



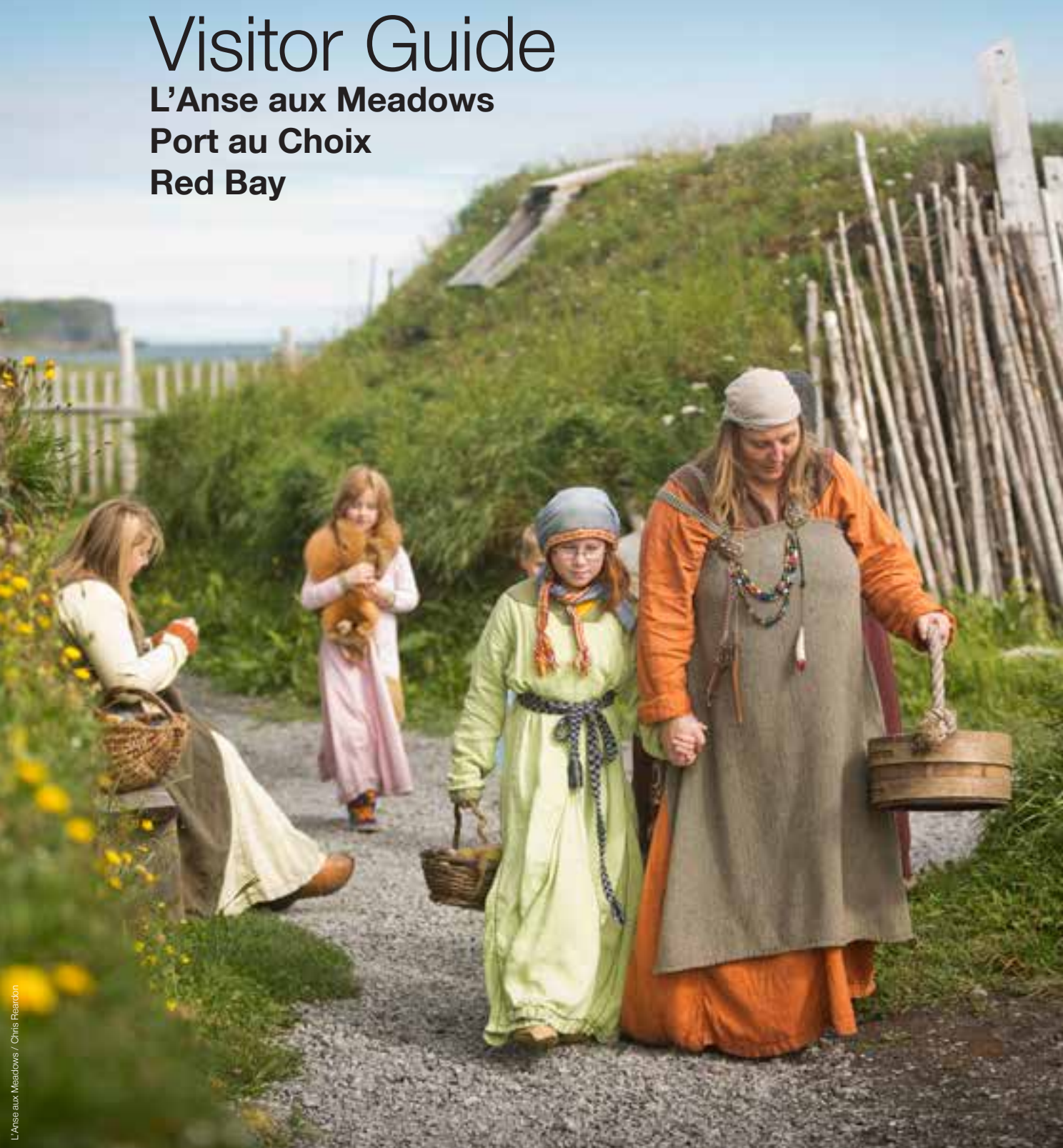
Western Newfoundland  
and Labrador  
National Historic Sites

# Visitor Guide

**L'Anse aux Meadows**

**Port au Choix**

**Red Bay**



L'Anse aux Meadows / Chris Reardon



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada



## History on the Edge

For thousands of years different cultures travelled great distances to take advantage of the natural bounty of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland and Southern Labrador. Each brought with them skills and new technologies that helped them thrive. Ancient Indigenous peoples arrived first. As sea levels and climate changed so too did the cultures that lived here. Vikings voyaged here from across the ocean a thousand years ago. Basque whalers came five centuries later to exploit the riches of the New World. Other Europeans came and settled on the land while Indigenous peoples maintained their presence. Ship wrecks, tall tales, mysterious stones, and sacred traditions; each culture left their mark on the landscape for us to discover.





