

# Beyond the Ordinary

## Lighthouse Trails



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## Lighthouse Trail

Since 1788, Shelburne County lighthouses have played an important part in marine navigation for those who have sailed our Atlantic waters.

Today, they serve as symbols of our seafaring heritage, and can be observed from many scenic coastal vantage points throughout the County. Many of the lighthouses were put out to sea to guide boaters and therefore are only accessible by boat.

Each lighthouse has its own unique setting. It may have waves from the mighty Atlantic crashing around it, be nestled in a quiet bay or be surrounded by a beautiful white sand beach.

Hike, bird watch, geocache or just relax and take in the breathtaking vistas that make up Shelburne County.

### Cape Sable Lighthouse

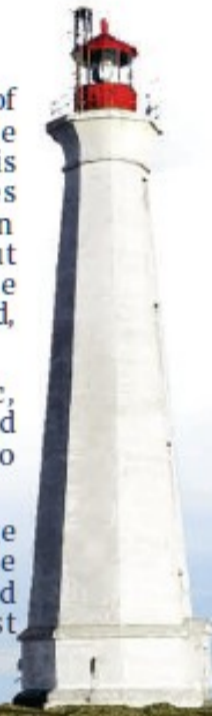
#### Cape Sable, NS

Located on the southernmost tip of Atlantic Canada, the Cape Sable Lighthouse, originally built in 1861, is the tallest lighthouse in the Maritimes at 101 feet. The station was de-staffed in 1986. It is only accessible by boat, but there is a magnificent view from the beach at the end of The Hawk Road, located on Cape Sable Island.

The lighthouse is not open to the public, but visitors can explore the exterior and surrounding area. This area is also designated as an Important Bird Area.

On July 28, 1989, the Federal Heritage Building Review Office designated the Cape Sable Light tower a Classified Building, thereby ensuring it the highest level of ongoing protection.

43°23'24"N 65°37'16.9"W



### Seal Island Light Museum

#### Barrington, NS



The museum, a replica of the top half of the Seal Island Lighthouse, displays lighthouse equipment and memorabilia, and tells the fascinating history of the lighthouse and area's light keeping families on Cape Sable Island, Bon Portage and Seal Island, as well as the hundreds of shipwrecks that made the waters surrounding Seal Island a graveyard in the days of wooden sailing ships. The building is topped by the cast iron lantern that was removed from the tower on Seal Island in 1978.

From the third level, you can climb the iron stairs as the keepers did for 76 years and see the original clockwork mechanism and the only installed Fresnel lens in Nova Scotia. From the top, you can take in the spectacular view of Barrington Bay.

Season - June - September  
43°33'50"N 65°33'53"W

Let Our Lights Guide You Around  
Shelburne County.

### Baccaro Point Lighthouse

#### Baccaro, NS

Perched on the edge of the ocean, this lighthouse is an important bird watching site. Located on the east side of Barrington Bay near Port La Tour, this small wooden lighthouse was built in 1934. It replaced the original building that was built in 1850, which was destroyed by fire.

Baccaro is the oldest place name in Nova Scotia. It comes from the Basque word *bacalao*, which means codfish. Baccaro point is the southernmost point of mainland Nova Scotia. (Cape Sable, off Cape Sable Island, is the furthest south.) In 1852, the materials for the first lighthouse were hauled along the beach, since there was no road leading to it. Today, the 45-foot tall, square, tapered building stands fast on its bed of solid rock.

Accessible by land.  
43°26'59"N 65°28'15"W



### Sandy Point Lighthouse

#### Sandy Point, NS



This attractive lighthouse, which originally was built on a pier, now sits on a crib at the east side of the entrance to Shelburne Harbour. The tower stands 44 feet tall and is a tapered square wooden structure that was built in 1873. Located on the shore, the area where the light keeper's house once stood, is a community centre and picnic area.

Stop in at the canteen (open during the summer months) or attend one of the many events held at the community centre (festivals, community breakfasts, lobster suppers). Staff at the centre are happy to tell visitors about the history of the lighthouse and its keepers.

