

# Newfoundland Workshop with Reed Hoffmann

Icebergs, puffins and whales!



**Wednesday June 18 to Thursday June 26, 2025**

Come discover the 10<sup>th</sup> and most recent province of Canada. Newfoundland has more than 29,000 kilometres of coastline, where it's not hard to spot plenty of whales, seabirds, and icebergs. There are 22 species of whales alone, including the world's largest migrating population of humpbacks. Flying high above are, give or take, 35 million seabirds, which is why Newfoundland and Labrador is aptly named the seabird capital of North America. And if iceberg watching is something on your list, Iceberg Alley is the best place on the continent to see these 10,000-year-old frosty giants.

This photo workshop is available to all levels of photographers, from the novice wanting to learn the basics, to the advanced amateur that needs to tweak skills.

Highlights of the Workshop include:

- Icebergs
- Puffins
- Whales
- Rugged sea coast
- Unbelievable vistas, including a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Photo learning with our professional photographer, Reed Hoffmann

## Highlight Photo Tours

My name is René Bastien, founder of Highlight Photo Tours. The concept for Highlight Photo Tours evolved from two of my passions, photography and travel planning. The focus of the company has been to introduce photographers to the beauty of my country, Canada. Partnering with well-known photographer teachers, like Reed, with established teaching skills, we offer inspirational travel photography experiences for beginner and advanced photographers alike.

## Our Mentor: Reed Hoffmann



The group will be led by renowned photography instructor Reed Hoffmann. His career has spanned more than four decades, the first two of those working at newspapers in the Midwest, South and Eastern U.S. Reed began teaching in the '90s with a class on photojournalism at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Managing his paper's conversion to all-digital in 1997, he was then asked to speak at conferences around the country about that process. In 2000 Reed left his last newspaper and spent the next few years helping dozens of news and other organizations around the country convert to digital. Now based in Kansas City, he divides his time between assignments and teaching photography. His corporate clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Getty Images, NBC, Children's Mercy Hospital, EPA, Reuters, NCAA Photos, Nikon, Lexar, Lowepro, Best Buy, Blue Pixel, Eco-Challenge and Mark Burnett Productions. In 2002 he also began a long career

teaching the Nikon School of Photography, creating and teaching the classes, and managing the instructors, through 2018. Every year Reed leads many hands-on photography workshops, ranging from weekend treks in the U.S. to two-week trips abroad. These include workshops by Highlight Photo Tours since 2018 (Quebec, Nova Scotia, the Canadian Rockies, Hawaii, and Croatia-Slovenia-Venice). Reed has received several industry honors, being named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, a Lexar Pro Elite photographer and a Microsoft Icon of Imaging. More information can be found at <http://reedhoffmann.com/> and <https://www.instagram.com/reedhoffmann/>.

## Itinerary

The itinerary may be adjusted for various reasons (weather, road closures, photo opportunities). We will make sure to cover as much, if not all of what is proposed.

### Day 1: Wednesday June 18. Arrive in St John's

Arrive at your leisure during the day. Airport code is YYT.

Hotel: Murray Premises Hotel, situated downtown by the harbour. <https://murraypremiseshotel.com>

We will meet our leaders at the hotel by 5PM, then go out for dinner as a group.

### Day 2: Thursday June 19. In and around St John's

*Sunrise: 5:02. Sunset 21:01*

Sunrise shoot of the lighthouse at Cape Spear, the easternmost point in North America.

Come back to the hotel for breakfast and rest



Jellybean Row (where one finds colorful houses typical of St. John's). Great cafes and coffee shops for mid-morning snacks and refuel.



Signal Hill (a promontory where Marconi sent the first telegraph) Signal Hill may offer views of icebergs and lots of beautiful moody fog at that time of year.



Quidi Vidi (a small colorful harbor near St. John's). Lunch at the Quidi Vidi Brewery.

The Battery, Fort Amherst (remnants of a WW2 gun battery at the entrance of the harbor, with a lighthouse).

The harbor.

Dinner on your own.

Stay at the Murray Premises Hotel

**Day 3: Friday June 20. To Trinity**

*Sunrise: 5:03. Sunset 21:02.*

Breakfast at the hotel and check out by 7:30 AM.



Travel to Trinity; 3-hour drive. Lunch in the village.

Zodiac cruise to see whales and icebergs. <https://seaofwhales.com> 3 hour trip.



Check in at the Fisher's Loft Hotel next to Trinity, in Port Rexton. <https://fishersloft.com>

Walk the Skerwink Coastal Trail just by the hotel. Moderate trail, 5 km, plan 2 hours. Sea stacks, whales, icebergs and eagles as well as views of the communities of Port Rexton and Trinity.

Dinner at hotel.

Sunset shoot from hotel grounds or from Trinity.

#### Day 4: Saturday June 21. In and around Trinity

*Sunrise: 5:01. Sunset: 21:08.*

Travel to the Bonavista Peninsula.

