

Hold On
to Your Hat!



WELCOME TO SIGNAL HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Originally known as the “Lookout”, Signal Hill has been used for defence, observation and signalling since the early 1700s. Exhibits throughout the site and Visitor Centre bring its communications, military and medical history to life. Declared a National Historic Site in 1958, Signal Hill is St. John’s most popular landmark.

A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- The Visitor Centre, washrooms and the Lookout Trail near Cabot Tower are wheelchair accessible.
- Bilingual services are available.
- To ensure a safe visit, please comply with all warning signs, notices and site safety regulations.
- Pets are welcome on the grounds but must be kept on a leash.
- Please touch with eyes and cameras only!
- Fees collected on site are used to improve facilities and to enhance exhibits, interpretation programs and service to the public.

WHILE YOU’RE IN THE AREA

- Historic St. John’s is a unique and colourful place to visit. Make you sure you add a guided site seeing tour to your tour plans.
- Cape Spear Lighthouse National Historic Site of Canada is the most easterly point of North America! Make sure you tour the oldest surviving lighthouse in Newfoundland while you are there. Maybe you’ll spot some whales and icebergs too!
- Discover the elegance of another time at Commissariat House Provincial Historic Site on King’s Bridge Road.
- Spend a day at The Rooms and learn about the rich history and art of this province.
- Discover the amazing life story of our planet, through learning about the remarkable geology of Newfoundland and Labrador at the Johnson GEO Centre.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Visitor Centre and Guide Services

Mid-May to mid-June

Wednesday to Sunday (closed on Monday and Tuesday)
10 am to 6 pm

Mid-June until first Monday of September

Daily 10 am to 6 pm

September to mid-October

Saturday to Wednesday (closed on Thursday and Friday)
10 am to 6 pm

Cabot Tower

Open from mid-April to mid-November
(for detailed opening hours please call 709-772-4454)

ADMISSION FEE

Includes access to Visitor Centre exhibit and movie, Explora and Xplorer programs and on-site guided interpretation (HST included)

Adult.....\$3.90	Family/Group (up to 7 people).....\$9.80
Senior...\$3.40	Commercial Group (per person)...\$3.40
Youth...\$1.90	School Group (per student).....\$1.90
	Signal Hill Tattoo.....\$10.00



FOR INFORMATION

Signal Hill National Historic Site of Canada

✉ P.O. Box 1268

St. John’s, NL A1C 5M9

📞 (709) 772-5367

(709) 772-0284 (off season)

(709) 772-6302 (fax)

🌐 www.pc.gc.ca/signalhill

✉ signal.hill@pc.gc.ca

📘 facebook.com/SignalHillNHS

🐦 [ParksCanadaNL](https://twitter.com/ParksCanadaNL)

Aussi disponible en français

Welcome to Signal Hill National Historic Site of Canada

This historic site celebrates the rich communications and military history of Signal Hill and sits amidst a spectacular view of St. John's and the sea. Signal Hill was the reception point of the first transatlantic wireless signal by Guglielmo Marconi in 1901, as well as the site of harbour defences for St. John's from the 18th century to the Second World War. Enjoy a performance of military music and drills by the Signal Hill Tattoo (in season), or take a hike from the summit along the coast and harbour entrance.



1 Visitor Centre

Meet the Signalman who through exhibits and film, tells you the stories of Signal Hill. Discover the Hill's importance and fascinating role in Canada's military and communications history.

2 Tattoo Performance Field

The Signal Hill Tattoo portrays the military experiences of soldiers from and in Newfoundland. Join them for a performance of military drills and music ranging from over 100 years of history. Be "wowed" by the pomp and circumstance of historic uniforms and touched by the commemoration of those who have served in defence of Newfoundland. The program runs July and August depending on weather. Schedule details are available in the Visitor Centre.

3 Queen's Battery Barracks

Queen's Battery Barracks was one of the many structures, with the Battery itself, constructed throughout the history of St. John's to prevent hostile ships from entering the harbour. The reconstruction as seen today dates to the period of the 1860s, a time of heightened tensions between Great Britain and the United States of America.

4 Cabot Tower

Built in 1897 to commemorate 400 years since John Cabot discovered Newfoundland and Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, Cabot Tower is an iconic building in St. John's, visible from almost everywhere within the city. Make sure you ascend to its observation deck and get the most beautiful 360 degree view of St. John's and the Atlantic Ocean. A gift shop is located on its first floor and is operated by the Historic Sites Association. An exhibit on Marconi's first transatlantic signal is located on the second floor, beside the HAM radio operated by the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs.

