

## Connect with Nature!

Watching wild animals is an exciting part of any visit to a national park, and Gros Morne National Park has lots of opportunities, from forty tonne whales to featherweight warblers! The safest way to enjoy watching wild animals is to give them space and respect. Appreciating the sensitive, dynamic nature of this environment and demonstrating appropriate behaviour will not only lead to a safe and rewarding experience, but will contribute to a healthy, functioning.



Hare in the snow

By Kate Bulba  
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Education Center  
Of JSC "Gazprom"

## National parks of Canada

Gros Morne



View from the boat

# Gros Morne

Gros Morne National Park is a world heritage site located on the west coast of Newfoundland. At 1,805 km<sup>2</sup> (697 sq mi), it is the second largest national in Canada (surpassed by Torngat Mountains National Park at 9,700 km<sup>2</sup> (3,700 sq mi)).

The park takes its name from Newfoundland's second-highest mountain peak (at 2,644 ft/806 m) located within the park. Its French meaning is "large mountain standing alone," or more literally "great sombre." Gros Morne is a member of the Long Range Mountains, an outlying range of the Appalachian Mountains, stretching the length of the island's west coast. It is the eroded remnants of a mountain range formed 1.2 billion years ago. "The park provides a rare example of the process of continental drift, where deep ocean crust and the rocks of the earth's mantle lie exposed."

The Gros Morne National Park

Gros Morne National Park of Canada was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. It is an area of great natural beauty with a rich variety of scenery, wildlife, and recreational activities. Visitors can hike through wild, uninhabited mountains and camp by the sea. Boat tours bring visitors under the towering cliffs of a freshwater fjord carved out by glaciers. Waterfalls, marine inlets, sea stacks, sandy beaches, and colourful nearby fishing villages complete the phenomenal natural and cultural surroundings of Gros Morne National Park of Canada.



Beautiful mountain view from the top

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Beyond its awe-inspiring scenic beauty, Gros Morne National Park boasts an incredible biotic richness and is internationally acclaimed for its unique combination of geologic features. The rocks of the area describe ages of geologic turmoil when old oceans disappeared, new ones were created, and continents took shape. The rocks in Gros Morne National Park have contributed greatly to our understanding of plate tectonics. It is for this contribution to our understanding of the world around us that Gros Morne National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. Gros Morne National Park is dominated by two distinctly different landscapes, a coastal lowland bordering the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the alpine plateau of the Long Range Mountains. These provide habitats for an array of flora and fauna: flowering plants, bryophytes, lichens, mammals, fish and birds. This vast array of life consists of a unique mixture of temperate, boreal, and arctic species. Wherever you explore in the area, often you will see familiar species and discover their Arctic counterpart nearby.

Elk in the beautiful mountains

