Maritimes Road Trip (July-August 2012)

Route in Detail

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and briefly Prince Edward Island

Note: Only the campgrounds that I/we can recommend are mentioned.

Day 1: Ottawa to Quebec City (450km)
- Hwys. 417 and 174 east to Cumberland, Ferry (across Ottawa River) to Masson Angers, Quebec, then Rte. 148 east to Lachute, Rte. 158 to Saint Antoine and on to Saint-Lin-Laurentides, Rte. 337 north to Saint Julienne, Rte. 348 to Louisville and Rte. 138 (a scenic route running parallel with the St. Lawrence River and Highway 40) to Quebec City.
- There is a nice and convenient, to Quebec City, KOA where we have stayed several times. When going to Quebec City we take back-roads from Ottawa so as to avoid the Montreal traffic. Also, on some occasions we have taken two days to get to Quebec City but there is not a convenient campground we can recommend.

Day 2: Quebec City around Ile d’Orleans and back to Quebec City
- Hwy. 440 north out of Quebec City to Rte. 368 and Ile d’Orleans, and back.

Day 3: Quebec City and Montmorency Falls

Day 4: Quebec City

Day 5: Quebec City to Grand Falls, New Brunswick (380km)

Day 6: Grand Falls to Fredericton, New Brunswick (210km)
- Hwy. 20 the Trans-Canada (TC) and Rte. 132 to Riviere-du-Loup, Hwy. 185/2 TC to Edmundston, then the “River Route” Rte. 105 and Rte. 102 to Fredericton.
- Camped at “Falls and Gorge Campground” (recommended)

Day 7: Fredericton to Saint John (110km)
- Rte. 105 to Jemseg then Rtes. 102 and 177 to Saint John.

Day 8: Saint John
- Visits included the New Brunswick Museum (worth the stop)

Day 9: Saint John
- Drove the picturesque Fundy Trail Parkway
Day 10: Saint John to Digby, Nova Scotia (NS) and to Parkers Cove (120km including the ferry crossing)
- Three-hour ferry across the Bay of Fundy to Digby then Rte. 101 to Annapolis Royal, then Rtes. 8 and 1.
- We camped at the Cove Oceanfront Campground (http://www.oceancfront-camping.com/ - pricey but worth it) in Parkers Cove and paid extra for a site right on the shore of the Bay of Fundy (also worth the extra $).

Days 11-15: Parkers Cove
- Local touring and sites such as Port Royal, Fort Anne, and Annapolis Royal

Day 16: Parkers Cove to Shelburne (250km)
- Back-track to Digby then Rte. 101 to Rte. 1 (the coast road) to Yarmouth then Rte. 3 to Pubnico (be sure to take the in-out detour Rte. 335 to visit Le Village Historique Acadien de a Nouvelle Ecosse – Historical Acadian Village of Nova Scotia), then Rtes. 3, 309, 27 to Shelburne.
- We did this 250km/155 miles to the southern end of Nova Scotia in one day but should have taken two at least, there was so much to see and visit en-route.
- Camped at the really beautifully situated Islands Provincial Park (recommended).

Day 17: Shelburne
- Visited the several museums and Dory building workshop in Historic Shelburne.

Day 18: Shelburne to Halifax (210+km)
- Basically Rtes. 103 and 3 (Rte. 3 is the coast road off 103 when it is possible) – hugging the coast is “our thing”.
- We camped on the shores of Saint Margarets Bay (home of the iconic Peggy’s Cove), but cannot recommend the campground we selected. One that might be worth considering is King Neptune Campground. It looked good driving past but I am not sure what facilities it offers since it is small but in a great location up the road from Peggys Cove.

Days 19-22: Halifax and Lunenburg
- Lots to see and do (see Trip Report)

Day 23: Halifax to Tangier/Murphy’s Cove (90km)
- Rte. 7
- A great campground at Murphy’s Cove is Murphy’s Camping on the Ocean (http://www.murphyscamping.ca) where the owner provides a nightly communal log fire and freshly caught and steamed mussels – for free!
Day 24: Murphy's Cove to Sherbrooke (115km)
- Rte. 7

Day 25: Sherbrooke
- Visit to the Historic Sherbrooke Village

Day 26: Sherbrooke to Aulds Cove (110km)
- Rte. 7 to Antigonish the Rtes. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 (all the same road!)
- Aulds Cove is on the mainland side of the Canso Causeway to the Cape Breton Islands.

Day 27: Aulds Cove to Dunvegan (100km)
- Canso Causeway then Rte. 19
- Another great campground is MacLeod's Beach and Campsite (http://www.macleods.com/).

Day 28: Dunvegan
- R&R at MacLeod's Beach and Campsite

Day 29: Dunvegan
- R&R at MacLeod’s Beach and Campsite

Day 30: Dunvegan to Ingonish (285km)
- This is the famed Cabot Trail through the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.
- We camped for several days at the Broad Cove National Park Campground in Ingonish.

