Discovering Our Planet Together



Newfoundland & Labrador Photo Expedition

Photograph Marine Wildlife, Rugged Landscapes & Maritime Heritage

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Trip Details:

Days
12 Days / Jul–Aug

Price
From $15695

Newfoundland & Labrador Photo Expedition

Photograph Marine Wildlife, Rugged Landscapes & Maritime Heritage

Canada's most easterly province of Newfoundland and Labrador is a realm of new-found discovery for nature photographers. Its raw landscapes, prolific wildlife and seafaring cultural heritage offer endless enticing subjects for a portfolio of Canada's wild Atlantic edge. Here, we find the world's largest summer population of humpback whales off the Avalon Peninsula, and 35 million seabirds nest on the cliffs of myriad islands, including huge colonies of Atlantic puffins. Picturesque fishing villages dot the coast, while the glacier-scoured landscape reveals ancient rocks from the Earth's mantle.

Trip Highlights

Photograph Whales & Puffins on Private Boat Safaris

From intimate vantage points on chartered boat cruises, plus ferry crossings, capture shots of abundant marine life, including dolphins, seals and seabirds, too!

Capture Scenes of Traditional Fishing Boats & Seaside Villages

Newfoundland and Labrador's rich maritime heritage permeates the province, offering subjects that evoke its hardy, seagoing history and culture

Walk on Earth's Mantle in Gros Morne National Park

Photograph exposed rocks thrust to the surface of the earth 500 million years ago, revealing a rare visible illustration of plate tectonics and continental drift

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Newfoundland & Labrador Photo Expedition Itinerary

Photograph Marine Wildlife, Rugged Landscapes & Maritime Heritage

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	St. John's, Newfoundland / Cape Spear Lighthouse
Day 2	Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove / Trinity / Private Marine Safari
Day 3	Bonavista Peninsula—Puffin Viewing / UNESCO Global Geopark / Cape Bonavista Lighthouse / Dinner Theater
Day 4	Private Whale-Watching Cruise / Trinity Historic Walking Tour / Skerwink Trail / Seafood Boil
Day 5	Private Flight & Transfer to Labrador / Battle Harbour National Historic Site
Days 6–7	Photographing Battle Harbour—Guided Walks / Private Boat Tour
Day 8	Mary's Harbour / Red Bay / Point Amour / Ferry to Newfoundland
Day 9	Port au Choix—Caribou Viewing / Gros Morne National Park—Western Brook Pond
Days 10–11	Gros Morne National Park—Tablelands / Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse / Green Point Geological Site / Bonne Bay
Day 12	Deer Lake / Depart



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Day 1

St. John's, Newfoundland / Cape Spear Lighthouse

Arrive at St. John's International Airport where you're met and transferred to our downtown hotel. Situated on the eastern tip of the Avalon Peninsula, St. John's offers a colorful introduction to the island of Newfoundland, with steep streets, classic harbor views and brightly painted row houses that invite your camera's attention. On the outer edge of Atlantic Canada, St. John's is North America's easternmost city and one of the continent's oldest municipalities. Its rich cultural heritage blends Indigenous, English and Irish influences, some of which are on view on the downtown Quidi Vidi Trail, a series of interpretive panels and artwork. If time permits, head out for an independent walk in search of appealing photo subjects before gathering for a welcome dinner and orientation with our Expedition Leader. We time our evening to catch the sunset at Cape Spear, illuminating the historic lighthouse and wave-battered coastline. The cape is Canada's most easterly point of land, with a lighthouse operating continuously here since 1836.

Day 2

Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove / Trinity / Private Marine Safari

Our photography adventure begins in Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove, one of the oldest European settlements in North America. Continuously occupied since at least 1598, the town's current population of about 950 sustains itself with fishing and ecotourism. We'll photograph colorful fishing stages, working boats, weathered docks and peaceful harbor scenes. A scenic drive takes us from St. John's to Trinity, the coastal village where *The Shipping News* was filmed, and our base for the next three nights.

