

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Come Early or Stay Awhile

In the Capital city of New Brunswick, there's history on every street corner. Fredericton is rich in dynamic culture and natural beauty. The city attracts, inspires and entertains those that live there as well as any who visit. Fredericton is one of Canada's prettiest cities where everyone is welcome.

There are many activities within Fredericton for you to enjoy during unscheduled times or when your conference or meeting ends. With outstanding indoor and outdoor after hours activities, Fredericton offers unique value-add opportunities for your conference program.

Fredericton is renowned for its beauty, crafts, history and culture. Within a five-block section of the historic downtown you'll find the world-class Beaverbrook Art Gallery, National Historic sites like the Historic Garrison District and Christ Church Cathedral, the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, and some of the finest Victorian architecture in the country -- along with some stunning gardens, an idyllic riverfront trail, live theatre, fine dining, fabulous festivals, excellent evening entertainment and river cruises. Within walking distance of downtown are ornamental and woodland parks, and the exquisitely restored 19th century Old Government House. You're only a 20-minute drive from 18th century New Brunswick at Kings Landing Historical Settlement, and you're always within sight of the majestic St. John River. www.tourismfredericton.ca

Pre & Post Tours / Day Trips:

With Fredericton's central location, the rest of New Brunswick can be a vacationer's paradise. You can enjoy fabulous and affordable pre- or post tours while spending your nights in the capital city. Whether you're nature lovers, adventure seekers, sightseers, history buffs, shoppers, or dining aficionados, there is something for you in the city and the region.

Lovers of the outdoors will connect with nature along pristine coastal or forest trails and will find an array of wildlife ranging from 70-ton finback whales to 4-ounce sandpipers. They'll encounter the immense tides of the Bay of Fundy, recently voted the most popular of Canada's Seven Wonders. Adventure seekers will find popular activities like kayaking, rugged coastal hiking, jet-boating, rappelling, whale watching, fishing, windsurfing, and warm ocean swimming. Golf is also an attractive option everywhere in New Brunswick.

Sightseers and photographers can explore picturesque fishing villages and picnic beside quaint covered bridges in pastoral valleys amid rolling hills. History buffs will discover intriguing tales of the interactions between New Brunswick's founding peoples – First Nations, French, English, Irish, Scottish, and American – and how they've learned to live in harmony. New Brunswick has attracted visitors throughout history, and many of them stayed.

Excellent shopping is everywhere, whether it involves browsing through unique small town emporia or extreme romps through modern city shopping malls. New Brunswick also offers spectacular dining experiences to delight your palate, from the *haute cuisine* of internationally trained chefs to small and unassuming five-star down-home diners. Fresh seafood abounds and lobster is the culinary monarch.

We've outlined several DAY TRIPS and noted their HALF-DAY OPTIONS. As well, we've added two trips more comfortably completed as OVERNIGHT TRIPS. The ready availability of high quality inns, bed & breakfasts, and hotels, as well as an array of dining establishments, means that any Day Trip can easily be expanded into an Overnight.

Fredericton Tourism and New Brunswick Tourism can provide advice, travel planners, and maps to travelers. As well, local visitor centres en route can provide invaluable information about your destination area. Many of the communities you will visit offer festivals and fairs. Information about those events is available from the visitor centres or online at www.tourismfredericton.ca or www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca

THE UPPER ST JOHN RIVER

If you want a change from the hustle and bustle of city life then meander along the St. John River above Fredericton and stay as long as you want. You can visit King's Landing Historical Settlement, where it is easy to spend a full day or visit the world's longest covered bridge in Hartland. Venture farther upriver to Grand Falls and discover New Brunswick's highest waterfall. The roads are easy to follow – just let the river be your guide – but getting lost on the back roads with all the pretty scenery will enhance your experience too.

