

# Newfoundland and St. Pierre & Miquelon





# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">1.1 Why should you visit Newfoundland?</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">1.2 Why should you visit St Pierre and Miquelon?</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">2.1 Disclaimer</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">2.2 Copyright</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">3.1 General Information about Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">3.1.1 How much time do you need to visit Newfoundland?</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">3.1.2 What is the best time to visit Newfoundland?</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">3.1.3 The highlights of the history of Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
<a href="#">3.1.4 Driving a car in Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">3.1.5 Public Transportation in Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">3.1.6 Money and Credit Cards in the Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">3.1.7 Tap water in Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">3.1.8 Telephone</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">3.1.9 In which Time Zone is Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">3.1.10 Visa requirements for Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">3.1.11 Languages spoken in Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">24</a>

# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">3.2 General Information about St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">3.2.1 How much time do you need to visit St. Pierre and Miquelon?</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">3.2.2 What is the best time to visit St. Pierre and Miquelon?</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">3.2.3 The highlights of the history of St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">3.2.4 Getting to St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">31</a>
<a href="#">3.2.5 Driving a car in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">31</a>
<a href="#">3.2.6 Rental cars in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
<a href="#">3.2.7 Public Transportation in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">33</a>
<a href="#">3.2.8 Money and Credit Cards in the St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">3.2.9 Tap water in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">3.2.10 Telephone</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">3.2.11 In which Time Zone is St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">3.2.12 Visa requirements for St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">3.2.13 Languages spoken in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">3.2.14 Restaurants in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">36</a>
<a href="#">3.2.15 Tipping in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">40</a>
<a href="#">3.2.16 Opening hours in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">40</a>
<a href="#">3.2.17 Hotels and Airbnbs in St. Pierre and Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">41</a>
<a href="#">4. Itineraries for your Newfoundland and St. Pierre &amp; Miquelon trip</a>	<a href="#">43</a>
<a href="#">4.1 Two-week itinerary for Newfoundland, St. Pierre &amp; Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">44</a>
<a href="#">4.2 Three-week itinerary for Newfoundland, St. Pierre &amp; Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">46</a>

# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">5. Self-guided tour of Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">49</a>
<a href="#">5.1 St. John's</a>	<a href="#">49</a>
<a href="#">5.1.1 Where to stay in St. John's</a>	<a href="#">50</a>
<a href="#">5.1.2 Hampton Inn &amp; Suites by Hilton St. John's Airport</a>	<a href="#">51</a>
<a href="#">5.1.3 Self-guided tour of St. John's – Day 1</a>	<a href="#">52</a>
<a href="#">5.1.4 Signal Hill National Historic Site</a>	<a href="#">53</a>
<a href="#">5.1.5 Jellybean Row</a>	<a href="#">56</a>
<a href="#">5.1.6 Harbourside Park</a>	<a href="#">58</a>
<a href="#">5.1.7 Water Street</a>	<a href="#">59</a>
<a href="#">5.1.8 George Street</a>	<a href="#">61</a>
<a href="#">5.2 Exploring St. John's</a>	<a href="#">63</a>
<a href="#">5.2.1 Self-guided tour of downtown St. John's</a>	<a href="#">64</a>
<a href="#">5.2.2 Colonial Building</a>	<a href="#">65</a>
<a href="#">5.2.3 Government House</a>	<a href="#">67</a>
<a href="#">5.2.4 Basilica of St. John the Baptist</a>	<a href="#">70</a>
<a href="#">5.2.5 Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist</a>	<a href="#">72</a>
<a href="#">5.2.6 Mile 0 - Trans Canada Highway</a>	<a href="#">74</a>
<a href="#">5.2.7 St. John's Information Centre</a>	<a href="#">76</a>
<a href="#">5.2.8 Cape Spear Lighthouse and Easternmost point of Canada</a>	<a href="#">77</a>
<a href="#">5.2.9 Fort Amherst Lighthouse</a>	<a href="#">80</a>
<a href="#">5.2.10 Christian's Pub</a>	<a href="#">82</a>



# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">5.3 Bonavista Peninsula</a>	<a href="#">84</a>
<a href="#">5.3.1 Where to stay in the Bonavista Peninsula</a>	<a href="#">86</a>
<a href="#">5.3.2 The View Golf Resort</a>	<a href="#">87</a>
<a href="#">5.3.3 Self-guided tour of the northern Bonavista Peninsula</a>	<a href="#">90</a>
<a href="#">5.3.4 Whale or iceberg watching boat tour with Trinity Eco-Tours</a>	<a href="#">92</a>
<a href="#">5.3.5 Trinity</a>	<a href="#">93</a>
<a href="#">5.3.6 Upper Gun Hill trail</a>	<a href="#">95</a>
<a href="#">5.3.7 Skerwink trail</a>	<a href="#">96</a>
<a href="#">5.3.8 Port Rexton Brewery</a>	<a href="#">101</a>
<a href="#">5.4 Self-guided tour of the northern Bonavista Peninsula</a>	<a href="#">103</a>
<a href="#">5.4.1 Ryan Premises National Historic Site</a>	<a href="#">105</a>
<a href="#">5.4.2 Matthew Legacy</a>	<a href="#">107</a>
<a href="#">5.4.3 Bonavista</a>	<a href="#">108</a>
<a href="#">5.4.4 Mifflin's Tea Room</a>	<a href="#">109</a>
<a href="#">5.4.5 Cape Bonavista Lighthouse</a>	<a href="#">110</a>
<a href="#">5.4.6 John Cabot Municipal Park</a>	<a href="#">111</a>
<a href="#">5.4.7 Dungeon Provincial Park</a>	<a href="#">112</a>
<a href="#">5.4.8 Root Cellars</a>	<a href="#">114</a>
<a href="#">5.4.9 Puffin Viewing Site</a>	<a href="#">116</a>
<a href="#">5.5 Terra Nova National Park</a>	<a href="#">118</a>
<a href="#">5.5.1 Where to stay in Rocky Harbour</a>	<a href="#">123</a>

# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">5.6 Gros Morne National Park – Day 1</a>	<a href="#">124</a>
<a href="#">5.6.1 Tablelands</a>	<a href="#">125</a>
<a href="#">5.6.2 Southeast Brook Falls</a>	<a href="#">127</a>
<a href="#">5.6.3 Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse</a>	<a href="#">128</a>
<a href="#">5.7 Gros Morne National Park – Day 2</a>	<a href="#">129</a>
<a href="#">5.7.1 Green Point Geological Site</a>	<a href="#">130</a>
<a href="#">5.7.2 Western Brook Pond</a>	<a href="#">131</a>
<a href="#">5.8 Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">133</a>
<a href="#">5.8.1 Where to stay in St. Anthony</a>	<a href="#">135</a>
<a href="#">5.8.2 L'Anse aux Meadows</a>	<a href="#">136</a>
<a href="#">5.9 Central Region of Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">138</a>
<a href="#">5.9.1 Flower's Cove Thrombolites</a>	<a href="#">139</a>
<a href="#">5.9.2 Where to stay in Grand Falls-Windsor</a>	<a href="#">140</a>
<a href="#">5.10 Central Region of Newfoundland</a>	<a href="#">141</a>
<a href="#">5.10.1 Salmonid Interpretation Centre</a>	<a href="#">142</a>
<a href="#">5.10.2 Papa's Sweet Shop</a>	<a href="#">143</a>



## Table of Contents

<a href="#">5.11 Burin Peninsula</a>	<a href="#">144</a>
<a href="#">5.11.1 Where to stay in the Burin Peninsula</a>	<a href="#">145</a>
<a href="#">5.11.2 Airbnb Ocean Gypsy in Point au Gaul</a>	<a href="#">146</a>
<a href="#">5.11.3 Grand Bank Lighthouse</a>	<a href="#">149</a>
<a href="#">5.11.4 Provincial Seamen's Museum</a>	<a href="#">151</a>
<a href="#">5.11.5 Burin Heritage Square</a>	<a href="#">153</a>
<a href="#">5.11.6 Cook's Lookout Trail</a>	<a href="#">155</a>
<a href="#">5.11.7 Beaches</a>	<a href="#">159</a>

