182772-Reviews-The_Hollis_Halifax_a_DoubleTree_Suites_by_Hilton-Halifax_Halifax_Region_Nova_Scotia.html.

Day 1; Wednesday August 21

Sunrise 6:26; sunset 20:13

As there are 4 cruise ships scheduled to dock for the day, our first day will be spent outside of the city.

Meet your mentor and the group following breakfast.



The Bluenose II



Lunenburg Architecture

Our day will include a drive to Lunenburg with scenic stops en route. Lunenburg is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, National Historic District, winner of the Communities in Bloom most beautiful small town in Canada, Prettiest Painted Places in Canada, Port City of the Year and Society of American Travel Writers' awards. Picturesque Lunenburg lies nestled along the scenic shores of southern Nova Scotia.

- Petite Rivière vineyards
- Fishing villages: Blue Rocks, and further down to Stonehurst
- Walk in Lunenburg and capture the architecture and the people
- Bluenose II cruise (photo above from novascotia.com)
- Dinner in Lunenburg
- View Lunenburg harbor from the golf course across the bay
- View Lunenburg at sunset

Day 2: Thursday August 22

Sunrise 6:26; sunset 20:09

We will spend discovering the history and beauty of Halifax. Halifax was named one of the Top 10 Global DESTINATIONS ON THE RISE in TripAdvisor's 2018 Travelers' Choice Awards. For a city with more pubs and clubs per capita than almost any city in Canada, it's fitting that our most famous brew master was also our mayor. Three times. Alexander Keith's original 1820 brewery continues to welcome visitors with costumed guides, stories and, of course, good ale.



Lighthouse in Halifax Harbor



Firing a musket inside Halifax Citadel



Fisherman's Cove, early morning

- Fisherman's Cove sunrise shoot
- Back to the hotel for breakfast
- First review session with Reed
- Halifax Public Gardens; lunch at the Conservatory
- Halifax Citadel
- York Redoubt
- Halifax shore walk

Day 3: Friday August 23

Sunrise 6:28; sunset 20:11

Wolfville, the Acadians' history, the tides of the Bay of Fundy. Located halfway between the equator and the north-pole on Canada's stunning east coast, the Bay of Fundy is a unique coastal environment. The Bay of Fundy is renowned not only for its tides but also for geological discoveries (dinosaur fossils) and marine life (whales).

Wolfville has a vibrant and rich history. Its heritage and history are a defining characteristic and it becomes obvious the more you explore the community. Take a walking tour of the heritage homes, visit the Randall House Museum, stroll through the old burying grounds, or view the dykes built by the French in the 1600's. East of town, you can explore the Grand-Pré National Historic Site which documents the 1755 expulsion of the Acadians - made famous in Longfellow's poem Evangeline. Stop in Hortonville and see the iron cross which stands in memorial to the Acadians, and see the monument, which marks the landing site of the Planters.



Cape Split



Grand Pré



Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens

- Cape Split; Fundy tides
- Grand Pré National Historic Site (photo © Jamie Robertson)
- Uncommon Common Art
- Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens
- Burntcoat Head Park and lighthouse

Day 4: Saturday August 24

Sunrise 6:28; sunset 20:06

The South Shore; beautiful vistas; the famous Peggy's Cove.

Peggy's Point Lighthouse is one of Nova Scotia's most well-known lighthouses and may be the most photographed in Canada. Located in the quaint fishing village of Peggy's Cove along the South Shore, Peggy's Point Lighthouse was built in 1915. Peggy's Cove is famed for its picturesque and typically East-Coast profile, with houses perched along a narrow inlet and on wave-washed boulders facing the Atlantic. Although this unique environment has been designated a preservation area, it is still an active fishing community.



Covese Classic Horse Show



View of Mahone Bay



Peggy's Cove Lighthouse at sunset



Peggy's Cove Lighthouse after sunset

Breakfast at the hotel

Second review session with Reed.

Leave for the South Shore.

- Covese Classic Horse Show
- Mahone Bay; lunch, and discover this quaint little town
- Tancook Island
- Peggy's Cove late afternoon and evening shoot

Day 5: Sunday August 25

We say our goodbyes after a memorable photo trip with new friends.

Pack and depart after a goodbye breakfast at the hotel.

Pre-Trek

A pre-trek visit to Cape Breton Island is offered to a limited number of photographers (maximum 4). The tentative schedule is as follows.