Kings Landing Historical Settlement, 20 minutes from Fredericton, will take you into the 1800s by re-creating life as it was in a rural community on the St. John River. It is not just history, it is history well told. In the 70 historical buildings, 120 costumed “residents” work on the 300-acre riverfront site to depict the time of Confederation. There are two dining venues and costumed entertainers wander the grounds and perform. www.kingslanding.nb.ca

Mactaquac Provincial Park on Route 105 is also only 20 minutes from Fredericton and features hiking trails, golfing, camping, fishing, swimming and kayaking, canoeing, and windsurfing facilities. Nearby you can tour the Mactaquac generating station below the hydro dam and visit a large salmon hatchery. www.mactaquaccountry.com

The riverside town of **Woodstock** is a community of gracious 19th century homes interspersed with civic buildings and white churches. Visitors can obtain a self-guided walking tour brochure at the 100-year-old LP Fisher Library or can print it off the town's website. www.town.woodstock.nb.ca/

Hartland is the home of the Longest Covered Bridge in the World. One of approximately 70 such bridges left in New Brunswick (there used to be over 300) this 390-metre (1280-foot) architectural wonder was built in 1901 and covered with a roof to protect the timbers. Covered bridges were also known as “kissing bridges” because courting couples in horse and carriage would pass through them very, very slowly. www.town.hartland.nb.ca

The scenery, lush, green and beautiful in spring and summer becomes exuberant in fall. Continue your drive farther upriver through the small communities of Florenceville, Bristol, Bath, and Perth-Andover. The St. John River Valley offers some of the best fall foliage in New Brunswick.

If you travel as far as **Grand Falls/Grand-Sault**, about two hours from Fredericton, you'll find yourself entering the predominantly francophone Madawaska area of the Province. In the centre of town is the largest waterfall in New Brunswick, the 23-metre (75-foot) Grand Falls. Below the falls are walking trails and boardwalks along the edge of the 70-metre (230-foot) deep gorge. A pontoon boat ride through the gorge is available during summer months. www.grandfalls.com

The fall foliage in the New Denmark and Plaster Rock area, just east of Grand Falls, is among the best in the northeastern part of the continent.

Directions: Leave Fredericton by heading westward on Route 2 or, to follow the river more closely and discover its communities, leave on the more scenic Route 102 or Route 105. In fact, you should really make Routes 102, 165, 103 and even 105 much more a part of your trip than Route 2. That can be saved as a swifter return to Fredericton at the end of the day.

HALF-DAY OPTION: Kings Landing Historical Settlement deserves a longer visit but can be appreciated in a half-day. It's only 20 minutes from Fredericton. Hartland and its covered bridge can be reached in an hour via Route 2 and a little longer via the riverbank routes, allowing a scenic drive in one direction and a quicker return.

ST ANDREWS-BY-THE-SEA / FUNDY

This trip will lead you through the deep forests of southwestern New Brunswick to the scenic coastline of the Bay of Fundy and into Atlantic Canada's most popular seaside resort.

As you enter the village of **Harvey** on Route 3, check out the giant fiddle on the right, a tribute to Don Messer, legendary fiddler who was born here and whose television show was the most popular in Canada at one time. Stop in at the Briggs & Little Woolen Mill in **York Mills** for a short tour. A 34-kilometre (21-mile) round-trip past York Mills could lead to a tour of the old CPR Station in the village of **McAdam**. Modeled on a Scottish castle, the huge station illustrates the historical importance of the railway to New Brunswick and this area. www.village.harvey-station.nb.ca www.mcadamnbc.com www.briggsandlittle.com

St. Andrews-by-the-Sea was founded by Loyalists (Tories to our US visitors) fleeing the American Revolution. Its streets are named for the children of King George III, the British monarch of the day. It was one of the famous 19th century seaside railway resorts along the northeastern Atlantic Coast. St. Andrews is a key visitor destination for whale watching, kayaking, or golf on one of New Brunswick's best courses. The unique waterfront shops in the quaint downtown, Kingsbrae Gardens, Minister's Island, the Court House and its scary Old Jail are also popular attractions. www.townofstandrews.ca www.standrewsnb.ca/links.html

St. Stephen, just west of St. Andrews on the US border, has been nicknamed "Canada's Chocolate Town". St. Stephen is the home of Ganong Bros., chocolate and candy manufacturer, made famous by their "chicken bones", invention of the chocolate bar and their heart-shaped Valentines Day chocolate box. You can learn about the chocolate making downtown at the Chocolate Museum in the old Ganong's factory. www.town.ststephen.nb.ca

Directions: Follow Route 2 westward, then at Exit 258 connect to Route 3 through the forest to southwestern New Brunswick and the St. Andrews / St. Stephen area on the Bay of Fundy, a trip just under two hours.

