



## 2024 GUIDE FOR VISITING SABLE ISLAND

Sable Island is a magical ribbon of sand located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Known in the Maritimes as “The Graveyard of the Atlantic” from the hundreds of shipwrecks upon its shores centuries ago. Today the island is renowned as an ecological wonder with its captivating wild horses, seals, birds and dynamic dunes which only a few hundred visitors are allowed to visit this year. Will you be one of the lucky ones in 2024?



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*“July 27th was the realisation of a lifelong dream to go to Sable Island after reading about it in National Geographic as a kid in the early 70s, and now after having been there I can say it was worth the wait and every penny spent.”*

Reviewed by David T on Google - July 2023

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## Discover the beauty of Sable Island, one of the world's last frontiers.

Picture Perfect Tours has seven years of expertise in leading groups to explore this magical island. Our certified guides lead small teams of like-minded visitors to explore the island's shifting sands, photograph the unique wildlife, learn about the island's fragility in a changing climate, and uncover 223 years of human habitation.



When travelling with us, we use our vast experience to take care of all the details to get you there and make sure you have an unforgettable experience. As professional photographers, we document the entire adventure from liftoff to touchdown and share those images with you, so you have those memories forever.

But don't just take our word for it. Dive into our over 375+ reviews between [TripAdvisor](#) and [Google](#) where our guests have shared 5\* reviews 97% of the time.

Book your spots for 2024 today and embark on a remarkable, underrated escape into one of the world's most underrated and unique travel adventures!

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## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2024

From June to October, we have 2 travel windows per month travel to visit Sable Island National Park Reserve (SINPR).

These adventures will travel by helicopter which has a 70% success rate of reaching SINPR. With the variety of weather issues, the helicopter is the most reliable way to reach Sable Island.



Just like last year, you can pay in full upfront, or we have a pricing plan to spread out the costs when booking a seat. A 50% deposit is required to reserve a seat with the remaining payment due 100 days before the departure date.

We will continue our **discount of -\$200 per person** when purchasing 2 or more seats. The discount will be applied to the final payment. We are also available for private tours to Sable Island for you and your team. Contact us directly for pricing and availability for a private excursion.

In 2023 we introduced a new website and we now have **gift cards available** to purchase in various amounts, and we will send you a custom 8" x 10" print with information and a QR code to redeem.

If you are one of the many repeat visitors we have to SINPR, our **Frequent Flyer Discount** helps you or your friends and family save on your next trip. Contact us for a custom discount code to save -\$400 on future trips to Sable Island with us.

In 2024, our costs for a helicopter charter have gone by another \$1500 + tax, but we are keeping our base price the same as last year at \$3390 per person.

Last year across all the Sable Island partners, there was an unprecedented number of medical cancellations by guests. As a result, the helicopter charter is implementing a \$3000 penalty if we need to cancel the charter with less than 90 days' notice.

So **our Cancellation and Refund policy is changing**, and we are keeping our price the same as last year to encourage guests to purchase third-party cancellation insurance to cover the cost of the ticket in case you need to cancel with less than 100 days' notice.

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## TRAVEL BY HELICOPTER



We're excited to continue our partnership with Vision Air Services, chartering their helicopter services for Sable Island tours.

Their Sikorsky S-76A++ ensures flexibility in various weather conditions, superior in-flight comfort, and reliable landings on Sable Island's helipads. With Bose noise-cancelling headphones, seating for 8, and ample storage, the journey is both comfortable and enjoyable.

Vision Air is located at **549 Barnes Drive, Goffs, NS** at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport. There is ample free parking available out front of the heliport if you self-drive to the airport.

Sable Island welcomes guests worldwide from June to October, each month presenting unique beauty and challenges. In case of weather or logistics issues on the first travel day, we provide a second attempt the next day. If unsuccessful, guests are refunded minus \$100 + HST.



Winter or early June flights require Gore-Tex survival suits if ocean temperature is below 10 Celsius, provided by Vision Air at no extra cost. A few weeks before the tour we will request personal information from you and everyone in your group that will include:

- Guest name
- Guest email
- Guest's weight
- Backpack weight
- Emergency contact
- Emergency phone #

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## PRICING

Only a few hundred people each year are allowed to visit Sable Island. These tours are extremely popular and sell out quickly. Advanced booking is required.

**The cost for a single seat is \$3390 + HST.** All prices are in Canadian dollars and have the local Harmonized Sales Tax (HST - %15) applied at checkout.

**Early bird bookings from January to the end of May can be paid in two instalments with an initial deposit of \$1695 + HST per seat**, followed by an invoice to be paid no less than 100 days before the tour date. Bookings after May 31st are to be paid in full at the time of purchase.