# St. Pierre & Miquelon Travel Guide

---

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">5.12 Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">161</a>
<a href="#">5.12.1 Ferry from Fortune to Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">162</a>
<a href="#">5.12.2 Accommodation in Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">165</a>
<a href="#">5.12.3 Auberge de l'Île</a>	<a href="#">167</a>
<a href="#">5.12.4 Exploring Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">169</a>
<a href="#">5.12.5 Entrez-Nous restaurant / Michael's Bar</a>	<a href="#">175</a>
<a href="#">5.13 Exploring Miquelon – Day 2</a>	<a href="#">176</a>
<a href="#">5.13.1 Maison de la Nature et de l'Environnement</a>	<a href="#">177</a>
<a href="#">5.13.2 Le Cap de Miquelon</a>	<a href="#">178</a>
<a href="#">5.13.3 Snack bar-à-choix</a>	<a href="#">182</a>
<a href="#">5.14 Miquelon Island tour and ferry to St. Pierre</a>	<a href="#">184</a>
<a href="#">5.14.1 Miquelon Island tour</a>	<a href="#">185</a>
<a href="#">5.14.2 Food truck</a>	<a href="#">190</a>
<a href="#">5.14.3 Ferry from Miquelon to St. Pierre</a>	<a href="#">191</a>
<a href="#">5.14.4 Accommodation in St. Pierre</a>	<a href="#">192</a>
<a href="#">5.14.5 Hotel Robert</a>	<a href="#">195</a>
<a href="#">5.14.6 Feu de braise restaurant</a>	<a href="#">196</a>



## Table of Contents

<a href="#">5.15 Exploring St. Pierre – Day 1</a>	<a href="#">197</a>
<a href="#">5.15.1 Zodiac Tour</a>	<a href="#">198</a>
<a href="#">5.15.2 Self-guided tour of the Île-aux-Marins</a>	<a href="#">199</a>
<a href="#">5.15.3 L'Arche Museum and Archives</a>	<a href="#">215</a>
<a href="#">5.15.4 P'tits Gravier restaurant</a>	<a href="#">217</a>
<a href="#">5.16 Exploring St. Pierre – Day 2</a>	<a href="#">218</a>
<a href="#">5.16.1 hike L'Anse-a-Henry</a>	<a href="#">219</a>
<a href="#">5.16.2 Self-guided walking tour of St. Pierre</a>	<a href="#">223</a>
<a href="#">5.16.3 Le Select restaurant</a>	<a href="#">231</a>

# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">5.17 Trip to St. John's</a>	<a href="#">232</a>
<a href="#">5.17.1 Ferry from St. Pierre to Fortune</a>	<a href="#">233</a>
<a href="#">5.17.2 Avondale Railway Museum</a>	<a href="#">234</a>
<a href="#">5.17.3 Shipwreck in Conception Harbour</a>	<a href="#">236</a>
<a href="#">5.17.4 Where to stay in St. John's</a>	<a href="#">238</a>
<a href="#">5.17.5 Holiday Inn Express &amp; Suites St. John's Airport</a>	<a href="#">239</a>
<a href="#">5.17.6 Jack Axes</a>	<a href="#">241</a>
<a href="#">5.18 Exploring the Irish Loop on the Avalon Peninsula</a>	<a href="#">242</a>
<a href="#">5.18.1 What is the Irish Loop</a>	<a href="#">245</a>
<a href="#">5.18.2 The Tolt in Witless Bay</a>	<a href="#">246</a>
<a href="#">5.18.3 La Manche Provincial Park</a>	<a href="#">248</a>
<a href="#">5.18.4 Colony of Avalon</a>	<a href="#">252</a>
<a href="#">5.18.5 dinner at Chafe's Landing</a>	<a href="#">258</a>
<a href="#">5.19 Your last day in St. John's</a>	<a href="#">259</a>
<a href="#">5.19.1 The Rooms</a>	<a href="#">260</a>
<a href="#">5.19.2 Quidi Vidi</a>	<a href="#">264</a>
<a href="#">5.19.3 Self-guided walking tour of Bowring Park</a>	<a href="#">273</a>
<a href="#">6. Closing Remarks</a>	<a href="#">279</a>



## 1.1 Why should you visit Newfoundland?

Newfoundland is a sparsely populated island with friendly locals and lots of nature.

Depending on the time of year, you see icebergs, whales, puffins, northern lights, and you can hike through diverse landscapes from rolling hills, boreal forests, rugged cliffs and pebble beaches to climbing hills with gorgeous 360-degree views, and small towns with colorful houses.

In addition to beautiful scenery, Newfoundland has a long history of human occupation. With indigenous people settling here more than 4,000 years ago and Newfoundland being among the first places that were settled by the Europeans, you can watch history come alive in many places on the island.



## 1.2 Why should you visit St Pierre and Miquelon?

Did you know that France is only a short ferry ride away from Canada?

The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon are the last remnants of the former French colonial empire in this region. And both islands are only a few miles off the coast of Newfoundland. Both islands have retained their French identity and culture. You can enjoy authentic French cuisine, buy French products, and speak French with the locals.

If you are into hiking, there are gorgeous hiking trails and no bears or other predatory mammals on the islands.

Just be advised that most people will need a passport to visit the islands and the Euro is the official currency. But don't worry, credit cards are accepted almost everywhere.

St. Pierre is denser populated than Miquelon, but the population density on both islands is low and you will be able to experience beautiful nature.



## 2.1 Disclaimer

In this guide I am doing my best to give you the most accurate information. Over time, however, prices, times, and even attractions are subject to change. Therefore, I and [backpackandsnorkel.com](http://backpackandsnorkel.com) cannot be held responsible for the experiences of users while traveling. I strongly suggest that you write or call the attractions you plan to visit for confirmation when you make your travel plans.

Also, please stay alert, be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye on your belongings. Pickpockets and other criminals can easily ruin even the best planned vacation.

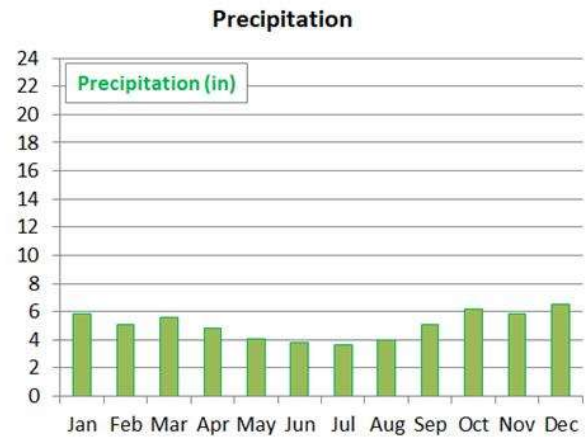
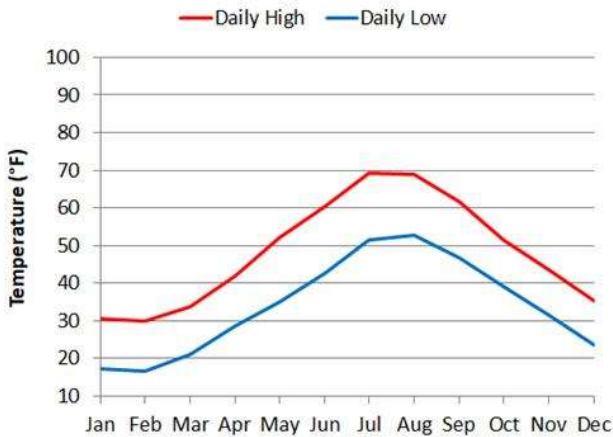
## 2.2 Copyright

This website and its content is copyright of “Rudy at Backpack & Snorkel”. All rights reserved. Any redistribution or reproduction of part or all of the contents in any form is prohibited. The content on this site (including photos) may not be sold, reprinted, or used for commercial purposes without the written consent of “Rudy at Backpack & Snorkel”. You may not, except with our express written permission, distribute or commercially exploit the content. Nor may you transmit it or store it in any other website or other form of electronic retrieval system.