Dorset Doorway / Camella Ibrahim



Caribou / Guillaume Paquette-Jettien



Seal for All Seasons program / C. Ibrahim



Yellow Lady Slipper / Ibrahim

## Exploring a Living Landscape

Attracted by the rich resources of the sea, people have lived at Port au Choix for more than 6,000 years. A large sacred burial ground bears witness to the marine-based technology, economy and spiritual culture of the first people to live here – the Maritime Archaic. The remains of a large settlement at Phillip’s Garden paint a vivid picture of the material and intellectual culture of the Groswater and Dorset people, 3,000 years later. After the arrival of Europeans, Indigenous people cautiously traded with fisherman at Benie Island. Discover the ancient peoples who journeyed through this special landscape and connect with today’s thriving Indigenous cultures of Newfoundland and Labrador.

### Activities and services



### Season and hours of operation

Early June - Early September / Daily 9 am - 5 pm

For exact dates and fees, please see our website:

[www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/portauchaix](http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/portauchaix)

### Contact info

(709) 861-3522 / (709) 458-2417 (off season)  
portauchaix@pc.gc.ca

# Things to do - Port au Choix



## Sacred Burial Grounds

Visit the **Gathering Circle** in the town of Port au Choix and reflect on the sacred burial grounds of the Maritime Archaic people. Thousands of years ago when sea levels were higher this area was an island. It was a special place to honour and lay to rest their loved ones.



## Seal for All Seasons

Join an interpreter for the **Seal for All Seasons** program to explore the different ways past and present cultures have used seals to sustain their livelihoods.



## Beauty and the Barrens

Explore the rare and fragile limestone barrens, home to shoreline fossils and rare arctic plants found nowhere else in Canada, and some species found nowhere else in the world. Look out for barrens willow, Fernald's braya, and the taller Long's braya.



## Hiking in Port au Choix

Travel through time on hiking trails over dramatic limestone barrens, to coastal trails ideal for spotting whales, moose, caribou and sea birds. Visit archaeological sites including 5,500 year old Maritime Archaic sacred burial grounds and Phillip's Garden, one of the most important archaeological sites for Dorset and Groswater settlement in the world.



## Caribou are a species at risk in Newfoundland

- Give caribou space for your safety and their survival (30 metres).
- Do not feed caribou. Wildlife get all the food they need from their environment. Feeding wildlife can put you and the animals in danger.
- It is illegal to feed, touch or entice any wildlife in a national historic site. Violators could pay fines up to \$25,000.

## Good to know

Spread out over the Point Riche Peninsula there is a unique series of sculptures showing the way of life of ancient Indigenous peoples. Can you find all three sculptures during your visit?



## Geocaching

Explore more with the geocaching activity program. Locate hidden caches and punch the program card. Find three caches and receive a trackable geocoin unique to Port au Choix.

## Did you know?

The **Griscom's Arnica** is in the sunflower family and grows at just nine sites around the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Of this small global population, more than 90% is found within Port au Choix National Historic Site!



# Not to be missed - Port au Choix

## French Rooms Cultural Center



Learn about the resettlement era, the French migratory fishery and the Point Riche lighthouse. Local shrimp and crafts are available for purchase at the center gift shop.  
(709) 861-2142

## French Bread Oven



Enjoy freshly baked bread topped with local jams from a reconstructed French oven, and have your photo taken with the chaloupe in period costume. For further details and program schedule contact the French Rooms Cultural Center.  
(709) 861-2142

## Point Riche Lighthouse

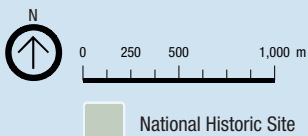


Explore the areas around the Point Riche lighthouse. It is accessible by road and caribou are often seen grazing nearby. While there learn more about the history of the Dorset presence at Point Riche.