See the lighthouse in Bonavista. 45-minute drive.



Spillars Cove is incredible and one of my favourite locations on the island. Also a chance for Puffins here.



Back to Bonavista for lunch.

Shoot puffins in Elliston. The puffins are on the shore, and we can get close to them.

Explore around Elliston (Root Cellars, they are close by)

Back to our hotel in Trinity area for dinner and sunset. Should be lots of lovely little outport town scenes.

Night in Port Rexton



## Day 5: Sunday June 22. To Twillingate

*Sunrise: 5:02. Sunset in Twillingate: 21:20.*

### Iceberg Hunting Day!

Day 5's itinerary will be open, and we will go where the icebergs are reported to be. There are basically two different routes possible, with many stops along the way. It is impossible to plan in advance as every year is different, but we will try to rely on local information as much as possible.



Stops along the way. So for Day 5 – we will leave lots of options for iceberg hunting. The coast is usually where we get a lot of iceberg activity. Different small towns may have the best bergs and we won't know that till a few days from the start. If nothing is noted for the coastal route, we can just head to Twillingate with a couple stops in Terra Nova National Park along the way to break up the drive.

Stay at the Alphabet Fleet Inn B&B. <https://twillingate.com/accommodations/alphabet-fleet-inn/>

## Day 6: Monday June 23. In and around Twillingate

*Sunrise: 5:02. Sunset: 21:20.*

Another open day for iceberg hunting and to take in the scenery. Additional options are Lower Little Harbour, Natural Arch.

Sunset – Long Point Lighthouse.

Crow Head trail or alternatively anywhere the icebergs are

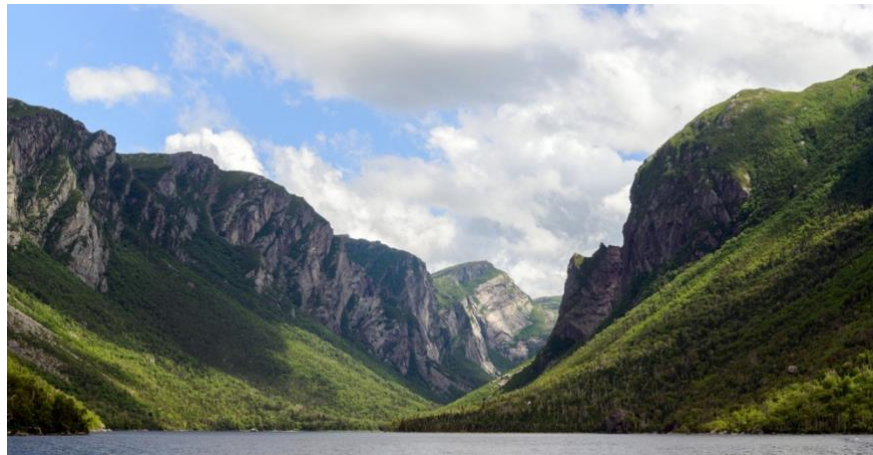
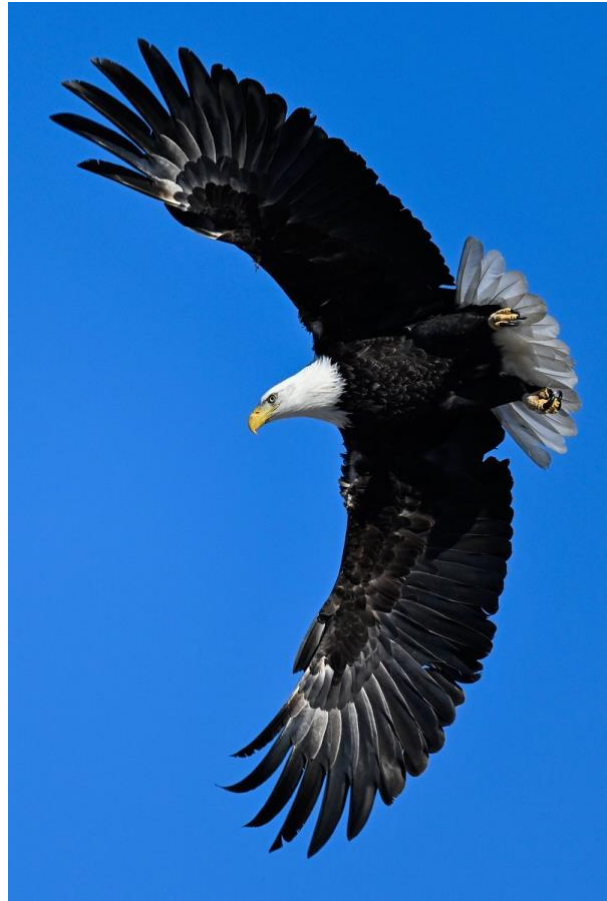
Stay at the Alphabet Fleet Inn B&B.