5 Noon Day Gun / Duke of York Battery

Duke of York Battery was part of the fortifications built on top of Signal Hill during the 1800s to act as a point of last retreat if the town was ever captured. The Noon Day Gun stands beside the battery and is fired on a regular basis in summer time. Did you know this long standing tradition started in the mid 1800s?

TIME WELL SPENT There is plenty to do at Signal Hill. Spend an hour, or spend the day!

- Let the Visitor Centre be your first stop! Staff will be able to provide up-to-date information on the Signal Hill Tattoo, guided tours and special events.
- Explore the Visitor Centre, meet our Signalman and discover the rich military & communications history.
- Visit the HAM radio station, operated by the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs in Cabot Tower.
- Hike one of our famous and scenic trails, including North Head Trail.
- Visit the Queen's Battery and the barracks and learn about how St. John's harbour was defended in the 19th century.
- Watch for whales, icebergs and seabirds.
- Have a seat, relax and enjoy the view!



P Parking is available for cars, motorhomes and buses

♿ Wheelchair parking available with full access to Visitor Centre

♿♿ Public washrooms located inside the Visitor Centre

🏠 Exhibit

📖 External interpretation panels

🐕 Pets are welcome on site but must be kept on a leash

🗣️ Interpretation programs and guided tours

🗣️ Service available in both official languages

🚶 Hiking trails

🎭 Theatre on site

🛍️ Gift Shop

☕ Cafe

👁️ Panoramic views

🍴 Picnic facilities

Summer Activities 2014



Ghosts of Signal Hill

Daring escapes, murdered pirates, ghost ships, buried treasure, tragic drowning, and headless phantoms: will you be able to handle all of this?

Dale Jarvis is the creator of the award-winning St. John's Haunted Hike. It's an evening of ghost stories, historical tales and strange adventures. Join the dashing Lieutenant Ranslaer Schuyler by lamplight inside the historic Queen's Battery Barracks, and find out what happens on Newfoundland's most historic hill, after the lights go out.

Dates: Every Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm.
From July 4 to August 30, 2014.

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for kids 12 and under) – cash sale only. Buy your tickets and meet your guide at the Visitor Centre. It gets dark on the Hill, so bring a flashlight to help light your way up and down!



Daily guided tours

This tour begins at the Visitor Centre and will be proceeding to Queen's Battery Barracks and then to Cabot Tower. Come learn about the military and communication history of

Signal Hill from one of our enthusiastic guides. Inquire at the Visitor Centre front desk for more information. Tours usually run about 1 to 1.5 hours and are bilingual.

Dates: June 1 to August 31, 2014, 1:30 pm daily.
The cost is included in the site admission fee.



Signal Hill Tattoo

This summer the Signal Hill Tattoo is introducing a new and exciting performance program covering over 150 years of Newfoundland's military history. Tracing the earliest roots

of the Royal Newfoundland regiment, visitors will be treated to a performance by the band of the 1795 Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Foot's Fife and Drum Corps. Following this will be a demonstration of infantry and artillery drills by the War of 1812 era Royal Newfoundland Fencibles and Royal Artillery. Finally, there will be an exercise by the Newfoundland Regiment as they would have appeared during the First World War. This hour long performance is concluded by a commemoration ceremony dedicated to all those who have served, and continue to serve, in defence of their province and nation.

Dates: From July 2 to August 10, 2014, every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 11 am and 3 pm (weather permitting).

Cost: \$10: Cash only.
Tickets available at the entrance of the Tattoo field.



Noonday Gun

Come fire the Noonday gun! Join the gun crew on the summit of Signal Hill to take part in a St. John's tradition. Learn about the history and

purpose of the Noonday Gun and then join the small number of people able to claim that they have fired a real cannon!

Dates: Daily from June 24 to August 31, 2014, at noon (weather permitting).

Cost: \$49: Please contact the Visitor Centre at 772-5367 in order to book your place.



Camp of Instruction

Ever wondered what it was like to be a soldier preparing for battle during the First World War? Join our team of military history experts and go through a fully immersive, day long experience of

how soldiers lived and worked while training to be sent to the front. Eat their food, wear their clothes and come to understand their sacrifice and service. A unique opportunity to learn about those who served, Lest We Forget.

Dates: July 5 and 19, August 2 and 16, from 8 am to 5 pm

Cost: \$49: Please contact the Visitor Centre at 772-5367 in order to book your place.