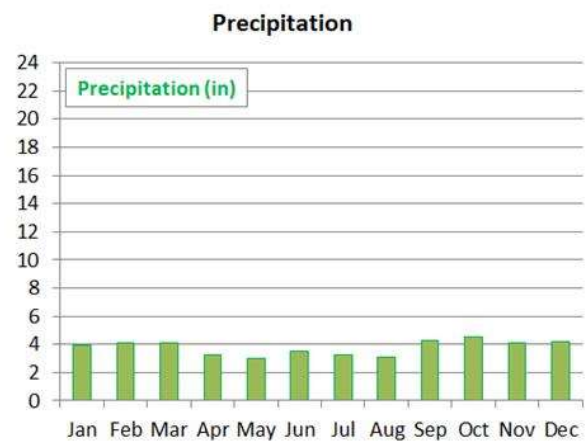
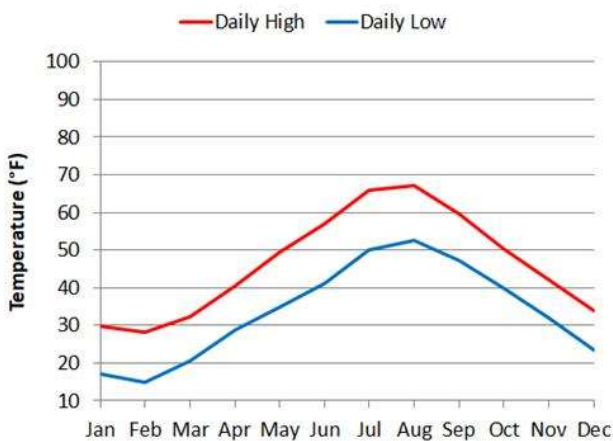


# Newfoundland Travel Guide

Below is the climate that you can expect on your trip to [St. John's](#) in Newfoundland:



Below is the climate that you can expect on your trip to [Bonavista](#) in Newfoundland:



## 3.1.3 The highlights of the history of Newfoundland

- Approx. 2000 BC: beginning of the settlement of Newfoundland the Dorset culture
- 1000 AD: no signs of the Dorset culture are found in Newfoundland anymore
- Approx. 1000 AD: Norse Icelandic explorer Bjarni Herjólfsson gets off course on this voyage from Iceland to Greenland due to the weather and discovers an unknown coastline. He thinks it is Greenland and does not land.
- 1014: Icelandic explorer Leif Erikson starts an expedition to the unknown coastline. He lands in Newfoundland and establishes a short-lived settlement called Leifsbudir. Because the land is full of vines and grapes, he calls it: Vinland (Wineland). Archeologists think that Leifsbudir is what we now call the L'Anse aux Meadows.
- After 1000 AD: The Beothuk settle Newfoundland from Labrador
- 1497: Italian explorer John Cabot who is sailing under the English flag, likely lands in Cape Bonavista
- 16th century: Basque whalers establish seasonal whaling stations on the island and call it Terra Nova (New Land)
- 1583: English adventurer Humphrey Gilbert claims Newfoundland as England's first overseas colony while French and Portuguese vessels are in the port of St. John's. Gilbert is lost at sea during his return voyage and no plans to establish a permanent settlement reach Britain
- 1610: John Guy and 39 colonists sail from Bristol, England to Cuper's Cove to establish a permanent settlement

## 3.1.7 Tap water in Newfoundland

Tap water is safe to drink in much of Newfoundland, but it has a more or less strong chlorine taste and therefore we preferred to filter it to remove the chlorine taste. In many rural areas, you will notice tap water in various yellow shades. That is ground water and should not be consumed.

Especially after prolonged and heavy rains, you may find boil water advisories in smaller communities. Ask your host if the water can be consumed.

## 3.1.8 Telephone

The country code for Newfoundland is: +1

## 3.1.9 In which Time Zone is Newfoundland

Newfoundland is on Newfoundland Time: UTC/GMT -2:30 h and observes Daylight saving time (DST).

You can find the current local time [here](#).

## 3.1.10 Visa requirements for Newfoundland

As a part of Canada, Newfoundland has the same entry regulations as the rest of Canada. You can check if you need a visa to enter Newfoundland [here](#).

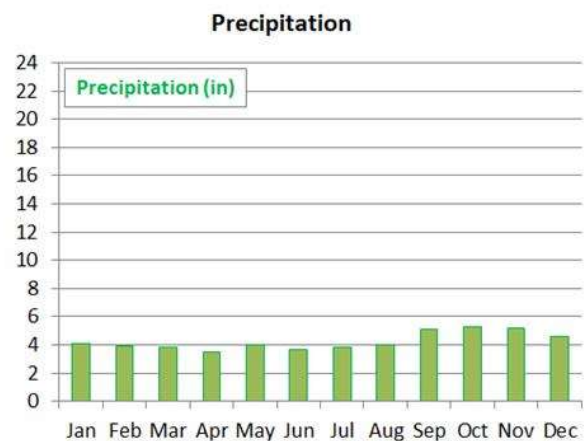
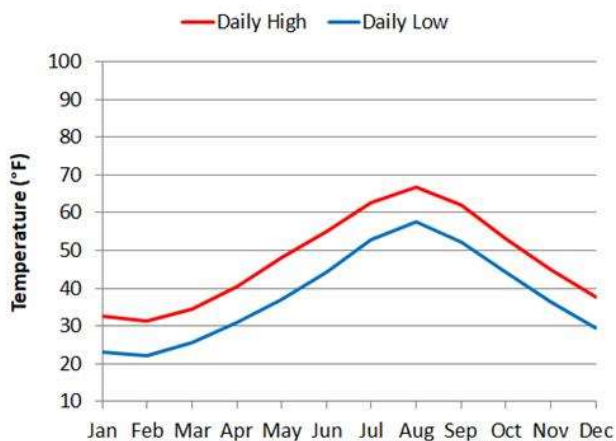
## 3.2.2 What is the best time to visit St. Pierre and Miquelon?

The best time to visit St. Pierre and Miquelon is **July - August**: This is the peak tourist season in St. Pierre and Miquelon. August is the warmest (average high: 67F, 20C). The warm Gulf Stream and the cold Labrador current meet near the islands and cause frequent rain or snow and fog throughout the year.

There is a short shoulder season in **June** and **September**.

From October through May, the number of visitors drop exponentially and many of the few tourist facilities on the islands close.

Below is the climate that you can expect on your trip to [St. Pierre and Miquelon](#):



## 3.2.3 The highlights of the history of St. Pierre and Miquelon

- Approx.2000 BC: The Dorset culture begins settling Newfoundland and occasionally visits St. Pierre and Miquelon, but they do not build any permanent settlements
- 1520: Portuguese explorer João Álvares Fagundes lands on the islands and names them the Eleven Thousand Virgins, because the day marked the feast day of St. Ursula and her virgin companions
- 1536: French explorer Jacques Cartier claims the islands for France
- 1670: The islands have 4 permanent residents and are called Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- 1691: The islands have 22 permanent residents
- 1688 - 1697: During the Nine Years' War (King William's War), the islands are attacked several times by the British
- 1702 - 1713: During the French and Indian Wars (Queen Anne's War), the islands are attacked several times by the British
- 1713: Under the Treaty of Utrecht, France cedes the islands to Britain. England renames Saint Pierre to Saint Peter and British colonists begin to settle on the islands. Some of the French settlers swear allegiance to Britain, and remain on the islands
- 1763: In the Treaty of Paris, Britain cedes the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon to France and France gets fishing rights on Newfoundland's west coast
- 1763 – 1778: The islands become a refuge for Acadian deportees from Nova Scotia



## 3.2.7 Public Transportation in St. Pierre and Miquelon

### Miquelon and Langlade:

There are no taxis or buses in Miquelon or Langlade. Both islands are walkable. If you need transportation, rent a bicycle, or ask your hotel in advance as they may be able to shuttle you or call a transportation service.

Uber and Lyft do not operate on the islands.

### St. Pierre:

There are now 4 taxis – until 2022, there were only 2. All taxis are privately owned and there is no central dispatch phone number.

- Taxi Bob: (+508) 55 54 47
- Taxi Djipi: (+508) 55 53 33
- Taxi Mylan: (+508) 55 41 98
- Taxi Salomon: (+508) 55 66 77

Our taxi driver spoke excellent English. We paid Euro 6 for a 5 min 1.5-mile (2.5 km) ride to the Anse-a-Henry trailhead.