HALF-DAY OPTION: The Harvey / McAdam portion of this trip makes for a pleasant and interesting drive, particularly if you decide to explore the back roads and lakes in the area. The communities are small but offer interesting small shops and friendly small restaurants, diners, and pubs.

THE QUODDY LOOP

The Quoddy Loop is a full-day itinerary that provides breathtaking seascapes along with ferry boat rides, fishing villages, lighthouses, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential cottage. Called the Quoddy Loop because it encircles Passamaquoddy Bay. The trip traverses two of the larger islands of the archipelago at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy and displays the wonder of the powerful tide as it rises and falls through the day. There are also opportunities to go whale watching. Licensed operators offer guided tours that provide sightings of whales, sea birds and other wildlife. www.quoddyloop.com/

While passing through **St. George** ask for directions to the falls lookout at the lower bridge for a spectacular photo-op. Then check the fish ladder beside the dam to see if the fish are running. www.town.stgeorge.nb.ca/

One of the most scenic Fundy lighthouse views is at Greens Point just before you catch the ferry to **Deer Island**. Twice a day the Deer Island tides create the Old Sow, the western hemisphere's largest whirlpool. Seascape Kayak Tours provides excellent kayaking adventures on the Island. Lunch at the 45th Parallel Restaurant as a guest of the "twisted sisters" is a worthwhile and delicious experience. www.deerisland.nb.ca/ www.seascapekayaktours.com

Campobello is similarly picturesque and the location of the Roosevelt Campobello International Park, site of US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's summer home as well as numerous hiking and driving trails around the southern end of the island. Head Harbour (East Quoddy) Light Station with its 1829 octagonal wooden tower is perhaps the most scenic lighthouse on Canada's East Coast. Whale watching tours and golf are also available. www.campobello.com

Directions: Follow Route 2 westward from Fredericton and take Exit 258 onto Route 3. Proceed on Route 3 to Lawrence Station, then Route 127 for about 23 km (14 mi). Turn east onto Route 1 to St. George and take Route 172 to the Deer Island ferry near Back Bay. The free ferry runs every half-hour and any crew member will explain the tidal phenomenon.

Cross Deer Island to its southern tip and catch the East Coast Ferry (timetable - <http://eastcoastferries.nb.ca/>) to Campobello. Exit Campobello at its southern tip into Lubec, Maine USA and follow US Routes 198 and 1 to the Calais Maine/St Stephen NB border crossing.

This trip is available only from late June to early September due to the seasonal operations of the East Coast ferry between Deer Island and Campobello. This tour includes some travel through the USA if the complete loop is followed.

SAINT JOHN / THE LOWER ST JOHN RIVER VALLEY

Fredericton has already provided you with a taste of the beauty of the St. John River. Add riverside villages, silos and cattle scattered over pastoral landscapes, small artist and craft studios, and little cable ferries and you'll have the Lower River Valley.

You may want to visit **Oromocto**, the first town on your travels downriver. Oromocto is home to Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, the largest military base in the British Commonwealth. The Military Museum at the Base tells the history of military forces in New Brunswick from 1800 to present day. www.oromocto.ca

The village of **Gagetown** (not to be confused with Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, centred in Oromocto) is the birthplace of Sir Leonard Tilley, New Brunswick's best-known Father of Confederation. His former home has been restored as the Queens County Museum.

Notable features along the route from Gagetown downriver are the numerous small shops and studios of potters, artists, weavers, and jewelers. Most are artist-operated and are often open by chance...watch for signs. An added feature of the route is the series of small free cable ferries crossing the calm river waters and easily incorporated into your trip. Almost any route you choose to follow on either side of the river will offer rewarding views. The drive is especially beautiful when it's dressed in fall foliage. www.stjohnriver.org/

Saint John, at the mouth of the St. John River, which empties into the Bay of Fundy, is a busy seaport steeped in history. Noted for its remarkable 19th century architecture, many of the old homes now operate as downtown shops, galleries, restaurants, and pubs. The city is a port-of-call for about 60 large cruise ships each season. The French had a trading post here since the early 1600s but the city was actually founded by Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution. The population was later augmented by thousands of Irish immigrants. The downtown, rich in history and architectural gems, includes the City Market and the buildings of Prince William Street and Trinity Royal. Natural sites include the Reversing Falls, where the St. John River reverses its flow every six hours (thanks to the brute natural force of the Fundy tides) and the Irving Nature Park of coastal walking trails. The modern interactive New Brunswick Museum with its Hall of Whales features full size models. The Jet Boat ride at the Reversing Falls draws thrill seekers from around the world. www.tourismsaintjohn.com

Directions: Travelers can drive directly to Saint John in about 75 minutes via Route 2 eastward, then taking Exit 306 just past Oromocto and following Route 7. The route is very well marked.