At low tide, you can walk out to the tower on the sand bar - a great photo opportunity. From the beach, watch fishing boats, sailboats and container ships travelling in and out of the busy harbour. Sandy Point is also an excellent spot to see birds and spectacular sunsets.

43°41'30"N 65°19'36"W



## Welcome to the Lobster Capital of Canada

The lobster grounds off southwestern Nova Scotia are among the richest in the world, so it's only fitting that Shelburne County was designated the Lobster Capital of Canada. The lobster fisheries have been the economic backbone for all communities in Shelburne County since the mid-1800s. We celebrate the end of the lobster season each year with a Lobster Festival during the first full weekend in June.

Savour freshly prepared lobster delights in many of our restaurants in the County, from "right out of the shell" to our traditional creamed lobster. Why not try our new spin on lobster with lobster poutine? Whatever your choice, we guarantee you will be back for more.

### The Cape Island Fishing Boat

The famous Cape Islander was designed and built on Cape Sable Island in 1907. It is a very familiar sight along the coast of Nova Scotia. The design has been modified over the years to accommodate modern-day requirements, but the hull of the boat has remained essentially the same.

The Cape Islander plays a prominent role in the lobster and fishing industry, not only in Shelburne County, but in the rest of Nova Scotia and beyond. Stroll our many wharves, see the boats, talk with our fishers and learn about life on the ocean firsthand.



### Lobster Traps (commonly referred to as "lobster pots")

Traditional lobster traps were made of a wooden frame surrounded by a rope mesh. Modern-day traps are rectangular wire cages with woven mesh entrances. The traps capture lobsters live by attracting them through mesh entrances into the centre of the trap where the bait is located. All traps are equipped with an escape hatch, which allow small lobsters and other sea life to escape.

There are conservation measures in place with limits set on licences available, the number and size of traps, length of the season and lobster size. All female egg-bearing lobsters must be returned to the ocean. It takes seven years for a lobster to reach market size.

### Traditional Lobster Trap



### How Lobsters Are Caught

Lobster traps are attached to lines and marked by buoys that float on the surface of the ocean.

Traps are submerged until they rest on the seabed (usually for 24 hours). Fishers check their traps regularly to haul in their catch.

On board the boat, lobsters are measured and graded to ensure correct sizing and that other regulations are met. Lobsters are then banded around the claws with a small rubber band for safe handling.

Lobsters are stored in crates, sold on the wharf and transported to local holding or processing facilities before being shipped around the world.

In some cases, fishers store their catch in "cars" - floating structures that hold lobster crates in compartments - which can be seen in the water at many of the wharves in the County. Fishermen will often hold back their catch in hopes of getting a better market price during the season.