Island tours and transportation for up to 6 people is also available from:

Le Caillou Blanc ([website](#), phone: (+508) 55 74 22; email: [jcfouchard@cheznoo.net](mailto:jcfouchard@cheznoo.net))

Uber and Lyft do not operate on St. Pierre and there are no buses.

## 3.2.14 Restaurants in St. Pierre and Miquelon

There are no fast-food restaurants (except for a food truck in Miquelon) or restaurant chains in St. Pierre and Miquelon. Dining is only available in a few hotels and restaurants, which may fill up quickly during their opening hours.

Restaurants in St. Pierre and Miquelon only open for a few hours per day.

Dining here is very different from the US or Canada. Restaurants only expect to sell a table to one party per night. You will not be rushed to vacate your table so that other parties can dine there. The check will not be brought to you once (or even before) you finish your meal - you will need to ask for the check. When you have the check, you will need to go to the front desk and pay there – cash or credit.

A typical dinner will take at least 90 min.

All restaurants, except for the food truck in Miquelon, have free wifi – in some restaurants you will need to ask your waiter for the router name and password.

You can make reservations yourself or ask the St. Pierre and Miquelon visitor center to help ([map](#), [website](#), phone: (+508) 41 02 00, email: [saint-pierre@spm-tourisme.fr](mailto:saint-pierre@spm-tourisme.fr)).

## Miquelon:

### Restaurants

- **Hotel Auberge de l'Île ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))**

Phone: (+508) 41 67 00; email:

aubergedelile.miquelon@gmail.com

We stayed here and only had breakfast and lunch. Lunch was tasty – cooked by the owner of the hotel.

- **Entrez-Nous Restaurant / Michael's Bar ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#)) -> see our review [here](#)**

Phone: (+508) 41 64 89; email: denisrevert@hotmail.com

Very good upscale restaurant with savory food and a good atmosphere. Our favorite restaurant in Miquelon.

- **Snack bar-à-choix ([map](#)) -> see our review [here](#)**

Phone: (+508) 41 62 00; email: snack-

barachoix@cheznoo.net

Very good casual dining restaurant with savory food and a good atmosphere. Our close second favorite restaurant in Miquelon.

- **Food truck ([map](#))**

Simple menu like crepes.

- **The Mayou'Naise ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))**

Phone: (+508) 55 68 00; email: themayounaise@gmail.com

## 5.1.3 Self-guided tour of St. John's – Day 1

Since you have arrived in St. John's earlier today, we are having a light sightseeing program.



- 1 = [Signal Hill National Historic Site](#)
- 2 = Colonial Building
- 3 = [Jellybean Row](#)
- 4 = [Harbourside Park](#)
- 5 = [Water Street](#)
- 6 = [George Street](#)

## 5.1.4 Signal Hill National Historic Site

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

Signal Hill is a hill overlooks 'the Narrows', which is the only entrance to St. John's harbor. At 548 ft (167 m), Ladies' Lookout is the highest point on Signal Hill.

Due to its strategic position, the hill was fortified beginning in the mid-17th century.

In 1762, French forces surrendered here to the British in the final battle of the Seven Years' War in North America, and in 1901, the first transatlantic wireless transmission was received here.

Cabot Tower is located at the top of Signal Hill and it can be visited for free – there is a parking lot right next to it. Inside you will find an exhibition about the first transatlantic transmission and the view from the top is gorgeous.

Next to the tower stands the Noon Day Gun, which is fired at noon, daily between July 1 and September 1.

A little down the hill, before you reach the top, is the Signal Hill Visitor Centre. It is open from early June through early October. Admission is charged to visit its interactive exhibits and a film about the site's communications military and history. Access to the site and parking are free of charge.

Starting near Cabot Tower are an easy trail that leads to Queen's Battery Barracks and the difficult 2.1 mile (3.4 km) return North Head trail.



# Newfoundland Travel Guide





## 5.1.5 Jellybean Row

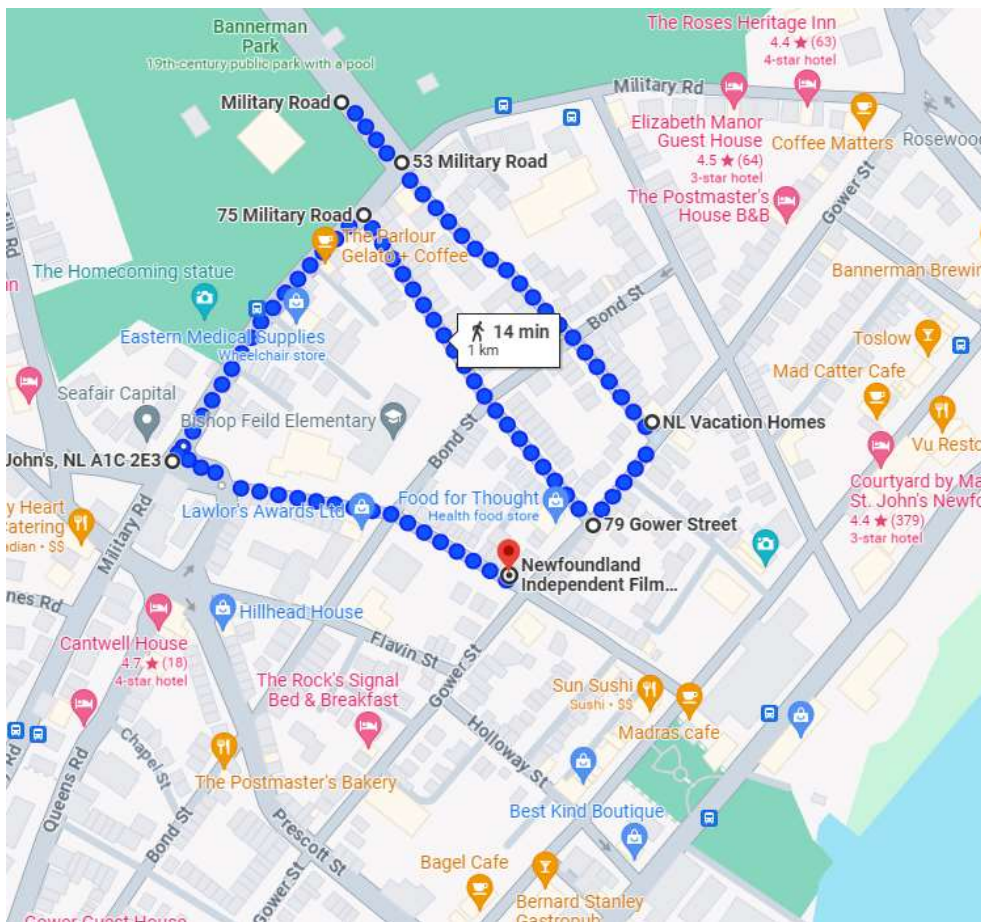
([map](#), [reviews](#))

Large parts of downtown St. John's consist of brightly colored row houses and give the city its distinctive character.

Jellybean Row is a general term which defines the colorful row houses in downtown St. John's and not one particular street.

A good 15min walking tour to see the houses starts near the Colonial Building ([map](#)) where Military Rd and Bannerman Rd intersect. Walk down Bannerman Rd until you get to Gower St. Then make a right and take the next right, which is Colonia St. Follow Colonia St back to Military Rd and then make a left onto Military Rd and follow the road.

Then make another left on Kings Rd and follow it all the way to Duckworth St, where it ends.





