



Spring Tune-Up Digital Workshop

Session 3: SEO Strategies for Tourism Websites

May 23, 2024





HOUSEKEEPING



Post your questions using the Q&A. Our presenters or TNS staff may respond during or after the webinar.



Links and resources will be shared by email.



Webinar recording with Closed Caption available online: https://tourismns.ca/webinar-series









This webinar is offered in partnership between Tourism Nova Scotia and Digital Nova Scotia through DigiPort, a one-stop-shop of interactive services and educational opportunities to help tourism businesses develop digital marketing skills and access professional support to improve their online presence.

Sign up for DigiPort at https://nsdigiport.ca/



Sign up

Get in touch with our network of digital marketing strategy experts.





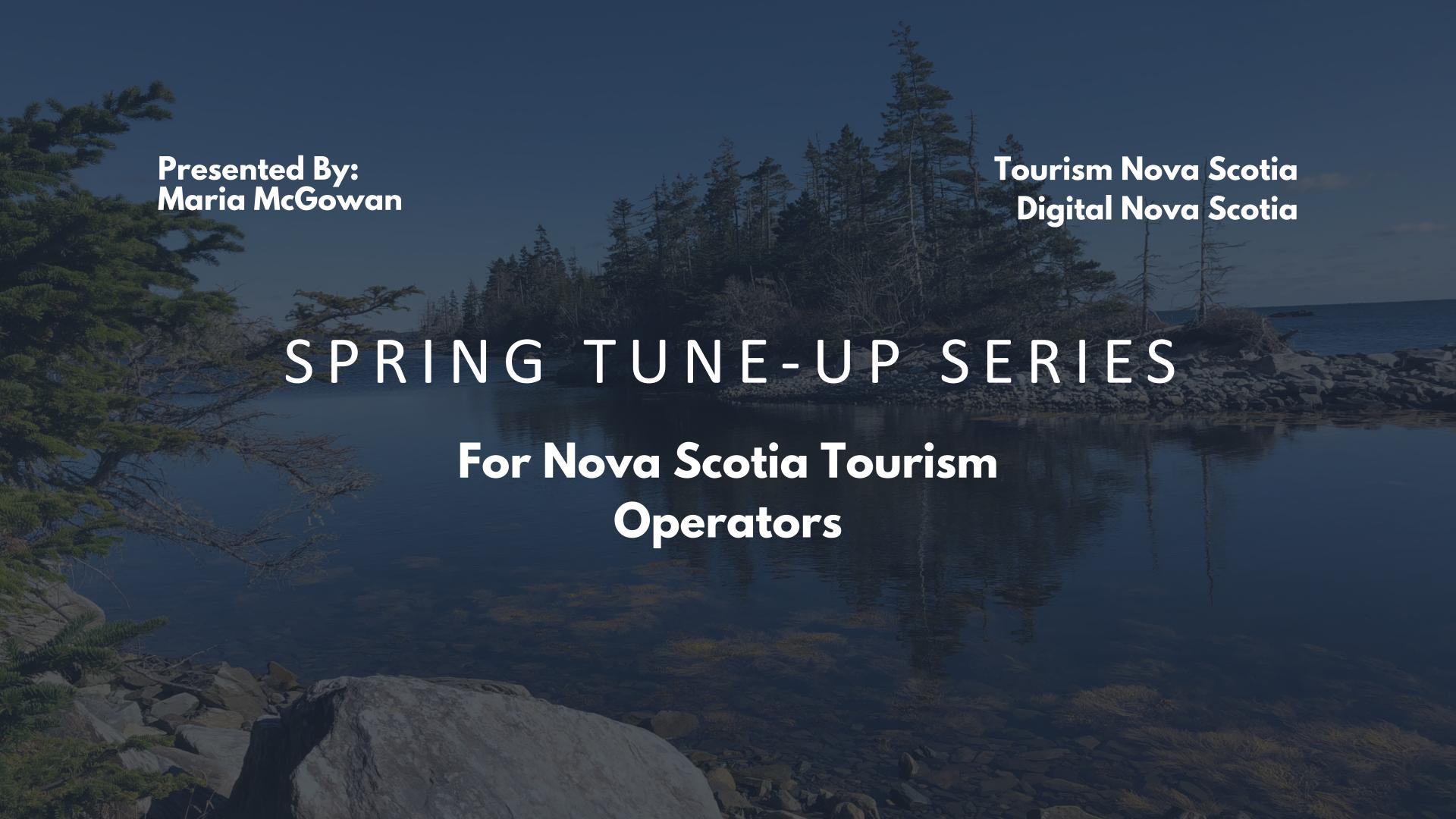
Maria McGowan:

- Founder of Sociable Media Inc., Maria McGowan has years of experience developing comprehensive strategies targeting the right audience and driving business growth.
- Her expertise extends to sectors such as tourism, recreation, and economic development, where she has helped numerous clients achieve their goals through effective online presence and branding.
- Her latest passion project is hosting a podcast exploring renewable energy and net zero called Reimagined Energy.









SEO Strategies

Welcome
I'm Maria McGowan

spciable remagined media remagined



Agenda

SEO Strategies for Tourism Websites

⊥.
What is SEO?

3. What is Link building?

5. Social Media Strategy and SEO

Z.
What are keywords?

4.
Google Business
Profile + SEO

6.
How to understand your data





This is an interactive session



Provide your answers in the chat

SEO is no longer confined to search engines like Google or Bing.

People also turn to social media to find information

Need for speed



Too slow and your visitors are already agitated and less likely to trust you.

We instinctively associate speed with professionalism

Most visitors expect your website to load within two seconds

High-resolution images are the #1 reason

- Check the file size of your images; anything above 1-2MB is unacceptable.
- Use JPEG instead of PNG, especially for larger images.
- Icons are ok.

Contact your hosting provider.

What percent of online experiences begin with a search engine?



A: 27%

B: 68%

C: 45%

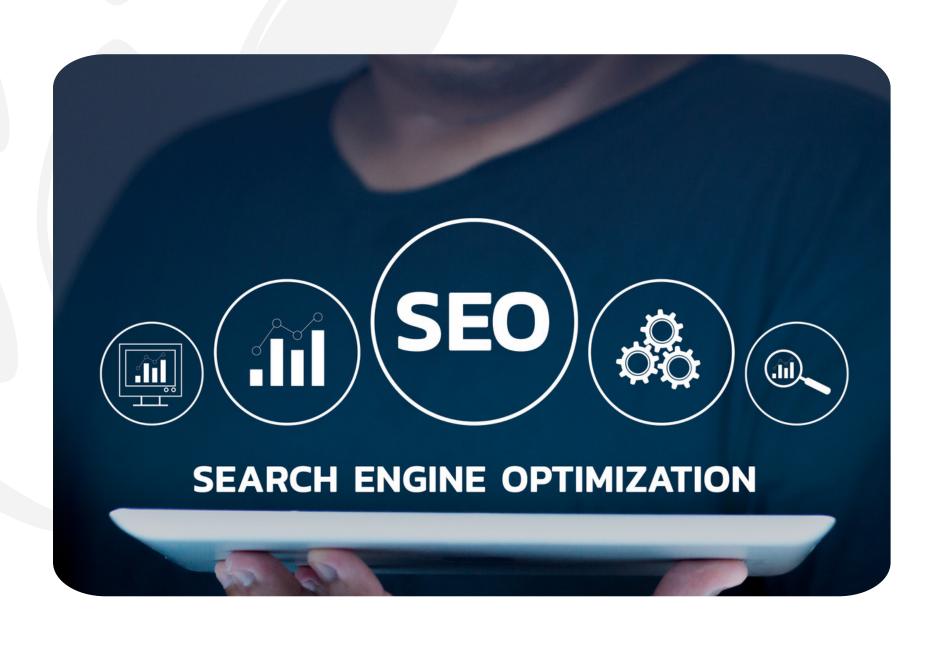
What percent of online experiences begin with a search engine?



