Eagle-Eye Tours

Newfoundland Circumnavigation Cruise Itinerary

Link: Newfoundland Circumnavigation Cruise

Tour Overview

Circumnavigating Newfoundland by small ship reveals an island shaped by the sea. Travelling harbour to harbour, we visit remote coastal communities, dramatic landscapes, and remarkable historic sites while experiencing the music, stories, food, and traditions that give Newfoundland its unmistakable character.

Explore the extraordinary geology of Gros Morne National Park, walk in the footsteps of Norse seafarers at L'Anse aux Meadows, and discover the rich maritime history of Red Bay. Along the south coast, visit welcoming communities such as Miawpukek First Nation and François, then cross briefly into France in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, where French culture meets the North Atlantic.

Throughout the journey, whales, seabirds, rugged coastlines, and perhaps even icebergs provide a spectacular natural backdrop. Yet the heart of the experience is Newfoundland itself—its history, culture, landscapes, and people, best discovered from the sea.

Itinerary

Day 1: St. John's, NL, Canada



Often celebrated as North America's oldest city, St. John's is a glorious jumble of colourful houses, winding streets, steep hills, and unexpected laneways gathered around a harbour that could belong nowhere else. Beneath Signal Hill, the Narrows form a dramatic gateway between the sheltered waterfront and the open Atlantic, giving the city one of the continent's most unmistakable settings. Its centuries of history are matched by an energy that feels entirely of the moment. An emerging culinary scene brings fresh imagination to Newfoundland ingredients and traditions, while Water Street offers an eclectic mix of independent shops, galleries, cafés, and local character. When evening arrives, music spills from pubs and performance spaces, carrying a lively tradition that remains central to the city's identity. Historic, creative, colourful, and full of personality, St. John's makes an irresistible gateway to Newfoundland.

Day 2: Miquelon, France



A small French community with a character shaped equally by Europe and the North Atlantic. Acadian, Basque, Breton, and Norman roots run through its history, while generations of fishing and farming have created traditions distinctly adapted to island life. French remains the language of everyday conversation, and local shops, cafés, and artisans give the village a quietly contemporary spirit. Beyond the village lies a surprisingly varied natural world of rocky headlands, ponds, dunes, and wind-shaped vegetation. Miquelon is connected to Langlade by La Dune, a remarkable twelve-kilometre ribbon of sand formed by the meeting of ocean currents and the site of numerous shipwrecks. Trails open onto sweeping Atlantic views, with opportunities to encounter coastal flora and birdlife along the way. Explore at your own pace, perhaps browsing locally made goods or pausing at a café. With French flavours, deep maritime roots, and wild landscapes close at hand, Miquelon feels unlike anywhere else in North America.

Day 3: Miawpukek (Conne River), NL, Canada



At the mouth of the Conne River lies Miawpukek, whose Mi’kmaw name means “Middle River.” Long used as a seasonal gathering place, it became a permanent community around 1822 and today is the only recognized First Nation reserve on the island of Newfoundland. Its history is part of a much older pattern of movement throughout Mi’kma’ki, the traditional territory of the Mi’kmaq. Miawpukek is also a story of cultural strength and contemporary renewal. Language, traditional knowledge, education, ceremony, and community life remain closely connected, while present day conservation initiatives carry an enduring responsibility to the surrounding lands and waters forward in new ways. Receive a formal welcome from community leaders and spend time in Miawpukek, where history is not confined to the past but continues through living culture, modern leadership, and a relationship with place sustained across generations.

Day 4: Francois



Hidden deep within a steep fjord, the outport of Francois can be reached only by boat. Colourful homes cling to the hillside in a community where the sea remains the way in and out. Explore waterfalls and lookout trails, wander through the settlement, and spend time talking with the people who continue to make their lives here. As evening falls, we usually gather with the community for a joyful kitchen party—music, dance, laughter, and good company flowing as naturally as the tide. Raise a glass and join in the moment.

Day 5: South Coast



Along Newfoundland's southern edge, the roads fall away and the sea becomes the highway. Deep fjords, sheltered coves, and towering headlands define a coast shaped by water, weather, and isolation. Its outports and resettled communities hold an important place in Newfoundland's cultural memory, recalling generations whose lives were connected to the island primarily by sea. The coastal barrens and bogs are alive with low-growing wildflowers, while seabirds gather along the cliffs and offshore waters. Capelin may draw whales into the bays. Bald eagles patrol the headlands, seals surface in sheltered coves, and waterfalls descend after the spring thaw. Remote, roadless, and known intimately by the sea, the South Coast remains one of Newfoundland's wildest and most compelling landscapes.

Day 6–7: Gros Morne National Park and Woody Point



In Gros Morne National Park, Earth's story is written in stone. The bronze-coloured slopes of the Tablelands expose rocks from deep within the Earth's mantle—part of the geological evidence that helped transform our understanding of plate tectonics. Join Parks Canada naturalists for guided walks through this extraordinary landscape and learn why Gros Morne is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After exploring the Tablelands, experience the warm spirit of Woody Point, where artists, writers, and musicians continue to draw inspiration from the surrounding mountains and sea.

Day 8: Red Bay



In the 1500s, Red Bay was a major centre of Basque whaling, connecting this Labrador harbour with communities across the Atlantic. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the interpretation centre to see recovered artifacts, including tools and personal items from the San Juan, lost here in 1565. Then cross to Saddle Island to explore remnants of the whaling station and consider the people, ships, knowledge, and commerce that once moved through these waters as part of an early transatlantic industry.

