

# LABRADOR & WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

August 11, 2017 - 16 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$5995** double/twin

**\$6950** single

**\$5680** triple

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 9 seats; \$150 on next 6

> **Experience Points:** Earn 137 points from this tour.

Redeem **137 points** if you book by **June 1**.



## Untouched and Unspoiled... with plenty of breathing room

As Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are fond of saying, this place is about as far from Disneyland as you could possibly get. And yet, we think you will find that it competes as one of the happiest places on earth. The people are extremely proud of their province — Labrador on the mainland and the island of Newfoundland — and are very resilient. Economic hardship has often plagued this land, and yet the people endure and thrive in spite of it, most often with great joy. The natural wonders here are unparalleled, with stark rugged landscapes warmed by thousands of kilometres of shoreline. The history is vibrant, full of stories of adventure and global events and ordinary people doing extraordinary things. This is a journey off the beaten path, but an experience not soon forgotten.

The Trans-Labrador Highway is a new and exciting wilderness trip for most travellers and certainly an adventurous drive that spans 1,246 km from Labrador City to Blanc Sablon. Few tourists can boast of accomplishing the entire drive. Construction started in the mid-1990s from Labrador City to Goose Bay and the last section near Cartwright was completed in 2009. It was originally a gravel road, but each year more sections are paved. Wells Gray Tours was the third company to drive a coach from Labrador City to Goose Bay in 1998, and sometimes bulldozers were smoothing the road ahead of the coach. Another pioneering tour was offered in 2012 travelling from Newfoundland to Goose Bay, just three years after Phase 3 was opened.

Thrill to the train ride from Sept-Îles, Quebec, north into Labrador, a memorable journey past innumerable waterfalls and lakes. View what is left of Churchill Falls which once ranked among the world's mighty cataracts until most of its water was diverted through turbines in 1970. Wander the empty streets of Battle Harbour where fishermen's homes have been converted into very unique lodgings. Be humbled by history at Saddle Island, used by Basque whalers in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and L'Anse aux Meadows, settled by the Vikings about a thousand years ago. Admire the soaring cliffs of Western Brook Pond.

Don't miss this rarely-offered tour. It is an amazing experience in the wilds of Atlantic Canada.

Kamloops > 250-374-0831  
Kelowna > 250-762-3435  
[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

Penticton > 250-493-1255  
Vernon > 250-545-9197  
Toll Free > 800-667-9552



## Includes

- Coach transportation for 15 days
- 15 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Transfer from Kamloops, Salmon Arm and most Okanagan cities to Kelowna airport
- Westjet flight from Kelowna to Montreal
- Air Canada flight from Montreal to Sept-Îles
- Air transportation taxes and security fees
- Airline fees for one suitcase per person
- Locally-guided tour of Sept-Îles
- Musée Régional de la Côte-Nord
- Boat tour of Sept-Îles harbour
- All-day train excursion from Sept-Îles to Emeril Junction, Labrador
- Locally-guided tour of Labrador City, Wabush and Fermont
- Churchill Falls
- Guided tour of Goose Bay & Military Museum
- Labrador Interpretation Centre
- Labrador Heritage Museum
- Ferry to/from Battle Harbour
- Guided walking tour of historic Battle Harbour with restored homes and a boat excursion
- Red Bay National Historic Site
- Saddle Island water taxi
- Point Amour Lighthouse
- Ferry across Strait of Belle Isle to Newfoundland
- Locally-guided tour of St. Anthony area
- L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
- Grenfell House
- Port au Choix National Historic Site
- Western Brook Pond boat excursion
- Gros Morne National Park
- Broome Point Fisheries Exhibit
- Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse
- Westjet flight from Deer Lake to Kelowna
- Transfers from Kelowna airport to home cities
- Gratuities for local guides, museums, boats
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **32 meals:** 15 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 11 dinners

## Tour notes

- This is a unique tour along the entire length of the Trans-Labrador Highway. It has never before been offered by Wells Gray Tours in its entirety, although the 1998 and 2012 tours covered portions of the route. It is a very complex tour to plan, so it is likely to continue to be only offered occasionally.
- Hotels are far apart in Labrador and some communities only have one place to stay. Hotels are generally 3-star (not luxurious). Finding available hotels dictates the itinerary. The longest day is a drive of 520 km from Labrador City to Goose Bay on a paved road, and there is no lodging for that distance.
- Likewise, there are few restaurants along the highway, so box lunches are carried from the previous night's hotel. The lunch stop is a roadside pulloff.
- This tour is limited to 30 travellers, due to the smaller hotels along the route and the number of historic homes available in Battle Harbour.
- A detailed brochure about packing tips will be distributed at final payment.