A: 27%

B: 68%

C: 45%



How do search engines work?

In these three ways:



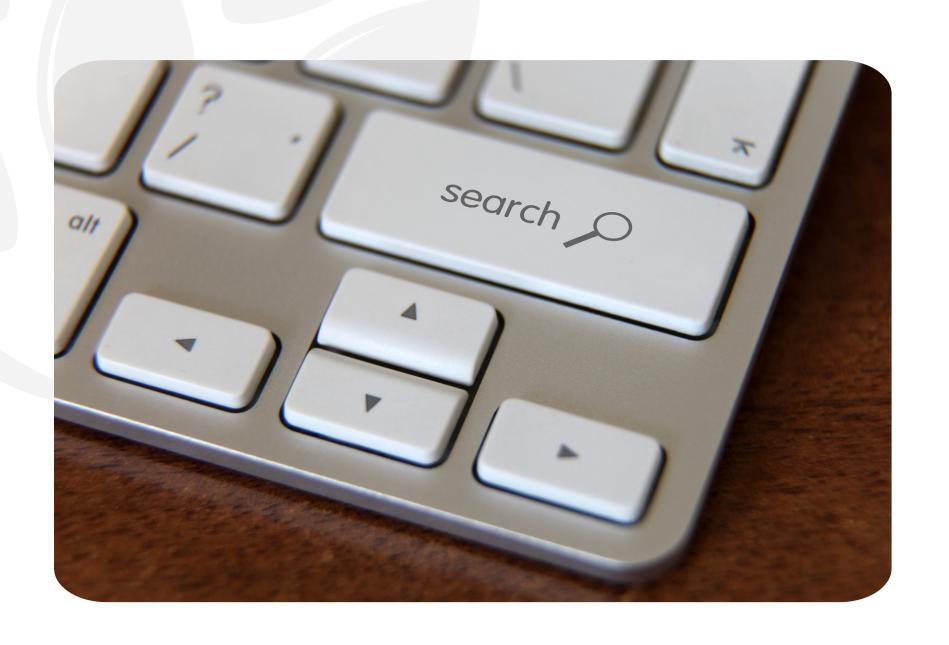
Crawling



Indexing



Ranking



How do search engines actually work?

Search Engine Crawling

Constantly looking for fresh new content

Checking on previously crawled pages to see if anything changed

What makes it worthy?

Web pages that offer unique and valuable content

How do search engines actually work?

Search Engine Indexing

If a crawled web page is deemed worthy by a search engine, it will be added to its index.

A web page might not be placed in the index if:

- The content is considered duplicate
- The content is considered low value or spammy
- It couldn't be crawled
- The page or domain lacked inbound links

Some examples of signals that search engines use to rank web pages are:

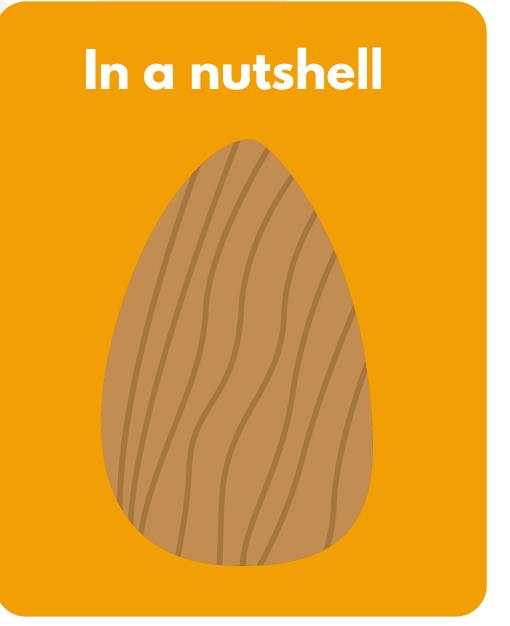
- **Keyword in title tag** Whether the keyword or a synonym was mentioned on the page and within the title tag
- ✓ **Loading speed** Whether the web page loads quickly and is mobile-friendly
- ✓ Website reputation Whether the web page and website is considered reputable for the topic being searched for
- ✓ Backlinks the quantity and quality of backlinks to a web page
- Content quality and relevance Is the content valuable and relevant to the website's target audience?
- **✓** Mobile-friendliness

How do search engines actually work?

Search Engine Ranking

There are 200+ ranking signals that search engines use to sort and rank content

Source: SEMrush



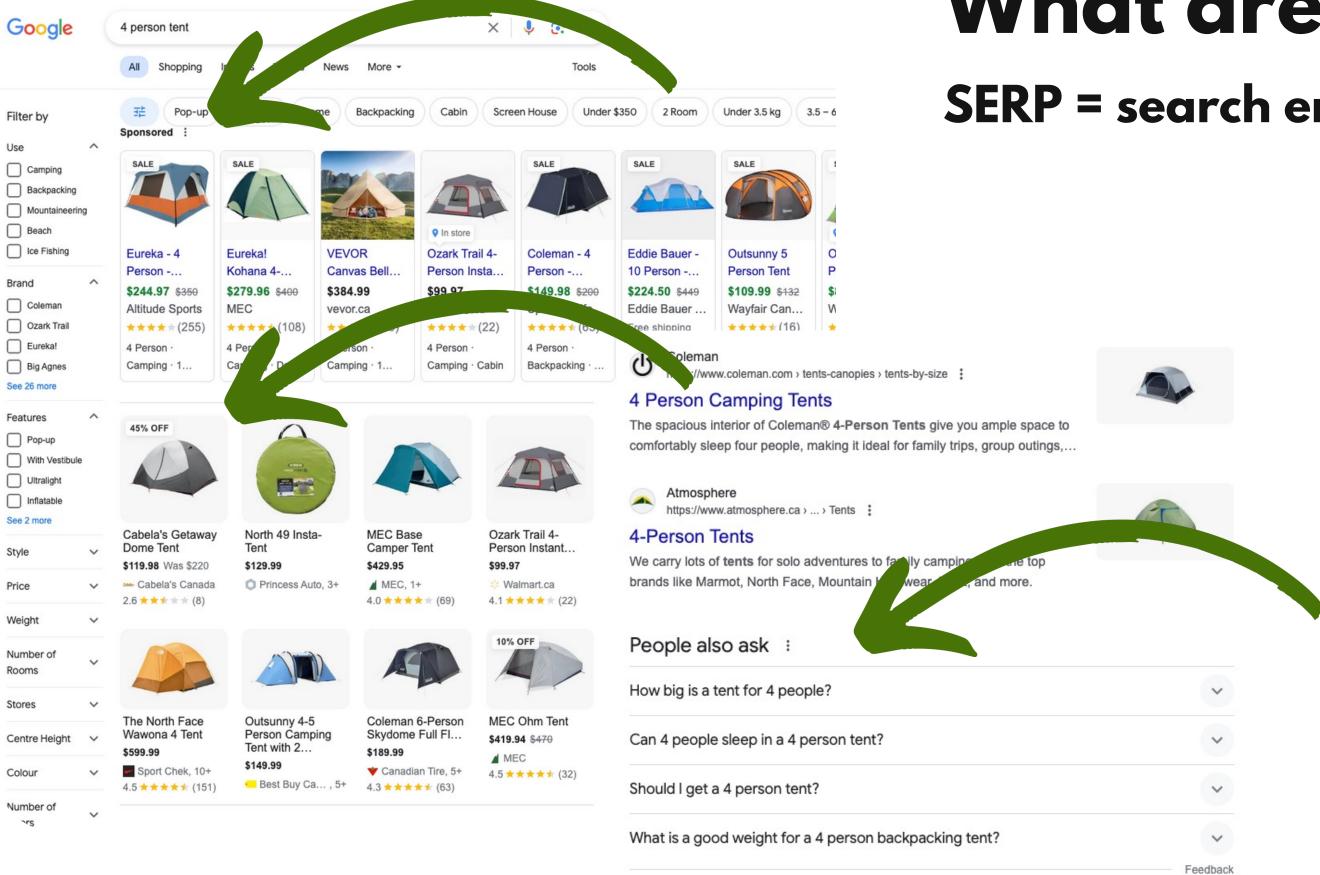
Search Engine Optimization

The process of getting website traffic from free, organic, editorial, or natural search results in search engines.