Day 31: Ingonish/Broad Cove
- Local touring (see my Trip Report)

Day 32: Ingonish/Broad Cove
- Local touring (see my Trip Report)
- Be sure to make a trip to Cape North then to Meat Cove at the northern tip of the island. A very remote village, situated on a cliff, with also a no frills campground with fabulous ocean views.

Day 33: Ingonish/Broad Cove
- Local touring (see my Trip Report)
**Day 34:** Ingonish to Big Bras d’Or (100km)
- Cabot Trail to South Gut St. Anns then Rtes. 11, 12, 13, 14 (same road), then Rte. 305 to Big Bras d’Or.
- Our purpose was to take the boat ride to Bird Islands before all the Puffins had left. The small private tour company has a campground on the property.

**Day 35:** Big Bras d’Or to Glace Bay to Louisburg (110km)
- Rte. 305 to Rte. 105/2/3 to North Sidney, then Rtes. 125 and 4 to Glace Bay, then Rtes. 255 and 22 to Louisburg.
- This allowed visits to the Marconi National Historic Site en-route to Louisbourg.

**Day 36:** Louisbourg
- Fortress Louisburg National Historic Site

**Day 37:** Louisbourg to Pictou (300km)
- Rte. 22 back to Sidney then Rte. 4 south to St. Peters, continue on Rte. 4 to Port Hasting cross the Canso Causeway stay on Rte. 4 to Antigonish, then Rtes. 337 and 245 to New Glasgow and Rte. 337 to Pictou.
- This takes you along the shores of the huge Bras d’Or Lake, over the St. Peters Canal (a National Historic Site and well worth a stop plus visit to the Denys Museum) and along the shores of St. Georges Bay and the Northumberland Strait.
- We camped at the Caribou-Munroes Island Provincial Park (recommended) near Pictou.

**Day 38:** Pictou, Nova Scotia to Cavendish, Prince Edward Island (230km)
- Rte. 6 to Linden, Rte. 366 to Tidnish, Rtes. 970 and 16 to the Confederation Bridge, then cross-country (take your pick of several routes) to Cavendish on the north shore.
- This was a diversion from our original plan to at least cross the 13km/8 miles Confederation Bridge connecting Prince Edward Island (PEI) to the mainland. We also wanted to visit the First Nation Mi’Kmaq Cultural Centre on Lennox Island.

**Day 39:** Cavendish to Lennox Island to Confederation Bridge (160km)
- It takes lots of side roads to get to Lennox Island and back to the Confederation Bridge (we camped at the convenient and well managed KOA campground very near to the bridge).
- This was not a proper tour of PEI which is worth exploring for several days/weeks. We spent two weeks on PEI during our Gulf of Saint Lawrence Road Trip.
Day 40: Confederation Bridge to Hopewell Rocks, Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick (150km)
- Rtes. 955, 15, 133, and 15 to Moncton, and Rte. 114 out of Moncton to Hopewell Rocks.
- It is worth spending a whole day at Hopewell Rocks to witness both the low and the high tides for which the Bay of Fundy is famous. We stayed at a nearby commercial campground (recommended).

Day 41: Hopewell Rocks
- At low tide take a guided tour on the beach
- As High Tide approaches go the beach at the north end (late summer) to watch the plovers feeding on sand shrimp before their migration.

Day 42: Hopewell Rocks to Grande Digue (near Shediac), New Brunswick (70km)
- Rte. 114 to Moncton, and Rtes. 134, 7 and 530 out of Moncton to Grande Digue.
- We stayed with friends who have a summer home in Grande Digue, worth a visit (but no campground) and a good starting point for the drive up the east coast of New Brunswick. See also our Gulf of Saint Lawrence Trip Report.

Days 43-44: Grande Digue

Day 45: Grande Digue to Cape Lumiere (65km)
- Rtes. 134, 475, and 505.
- A pretty coastal drive, with much to see and sites to visit. Also a nice campground at Cape Lumiere.

Day 46: Cape Lumiere to Miramichi (86km)
- Rtes. 505 and 11.
- Miramichi is a good place to start fresh for the trek across New Brunswick unless you decide to continue up the coast to Quebec (we came down the coast a few years later – see Gulf of St. Lawrence Trip Report).

Day 47: Miramichi to Saint Denis on south shore of the St. Lawrence River between Riviere du Loup and Quebec City (490km)
- Rte. 108 west, then the Trans-Canada Hwy. 2 (NB) and 185 (QC) to Riviere du-Loup, Quebec, then the TC Hwy. 20
- Best (only?) route to see the interior of New Brunswick

Day 48: Saint Denis to Trios Rivieres, Quebec (275km)
- Rtes. 132, 341, 330 across to Quebec City, then Rte. 138 to Trios Rivieres.
- Route goes through quaint French Canadian villages.
Day 49: Trios Rivieres to Ottawa, Ontario (315km)
- Rte. 138 to Berthier-ville, Rte. 158 via St. Jerome to Lachute, Rte. 148 to Masson Angers, Ferry (across Ottawa River) to Cumberland then Hwys. 174 and 417 west to Ottawa.
- Our usual route home.