 **Activity Level:** Moderate activity including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces, steps, beaches, and some trails. The walk to Churchill Falls is about 1 hour each way, but you can wait on the coach. The walk to the boat dock for the Western Brook Pond cruise is 45 minutes each way; you can be dropped off at the hotel in Cow Head if you prefer not to do this trip. A passenger-only ferry serves Battle Harbour, so you must be able to walk onto the ferry and walk to the house for the two-night stay on the island. Most hotels on this tour do not have elevators. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. **A few days on this tour could be rated as Activity Level 3.** There can be long walks in some airports; request a wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

## \* HIGHLIGHTS \*

Scenic train from Sept-Îles to Labrador  
Labrador City  
Indoors city of Fermont  
Trans-Labrador Highway  
Churchill Falls

Happy Valley - Goose Bay  
Battle Harbour Historic Site  
Red Bay & Saddle Island  
L'Anse aux Meadows  
Western Brook Pond boat tour

**Friday, August 11:***Meals: D*

Transfers are provided to Kelowna airport. We fly on Westjet to **Montreal**, arriving at 6:40 pm, and stay overnight at the Hilton Garden Inn near the airport. A get-acquainted dinner is arranged.

**Saturday, August 12:***Meals: B*

As Air Canada operates small planes into Sept-Îles, our group is divided between two morning departures from Montreal for the two-hour flight. We stay two nights at Chateau Arnaud in Sept-Îles.

**Sunday, August 13:***Meals: B*

A local guide conducts a morning sightseeing tour that includes **Musée Régional de la Côte-Nord**. The economy depends on Aluminerie Alouette, a large aluminum plant, and the deep-sea port where Labrador iron ore is transferred from the train to freighters. This afternoon, we cruise the **Sept-Îles harbour**, Quebec's largest port, and view the iron ore ships and several islands that dot the bay. A stop is made at Grande Basque Island, preserved as a park, where pleasant walking trails lead along the beach to rocky headlands.

**Monday, August 14:***Meals: B,L,D*

We board the **Tshiuélin Train** for an 8-hour journey from the St. Lawrence north into the wilderness of Labrador. This 420-km rail route was built in the 1950s to access the iron ore mines of western Labrador and, although it mainly carries freight, it offers passenger service twice a week. The train first follows the tumbling Moisie River and climbs through 11 tunnels and across 19 bridges to gain the Labrador Plateau. Once above treeline, the train crosses miles of tundra and winds past hundreds of lakes, all without a road in sight. The train crosses the Trans-Labrador Highway at Emeril Junction and our coach meets us for the short drive west to **Labrador City**. We stay two nights at the Two Seasons Inn. **Welcome to Labrador!**

**Tuesday, August 15:***Meals: B*

The twin communities of Labrador City and **Wabush** were built in the 1950s as work camps for the iron ore mines and have grown into modern towns with every convenience. We take a drive around the towns, then visit nearby **Fermont** in Quebec which serves a third mine. It is dominated by the "Windscreen", a huge futuristic building 1.5 km long and five storeys high which blocks the winter north wind and contains over 400 apartments, stores, library, pool, arena and school.

**Wednesday, August 16:***Meals: B,L,D*

We leave Labrador City to start our adventure drive on the **Trans-Labrador Highway**, a 520-km wilderness route to the coast. Built in the mid-1990s

and recently paved, the highway still sees little traffic and we might drive for many kilometres without meeting another vehicle. Millions of dollars were spent in the 2000s (financed by the bonanzas of Voisey's Bay nickel and Hibernia oil) to straighten the road, widen it to two lanes, and extend it to southeastern Labrador. We bridge several arms of the sprawling Smallwood Reservoir, part of the **Churchill Falls** hydro-electric development, then cross the Churchill River bridge which has just a trickle flowing under it because the water is diverted through turbines. We take a hike to see the spectacular cliffs where one of Canada's mightiest waterfalls once tumbled 80 metres into Beaudoin Gorge. The only town along the road, Churchill Falls, was carved out of the wilderness in the 1960s for the dam's construction workers, and we stop here for lunch. Next the highway winds across tundra, along the Metchin and Wilson Rivers, then descends Pope's Hill off the Labrador Plateau to reach **Happy Valley - Goose Bay**. We stay three nights at Hotel North Two. Goose Bay is on salt water, but located 300 km inland from the Atlantic at the head of Hamilton Inlet.

