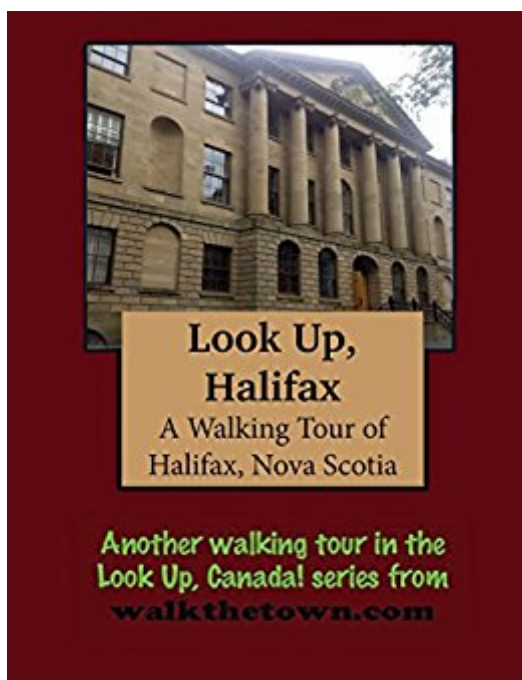


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A Walking Tour Of Halifax, Nova Scotia (Look Up, Canada!)



Synopsis

There is no better way to see Canada than on foot. And there is no better way to appreciate what you are looking at than with a walking tour. Whether you are preparing for a road trip or just out to look at your own town in a new way, a downloadable walking tour from walkthetown.com is ready to explore when you are. Each walking tour describes historical and architectural landmarks and provides pictures to help out when those pesky street addresses are missing. Every tour also includes a quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on North American streets.

There was nothing organic about the creation of Halifax. On June 21, 1749 Edward Cornwallis sailed into Halifax Harbour with 1,176 settlers and their families. Their arrival was a direct violation of the British treaty with the Mi'kmaq in 1726. Within a few months the native raids began as the British were busy fortifying the area. In short order the new Halifax residents were embroiled in the Seven Years War with France and the new settlement - and capital - became the headquarters of the Royal Navy's North American Station. The base was the launching pad for the Siege of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island that led to the submission of the French in Atlantic Canada, a much-needed refuge for General William Howe during the American Revolution and the primary staging grounds for the Royal Navy during the War of 1812. Halifax's war-filled days wound down after the Royal Navy transferred operations to Bermuda in 1818. The town eventually settled into the business of trade and finance. Samuel Cunard, who was born here in 1787, launched one of the world's most successful steamship lines from the Halifax docks. Two of Canada's most powerful banks took their first deposits in Halifax. After Confederation Halifax did not prosper as anticipated as the leading city of the new Atlantic Canada. In the following half-century the population rose only from about 60,000 British to 80,000 Canadians. With the arrival of World War I, however, Halifax moved to the forefront of Maritime cities. Halifax was the point of departure for most Canadian troops and the city's infrastructure was modernised. On December 6, 1917, however, a French cargo ship called the SS Mont-Blanc, laden with high explosives, rammed the SS Imo flying a Norwegian flag, in the Halifax Harbour. Even though the Mont-Blanc was moving only two kilometres per hour the collision caused a fire which detonated the French ship's deadly cargo. The Halifax Explosion - some say the largest man-made explosion before World War II - claimed some 2,000 lives and left another 9,000 injured. Blocks in the city's North End lay in ruins. Halifax set about rebuilding and in the century since has not been shy about sacrificing old buildings for new in the process. But there are still plenty of pockets of heritage buildings in downtown Halifax Regional Municipality (the City of Halifax, the City of Dartmouth and the Town of Bedford amalgamated in 1996) and we will begin our explorations to find them from a spot that harkens back to a martial past...

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