



NOVA SCOTIA AND NEWFOUNDLAND



This is the English version of our travelreport on our holiday in Canada. This holiday, in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, was from June 9th till July 1st 1997. In that time we drove round both isles. We saw a lot of [wildlife](#) and had wonderful [weather](#) for a holiday where you intend to do a lot of walking and visit the many places of interest.

On this page I tell you about the things we did and the places we visited, together with a lot of links to interesting sites. The last time I checked these links was July 31st 2001 .

This page was visited times since 1st september 1997.

Last and final update 28th June 1998. Enjoy and let me know how you like this travelreport by mail to pjslim@box.nl

General information

We booked our holiday with [Askja Reizen](#). This tourorganisation specialises in holidays to Iceland, but has also an interesting program for Canada and Alaska. We booked a fly-and-drive including bookings for all the hotels and guesthouses during our tour. Because it was the Cabot Year on Newfoundland, this was a good option, else we would have had trouble finding accommodation near St.Johns.

Now everyting was arranged and we had good accommodation everywhere. The people of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are friendly and the food is fine, especially when you like seafood.

DAY 1 (June 09) - Arrival

Flying with Iceland Air to Halifax (Nova Scotia), car hired at Hertz and stay in Holiday Inn Select.

DAY 2 (June 10) - Peggy's Cove / Lunenburg

Visiting Peggy's Cove with its nice lighthouse, Mahone Bay, with the three churches along the lake and Lunenburg, with its nice old wooden houses and churches. Stay at Lunenburg Inn. Perfect meal (seafood) at the Old Fishfactory.

DAY 3 (June 11) - Kejimkujik

Traveling to "Keji" (Kejimkujik National Park). Walks in the forest and along the lakes. It was not as wild there as we had expected. Stay at Kempt, the Whitman Inn.

DAY 4 (June 12) - Keji and Annapolis Royal

A last nice walk in Keji, then to Annapolis Royal. See the high and low tides along the boardwalk, visiting Fort Anne and a nice meal at Newman's. Stay at Wandlyn Annapolis Royal a very simple motel.

DAY 5 (June 13) - Brier Island

Breakfast at Tim Horton (coffee, bagel, muffin). Drive to Brier Island including 2 ferries (\$2 each). Fog, rain and wind. Stay at Brier Island Lodge. In spite of the bad weather we made a walk along the coast and entered a colony of gulls who didn't like seeing us. We missed the whalewatch tour because of the bad weather.

DAY 6 (June 14) - Truro



Long drive to Truro. Stops on our way at The Ballancing rock (nice walk down to the sea), Tim Horton (lunch), Pizza Hut (diner). Walk in Victoria Park at Truro, an amazing piece of nature in the middle of the town and we saw the Tidal Bore. Stay at Best Western.

DAY 7 (June 15) - Cape Breton Island

Again a long, but nice drive. Detour to Little Narrows with the ferry. We saw Bald-eagles and a Kingfisher. We have diner at Coastal Waters, Ingonish and stay at the Island Inn. From our room we have a wonderful view across the sea.

DAY 8 (June 16) - Cabottrail

Several short walks in Cape Breton National Park: beaverdam, Kingfisher, Loons, Pitcher plant, bogs. At Cheticamp the hooked rugs from Elizabeth LeFort and an early "diner" at Tim Horton's. We had this early meal because we went whalewatching with Whaletours. We see gannets, a Minke whale and 8 Pilot whales.

DAY 9 (June 17) - Cheticamp



We visit the Visitor Centre of the park and make a nice long walk where we see our first moose. On our way to North Sidney we visit the Bell Museum at Baddeck (worthwhile). Stay at Best Western and have a fine dinner there in the North Star Inn (seafood/pasta).

DAY 10 (June 18) - Sailing to Newfoundland

Leaving North Sidney at 11:30 am, arriving at Port aux Basques 18:15 (NFLD time). Along the TCH, at an Ultramar station, dinner (near Stephenville). Stay at Holiday Inn, Cornerbrook.

DAY 11 (June 19) - Gros Morne National Park

Drive to Visitor Centre Gros Morne and we have lunch at Rocky Harbour. Here we also subscribe for a boat tour the next day. Today we make walks in forests with lots of lichens and mosses. Stay and dinner, a wonderful lobster, in Shallow Bay Motel at Cowshead. We have a simple room with a wonderful view across the sea. In fact the sea is just 5 meters away(!)

