

The Annapolis Basin was formed following the general rise in sea levels after the last ice age. The North and South Mountains frame the basin of the Annapolis River, which exits swiftly through the narrow Digby Gut to the Bay of Fundy. The bedrock geology of the North Mountain is basalt, while the South Mountain is generally granite. Once very likely majestic, the "mountains" were ground down over the ages by ice sheets and erosion, leaving the postcard vistas you may see today while paddling its shores.

Before the arrival of the first European explorers, the Annapolis River and Basin served as an important resource to the Mi'kmaw community for millennia. They occupied many sites around the Basin, hunting porpoise, harvesting shellfish, eels, fish and game. The Mi'kmaq called the river **Teoôpsig** (flowing out between rocks). The French called it the Rivière Dauphin.

The advantages of the Basin's large natural harbour was noted by the French, who arrived in 1605 and promptly established the Habitation on the north shore at **Port Royale**. The early Acadian settlers built an impressive and unique series of dykes along the natural marshes to hold back the high tides, and established an extensive agricultural economy. After 400 years, many of those dykes still remain, maintained by local farmers who continue to farm the reclaimed land.

Through the 1600's, the intrigues of European and New World politics created much strife in the Annapolis Basin area, which was contested in turn by British and French forces, their First Nations allies, and American privateers. In 1710, Port Royal fell a last time to the British and was renamed **Annapolis Royal**, in honour of Queen Anne.

For the paddler, the Annapolis Basin offers a large expanse of navigable water, relatively protected from the high winds and waves of the Bay of Fundy, but nonetheless still affected by them. The Basin's extreme tides and strong currents can be a challenge in many sections, and common sense with respect to weather and tide conditions must be considered. Particular caution must be taken with the current at the Tidal Power Station in Annapolis Royal (see Route 19, Map 10), and with the current, tide and wind at Digby Gut (the tide flows through the Gut at approximately 6 knots), the north channel at Goat Island and the south channel at Bear Island.

Tenting is available at commercial campgrounds where noted on the map. There is an informal tent site on Goat Island, at the beach on the north end of the island. Public washrooms are available in Annapolis Royal at Fort Anne, Kings Theatre, and the Tidal Power Station. Washrooms and showers are available in Digby at the Heritage Centre, just up the street from the marina. Food and refreshments can be found near Entry/Exit points at various businesses in Annapolis Royal, Digby and Cornwallis Park.

Length: Annapolis Royal to Digby: 25 km
Time: Both day and overnight trips
Classification: Expert

Entry, Exit Points:

Annapolis Royal:	1. Slipway at the causeway, across Highway 1 from The Tidal Power Station. 2. Town Wharf
Upper Clements Park: (Camping area)	6 km west of Annapolis Royal, on right (NORTH) side of Highway 1.

Oak Point:	9 km west of Annapolis Royal on Highway 1. Turn right (NORTH) at the former Upper Clements Ball Field.
	We recommend parking at rustic parking lot before the site of the old ball field, and follow the gravel road to shore to launch at beach.
Cornwallis Park:	Behind Basinview Centre (Fundy YMCA) at shoreline.
Bear River:	See Route 9. From Highway 1, follow Old Trunk 1 under the Highway 101 bridge to shore of Bear River.
Digby:	Digby Marina.
Shaffner's Point:	10 km west of Annapolis Royal on Granville Road, just past the Habitation. Launch on shore near the lighthouse.
Thornes Cove:	15 km west of Annapolis Royal on Granville Road. Launch at shoreline on left (SOUTH) side of road (Tide permitting - a very wide expanse of mud flat is exposed at low tide, so timing your entry or exit is important).
Victoria Beach:	25 km west of Annapolis Royal on Granville Road. Launch at wharf, or at beach immediately south of wharf.
Parkers Cove:	Launch at wharf.
Delaps Cove:	Launch at wharf.

Landmarks:	1. Annapolis Royal Tidal Power Station
	2. Town Wharf
	3. Allains River (see Route 20)
	4. Upper Clements Park
	5. Upper Clements Provincial Park
	6. Former Upper Clements Ball Field (Oak Point)
	7. Goat Island
	8. Bear River (see Route 9)
	9. Digby Marina
	10. Ferry Terminal
	11. Port-Royal Habitation
	12. Queen Anne Marsh (dykes)
	13. Dentabella Marsh (dykes)
	14. Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail
	15. Fundy YMCA, Cornwallis Park

Annapolis Basin



Route 24

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Disclaimer

The Municipality of the County of Annapolis does not have control over the canoe routes, portages or wilderness tent areas listed in this guide, and therefore assumes no responsibility for the safety of the canoeist paddling the route, walking the portage, or using the wilderness tent areas.

We recommend that users approach all canoe routes and wilderness tent areas in a safe and responsible manner, and conduct visual inspections whenever possible and practical.

Conditions can change through fluctuating water levels, addition of natural debris, and commercial logging activity.

As we are not the owners of any of these lands or routes, any special arrangements must be made directly with the owners and you are accountable to them for any damage, loss or other problems that you may cause.

Although the information in this guide is believed to be accurate, we assume no liability for any errors or omissions that may exist, or for changes that may have occurred on the routes after the publication of this guide.

We recommend, as a supplement to the information herein, that you use Natural Resources Canada 1:50,000 topographical series maps of the general canoe routes.

Annapolis County Recreation Services requests that you read the sections on Safety, Equipment, Trip Planning and Wilderness Ethics before you travel on the lakes and waterways of the region.

Always tell someone where you are going and when you are returning. Please be aware that many portages/canoe carries are not marked.

Map Legend

Entry, Exit Point



Landmark



Portage



River Section



Rapids



Existing Tentsite



Beach



Highway 101, Exit



Public Highway



Highlighted for clarity:



Municipal Boundary



Contour/ Elevation



Grid North



Grid Line



Scale Bar

