

Louisbourg Lighthouse Trail

A partnership between
Coastal Connections Trail Association
and Parks Canada, Fortress of Louisbourg
National Historic Site of Canada

with assistance from
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Development.
THANK YOU!

Louisbourg Lighthouse Trail

Our trail takes you from the historic Louisbourg
Lighthouse, along the rugged coastline, through
dense coniferous forests and wetlands indicative of
this region, and past historically significant 18th-
century French and English entrenchments.

Historically speaking

The Louisbourg Lighthouse was first lit in 1734.
It's the oldest lighthouse in what is now Canada,
aiding mariners in navigation of the tricky waters
surrounding Louisbourg, the capital of 18th-
century Île Royale. To prevent enemy landings
on these beaches, the French dug entrenchments
around the two coves in this area and mounted
cannons.

In 1758, under General James Wolfe, the British
landed at Kennington Cove, southwest of the
fortress, and began their advance overland around
the harbour. The French abandoned their positions
at Gun Landing and Brook Landing coves and the
invading British dismantled most
of those defences in order to land
their cannons in preparation for
attack on the island battery in the
mouth of the harbour and on the
French warships at anchor.

You can still see traces of the
entrenchments to the right of
the trail on the edge of the shore
at Gun Landing Cove, although
most have been lost to erosion.
Further along at Brook Landing
Cove (also known as Wolfe's
Cove) Wolfe's forces set up camp
along the Freshwater Brook
running down to the cove, as a
base for the attack on the Island
Battery. Forest regeneration has
obscured most traces of these
camps, and please respect the fragile condition of
those that survive.



Louisbourg Lighthouse Trail



Coastal
Connections
Trail
Association

Louisbourg Lighthouse Trail begins at the parking lot at the Louisbourg Lighthouse.

Follow the well signed paved Havenside Road south from Louisbourg's Main Street to Lighthouse Point. The road becomes a gravel surface at the boundary of Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada, which protects a large area of coastal land between Louisbourg's inner harbour and the Atlantic coast. On the way to the lighthouse, there is a small rest area on the right, with picnic tables and pit privies (Kennelly's Pond).

Proper footwear is recommended. The first section of trail (1) is well constructed and dry in all but the wettest weather. The route is chosen to provide safety from active erosion without sacrificing great views. Approximately 1 km in, the trail diverges.

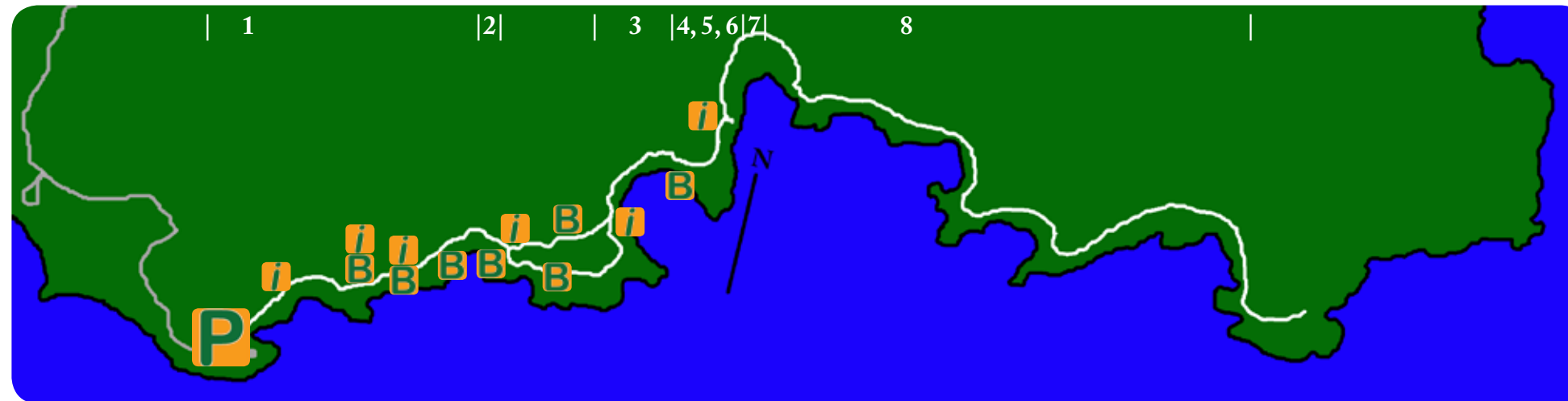
Take the route to the right (2) and follow the shore (approx 0.8 km). At the start of the rocky beach at Gun Landing Cove, you can return to the cut-off (0.5 km) along a direct route that follows a low ridge, or continue on the obvious path along the top of the beach (3) to pick up the next section (minimal clearing and construction). The beach is rocky and requires a bit of clamouring. Unsafe in stormy weather.

The natural trail (4) is obvious thanks to clearing efforts, and grades are gentle. Trees were cut to the surface, but steady traffic exposes more over time. Watch your step where tree roots cross the path. There is a sturdy deck (5) and bench about 0.6 km on the right offering an unobstructed view of the coastline toward Lorraine Head.

Continue approx. 0.6 km to Brook Landing Cove (also known as Wolfe's Cove), noting the interpretive panel on the right marking an 18th-century cannon emplacement (6). Short of the brook, the trail veers left to a bridge (7). It's a good idea to use this, as the shoreline is treacherous but, as of 2010, the section after the bridge is not cleared and a little rugged. Follow the pink or the green flags.

After a brief diversion around a marsh, the unserviced trail more-or-less follows the shoreline (8) toward Lorraine Head (approx. 2 km). This section is slated for improvement in the coming years. The surface can be wet in places and is quite rugged – exposed and at times windy.

Return by the same route.



Enjoy!

We hope you enjoy the lighthouse trail, it's been the dream of a great many hardworking people to bring it to fruition—and we're not done yet!

Please respect the sensitive nature of our local environment. This is a protected area (Parks Canada): stay on the trail, take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints.

Want to lend a hand?

The Coastal Connections Trail Association could always use more brains and more brawn. Our membership is open to all and all are welcome. Follow us on Facebook.

We could also use some financial resources to keep the project moving and offer donor recognition and charitable tax receipts. As members of the Nova Scotia Trails Federation, tax-deductible donations to that organization can be designated for the Lighthouse Trail.

Through NS Trails, you can support a metre of trail for just \$40.00. For donation of larger amounts, there are special recognitions, including dedicating a bench.
www.novascotiatrials.com/

Donation Form

I/We wish to support NS Trails as follows:
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