DAY 12 (June 20) - Western Brook Pond

Early rise to catch the 10 o'clock boat tour on Western Brook Pond. From the parking lot to the boat is a 45 minute walk through the bogs over a good path. The tour on the inland fjord is wonderful. We see lots of waterfalls coming down from 60m high cliffs. On our way back to the car we see 3 moose. In the afternoon walks at Lobster Cove Head and Berry Hill. The "after-dinner-walk" is along The Old Mill Road a little north of Cowhead. Here everything is as "wild" as we had imagined. You can have the feeling you are the only one there together with the moose, plants, birds etc. We like Newfoundland better as Nova Scotia, though Cape Breton Island is very nice indeed.

DAY 13 (June 21) - Grant Falls Windsor

A long tour from Cowhead to Grant Falls Windsor including a 100 km detour to Brighton where we saw our first iceberg. Stay at Mount Peyton Hotel. We also visit the Salmon Centre and see a nice waterfall. A little piece of nature amidst an industrial estate.



DAY 14 (June 22) - Terra Nova

Walks in Terra Nova: Louil Hill, Buckley Cove and the Marine Interpretation Centre (worthwhile). Lots of moose droppings and prints, lots of lichens and mosses, red squirrels, spotted sandpiper. Stay and very good diner at Terra Nova Lodge. View over the sea where we saw an osprey fishing.

DAY 15 (June 23) - Bonavista

Tour to Bonavista: preparations for the next day (arrival of the Mattew, visit of the queen). We see icebergs, puffins, black guillemots, moose. Also visit to the Dungeons and Trinity a nice old town with lots of wooden houses.

Stay at The Lilac Inn. I think Doug wouldn't mind receiving e-mail from you for a reservation!

DAY 16 (June 24) - Terra Nova and St. Johns

Arrival of the Mattew, but we go for a last walk in Terra Nova and go on to St. Johns. Diner at Rumpelstiltskins, a good place for breakfast and dinner, and stay in the Comfort Inn.

DAY 17 (June 25) - Cape Spear and Witless Bay

Great day with visit to the most easterly point of North America, Cape Spear. We see Minke and Humpbackwhales from the shore. Whale and birdwatchingtour at Bay Bulls to Witless Bay Ecological Reserve. A great tour with hundreds of seabirds (murre, kittiwakes, gulls, puffins) and about 5 Humpbackwhales.



DAY 18 (June 26) - St. Johns and Cape St. Mary's

Visit to Signal Hill and Battery Point. Then the Cape Shore Drive to go to St. Mary's. At the cliff we have a lot of fog, but still see lots of gannets, murrens and kittiwakes. For me one of the best places in the world to come very close to all those wonderful birds. Stay at Northeast Arms Hotel.

DAY 19 (June 27) - Castle Hill and Cape St. Mary's

Waiting for the boat to Nova Scotia with a visit to Castle Hill and another visit to St. Mary's. This time without the fog it looks even better. Waterfall Cataracts along an unpaved road. Diner at Hotel Harold in Argentia. The boat leaves Argentia at 24:00 hours. We go quickly to our cabin and have a good night sleep.

DAY 20 (June 28) - Sailing to Nova Scotia and Louisbourg

Arrival at North Sydney at 14:00. Visit Louisbourg but the site closes at 17:00 already. This place is certainly worthwhile visiting. You can stay at least half a day in this place and have lunch as they served in 1740. Stay at Wandlynn Inn Cape Breton, Sydney.

DAY 21 (June 29) - Sydney - Halifax

Long drive back to Halifax (500km). A warm day (over 30 degrees Celcius), now we know how comfortable a car with airconditioning is. We have a nice dip in the pool at the Holiday Inn Select. Fine diner.



DAY 22 (June 30) - Halifax

Sightseeing Halifax and Dartmouth: citadel, the old and the new city, boardwalks, ferry to Dartmouth. We bring our car back at the airport at about 20:00. We drove 4716 km altogether. At 23:00 our plane leaves for Iceland. We travel with Iceland Air again.

DAY 23 (July 1) - Keflavik and Blue Lagoon

Arrival at 6:15 am Iceland time at Keflavik airport. We have a stop-over until 4:30 pm. We go for a swim at the Blue Lagoon where you can come by bus. Then our plane back to Schiphol has a 5 and a half ours delay. At 2:45 am (dutch time) we are landing in Amsterdam. At 6 o'clock we are back home.