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





## 5.1.6 Harbourside Park

([map](#), [reviews](#))

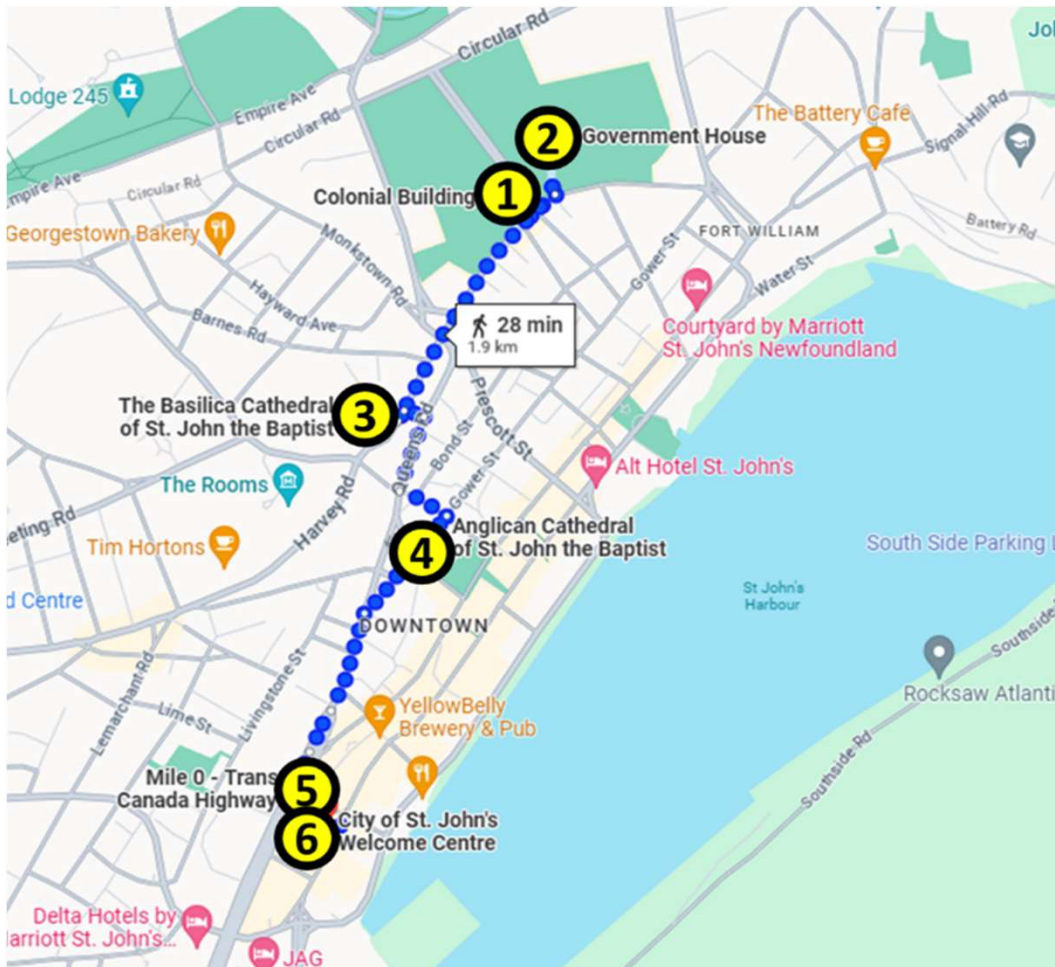
Harbourside Park is a small park near the water from which you have good views of the hills east of the city, fishing boats and the occasional cruise ship. The park has statues of the province's two signature dogs: the Newfoundland and Labrador Retriever.

From mid-June through the second half of September, the Music @ Harbourside concert series runs during lunch hour on Fridays.



## 5.2.1 Self-guided tour of downtown St. John's

Like yesterday, park at or near the Colonial Building. There is only paid parking to visit the other attractions in downtown St. John's, so if you don't mind walking about 2 miles (3 km), then you can leave your car here.



- 1 = [Colonial Building](#)
- 2 = [Government House](#)
- 3 = [Basilica of St. John the Baptist](#)
- 4 = [Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist](#)
- 5 = [Mile 0 - Trans Canada Highway](#)
- 6 = [City of St. John's Welcome Centre](#)



## 5.2.2 Colonial Building ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

The Colonial Building, built from 1847 - 1850, was the home of the Newfoundland government from 1850 - 1959.

Built in neoclassical style, was built from white limestone that was imported from Ireland.

The building is open 7 days a week from May 1 until November 20. Admission is charged and we recommend joining a guided tour. During the tour, you will learn that, in the past, the ruling party chose to sit on the left side of speaker in the House of Assembly, because the heaters were located there, and it was therefore the warmest part of the house in Newfoundland's cold winters.

Even though the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly does not meet in this building anymore, this tradition is apparently still observed.



# Newfoundland Travel Guide



## 5.2.4 Basilica of St. John the Baptist

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

Built from 1839 – 1855, the Basilica of St. John the Baptist is the mother church and symbol of Roman Catholicism in Newfoundland. It was the largest building project in Newfoundland's history and, at that time, it was the largest church in North America. Today, it is the second largest church in Canada.

It was built with limestone and granite from Galway and Dublin (Ireland), bricks from Hamburg (Germany), local sandstone and Newfoundland bluestone which is responsible for the characteristic grey color.

The basilica is not oriented on an east-west or north-south axis, but its facade is oriented along the line between the rising sun during Winter Solstice, and the setting sun during Summer Solstice.

In 2022, the basilica was sold to the Basilica Heritage Foundation (non-profit consortium which protects historic properties) to raise money to compensate men who were sexually abused at the former Mount Cashel Orphanage. The sale does not change the status of the Basilica as the main Catholic church in St. John's.

The East Tower contains one bell that was cast in Ireland. At the time, it was the largest bell ever cast in Ireland. The West Tower has eight smaller bells.

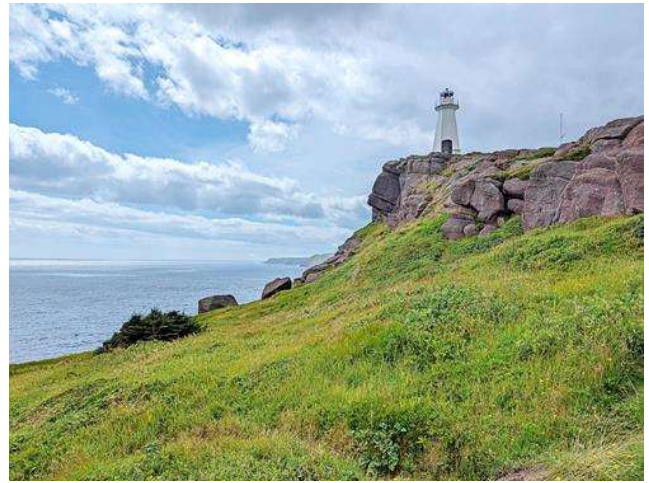


# Newfoundland Travel Guide





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





During World War II, a gun battery with barracks were built here to defend the entrance to St. John's harbor. Parts of the barracks, underground passages and bunkers are empty, but accessible and even the gun barrels are still here.



Now get back to your car and drive to your next destination.

## 5.2.9 Fort Amherst Lighthouse

([map](#), [map\\_parking](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

When you drive to Fort Amherst, please be advised that the road is closed to visitors with cars about 0.4 miles (600 m) before the lighthouse. There is a small parking lot and the walk to the lighthouse from there is easy and has beautiful views.



Fort Amherst was built here in the 1770s, but the original fortifications are no longer visible. The fort was named after William Amherst, who successfully recaptured St. John's from the French in 1762.

The first lighthouse at the Fort Amherst site was built in 1813. The lighthouse you see today was built in 1951 and decommissioned in 1982. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> lighthouse that stands here.





The Fort Amherst Lighthouse is located on the southern side of the Narrows, which is the entrance to St. John's harbor. Fenced off and inaccessible are the remains of World War II defensive structures and two guns that were erected here to defend against German submarines.



Now walk back to your car and find a parking spot near George Street in downtown St. John's for a special ceremony.

# Newfoundland Travel Guide



- 1 = [Trinity Eco-Tours](#)
- 2 = [Trinity](#)
- 3 = [Upper Gun Hill trail](#)
- 4 = [Skerwink trail](#)
- 5 = [Port Rexton Brewery](#)

## 5.3.7 Skerwink trail

([map1](#), [reviews](#), [website1](#), [website2](#))

This is one of the best hikes during your Newfoundland trip – don't skip it!

There is a small parking lot next to the trail head. The trail is a moderately difficult 2.9-mile (4.6 km) hike, which frequently runs near steep drops. So, make sure that you always stay on the trail.

The trail is hiked clockwise and it is very well maintained. It frequently has boardwalks covering areas that get muddy after rain, and stairs to help you manage difficult terrain.

There are still some areas that will be muddy after rain, but you can usually squeeze by the muddy areas without stepping into the mud.

There are many areas where you have absolutely wonderful views of the ocean, beaches, steep cliffs rocks in the water, and beautiful tree-covered hills.

