

# 15 reasons (and counting) to visit Argyle Nova Scotia

🌐 Premium content

Sandra Phinney

**Published:** Aug 02 at 9:42 a.m.

**Updated:** 11 minutes ago



A view from Big Tusk Island. - Sandra Phinney

The minute I step off the lobster boat onto Big Tusk Island, I'm smitten. It's a feeling that happens every time I join Capt. Lucien LeBlanc and his brother Simon on their Tusk Island Tours out of Wedgeport in the Municipality of Argyle.

Perhaps it's the smell of salt and seaweed in the air, or the sense that the world has stopped spinning. Whatever the reason, it's always a pleasure to be here.

Local lore says there are 365 islands, one for every day of the year. That's a tad exaggerated, but most agree there are more than 200. With names like Turpentine, Pumpkin, and Murder Island, each one has a story.

For example, American businessman Russell Arundel bought Outer Bald Island when he was lured to the region in 1948 by the famous International Tuna Cup matches that originated in Wedgeport.

Arundel hired locals to build a stone house on the island, and also hatched a plan to turn the island into a separate nation: the Principality of Outer Baldonia.

Its manifesto stated that fishermen are endowed with certain rights, including the right to lie and be believed; the right of freedom from questions, nagging, shaving, women and taxes, to name just a few. The micro nation also had its own flag and its own currency, the Tunar.

In the early '50s, when Arundel acquired a listing in the Washington telephone book as an embassy, Russia denounced the new nation.

Prince Arundel started a formal protest with the U.S.S.R., defending the rights of Outer Baldonia. He also let it be known that he was in alliance with the powerful naval forces of the Armdale Yacht Club in Halifax.

Eventually, the spoof was uncovered. The international joke left Washington scratching its head, Russia furious, and the locals laughing.

This is but a snippet of what you can expect to learn from Lucien en route to the islands, where you'll disembark on Big Tusket for a stroll and fish chowder. On the way back, Simon takes over the mic with entertaining songs.

And this is just one of many reasons why you should spend time in Argyle, a region which encompasses 42 coastal and inland communities. Rich in culture, history and tradition, the area features fascinating attractions, special events and down-home hospitality.

### **Must-do, must-see**

Before leaving Wedgeport, head over to [The Wedgeport Sport Tuna Fishing Museum and Interpretive Centre](#) where you'll learn why the likes of President Franklin Roosevelt, Ernest Hemingway and Amelia Earhart were drawn to the region. If you're an early bird, join retired fishermen at daybreak in the centre's café, as they right the world, over a coffee.

Then poke around the Pubnicos. You'll need lots of time. For starters, [Le Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse](#) (locally referred to as Le Village) is a living museum, depicting Acadian life in the pre-1920 era. Oh the characters and stories!



Visitors have lots to see and learn at Le Musée in Pubnico. - Sandra Phinney

Close by, a side road will take you to Dennis Point Wharf, one of Atlantic Canada's busiest fishing ports. Strike up a conversation with fishers on the wharf, or locals in the [Dennis Point Café](#), where seafood is so fresh it melts in your mouth.

Further along is the impressive Pubnico Point Wind Farm. Bonus: there are well-kept coastal hiking trails on both sides of the windmills.

Be sure to visit [Musée des acadiens des Pubnicos & Centre de recherché](#) where Acadian pride is palpable. Le Musée provides several programs including craft demonstrations, kitchen parties and special events.

Hungry? Consider having lunch or dinner at the [Red Cap Motel and Restaurant](#). People travel miles for their Haddock with Lobster Sauce. For a walk on the wild side, try Rappie Pie, a weird and wonderful Acadian dish.

In Tusket, visit the [Argyle Township Court House and Gaol](#), Canada's oldest standing courthouse. Spend time in jail! Next door is a genealogist's paradise: a state-of-the-art archival facility.

Argyle is also a boating paradise. Whether you have a kayak, canoe or small pleasure craft, there are scores of public places to launch and safe places to leave your vehicles. You'll find them along with more information for visitors at: [www.munargyle.com](http://www.munargyle.com)

Oh yes! Although the International Tuna Cup event stopped in 1976 due to lack of fish, it was revived in 2004 and morphed into the [Annual Wedgeport Tuna Tournament & Festival](#), held in August.