### Simple & Delicious Steamed Lobster

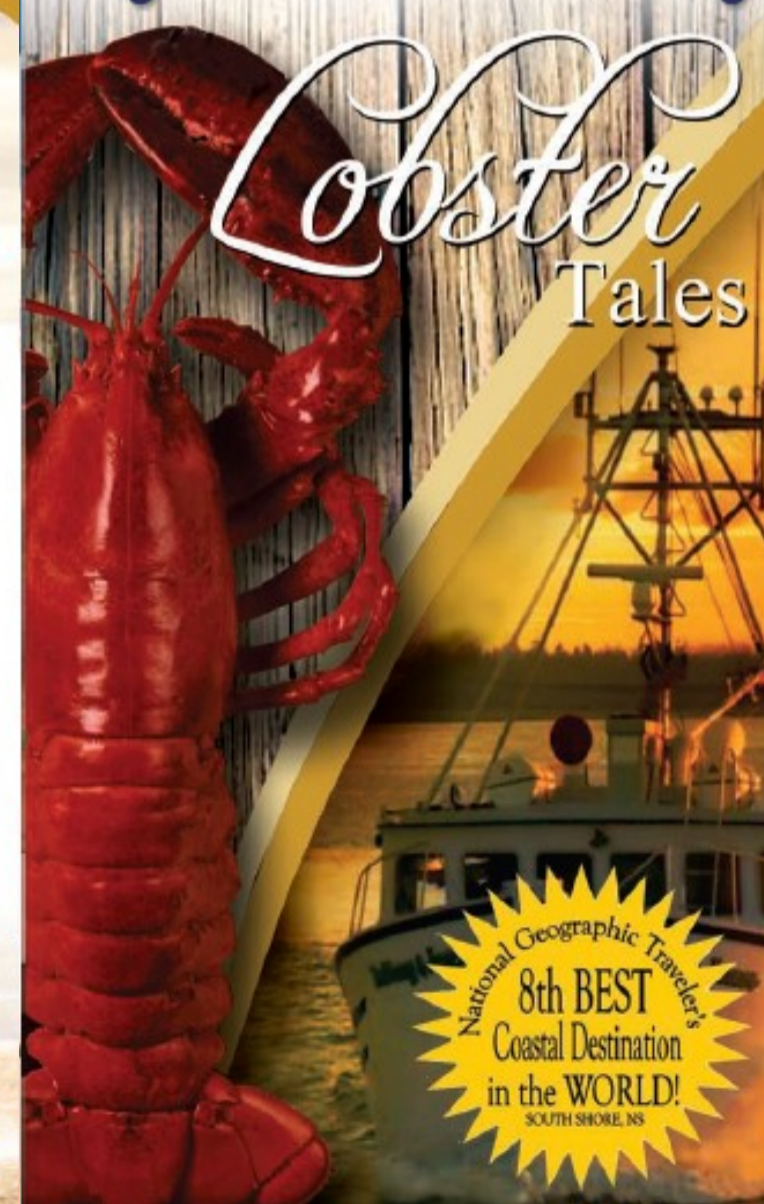
#### Directions:

1. Fill large pot with 4 inches of water. Add salt to water and bring to a boil.
2. Put live lobsters in boiling water head first. (Be sure to remove the bands from the lobster claws before placing in water!)
3. Cover. Steam lobsters for approximately 20 minutes until done. (Local method of testing the lobsters to see if they are done: Grab hold of the antenna and give it a good shake. If it comes out, the lobster is cooked).
4. Use lobster crackers (or nutcrackers) to shell lobsters.
5. Dip lobster meat in melted butter and enjoy!



# Beyond the Ordinary

## Lobster Tales



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**NOTE:** Some Lighthouses have loud automated fog horns, which can be active at any time (even in sunshine). Never walk directly in front of the fog horn emitters, as hearing damage may result. Please obey all warning signs and beware of dangers on cliffs and rocks, as well as tides.

# Shelburne County's Lighthouse Trail

- 1 CHARLESVILLE (PUBNICO HARBOUR) LIGHTHOUSE - Charlesville, NS**  
The original Charlesville (Pubnico Harbour) Lighthouse was built in 1854. It was a white, square, pyramidal wooden tower with a red lantern, and a dwelling attached. Both were demolished in 1967 and replaced with a conical fibreglass tower. Accessible on land. Great spot for viewing the Pubnico Wind Farms and fishing boats in Pubnico Harbour.  
43°35'53.4"N 65°46'55.6"W
- 2 WOOD'S HARBOUR LIGHTHOUSE - Wood's Harbour, NS**  
Built on a rock ledge of Cockawit Passage, the wooden lighthouse was built in 1900. It was replaced in 1965 and then de-staffed in 1993.  
43°30'54"N 65°44'42"W
- 3 STODDARD ISLAND (EMERALD ISLE) LIGHTHOUSE - Shag Harbour, NS**  
Located in Shag Harbour, this square, wooden tower was built in 1877. Standing at 21 feet tall the station was de-staffed in 1993.  
43°28'24"N 65°43'06"W

