

HALIFAX'S EXPANDING GATEWAY TO EUROPE

Article by: Tiffany Thornton

There is no mistaking that Halifax is a happening city, with its top notch culinary and art scenes, Atlantic harbour views, and a historic fort that sits proudly atop the centre of it all. Best of all, if you are a jet-setting traveller, it is becoming a truly great place to be based. Halifax's proximity to Europe has a strong appeal to locals and tourists alike. You can fly direct to London in the early morning, and be there in time for high tea. If you feel like seeking out some majestic fjords, Iceland is a mere four hours away. Halifax's Stanfield International Airport may be small, but its vision isn't.

This spring Glasgow will join the new direct routes, connecting Nova Scotia to its history and ancestral heritage. Germany's Condor Air is already offering affordable direct flights to Frankfurt, which is yet another country with strong ties to Nova Scotia's heritage. The first German settlement in Canada was established in 1753, and throughout Nova Scotia, towns and streets with German names abound. You can drive along Gottingen Street, head out of the city through New Germany and arrive in the town of Lunenburg.

Condor flies from Halifax direct to the bustling hub of Frankfurt from early May until the end of October. You can spend days exploring the historic city of Frankfurt, which offers up an array of world-class museums, culture and modern flare at every turn. Its proximity to the Rhine region, where most of Nova Scotia's early German settlers originated, is less than a half hour away. The lovely town of Mainz, which is steeped in

history sits on the west bank of the Rhine River, and is a perfect place to delve into the past.

Frankfurt is an extremely old city nestled along the River Main. Its history dates back to the first century. Throughout the city, surrounded by modernity, you can find old relics and buildings that hold a deep history within their walls. If you happen to be in Frankfurt on a Thursday or a Saturday, make your way to the city centre square, Konstablerwache. The Mein Zeil, a modern shopping district, surrounds it and is home to a large outdoor market. It's a culinary smorgasbord that offers up an array of German beers, cheeses, renowned apple wine and schnitzel.

No visit to Frankfurt is complete without visiting the top-notch museums the dynamic city has to offer. There are so many, you truly need a few days to enjoy them all. The Stadel Museum holds one of the vastest collections of art in all of Germany, boasting European works of art from seven centuries. Rembrandt, Vermeer and Botticelli are all there, along with 100,000 other drawings and prints housed in a wonderfully exquisite building where modernity and history collide.

The Palmengarten offers an aromatic adventure for the senses. Meander through 50 acres of orchids, tropical trees and greenhouses featuring towering cacti. It's all surrounded by an expanse of green lawns and waterfalls. During the summer season you can even hop on a train around the miniature railway.

The German-owned Lindner Hotels are a must when visiting.



The Lindner Hotel & Residence Main Plaza Frankfurt is stellar. Designed to reflect New York City culture of the 1930s, it towers above the River Main with its gold-flecked rooftop. It is located right near Sachsenhausen, one of Frankfurt's oldest streets. The hotel's stylish suites are classy and refined. Boasting spectacular views of Frankfurt's handsome skyline with its skyscrapers and high-rises, it's often referred to by locals as "Mainhattan."

The adventure doesn't stop there. From the main hub of Frankfurt's airport, you can hop on another Condor flight to almost anywhere in the world. Fresh pasta in Rome or scuba diving off Mauritius? When you're done, circle back to Frankfurt, and then fly back across the Atlantic and home to Halifax. ■