After lunch, head to sea in search of Newfoundland's abundant whales on a two-hour private marine safari aboard an RHIB—Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat—offering agility that bigger vessels lack, and ideal for photographing marine wildlife from a low vantage on the water. The largest annual whale migration in the northern hemisphere begins off the Newfoundland coast in early June, with various species present until September or later. With our boat's low profile, we hope to get close enough to observe whales as they breach, feed and play. As we follow the coastline of Trinity Bay, keep cameras ready for possible sightings of humpback, fin, sperm and minke whales, orcas, dolphins and porpoises, seals, bald eagles and seabirds, including puffins, gannets and more. Following the coastline of Trinity Bay, capture images of scattered islands, remote seaside communities and rugged headlands, then return to town with free time to photograph the village's colorful architecture and lively harbor before we gather for dinner.

Day 3

Bonavista Peninsula—Puffin Viewing / UNESCO Global Geopark / Cape Bonavista Lighthouse / Dinner Theater

Today's focus is the photogenic Bonavista Peninsula, where we devote extended time to the Atlantic puffin colony at Elliston, one of the best land-based puffin photography locations in North America. A short walk takes us to a close but respectful vantage to observe a puffin colony roosting on a rocky outcrop, photographing them as they perch, preen, court and return from the sea with fish in their beaks.

Continue to Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark to photograph The Dungeon, a dramatic sinkhole formed by the collapse of two adjacent sea caves shaped by coastal erosion. Exploring the geology and natural history of the area, we witness the power of the ocean to relentlessly reshape the soft sedimentary rock shoreline. Eventually, The Dungeon will one day erode to become a single pillar known as a sea stack.

We also visit Cape Bonavista Lighthouse, one of the most photographed in Newfoundland. Built in 1843 and painted in the classic red-and-white style of the region, the lighthouse contains a rare 19th-century catoptric lamp system that once burned seal oil to produce light. We'll have time to work both sweeping coastal compositions and details of the historic structure.

Return to Trinity for a fun evening at Rising Tide Dinner Theater, a renowned drama company in operation since 1978. Producing plays that celebrate the province's storied past and contemporary voices, the company's performances are equally entertaining and educational. When weather permits, many performances take place outdoors.

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Day 4

Private Whale-Watching Cruise / Trinity Historic Walking Tour / Skerwink Trail / Seafood Boil

Return to the sea this morning on a private half-day whale-watching cruise designed with photographers in mind, as we focus not only on whales, but also dolphins, seals and seabirds. After lunch, take a guided walking tour with opportunities to document historic Trinity in images. Trinity's rich heritage dates back more than 500 years, and we learn about the history of its many inhabitants over the centuries, including the Beothuk Indigenous people, and French, Irish and English settlers. Experience Trinity's magnificent cultural history through stories, photos, burial records, shipwrecks and disasters as we time-travel through Newfoundland with our acclaimed local guide, a Trinity native whose ancestors arrived in the "New Founde Land" from Dorset, England in the early 1800s. Later this afternoon, choose between free time in town or a hike on the Skerwink Trail led by our Expedition Leader. The route offers striking photo opportunities of the rugged coastline, sea stacks, arches and beaches. Scan the deep blue ocean for humpback and minke whales, and capture shots of seals basking on the rocks at the base of cliffs. Seabirds abound, and we frequently see bald eagles soaring overhead. This evening, depart for Fort Point where we gather for a classic Newfoundland summer dinner: a seafood boil by the ocean.

Day 5

Private Flight & Transfer to Labrador / Battle Harbour National Historic Site

From Gander, a small town that gained international recognition after the 9/11 attacks when it welcomed stranded passengers whose planes were diverted due to the closure of American air space, board a private flight to Blanc Sablon, a village on the north coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Here, we transfer to a small bus for the scenic drive along the Labrador coast to Mary's Harbour. Here, we board a ferry, weaving through narrow channels and passing various islands as our route takes us through calm inlets with plenty of chances to photograph the coastal landscape, plus seals, whales and other marine life.