**Thursday, August 17:***Meals: B*

This is a leisurely morning after yesterday's long drive. Goose Bay is home to the largest military air base in northeastern North America, **CFB Goose Bay**. Founded in 1941, the base welcomed the Royal Canadian Air Force and later the US Air Force. Happy Valley housed workers at the base, and the two communities amalgamated in 1974. A local guide shows us highlights of Goose Bay, ending at the **Military Museum** which features artifacts from the Canadian, American, Dutch, German, and British Air Forces.

**Friday, August 18:***Meals: B,D*

We drive around the harbour to North West River, the oldest community in Labrador. We visit the **Labrador Interpretation Centre** and listen as Inuit, Settler and Metis recount the dynamic story of the land in their own words. At the **Labrador Heritage Museum**, we learn about the trapper lifestyle and the Hudson's Bay Company that had a lot of influence on Labrador.

**Saturday, August 19:***Meals: B,L,D*

We continue our journey on the Trans-Labrador Highway, completed in 2009 from Red Bay to Goose Bay, a distance of 530 km. Each year, about 50 more km are paved. Leaving Goose Bay, we cross the Churchill River downstream from the partly-completed Muskrat Falls power plant and head east, skirting the Mealy Mountains. We stay overnight in **Port Hope Simpson** at the Alexis Hotel.

**Sunday, August 20:** Meals: B,L,D

**Monday, August 21:** Meals: B,L,D

At Mary's Harbour, we take the once per day ferry to **Battle Harbour**. For two centuries, this was the economic and social centre of southeastern Labrador. Mercantile saltfish plants established there in the 1770s developed into a thriving community that was known as the "Capital of Labrador". Today, the village is a living commemoration of the life and society created by Labradorians during the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Activities include a walking tour of the town with a guide who grew up on the island, and a boat excursion in the harbour. Many of the restored homes have been converted to accommodation, and we have the unique opportunity to experience the ambience of a life-style of the past surrounded by period furnishings and fixtures. Meals are shared family-style in the dining hall with fresh local fare. Allow your imagination to take you to a different era during our two nights and one full day on Battle Island.

**Tuesday, August 22:** Meals: B,L,D

We take the ferry back to Mary's Harbour, then drive the last segment of the TLH south. At **Red Bay National Historic Site**, we take a water taxi out to Saddle Island. This was the world whaling capital during the 16<sup>th</sup> century when hundreds of Basque ships stopped to process whale blubber and carry the oil back to Europe for use in lamps and soap. **Point Amour Lighthouse** is Canada's second tallest and still flashes its warning light across the Strait of Belle Isle. We stay overnight in L'Anse au Clair at Northern Light Inn.

**Wednesday, August 23:** Meals: B,D

We board the MV Apollo for a 1½-hour ferry crossing of the **Strait of Belle Isle** to St. Barbe on the island of Newfoundland. The remote **Viking Trail** ranks among the most scenic highways in Eastern

Canada because it is bounded by the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the west and the barren Long Range Mountains to the east. We stay two nights at Hotel North in **St. Anthony**.

**Thursday, August 24:** Meals: B,D

During the morning, we tour the home of Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, founder of **Grenfell Mission**, and view the Jordi Bonet Murals at the hospital. Then we visit **L'Anse aux Meadows** and examine the reconstructed sod houses and artifacts from Leif Eriksson's Viking expedition to "Vinland" about the year 1000. Tonight, savour the **Viking Feast** — an evening of food, fun and feuds in the only sod covered dinner theatre in North America. Come to Leifsbudir and participate in a Viking court of law while feasting on traditional Viking delicacies.

**Friday, August 25:** Meals: B,D

During the drive down the west coast, we visit **Port au Choix National Historic Site** where 3000-year old human artifacts have been discovered. **Gros Morne National Park**, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, protects a wilderness of deep fjords, rugged tablelands, and coastal beaches. One of Newfoundland's iconic attractions is **Western Brook Pond** and we thrill to an awesome cruise into the mountains with 600-metre high cliffs soaring above us. (Those who are unable to do the 1½ hour return walk to the boat dock can be dropped off at the motel.) We stay overnight at Shallow Bay Motel in Cow Head.

**Saturday, August 26:** Meals: B

We learn about the fisherman's lifestyle at Broome Point and visit **Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse**, built in 1897. Our flight on Westjet leaves Deer Lake at 2:20 pm for Kelowna via Toronto. Transfers are provided to Okanagan cities, Kamloops and Salmon Arm.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 1, 2017.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 9 seats and \$150 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 1.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to May 1, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From May 2 to June 1, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From June 2 to June 29, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From June 30 to July 11, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After July 11, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from airlines and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until departure.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Photo Credit:** Battle Harbour National Trust

**E-points:** This tour earns 137 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until June 1.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924