**If you are purchasing for a group of 2 or more, we have a discount of -\$200 per person** that will be applied towards the final payment. Helicopter charters have a maximum of 7 guests plus a guide. Passenger numbers depend on the combined weight of our group with a maximum passenger weight of 1400 lbs.

**Private tours to Sable Island are available upon request.** Please contact us directly for pricing and availability to organize a private excursion for you and your team.

For repeat guests with us to Sable Island, we have a **Frequent Flyer offer of -\$400 for a repeat adventure to Sable Island.** Please contact us to receive your custom Frequent Flyer coupon code to be used during checkout.



*"This was truly the experience of a lifetime, from the helicopter ride (my first) to the welcoming and knowledgeable Parks Canada staff and researchers to the wildlife (Horses! Seals! Birds! Did I say horses?!) Geordie is a perfect guide and host, providing detailed information from the start to make the day literally Picture Perfect. Highly recommend!!"*

Reviewed by TC on TripAdvisor - Sept 2023

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## CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

Our flight partners at Vision Air are instituting a new cancellation policy where if we cancel the charter with 90 days or less notice, we will be charged a \$3000 penalty.

As a result, **guest cancellations must be received in writing 100 days or more prior to the start of the tour.** If cancellation is less than 100 days before the tour date then the ticket is non-refundable unless provincial or federal pandemic actions return and include such measures that prohibit travel to Nova Scotia or Sable Island National Park Reserve (ie; border closures, vaccination mandates for travellers, etc.).

- >100 days: Full refund -\$100 cancellation fee per seat
- <100 days: No refund for guest cancellation

If you need to cancel, we will work to rebook your seat for a later date if possible, or you may transfer the ticket(s) to someone else. The financial responsibility lies with the purchaser if cancelling with less than 100 days' notice.

**We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance that includes coverage for cancellation, including now readily available “Cancel For Any Reason” or CFAR coverage. We are happy to provide you with suggestions to find a suitable insurance provider either in the United States or Canada.**

A non-refundable fee of \$100 + HST is included as part of each seat purchase to process credit card and ticketing software expenses.

Sable Island is a notoriously difficult place to reach because of weather.

**Approximately 30% of helicopter attempts are cancelled.** If our flight to Sable Island does not take off from Halifax Stanfield International Airport due to weather or logistical reasons, or if Picture Perfect Tours or our partners cancel the tour at any point, you will be refunded your ticket cost minus the \$100 + HST booking fee.

Please read the full text of our [Sable Island Cancellation and Refund Policy](#) on our website.

## 2024 Tour Dates

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### JUNE

- Tue June 11
- Thu June 20

The early season provides great temperatures for exploring Sable Island. Not too hot and not too cold. The tricky side of June is there can be a high degree of fog delaying or cancelling flights.

### JULY

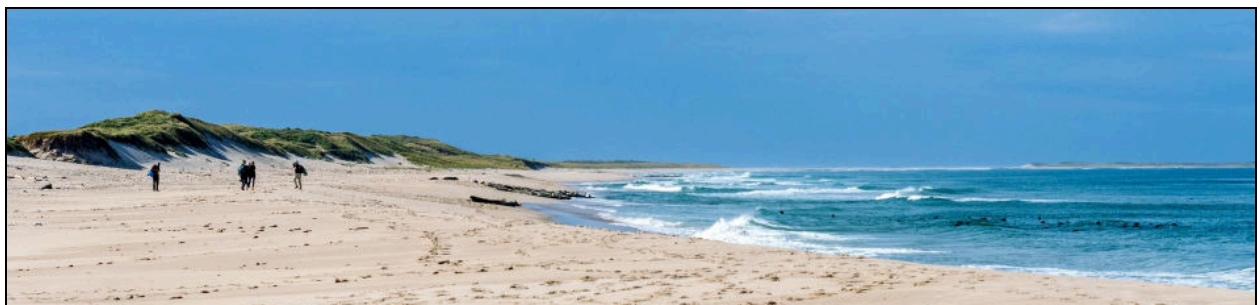
- Thu July 4
- Tue July 23

The Marram grass and island's foliage begin to bloom in radiant colours as summer settles in. Fog begins to be less of a concern, but the warmer weather on an island without any shade can start to be taxing.

### AUGUST

- Thu Aug 22
- Tue Aug 27

This is certainly the hottest time of the year out on Sable Island, especially in the gaps between the tall dunes that are blocked by the cooler ocean winds. Very little chance of fog but it can be extremely warm.