Another reason to spend time in Argyle? The entire municipality is located in the UNESCO Southwest Biosphere Reserve.

For an unforgettable experience, go to Tim Doucette's Deep Sky Eye Observatory in Quinan (inside the biosphere). He's just partnered with National Geographic to offer a dark sky augmented reality experience called Night Sky Odyssey. It's magical.

There are yet more reasons to spend time in Argyle. Plan your journey and discover your own!

## Where to stay

Looking for coastal luxury or a spectacular inland hide-away?



Guests enjoy a lobster dinner at The Argyle Lodge. - Sandra Phinney

Sunsets are legendary at [The Argyle Lodge](#). Consider signing up for the Lobster Bay Culinary Experience, Acadian Kitchen Party, or The Lobster Bay Life which also includes tours to local breweries, tasting local oysters and a lobster boil.

[Trout Point Lodge](#) is a luxury resort deep in the wilds of the biosphere reserve in Kemptonville. Want to experience forest bathing or go foraging with a local? Check. Take a culinary class, go fly fishing, or 'scope the stars? Check and check. It's a place to make memories.

### Argyle

Nova Scotia

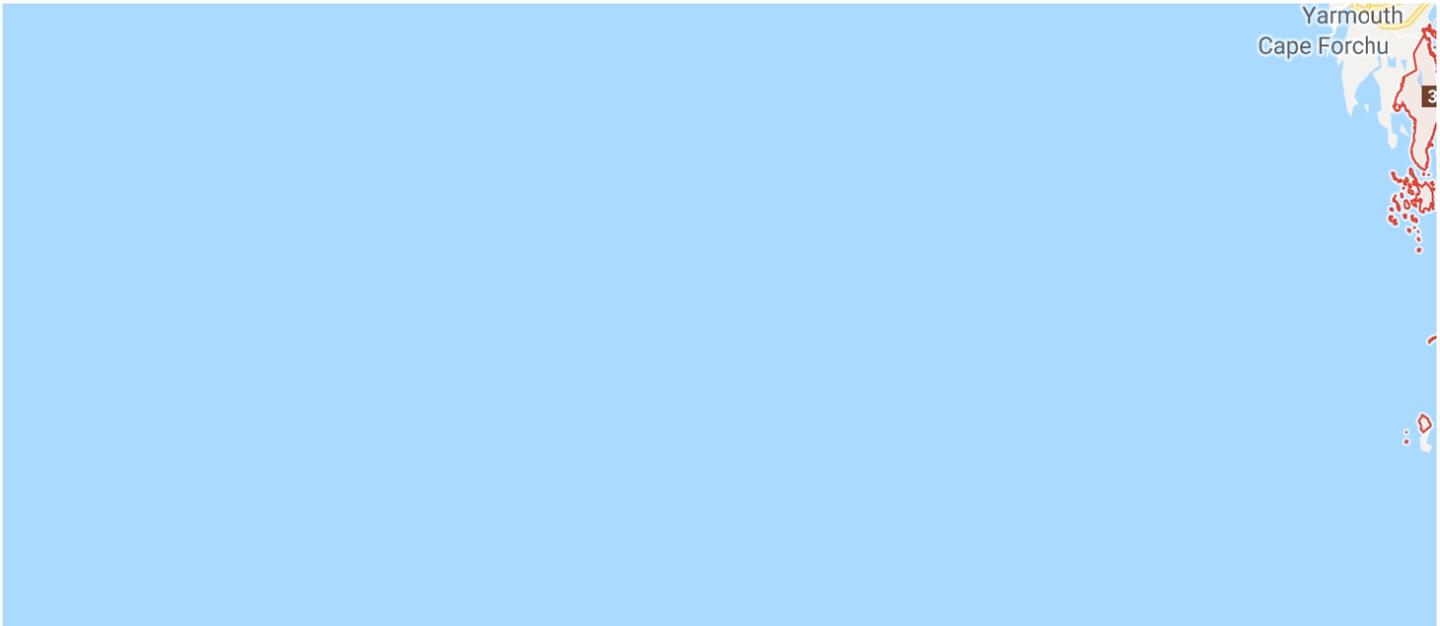
[Directions](#)

[Save](#)

[View larger map](#)

Port Maitland

340



Take a moment to take our short survey. On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to read The Chronicle Herald (1 being not at all and 10 being very likely)?

**Finish Survey**