Day 9: L’Anse aux Meadows



At the northern tip of Newfoundland, within a landscape shaped by some 6,000 years of Indigenous presence, a cluster of low ridges revealed a remarkable chapter in Atlantic history. L’Anse aux Meadows is the only authenticated Norse archaeological site in the Americas and the earliest known evidence of a European presence on the continent. Its discovery confirmed that Norse seafarers reached North America around the year 1000, a journey preserved for centuries in the Icelandic sagas. The remains of timber-framed turf dwellings, workshops, and a forge reveal a base camp built in the tradition of settlements in Greenland and Iceland. Among the finds was a hand-forged nail, evidence of the earliest known iron production in North America. Even more intriguing are butternuts, which do not grow naturally in Newfoundland and suggest voyages farther south. The Norse presence was brief, but its discovery transformed an ancient saga into historical fact and secured L’Anse aux Meadows a place of global significance.

Day 10–11: Northeast Coast



Sailing Newfoundland's northeast coast brings you into communities whose histories and ways of life have long been oriented toward the sea. Depending on conditions and opportunities, visit small fishing communities where boats gather in sheltered coves and the wharf remains a natural place for conversation. Spend time ashore, meet local people, and notice the details of coastal life—fishing stages and sheds, working boats, music, stories, and the easy wit that so often accompanies them. Harbour by harbour, another side of Newfoundland comes into view.

Day 12: St. John’s, NL, Canada



Return through the Narrows and beneath Signal Hill, completing a full circle around Newfoundland. St. John’s may appear much as it did at the beginning, but its colourful houses now sit within a broader palette of landscapes, stories, and communities encountered around the island. Along the way, the sea has been more than a backdrop. It connects distant shores, sustains communities, shapes traditions, and finds its way into Newfoundland’s music and song. From lively harbours to roadless coastlines, the island’s character is grounded in the strength, wit, creativity, and warmth of its people. Twelve days and an entire island later, the circle closes where it began, with the Narrows ahead and a whole island’s worth of stories, songs, and good company astern. As they say in Newfoundland, long may your big jib draw.

What to Expect

Our Newfoundland cruise program allow you to experience the best of the natural world, while enjoying the comforts of our friendly floating hotel. The ship generally makes crossing between

islands at night, so every morning you awake to new vistas and discoveries. Every day we offer a combination of interesting shore excursions and fun shipboard activities. You can choose which elements of the program you want to participate in.

This is a general natural history and cultural expedition rather than a dedicated birding tour. Travellers can look forward to a mix of wildlife viewing, cultural experiences, and time to appreciate the region's incredible scenery — with opportunities for birding included along the way.

This expedition cruise necessitates passengers to be in reasonably good health. Zodiac cruises and transfer times can be lengthy. You must be able to climb stairs between decks on the ship, as well as the external gangway stairs to transfer between the zodiac and ship.

Some of our shore landings will be 'wet', requiring waterproof boots. Once you have left the zodiac, you'll find our shore excursions accommodate both those who wish to enjoy a gentle stroll and those who prefer more active hikes. The excursion may involve walking over uneven or sandy terrain in variable weather conditions. Our onboard specialists will join us on these shore excursions to provide interpretation and narration to these wonderful landscapes and experiences.

Each evening we will gather in the lounge to recount the day's events and share memorable stories. Our onboard musician will provide some lively entertainment during happy hour and the expedition leader will outline the following day's schedule. Our resource staff of naturalists, historians, and other guest speakers will give informative talks at various times throughout the voyage.

Meals in the ship's dining room are a great opportunity to meet new friends and recount the day's adventures. Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice. Safety is also a top priority with Eagle-Eye Tours – our team has extensive experience in the field, and all of our Voyages are run in conjunction with operators with the highest safety standards.

When the ship is underway, it is a wonderful time to join a naturalist on deck, take photos of the stunning scenery, or get caught up on some reading in the library.

Weather, ice, government regulations, and community requests may necessitate changes to the planned itineraries and/or the cancellation of certain shore excursions and enhancements. Published itineraries are examples only and we reserve the right to change or modify the itinerary and landing sites at any time prior or during an expedition. Changes will be communicated at your expedition orientation or during your onboard expedition briefings.

We know that everyone travels for different reasons. Over the years, however, we have found one common element among the guest who choose to travel with us – a thirst of knowledge and authentic experience. Knowing this drives us to ensure the highest quality learning experience on our trips, by taking time to carefully design each trip we offer.

What's Included

Tour Price Includes

• Passage aboard the Ocean Nova
• Applicable taxes and credit card fees
• Complimentary expedition jacket
• Special access permits, entry, and park fees
• Expert expedition team
• Guided activities
• Sightseeing and community visits
• All Zodiac excursions
• Port fees
• Pre-departure materials
• Educational program
• Interactive workshops
• Evening entertainment
• All shipboard meals
• Wi-Fi access (basic service included)

Tour Price Does Not Include

• Commercial and charter flights
• Program enhancements/optional excursions
• Gratuities
• Personal expenses
• Mandatory medical evacuation insurance
• Additional expenses in the event of delays or itinerary changes
• Possible fuel surcharges and administrative fees
• Pre- and post-trip hotel accommodation
• Premium internet access available at an additional cost