



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.

L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Who hasn't heard of Eirik the Red? His name evokes images of a terrible Viking raider, tall and strong - and sporting a red beard. As you chat with the chief of the Norse camp at L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site you learn that he carefully combs his long hair everyday. As you see, the cliché of Vikings as barbarians is far from true!

Upon arriving at the archaeological site at L'Anse aux Meadows you notice how Norse houses blend in with the green landscape overlooking the open ocean. The smell of wildflowers fills the air and the roar of the sea gives a regular rhythm to the everyday tasks. It feels like this place has not changed since the Vikings landed here a thousand years ago.

As Thora demonstrates the art of Naalbinding – a Scandinavian “cousin” of knitting and crocheting - you admire the simple beauty of her clothes and the great metal work of the turtle brooches holding the straps of her apron. She shows you the basic stitch and you try to imitate the twist of her hand.

The banging of the blacksmith's hammer on the anvil attracts your attention, and you head toward the furnace building to meet Ragnar the blacksmith. You give him a hand by pumping the bellows to fan the charcoal and you even succeed in making a rivet or a four-sided cut nail. Thanks to simple nails like this, the Norse could repair their boats and sail back to Greenland to reunite with their families.

Speak to our Visitor Experience Advisor to make the most of your visit!

www.canada.travel/eq

FOR THE CULTURAL EXPLORER WE SUGGEST...

L'Anse aux Meadows Through My Eyes – Follow a local guide across the archaeological site and listen to their first hand experience. They grew up on the edge of the famous dig site, watching the Ingstads discover Vinland.

Viking Style – Dress as a Viking did in Vinland 1000 years ago. Discover how Norse fashion spread beyond their shores and influenced others. Dispel any lingering myths about Norse attire and decide if fashion has improved over the years!

Sagas & Shadows – Sit around the evening fire in the hall of the Chief of the Vinland voyage, and listen as he recounts the thrilling events of the sagas. As night descends, get comfortable on the skins and savour the encounter with the stories of the past.

Faering: From the tree to the sea – Take in the sights and sounds of Norsemen hard at work building a Faering – a small clinker-built Viking boat. They are using the same tools that the Norse used 1000 years ago.

While in the Area

The Norstead Theatre Festival- Extend your visit into the evening to take in some live theatre at Norstead. Enjoy a series of plays performed by the resident theatre company amongst some of the most beautiful scenery that this province offers.

Grenfell Historic Properties- Located in St. Anthony, these properties celebrate the presence of Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador, and the impact that he and his worldwide mission had on the social, medical and economic climate of the early 1900s.