

NARGS Newfoundland Limestone Barrens Tour

June 28-July 6, 2024

USD \$3,255 double occupancy per person, \$3,915 single occupancy

The following is a description of the NARGS tour planned for the exploring Newfoundland's unique limestone barrens. Todd Boland will be the primary guide. If the group has 14 or more participants, Julia Corden will be a second guide.

Itinerary

June 28 – participants arrive in Deer Lake, Newfoundland. There are daily flights from Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Night at the Deer Lake Motel. You will be responsible to find your way from the airport to the hotel...taxi are available.



June 29 – Immediately after we breakfast will head to Gros Morne National park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our first stop will be the Lomond River where we will look for several orchids including *Cypripedium parviflorum* and *C. reginae*. In the afternoon we will visit the serpentine barrens of the Tablelands. This area looks like a moonscape and superficially looks quite dry. However, looks are deceiving; water flows just below the rock surface allowing pitcher plants to grow in the gravel! Here we will look for some endemics and near-endemics such as *Cerastium terrae-novae* and *Minuartia marcescens*. Other highlights will be *Aremeria maritima* var. *siberica*, *Silene acaulis* and *Adiantum aleuticum*. We will spend the night at Shallow Bay Motel in Cow Head.

June 30 – This morning we will take a scenic tour of Western Brook Pond, a landlocked fjord with spectacular cliffs and many geological features dating back to the last Ice Age. The 2 miles walk to the boat launch will take us through coastal boreal forest and several bogs with classic flora such as *Clintonia borealis*, *Maianthemum canadense* and our first look at *Arethusa bulbosa*. In the afternoon we will head to Arches Provincial Park, a coastal limestone outcrop with several open arches. Look for humpback whales offshore as they are often seen this time of year. Night at the Shallow Bay Motel.



July 1 – This morning we will have our first taste of the limestone barrens at Belburns. We will look for the Newfoundland rare Hooker's orchid and see several species of dwarf Arctic willow and many, many yellow lady's-slippers. We will then head to the Point Riche Peninsula where we will see yet more limestone barrens plants, in particular the Newfoundland orchid, *Pseudorchis albida*. We will also visit the Maritime Archaic Indian National Historic Site at Port-aux-Choix to learn about the people that lived in this area 5000 years ago! In some years there are literally thousands of yellow lady's-slippers in this area. Night at Plum Point Motel in Plum Point.

July 2 – Today we visit several areas just north of Plum Point where we will see a mix of coastal and limestone barrens flora, including the endemic *Braya longii* and *Braya fernaldii*. Night at the Plum Point Motel.

July 3 – We have a bit of driving today with a late morning stop at Cape Norman and the afternoon at Burnt Cape. Cape Norman is home to the endemic barrens willow, *Salix jejuna*. The scenery here is stunning with chances at seeing icebergs if any are around. Burnt Cape is a botanical wonderland with the widest diversity of Arctic alpinines found anywhere in Newfoundland...or this far south in the world! Night at Hotel North in St. Anthony.



July 4 - Botanizing will be limited today as we take a boat tour in the morning with the intent of looking for whales and icebergs. In the afternoon we will visit L'Anse-aux-Meadows, another UNESCO World Heritage Site...the only authenticated Viking presence in North America dating back to the year 1000 AD. Night at Hotel North.

July 5 – Today is a driving day as we head back down the Great Northern Peninsula back to the Shallow Bay Motel in Cow Head. We will make scattered stops to see any plants we might have missed earlier in the trip including a visit to the Thrombolite Fossils of Flower's Cove. These rare fossils date back more than 3.5 billion years! In the late afternoon we will visit a bog which, if the conditions are perfect, will be pink with *Arethusa* orchid blossoms. We even have the potential to find white and bicolored forms. Pitcher plants and sundews will also abound. Night at the Shallow Bay Motel.

July 6 – On our last day we will head to Deer Lake where we will connect with our flights home. Most flights are in the afternoon. If time allows we will make a stop enroute to the Burnt Berry pond trail in Gros Morne Park or the Humber River Trail in Deer Lake, to look for woodland orchids. We will then make our way to airport where we will say our good-byes.





Tour Price: The price is USD \$3,255 per person based on a double occupancy room; single occupancy supplement is \$3915. The price includes accommodations from June 28 to July 6; ground transportation from the morning of June 29 through to the drop-off at the airport on July 6; all meals (including tip) from breakfast on June 29 to breakfast on July 6; and all boat tours and Park admission fees.

Not included is transportation from the Deer Lake airport to the Deer Lake Motel on June 28 and meals on June 28; items of a personal nature; alcohol purchases, tips for bus driver, boat operators or guides.

Food & Drink: Our hotels will provide our breakfasts and dinners. Lunch may be bagged or utilizing local restaurants. Beer and wine are available at your own expense.

Weather: The weather is VERY variable...it could be 25° C (77° F) or 10° C (50° F), so be prepared and dress in layers. I am sure we will get some rain and the wind can be quite brisk at times, but that will keep the flies away!

