



# Super Fantastic **Gotta Do 'em Someday** Canadian Experiences **To Put on Your** Bucket List

OUR VAST AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY IS FULL OF UNIQUE, INCREDIBLE AND SOMETIMES WEIRDLY WONDERFUL PLACES AND EXPERIENCES. BUT MAYBE YOU DIDN'T REALIZE *QUITE* HOW MANY? TO FIX THAT, WE'VE PUT TOGETHER AN INSPIRATIONAL LIST TO GET YOU STARTED. DON'T FORGET TO SEND US A POSTCARD.

by JENNIFER BAIN



FOR A  
UNIQUE  
CULTURAL  
SITE

## Tour a Darker Side of History

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

Canada's most notorious prison offers the country's darkest, most fascinating tour. Kingston Penitentiary was a maximum-security federal prison in Kingston, Ont., that held the worst of the country's worst. Although it closed in 2013, privacy laws still hold and guides—a mix of students and retired correctional officers—won't name names of any infamous inmates on their historical tours. Visit between May and early November to learn how "KP" was built, tour cell blocks, Indigenous grounds, the gym, shops, laundry and hospital (depending on whether you take the standard or extended tour) and hear about famous riots, killings and escapes. Canada's Penitentiary Museum is across the street.

### MORE UNIQUE CULTURAL SITES



In Ottawa, the **Diefenbunker** is Canada's Cold War Museum, a National Historic Site and home to the world's largest escape room. Commissioned in 1959, the bunker was supposed to house key government and military figures during a nuclear attack and operated until 1994.



The **North Atlantic Aviation Museum** and *Beyond Words Tours* in Gander, Nfld., offer insight into the town's role in 9/11, made famous by the musical **Come From Away**. The tour includes a stop at Gander International Airport's historic international lounge.



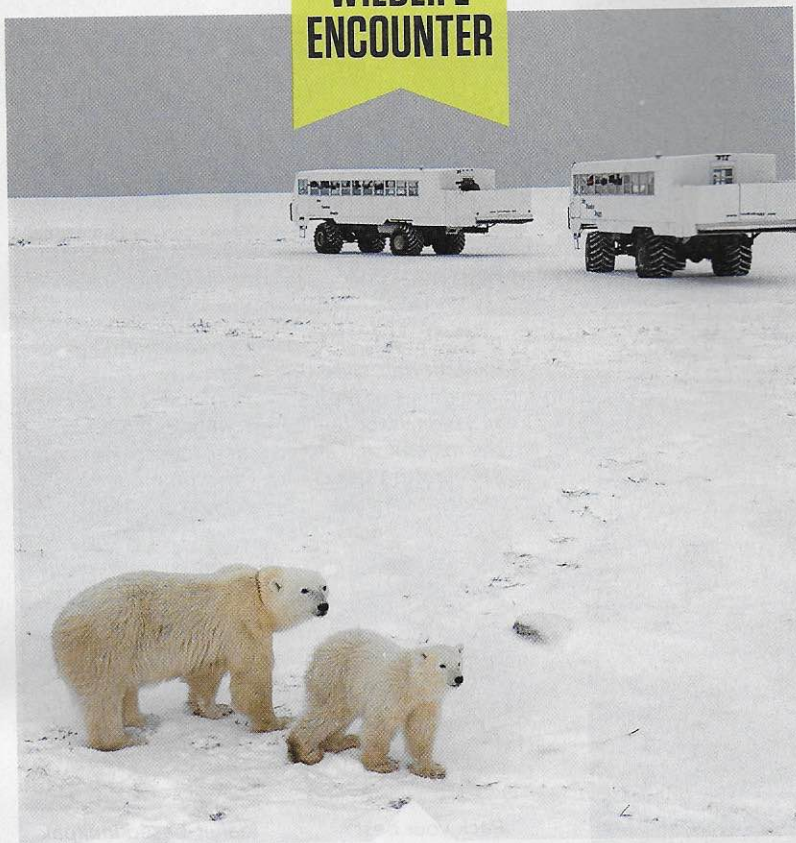
In Calgary, the sprawling Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre as well as the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. It's also steps from the spectacular new **Calgary Central Library**, well worth a visit for its gorgeous architecture.