As we approach Battle Island, brightly painted cottages come into view—photogenic subjects scattered along the hill overlooking the historic settlement. Ashore, step back in time as we document scenes of this restored former fishing outpost. Despite its isolation and exposure to the harsh elements, Battle Harbour was once known as the “Capital of Labrador.” For centuries, it served as an economic and cultural stronghold for the region’s sparsely populated southeast coast, sustaining a thriving fishing community until the 1990s when the cod fishery drastically declined and the permanent settlement was abandoned. Restored by the Battle Harbour Historical Trust, Battle Harbour today is a car-free island without cell service or reliable Wi-Fi, offering overnight visitors a quiet and immersive experience, not to mention evocative photo subjects including weathered buildings and classic seascapes. A tour of the settlement brings Battle Harbour’s past to life. From the shoreline, scan the horizon for whales, or look for Arctic fox to photograph as you traverse the small island on one of the many hiking trails that wend among Arctic vegetation and quirky rock formations. A sanctuary from modern distractions, Battle Harbour provides time and space to truly appreciate this grand landscape that has captivated people for centuries.

Days 6–7

Photographing Battle Harbour—Guided Walks / Private Boat Tour

Over two days, photograph Battle Harbour in depth as we witness its evolution from its 1770s origins as a center for salting and preserving catches into a thriving 19th-century fishing community and its modern incarnation as a living museum. Take advantage of morning and evening light on its weathered buildings, red-and-white striped lighthouse, salt fish premises, boardwalks, boats and rugged coastline. Through interactive experiences and guided tours, gain insight into the resilience and determination that allowed this isolated community to thrive in the face of harsh conditions as it relied on the bounty of the sea. There's plenty of time to work deliberate compositions of weathered wood, abandoned sheds, maritime details and sweeping views toward Cape St. Charles, the easternmost point in North America.

A private boat tour along the island's shoreline offers water-level angles on the settlement and coast, while optional hikes lead to photos of Arctic vegetation and rocky outcrops where changing weather adds atmosphere to the landscape. Between field sessions, there may be time for informal image review, discussing technique, or personal exploration with your camera in hand.

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Day 8

Mary's Harbour / Red Bay / Point Amour / Ferry to Newfoundland

An early morning ferry ride returns us to Mary's Harbour, with cameras ready for whales, seabirds and morning light on the coast. Ashore, we turn south to follow the Labrador shoreline, passing Red Bay National Historic Site. With UNESCO World Heritage status, Red Bay encompasses the remains of a major 16th-century Basque whaling operation, attracting nearly 2,000 Basque whalers from Spain and France. They hunted bowhead and right whales, both currently endangered species, for their oil, used primarily as fuel for lighting in Europe at the time. Today, the archaeological remains include shipwrecks, rendering ovens, cooperages, and a cemetery containing the remains of 140 whalers.

More historic photography lies ahead at L'Anse Amour, the oldest-known burial mound in North America. Located in one of the largest and longest-used Aboriginal habitation sites in Labrador, occupied by the Maritime Archaic people between 9,000 and 2,000 years ago, the low circular mound of large stones measures about 25 feet in diameter. We also capture shots of Atlantic Canada's tallest lighthouse at Point Amour, rising 109 feet above the Strait of Belle Isle. Then it's time to return to Newfoundland as we board another ferry this evening, searching for more marine wildlife to photograph as we cross the strait.

Day 9

Port au Choix—Caribou Viewing / Gros Morne National Park—Western Brook Pond

The fishing village of Port au Choix is home to a small resident caribou herd accustomed to human presence, and we go in search of a chance to photograph them this morning. Continue to Gros Morne National Park, acclaimed for its dramatic geology that provides a rare visible illustration of plate tectonics and the process of continental drift. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the park contains exposed rocks from the earth's mantle and oceanic crust, which were thrust to the surface of the earth through a process called subduction around 500 million years ago.