## Torrent River Salmon Interpretation Centre



Learn about the adult salmon restocking story, view Atlantic salmon - eye to eye. Located in nearby Hawke's Bay it is the site of the province's most successful salmon enhancement program.  
[www.torrentriver.ca/home](http://www.torrentriver.ca/home)





L'Anse aux Meadows  
National Historic Site



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture



L'Anse aux Meadows  
National Historic Site  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 1978

Lieu historique national  
de L'Anse aux Meadows  
inscrit sur la Liste du  
patrimoine mondial en 1978



Replica of Norse sod hut / Dale Wilson



Weaving textiles / Chris Pearson



Guided tour / Guillaume Paquette-Jetté

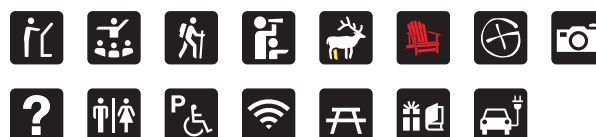


Boat building / Dale Wilson

## An Epic Viking Adventure Unearthed

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978, L'Anse aux Meadows provides evidence of one of the great steps in human migration and is the only authentic Viking site in North America. Recalling epic voyages across raging oceans, L'Anse aux Meadows contains the remains of an 11<sup>th</sup>-century Viking basecamp and is the earliest known European presence on the American continent. At this Norse outpost on Newfoundland's windswept northernmost tip, walk in the footsteps of the Vikings and experience life in the North Atlantic.

### Activities and services



### Season and hours of operation

Early June - Early October / Daily 9 am - 5 pm

For exact dates and fees, please see our website:

[www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/meadows](http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/meadows)

### Contact info

(709) 623-2608 / (709) 458-2417 (off season)

# Things to do - L'Anse aux Meadows



Chris Reardon

## Viking Encampment - Living History

Curious about how the Vikings lived and worked? Visit with the navigator-adventurer, the weaver, the blacksmith or other members of the crew and hear tales of trade, Norse society, how to turn bog iron into a nail and cloth into currency. Check out their weaponry, tools, cooking utensils and reproductions of many artifacts representing everyday living.



Chris Reardon

## Sagas and Shadows

Gather around the fire and join the crew for an evening of heroic and tragic tales from the Vinland Sagas. Call (709) 623-2608 for more information or to book.



Archaeological site / Dale Wilson

## The Meeting of Two Worlds

Discover the archaeological significance of L'Anse aux Meadows and its powerful place in the history of the human migrations. This guided tour departs from the Visitor Centre at regular intervals throughout the day.



Servant's Hut / Geg Knecht

## Test of Tykir - Escape Room

You will have 45 minutes to search the Servant's Hut for clues and solve puzzles in hopes of finding the riches of Vinland. For more information or reservations call (709) 623-2608.



Visitor centre / Parks Canada

## Explore on Your Own

For a terrific introduction to the site's natural and cultural wonders, start your exploration at the visitor centre. See original artifacts uncovered during archaeological excavations, like a bronze cloak-fastening pin, bone needle, and spindle whorl.

## Good to know

The tip of the Great Northern Peninsula is great place for whale watching. See whales and other marine mammals from shore or get even closer with a boat tour.



Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism



## Geocaching

Explore more with the geocaching activity program. Locate hidden caches and punch the program card. Find three caches and receive a trackable geocoin unique to L'Anse aux Meadows.

## Did you know?

The Vikings were the first Europeans to trade with Indigenous people in North America. They traded textiles and milk for furs.

Guillaume Paquette-Jetten



# Not to be missed - L'Anse aux Meadows

## Norstead Viking Village



Norstead replicates a Viking era port of trade and has Snorri, a 54 foot long Viking knarr. Open from early June to Mid-September.

[www.norstead.com](http://www.norstead.com)  
(709) 623-2828

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## Icebergs



Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism

Icebergs abound in the cold waters off Newfoundland and Labrador from early April to late June. Boat tours offer a chance to view Icebergs, whales, and bird life.

## Grenfell Properties St. Anthony



Tom Cochrane

Visit Grenfell Historic Properties and walk in the footsteps of Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, a medical missionary. The gift store features traditional Grenfell and locally crafted products.

[www.grenfell-properties.com](http://www.grenfell-properties.com)  
(709) 454-4010

## Conche Interpretation Centre



Tom Cochrane

Follow further along the French Shore to the Conche Interpretation Centre. Home of the French Shore Tapestry.

[frenchshoretapestry.com](http://frenchshoretapestry.com)

Tour the interior of the peninsula for beauty off the beaten path.

