

HISTORY LIVES HERE

Welcome to Cape Spear

Standing at the most eastern edge of Canada, Cape Spear is surrounded by breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean and rugged Newfoundland coastline.

Here stands the oldest surviving lighthouse in Newfoundland and Labrador. Built in 1835 by the Colonial Government to signal mariners on the approach to St. John's harbour, the lighthouse was in continuous operation from 1836-1955.

Spotlighting Our Past

The historic Cape Spear Lighthouse offers a glimpse into the lives of 19th century lighthouse keepers and their families.

This almost 200 year old structure stands at the peak of the site and is a not so distant reminder of the light keepers who called it home for many decades.

This unique example of Victorian British architecture has changed significantly over the years. When it was acquired by Parks Canada in 1975, it was restored to its 1839 appearance.

A Fortified Cape

During the Second World War Cape Spear played a crucial role as a coastal defence battery as it was equipped with two 10" guns to protect the entrance to the St. John's Harbour. From 1941 to 1945, Canadian and American troops occupied Fort Cape Spear. Today, remnants of the bunkers, including the two guns, remain as a sombre reminder of this important part of our history.

Time to Connect

- Discover more than 150 years of history inside the historic lighthouse. Talk to our costumed interpreters and learn about what life was like for lighthouse keepers and their families.
- Ask at the kiosk about programs and workshops.
- Take a site tour with one of our passionate and knowledgeable guides. Offered daily (Jul.-Aug.)
- Be the first in the country to see the sunrise at the most easterly point in Canada. It's just 5 minutes from the parking lot.
- From calm waters to crashing waves, we see it all at Cape Spear. Take a deep breath and enjoy your time at this unique place. Sun, fog, wind, rain, and sometimes the Northern Lights; it's all part of the experience.
- Watch for whales, icebergs and seabirds!
- Enjoy the scenic landscape and vegetation as you explore the natural surroundings at the site. Hike a section of the East Coast Trail!

For More Information

**Cape Spear Lighthouse
National Historic Site of Canada**

709-772-2191

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Twitter: ParksCanadaNL

Hours of operation

June 1 to Thanksgiving Weekend

Open daily, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

The grounds are open year-round.

Aussi disponible en français.

Explore Cape Spear

1 Kiosk & Gift Shop

Be greeted by one of our Parks Canada Guides who will introduce you to the site and let you know of any daily tours, programs or special events. Pay your admission fee to the historic lighthouse here!

2 Second World War Gun Emplacements

Explore what remains of a coastal defense battery that was constructed here to protect the entrance to the St. John's Harbour during the Second World War.

3 Most Easterly Point

Stand at the extreme edge of Canada and breathe in the crisp Atlantic air. Can you spot a whale or an iceberg?

4 Cape Spear Café

Once you have had your fill of history and hiking round out the day with a coffee, a sweet, and a breathtaking view.

5 Art Gallery

Operated by the Canadian Coast Guard Alumni Association, this gallery features more than 60 artistic representations of lighthouses in Newfoundland and Labrador by local artist Leslie H. Noseworthy.

6 Modern Lighthouse

Operating since 1955, this light tower is an automated navigational aid warning mariners of the dangerous coastline leading into St. John's Harbour. Today, it is operated by Transport Canada and is not open to the public.

7 Historic Lighthouse

Step back in time and discover the life of a lightkeeping family in the 1830s. Try your hand at some traditional Victorian activities with our costumed interpreters such as washing, carrying water and other chores. Wander throughout the lighthouse to see the historic features of this unique structure and to understand what life may have been like for the many families that lived and worked here.

Ask our guides about special events and programs happening in the historic lighthouse during the summer season.

 Parking	 Interpretation
 Information	 Hiking trails
 Accessible parking	 Panoramic views
 Public washrooms	 Beware of high cliffs
 Gift shop	 Danger: rogue waves
 Café	



8 Coastal Trail

Spend time exploring the East Coast Trails that intersect with Cape Spear. Keep to the designated trails as the coastal conditions are unpredictable.