



Peggy's Cove



Confederation Bridge

## MARITIMES & NEWFOUNDLAND

August 20, 2023 – 24 Days

*A Comprehensive Tour of the Four Atlantic Provinces*

2023 will be the 46<sup>th</sup> year that Wells Gray has offered Maritimes tours! No other company in British Columbia has organized this tour for so many years or knows Atlantic Canada better than we do. All our hotels, attractions, and restaurants are chosen carefully to ensure you have a memorable experience. Our 2023 tour stays 10 nights in Newfoundland because we strongly believe you should see this scenic province while you are touring eastern Canada. It has been a highlight of our Atlantic Canada tours since 1990. Most hotel stays are for 2 or 3 nights, so you do not have to put up with the inconvenience of repacking your suitcase every morning. A Wells Gray Maritimes tour is noted for its comprehensive itinerary, many included meals and attractions, and superb hotels in great locations. To reduce driving time, we fly from Victoria to Halifax and return from St. John's, NL.

Activity Level: 2



39 Meals Included:

19 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 8 dinners

Fares per person:

\$8,530 double/twin; \$10,470 single; \$7,970 triple  
Please add 5% GST.

Experience Points:

Earn 175 points on this tour.

Redeem 175 points if you book by May 17, 2023.

Departure from: Victoria



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Sunday, August 20

A transfer is provided to Victoria airport. We fly to **Halifax** and there is a four-hour time zone change. We stay three nights downtown.

**Accommodation:** Cambridge Suites Hotel

### Day 2: Monday, August 21

After a free morning, enjoy a tour with a local guide around this historic port city, including the waterfront, universities, St. Paul's Church, the Public Gardens, and residential areas.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Cambridge Suites Hotel

### Day 3: Tuesday, August 22

This morning, we visit the **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic** which has an exhibit about Halifax's connection to the *Titanic*. Next, we take a lively tour at **Alexander Keith's Brewery** to learn about Nova Scotia's long brewing tradition since its heyday in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and to sample the local beer. This afternoon, we stop at **Halifax Citadel National Historic Site**, a fortress perched on the hill overlooking the city. The first citadel was built in 1749 and the current structure was completed in 1856. Although never attacked, the Halifax Citadel was long the keystone to defending the strategically important harbour and its Royal Navy Dockyard. Tonight, prepare for fun and laughter at **Grafton Dinner Theatre** where a musical comedy is performed with dinner served by the actors.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Cambridge Suites Hotel



Lunenburg carriage ride

### Day 4: Wednesday, August 23

Famous **Peggy's Cove** is one of the most picturesque fishing villages along the Atlantic coast. We stroll along the harbour to a view of the iconic lighthouse. In **Lunenburg**, we visit the wonderful Fisheries Museum, housed in two historic vessels and five waterfront buildings. Afterwards, there is a **horse-drawn carriage ride** around Lunenburg with tales of its heritage and unusual buildings. Later, we travel across Nova Scotia to Wolfville for an overnight stay.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Old Orchard Inn

### Day 5: Thursday, August 24

We drive through the verdant **Annapolis Valley**. The shelter provided by low mountain ridges on each side has produced a micro-climate with mild temperatures, so the region grows abundant vegetable and fruit crops, and is particularly famous for its apple orchards. We ride the midday ferry from Digby across the **Bay of Fundy** to Saint John, New Brunswick. A local guide shows us around **Saint John** with a stop at Reversing Falls. Our overnight stay is at the Delta Hotel which has a great location in historic Market Square.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Delta Brunswick Hotel

### Day 6: Friday, August 25

The **New Brunswick Museum** is Canada's oldest continuously operating museum and features galleries on Canadian and International art, New Brunswick's industry, and a whales exhibit. We travel along the Bay of Fundy to the quaint village of St. Andrews-by-the-Sea. An elegant lunch is served at the renowned **Algonquin Hotel** which dates to 1889 and established St. Andrews as Canada's first seaside resort. Later, we drive inland to the provincial capital, **Fredericton**, and stay two nights at the historic Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook Hotel in the downtown area. The opening of this grand hotel in 1948 was the social event of New Brunswick, attended by Lord Beaverbrook (Sir Max Aitken) himself.