[www.frenchshore.com](http://www.frenchshore.com)







Red Bay  
National Historic Site



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**Red Bay Basque  
Whaling Station**  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2013

**La Station baleinière  
basque de Red Bay**  
inscrit sur la Liste du  
patrimoine mondial en 2013



Tracey Hill / Sheldon Stone



Dressed in Basque costumes / C. Jurek



Excavating the San Juan / Parks Canada



Bay Shore / Sheldon Stone

## A Mystery of the Deep Unraveled

Mysterious red “pebbles” found scattered on Red Bay’s rugged coastline were the first clue to a deep historic mystery. Revealed to be terracotta roofing tiles, a historic link to 16<sup>th</sup>-century Basque whalers was made. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013, Red Bay Basque Whaling Station is an archaeological site that provides the earliest, most complete and best preserved testimony of the European whaling tradition. The site includes remains of rendering ovens, cooperages, wharves, temporary living quarters and a cemetery, together with underwater remains of vessels and whale bone deposits.

### Activities and services



### Season and hours of operation

Early June - Early October / Daily 9 am - 5 pm

For exact dates and fees, please see our website:

[www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/redbay](http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/redbay)

### Contact info

(709) 920-2142 / (709) 458-2417 (off season)

# Things to do - Red Bay



Sheldon Stone

## Digging through Time – Saddle Island Guided Tour

Take a short ride on the water shuttle with a Parks Canada guide to visit the archaeological sites on Saddle Island. Walk around the breath-taking island to hear first-hand experiences of finding some of Red Bay’s most precious artifacts, check out where whale oil was processed, and explore the life and times of Labrador’s 16<sup>th</sup>-century Basque whalers. Regularly scheduled tours depart from the Visitor Interpretation Centre.



Sheldon Stone

## Boney Shore Trail

Explore the Boney Shore to see remains of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century whaling industry. Walk along the beautiful harbour with a view of Saddle Island. Let these ancient bones cast new light on the present-day population of North Atlantic right whales.



Sheldon Stone

## Txiste on Saddle Island

Try our new new escape room experience. Explore Basque folklore, navigate puzzles, and raise the rescue flag within an hour to escape Saddle Island. Call (709) 920-2142 for availability.



Penny McIsaac

## Weird and Wonderful Artifacts

Explore Red Bay’s weird and wonderful artifact collection to uncover the stories behind some of our one-of-a-kind objects, including both bizarre and beautiful artifacts of Basque life.



Basque chalupa / Chris Riardon

## Authentic Basque Chalupa

Learn about the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Basque chulapa at the Visitor Orientation Centre. This whaling boat lay in pieces on the bottom of the harbour for centuries until it was reconstructed and restored to tell the story of Basque whalers.

## Good to know

The popular boardwalk hike to the top of Tracey Hill provides excellent views of the landscape and the Red Bay UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Sheldon Stone



## Geocaching

Explore more with the geocaching activity program. Locate hidden caches and punch the program card. Find three caches and receive a trackable geocoin unique to Red Bay.

## Did you know?

The Basques brought thousands of terracotta tiles to Red Bay during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and these tiles helped researchers find the remains of the whaling station over 400 years later.

Sheldon Stone



# Not to be missed - Red Bay

## Red Bay and the Whale Waterfront Centre



The exhibit features the 400-year old skeleton of a 52-foot Bowhead whale and focuses on the research and protection of the Bowhead and North Atlantic Right whales.  
(709) 920-2197

Cedric Davignon

## Labrador Straits Museum and Craft Shop



The Museum showcases life 150 years ago with emphasis on the role of women. Features ongoing traditional skills demonstrations, WIFI, and Gift Shops.  
Two locations:  
L'Anse au Loup (709) 927-5077  
Red Bay (709) 920-2043

## L'Anse Amour National Historic Site of Canada



Contemplate thousands of years of human history in Labrador at the site of a 7,500-year-old ceremonial burial place of a Maritime Archaic youth.  
(709) 927-5825