The alternate and more scenic River route takes about 2½ hours and follows Route 2 eastward to the Village of Gagetown (Exit 330), then follows Route 102 and Route 117 into Saint John

HALF-DAY OPTIONS: The 75-minute trip to Saint John via Route 7 permits a half-day option but limits the time available to visit the city. A second half-day option is to follow Route 102 to its southern end in Westfield, then return to Fredericton in just under an hour via Route 7.

SUSSEX / ST MARTINS / THE FUNDY TRAIL

This route passes through a typical small New Brunswick town nestled amid the rolling hills of dairy country and the Province's largest proliferation of covered bridges. Stop at the fishing harbour where you can see fishing boats lodged on the harbour bottom during low tide. Sample excellent seafood chowder nearby before hiking or driving on a beautiful cliffside trail overlooking the coast.

The downtown streetscapes of **Sussex** would represent typical small-town Atlantic Canada if it weren't for the colourful outdoor wall murals painted by international artists to depict the town's history. Nicknamed "Dairy Town" in honour of its prime industry, Sussex hosts the Atlantic Balloon Fiesta in September and a Covered Bridge Festival in July. Many visitors avail

themselves of the lovely riverside walking trails. You'll find eight covered bridges in the countryside within ten minutes of Town Hall. www.sussex.ca/tourism.cfm

Nestled into the narrow borderland where the forest meets the sea, **St.Martins** was a natural lumbering and shipbuilding centre in the 19th century and the old homes reflect a history of lumber barons and sea captains. Today it's a picturesque fishing harbour with sea caves to explore. www.stmartinscanada.com

There are three very good seafood chowder restaurants in St.Martins, but most visitors today come to see the **Fundy Trail**, a Bay of Fundy eco-adventure. Carved out of the escarpment of the last remaining coastal wilderness area between Florida and Labrador, it's an 11-kilometre (7-mile) clifftop parkway with a parallel hiking trail and lookouts offering panoramic vistas. The trail leads to the site of an abandoned lumbering village that once supplied the Hearst newspaper corporation with its pulp to manufacture paper. Beyond the interpretation centre is 32 km (20 mi) of much more adventurous coastal hiking trail. <http://fundytrailparkway.com>

Directions: Follow Route 2 eastward to Sussex Exit 365 (check out the unique Covered Bridge Visitor Centre at the exit), then follow route 10 to Sussex. From Sussex follow Route 111 southward to the Fundy Coast and the Village of St.Martins. Return to Fredericton via Route 111 from St.Martins toward Saint John (ask about the scenic diversion from Bains Corner through the covered bridge at Tynemouth Creek and along the coast), then pick up Route 1 near the airport to traverse Saint John and catch Route 7 north to Fredericton.

The trip to St.Martins is approximately 2½ hours via Sussex with a 2¼-hour return via Saint John.

HALF-DAY OPTION: It would be difficult to experience St.Martins and that part of the Fundy coast in a half-day, but Sussex is certainly an alternative. Sussex is about 75 minutes from Fredericton via Route 2 and Route 10, the shortest way. You might make use of your road map, however, to find a scenic back road, particularly one that might follow a St.John River tributary.

HOPEWELL ROCKS / FUNDY NATIONAL PARK

This full-day circular route of the upper Fundy area offers some of New Brunswick's best visitor icons and some jaw-dropping panoramas. Visitors can hike coastal paths, walk on the ocean floor at low tide, kayak, rappel, visit small rural art studios, enjoy quality seafood cuisine, or simply sightsee. It's an expedition that's well worth the full day it requires.