## Day 7: Tuesday June 24. Gros Morne National Park.

*Sunrise: 5:02. Sunset in Gros Morne: 21:32*

Today we will drive to Gros Morne National Park. Gros Morne is renowned for its soaring fjords and moody mountains that tower above a diverse panorama of beaches and bogs, forests and barren cliffs. Shaped by colliding continents and grinding glaciers, Gros Morne's ancient landscape is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Wander coastal pathways and beachcomb among sea stacks. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nl/grosmorne>



Sites to visit once we get to Gros Morne should include:

- Southeast Brook Falls Trail, easy trail 30 minutes from the hotel
- Green Point or
- Steve's Trail for sunset/late evening

Roadside stops in Gros Morne (short leg stretchers ~ 10-20 mins)



Stay at the Gros Morne Inn. <https://grosmorneinn.com>

## Day 8: Wednesday June 25. Gros Morne National Park

*Sunrise: 5:15. Sunset: 21:32*

Breakfast at the hotel (included).



Gros Morne National Park.

Western Brook Pond boat tour. (Highlight for most visitors. 45 min hike in both directions with about 2 hours on the boat). Snack bar on site for lunch.

Lobster Cove Head lighthouse. Beautiful paths and tree covered trails.

Woody Point lighthouse and trail.

Trout River trail and village.

Sunset shoot and Milky Way shoot. Stay at the Gros Morne Inn.



## Day 9: Thursday June 26. Return Home

After breakfast (included), leave for Deer Lake airport (code YDF).

Please do not book your return flight before 10 AM.

## Requirements

The workshop will happen in a mountainous area. All participants should be able to walk unassisted for up to 4 miles per day (at a leisurely pace, mind you – we are here to take photos, after all!). You are thus expected to be reasonably fit. The level of activity is expected to be easy to moderate, with many stops to take in the scenery and get those great pictures!

Comfortable, quick-dry walking/trekking boots are recommended. There might still be snow on the ground at higher elevation.

Walking sticks are not required, unless you have balance issues.

## What to expect

The weather changes quickly in Newfoundland, as is the case in most mountain ranges. Dressing in layers is your best protection against the cold. It may also rain occasionally. Here is a reference on the weather: <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/monthly/newfoundland-and-labrador/st-johns?year=2019&month=6&dispt=calendar-container-monthly>. Note that we will travel at different altitudes, which will mean lower temperatures as we go higher.

Tap water is fine to drink, as in most of North America. Wall power outlets are the same in Canada as in the USA. Cell coverage is good, but it tends to drop outside of main roads. Our hotels will have free WiFi.

Newfoundland is in the Newfoundland time zone, so UTC -2:30 (1.5 hours ahead of New York City).

As a rule, you can pay with Visa and MasterCard at almost every store and restaurant. However, make sure you have some Canadian currency with you, as some of the shops out of the major centers may only accept cash. You can exchange funds at the airport and at most banks in St John's, and it is easy to find ATMs. Apple Pay is also a popular means of payment.

## Gear

Reed will provide you with details as we get closer to our departure, and is available for questions ahead of time.

Please bring a flashlight, or plan on using the light on your phone. You will need it for the night shoot.

## Contact Information

René's cell phone: +1-613-276-4763 and email [rbastien@highlightphototours.com](mailto:rbastien@highlightphototours.com)

Reed's cell phone: +1-913-568-8444 and email [reed@reedhoffmann.com](mailto:reed@reedhoffmann.com)

## Pricing

- All prices are in US\$. Please inquire if you would like to pay using a different currency.

- Price is US \$4,975, double occupancy. (Note that Canadian residents must pay taxes).
- Single occupancy available for an additional US \$1,225.
- Deposit of US\$1,000 required to reserve your seat. Deposit refundable up until invoicing of the balance.
- Full payment required 90 days before departure.
- Minimum of 3 attendees required for the trek to be confirmed.
- Maximum 6 attendees.

## Reservations

To reserve seats, please send me an email at [rbastien@highlightphototours.com](mailto:rbastien@highlightphototours.com) and I will send you an invoice and payment link.

## Inclusions, exclusions

### Included

- All guide and photo instructor services.
- All accommodations, double occupancy (we will find you a roommate if needed).
- Photo reviews and critiques from your mentor.
- All in-country transportation with the group.
- Park fees.
- Water and in-field snacks while in the vehicle.

### Excluded

- All vaccinations and testing that may be required by the health authorities.
- Flight to St John's Airport, Canada.
- Flight from Deer Lake Airport, Canada.
- Visas if required.
- All meals and beverages, including alcoholic beverages.
- Participants are expected to purchase travel insurance that will cover their costs if it becomes necessary to cancel after final payment, or to be repatriated for medical or other reasons. Once final payment is made, it is not possible for us to refund you as expenses have been made on your behalf.
- Additional/optional excursions not listed in the itinerary.

## Photos from Newfoundland

Photos from my scouting trip to Newfoundland are available on the Portfolio section at <https://www.highlightphototours.com/portfolio/newfoundland>