Dru Kennedy Photography / NL Tourism

## Point Amour Lighthouse



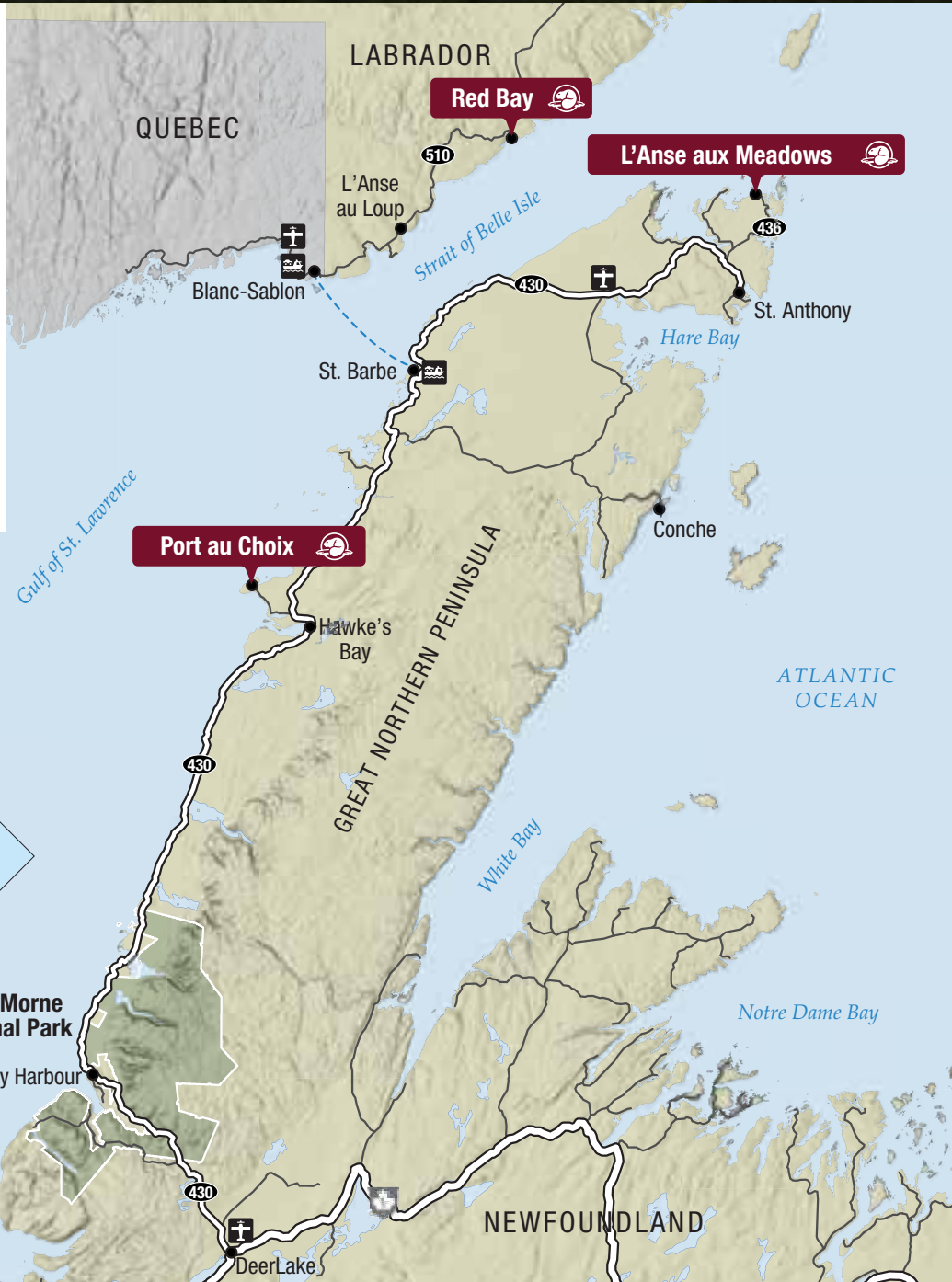
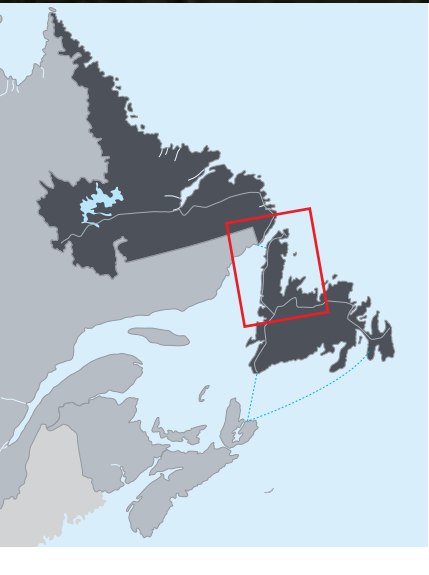
Climb to the top of the tallest lighthouse in Atlantic Canada and view exhibits about the natural and cultural history of the Labrador Straits.  
(709) 927-5825

Barrett & Mack - Photo / NL Tourism





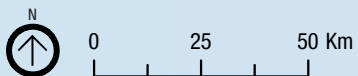
Kayaker sculpture / Sheldon Stone



	Red Bay	L'Anse aux Meadows		St. Barbe		Port au Choix		Rocky Harbour		Deer Lake	
262											
120	142										
214	231	94									
349	366	229	157								
418	434	298	235	71							

Distance in kilometers

- National Historic Site
- National Park



Parks Canada / Parcs Canada

Canada