The geology also showcases events that occurred around 1.2 billion years ago when the ancient continental margin of North America collided with another continent and formed a vast mountain range. Photograph this fascinating phenomenon this afternoon on a private boat ride on Western Brook Pond. Steep rock walls rising 2,000 feet high surround this spectacular fjord created by receding glaciers. Fed by Stag Brook and refreshed with numerous waterfalls, the pond formed when land rebounded following the melting of the glacier, creating a natural dam. Continuing to Bonne Bay, we transfer to Gros Morne Inn for two nights. The remainder of the afternoon is free to photograph our coastal environs in the softening light, enjoy the cedar sauna or hot tubs, or relax on the patio by the fire pit before dinner.

Days 10–11

Gros Morne National Park—Tablelands / Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse / Green Point Geological Site / Bonne Bay

These two days are devoted to photographing Gros Morne's wondrous geology and coastal scenery, with a flexible pace that allows more time at the park's most rewarding locations. Get a rare glimpse into an intriguing slice of the planet's geology at Tablelands, a glaciated landscape comprised of exposed mantle rock typically found deep within Earth's interior. Orange-brown in color, the rock, called peridotite, creates a barren landscape that stands in stark contrast to the surrounding verdant hills and valley. The terrain is devoid of vegetation due to a heavy concentration of metals that are toxic to most—but not all—plants. Perhaps not surprisingly, given the otherworldly atmosphere of the landscape, several carnivorous plants thrive here, and we photograph the most prolific, which survive mainly on insects.

Continue to Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse, where coastal trails, ocean views, cliffs and the Long Range Mountains offer classic Newfoundland compositions. We also visit Green Point Geological Site, one of the world's most significant geological landmarks, where layered sedimentary rocks preserve nearly 500 million years of Earth history along a dramatic shoreline. There will be ample photo opportunities at Bonne Bay, with time to relax at the inn and work with our Expedition Leader on processing and editing techniques. On our final night, enjoy a last photography walk before a festive farewell dinner celebrating our journey through Newfoundland and Labrador.

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Day 12

Deer Lake / Depart

Our adventure on Canada's northeast coast comes to a close today. Transfer to Deer Lake Regional Airport for homeward flights, carrying memories and images from Newfoundland and Labrador's historic fishing communities, abundant marine life, dramatic geology and remote northern landscapes.

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Newfoundland & Labrador Photo Expedition Accommodations

Photograph Marine Wildlife, Rugged Landscapes & Maritime Heritage



Alt Hotel St. John's

This bright and modern hotel located on St. John's Harbor is a short drive to the airport, with trendy design features and rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows, down duvets and Egyptian cotton linens.



Rosewood Suites at Trinity

In a restored heritage building in the heart of downtown Trinity, this boutique hotel embodies early 20th-century charm with traditional furnishings, polished hardwood and a welcoming front porch.



Battle Harbour Merchant Building

This restored 200-year-old building overlooking the water, now an inn replete with historic decor, once served as the hub of mercantile operations for Battle Island's commercial fishing operation.



Sea Echo Motel

Overlooking Port au Choix Harbour, this family-owned motel features cozy guest rooms, local dining and a relaxed coastal setting with easy access to Newfoundland's Viking Trail.



Gros Morne Inn

This sustainability-focused boutique ecolodge, new in 2022, showcases views of ocean and mountain through large picture windows, while a cedar sauna and hot tubs offers relaxation after adventuring.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/canada-northern-nature-travel/newfoundland-labrador-photo-expedition/accommodations.

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The Ultimate Photography Encounter with Newfoundland & Labrador

Newfoundland & Labrador Photo Expedition

This far-flung Atlantic province offers photographers a rich visual tapestry of nature, history and culture. Nat Hab gets you closest, in greater depth, to the region's wild, lesser-known natural features while also showcasing its intriguing human history and contemporary maritime culture. Here's why your images of Newfoundland and Labrador will be better when you travel with us:

1 **No One Shows You More of Newfoundland & Labrador**

Look closely at other itineraries: We doubt anyone else gives you a more comprehensive, unhurried encounter with this little-visited province and its people. You'll photograph wildlife, communities, coastline and interior alike, with three days in Labrador alone—a rare inclusion on most other trips.