**Meals included:** Lunch

**Accommodation:** Lord Beaverbrook Hotel

## Day 7: Saturday, August 26

At **King's Landing** on the Saint John River, we visit a restored village of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, complete with costumed actors and homes, school, store, gristmill, printer, and theatre. Lunch is in the 1855 Kings Head Inn. The afternoon is at leisure in Fredericton.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Lord Beaverbrook Hotel

## Day 8: Sunday, August 27

One of the best-known scenes of the Maritimes is the **Hopewell Rocks** near Moncton where the powerful Fundy tides have eroded towering rocks like flowerpots. The huge tidal range is impressive to witness – today, it will vary from 2 to 12 metres. We drive across Northumberland Strait to Prince Edward Island on the remarkable **Confederation Bridge**. It was completed in 1997 and is 13 km long, consisting of 43 spans. The bridge replaced one of the two ferries crossing the strait. The next three nights are at the Delta Prince Edward, Charlottetown's finest hotel, located downtown on the waterfront.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Delta Prince Edward Hotel

## Day 9: Monday, August 28

There is lots of free time today in **Charlottetown**. The waterfront beside the hotel is an appealing stroll and downtown shops are just along Queen Street. A **walking tour** is led by a local guide who has lots of stories to relate about the historic buildings near the hotel. This evening, we walk to the Confederation Centre for a stage show which will be announced later. (*Anne of Green Gables* is not being performed in 2023.)

**Accommodation:** Delta Prince Edward Hotel

## Day 10: Tuesday, August 29

A local guide is with us all day today to enhance our visit to **Prince Edward Island**. After a tour of Charlottetown, we stroll along beautiful Cavendish Beach in PEI National Park, visit the Covehead Lighthouse, and walk the grounds of Dalvay by the Sea, a 30-room summer "cottage" built in 1895 by a wealthy American. No visit to PEI can be complete without touring the **Anne of Green Gables cottage**. In North Rustico, we savour a



traditional dinner of fresh lobster served at Fisherman's Wharf!

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Delta Prince Edward Hotel



## Day 11: Wednesday, August 30

We ride the ferry from Prince Edward Island to Nova Scotia across the eastern end of Northumberland Strait. In Pictou, we see the restored ship *Hector* which carried Scottish immigrants to Nova Scotia in 1773. After crossing Canso Causeway to **Cape Breton Island**, the road winds along the western shore of lovely Lake Bras D'Or. In Baddeck, the **Alexander Graham Bell Museum** houses his remarkable collection of early inventions, including the telephone and hydrofoil. We stay three nights in Sydney.

**Accommodation:** Cambridge Suites Hotel

## Day 12: Thursday, August 31

The day is devoted to driving the **Cabot Trail** through Cape Breton Highlands National Park, one of Canada's most awesome coastal highways. Along this rugged shoreline, there are several stops such as Ingonish Beach.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Cambridge Suites Hotel

## Day 13: Friday, September 1

The **Fortress of Louisbourg** was the formidable French stronghold, built between 1720 and 1740. It was seized by the British in 1745, returned to the French by the 1748 treaty, then taken by the British again in 1758 during the Seven Years War. It was carefully reconstructed in the 1960s, and still ranks as the largest restoration project in North America. We tour the buildings with the benefit of a Parks Canada docent, then have lunch in a historic building. This afternoon, we visit the **Cape Breton Miners' Museum** in Glace Bay and take an underground tour of the vast coal mines. There were once dozens of collieries near the town, and the last one closed in 1984.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Cambridge Suites Hotel



## Day 14: Saturday, September 2

We board a ferry at North Sydney for the six-hour crossing of Cabot Strait to **Port-aux-Basques** at the southwestern tip of Newfoundland. We drive north to **Corner Brook** and stay two nights at the quaint Glynmill Inn. Built in 1924 as a VIP guesthouse for Newfoundland Pulp and Paper Company, it is now a Registered Heritage Structure.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Glynmill Inn

## Day 15: Sunday, September 3

This is a free day. Take a stroll around Glynmill Pond or into downtown Corner Brook. After dinner, we are entertained by **The Sharecroppers**, a

Newfoundland folk trio who sing and tell stories about the province's wonderful culture.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Glynmill Inn

## Day 16: Monday, September 4

The remote **Viking Trail** also 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**, now 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 tablelands of Gros Morne. Newfoundland's traditional welcome is arranged on board with a **Screech-in Ceremony** (will you kiss the cod?). Near Rocky Harbour, we visit Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse, built in 1897 and still flashing its warning light across the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Shallow Bay Motel, Cow Head

## Day 17: Tuesday, September 5

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. After dinner, there is musical entertainment and story telling by Wade Hillier.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel North

## Day 18: Wednesday, September 6

We tour the home of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, founder of the **Grenfell Mission** in 1892. The team of doctors and nurses provided medical services to remote communities in northern Newfoundland and Labrador, travelling by boats and dog sleds, and later by airplanes. Dr. Grenfell died in 1940, but the work of his Mission continued for another 41 years when the province took over responsibility. We also view the Jordi Bonet Murals at the hospital. This afternoon, 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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel North

## Day 19: Thursday, September 7

We retrace our route along the Viking Trail, stopping at the Arches to see the waves eroding the seashore and Broom Point to learn about the Newfoundland fisherman's lifestyle.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Holiday Inn Express, Deer Lake