Towards the end of the trail, you will get to White Cove Beach. The trail leads inland from there and shortly after passing the lake to your left, you will come to an area that is covered with low-growing blueberry plants.





1 = Skerwink Trail Trailhead



# Newfoundland Travel Guide





# Newfoundland Travel Guide



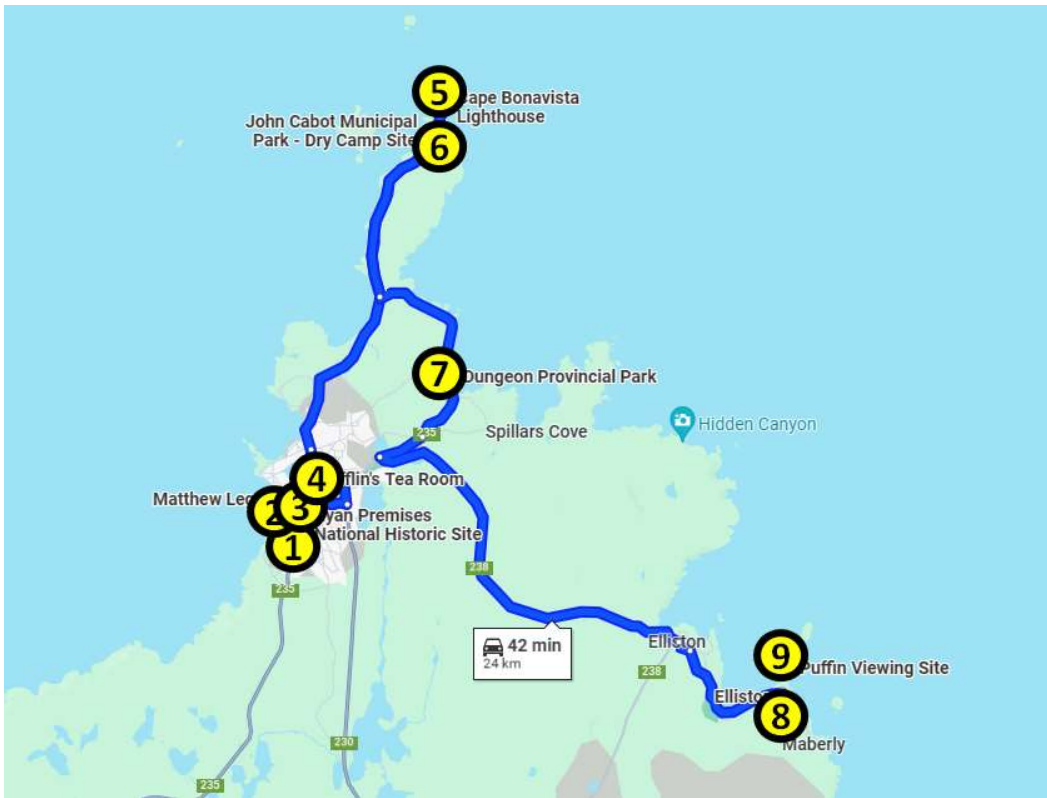


# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---



# Newfoundland Travel Guide



- 1 = [Ryan Premises National Historic Site](#)
- 2 = [Matthew Legacy](#)
- 3 = [Bonavista](#)
- 4 = [Mifflin's Tea Room](#)
- 5 = [Cape Bonavista Lighthouse](#)
- 6 = [John Cabot Municipal Park](#)
- 7 = [Dungeon Provincial Park](#)
- 8 = [Root Cellars](#)
- 9 = [Puffin Viewing Site](#)



## 5.4.1 Ryan Premises National Historic Site

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

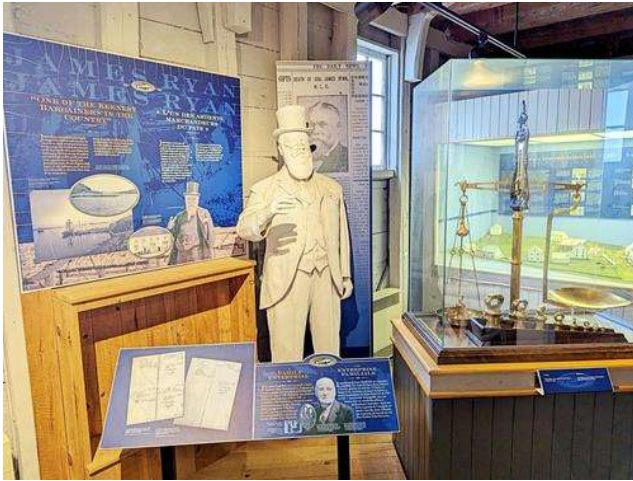
Ryan Premises National Historic Site is a museum that spreads over different buildings. It explains different techniques how cod was caught over the years, the saltfish preparation, how fisherman lived and how merchants ensured that fishermen became and stayed totally dependent on them. It showcases items that were used by local fishermen and their families and it explains how James Ryan succeeded in this cut-throat industry. We found this museum very informative.

It is only open from early June through early October and admission is charged. At the time of writing, it was only CAD4.25 per adult.





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





## Ochre Hill trail ([map](#), [website](#))

Ochre Hill trail is a moderately difficult trail that consists of two parts. The first part is a 1-mile (1.5 km) loop around Ochre Hill Pond. This trail is easy with a couple of moderately difficult areas. You will pass bogs, ponds, and mature forest habitats.

Branching off almost at the half-way point is a moderately difficult trail extension that is 2.2 miles (3.5 km) back and forth. It ends at a lookout of beautiful Bread Cove and Clode Sound.

Parts of the trail were severely damaged by Hurricane Igor in 2010 and you can see lots of downed trees and how nature is reclaiming this habitat.

The trail begins near **Ochre Hill Viewpoint tower** ([map](#)), which is not part of the trail, but our recommendation is to go there first and hike up. The upper observation lounge is closed, but you can walk to the deck below for fantastic 360-degree views of Terra Nova National Park.





# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---





## Heritage Trail ([map](#))

The Heritage Trail begins at the foot bridge near the Terra Nova National Park Visitor Center. It is an easy stroller-friendly 0.3-mile (0.5 km) loop. The trail goes by a kid's playground.

When you are on the bridge, take a close look at the river below you. We saw quite a few jellyfish and some small fish.



## 5.11.3 Grand Bank Lighthouse

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

The Grand Bank Lighthouse was built in 1921. You can access the harbor from Water Street and the jetty across the harbor from the lighthouse. You will see fishing boats in the harbor and maybe out in the ocean.

You can't really see it anymore, but there is a story that a sailing schooner collided with the lighthouse, leaving a dent the B in the word Bank from Grand Bank.

The lighthouse is not spectacular, but we found the jetty to be very peaceful with great views of the town, the ocean, and the scenery. There are also some beautiful murals on the way to the jetty.





# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---



## 5.11.4 Provincial Seamen's Museum

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

This museum is part of The Rooms museum located in St John's. It is an architecturally interesting building with a beautiful mural on its ocean-facing side.

The museum features parts of ships and lighthouses and commonly used items by seamen from the 1800s through today on the first floor. The items are grouped and numbered and you look up more details on information cards that are displayed at each group.

On the mezzanine level is the local sports hall of fame and on the upper level, you will find china, carriages, sleighs, bicycles, diving equipment, construction tools, etc., basically a chaotic mix of everything old the museum could get their hands on.

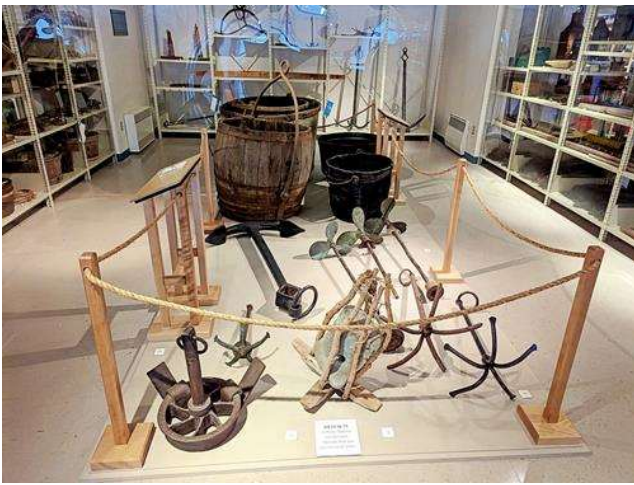
At the time of writing, they have a special exhibition of old stamps and postcards, which I found very interesting.

