

Ocean Abundance

Forget what you think you know about northern climates. This is where arctic species meet their southern cousins. The result is a place teeming with life big and small.

Humpbacks, minkes, dolphins and orcas. Eider ducks, arctic terns, bald eagles and ospreys. The cold Labrador Current draws creatures here to feed and breed. Hear a blow and look up to see a humpback's balloon-shaped spray drift across the water. The humpbacks and their calves will feed here all summer before returning to the Caribbean to breed.

Gaze up a telephone pole to spy on an osprey's nest. See the gannets diving like darts into the water as they hunt for prey.

This is also the island's northern tip of **Iceberg Alley**. June to August, the bights are blocked with **berg bits** and **growlers** ("small", house-sized bergs). Their long journey from Greenland comes to an end as they melt slowly in the coves.



Photo courtesy of The VIA and Rolf Hicker

Kayak near icebergs



Photo courtesy of The VIA and Rolf Hicker

Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve



Photo: Angela Laing

Fossils at North Boat Harbour



Nesting gannets

Small Wonders

Look closely. This landscape holds small wonders. In May and June, the barrens bloom with miniature **orchids** and other rare arctic-alpine plants. The **Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve** is home to over 300 different plant species. Several, including the endangered Burnt Cape Cinquefoil, are found nowhere else but here on the Great Northern Peninsula.



Photo: Angela Laing

Swamp thistle

Limestone rock formations at North Boat Harbour

Visit
Newfoundland's
Great
Northern
Peninsula



Discover
on a **higher**
level

Photo courtesy of The Viking Trail Tourism Association and Rolf Hicker

Cape Bauld Lighthouse on Quirpon Island



You'll Find it all up Here

Where else can you stand with **rare arctic-alpine blooms** and **ancient fossils** at your feet... where **humpback whales** breach next to giant **icebergs** and the waves have carved **sea caves** and pinnacles of limestone along the shore?

Where else can you hear haunting tales of **Vikings**, wandering Irish monks, **shipwrecks**, demon isles and French **explorers**... where life between land and sea is much as it has been for hundreds of years?

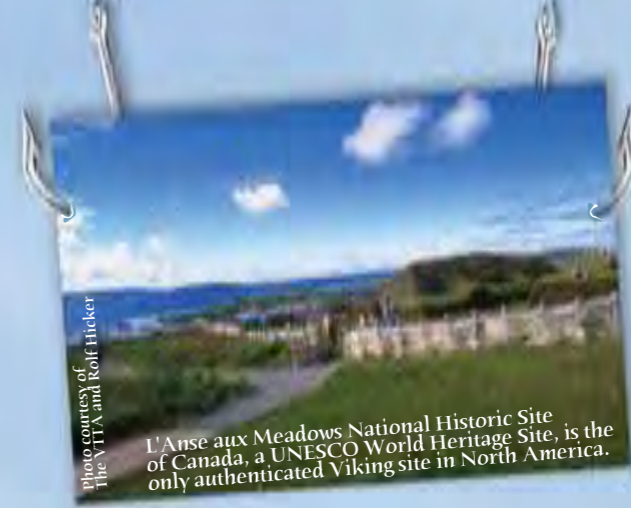
It's all up here...

From big to small, Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula is a place of unexpected extremes. We're as far north on the Island as you can go.

Come, discover life on a higher level.

Photo: Viking Boat Tours

Humpback whale



A Life between Land & Sea

There's a flavour here of life on the edge - before supermarkets, highways and transport trucks.

Vegetables are home-grown in roadside gardens, houses are still heated with logs cut from the woods, and there's usually a jar or two of moose meat and wild berry jam in the pantry for winter.

Roadside gardens aren't just charming, they're practical. It's the way things are done up here. Why clear your land when a road crew has already turned the topsoil on a sheltered, inland plot? Fences adorned with bags are all you need to keep the potatoes safe. **Moose** are the only thieves to worry about up here.

There's **wood drying** in tee-pee stacks. Wild berries grow along every trail. "Fill your boots" with **partridgeberries, bakeapples, and blueberries**. The cooler climate concentrates the sugars and makes everything sweeter.



Northern Adventurers

From Leif Eiriksson to St. Brendan, from Jacques Cartier to Sir Wilfred Grenfell - this peninsula's history comes big and small.

This peninsula was 'Vinland' to the Vikings, and 'Le Petit Nord' - the little North - to the French. You can still feel the mystery and adventure of these early explorers crackling in the crisp northern air.

Most will know about the Vikings, but scratch the surface and you'll find a thousand hidden histories. Shipwrecks, rescues and abandoned mines. A **demon isle**, a **bottomless pit**, and the haunting **Brown Man of Muddy Cove**.

The folk stories here stretch back generations. There's even a nugget of truth in them... usually!





Photo: ANGLIA HAINES

Yellow Lady's Slipper



United Church in Cook's Harbour

Route 435 to The Highlands

Captain James Cook named **Cook's Harbour** when he charted this coast in 1764. Back then, this was part of the French Shore. Hundreds of Breton sailors fished here every summer until the late 1800s. You'll find French fishing gear at the **community museum** and the graves of Frenchmen far from home next to the Cook's Harbour wharf. The old wooden **United Church** is a reminder of this community's more recent English past as a prosperous supply stop for schooners sailing by to fish 'up the Labrador.'