Fundy National Park has attracted visitors to its highland wilderness site along the upper Bay of Fundy shore for decades. It has 120 km (75 mi) of walking, hiking, and driving trails through high hills and valleys, past sparkling waterfalls and crystal clear streams, across covered bridges, and along the rugged Fundy coastline. Some of the trails lend themselves to shorter easier walks, particularly the Shiphaven Trail near the Point Wolfe covered bridge and the Dickson Falls Trail nearer Park Headquarters. www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/nb/fundy/

The coastline and nearby village of **Alma** offer good demonstrations of the 13-m (42-ft) tidal change twice daily. Fishing boats at the Alma Wharf can be floating normally the first time you see them, then a couple of hours later sitting in the mud as the tide recedes. You can adventure kayak out of Alma into the Bay. www.fundyweb.com/fundy/alma

East of Alma is **Cape Enrage**. Located on the site of an old lighthouse above 50-metre cliffs, the site offers rappelling, rock climbing, kayaking, and beachcombing for fossils, as well as a limited lunch menu on the deck of the lighthouse keeper's cottage. The 2005 Frommer guide called Cape Enrage the best view in Canada and you'll see why. www.capenrage.com

A half-hour farther up the shoreline you'll reach the **Hopewell Rocks**, where the highest tides in the world are best demonstrated. It's six hours between absolute high tide and absolute low tide but, since the tide rises or falls about one foot every 10 minutes, if you watch closely you can see the difference in just a short period while you're wandering on the beach among the flowerpot rocks. Even if the tide is high when you visit and you don't have the beach opportunity, a visit to the interpretation centre and to the lookout above the rocks will provide an excellent overview of what happens. You can also kayak among The Rocks at high tide. To maximize your enjoyment check the tide times for the day you plan to be there through New Brunswick's Tourism or the Hopewell Rocks website. www.thehopewellrocks.ca

Directions: Follow Route 2 from Fredericton eastward to Exit 365, then Route 10 until it joins Route 1 at Sussex. Proceed eastward and take Exit 211 onto Route 114 into Fundy National Park. Obtain a Park map at the Park HQ, about 2 hours from Fredericton.

Beyond the Park follow Route 915 from Alma along the coast until it rejoins Route 114 at Riverside-Albert, watching for the side trip to Cape Enrage along the way. Continue along Route 114 to the Hopewell Rocks, then follow it along the chocolate Petitcodiac River to Moncton. Return to Fredericton, about 90 minutes farther westward along Route 2.

MONCTON / THE ACADIAN COAST

This trip takes you into another vibrant city and introduces you to the French-speaking culture of the Acadian people, cousins to the Louisiana "Cajuns" and descendants of New Brunswick's first European settlers. The eastern coastline is gentle and the sandy, warm-water beaches are very welcoming. The oh-so-fresh lobster and seafood is delicious.

Moncton is a great family city. At the western entrance to the city near Magnetic Hill (Exit 450), where your car will coast uphill without power, there's a zoo and Magic Mountain water park. Champlain Place downtown is a mecca for shoppers and nearby Crystal Palace provides rides and games. Moncton best typifies the bilingual nature of New Brunswick, as you'll find that most people switch from English to French and vice versa without even realizing they're doing it. Spend a little time in a lively outdoor *café-terrasse* on Main Street and learn some French from the friendly locals. www.gomoncton.com

Shediac is the Lobster Capital of the World and is home to an annual Lobster Festival, as well as the World's Largest Lobster, near Town Hall. Onboard the Shediac Bay Cruises Lobster Tales cruise you can learn all about lobsters, including how to eat them. Practice what you've learned with a fresh crustacean; lobster is always on the menu of many arearestaurants. www.shediac.org/ www.lobstertales.ca/

Parlee Beach, near Shediac, boasts the warmest saltwater swimming north of Virginia and is the most popular beach in Atlantic Canada. If you prefer more private swimming, secluded sandy beaches are found all the way along New Brunswick's eastern shore.