Arrival; Sunday August 18

Arrive at Sydney airport at your leisure (airport code YQY, don't book a flight to Australia!).

Accommodation: Hampton Inn by Hilton Sydney. Double occupancy. See reviews at https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Hotel_Review-g154973-d2555362-Reviews-Hampton_Inn_by_Hilton_Sydney-Sydney_Cape_Breton_Island_Nova_Scotia.html.

Day 1; Monday August 19

Sunrise 6:04, sunset 20:01

Drive to Louisbourg.

On Cape Breton's rocky shoreline east of Sydney, Nova Scotia, the Fortress of Louisbourg brings you back into one of North America's busiest 18th-century seaports. Founded by the French in 1713, this one-quarter reconstruction of the original French town and fortifications is the largest – and best – of its kind in North America, offering a wealth of experiences for visitors to enjoy.

Nova Scotia's colonial history was largely shaped by decisions far across the Atlantic. When the War of Spanish Succession was settled with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, Britain was given control of mainland Nova Scotia and France was given Ile Royale, what is today known as Cape Breton Island.

On the eastern side of Cape Breton, the French found an ice-free, sheltered harbour to act as a base for France's interests in the cod fishery and to serve as an important trading outpost because of its proximity to Europe and colonies in both New England and the West Indies. They named it Louisbourg, in honour of King Louis XIV.

Over the course of almost three decades, engineers surrounded the town and garrison with massive stone walls that would make it one of the most extensive fortifications in North America. In fact, the 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) of walls – measuring 30 feet high and 36 feet thick in some places – cost so much to build that the French king joked how he expected to be able to see them from his palace in France.

Despite the towering walls, the Fortress of Louisbourg had some weaknesses that its engineers struggled with. While the fortress was well defended against attacks from the sea, it was vulnerable to land-based assaults, and when France and Britain went to war in 1745, this weakness was exploited. The attackers – New England militia who saw Louisbourg as a direct threat to their colonies and the nearby fishing grounds – erected siege batteries on the hills overlooking the fortress and, through a series of bombardments and assaults, forced the defenders to surrender.



Louisbourg Lighthouse



Coastline at the Louisbourg Lighthouse



Inside the wall, Louisbourg Fortress

- Sunrise shoot at the Louisbourg lighthouse (weather permitting, and if the group wants to get up early).
- Louisbourg lighthouse and trail
- Louisbourg fortress
- Lunch at the Hôtel de la Marine where we will enjoy a traditional 17th century meal.
- Return to the hotel (free time)
- Photo shoot in Sydney where we will see impressive turn of the century architecture.
- Dinner

Day 2; Tuesday August 20

Sunrise 6:04; sunset 20:03

Breakfast at the hotel then check out

Drive the Cabot Trail where we will stop at many scenic spots for photo opportunities.

The Cabot Trail is unquestionably one of the most scenic drives on the planet, but it is much more than a drive. To truly experience the splendour of it all, venture from the main road onto spectacular hiking trails, and off the beaten path into colourful fishing villages that hug the coast.



Scenic Points; Cabot Trail



Humpback Whale

Whale cruise in Pleasant Bay (alternate nature walk available for those who prefer)

Leave for Halifax

Further Details

We reserve the right to adjust the schedule daily due to weather, availability or other reasons out of our control. All hotels are included based on double occupancy; please contact me for single occupancy

rates. Meals are not included. However, the foodie in me will likely suggest we go to a few nice restaurants!

The cost for the trek is CAD \$4,300. \$300 rebate for return trekkers; option to pay USD\$3,200 instead. Taxes are excluded. Minimum 4 trekkers, maximum 12 trekkers. Double occupancy; single rooms will be available on request, extra cost CAD\$650. All rooms, local transportation included. Air fare to/from Nova Scotia excluded; all meals excluded.

The cost for the pre-trek is an additional CAD \$1,000 (including flight from YQY to YHZ); option to pay USD\$750 instead. Minimum 2, maximum 4 trekkers. Double occupancy; single rooms will be available on request, extra cost CAD\$400. All rooms, local transportation included. Air fare to/from Nova Scotia excluded; all meals excluded.

\$500 deposit to reserve your seat. Balance due 90 days before departure, i.e. by May 18th.

Interested? Or do you have questions? Contact me at highlightphototours@gmail.com or at +1-613-276-4763.