

# NEWFOUNDLAND ONLY

A Comprehensive Tour of Canada's Easternmost Province

May 29, 2020 - 14 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$5485** double/twin

**\$6495** single



> Please add 5% GST.

> **Experience Points:** Earn 127 points from this tour.

Redeem **127 points** if you book by **February 20, 2020**.

## 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 a thousand 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 of popular sights as well as off the beaten path places, but an experience not soon forgotten.

Celebrate your arrival in Newfoundland with a Screech-In Ceremony during the Bonne Bay cruise. Walk on 500 million year old rocks at Green Point. Admire the soaring cliffs above Western Brook Pond. Be humbled by history at L'Anse aux Meadows, settled by the Vikings about a thousand years ago. Explore two national parks, Gros Morne and Terra Nova, and several national historic sites. Learn about the Newfoundland fishery at Broome Point and Prime Berth Museum. Enjoy local entertainment on four evenings. Take boat excursions close to an iceberg at Twillingate and watch thousands of puffins, other seabirds, and whales near St. John's. Stand on Signal Hill where the first trans-Atlantic wireless message was received in 1901, and look out over the Atlantic from Cape Spear, North America's easternmost point.

This is the first time that Wells Gray has offered a tour of Newfoundland Only. Our Maritimes & Newfoundland tour has been an annual event since 1978, but this tour provides an in-depth discovery of Canada's easternmost province. It is an amazing experience amid the wonders of Atlantic Canada.

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## Includes

- Transfer to Victoria airport and return
- WestJet flight from Victoria to Deer Lake, NL
- Air transportation taxes and security fees
- Airline fees for one suitcase per person
- 12 days of coach transportation
- 13 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Insectarium
- Bonne Bay cruise with Screech-In ceremony
- Norris Point Marine Station
- Green Point Geological Site with interpreter
- Gros Morne National Park
- Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse
- *Anchors Aweigh* show
- Western Brook Pond boat excursion
- Show at Theatre Newfoundland in Cow Head
- Re-enactment of Viking saga by Wade Hillier
- L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
- Grenfell House & Interpretive Centre
- Broome Point Fisheries Exhibit
- Flying Boat Museum
- Gander Silent Witness
- Gander Aviation Museum
- Beothuk Centre
- Prime Berth Fishing Museum
- Iceberg Man boat tour at Twillingate
- Terra Nova National Park
- Locally-guided sightseeing in St. John's
- Cape Spear National Historic Site
- Signal Hill National Historic Site
- Gatherall's Puffin & Whale Watch excursion
- Traditional Jigg's dinner in St. John's
- Transfer from St. John's hotel to airport
- WestJet flight from St. John's to Victoria
- Gratuities for local guides, museums & boats
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **22 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners

## Tour notes

- This unique tour has many experiences on the Island of Newfoundland. Tour does not visit Labrador.
- Expect some hotels to have 3-star ratings (not luxurious). Your 3-night stay in St. John's at the Delta Hotel is the best accommodation (also the Sheraton in Toronto Airport). Some communities only have one place to stay such as Cow Head, and Twillingate, and at Norris Point, our group is split in two small inns. Finding available and suitable hotels has dictated this itinerary.
- Tour is limited to 30 travellers, due to the smaller hotels along the route. Only 4 singles are available.



**Activity Level:** Moderate activity which could include walking up to 1 km over uneven surfaces, stairs, beaches, and some trails. The walk to the boat dock for the Western Brook Pond cruise is 45 minutes or 2.7 km each way along a wide level trail; you can be dropped off at the hotel in Cow Head if you prefer not to do this trip, but it is a truly spectacular boat excursion. Most hotels on this tour do not have elevators. The coach cannot carry a scooter. 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. There can be long walks in some airports; request a cart at check-in 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. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be asked / required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

## Itinerary

### Friday, May 29:

A transfer is provided to Victoria airport. We fly on WestJet to **Toronto** and stay overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel inside Terminal 3.

### Saturday, May 30:

*Meals: D*

We take the morning flight to Deer Lake in western Newfoundland. First, we visit the **Insectarium** which displays thousands of insect species (mounted and live) along with a butterfly con-

servatory and beehive. We stay overnight at the Holiday Inn Express in **Deer Lake**. Meet your fellow travellers at a get-acquainted dinner, followed by musical entertainment.

### Sunday, May 31:

*Meals: B,L,D*

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. **Gros Morne National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, protects a wilderness of deep fjords and coastal beaches. Our first experience in this area is the **Bonne Bay boat tour** which provides views of the Gros Morne tablelands. Newfoundland's traditional welcome is arranged on the boat with a Screech-in Ceremony. Next, we visit the **Bonne Bay Marine Station** which is a marine ecology research and teaching facility noted for its wonderful aquarium. We stay two nights at two small hotels in Norris Point, Neddies Harbour Inn and Sugar Hill Inn.

