



Gros Morne
National Park of Canada
parksCanada.gc.ca

Cultural Explorer

You seek constant opportunities to embrace, discover, and immerse yourself in the entire experience of the culture, people and settings of the places you visit. Not content to just visit historic sites and watch from the sidelines, you want to participate in the modern-day culture as well. You often attempt to converse with locals, attend local cultural festivals, or go off the beaten track to discover how people truly live.

Breathing in the cool salt air on the wharf at Trout River, you step into the morning mist and admire the fishermen as they steer their colourful boats into the harbour. Over the gulls' calls they welcome you to Newfoundland.

You then head to the Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse's exhibit that shows how people have harvested the sea along this coast. From the Maritime Archaic people 4,000 years ago to the European settlers in the 1800s, locals always depended on the bounty of the Bonne Bay area. Fishing is a way of life here!

"Have you heard about the S.S. Ethie?" asks the guide who welcomes you to the lighthouse. This steamship ran aground during a fierce storm in 1919, he says, and the wreckage is still visible on the shore, just north of Sally's Cove. All of the 92 passengers and crew were saved, including a baby who was sent ashore in a mailbag!

The guide explains why the region was called the French Shore in the late 1700s and answers your questions about today's fisheries. He then leads you toward a room illustrating the lightkeeper's lifestyle in the early 1900s. Outside, the wind roars and the seabirds glide over the waves. You can't help but think that despite the great view, it must have gotten chilly at night!

Speak to our Parks Canada staff to make the most of your visit!

www.canada.travel/eq

For the Cultural Explorer we suggest...

Mi'kmaq Lunch – Take a walk through the woods with an aboriginal interpreter and learn how nature has traditionally provided sustenance and cures for his people. Then join your host at a Mi'kmaq campsite, complete with a tepee, in the preparation of a tasty lunch of bannock and tea.

Wave over Wave-On the Boardwalk in Trout River– Join Todd to stroll along the boardwalk at Trout River and mingle with the residents of this small fishing village. Learn how the people of Trout River have lived from the bounty that nature provides for nearly 200 years and watch as skilled local craftspeople ply their trade.

Broom Point - Visit the cabin of the Mudge brothers, who lived and fished here during the mid-1900s, and try out the canning techniques they used to preserve salmon. Meet Louise, a fisherwoman, and listen as she recounts fascinating stories from the past of the hardships and rewards of living from the sea. Then head to the local wharf and talk with fishermen who'll tell you about the fishing industry today.

Folksongs of Gros Morne – Anita Best a folklorist and traditional singer combines historical anecdotal information about singers, their lives and communities with her own selection of songs, sung as they were in 1920's and 1950's, without musical accompaniment.

Local Festivals – Get your toes tapping as you experience the lively local culture at a number of festivals in communities surrounding the national park. Spirited music, dancing, stories and delicious dishes are here for you to enjoy!

