Tour Code
NL1

ADVENTURESABROAD

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

with Sainte-Pierre & Miquelon

16 days

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Day 1 Arrival Deer Lake / Corner Brook, Newfoundland

Today we arrive in Deer Lake (airport YDF) on Newfoundland's west coast and transfer to Corner Brook (45 min), Newfoundland's second largest city.*

Why we stay in Corner Brook and not Deer Lake: If you look at a map, it might seem illogical to spend this night in Corner Brook only to backtrack past Deer Lake the following day. The limited number of hotels in Deer Lake are accustomed to individual travellers booking stays directly and are not geared for groups, applying rigid booking terms that make holding space for our travellers difficult for us. Our chosen hotel in Corner Brook is a "nice" property with some charm and character and a great in-house restaurant, as opposed to a typical airport hotel one would find in Deer Lake. As always we look forward to your feedback.

Overnight in Corner Brook.

Included Meal(s): Dinner

Day 2 Corner Brook - Gros Morne National Park - Port au Choix

This morning we'll spend a bit of time in Corner Brook to explore some local highlights. We'll visit the Captain Cook Monument, the iconic Newfie Bullet, and the unique Old Man Rock formation. We'll also see the Heritage Tree and enjoy a photo opportunity at the picturesque Lobster Cove Lighthouse.

We'll then set out by private motorcoach along the sheltered west coast of the Northern Peninsula, via Gros Morne National Park, a World Heritage Site. After a stop at the park's visitor center, from a distance we'll take in the stunning views of Western Brook Pond.

We then continue along the Viking Trail, passing through the lands the Norsemen settled over 1,000 years ago. The scenic route features spectacular mountains, forests, rivers, and lakes.

Later, we'll visit Arches Provincial Park to marvel at the natural rock formations carved by the ocean. Our day concludes with a visit to the Port au Choix National Historic Site, a 4,500-year-old time capsule showcasing rare and important vestiges of ancient Maritime Archaic Indian, Groswater Paleoeskimo, and Dorset Paleoeskimo cultures. The site's raised shoreline and alkaline soil conditions have preserved rich artifacts, which we'll learn about through interactive exhibits, a diorama of a Dorset house, and a short film at the Visitor Centre.

Overnight in Port au Choix.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 3 Port au Choix - L'Anse aux Meadows - St Anthony

The highlight of our excursion north is a visit to L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park, the oldest European settlement in North America and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This site is thought to be the elusive "Vineland" of Norse legends, featuring overgrown mounds that were excavated in the 1960s to reveal the foundations of eight sod houses built by Vikings around AD 1000. With a local guide, we'll tour the sod-house foundations and learn about the history of the Vikings in this area and other ancient treasures.

Before reaching L'Anse aux Meadows, we'll stop in Dark Tickle to indulge in delicious Newfoundland home-baked treats. We'll also visit Roadside Gardens and Woodpiles, keeping an eye out for moose and bears in the beautiful scenery.

After exploring L'Anse aux Meadows, we'll head to St. Anthony, home of the Grenfell Mission. We'll visit the Interpretation Centre and browse the unique craft center, learning about the local history and culture.

Overnight in St Anthony.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4 St Anthony - St. Barbe - Ferry to Blanc Sablon, Quebec - L'Anse au Clair, Labrador

Today's journey provides a closer look at some of the earliest settlements in Canada. We travel to St. Barbe for the 1PM crossing on the Bell Isle Ferry to Labrador, keeping an eye out for wildlife along the way.

Once we ferry across the Strait of Belle Isle (known as Iceberg Alley), we'll visit the fishing village where Jacques Cartier first landed at Blanc Sablon, Quebec. As we drive along Labrador's famous Coastal Drive Route, we'll take in the wild landscape dotted with small coastal settlements inhabited mainly by the descendants of fishermen who settled here 200 years ago.

We'll finish our day in L'Anse au Clair, a community with a rich history dating back to the early 1700s, when French fishing interests first established a presence here. We'll visit the Gateway to Labrador Visitor Centre. If the sky is favourable this evening, you may catch a glimpse of the breathtaking Northern Lights.