Because admission is only CAS2.50 per adult and they have free wifi, I can recommend this museum.





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





## 5.11.5 Burin Heritage Square

([map](#), [website](#))

Burin Heritage Square consist of a grassy park with a deck and colorful seating, the Burin Heritage House and the Oldest Colony Trust Building. Across from the park are public restrooms. There is also a café, a bank, a gallery, and a post office.

Starting at the Oldest Colony Trust Building is a boardwalk that is 1,250 ft (380 m) long (one way) and goes through the water along the rocky coast.

The views from the boardwalk are gorgeous.





# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





# Newfoundland Travel Guide



Besides the houses, here are some sights in Miquelon that are worth exploring:

- **Town Square ([map](#))**

The small town square in front of the church has an obelisk which commemorates the locals who gave their lives in WWI. Some of the flower beds are nicely decorated.



- **Église Notre-Dame-des-Ardilliers de Miquelon ([map](#), [reviews](#))**

The church was built between 1862 and 1865, replacing an older church that was in disrepair. There are several sea-themed works inside the church – even a canoe is hanging near the entrance.







Near the church is a monument that provides more information about the forced migration of the Acadians in French and English.

- **Post Office ([map](#))**

Be advised that the post office has limited opening hours and closes during lunch.

- **Harbor ([map](#))**

The harbor and the beach next to it is a quiet place that only gets a little busy when the ferry arrives. Other than that, it is a nice place to relax and watch people going about their daily business.



Also check out the beach south of the harbor.





## 5.12.5 Entrez-Nous restaurant / Michael's Bar ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

There are only few restaurants in Miquelon and unlike St. Pierre, it is not necessary to make a reservation, but a reservation can definitely help. See more information about the restaurants [here](#).

Entrez-Nous restaurant / Michael's Bar is the most upscale restaurant in Miquelon. It opens for dinner at 7pm and our server spoke excellent English.

The restaurant exists since 1932 and serves French dishes. We found the food to be delicious and this was our favorite restaurant on Miquelon.

From the window, there is a good view of the island.



## 5.13.2 Le Cap de Miquelon

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

The Cap de Miquelon trail is one of the most beautiful trails on the island. It is of medium difficulty and provides beautiful views.

The trail starts at the Belvédère du Cap de Miquelon ([map](#)), where you have gorgeous views on Miquelon.



To get there, you can either walk from your hotel (it will take 40-50 min), or ask the place where you are staying if they can give you a ride. Alternatively, you can rent a bicycle. Just be advised that the last 0.4 miles (700 m) to the overlook are very steep.

The first part of the trail, from the water reservoir to the rocky north coast of Miquelon has several parts where you will walk over wooden boardwalks and wooden stairs. When you turn right onto the trail along the rocky coastline, the boardwalks will end and, if there was recent rain, the trail will be very muddy. Rubber boots are best suited for this part of the trail. But since the trail until here was very beautiful already, you can just turn around.



# St. Pierre & Miquelon Travel Guide

---

There are no predatory mammals like bears on St. Pierre and Miquelon. Just make sure that you bring some snacks and lots of water.



1 = Cap de Miquelon Trailhead



# St. Pierre & Miquelon Travel Guide

---





On your way back to town, walk along the serene and peaceful beach.



# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---





# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





## 5.15.2 Self-guided tour of the Île-aux-Marins

([map](#), [reviews](#))

The visitor center ([map](#)) arranges one 2h guided tour of Île-aux-Marins per day from mid-May through mid-October. You can either sign up at the visitor center or do the trip yourself. There are placards on Île-aux-Marins that briefly explain many of the things you will see, but a guided tour will, of course, provide much more information.

The ferry to Île-aux-Marins does not depart from the ferry dock. As a matter of fact, the ‘ferry’ is really a boat that only carries pedestrians. It departs from the dock near the Antenna Ifremer De Saint-Pierre Et Miquelon building ([map](#)) and the trip lasts about 10 min.

You can walk right up to the boat, enter, and then wait for a staff member to approach you to pay the 6 Euro (cash-only) per person, at the time of writing, for the return trip.

The ferry departs about every 2h between 8:30am and 6pm, but not during lunch time. Contact the **St. Pierre and Miquelon visitor center** ([map](#), [website](#), [phone: \(+508\) 41 02 00](#), [email: \[saint-pierre@spm-tourisme.fr\]\(mailto:saint-pierre@spm-tourisme.fr\)](#)) for the departure times at the time of your visit.



The island was first settled in 1604. It was called Ile-aux-Chiens (Island of Dogs) and primarily used for drying fish. The population, which consisted of fishermen and their families, peaked at more than 600 people at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then started declining. The last inhabitant left the island in the 1960s.

In 1931, the name was changed to Île-aux-Marins (The Island of the Sailors). Today, the island is seasonally occupied from May through October.

In 1945, the island was annexed by the city of Saint-Pierre.

In 1971, the ship Transpacific grounded near the islands and a part of the bow can still be found on the beach.

Île-aux-Marins can be easily explored within 2-3h.



# St. Pierre & Miquelon Travel Guide



- 1 = [Boat Dock](#)
- 2 = [Old Fort](#)
- 3 = [Shipwreck of the Transpacific](#)
- 4 = [Garage des Pompiers](#)
- 5 = [L'Atelier](#)
- 6 = [Ecole Archipelitude Museum](#)
- 7 = [Eglise Notre Dame des Marins](#)
- 8 = [Chemin de Croix](#)
- 9 = [World War Memorial \(Monument aux Morts\)](#)
- A = [Lighthouse \(Le Phare\)](#)
- B = [Maison Morel \(Fisherman's house\)](#)

## 1. Boat Dock on Île-aux-Marins ([map](#))

When you arrive at the boat dock, get on the island, and follow the path until it ends after 400 ft (120 m) and then turn left and walk up the hill for about 0.3 miles (500 m) until a trail to the Old Fort branches off to your left.





## 2. Old Fort on Île-aux-Marins ([map](#))

The Crimean War was fought between Russia and an alliance of the Ottoman Empire, France, Britain, and Sardinia-Piedmont from 1853-1856. To defend St. Pierre against a possible Russian attack, a fort with 4 cannons was built here between 1854 and 1856. The cannons were never fired in anger, they were only used on Bastille Day.

Now walk back to the trail, turn left, and follow it for another 750 ft (220 m) until you get to the beach.



## 3. Shipwreck of the Transpacific on Île-aux-Marins ([map](#))

In 1971, the ship Transpacific grounded near the islands and a part of the bow and other parts of the ship still lie on the beach.

On May 18, 1971, St Pierre was engulfed in thick fog. The 3,865-ton cargo ship Transpacific coming from Québec had a failing radar and ran aground on the Marie-Rose reef near the island. Following several unsuccessful attempts to get the ship off the reef, the

captain and his crew abandoned the ship. Soon, fearless locals started looting the ship, taking everything that wasn't bolted down: hundreds of lawn mowers, juke boxes, engines, food, beverage, tableware, furniture, the ship's compass, helm and bell.

To avoid pollution from the ship's fuel and engine oil, the ship was partly burned afterwards.







Now walk back to the main trail and turn left towards the dock. When you get to the turnoff to the dock, don't turn right. Instead, continue on for another 120 ft (40 m) and then turn left and walk for 300 ft (90 m) to your next destination.

## 11. Maison Morel (Fisherman's house) on Île-aux-Marins ([map](#))

This house, which belonged to Eugene Morel, originally stood in Saint-Pierre. In 1916, it was dismantled and rebuilt at its current location.

The wooden fishermen's house has four rooms on the ground floor, including a large kitchen. Next to the kitchen is a smaller back kitchen.

Morel's fishing shed originally stood closer to the shore, but was moved to its current location around 1950.

The stone fields in front of the buildings are drying grounds for cod fish. The island had many such drying grounds in the past.







Now walk back to the ferry dock ([map](#)) and take the ferry back to St. Pierre.

