History on the Edge

L’Anse aux Meadows
Port au Choix
Red Bay
Exploring a Living Landscape

Attracted by the rich resources of the sea, people have lived at Port au Choix for more than 6,000 years. A large burial ground bears witness to the marine-based technology, economy and spiritual culture of the first people to live here – the Maritime Archaic. The remains of a large settlement at Phillip’s Garden paint a vivid picture of the material and intellectual culture of the Groswater and Dorset people, 3,000 years later. Discover the ancient peoples who journeyed through this special landscape and connect with today’s thriving Indigenous cultures of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Services

Season and Hours of operation
 Early June - Early October / Daily 9 am - 5 pm
 For exact dates, please see our website.

Contact info
 (709) 861-3522 / (709) 458-2417 (off season)

Check out our website for up-to-date information on our events and programs happening throughout the season.
Imagine 6,000 years of human history

Not to be missed

Learn about the resettlement era, the French migratory fishery and the Point Riche lighthouse. Local shrimp and crafts are available for purchase at the centre gift shop.
(709) 861-2142

Follow the contours of the limestone barrens to explore a landscape that is home to some 114 rare plants, including the elegant yellow lady slipper orchid.

Enjoy freshly baked bread topped with local jams from a reconstructed French oven, and have your photo taken with the chaloupe in period costume. For further details and program schedule contact the French Rooms Cultural Centre.
(709) 861-2142

Learn about the adult salmon restocking story, and view Atlantic salmon - eye to eye - at the province’s most successful salmon enhancement program.
www.torrentriver.ca/home

Good to know

+ Wild animals such as caribou are often seen on the trails in and around Port au Choix. Please do not approach or entice them, and be sure to give them space to safely pass you on the trail.
+ Explore the Point Riche lighthouse area to find the sweet spot for a “perspective selfie”.

Try these

+ Did you know needle ice makes frost boils? Don’t know what that is? Download the free Explora app to your smartphone to discover more as you explore.
+ Join an interpreter for the “Seal for all Seasons” program to explore the different ways past and present cultures have been using seals to sustain their livelihoods.

Fun Fact

+ The Griscom’s Arnica is in the sunflower family and grows at just nine sites around the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Of this small global population, more than 90% is found within Port au Choix NHS!
An epic Viking adventure unearthed

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978, L’Anse aux Meadows provides evidence of one of the great steps in human migration and is the only authentic Viking site in North America. Recalling epic voyages across raging oceans, L’Anse aux Meadows contains the remains of an 11th-century Viking basecamp and is the earliest known European presence on the American continent. At this Norse outpost on Newfoundland’s windswept northernmost tip, walk in the footsteps of the Vikings and experience life in the North Atlantic.

Services

Season and Hours of operation
Late May - Mid-June / Daily 9 am - 5 pm
Mid-June - Late September / Daily 9 am - 6 pm
Late September - Early October / Daily 9 am - 5 pm
For exact dates, please see our website.

Contact info
(709) 623-2608 / (709) 458-2417 (off season)

Check out our website for up-to-date information on our events and programs happening throughout the season.
Step into your own saga at the only authenticated Viking settlement in North America!

Not to be missed

Norstead replicates a Viking-era port of trade and has the Snorri, a 54 foot long Viking knarr. **Hours of operation:** Early June to Mid-September (9:30 am - 5:30 pm)
www.norstead.com
(709) 623-2828

Icebergs abound in the cold waters off Newfoundland and Labrador from early April to late June. Boat tours offer a chance to view icebergs, whales, and birds.

Visit Grenfell Historic Properties and walk in the footsteps of Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, a medical missionary. The gift store features traditional Grenfell and locally crafted products.
www.grenfell-properties.com
(709) 454-4010

Travel along the French Shore to the Conche Interpretation Centre, home of the 200-foot French Shore Tapestry.
www.frenchshoretapestry.com
Tour the interior of the peninsula for beauty off the beaten path.
www.frenchshore.com

Good to know
+ The guided tour, “Meeting of Two Worlds”, departs from the Visitor Centre at regular intervals throughout the day. Check with the reception for tour times.
+ Visit the Viking encampment living history program to learn the art of making a Viking-age cut nail with Ragnar the blacksmith.

Try these
+ **Test of Tykir - Escape Room:** You will have 45 minutes to search the Servant’s Hut for clues and solve puzzles in the hopes of finding the riches of Vinland. Daily 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. $24.50
+ **Sagas and Shadows:** Gather around the fire and join the crew for an evening of heroic and tragic tales from the Viking Sagas. Tuesday and Saturday 7:30 pm. $22.00
  
  Call (709) 623-2608 for more information or to book.

Did you Know? 
+ The Vikings were the first Europeans to trade with the Indigenous peoples in North America.
A Mystery of the deep unraveled

Mysterious red ‘pebbles’ found scattered on Red Bay’s rugged coastline were the first clue to a deep historic mystery. Revealed to be terracotta roofing tiles, a historic link to 16th-century Basque whalers was made. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013, Red Bay Basque Whaling Station represents one of the best preserved and most extensive examples of a large-scale, pre-industrial, commercial whaling operation found anywhere in the world.

Season and Hours of operation
Early June - Early October / Daily 9 am - 5 pm
For exact dates, please see our website.

Contact info
(709) 920-2142 / (709) 458-2417 (off season)

Check out our website for up-to-date information on our events and programs happening throughout the season.
Basque whalers in Labrador
Lighting the Lamps of Europe

Not to be missed

Red Bay Right Whale Exhibit
Selma Bankham Community Centre

The exhibit features the 400-year-old skeleton of a 52-foot Bowhead whale and focuses on the research and protection of the Bowhead and North Atlantic Right whales.
(709) 920-2197

Labrador Straits Museum and Craft Shop

The museum showcases life 150 years ago with emphasis on the role of women. Features ongoing traditional skills demonstrations, WIFI, and Gift Shops.
Labrador Straits Museum
L’Anse au Loup (709) 927-5077

L’Anse Amour National Historic Site of Canada

Contemplate thousands of years of human history in Labrador at the site of a 7500-year-old ceremonial burial place of a Maritime Archaic youth.
(709) 927-5825

Point Amour Lighthouse

Climb to the top of the tallest lighthouse in Atlantic Canada and view exhibits about the natural and cultural history of the Labrador Straits.
(709) 927-5825

Good to know

+ Visit Saddle Island to explore the many archeological remnants of the Basque Whaling Station. The water taxi to Saddle Island runs daily on the hour.
+ Insect repellant and bug jackets are essential gear to carry while exploring the scenic splendour of Labrador.

Try these

+ Join an interpreter on Saddle Island for a tour of the archaeological sites and a rare look at 16th-century whaling life.
+ Explore Red Bay’s weird and wonderful artefact collection to uncover the stories behind some of our one-of-a-kind objects, including both bizarre and beautiful artifacts of Basque life.

Did you Know?

+ The Basques brought thousands of terracotta tiles to Red Bay during the 16th-century, and these tiles helped researchers find the remains of the whaling station over 400 years later.
Geocaching is an outdoor activity where you use a GPS or your smartphone to locate hidden caches. You can play at every Parks Canada location in Western Newfoundland and Labrador.

Buy the program card at the visitor centre, use the coordinates to locate caches and punch the card. Return the card to reception to receive a trackable geocoin unique to each site.