

# Fast Facts About Halifax and Nova Scotia

## ***Time Zone***

Nova Scotia is on Atlantic Time, which is hour later than North America's Eastern Time Zone. Daylight Saving Time is in effect from the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October.

## ***Climate***

Nova Scotia is known as a place where the four seasons are refreshingly distinct. Average daily temperatures are 10 to 16°C (50 to 61°F) in the spring; 20 to 25°C (68 to 77°F) in the summer; 12 to 15°C (54 to 59°F) in the fall and -2 to 1°C (28 to 34°F) in the winter. Average rainfall is 1,178 millimetres / 46.38 inches per year.

Be sure to bring a lined windbreaker, umbrella, and walking shoes.

## ***Sales Tax & Rebates***

The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is applied at a single rate of 15% to goods and services. A rebate of the HST paid by foreign visitors for accommodations may be available.

Accommodations in Halifax charge a Hotel Levy of 1.5% on room rates. This levy supports on-going marketing efforts to promote Halifax as a world-class business and leisure destination.

## ***Currency***

In Nova Scotia as in the rest of Canada, the American dollar goes further, with the Canadian dollar valued at 20-25% less than the American dollar. You can exchange your currency for Canadian currency at authorized exchange counters at the Halifax International Airport, at banks, credit unions and trust companies throughout Nova Scotia.

## ***Credit/Debit Cards***

The majority of stores, restaurants and accommodations throughout Nova Scotia accept major credit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, and American Express, Debit (bank) cards can be used as readily (Interac,

Cirrus, Plus). Credit and debit card charges will appear on your statement, converted to your home currency.

## ***Hospital/Medical Services***

Visitors to Canada are strongly urged to obtain health insurance before leaving their home country. Canadian hospital and medical services are excellent, but a hospital stay can be costly without adequate insurance coverage. Visitors taking prescribed medications are advised to have a copy of their prescription, in case it needs to be renewed during the trip.

## ***Sunday Shopping***

Smaller stores such as bookstores or boutiques and those in designated tourist areas are open. Large stores such as department stores and supermarkets are closed on Sundays, but most convenience stores and drug stores are open.

## ***Drivers' Etiquette***

All speeds are posted in kilometers. Drivers can turn right on red if no other vehicles are coming. Pedestrians have right of way at cross walks. Nova Scotians generally plan ahead so they are slower and in less of a hurry.

To find out more about Halifax and Nova Scotia in general, please check out the following links that may be of interest to you while visiting our beautiful Province. For those of you who may be staying a few extra days while attending our annual meetings, and possibly looking to take in a round of golf, why not check out the website that shows you some of our exquisite golf courses.

- [www.gov.ns.ca](http://www.gov.ns.ca)
- [www.destinationhalifax.com](http://www.destinationhalifax.com)
- [www.novascotia.com](http://www.novascotia.com)
- [www.novascotialife.com](http://www.novascotialife.com)
- [www.gov.ns.ca](http://www.gov.ns.ca)
- <http://www.golf.destination-ns.com/golf/courses.asp?trail>