Overnight in L'Anse au Clair.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 5 Labrador Exploration

Today we'll explore the rich history of this fascinating region, delving into stories that span centuries of maritime adventure and cultural exchange. We'll visit the Red Bay National Historic Site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that preserves one of the most significant archaeological discoveries in North America. Here we'll learn about the remarkable Basque whaling operation that flourished from the 1530s to the early 1600s, when this remote outpost was the world's whaling capital, supplying Europe with precious whale oil for lamps, soap, and leather treatment.

The Basque whalers developed sophisticated hunting techniques and processing methods, establishing seasonal settlements that brought together workers from Spain and France. The site features several remarkably preserved shipwrecks from the 16th century, including the San Juan galleon discovered in 1978 - one of the world's earliest intact whaling vessels. The state-of-the-art Interpretation Centre showcases an impressive collection of tools, harpoons, cooperage equipment, and personal effects that confirm European habitation of this coast during the 16th and 17th centuries. Interactive exhibits and artifacts tell the story of these brave mariners who crossed treacherous Atlantic waters in pursuit of the mighty right and bowhead whales.

Our journey continues to the Point Amour Lighthouse, built in 1857 and standing 109 feet tall as the tallest lighthouse in Atlantic Canada and the second tallest in all of Canada. This imposing white tower has guided vessels safely through the Strait of Belle Isle for over 160 years. Take a trip up the 132 challenging steps - each one worth the effort - to reach the lantern room and witness incredible panoramic views of Labrador's rugged coastline, the Strait of Belle Isle, and on clear days, the distant shores of Newfoundland.

Overnight in L'Anse-au-Clair.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6 Labrador - Ferry & Bus to Cow Head, Newfoundland

This morning we return to Newfoundland by the 10:30AM ferry crossing back across the Strait of Belle Isle. As we board our motorcoach once again, we'll travel south along Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula, retracing our steps through the dramatic landscapes we explored earlier in our journey.

We'll head to Cow Head in the heart of Gros Morne National Park. This World Heritage Site boasts stunning geology, shaped by 485 million years of natural forces. Gros Morne is renowned for its complex geology, which played a crucial role in proving the theory of plate tectonics - the park contains some of the world's best examples of exposed ocean floor and mantle rock.

As we approach Cow Head, we'll catch up on some sightseeing that might not have been possible during our earlier passage through the area. The drive offers spectacular vistas of the Long Range Mountains, ancient peaks that are part of the Appalachian Mountain system. We'll pass through small fishing communities that dot the coastline, each with their own unique character and maritime heritage.

Cow Head itself is a charming coastal community strategically positioned between the mountains and the sea. The town serves as an excellent base for exploring the park's geological wonders. As we settle into our accommodation, we'll take in the breathtaking scenery, featuring towering cliffs, boreal forests, and the dramatic freshwater fjords that make this region so distinctive. We'll learn about the area's rich history, from the Mi'kmaq inhabitants who first called this land home, to the European fishermen who established settlements here centuries ago, drawn by the abundant marine resources of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Overnight in Cow Head.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 7 Cow Head - Table Lands & Gros Morne - Grand Falls

This morning, we visit the Tablelands in Gros Morne National Park, a breathtaking sight featuring a flat-topped rock formation typically found deep in the earth's mantle. We'll take a scenic boat tour (weather-permitting) as you learn about the geology of the Tablelands, spot bald eagles that frequent the deep waters of the fjord, and hear the history of the small villages nestled on the shores. It is an unforgettable experience; some say the scenery is unequaled in eastern Canada.

We'll also stop at Sally's Cove, where we'll learn about the local lobster fishing industry. On land, we'll explore the Tablelands and keep an eye out for Pitcher Plants, the official flower of Newfoundland and Labrador.

