

Western Brook Pond



Puffin

NEWFOUNDLAND

May 31, 2023 – 15 days

An in-depth tour of Canada's easternmost province

2023 will be only the second year that this tour of wild and wonderful Newfoundland has been offered, and the previous one garnered rave reviews. The culture and heritage of Newfoundland runs deep. Come and discover all the things you never knew about this unique province. Highlights of this tour include visits to historic sites and stunning landscapes, a national park, a puffin and whale watching cruise, an iceberg viewing cruise, 4 entertaining shows, and talks by local experts. In Gros Morne National Park, thrill to the boat trip on the fjord of Western Brook Pond. Get Screeched-In and kiss the cod during a cruise at Bonne Bay. Explore recreated sod houses at the ancient Viking settlement of L'Anse aux Meadows. Look out over the Atlantic Ocean from Cape Spear, North America's easternmost point. So much to see in 15 days!

Activity Level: 3



TOUR
30

26 Meals Included:

11 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners

Fares per person:

\$6,295 double/twin; \$7,415 single

Please add 5% GST

Experience Points:

Earn 144 points on this tour.

Redeem 144 points if you book by February 23, 2023.

Departure from: Victoria



ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, May 31

A transfer is provided to Victoria Airport, then we fly to **Deer Lake** in western Newfoundland.

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Express

Day 2: Thursday, June 1

First, we visit the **Insectarium** which displays thousands of insect species (mounted and live) along with a butterfly conservatory and beehive. 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. We take a short walk with a Parks Canada ranger who talks about the remarkable ancient tablelands. Next, we ride on a water taxi to visit the **Norris Point Marine Station** which is a marine ecology research and teaching facility noted for its wonderful aquarium. We stay two nights at two small inns in Norris Point.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Neddies Harbour Inn and Sugar Hill Inn

Day 3: Friday, June 2

A wonderful experience 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. Do you dare to kiss the cod? 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 **Lobster 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 **Anchors Aweigh** show where a band of five talented musicians present renditions of popular

Newfoundland songs and tunes, sprinkled with one-liners and wit.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Neddies Harbour Inn and Sugar Hill Inn

Day 4: Saturday, June 3

Western Brook Pond is one of Newfoundland's best-known 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 mostly level walk of 2.7 km each way (45 to 60 minutes) from the parking lot to the boat dock. Those who prefer not to do this walk can be dropped off at the motel, but it is a truly spectacular boat excursion.

We stay overnight in Cow Head. Tonight, we have tickets to attend a show at Theatre Newfoundland's **Gros Morne Festival**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Shallow Bay Motel

Day 5: Sunday, June 4

We continue along the Viking Trail, admiring more splendid coastal scenery. We stay two nights in **St. Anthony** near the tip of the Northern Peninsula. Entertainment this evening with songs and music is provided by Wade Hillier.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel North

Day 6: Monday, June 5

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 National Historic Site** and examine the reconstructed sod houses and artifacts from Leif Eriksson's Viking expedition to "Vinland" about the year 1000.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel North

Day 7: Tuesday, June 6

We retrace the Viking Trail to **Deer Lake**, stopping at the Arches to see the waves eroding the seashore. At Broom Point, we learn about the

Newfoundland fisherman's lifestyle through a period Parks Canada program, *Of Fish & Friends*. Dinner has more Newfoundland entertainment included.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Express

Day 8: Wednesday, June 7

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. The Gander Aviation Museum has an amazing collection of aircraft. 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*. We also pause at the Silent Witness Memorial to the Arrow Air crash of 1985.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Comfort Inn Gander

Day 9: Thursday, June 8

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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Comfort Inn Gander

Day 10: Friday, June 9

We spend the morning exploring **Terra Nova National Park**. From the visitor centre, enjoy short walks along the shore of Newman Sound or part of the Goowiddy loop. Then we head to Clarenville for a two-night stay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Clarenville Inn

Day 11: Saturday, June 10

The day is devoted to exploring the **Bonavista Peninsula**, one of Newfoundland's iconic places as noted by the poetic line, "From Bonavista to Vancouver Island" in *This Land is Your Land*. We visit the **Cape Bonavista Lighthouse** which operated from 1843 until 1962 and is now a museum dedicated to the lifestyle of a lightkeeper. Next is **Ryan Premises National Historic Site** which operated as a retail store and cod exporter from 1857 to 1978. Nearby is Ye Matthew Legacy, a re-creation of John Cabot's 1497 ship. A stop in **Trinity Bay** is also included today.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Clarenville Inn

Day 12: Sunday, June 11

Newfoundland is known for some wonderful place names and today we follow the **Baccalieu Trail** through villages such as Heart's Content, Heart's Desire, and Heart's Delight. As if those aren't romantic enough, how about Cupids, Harbour Grace, and even Dildo? We explore the Wooden Boat Museum and the Cable Station which was the western terminus of the Trans-Atlantic cable from 1866 to 1965. We continue across the farmlands of the Avalon Peninsula and stay three nights in downtown **St. John's**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Delta St. John's Hotel

Day 13: Monday, June 12

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.

