Welcome to Newfoundland and Labrador! Come to the Far East of the Western world... where North America wakes up first. With over 1,500 kms of coastal and cross-island hiking trails through a landscape so huge and untouched – you can get lost in her beauty. Come and immerse yourself in a land with a culture and heritage unlike anywhere else in the world. A modern, vibrant society that still retains its old world charm. There’s a story to be told and a song to be heard in every bay. A haven for the creative and performing arts inspired by a passion for the landscape and a fascinating history. Come and discover yourself in Newfoundland and Labrador. Experience her magic!

**ITINERARY**

Day 1: Sunday, 27 September, ST. JOHN’S – Embark M/V Polar Star in vibrant St John’s, North America’s oldest city. It is here at Signal Hill that Guglielmo Marconi sent the first wireless transatlantic signal to England in 1901. Late afternoon, we set sail from the city’s beautiful naturally sheltered harbour to begin our journey “around the rugged rock”.

Day 2: Monday, 28 September, BONAVISTA – We visit historic Bonavista, where Italian explorer Giovanni (John) Cabot made landfall in 1497 after crossing the Atlantic from Bristol. While here, we take a tour of the replica of Cabot’s ship, the Matthew and visit the Ryan Premises, a restored Merchant’s premises that tells the story of the 500 year old fishing industry in Newfoundland. Also at Bonavista, is the unique and historic lighthouse at Cape Bonavista.

Day 3: Tuesday, 29 September, ST. ANTHONY, L’ANSE AUX MEADOWS & NORSTEAD – At the northern tip of Newfoundland is St. Anthony, home to Sir Wilfred Grenfell, a philanthropic physician and missionary. In the afternoon, we visit L’Anse aux Meadows, a UNESCO world heritage site and the only authenticated Viking settlement in North America as well as the reconstructed Viking village site of Norstead. It is an excellent insight into the early life of Viking explorers.

Day 4: Wednesday, 30 September, BATTLE HARBOUR & RED BAY – Today we make two excursions along the coast of Labrador. The preserved community of Battle Harbour is an insight into the bygone days of the Labrador Schooner Fishery. The 16th Century Basque Whalers settled Red Bay which today houses an excellent interpretive centre.

Day 5: Thursday, 1 October, GROS MORNE NATIONAL PARK – This park is both beautiful and geologically significant. Beyond the natural scenery and fantastic hiking, it is most noted for the Tablelands, a 600-meter high plateau that forms one of the world’s best examples of ancient rock exposed from the earth’s interior. The park is also home to 239 species of birds as well as mammals including Moose, Caribou, Black Bear and Arctic Hare.

Day 6: Friday, 2 October, CODROY RIVER VALLEY – This beautiful river valley is our site for a wonderful Zodiac cruise up river to visit the local community. We also plan to visit a local wildlife taxidermist and his private museum.

Day 7: Saturday, 3 October, GREY RIVER & VALLEY – In the morning we explore Grey River Fjord that separates into three river systems. It is noted for its breathtaking scenery with lush forests, rugged mountains and sandy beaches as well as the possibility to see moose and caribou. Next, we visit the tiny outport village of Francois at the head of a dramatic fjord surrounded by dramatic rock strewn cliffs. There is time for a stroll or a hike before we gather to enjoy a traditional “kitchen party”.

Day 8: Sunday, 4 October, ST. PIERRE, FRANCE – St Pierre is a tiny piece of Europe and this is a unique opportunity to visit this nugget of French culture. While here, explore the charming community and perhaps sample some French specialties. If time permits, we will Zodiac across the bay to explore a reconstructed early settlers’ community.

Day 9: Monday, 5 October, LOUISBOURG – We visit the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, the largest historical reconstruction in Canada. The French began building the fortress in 1719 to serve as the first line of defence against the British in their struggle for North America. Although the fortress walls were destroyed in battle in 1758, today the reconstructed fortress allows us to step back in time and watch the re-enactment of everyday life and work from centuries ago.

Day 10: Tuesday, 6 October, HALIFAX – Our exploration of these special areas of the Atlantic coastline shrouded in autumn colours comes to a close. Disembark in charming historic Halifax – a perfect blend of cosmopolitan amenities and small community friendliness.

**2 FOR 1 SPECIAL**

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*Special late offer price in effect until October 31, 2008. Port charges $135 per person included in above rates. Fuel surcharges of $160 per person are additional. Prices are in US funds per person. This offer may be withdrawn by the cruise line without notice. Pricing and availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. All categories except K1 have private bathroom. K1 shares bathroom with one other cabin. Triple and single occupancy prices on request.
Space is limited.
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