Gear: We would advise you to come prepared with layers of clothing including something warm to wear as well as something wind and waterproof. Bring a hat to protect against sunburn. It is best to bring a daypack with extra clothes as the weather can change quickly. An umbrella can be handy but keep in mind, it is often windy so umbrellas may be of little help. While most trails are relatively level, the terrain may be uneven so good hiking shoes are suggested. Waterproof trousers and boots will help on prolonged wet days (if we are unlucky). Fly repellent is highly suggested.

Other points to remember: Be sure your passport has at least six months validity from your proposed date of entry. While local establishments will accept American dollars they often do so at face value so to get the best exchange, you are best to bring Canadian dollars.

Books: Todd and Julia will have the sufficient books along for you to peruse. Other suggested titles include:

Trees and Shrubs of Newfoundland and Labrador by Todd Boland

Wildflowers and Ferns of Newfoundland by Todd Boland

Exploring the Limestone Barrens by Burzynski, Mann and Marceau

Gratuities: Gratuities are included for meals but tips for boat operators, the bus driver and the guides are at your own discretion. It is suggested you tip \$3-4 Canadian dollars per day per person for the bus driver. As we have the same driver for the entire trip (7 days) that would be \$21-28 Canadian dollars per person.



Information Related Registration, Payments, and Cancellation

You must be a NARGS member to register. If you need to renew your membership or to join the society, please do so via the NARGS website (www.nargs.org) or contact Bobby Ward at nargs@nc.rr.com if you have questions or need help. The annual NARGS membership fee is \$40 USD if you reside in North America or \$45 USD if overseas. Your membership must be up to date before we can complete your registration.

The cost for the main tours is \$3,255 USD per person based on double occupancy; single occupancy \$3915 USD.

A \$750 USD deposit is payable to NARGS at the time of pre-registration. Final payment is due by March 1, 2024. The minimum number of registrants is 10 people. If the number of participants is fewer than 10 NARGS will refund the deposits in full.

Registration Form

Registration requests are being handled electronically via Google Forms. **You will be sent a link to the registration form if there is room.** Persons traveling together must each fill out a Registration form. If you have problems or questions related to the form, send an email to tours@nargs.com.

Pre-Registration Payment

Before submitting your deposit, send an email to tours@nargs.org to confirm space availability. You will receive an email confirming space availability and payment instructions. Pre-registration deposits are made through the PayPal link on the NARGS website (www.nargs.org) that allows payment via either a PayPal account (if you have one) or your own personal debit or credit card through the same PayPal link. Persons traveling together can submit a single payment covering both participants, or separate payments for each.

Final Payment



NARGS will email final payment information in January 2024. Final payment is due by March 1, 2024. The preferred method for final payment is by check from a U.S. bank denominated in USD. The check should be payable to NARGS, note Newfoundland Tour on the memo line of the check, and be mailed to NARGS, POB 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604. Payment can be made via credit card, PayPal, postal or bank money order, or a check from

a non-U.S. bank but must be denominated in USD and must include a 5% surcharge to cover banking fees. Failure to make final payment by March 1, 2024 will result in reservation cancellation and full loss of the deposit.

Cancellation

Cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to NARGS by the person making the reservation. Cancellation requests received before January 1, 2024 will be refunded their deposit minus an administrative fee of \$100. Cancellation requests received between January 1 and March 1, 2024 will be subject to a cancellation fee of 50% of the deposit, which will be reduced to \$100 if the cancelled spot is filled by another person. Cancellation requests received after March 1, 2024 will be subject to a fee of 100% but will be reduced to \$250 if the cancelled spot is filled by another person.

If the tour is cancelled by NARGS for any reason, all payments minus banking fees and incurred expenses will be refunded to registered participants. If the tour is cancelled by NARGS, any person who had previously cancelled will not be entitled to this refund.





Information Related to Insurance, Waivers, and Public Health Requirements

Insurance

The tour price does not include insurance to cover costs associated with medical treatment, repatriation, flight cancellations, baggage loss, travel interruptions, cancellation fees, or other expenses. Each registrant is urged to assess their personal situation and to obtain private insurance to cover these costs if needed.

Waiver of Liability and Use of Photos

By submitting a tour deposit, you are acknowledging that you are aware of the risks associated with travel and that you will not hold NARGS or others associated with the tour responsible for any delays; changes in itinerary, staffing, or accommodations; injuries, illnesses, or deaths; or any circumstances beyond the control of NARGS. At the time of final payment, you will be required to sign a waiver releasing NARGS and others associated with the tour, from any losses, liability, or claims associated with your participation in the tour and allowing use of any photos taken during the tour.

Public Health Requirements

All participants must comply with public health requirements for international travel in their country of residence and in the tour host country. During the tour, participants may be in close contact with other participants and the general public. To the extent possible, participants should comply with U.S. and local public health guidelines, and must comply with all local public health requirements. If you do not feel well during the tour, let the tour guide know. The guide will assist in locating medical services, but these services may be distant and less extensive than those available at home. Each participant will be individually responsible for paying the cost for these services and associated transportation.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, send an email to tours@nargs.org.