After this unforgettable experience in Gros Morne, we'll bid goodbye to the "Viking Trail" and head south then east through open country dotted with lakes and patches of spruce and pine. As we travel along the Exploits River and through thick forest country, we'll make our way to the town of Grand Falls. Founded in 1905, Grand Falls was discovered by Lieutenant John Cartwright in 1768, who named the waterfall after its impressive size. The town's history is tied to the pulp and paper mill, which was established by Alfred Harmsworth (Baron Northcliffe) as an alternative source of newsprint. Today, Grand Falls-Windsor is central Newfoundland's major service and distribution centre.

Overnight in Grand Falls.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8 Grand Falls - Twillingate - Gander

This morning, we visit the Salmonid Interpretation Centre to learn about one of North America's largest Atlantic salmon enhancement projects. Next, we'll head to Twillingate, one of Newfoundland's oldest seaports, settled in 1700. We'll stop at the Long Point Lighthouse, taking in the scenic views of the surrounding area. In Twillingate, we'll visit the Twillingate Museum, featuring a collection of antiques gathered from local homes, and shop for fine knitted handicrafts produced in the area.

Before heading to Gander, we'll also visit the Beothuk Interpretation Centre to learn about the history and culture of the indigenous people who inhabited this area for generations. We'll gain a deeper understanding of the Beothuk people and their significance in Newfoundland's rich history.

Overnight in Gander.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 9 Gander - Terra Nova National Park - Salvage - Clarenville

Before leaving Gander, we'll have a unique opportunity to visit the Gander Airport, one of the most important aviation hubs in North America. Strategically located on the transatlantic flight path, Gander Airport has played a significant role in international aviation history.

We'll learn about the airport's importance as a refueling stop for transatlantic flights, and its impact on the local community. The airport also played a pivotal part in Operation Yellow Ribbon, particularly during the events of 9/11, when it became a temporary haven for thousands of stranded passengers and crew members from over 240 flights.

We then proceed to Terra Nova National Park on Bonavista Bay, with its tiny islands, rocky headlands, and forested slopes. At the park's visitor center, we'll stop by the Terra Nova Interpretation Centre, where we'll learn about the area's marine life and get hands-on experience by touching various sea creatures.

As we drive along the "Road to the Isles," we'll pass through charming coastal towns with colourful place names like "Too Good Arm," "Virgin Arm," and "Crow Head." Keep an eye out for drifting icebergs and whales along the coast.

Next, we'll visit Salvage, a picturesque fishing village, where we'll explore the Fisherman's Museum and see traditional fishermen's huts and colourful clapboard homes. We'll continue to Clarenville, the gateway to the Discovery Trail, which features stunning scenery, historic sites, and coastal towns. This trail extends down the Bonavista Peninsula to Trinity and Bonavista, reputedly the site of John Cabot's first landing. We'll overnight in Clarenville.

Overnight in Clarenville.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 10 Clarenville & The Discovery Trail

Today, we'll explore two of Newfoundland's most famous outports, starting with the site of John Cabot's arrival. We'll drive to Cape Bonavista, where Cabot is believed to have first sighted the New World on June 24, 1497. Here, we'll visit the Bonavista Lighthouse, taking in the stunning views of the surrounding coastline. We'll also stop for a photo opportunity with the iconic Cabot Statue, commemorating the historic landing.

Next, we'll head to Trinity, named by Portuguese explorer Gaspar Corte Real when he sailed into the harbour on Trinity Sunday in 1500. We'll stroll through Trinity's narrow, tree-lined streets, admiring the beautifully preserved historic buildings. We'll also visit the Trinity Heritage Houses, showcasing the charm and character of this famed outport. After a day of exploring these historic sites, we'll overnight again in Clarenville.

Overnight in Clarenville.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 11 Clarenville, Newfoundland - Ferry to Saint-Pierre, France

This morning, we depart Clarenville and head south onto the beautiful Burin Peninsula via the famous "Heritage Run" route. The area is steeped in history, with the Grand Banks once being a rich fishing ground that supplied the world with codfish for centuries. We'll pass through Placentia Bay's collection of islands and communities tucked into Fortune Bay, taking in the unsheltered vistas and haze-covered French outposts at the peninsula's tip.