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## SEPTEMBER

- Tue Sep 10
- Thu Sep 26

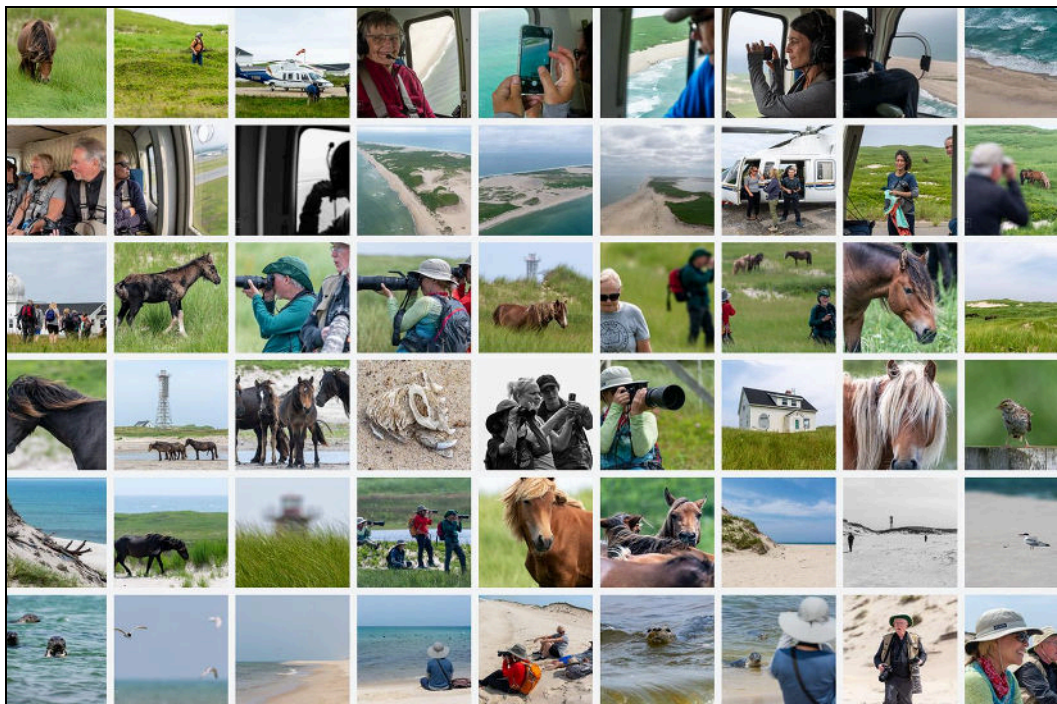
The air temperatures start to cool off slightly as the island is still green and lush. Almost no chance of fog but the annual risk of hurricanes and the resulting damage can quickly cancel a travel window.

## OCTOBER

- Tue Oct 8
- Thu Oct 17

Cooling temperatures make this a pleasant month to visit. Especially with the grass bronzing and horses' coats getting thicker for winter. However, the sun is not as high and the visit is a bit shorter than in the summer months.

To get a sense of what each month looks like on Sable Island from June to October, click on the image below to visit our 2023 image gallery on [Flickr](#).



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT SABLE ISLAND IN 2024](#)

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

“*EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED*” is Parks Canada’s official mantra when describing Sable Island. It is very rare when everything goes as planned.

With that in mind, this is an example of our tour based on our trips to Sable Island in the summer and fall over the last 7 years.

Actual times will change based on sunrise and sunset times, as well as weather conditions and flight restrictions mandated by Transport Canada.

- 06:30 - Depart downtown Halifax for the airport
- 07:15 - Arrive at the Halifax Heliport (549 Barnes Dr, Goffs, NS)
- 07:30 - Introductions, watch PC video, load helicopter, safety brief
- 08:30 - Depart for Sable Island
- 10:00 - Land on helipad at Main Station
- 10:30 - Unload, safety orientation with Parks Canada
- 11:00 - Hike west towards freshwater ponds at West Light
- 15:30 - Arrive back at Main Station for late lunch and rest break
- 16:00 - Short hike to the east
- 17:00 - Group arrives back at the helicopter to load gear
- 17:30 - Helicopter departs for the airport
- 19:00 - Arrive at Stanfield International Airport
- 19:30 - Unload helicopter, goodbyes and depart for drop off in Halifax
- 20:00 - Arrive back in downtown Halifax