- 4 BON PORTAGE - Shag Harbour, NS**  
The Bon Portage Island lighthouse was established in 1874. For 110 years, 16 principal lightkeepers and their families kept the light burning on this small, windswept island. The longest serving keeper was Morrill Richardson, who along with his wife Evelyn, bought the island (except for the lighthouse property) in 1929. In 1945, Evelyn Richardson's classic book We Keep A Light was published and quickly became a best-seller in Canada. She described her family's life on the island with sensitivity and humour, noting both the disadvantages and joys of life on an isolated island. Bon Portage Lighthouse was replaced in 1964 by the current building. Accessible only by boat.  
43°27'23.2"N 65°44'36.2"W
- 5 WEST HEAD LIGHTHOUSE - West Head, NS**  
Established in 1888, this lighthouse was built on the west side of Cape Sable Island. Replaced in the 1970's this 51 foot tower can be seen from afar. It was automated in 1993.  
43°27'23.8"N 65°39'16.9"W
- 6 CAPE SABLE LIGHTHOUSE - Cape Sable Island, NS**  
See Lighthouse section of brochure for photo and description.

- 8 BACCARO POINT LIGHTHOUSE - Baccaro, NS**  
See Lighthouse section of brochure for photo and description.
- 9 THE SALVAGES - Cape Negro, NS**  
The Salvages is a group of ledges and rocks on the west side of Cape Negro Harbour. In 1915, a diaphone was placed on the highest rock, which gave three blasts every minute to warn seafarers. In 1965 a 53 foot high white rectangular lighthouse was built. On a clear day, the station can be seen from Baccaro Point.  
43°28'08.1"N 65°22'44"W
- 10 CAPE NEGRO ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE - Cape Negro, NS**  
Located on the southeastern end of the island, the 91 foot high structure has a light range of 16 miles. Originally built in 1872, the current tower replaced it in 1915 and was automated in 1993. Cape Negro was named on Champlain's map of 1612. In his book, The Works of Samuel de Champlain, Volume 1, Champlain wrote, "Proceeding along the coast we reached a very good port for vessels, and the head of which is a little river extending a good way inland. I named this the harbour of Cape Negro, on account of a rock which from a distance looks like one."  
43°30'26.2"N 65°20'44.2"W

- 12 CAPE ROSEWAY - Shelburne, NS**  
Established in 1788 on McNutt's Island at the mouth of Shelburne Harbour, Cape Roseway was the third lighthouse built in Canada. It was built old world style with the cliff rocks it stands on. The rock walls were 6 feet thick and were structured with oak beams. In 1959, the lighthouse was struck by lightning and burned. The rock slabs were cracked and were replaced by the current concrete tower. The Present light is 111 feet above sea level. Today the light is accessible by boat and a two mile road from the wharf. Take a Shelburne Harbour Boat Tour and spend the day exploring McNutt's Island. A great location for geocaching, historic sites, hiking trails and bird watching.  
43°37'21.4"N 65°15'50"W
- 13 GULL ROCK LIGHTHOUSE - Lockport, NS**  
Stop by the Crescent Beach Centre at the entrance of the Town of Lockport and view Gull Rock Lighthouse from their observation tower. It is located over 1 mile offshore. This square wooden structure was built in 1955 to replace the original tower of 1853.  
43°29'18.3"N 65°05'55.9"W
- 14 CARTER ISLAND LIGHT HOUSE - Lockport, NS**  
Located 0.4 miles north of Cranberry Island in the approach to Lockport's Harbour, Carter's Island Light is best viewed from the end of South Street in the Town of Lockport. The lighthouse was originally built and lit in 1872 then replaced in 1989 with its present day 30 foot circular tower.  
43°42'19.3"N 65°06'04"W

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Designed by: www.bluelightinggraphics.com  
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- 7 SEAL ISLAND LIGHT MUSEUM - Barrington, NS**  
See Lighthouse section of brochure for photo and description.
- 11 SANDY POINT LIGHTHOUSE - Sandy Point, NS**  
See Lighthouse section of brochure for photo and description.