## Day 20: Friday, September 8

In Deer Lake, we visit the **Insectarium** which displays thousands of insect species (mounted and live) along with a butterfly conservatory and beehive. Then we head east on the Trans-Canada Highway to **Botwood**, site of the amazing Flying Boat Museum. It commemorates the years between 1937 and 1945 when the giant Pan American clippers stopped here during their trans-Atlantic flights. We stay two nights in **Gander**.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Comfort Inn

## Day 21: Saturday, September 9

Gander was once the largest airport in the world and, throughout the 'Jet Age' of the 1950s and 1960s, transatlantic flights required a refueling stop here. A local person meets us to talk about Gander's role as host to thousands of air travelers who were grounded on September 11, 2001. This story is told in the musical *Come From Away*, one of Broadway's and Toronto's most popular stage shows. Today's circle drive goes to the north coast and the village of **Twillingate** where we may get glimpses of icebergs that have floated from Greenland. Other stops are 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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Comfort Inn

## Day 22: Sunday, September 10

Our drive passes through **Terra Nova National Park** and the farmlands of the Avalon Peninsula. An exciting experience is standing at the most easterly point in North America, **Cape Spear**, and learning about the remarkable lifestyle of the lighthouse keepers. **St. John's** is our last destination and we stay two nights at the Delta Hotel in the city centre. Tonight is our farewell gathering featuring a traditional Newfoundland Jiggs Dinner, also called a scoff or a feast. It is an opportunity to reminisce about our journey across the Atlantic Provinces.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Delta St. John's Hotel

## Day 23: Monday, September 11

A morning tour with a local guide visits St. John's highlights such as the **Cabot Tower** atop Signal Hill, Confederation Building, the colourful Jelly-bean Row Houses, and Quidi Vidi Battery. The afternoon is at leisure.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Delta St. John's Hotel

## Day 24: Tuesday, September 12

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

**Meals included:** Breakfast

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## TOUR NOTES

**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.

**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 \$995 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. You can also use this option if you want to redeem airline points.



**Activity Level 2:** Moderate activity including walking up to 1 km over uneven surfaces, stairs, beaches, and some trails. There are walking tours of the Halifax Citadel, Fortress of Louisbourg, and the historic district of Charlottetown. There is a multi-storey flight of stairs down to the beach at Hopewell Rocks, but you can see the Rocks from the top. Expect a walk of 3 blocks (10 mins) on August 28 from hotel to the theatre and back. You can decline to go on the Glace Bay underground mine tour. You will miss some attractions if you are unable to do this amount of activity. A few hotels do not have elevators. There can be long walks in the airports. 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. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. Keep in mind that this is a 24-day tour which can be tiring. **Everybody** participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 2. 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 required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance may not cover you.

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers to/from Victoria airport
- Flight from Victoria to Halifax
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Transfer from Halifax airport to hotel
- Coach transportation for 22 days
- 23 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Locally-guided sightseeing in Halifax
- Maritime Museum of the Atlantic with guides
- Alexander Keith's Brewery tour with sampling
- Halifax Citadel National Historic Site
- Grafton Dinner Theatre
- Fisheries Museum of Lunenburg
- Horse drawn carriage tour of Lunenburg
- Bay of Fundy ferry from Digby to Saint John
- Locally-guided sightseeing in Saint John
- New Brunswick Museum
- Historic Algonquin Hotel with lunch
- King's Landing Historic Village with guides
- Hopewell Rocks
- Walking tour of Charlottetown historic district
- Confederation Centre show TBA
- Locally-guided Prince Edward Island tour
- Anne of Green Gables Cottage
- Prince Edward Island National Park
- Ferry from P.E.I. to Nova Scotia
- Restored ship *Hector*
- Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site
- Cape Breton Highlands National Park
- Fortress of Louisbourg with guided tour
- Cape Breton Miners Museum
- Ferry from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland
- *Sharecroppers* show at Corner Brook
- Gros Morne National Park
- Bonne Bay boat tour with Screech-In
- L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
- Grenfell House
- St. Anthony entertainment by Wade Hillier
- Insectarium
- Botwood Flying Boat Museum
- Beothuk Centre
- Prime Berth Fishing Museum
- Terra Nova National Park
- Cape Spear National Historic Site
- Locally-guided sightseeing in St. John's
- Signal Hill National Historic Site
- Transfer from St. John's hotel to airport
- Flight from St. John's to Victoria
- Gratuities for local guides, museum docents, and boat crew
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **39 meals:** 19 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 8 dinners

## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 17, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking, cheque, Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person per booking on credit cards).

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to April 17, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From April 18 to May 17, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From May 18 to June 16, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From June 17 to July 17, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After July 17, there is no refund.

**Food Allergies:** You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Some restaurants 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:** Adobe Stock (Peggy's Cove), Roland Neave (bridge, Cavendish Beach, lobsters), Jill Hilderman (carriage ride, Public Gardens), Tourism Nova Scotia (Louisbourg)

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 175 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 May 17, 2023.

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

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2021 Wells Gray group at Halifax Public Gardens