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Newfoundland & Labrador - Stunning Landscapes, Icebergs, Whales, Puffins

By Debbie Tougas



Colourful houses in Trinity, NL.



Humpback whales. I took a boat tour with Sea of Whales Adventure located in Trinity, NL.



Atlantic Puffins build their nest by digging a shallow burrow or hole.

I've been to Newfoundland several times. It's one of my favourite places in Canada to visit. My preferred time of year to go is late May to early July. Just like Alberta, the weather can change in a minute. It might start out to be a beautiful sunny day, and the next thing you know you're stopping to put a rain sleeve over your camera and lens. I learned firsthand why Newfoundland has been called "the foggiest place on earth." I often had to wait for the fog to lift before heading out to take photos. I've taken trips to Newfoundland both on my own or I've joined a photography tour. I really enjoyed being with a group of like-minded individuals when on a tour. With each trip, I've left a little bit more of my heart there.

Newfoundland has a fascinating rich history, wonderful culture and many amazing natural wonders. It's known for its colourful homes, its unique dialect, and spectacular scenery. Take for example the stunning landscape of Gros Morne National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I've ridden a boat through fjords formed by glaciers tens of thousands of years ago and visited the Tablelands, one of two sites on earth where mantle rock lies exposed on the surface. The rock was forced to the surface in a tectonic event approximately 500 million years past. I've also seen the remains of a Viking village at L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site.

The photography opportunities in Newfoundland are endless! Driving around the island, I found numerous tiny, picturesque fishing communities to photograph. Some of these communities have very distinct names: *Come By Chance*, *Blow Me Down* and the one made famous by talk show host Jimmy Kimmel, *Dildo*. A must place to check out is *Nan and Pop's Dildo Souvenir Shop*. I promise, it's not what you think!

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Individual whales can be identified by their unique flukes.



Puffins are only 7-9" tall.



Iceberg at Bacon Cove, an hour outside of St. John's NL.

And what is on everyone's bucket list to photograph when visiting Newfoundland? Icebergs, whales and puffins! The best time I found to view icebergs is late May until late June. *St. Anthony, Twillingate, Bonavista and St. John's/Cape Spear* are the most popular spots to see the ice giants. When I took a boat tour from *St. Anthony*, I wasn't disappointed! It was amazing to see and photograph the massive icebergs up close.

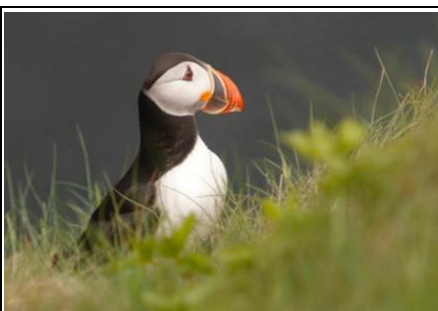
The Atlantic Puffin is the official bird of Newfoundland and Labrador. Puffins are sometimes called "sea parrots" because of their interesting colours. My favourite puffin viewing area is at *Elliston*. What I wasn't expecting is how small puffins are. They are only about 7-8 inches tall! I assumed they were about the size of a penguin. Besides being small in stature, they are very fast. I soon realized that a fast shutter speed was a must to photograph these little guys. The best time to see the puffins is May to September when they come to *Elliston* for the mating season.

If you get the chance, absolutely take a trip to "The Rock." You may even get "screeched in." All I had to do was kiss a cod fish, take a shot of 100 proof rum (screech) and recite "*deed I is me ol' cock, and long may your big jib draw!*" I still have no idea what that means. I was then presented a certificate declaring me an honorary Newfoundlander!

I've gone with [Camera Adventures](#) photo tour company twice to Newfoundland. There are three tours available in summer 2023. I encourage everyone to visit, you won't be disappointed.



Quidi Vidi fishing village is known for its brewery. Its local lager is brewed with water harvested nearby icebergs.



Puffins fly very quickly, so you'll need a fast shutter speed.



Spillars Cove. The fog gave the scene a Jurassic Park feel.