Accommodation: Delta St. John's Hotel

Day 14: Tuesday, June 13

The morning is leisure time. The afternoon features a **puffin & whale watching 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, along with some lively Spirit of Newfoundland entertainment.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Delta St. John's Hotel

Day 15: Wednesday, June 14

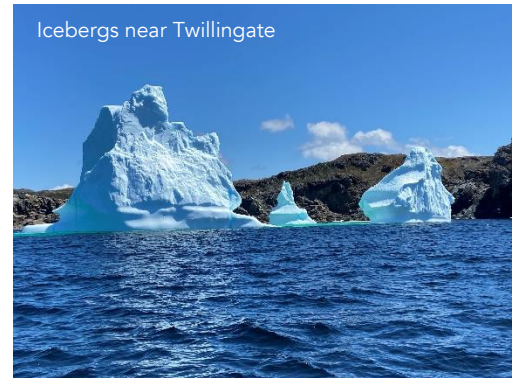
We fly from St. John's to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

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 and 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 and be bold enough to kiss the cod. 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 Broom Point and Prime Berth Museum. Enjoy local entertainment on five 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.

The first Wells Gray tour featuring only the province of Newfoundland was in 2022. The June 2023 tour sold out quickly and this May 31 departure has been added. 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.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers to/from Victoria airport
- Flight from Victoria to Deer Lake, NL
- Air transportation taxes and security fees
- 13 days of coach transportation
- 14 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Transfer from Deer Lake airport to hotel
- Insectarium
- Norris Point Marine Station
- Bonne Bay cruise with Screech-In Ceremony
- 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
- Entertainment by Wade Hillier
- L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
- Grenfell House & Interpretive Centre
- Broom Point Fisheries Exhibit & park program
- Deer Lake evening entertainment
- Botwood Flying Boat Museum
- Gander Aviation Museum
- Silent Witness Memorial
- Beothuk Centre
- Prime Berth Fishing Museum
- Iceberg Quest boat tour at Twillingate
- Terra Nova National Park
- Bonavista Peninsula tour with Lighthouse, Ryan Premises NHS, Ye Matthew Legacy, and Trinity Bay
- Wooden Boat Museum
- Heart's Content Cable Station
- Locally-guided sightseeing in St. John's
- Cape Spear National Historic Site
- Signal Hill National Historic Site
- Puffin & whale watching boat excursion
- Traditional Jiggs dinner with Spirit of Newfoundland entertainment
- Transfer from St. John's hotel to airport
- Flight from St. John's to Victoria
- Gratuities for local guides, museums & boats
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **26 meals:** 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners

TOUR NOTES

- This unique tour has many experiences on the Island of Newfoundland, but does not visit Labrador.
- This tour is limited to 30 travellers, due to the smaller hotels along the route.
- 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. Some communities only have one place to stay such as at Cow Head and, at Norris Point, our group is split among two small inns. Finding available and suitable hotels has dictated this itinerary.
- Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$950 and book your own flight which allows seat selection.



TOUR 30 This is a **Tour 30 departure** meaning the tour is limited to 30 participants, a more intimate travel experience.



Activity Level 3: Moderate and sometimes rigorous activity. The walk to the boat dock for the Western Brook Pond cruise is 45 minutes or 2.7 km each way along a wide and mostly level trail. Other walks could be up to 2 km over uneven surfaces, stairs, beaches, and some trails. Most hotels on this tour do not have elevators, so your room may be reached by a stairway. Seeing and experiencing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires active participation. This tour is not appropriate for people who depend on a walker. Prior to accepting your booking, you must sign a declaration that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour. 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 able to keep 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 or required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$700 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 23, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to January 26, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From January 27 to February 23, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From February 24 to March 24, the cancellation charge is 40% of tour fare. From March 25 to April 25, the cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After April 25, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: As the world emerges from the pandemic, many of our suppliers such as hotels, restaurants, attractions, and transportation providers are struggling with shortage of staff, inflated costs, and supply line challenges. Sometimes we are notified about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a component of an extensive tour due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Many restaurants in Newfoundland are in remote areas and may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. As restaurants recover from two years of pandemic restrictions, many facing severe labour shortages, we have been informed that food allergies should be honoured, but it is impossible to handle everybody's requests for food preferences. (An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not.) For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

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 Credits: NL Tourism (Western Brook Pond, Lighthouse), Pixabay (puffin), Jill Hilderman (iceberg), Aina Juzups (cod), Adobe Stock (Quidi Vidi)

Experience Points: This tour earns 144 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 23, 2023.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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NEWFOUNDLAND — May 31, 2023

This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours. This rating is the highest activity level assigned to a tour, meaning that there is a lot of activity which could include one or more of (but is not limited to) the following:

- You can walk 3 kilometres in 1 hour.
- You can walk on uneven sidewalks or trails, beaches with sand or rock, wet or slippery boardwalks, and boat docks with steep ramps.
- You can climb one or two flights of stairs to a hotel room if there is no elevator.
- You can carry your own luggage in airports.

Since a few people who are not capable of doing the above activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with “Activity Level 3” to be reasonably fit. You must be able to participate in activities without the assistance of the tour director, driver, or other travellers. Please read the following and sign acknowledging that these statements are true. The tour deposit will be due after you have signed this statement.

I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of “Activity Level 3”.

I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.

I understand that this is the highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.

I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.

I do not require the use of a wheelchair or a walker.

If my physical condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.

If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or I require ongoing assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to not allow me to participate in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me.

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants. Each person booking this tour must sign this statement. Thank you for your understanding.

Signature _____ Name _____ Date _____