It aims to improve your website's position in **search results** pages (SERPs).

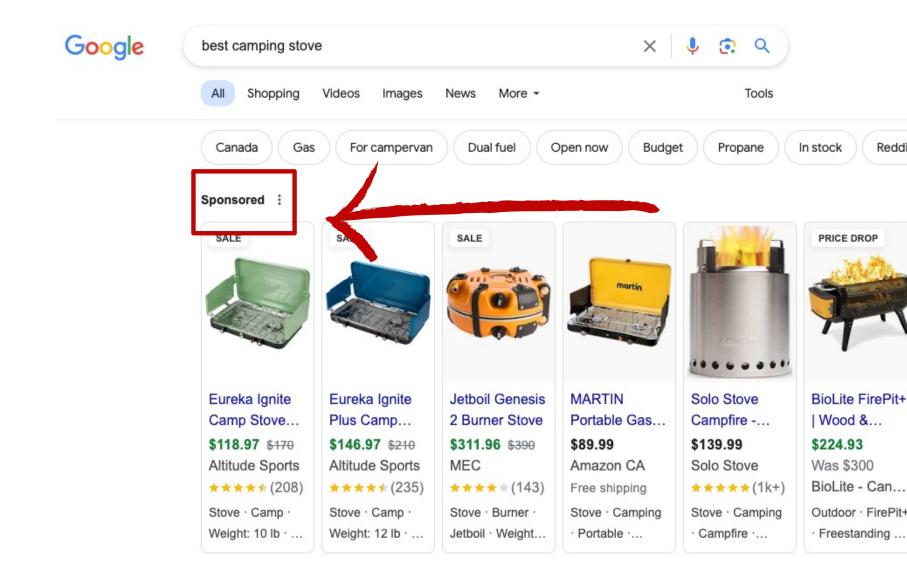


The higher the website is listed, the more people will see it.



What are SERP's?

SERP = search engine results page



They make the search result stand out, which can increase its CTR and traffic.

A rich snippet

Why is this one first?



This one has it in the title description

https://www.outdoorgearlab.com > camping-and-hiking

The 3 Best Camping Stoves of 2024 | Tested

 The models that performed the best in the simmering category are the Everest 2x, the Stansport 3-Burner, and the Jetboil Genesis Basecamp. These

★★★★★ Rating: 4.8 · Review by Mary Witlacil

How to Choose a Camping... Camping Kitchen Reviews Kovea Slim Twin Review



tps://gearjunkie.com > camping > best-camping-stoves

The Best Camping Stoves of 2024

Apr 5, 2024 — We tested the best cambing stoves of 2024 from Coleman, Camp Chef, GSI

List includes: Number of Burners · Boil and Simmer · BTUs Explained · View full list



The 4 Best Camping Stoves of 2024 | Reviews by Wirecutter

 If our top pick is out of stock or you'd like more cooking control (and potentially a touch more durability), the Coleman Cascade 222 2-Burner .

List includes: The best picnic-table camp stove · The best stove for gourmet camp cooking More precision · View full list







Reddit

PRICE DROP

Coleman

\$134.98

Was \$190

Walmart.ca

Stove · Camping

Coleman · 2..

Cascade 222...

In store

Outbound

\$41.99

Double-Burn.

Canadian Tire

***** (164)

Stove · Camp · 2







What is the average 'age' of top result pages?

A: 6 months old

B: 1.7 years old

C: 2.6 years old



What is the average 'age' of top result pages?



A: 6 months old

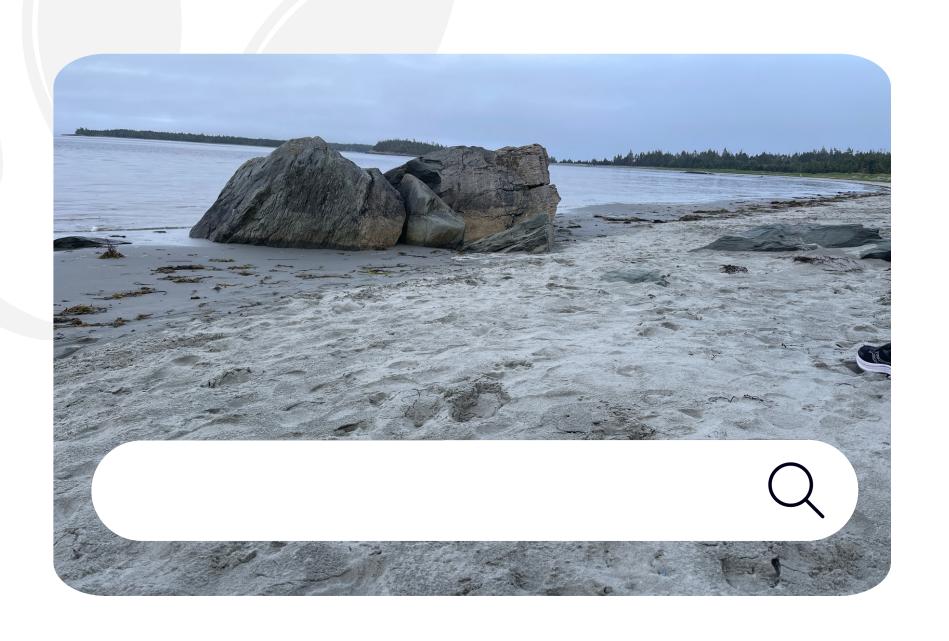
B: 1.7 years old

C: 2.6 years old <



high search engine rankings don't happen overnight

How does a page get ranked #1? (unpaid)