Everyone should visit the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights** in Winnipeg, especially since it's the only museum in the world devoted to the subject. Explore on your own or take guided tours that focus on Indigenous rights or the stunning architecture of the building itself.



FOR A  
**WILDLIFE  
ENCOUNTER**



## See Polar Bears in the Wild

CHURCHILL, MANITOBA

Canada is home to more polar bears than any other country. About two-thirds of the world's population prowls Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Quebec, Manitoba, and Newfoundland and Labrador. But the epicentre of polar bear tourism is Churchill, Man., which has declared itself the polar bear capital of the world. Sitting in a giant, all-terrain Tundra Buggy, visitors can watch safely as the ferocious marine mammals move from the sub-Arctic tundra to the shores of Hudson Bay for their winter seal hunt.

There are lots of sunrise-to-sunset day trip options. For an overnight adventure, the Churchill Northern Studies Centre offers learning vacations and Churchill Wild whisks guests to a fly-in lodge for walking polar bear safaris.

### EXPERT PLANNING TIP

If you want to do an expedition to see the polar bears in Churchill, you should plan that trip at least a year in advance—it's a short season and there's limited space. It's also best to book this kind of a trip as a package since the excursions are part of a group anyway.

RACHEL LALONDE, *Travel counsellor, CAA Store, Orleans, Ont.*

### MORE WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS



**Puffin** lovers should visit Newfoundland and Labrador between June and August—when the clowns of the sea briefly return to land to mate. Boat trips to the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve are popular, but there are also colonies off Fogo Island and on land at Elliston Point.



The legendary **wild horses** of Nova Scotia's remote Sable Island National Park Reserve can only be visited from June to October, after registering in advance with Parks Canada. Sable Aviation offers charter flights and Adventure Canada has an expedition cruise with a Sable Island stop.



Marvel at a herd of 3,000 **reindeer** in the Western Arctic with Tundra North Tours on a snowmobile trip. The Indigenous-owned business run by Kylik Kisoun Taylor, is based in Inuvik, N.W.T., and has other year-round adventures.



Château Madelinot, in Quebec's Magdalen Islands, hires helicopters for photo safaris to see **harp seals** and their newborn pups from late February to early March. It's the only place in the world you can see the creatures in their natural habitat.