Bouctouche is the home of the Pays de la Sagouine, an Acadian theme park on a tiny island in the middle of the river honouring "la Sagouine," the washerwoman heroine of an internationally acclaimed French novel. You can sample Acadian foods and hear Acadian music in several

venues. The site operates in French but don't worry if you only speak English, everyone there speaks English almost as well as you do. www.bouctouche.org/

Near Bouctouche also is the Olivier Soapery Economuseum, a soap factory with a show, the Cleanest Show on Earth. The good-humoured staff will show you the unique soap-making process and let you sample some. Nearby as well is the Eco-Centre Irving – La Dune de Bouctouche nature preserve protecting an 8-kilometre sand dune with a 2-kilometre boardwalk you might enjoy. www.oliviersoaps.com/ www.ifdn.com/Dune/

Directions: *Moncton is about 90 minutes from Fredericton eastward along Route 2, the Trans-Canada Highway. The Acadian Coast begins about 20 minutes along Route 15 past Moncton in Shediac and continues along the entire eastern shoreline of New Brunswick. Bouctouche is 30 minutes north of Shediac on Route 11. You can return to Fredericton from there in about 2¼ hours along Routes 11, 15 and 2.*

HALF-DAY OPTION: The 90-minute drive along Route 2 makes a short half-day visit to Moncton or to Shediac possible.

THE MIRAMICHI

The Miramichi is a mighty salmon river, a city, and even a rather beguiling culture; probably the best reflection of one place with all of New Brunswick's founding cultures. Miramichi always welcomes visitors, particularly if they're attending one of the many annual festivals. www.miramichimemories.com/ www.miramichirivertourism.com/

The Miramichi River has hosted salmon sport fishermen, some of them very famous, for over two centuries. The Atlantic Salmon is king on the river and the Atlantic Salmon Museum in the village of **Doaktown** displays artifacts from the sport fishery. It sometimes hosts fly-tying and casting demonstrations as well, and conducts a youth day camp to teach those skills. www.atlanticsalmonmuseum.com/

The Woodmen's Museum 15-acre site near **Boiestown** is a journey into the past life of lumbering camps and sawmills. It demonstrates the life and artifacts of men engaged in that activity over the past two centuries. www.woodsmenmuseum.com/

The newly constructed heritage site at Metepenagiag in **Red Bank** interprets the history of the First Nations Mi'kmag people of the area. Due to open in 2008 it will include a viewing deck over a historic and spiritual area, a multi-media presentation, and an interpretive trail. www.metepenagiag.com/

There are outdoor fishing and canoeing experiences to be had on the Miramichi by contacting any of the outfitting companies on the Recreation/Sports link on this website. www.mightymiramichi.com/

The **City of Miramichi** has a healthy mix of French, Irish, Aboriginal, English, and Scottish blood in its background and all of them seem to be musical. The city is home to several annual celebrations and festivals – Folksong, Irish, Fiddle, Agricultural, Rock 'n' Roll, Acadian, Scots – and all of them include music. It's a comfortable and attractive old city that straddles the river and

knows that even the serious issues of life are best handled with good humour and fun.

www.miramichi.org/

Directions: From Fredericton follow Route 8 northeastward through the forest valleys of New Brunswick's heart as it parallels the twists and turns of the beautiful Nashwaak and Miramichi, rivers. Miramichi, the city, is about 2 hours from Fredericton and there are several interesting stops enroute.

HALF-DAY OPTION: The villages of Boiestown and Doaktown are within an hour of Fredericton and can make for an interesting half day itinerary.

Pre & Post Tours / Overnight trips:

A remarkable array of excellent inns, bed & breakfasts, hotels, motels, and campgrounds, as well as dining establishments, throughout New Brunswick means that any of the above Day Trips can be expanded into an Overnight Trip very readily. The two described here can be comfortably completed from Fredericton with one overnight stay.

THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

You'll be entranced by the Acadian Peninsula, an area of small towns and villages, fishing fleets, huge churches, and beautiful beaches, permeated by an atmosphere of friendly people and good times. The French-speaking Acadians, 95% of whom also speak English fluently, will welcome you into their communities as if you were long-lost cousins. The seafood will be wonderful but be sure to try some of the typically Acadian dishes like *poutine rapée*, *pets de soeur*, and *fricot*.

www.cbc.ca/acadian/

Beautiful, sandy, and almost deserted beaches surround **Miscou and Lamèque Islands**. The remote 1856 lighthouse on Miscou stands at the northeastern-most tip of New Brunswick. The peat bog nearby turns the surrounding ground cover totally scarlet in the fall. Be sure to visit the oddly decorated Sainte-Cécile Church and the impressive Eco-Park on Ile Lamèque.