On-page SEO

The page's internal content



Off-page SEO

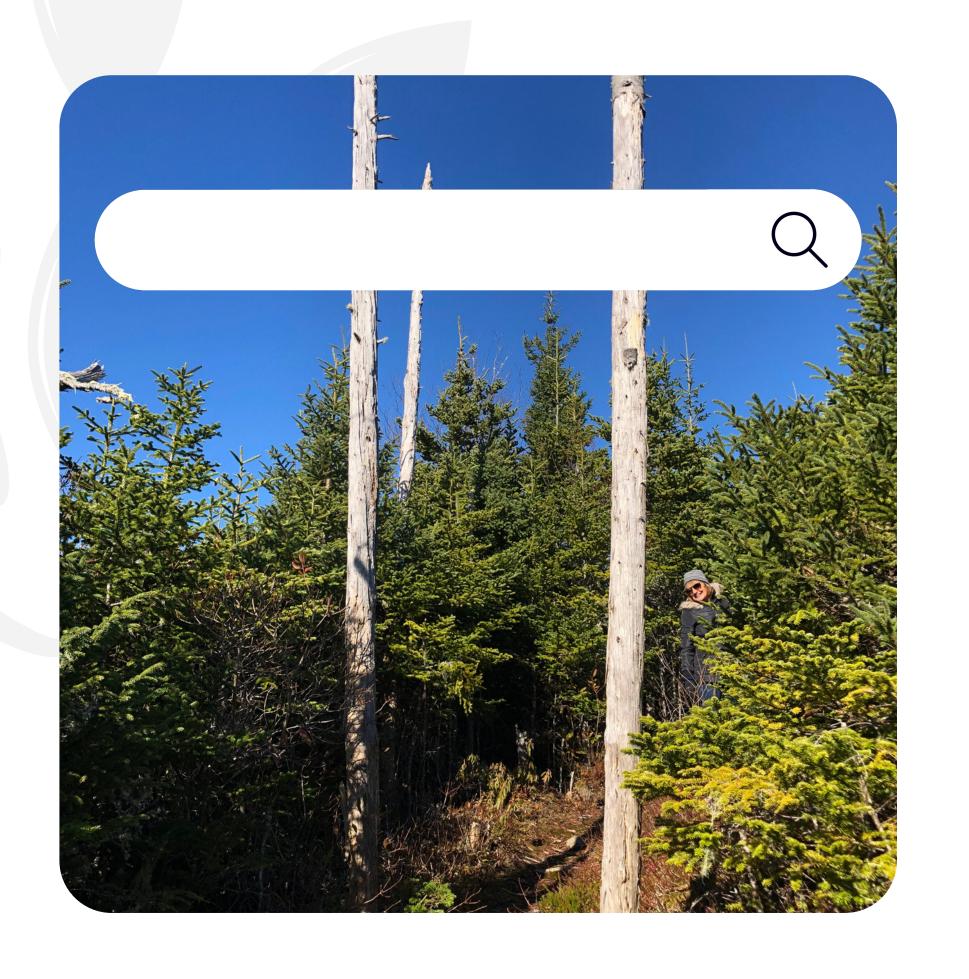
External content to prove relevance and authority



On-Page SEO



- ✓ Site content
- Page speed
- Images
- ✓ Title tags
- Internal linking



Off-Page SEO



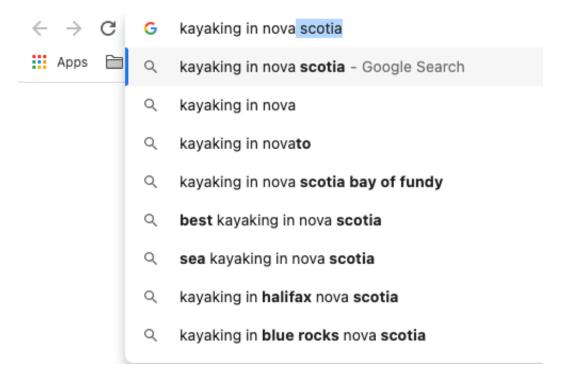
- ✓ Link-building / back-links
- ✓ Guests posting on your blog
- ✓ Social media marketing
- Reviews

On-Page SEO Tips

Write helpful content

Write content that matches your readers' search intent (FAQ section is good)

--> Start with keyword research to find relevant topics



Optimize URLs

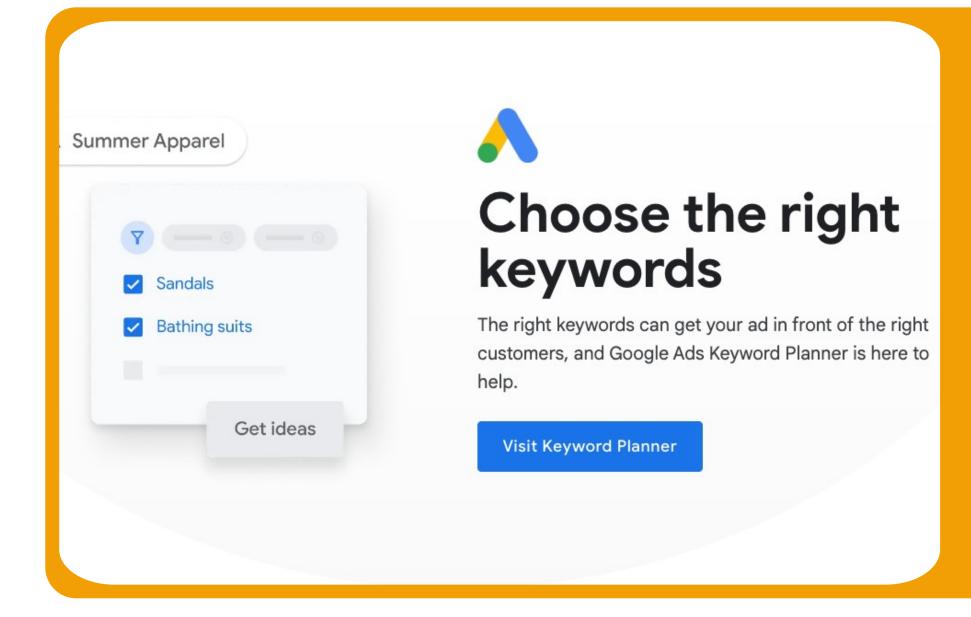


https://www.brandonsbaseballcards.com/folder1/2022/05/newpage-14032015.html



https://www.brandonsbaseballcards.com/article/ten-rarest-baseball-cards.html

Google Ads Keyword Planner 🔾



Source: SEMrush

On-Page SEO Tips

H1 is for titles

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

H2 is great for making a new section

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

- Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.
- Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.
- Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

H3 is great for making finer points

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

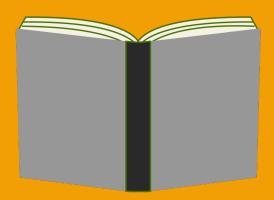
Title tags

Think of them as the name of your book. Not visable on the page (viewed only by search engines). Title tags should have a limit of 50-60 characters



