

**Venture to Newfoundland: Puffins, boreal birds and spectacular scenery**  
**June 24 – July 1, 2025**

**Itinerary**

**Day 1: (Tuesday, June 24) Arrive in St John's**

Please plan to arrive in St John's in the late afternoon, when will transfer to our convenient hotel near the airport. If you arrive early or have the time you may want to take a taxi into town, a charming and fascinating city set on a beautiful natural harbor. St. John's, one of North America's oldest cities, has much to offer for those wishing to explore: shopping on Water Street, touring churches, cathedrals, and museums, or enjoying the beauty of the botanical gardens. *Night near St John's Airport.*

**Day 2: (Wednesday, June 25) St John's & Environs**

We leave St. John's early and start the day with a brief visit to Cape Spear, which is the most easterly point in North America. With a lighthouse dating from 1839 and a spectacular view out over the ocean, you can gaze out to sea and maybe if it's clear enough you can see the coast of Ireland, although it is about 3,000 km away. There should be streams of seabirds flying past, but we will get closer views from our upcoming boat trip. The rest of the day will be spend hitting some of the hotspots around St John's looking for our first boreal birds, such as Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee and Purple Finch. We could also catch up with some out-of-range waterfowl, such as Tufted Duck, or Eurasian Wigeon. *Night near Witless Bay.*

**Day 3: (Thursday, June 26) Witless Bay**

After some local birding we will take a boat ride to Gull Island, out from Witless Bay, where we'll head to see the huge nesting colonies of seabirds. Hundreds of thousands of Atlantic Puffins, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Razorbills, and Black-legged Kittiwakes crowd the ledges to nest on the island, while Humpback Whales feed in the rich waters. After lunch we will check a few more local spots before returning to our hotel near Witless Bay. *Night near Witless Bay.*

**Day 4: (Friday, June 27) Cape Race**

Today we will travel south along the eastern arm of along the Avalon Peninsula before turning inland to Portugal Cove and the road to Cape Race. We'll look for Common and Arctic Terns along the way, any early shorebirds, plus we may get the chance to see the resident herd of Caribou that frequents the area, although the numbers have crashed in recent years. *Night in Trepassey*

**Day 5: (Saturday, June 28) Cape St Mary's Gannet Colony**

This morning we will drive to the small town of St Bride's where we will spend the night, making birding stops along the way. The afternoon will be one of the many highlights of the trip when we visit the colony of about 100,000 nesting Northern Gannets at Cape St. Mary's, along with Thick-billed and Common Murres. The sounds (and smells) of this bird "city" can be impressive as well, so let's hope the wind is blowing away from us! Other birds we should find in various habitats on the peninsula are Willow Ptarmigan, Short-eared Owl and American Pipit. *Night in St Bride's*

**Day 6: (Sunday, June 29) Terra Nova National Park**

This morning we will drive to the edge of the Avalon to the vast Terra Nova National Park. Boreal forests, bogs, and fjords make up the landscape, and we will spend the morning looking for landbirds, such as Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's and Hermit Thrush and Evening Grosbeak. If there have been any recent burns, the area could hold both Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers and White-winged Crossbill *Night in Glovertown*

**Day 7: (Monday, June 30)**

**Terra Nova National Park and St John's**

We will spend our final morning exploring the boreal forests of the National Park. Many species of warblers nest in the area and we could see Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Wilson's, Black-and-white, Mourning, Magnolia, Blackpoll, Palm and Yellow-rumped. All will be singing and in their full breeding colors. After lunch we will drive back towards St. John's ***Night in St John's***

**Day 8: (Tuesday, July 1)**

**Departure**

If we have time this morning we will check a few of the local hotspots in town to see if anything new has been seen. Otherwise we will leave St John's for our flights back home, or you may wish to stay on for a few more days to explore on your own.

***This Itinerary may change depending on weather, local conditions, or the whims of your leader!***