www.lameque.ca/ www.eco-parc.com

At the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre in **Shippagan** you can see blue lobster and stand in the cabin of a modern fishing boat. www.ville.shippagan.com/

Try the fine dining at the Hotel Paulin in **Caraquet**, or the seafood omelet at La Caraquette in the same town. If you should happen to be there on August 15th your trip through the village might be impeded by *la tintamarre*, a celebration of the Acadian national holiday, when 25,000 people march along the main street making as much noise as possible, just to celebrate their pride at being Acadian. www.ville.caraquet.nb.ca/ www.hotelpaulin.com/

You'll be drawn back into a simpler time if you visit the **Acadian Historical Village**, a charming re-creation of the past, where well-informed costumed villagers work the land, the houses, and shops in order to show what life was like in *l'Acadie* from 1770 to 1939. Everyone knows the story, so be sure and have someone explain the sad and heroic history of the Acadian people and their journey from downtrodden poverty to cultural pride and prosperity.

villagehistoriqueacadien.com/

Directions: Follow Route 8 for about 2 hours to reach the City of Miramichi, then follow Route 11 northeast past sandy unpopulated beaches and dunes. Immerse yourself in the tiny towns of Tracadie, Shippagan, Caraquet and many others.

An interesting return route is to follow Route 11 through the scenic coastal villages of Grande-Anse and Pokeshaw, then southward on Route 8 from Bathurst to Miramichi.

GRAND MANAN ISLAND

Grand Manan is only 32 km (20mi) long from its northern light, the Swallowtail, to its southern point, the Southwest Light. With a population of 2500 it is the largest island of the Fundy Isles archipelago at the western end of the Bay of Fundy. Experience scenic fishing villages, lighthouses, hiking trails, small inns and B&B's, plus ultra-fresh seafood and optional munching on the local seaweed, called dulse. www.grandmanannb.com/

Travelers seeking relaxation will find Grand Manan an ideal place but there's also plenty to see and do. The little fishing village of Seal Cove is a photographer's delight, particularly if you want to capture the 7-metre (24-foot) tidal difference at this end of the Bay. Another photographer's icon is the Swallowtail Light, a short way from North Head.

The museum in Grand Harbour has a number of quaint and unique displays and very enthusiastic staff of interpreters ask them about the Dark Harbour hermits, Darby and Lucy. There are a number of hiking trails, including notable ones past Hole-in-the-Wall around North Head or along the Seven Days Work cliffside. You should sample some dulse, but you may find it's an acquired taste. Check out the very informal little galleries and gift shops in the various communities along the Island.

At low tide you can walk across sea floor of The Thoroughfare to Ross Island, but be sure to get back before high tide or you'll find yourself stranded for several hours or swimming. Try birdwatching – Audubon visited Grand Manan in 1831 and documented 230 species. Most of those species are still here. Visit the Whale & Seabird Research Station in North Head and learn about their conservation and rescue programs. Try the warm sausage rolls at the North Head Bakery...they're to die for.

You can take a sailing cruise to see whales aboard a 56-foot sailing yacht, the *Elsie Menota* with its capable young skipper, Sarah, of Whales-n-Sails, or cruise to see whales or a large puffin colony on remote Machias Seal Island with Seawatch Tours. www.whales-n-sails.com/
www.seawatchtours.com/

Take the free ferry to remote White Head Island, population 220 living in 70 houses, and hike to the Long Point beach. Ask someone about the process of "wrinkling".

Then at sunset you can join the locals at The Whistle lookout at Long Eddy Point and see if there are any whales blowing in the Grand Manan Channel as the sun goes down over Campobello to the west.

Directions: From Fredericton, travel west on Route 2 to Exit 258, then Routes 3 and 127 to Route 1 near St. Andrews. Take Route 1 eastward to Exit 60, then Route 176 to Black's Harbour, where you'll see signs to the Grand Manan ferry terminal. The trip to the ferry will take 2 hours from Fredericton. The crossing from the mainland is 90 minutes.

The ferry route is through a summer feeding ground for several whale species, so watch for some as you cross. You should check the ferry schedules and arrive early to avoid missing the crossing you've chosen. You should also book your return trip and pay for it as soon as you can after arriving on the Island. www.coastaltransport.ca/

