**A Local’s Guide to Nova Scotia’s South Shore**

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As you may have heard, the CGSA has added a new tournament to its roster in 2024. The Summer Shamble is set to take place at the Chester Golf Club in Chester, Nova Scotia. The village of Chester sits right along the Atlantic Ocean and is located 45 minutes south of Halifax; part of Nova Scotia’s beautiful South Shore.

Host superintendent and CGSA Atlantic Canadian Director Matthew Blackburn and his dedicated staff have done great things during his relatively short tenure as superintendent. The golf course has amazing views of the larger Mahone Bay, and the clubhouse is not only the nicest deck to dine on in Chester but has a menu and welcoming staff that equal the beauty. It is everything the South Shore is about.



Accommodations in Chester, as far as hotels are concerned, is limited though there are some incredible inns available within the village. Your best option for a franchise type of hotel would be Halifax or Bridgewater, the two nearest larger centers. Airbnb may give you the most flexibility with group size and amenities. Ocean side, in the town, in the woods, at the time of writing this there are so many spectacular options available during those dates. Grab a couple friends, bunk up, and find your perfect getaway.

While you are here, visiting Lunenburg is a fantastic idea, and you get to travel through the lovely community of Mahone Bay on the way, where my family calls home. We locals affectionately look at Lunenburg as a nice little drinking town with a fishing problem. There are so many great shops and restaurants here, and the whole town overlooks the beautiful Lunenburg Harbour with Bluenose Golf Club in the background. There is a local brewery called Saltbox at the end of the harbour with a deck overlooking it all, which is worth the trip alone. Some of our other favourites are The Grand Banker, The Old Fish Factory, and the Saltshaker Deli. There are so many wonderful others, you won’t be disappointed. If you are looking for a great time and great food later in the evening, head to The Knot Pub, trust me, you’ll love it!



If you are looking to see more of the natural beauty that we have, this is where the locals who know go:

**Gaff Point Hiking Trail:** You start off walking down Hirtle’s beach, located between Lunenburg and Riverport, go through a forested area along cliffs overlooking the ocean, all the way out to Gaff Point, whose surrounding waters are where most of the tagged Great White Sharks were caught, and then make your way back down the other side to the beach again. This hike is as South Shore as it gets.

**Castle Rock Trail:** Located in East River, close to Chester, this hike takes you back into the woods to a giant mountain of rock, and on top you can see for miles all around you, all the way back out to the ocean. I’ve done this hike many times in my life, and sitting on top looking out at the world hits the spot every time.



**Ocean Tours:** Lunenburg is the home to most of our ocean tours on the South Shore where there are several options. Getting to see Nova Scotia, from the ocean looking in, allows you to see all the natural beauty that remains along our shores. If you are lucky the whales will be in, porpoises and seals are a common sight along with all different types of shore birds making appearances.

If you are going to be spending most of your trip in the Chester area, the village is filled with everything you need. There are a variety of interesting shops and restaurants. The Rope Loft, located right along the waterfront, is a classic Nova Scotia pub with a wharf for seating while you dine. Eating on a wharf is about as Nova Scotian as it gets, better yet, folks pull their boats up for a night on the town.

What is most important to us while you are here visiting is that you adopt our way of life and find enjoyment in it for the entirety of your stay. We love being known for our local charm and friendly communities. We smile at strangers when we pass them on the sidewalk. We have a strong connection to the sea. And we believe that your reputation and a handshake still mean something. Most importantly, we enjoy that things move a little slower here, because the good things in life take time.

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