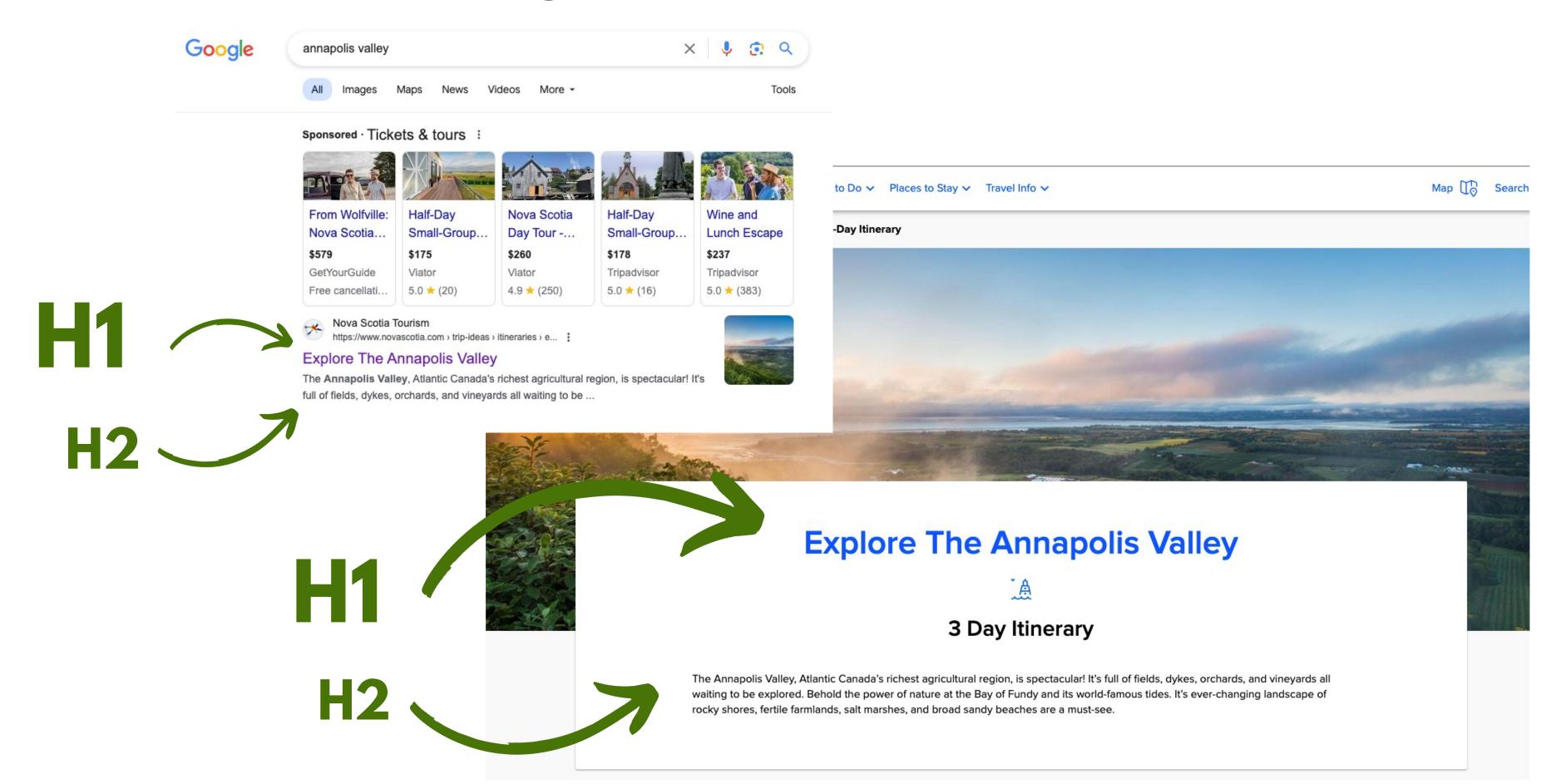
H1 tags

H1 tags are the name of your chapter. Part of the content on your page and can be longer.



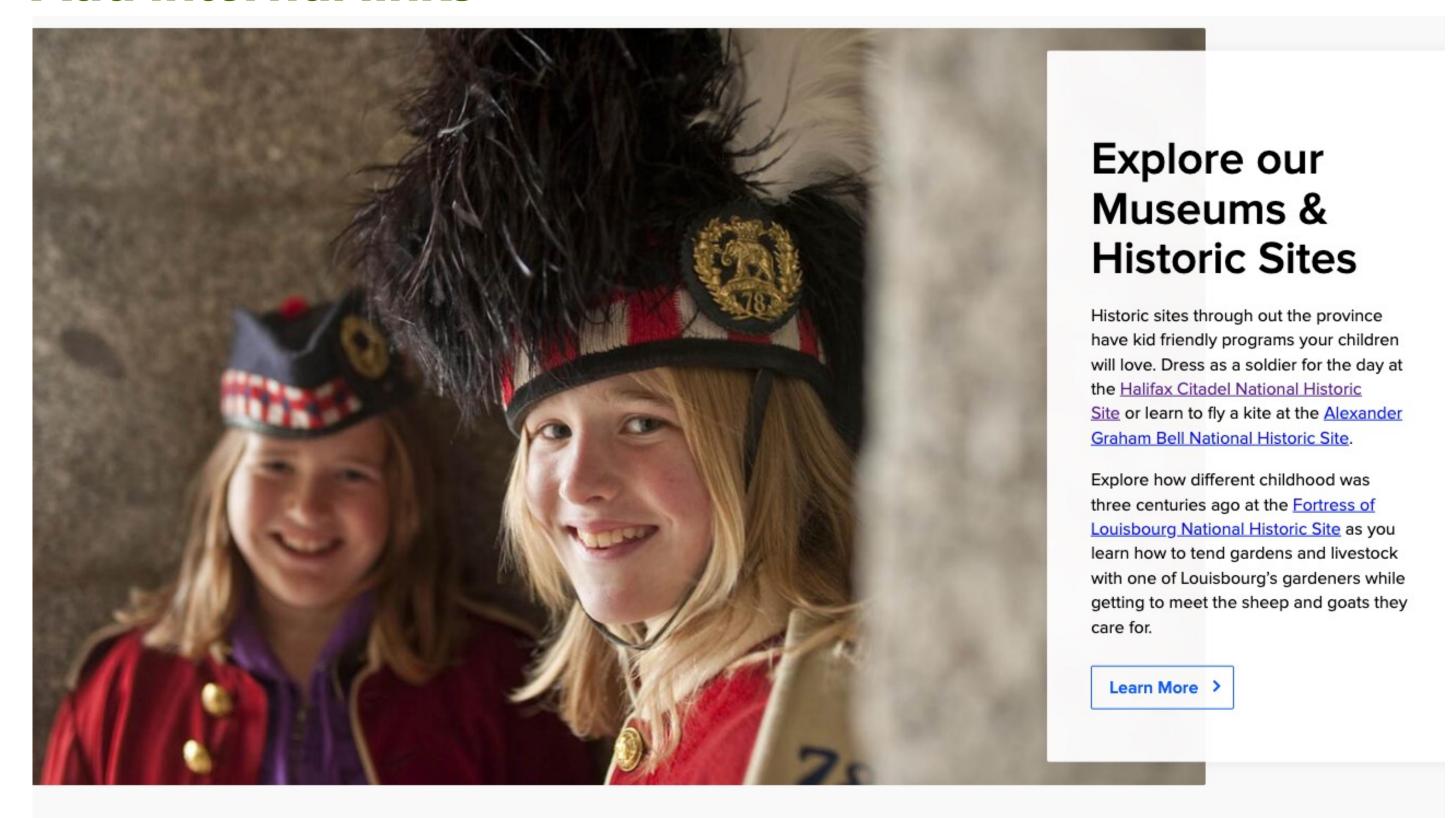
Both hold weight in SEO ranking factors.