As we travel to the village of Fortune, we'll prepare for our afternoon ferry ride to the French islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. These islands have a fascinating maritime history and are part of France, with their own time zone and a distinct European feel. You'll experience French culture firsthand, with French as the primary language, delicious French food, and the Euro as currency.

During our time on Saint-Pierre, we'll take a city/island tour and explore the island's unique identity. We'll visit the "Place du General de Gaulle" waterfront square, the "Zaspiak Bat" Basque playing wall, the "Pointe aux Canons" lighthouse, the salt houses, and the "Pointe du Diamant." We'll also stop by the "Arche" museum, showcasing the island's rich history. This experience is even more special, as Saint-Pierre was the inspiration for the CBC series "Saint-Pierre." We'll overnight on the charming island of Saint-Pierre.

Overnight on Saint-Pierre.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12 Miquelon & Langlade

This morning, we'll depart by ferry for a day-long excursion to the island of Miquelon. The island's landscape, with its rolling hills and scenic vistas, may remind you of some Maritime areas. We'll explore the village, home to around 700 people, mostly descendants of Acadians and Basques.

At the local museum, we'll learn about the history and culture of the island's people. Depending on the time of year, we might even catch a glimpse of wild horses grazing on the land. Miquelon is connected to Langlade by a 7.5-mile-long sand isthmus, known as the Dune, which has been the scene of many shipwrecks.

The island is a haven for those seeking tranquility, with its rich plant and animal life, endless landscapes, ponds, beaches, and hills. We can indulge in the island's specialty foods. After a wonderful day on Miquelon, we'll transfer back to Saint-Pierre in the evening for dinner and overnight in Sainte-Pierre.

Overnight in Sainte-Pierre.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 13 Saint-Pierre & Ile Aux Marins

Saint-Pierre is a small but lively harbour town. Music bands and singer/writers are often booked in the city's bar, street performers entertain the passers-by and many summer/autumn activities play a part in giving the town its festive spirit.

This morning we will take boat to Ile Aux Marins and enjoy a guided walking tour of this picturesque museum island. On our guided walk, learn about the heyday of the Grand Banks and inshore fisheries. Visit some of the island's historical buildings (the Museum Archipelitude, the church,) see photos and artifacts from the past, and hear stories that will make this a memorable moment of your visit to Saint-Pierre et Miquelon.

We return to Saint-Pierre with the balance of the day at leisure.

Overnight in Saint-Pierre.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 14 Saint-Pierre, France - Fly to St John's, Newfoundland

Today we fly to St. John's.

St. John's, the provincial capital, is the perfect combination of big-city luxury and traditional small-town charm. It is one of the oldest and most easterly cities in North America, and has become a rare destination full of character and charisma, with a contemporary, sophisticated edge. The town is quite walkable, with lots of great shopping, restaurants, historical sites and more.

Depending on ever-changing schedules, we may end up with free time on Sainte-Pierre or in St John's. We apologize for any potential imbalance of timing.

Overnight in St John's.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 15 St John's Area Touring

Today, we'll enjoy a city tour of St. John's, Canada's most easterly city, exploring its historic sites, including Signal Hill with its stunning view of St. John's Harbour, the iconic Cabot Tower, and the beautiful Basilica of St. John the Baptist. After lunch downtown, we'll head to Bay Bulls

for a thrilling wildlife-watching boat tour on the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve (weather-permitting).

During the tour, we'll have a chance to see one of the largest colonies of puffins, with over 260,000 pairs nesting in the reserve, as well as potential whale sightings. The bay is teeming with life, featuring four million wings beating and 40-tonne whales pulsing through the clear blue water.

Next, we'll visit Cape Spear, Canada's most easterly point, located at the Cape Spear National Historic Site. We'll explore the oldest surviving lighthouse in Newfoundland, restored to its 1839 appearance, and learn about the life of a lightkeeper and his family in the mid-19th century. This evening, we'll gather for a farewell dinner back in the city, reflecting on the incredible experiences we've had.

Overnight in St John's.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 16 Departure

Departure from St John's.

BON VOYAGE!

Included Meal(s): Breakfast