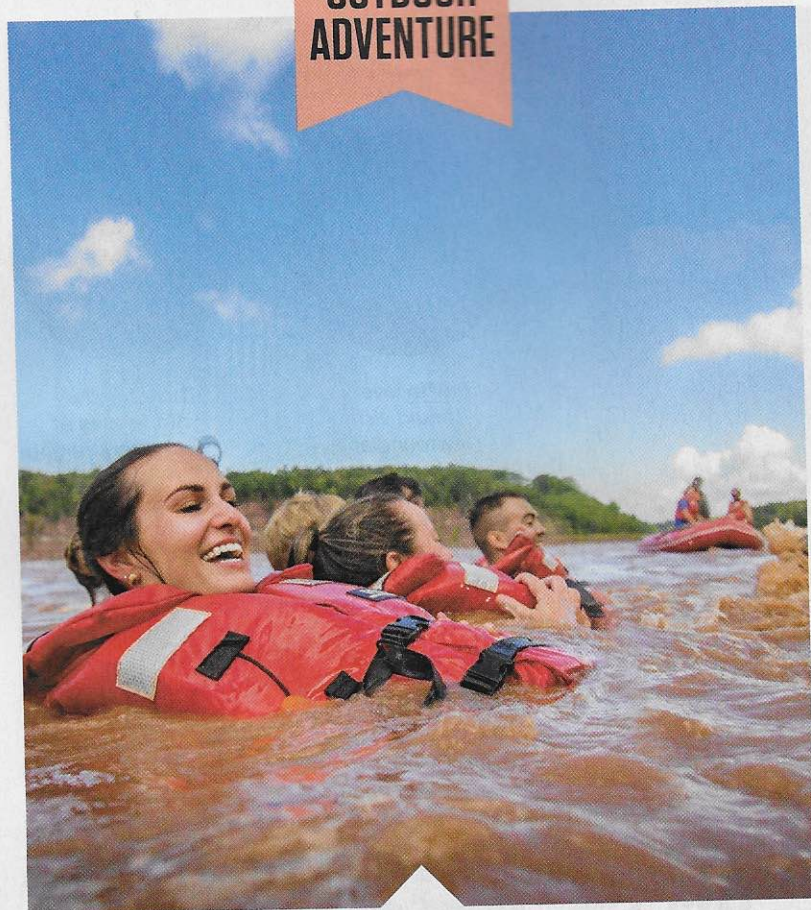


### FEELING INSPIRED?

Talk to a CAA Travel Expert who can help you with ideas, itineraries and every planning detail of your trip. Visit [caasco.com/travel](http://caasco.com/travel) for details.



FOR AN  
**OUTDOOR  
ADVENTURE**



## Go Tidal Bore Rafting

SHUBENACADIE RIVER, NOVA SCOTIA

Tidal bore rafting is nothing like white-water rafting. For starters, it only happens on the chocolate-coloured Shubenacadie River in Nova Scotia. Twice a day, water from the Bay of Fundy funnels into the Shubenacadie's narrow, shallow inlet, creating a wave called "the bore." Daring visitors hop into a Zodiac and hold on as their pilot heads straight into the bore, riding, surfing and jumping the powerful surge. Once things calm down, you can swim in the river or go mud sliding down its steep banks.

Local tour companies like Fundy Tidal Bore Adventures offer two- and four-hour trips from May to September. The nearby Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre has an observation deck if you'd rather watch the action from a dry distance.

### EXPERT PLANNING TIPS

If you want to camp in a national park, you need to book that a year in advance. Parks Canada allows reservations 365 days ahead, and the spots fill up fast.

Book about six months in advance for a trip to see the northern lights. It's a short season, which varies, depending on where you

are travelling to see them. September and October are less busy times to travel and there are more hotels available. There are northern

lights packaged tours you can book with CAA, or we can work with you to put together an individual trip.  
—RACHEL LALONDE

### MORE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



In southwestern Saskatchewan, slide down dunes at the Great Sandhills, or float in the mineral-dense **Little Manitou Lake**, Canada's version of the Dead Sea.



From November to February, Tofino, B.C., is Canada's **storm-watching** hotspot. Eco-tourists can find accommodations and outfitters for every budget.



Pack your best camera to capture the mesmerizing **ice bubbles**, frozen each winter under the clear, windswept ice of Alberta's Abraham Lake. Pursuit Adventures offers guided day trips out of Red Deer.



Iqaluit-based Inukpak Outfitting offers **dogsledding** on frozen Frobisher Bay from November to June, along with a variety of other seasonal Nunavut adventures, including hiking, canoeing, ice fishing and snowmobiling.



**Yellowknife**, N.W.T., is a global destination for "aurora hunters" chasing the northern lights.



Newfoundland's **iceberg** season—from May to June—has become a huge draw.

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## Learn More About Residential Schools

CRANBROOK, BRITISH COLUMBIA

A former residential school near Cranbrook, B.C., has been transformed into a First Nations-run resort. What sets St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino apart is the way guests can learn about its troubled past. A reception plaque quotes the late elder Mary Paul: "Since it was within the St. Eugene Mission School that the culture of the Kootenay Indian was taken away, it should be within the building that it is returned." The on-site Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre—run by a branch of the Ktunaxa Nation Council—offers guided experiences that include a documentary and tour. Don't miss *#kamnin'tik* (*The Children*), a monument that honours children who were at residential schools in Canada.

### MORE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES



On Lennox Island, P.E.I., bake bannock in the sand and eat local clams with the Mi'kmaq people. The **Lennox Island First Nation** welcomes visitors to its cultural centre and also offers art experiences.



The Inuit hamlet of **Pangnirtung, Nunavut**, is home to the Uqurmiut Centre for Arts & Crafts, famous for its elaborate tapestries, as well as crocheted "Pang" hats.



Stunning **Haida Gwaii, B.C.** is made up of 150 islands, with mountains, rainforests and a rich Indigenous heritage. Longhouses and memorial poles are a draw for many.



In Yellowknife, N.W.T., spend time aboard a commercial fishing boat with **Great Slave Lake Tours** and hear about third-generation fisher Shawn Buckley's experience growing up in a traditional Indigenous community.