How it looks in Google Search



On-Page SEO Tips

Add internal links

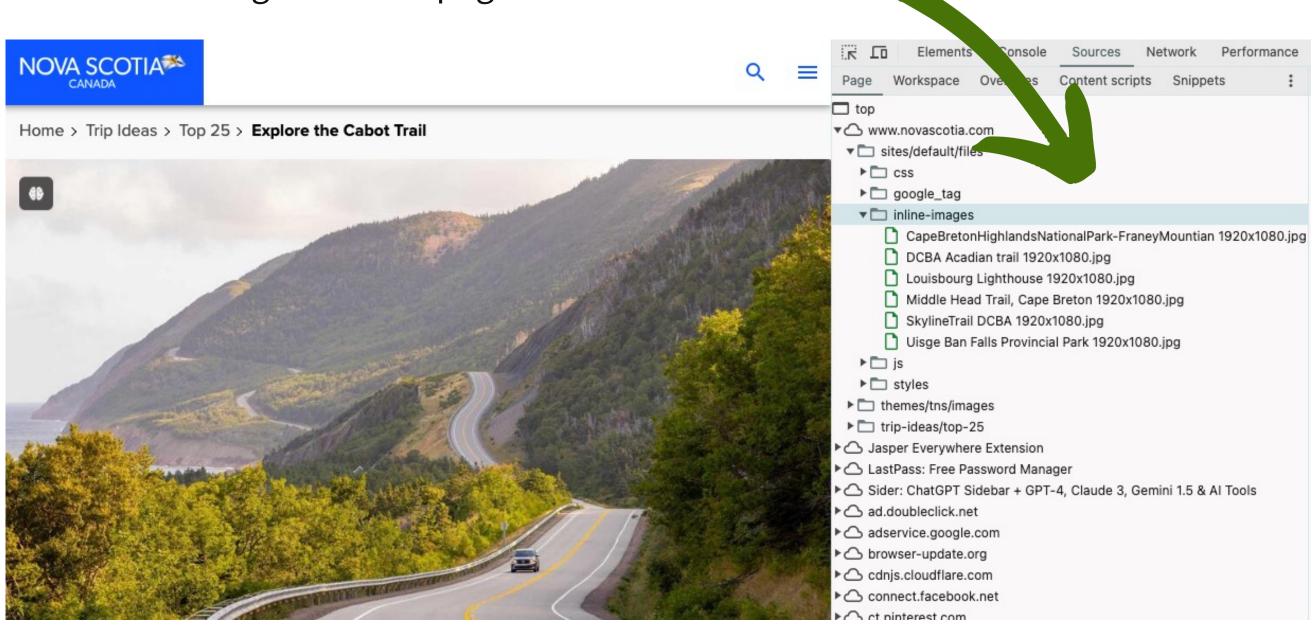


On-Page SEO Tips

Optimize your images

Use **alt text** --> is text that describes an image on a webpage

- Keep it brief.
 Screen readers stop
 reading alt text
 after about 125
 characters.
- Include a target keyword.
- Don't include
 "image of" or
 "picture of."



Source: SEMrush

Cabot Trail

The Cabot Trail, voted one of the world's most scenic drives, offers jaw-dropping coastal views. But just as memorable are the stops along the way like famed hiking trails, picturesque villages and towns, artisanal shops and more!

LEARN MORE



Halifax Waterfront

A must-do in Halifax involves a stroll along the vibrant Halifax Waterfront. Check out the many bars, restaurants, shops, entertainment, and museums or just sit awhile and take in the bustling Harbour activity.

LEARN MORE



Lunenburg

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, wander Olde Town Lunenburg's distinctive waterfront and brightly coloured buildings. Listen for salty tales of seafaring and rum-running on its working waterfront where you might just catch a glimpse of the Bluenose II.

LEARN MORE

Let's talk Link Building

Links that other people place on their websites to refer their users to your pages (or the other way around).



Anchor text

Describes what the linked page is about and entice people to click. Give reasons why they should click.



Kejimkujik

Experience the unsurpassed beauty and natural wonder of the only Parks Canada site that is designated both a National Park and a National Historic site. Explore wilderness trails, lakes, and rivers by foot, by canoe, or by kayak.

LEARN MORE



Tidal Bore Rafting

Feel the rush of riding eight to 20+ foot waves in a white-water Zodiac boat as the surging power of the Bay of Fundy's world's highest tides turns the Shubenacadie River into a water roller coaster you'll find only in Nova Scotia.

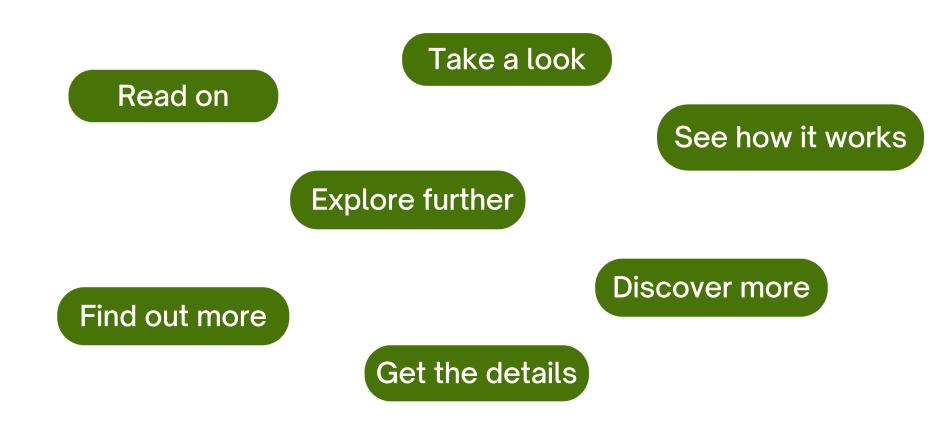
LEARN MORE



Hiking

Hike on trails that meander through old growth forest stands, highland mountaintops, amble past rolling orchards and pastoral fields and seaside trails that offer expansive ocean views - it's easy to take a walk on the wild side in Nova Scotia.

LEARN MORE



Let's talk Link Building





Link quality

All links are valued differently (high-traffic websites).



Create good content

Write content that other sites will want to link to.



Outreach

Reach out to other websites and ask them to write about and link to your website (write an email, phone).

Ask with social media (in-message).

What percentage of pages have no backlinks at all?



A: 45%

B: 65%

C: 95%

What percentage of pages have no backlinks at all?



A: 45%

B: 65%

C: 95%



The top-ranked search results typically have 3.8 times more backlinks than lower-ranked results.



Google Business Profile

Google My Business

How it can help your SEO

Who has a Google Business Profile Page?



Is your page verified?

Who updates the page regularly?



You can use the Google Maps app and Google Search.

Important: There are no changes to how customers can view and interact with your Business Profile.

Source: Google

About Contact Location Hours

More

About your business

Business name

Sociable Media

Business category

Marketing agency
Design agency
Website designer
Advertising agency
Marketing consultant
Internet marketing service

Description

We are a digital marketing agency that is passionate about helping businesses reach their goals through targeted and cost-effective social media marketing and management. In short, we get result and connect your business to your customers online, driving businesses growth.

Let us help you build your business through the power of social media. Here at Sociable Media Inc, we're also a small business! Made up of a small collection of elite professionals, we'll work with you and your products and services in a way that works for you!

Our services are:

Google Ads | Digital Strategy | InBound Marketing | Video | Social Media Ad Campaigns | Content Creation | Community Management | Website Refreshes | Editorial Calendars | Webinars + Training

Google Business Profile + SEO Tips



Complete all information

Descriptions have a 750-character limit.



Include keywords



Set Up Direct Messaging



Use really nice images

Important! Have photos taken of the outside, inside and your team.



Categories

One of the most important pieces of information on your profile is your business category, especially your primary category.

Google offers over 3,000 categories to choose from and adds new ones regularly.

baby_clothing_store	Baby clothing store	
baby_store	Baby store	
baby_swimming_school	Baby swimming school	
babysitter	Childminder	
baden_restaurant	Baden restaurant	
badminton_club	Badminton club	
badminton_complex	Badminton complex	
badminton_court	Badminton court	
bag_shop	Bag shop	
bagel_shop	Bagel shop	

Post types

Work it into your social plan

– you can even cross-post something you already posted to Instagram and Facebook







Insights Dashboard

The number of people who viewed your listing

How many GMB searches did you have during a specific month

The actions that the customers took on your listing

The number of calls you received during a specific month

Which sources generate the highest number of searches





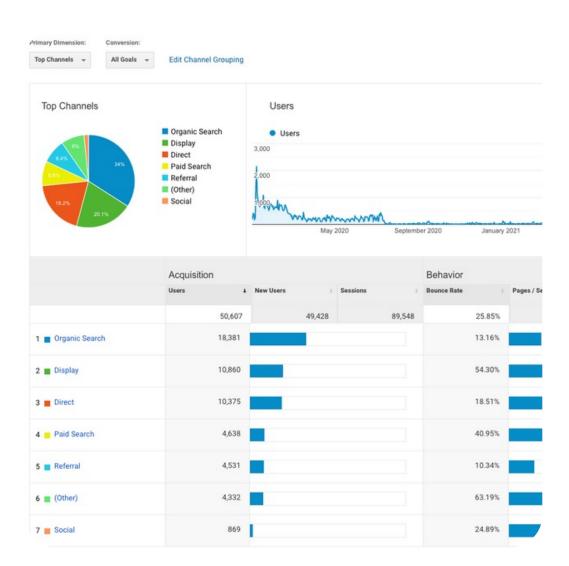


PHOTO & VIDEO LIBRARY Use our photo and video library to help promote your business or community

Photo & Video Library

You can take advantage of Tourism Nova Scotia's extensive library of high-quality photos and videos to help promote your business and/or region. Appealing visuals can help grab a potential visitor's attention and give them a sense of what they can expect when they come to Nova Scotia.