2 **Timing Designed Around Light & Photo Opportunities**

Our schedule is tailored to emphasize sunrise, sunset and golden-hour field sessions whenever conditions allow, capitalizing on the best light for our varied subjects. And our pacing allows extended time at premier photo locations, including puffin colonies, whale-viewing areas, lighthouses, fishing villages, Battle Harbour and Gros Morne's coastal landscapes.

3 **Chartered Flight Between Newfoundland & Labrador Gives You More Field Time**

Our private flight between Gander, Newfoundland, and Blanc Sablon, Quebec, en route to Battle Harbour, Labrador, saves hours of driving, setting you up to photograph much more of the region.

4 **Spend Three Nights on a Remote Labrador Island**

Once the commercial fishing capital of the region, historic Battle Harbour today is a restored community on Battle Island, nine miles off the coast of Labrador. From this secluded base, seek photos of icebergs, whales, and Arctic fox as we learn about the rewards and challenges facing Labrador's hardy mariners. No other trip we know of offers this in-depth immersion in this special place.

5 **A Small Group Ensures Intimate Photo Opportunities**

Our photography adventure is limited to just 12 guests. This small group size allows exclusive access to secluded hikes and walks, privately chartered small boats, watching wildlife without disturbing it, and true serenity in nature. With our high guide-to-guest ratio—you'll travel with a Photo Expedition Leader plus various local guides—we can tailor daily activities to guests' personal interests and physical ability levels, impossible to do in a larger group.

6 **Photography-Focused Guidance in the Field & Beyond**

Your Photo Expedition Leader is by your side on every shoot, with coaching for getting the best possible wildlife, landscape and cultural photos—sharing tips for composition, camera settings and storytelling through imagery. Later, once you're back inside and ready to review, your professional guide will help you refine your processing and editing skills with a focus on creative development. The result? You'll go home with a diverse and impressive portfolio of landscapes, wildlife, maritime culture and historic architecture.

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7 **Intimate, Distinctive Accommodations Reflect Local Character**

Our small group size allows us to choose authentic inns noted for their history and atmosphere, and boutique ecolodges close to nature—a real contrast to larger, impersonal chain hotels.

8 **The World's Finest Naturalist Guides**

Natural Habitat Adventures has a well-deserved global reputation for employing the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our Expedition Leaders have years of experience and training, including resources from WWF's top scientists. You won't find more knowledgeable—or more personable—guides than those who work with us. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we provide the very best! See Expedition Leader bios with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

9 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Experience**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise.

10 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

11 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud.

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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $15695

Group Size
Limited to 12 Travelers

Newfoundland & Labrador Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

Photograph Marine Wildlife, Rugged Landscapes & Maritime Heritage

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jul 5 - Jul 16, 2027	**$15695** +internal air	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Jul 4 - Jul 15, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air	
Aug 1 - Aug 12, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/canada-northern-nature-travel/newfoundland-labrador-photo-expedition/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

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Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader, local guides, whale watching and puffin viewing excursions, private whale watching cruise, evening wildlife and cultural presentations, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through lunch on final day, some gratuities, all ferry transfers, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, most alcoholic beverages, gratuities for your Expedition Leader, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), international airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Internal air: Private charter flight from Gander to Blanc Sablon (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins in St. John's, Newfoundland, and ends in Deer Lake, Newfoundland. **You must arrive at St. John's International Airport no later than 4:00 pm on Day 1** in order to attend the group welcome dinner at The Alt Hotel.

For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

If you plan to arrive on Day 1, please ensure your flight arrives by the required time so you do not miss the welcome dinner.

You may depart from Deer Lake at any time on the final day.

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Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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