The **National Arts Centre** in Ottawa now has an Indigenous theatre stream, as well as the Moshkamo Indigenous Arts Festival in September.



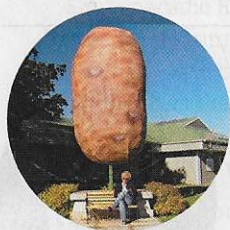


## Have Dinner in France

SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON

Canada's best-kept culinary secret isn't exactly in Canada; it's in France! But Saint-Pierre et Miquelon is so close to Newfoundland's southern coast that provincial tourism officials promote the islands as their own. An hour-long ferry trip from Fortune, Nfld., gets you to the self-governing, French territorial collectivity where the currency is euros, the language is French and the food is fantastic. Once a rum runner's paradise favoured by Al Capone, this geopolitical oddity is now the land of boulangeries and patisseries, baguettes and croissants, good chocolate, fine wine, craft beer and plenty of foie gras.

### MORE TASTES OF CANADA



The **Canadian Potato Museum** in O'Leary, P.E.I., is the country's best food museum.

Not only does it celebrate the humble tuber (diseases and all), it displays potato-related farm machinery and runs a potato-themed café.



At the Beef 'n Bird Tavern in Sudbury, Ont., play **porketta bingo** on Saturdays from September to April. Players shout "porketta" instead of bingo and win coveted servings of the Italian-spiced roast pork, which they can enjoy on the spot.



Newfoundlanders love their **bakeapples**, large orange berries also known as cloudberrries. Grown in wet areas throughout the province, the fruit makes a lovely jam and pairs well with cheesecake or ice cream.



Donairs are the official food of Halifax and were first offered at the **King of Donair**. Now a franchise, a visit to any location will tell you all about the origins of spiced beef in a pita with signature sweet sauce.



In New Brunswick, **Acadian Sturgeon and Caviar** runs year-round academies and safaris in July—or two-day "extravaganzas"—on the Saint John River near Carters Point, where you can learn about the sustainable harvest.



FOR A  
**ONE-OF-A-KIND  
EXCURSION**



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to [caamagazine.ca](http://caamagazine.ca)  
to find out how

## Go Hiking in the Arctic

IVVAVIK NATIONAL PARK, YUKON

Too few people realize that Parks Canada hosts guided trips to some of its most remote parks. Imniarvik Base Camp in Ivvavik National Park comes with furnished prospector tents, a cookhouse, flush toilets, hot showers and an electrified bear fence.

You can take a 19-passenger DHC-6 Twin Otter plane from Inuvik, NWT, to the northern Yukon wilderness to hike, spot wildlife and learn from an Inuvialuit cultural host.

Five-day catered trips run in June and July, with options for a stopover on Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park to hear about the Inuvialuit and the area's whaling history. Parks Canada has other trips to places like

Torngat Mountains in Labrador and Quttinirpaaq in Nunavut.

### EXPERT PLANNING TIP

For a trip to see something like the Narcisse Snake Dens, I recommend a "hub and spoke" vacation, where you find a central place to stay, like Winnipeg, and plan day trips from there. Winnipeg is a beautiful city, there's all these rivers merging together and there's lots of things to do in the area.

RACHEL LALONDE

**MORE  
ONE-OF-A-KIND  
EXCURSIONS**

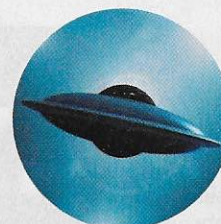


Allegedly the Sasquatch capital of the world, **Harrison Hot Springs, B.C.**, boasts the Harrison Sasquatch Museum and Sasquatch Days every June. Or you can seek out the legendary beast on a guided Sasquatch Country Adventures tour.



Every spring, up to 150,000 red-sided garter snakes emerge from their winter lairs to mate at the **Narcisse Snake Dens**.

This rural area about 100 kilometres north of Winnipeg has four snake dens connected by self-guided trails, plus plenty of interpretive signs.



For UFO aficionados, **Falcon Beach Ranch** in Manitoba leads trail rides to an encounter site that was commemorated by a Royal Canadian Mint collector coin in 2018. In Nova Scotia, the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society runs a seasonal interpretive centre. **CAA**