Our library is available to tourism businesses and organizations for the purpose of promoting travel to and within Nova Scotia.

gister to Access the Digital Library

For more information about using the library, contact

Emily Hiltz

Marketing Coordinate

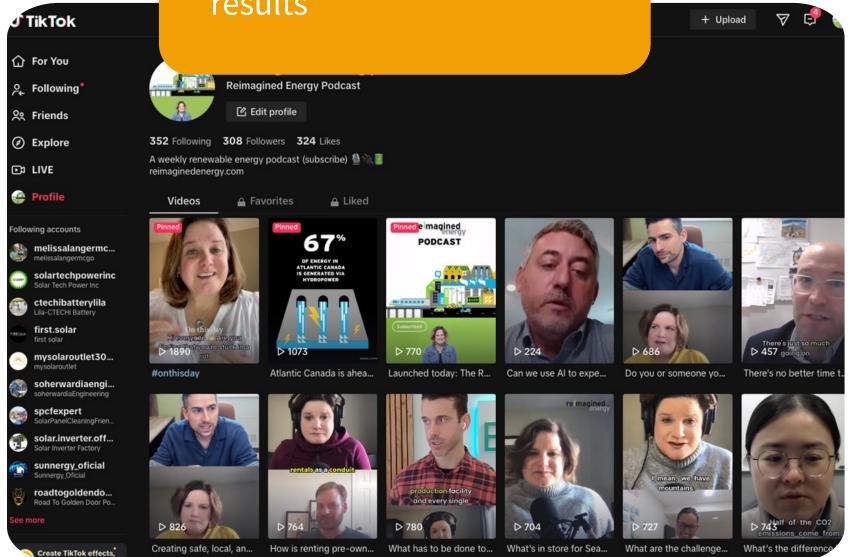
Social Media Strategies and SEO

egior	

	41,970 % of Total: 82,93% (50,607)	40,66 % of Total: 82.2 (49,4;
Nova Scotia	14,020 (32.08%)	13,132 (32.2
New Brunswick	9,443 (21.61%)	8,780 (21.5
Ontario	5,954 (13.62%)	5,488 (13.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,054 (11.56%)	4,723 (11.6
Quebec	3,712 (8.49%)	3,267 (8.0
British Columbia	1,916 (4.38%)	1,873 (4.6
Prince Edward Island	1,894 (4.33%)	1,734 (4.2
Alberta	1,069 (2.45%)	1,042 (2.5
Manitoba	345 (0.79%)	332 (0.8
Saskatchewan	170 (0.39%)	166 (0.4



Short-form videos
Platforms like TikTok,
Instagram, and YouTube
are increasingly surfacing
in Google's organic search
results



How social media can help your SEO



Increased website traffic



Higher visability



Backlinks

Repurpose your web content into social media posts Like, comment, and share social media posts of industry experts. A simple like or comment on their social media posts can go a long way.



Likes, shares, comments



Social Media SEO



Keywords

Level up your profiles (Instagram, Facebook etc)

Voice Search "Hey Google!"

People tend to use more casual and question-based queries when using voice search. Write some posts the same way.

Use alt tags

Name your images (do not use img01.jpeg)

Try new platforms

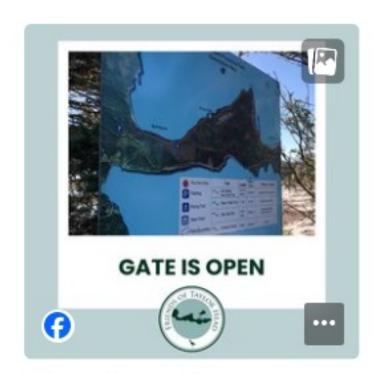
TikTok and Reels

Prioritize Engagement

Polls, surveys, questions, did you know...

Social Media SEO





We are happy to announce... May 3, 2024, 3:45 PM

Boost

See Insights



Sunday, May 05. Time: 9:3... May 3, 2024, 7:00 AM

Boost

See Insights

Social Media SEO

Social Media Profiles = SEO Powerhouses

Social Media Ads

Call to Actions can drive targeted traffic to your website, therefore improving visibility, click-through rates, bounce rates, dwell time, thus enhancing a website's search engine rankings.

The future

The dominance of video content, the importance of social listening, the AI boom, and the push of influencer marketing are going to play an important role in defining the future of this dynamic relationship.

Source: Coalition Technologies

tourism nova scotia











Instagram · visitnovascotia 167.6K+ followers

Nova Scotia (@visitnovascotia)

168K Followers, 1254 Following, 2691 Posts - Nova Scotia (@visitnovascotia) on Instagram: "Tourism Nova Scotia's official account. Tag us in your reels, ...



Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia https://www.cbisland.com

Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia - Official Travel Guide

Discover Cape Breton Island's hidden gem! Enjoy unique experiences, stunning landscapes, historical wonders, and local delights. Your adventure starts here!



Destination Canada

https://travel.destinationcanada.com > places-to-go > no...

Travel to Nova Scotia

Year-round surfing and sea kayaking, vineyards and markets, all within easy driving distance makes Nova Scotia the place for the perfect road trip.



```
Facebook · Nova Scotia
313K+ followers
```

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 317042 likes · 3745 talking about this · 5426 were here. The official page of Tourism Nova Scotia. #visitnovascotia.

True or False

Appearing first for a mobile search doesn't mean you'll appear in the first position on a desktop search





Appearing first for a mobile search doesn't mean you'll appear in the first position on a desktop search



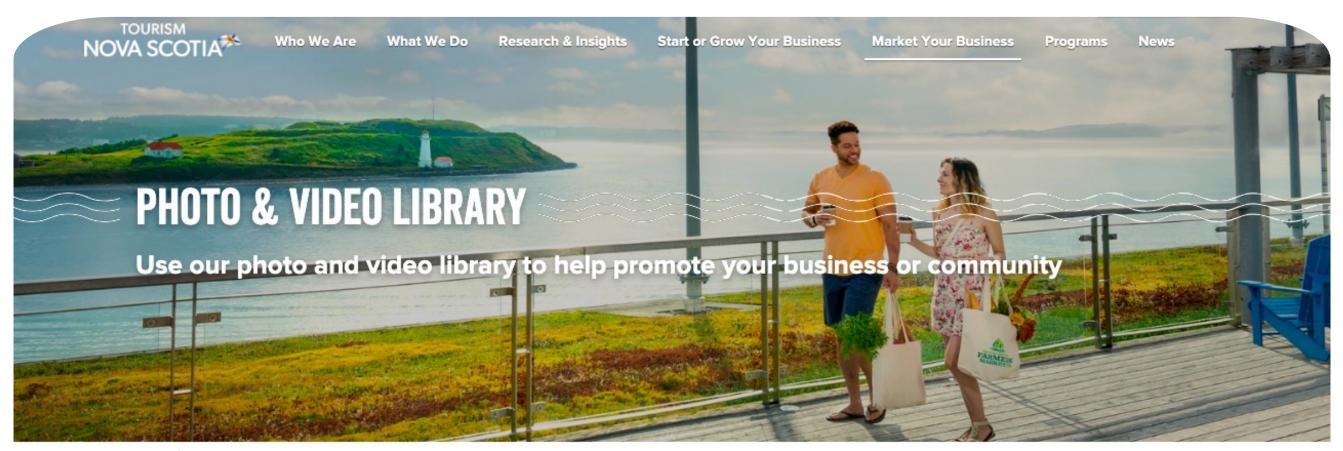
Only 17% of websites kept their positions across both mobile and desktop SERPs.