**Monday, June 1:** *Meals: B,D*

With the benefit of a Parks Canada interpreter, we explore **Green Point Geological Site** which protects an intriguing sequence of layered rocks. Almost 500 million years ago, these rocks formed on the bottom of an ancient ocean and geologists have discovered fossils that define the boundary between the Cambrian and Ordovician periods, making Green Point a world geological benchmark. Near Rocky Harbour, we visit **Loxley Cove Head Lighthouse**, built in 1897 and still flashing its warning light across the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Dinner is in Rocky Harbour, followed by the **Anchor Aweigh show** where a band of five talented musicians present renditions of popular Newfoundland songs and tunes, sprinkled with one-liners and wit.

**Tuesday, June 2:** *Meals: B,L,D*

**Western Brook Pond** is one of Newfoundland's iconic attractions, yet its name hardly does justice to this awesome fjord cut deep into the tablelands of Gros Morne. The lake is 16 km long and our two-hour cruise passes 600-metre high cliffs and many cascading waterfalls. **Note:** There is a level walk of 2.7 km each way (45 to 60 minutes) from the parking lot to the boat dock. Those who are unable to do this walk can be dropped off at the motel. We stay overnight at Shallow Bay Motel in Cow Head. Tonight, we have tickets to attend a show at Theatre Newfoundland's Gros Morne Festival.

**Wednesday, June 3:** *Meals: B,D*

We continue on the Viking Trail, admiring more splendid coastal scenery. Near the tip of the Northern Peninsula, we stay two nights at Hotel North in **St. Anthony**. Entertainment this evening is provided by Wade Hillier who re-enacts the Viking saga of the discovery of Newfoundland.

**Thursday, June 4:** *Meals: B,L*

During the morning, we tour the home of Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, founder of **Grenfell Mission**, and view the Jordi Bonet Murals at the hospital. This afternoon, we visit **L'Anse aux Meadows** and ex-

amine the reconstructed sod houses and artifacts from Leif Eriksson's Viking expedition to "Vinland" about the year 1000.

**Friday, June 5:** *Meals: B,L,D*

We retrace our route along the Viking Trail, stopping at the Arches to see the waves eroding the seashore and Broome Point to learn about the Newfoundland fisherman's lifestyle. Our overnight stop is at the Holiday Inn Express in **Deer Lake**.

**Saturday, June 6:** *Meals: B,L*

Leaving Deer Lake, we follow the Trans-Canada Highway east. We visit the Flying Boat Museum in **Botwood**, the town where the giant Pan American clippers landed and refuelled in the 1930s during trans-Atlantic flights. **Gander** was once the largest airport in the world and, throughout the 'Jet Age' of the 1950s and 1960s, European flights stopped here for fuel. A local person meets us to talk about Gander's role as host to thousands of air travellers who were grounded on September 11, 2001, the story told by the popular musical, *Come From Away*. The Gander Aviation Museum has an amazing collection of aircraft. We stay one night at the Comfort Inn.

**Sunday, June 7:** *Meals: B,L*

We drive to the north coast at **Twillingate**. Stops are made at the Prime Berth Fishing Museum where we experience the gregarious personalities and lifestyles of the Newfoundland fishermen, and the **Beothuk Centre** which interprets these vanished native people and their culture. The north coast is known for **icebergs** that have floated from Greenland, so we take a two-hour boat excursion which hopefully can approach one of these amazing ice giants. We stay overnight in Twillingate at the Anchor Hotel.

**Monday, June 8:** *Meals: L*

Today's drive passes through **Terra Nova National Park**. From the visitor centre, you can take short walks along the shore of Newman Sound or part of the Goowiddy loop. We continue across the farmlands of the Avalon Peninsula to **St. John's** and stay three nights at the Delta Hotel.

**Tuesday, June 9:**

A morning tour with a local guide visits the historic **Cabot Tower** atop Signal Hill where Marconi received the first trans-Atlantic wireless message in 1901. We also see the Confederation Building, the colourful "Jellybean Houses", and Quidi Vidi Battery. An exciting experience is standing at the most easterly point in North America, **Cape Spear**, graced by two historic lighthouses.

**Wednesday, June 10:***Meals: D*

The morning is leisure time. The afternoon features **Gatherall's Puffin & Whale Watch cruise** in the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve. With 2.5 million seabirds including 500,000 pairs of Atlantic Puffins, this reserve offers amazing opportunities to see and photograph the birds, and these waters are also one of the best feeding areas for whales in Atlantic Canada. Tonight is our farewell gathering featuring a **traditional Jiggs Dinner**, also called a scoff or a feast. It is an opportunity to reminisce about our journey across Newfoundland.

**Thursday, June 11:**

We fly with WestJet from St. John's via Toronto and Calgary to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$700 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 20, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to January 20, 2020, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From January 21 to February 20, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From February 21 to March 20, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From March 21 to April 20, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After April 20, 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.

**Home pickups** may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Photo Credit:** Iceberg Man Boat Tour

**E-points:** This tour earns 127 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 February 20.

**Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842**