Learn to Camp

This is an opportunity for families to learn how to plan & enjoy safe and successful camping trips while connecting to Canada's treasured wilderness for years to come! Learn to

Camp features workshops focusing on camping related skills such as how to set up a tent or how to cook in the outdoors. Participants will also enjoy inspiring interpretive programs and other Parks Canada activities. Be inspired by exceptional landscapes and natural treasures and remember them for a lifetime. Come spend the night and enjoy the experience of camping.

Dates: August 23-24, 2014

Includes the camping tent, sleeping pad, one dinner, one breakfast & all workshops.

Cost: \$22: Please contact the Visitor Centre at 772-5367 in order to book your place. Registration must be received and paid by August 1, 2014 – space is limited to 60 people.



Shakespeare By the Sea Festival

Shakespeare by the Sea Festival presents William Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well", a story of enduring love, betrayal,

and deception, plus the happy conclusions alluded to in the title. Set in the Newfoundland of the 1800s, the play will feature men handsomely attired in red regimental uniforms, ladies in courtly dresses, clowns, courtiers, kings, and estranged lovers who find each other despite the strictures of society and the smoke of war. What's not to like? Don't forget to bring your chair or picnic blanket; it's an outside presentation.

Dates: July 18, 19, 25, 26 and August 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 at 6:00 pm (weather permitting).

Cost: \$25: Cash only. Tickets available at the entrance.



Canada Day Sunrise Ceremony

Join us early July 1st at Signal Hill as we kick off the celebration of Canada's 147th birthday with the annual Sunrise Ceremony at Signal Hill National

Historic Site. While the rest of our country sleeps, we celebrate our nation's birthday in the most easterly city in North America. Canada Day is a great opportunity to gather and celebrate what it means to be Canadian. Bring your kids, your dog and your coffee. Watch the sun rise, sing our National Anthem, wave our flag and have a piece of Canada Day cake! Join us for the Sunrise Ceremony and make our tradition yours as many already have!

Dates: July 1 at 6 am. Upper parking lot near Cabot Tower

Free admission

HIKING

There are several hiking trails at Signal Hill National Historic Site of Canada, all of which boast panoramic views and captivating scenery. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring a bottle of water, binoculars and a camera. Signal Hill's trails connect with the Grand Concourse trail system, leading to most parts of St. John's. Please comply with all warning signs, notices and sign safety regulations.

--- Burma Road Trail (One way 1.2 km) - Easy

This trail leads to Cuckold's Cove Lookout where hikers can continue on to Quidi Vidi village or retrace their steps to the Ladies Lookout trail and loop to the top of the hill. The trail begins by George's Pond across the road from the Visitor Interpretation Centre.

--- Gibbet Hill Lookout (Round trip 1 km) - Intermediate

This trail begins by the Tattoo Performance Field adjacent to the Visitor Interpretation Centre and leads to the top of Gibbet Hill. The hill gets its name from a hangman's platform (a gibbet) used in the St. John's colonial period to deter criminal activity. The hiker is rewarded with a spectacular view of St. John's harbour and the Waterford Valley.

--- Queen's Battery Barracks Trail (One way 500 m) - Intermediate

This trail will take the visitor from the Visitor Interpretation Centre up to the Queen's Battery Barracks and on to Cabot Tower at the top of Signal Hill. The Queen's Battery Barracks offers an amazing view of the Narrows, Fort Amherst and the Southside of the harbour.

--- Ladies Lookout (One way 650 m) - Intermediate

Beginning at the top parking lot, it will take the visitor to Cuckold's Cove Lookout or they can loop around the summit and return to the parking area.

--- North Head Trail (3.7 km loop) - Difficult

The North Head Trail is the most popular hiking trail at Signal Hill National Historic Site of Canada. Hikers can connect with it from the parking lot at the top of the hill. From there they will descend boardwalk stairs and follow a footpath to North Head at the entrance to St. John's Harbour, along the narrows where they eventually connect to the Lower Battery Road. This 1.7 km hike will take approximately 90 minutes and descends almost 500 feet. The trail is maintained for safety and enjoyment but the following safety rules are recommended:

- Young children and persons who have difficulty walking long distances on steep terrain should not attempt this trail. This trail is classified as difficult.
- Be prepared - wear sturdy footwear with ankle support and be sure to let someone know where you are going.
- Stay on the trail and do not attempt short cuts. Parts of the coastline can be dangerous.
- In the event of wet weather, fog, or strong winds you should postpone your hike.
- If in doubt or if you have questions, please check with a Park official before starting.

--- Lookout Trail (300 m) - Easy

The Lookout Trail, which is fully accessible, circles the summit of Signal Hill and offers visitors the best vistas of St. John's and surrounding area. Hold on to your hat; it's the windiest place of our site!