Source: SEMrush

Images



Tourism Nova Scotia Digital Asset Library



Home Photo & Video Library

Photo & Video Library

You can take advantage of Tourism Nova Scotia's extensive library of high-quality photos and videos to help promote your business and/or region. Appealing visuals can help grab a potential visitor's attention and give them a sense of what they can expect when they come to Nova Scotia.

Our library is available to tourism businesses and organizations for the purpose of promoting travel to and within Nova Scotia.

Register to Access the Digital Library

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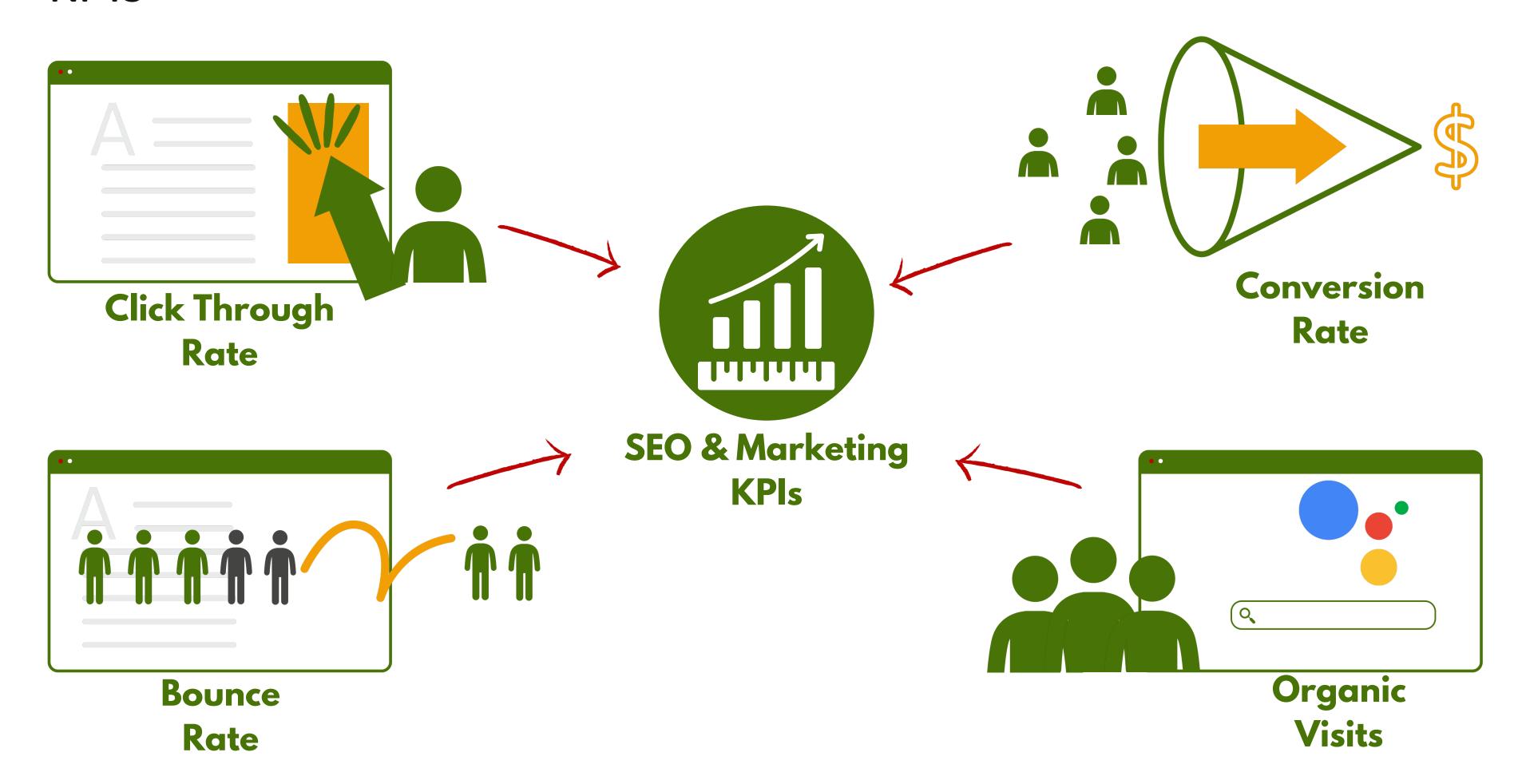
Emily Hiltz

Marketing Coordinator 902-790-0950 emily.hiltz@novascotia.ca



How to understand your data
Monitoring your results

KPIs



Google Search Fundamentals



How to create helpful, reliable, people-first content

SEO Key Takeaways



How search engines work

SERPS, how bots crawl a website, Algorithms,

How to use keywords and where to find them

The importance of link building

How to optimize your website to get noticed by search engines

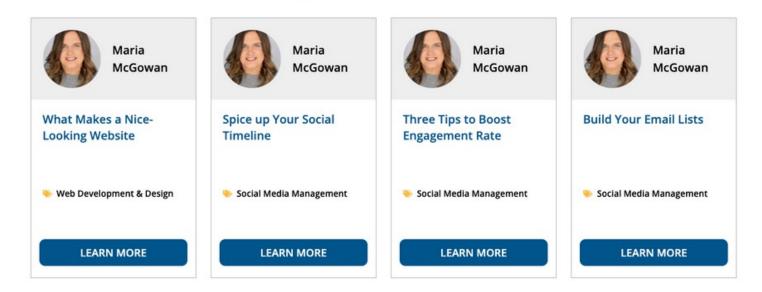
How social media can boost your SEO



Book a 1:1 Marketing Consultation



Content from this Digital Expert





UPCOMING WEBINARS

- Thursday, May 30 @ 10:00 am Navigating the Transition to Online Booking. Presented by Jide Adesalu (Microhills Inc.)
- Thursday, June 6 @ 10:00 am Grow with Google for Destination Marketing. Presented by Majd Khaldi (Google)
- Thursday, June 13 @ 10:00 am Pocket Production: Short Video Mastery for Tourism Businesses. Presented by Will Yang (Differo Marketing)
- Thursday, June 20 @ 10:00 am Analyze Customer Feedback with ChatGPT. Presented by Robert Newcombe (Newcombe Consulting)



See recordings of previous webinars and related tip sheets:

https://tourismns.ca/webinarseries







EXPORT Travel Trade Program

The Export Travel Trade Program aims to help Nova Scotia tourism businesses develop partnerships with tour operators and travel agents to increase national and international sales. The program offers support through two streams: Travel Trade Readiness and Marketplace Support.

Application deadline:

Stream 1 Travel Trade Readiness: June 30, 2024 at 4:00pm

Stream 2 Marketplace Support: May 31, 2024 at 4:00pm

https://tourismns.ca/export-travel-trade







STAY CONNECTED WITH TNS

- Contact Business Development: TNSBusiness@novascotia.ca
- Corporate website: https://tourismns.ca/
- Consumer website: https://novascotia.com
- TNS News & Resources: https://tourismns.ca/news-resources
- Corporate X (formerly Twitter): https://twitter.com/TourismNS
- Corporate LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/tourismnovascotia/