Walk the **Whale Point Trail** (1 hr) in **Wild Bight** to see icebergs, harp seals, and humpback and minke whales. The trail continues for one hour towards the **Cape Norman Lighthouse**, the northern-most point on the island. From here, the Labrador Coast can be seen clear across The Strait of Belle Isle.

At **North Boat Harbour**, start on the beach at the 1907 **wreck** of the schooner Eastwood, and take the **Highlands Trail** (1.5 hrs) across the **limestone barrens**. You'll find fossils and rare plants against a backdrop of rocky limestone pinnacles shaped by the sea.

At the abandoned community of **Big Brook**, on the aptly named Unfortunate Cove, look for the skeletal remains of the Empire Energy, a **cargo ship** wrecked by German U-boats in 1942.

All walking times are approximate return times at a moderate pace. Never stray from the trail. Always pack water and a snack. Tell someone your destination and estimated return time. Dress prepared for weather conditions to change without warning.



Route 437 to The Cape

At the **Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve** you'll see plants that are unique in the world, touch 400-million-year-old fossils, and step into the eerie echo of a sea cave known as 'The Big Oven'. Start your two-hour tour with an interpreter at **Pistolet Bay Provincial Park**.

Back at **Raleigh**, experience the past first-hand with the Raleigh Historical Corporation. The community offers adventure holidays on which visitors have the chance to work and live as members of a fishing crew, catching and curing cod as it was done in the old days.

At **Ship Cove**, Icelandic poppies blow and residents have a knack for whimsical yard art. **Treena's Trail** (1.5 hrs) circuits the community and offers views of the Sacred Islands and 'Album Rock.' In 1858, French photographer Paul-Émile Miot painted and photographed the word 'album' on this 20-foot sea stack to create the cover for his famous collection of pictures from the French Shore.

French fishing here was in decline when the Adams family settled on nearby **Cape Onion** in 1874. Their steep-gabled **1890 house** still stands as a testament to their history as merchants and ship builders who stepped in as the French ships sailed away.

Route 436 to Vinland

St. Lunaire-Griquet's French past is kept alive through its name, and through the **Capitaine Liberge de Granchain Exhibit** at the Fisherman's Centre. For stories steeped in myth, ask a local about the bottomless pit and walk the **St. Brendan's Rock Trail** (1.5 hrs). Find a guide to help you uncover the carved stone that some say lends credit to the theory that Irish monks sailed here around 500 A.D. Before you leave town, visit the **Economuseum** to get a different kind of story on the journey from berry to jam jar.

On to **Gunner's Cove**, where the name says it all. The birds here are more likely to be shot with a camera these days. The name for Noddy Bay came naturally to Captain Cook when he saw hundreds of noddies, or **Atlantic fulmars**, nesting on the cliffs. This is bird-watching heaven. Walk the **Squid Jiggin' Point Trail** (45 min) from the end of the gravel road in **Noddy Bay**, the **Cape Raven Trail** (1.5 hrs) in **Straitsview**, and the **Noddy Bay Head Trail** (40 min) in nearby **Hay Cove** to see fulmars, gannets, and gulls galore.

Jacques Cartier anchored in **Quirpon** (pronounced car-poon) in 1534 when this was Le Kerpont - a busy fishing station. You'll find a taste of this history restored at the French **bread oven** site. Merchant William Henry Pynn arrived and built a home here in 1892. It still stands, as does the **1908 lighthouse** that guided his schooners from atop the cliffs at **Cape Bauld** on **Quirpon Island**, also known as the Isle of Demons. You can reach the island by boat or see it from the **Tickle Lookout Trail** (30 min).

Still up for a walk? Seabirds, a **sea cave**, and the 1947 **wreck** of the S.S. Langleecrag can be seen from **Lacey's Trail** (2 hrs), which starts off the main road to L'Anse aux Meadows. At **L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the story of the Norse who came here around 1000 A.D. comes alive. Nearby, **Norstead: A Viking Port of Trade**, is an imaginative recreation of life as it might have been had the Vikings stayed and put down roots.



Photo: Viking Trail Tourism Association

Grenfell Historic Properties, St. Anthony

Route 430 to Northern Adventure

So many icebergs run aground off the **St. Anthony Bight Loop Trail** (10 min) that it's known as an **iceberg graveyard**. You'll find this trail 2 km north of the community. For more icebergs, try the **John Patey's Cove Boardwalk Trail** (15 min) in **St. Carol's**. The **Flat Point Trail** (25 min) behind the cemetery in **Great Brehat** (pronounced "braha") is known as a great spot for berry picking.

In **St. Anthony**, the **Grenfell Historic Properties** are a must-see. Sir Wilfred Grenfell rubbed shoulders with the Roosevelts and Rockefellers as he raised funds for his medical mission here. Relive Dr. Grenfell's story through multimedia exhibits at the **interpretation centre** and a tour through Grenfell's **1909 period house**. From the lighthouse at Fishing Point Park in St. Anthony, climb the 400 steps to a lookout high above the icebergs and whales that often gather here.

Walk the **Back Cove Trail** (1 hr) from the **Goose Cove** town hall to find the abandoned shafts of the **copper mine** that closed here in 1911. Stop in at the **Pulmy Cove Trail** (30 min) in **Goose Cove** to see if you can find a **humpback** playing in the waves.



Woodstacks and fishing sheds, stores and stages are common sights along this shore.

Photo: SABRI