## 5.16.1 hike L'Anse-a-Henry

([map](#))

Some of the earliest items that prove human occupation of St. Pierre around 3,000 BC were found at L'Anse-a-Henry. Today, L'Anse-a-Henry is one of the best places to hike on St. Pierre. You can either walk to the trailhead from downtown St. Pierre or take a taxi. The walk is about 45min, while the taxi ride is about 5min. More information on taxis in St. Pierre can be found [here](#).



- 1 = L'Anse-a-Henry Trailhead
- 2 = Vue sur le Grand Colombier (Overlook)
- 3 = Beach



The trail starts at an unassuming bridge ([map](#)) and then goes through beautiful scenery and rewards you with beautiful views. Shortly behind the bridge are blackberry shrubs. After 1.1 miles (1.8 km) you will come to an overlook (Vue sur le Grand Colombier) ([map](#)) with a bench where you can rest or explore the surrounding area. Until this point, the hike is of moderate difficulty.

We relaxed on the bench and were able to see the spouts from several exhaling whales and a ship near the island of Grand Colombier of which you have a fabulous view.

After the bench, the trail narrows and goes fairly steep down to the beach for 0.4 miles (600 m). Chances are that you will share the rocky downhill trail with water that is running down the hill. This part of the trail is moderate-to-difficult.





# St. Pierre & Miquelon Travel Guide

---





# St. Pierre & Miquelon Travel Guide





# St. Pierre & Miquelon Travel Guide

---





## 5.17.3 Shipwreck in Conception Harbour

([map](#), [reviews](#))

The SS Charcot was a whaling ship that was built in 1923 in Norway and sold to different whaling companies over the years. It was named after French polar explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot who led several expeditions to Antarctica and Greenland.

The ship was based at the Hawke Harbour whaling station in Labrador, Canada, where it was used to hunt whales until the whaling station burned down in 1959. Afterwards, it was moored at Conception Harbour, where it was retired as the declining whaling industry made the ship unprofitable.

The SS Charcot was involved in several incidents and accidents:

- 1928: it collided with an iceberg, which damaged its hull. The ship was able to return to port for repairs
- 1931: its engine caught fire and ignited the oil tanks. The crew was able to escape and the blaze could be seen from miles away. The badly damaged ship was out of service for several months for repairs
- 1942: it was attacked by a German submarine U-132, but two torpedoes missed and the ship managed to escape by increasing the speed and zigzagging away
- 1954: it ran aground near Cape Harrison, Labrador and took on water. Only with the help of a tugboat at high tide was it able to get off the rock
- 1970: during a storm, the mooring broke and the ship ran aground and sank in Conception Harbour

After its retirement, the SS Charcot was used as a storage vessel for whale oil and other materials. Due to neglect, it deteriorated over time.

The shipwreck is still visible from the shore and attracts visitors and photographers.

There are two other shipwrecks in Conception Harbour that lie on their sides right behind the SS Charcot. Both ships (SS Sukha and SS Southern Foam) are fully submerged and cannot be seen from shore.

After years of slowly leaking fuel into the harbor, the Canadian Coast Guard removed about 3,700 gal (14000 l) of fuel from the tank of the SS Sukha to prevent further environmental damage to the harbor and its wildlife.







- 1 = La Manche Provincial Park Entrance ([map](#))
- 2 = Road to Suspension Bridge trailhead ([map](#))
- 3 = Suspension Bridge trailhead parking ([map](#))
- 4 = Suspension Bridge ([map](#))



# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---





# Newfoundland Travel Guide

---





## 5.18.4 Colony of Avalon

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

Located in the small town of Ferryland (less than 400 inhabitants), the Colony of Avalon was established by Edward Wynne for Sir George Calvert, the first Baron Baltimore, in 1621, after the land was granted to Calvert one year earlier.

The colony was the first successful permanent colony in Newfoundland. Four years after its founding, the population reached 100 people.

Ferryland was officially established by the English as a harbor for migratory fishermen in the late 1500s, but the area had been used by the French, Portuguese and Spanish before that. In the 1590s, Ferryland was one of the most popular fishing harbors in Newfoundland.

The Colony of Avalon was named after the mythical island of Avalon in the Arthurian legend.

Today, the colony is one of the earliest and best-preserved English colonial sites in all of North America.

Excavations of the site showed that the colony had a cobblestone street, stone- and timber houses, a kitchen, a forge, a brewery, a cemetery, and a chapel that was used by Catholics and Protestants



# Newfoundland Travel Guide

The colony was attacked by the Dutch in the 1660s and destroyed by the French in 1696 and then abandoned. It took almost 3 centuries to re-discover the site. Excavations of the site began in the late 1980s and continue to this day.

You can visit the site and even walk on a short section of the original cobblestone street. There is almost no signage that explains what you are seeing, so we strongly suggest joining one of the excellent guided tours between June and September.





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





# Newfoundland Travel Guide





## 2. The Wharf at Quidi Vidi ([map](#), [reviews](#))

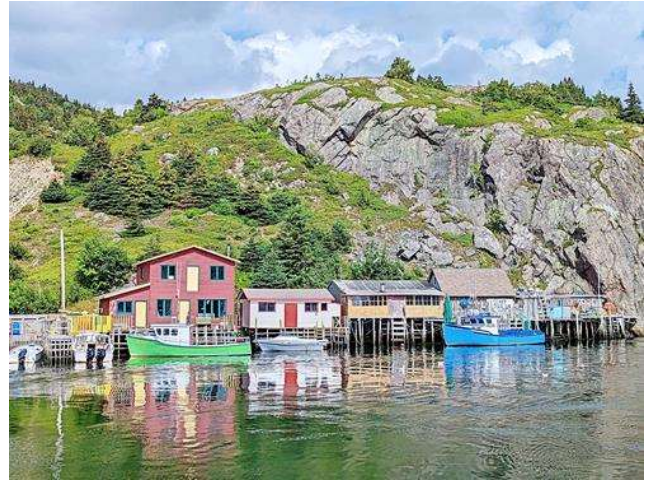
The Quidi Vidi Wharf is the central plaza of Quidi Vidi and the focal point in town that almost all tourists visit. In summer, there are several food trucks where you can buy food and ice cream and even a beer garden.





# Newfoundland Travel Guide

It is here where you have the most iconic post card view of Quidi Vidi's harbor, which is locally known as 'The Gut'.







## 6. Closing Remarks

### ABOUT RUDY FROM BACKPACK & SNORKEL

I was born in Germany and emigrated to the US in 2003. My wife and I are a truly multinational couple: I, with my German background, and she with her Chinese heritage. Both of us live in the USA.

Sadly, working in the US means we have much fewer vacation days compared to other countries like e.g. Germany and thus we cannot travel very frequently.

Through a lot of trial and error, we have found our ideal travel and vacation style. **Making Memorable Moments** by focusing on important destinations, planning time for meeting the locals and, of course, for relaxation are our priorities.

We have also learned to appreciate local foods and try to eat as many local dishes as possible. Just for fun, we try to eat at one Chinese restaurant in each country we visit. It is absolutely amazing how different Chinese food is all over the planet.





## MAKING MEMORABLE MOMENTS

You may take 10,000 photos during your vacation, rush from one attraction to the next, but what you will remember in your heart is how you were **Making Memorable Moments**.

For me, that was e.g. Spider Rock in Canyon de Chelly (ever heard of this US National Park?). When I first saw it, I was blown away by this majestic natural obelisk and the beautiful canyon that it sits in. I have been there two more times and still feel the same.

Or think of Isla Mujeres, a small island outside Cancun, Mexico. On the surface, Playa Norte is supposedly Mexico's most beautiful beach and it is always crowded and the boats that anchor there play loud music. Below the surface, Isla Mujeres is very relaxed, quite walkable and it has friendly locals, good authentic Mexican food and good international cuisine and is often very affordable.

**Isla Mujeres is our personal paradise!**



## PACK YOUR BACKPACK & SNORKEL AND LET'S GO

Our travel style has evolved over the years. We are packing light these days when we travel and typically only need a small backpack per person - see my [Traveling Light Guide](#).

With this guide, I want to provide value to you and help you plan your own relaxing vacations with the goal of **Making Memorable Moments!**

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.