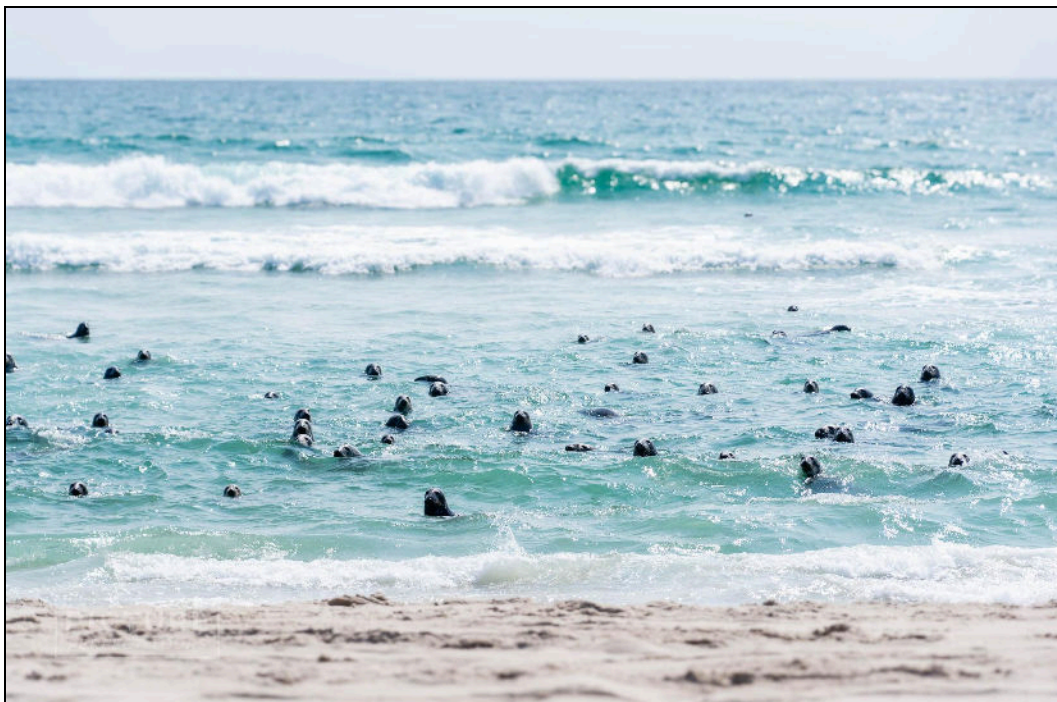


## INCLUSIONS

- Comprehensive list of items & information to get you adventure-ready
- Airport transfers from downtown Halifax
- Return chartered helicopter flights from Halifax to Sable Island
- All Parks Canada visitor & landing fees
- 7-8 hours on the ground exploring Sable Island
- Learn how the people and wildlife survive on such a remote outpost
- Guided walk with Zoe Lucas of the Sable Island Institute when available
- A package of 40 digital images to download from your excursion
- Photography instruction to get better travel images of Sable Island
- Experienced tour guides leading groups to Sable since 2017
- Guides are Wilderness First Aid attendants
- Licensed and accredited business to offer tours on Sable Island NPR

## EXCLUSIONS

- Meals, snacks & beverages
- Personal travel &/or medical insurance
- Fees for emergency room & board on Sable Island
- Gratuities



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## CONDITIONS

**Sometimes the most memorable experiences in life are also the most difficult - and this journey is no different.**

Weather conditions or logistics often prevent a charter flight from taking off. If the tour is cancelled before taking off, a full refund will be issued. We are guaranteed a 2-day travel window by Parks Canada and guests must be available in Halifax during that time frame.

**You must be able to hike on your own throughout the entire day. Be honest with yourself about your physical abilities. Participants must not have any prior medical conditions that could affect their involvement (ie; heart conditions, breathing difficulties, mobility issues, pregnancy, etc.).**

If you need any medications bring at least a week's worth in the unlikely event we are unable to leave the island. If you have any allergies or dietary restrictions please let us know. Everyone should be in good physical shape for a full day of hiking in the sand. Children under 10 years old are not recommended to join.



**There is always a risk of not being able to see horses and wildlife on Sable Island.** We can only venture on foot from where we land. The remote possibility exists that we may not find any of the island's 500+ wild horses. However, that has never happened in our 5 years of visiting Sable Island.

Dramatic weather changes or logistical delays while on Sable Island are extremely rare - but can happen. If a group is unable to depart Sable Island the cost for room and board charged by Parks Canada is \$355.00 per day. **Picture Perfect Tours is not responsible for these fees, travel costs, or any other charges or loss of income as a result of unforeseen circumstances while on Sable Island.**

If this was easy to do and simple to get to, then everyone would have been here. This is one of the wildest and most remote places left in the world, and the reward for making the journey is an incredible experience.

## SUGGESTIONS

This is a true backcountry experience and being prepared is the key to making the most of this unforgettable day. We will have lots more information for you the closer we get to the tour date but these are a few key suggestions to keep in mind as you get ready over the next few months.

- The helicopter has strict weight limits and we need to weigh everyone and everything before departure.
- You need to arrive in Halifax the day before the departure and plan on remaining in the area for the weekend of our trip to Sable Island.
- This experience makes for a really long and exhilarating day, usually over 12 hours. Please keep this in mind if making a long car drive home.
- To prevent the introduction of new insects or diseases, ensure that your clothes, footwear and equipment are clean.
- Do not bring clothing that has been worn at horse farms or stables without cleaning and disinfecting.
- There are no mosquitoes or ticks on Sable Island.
- Visitors must maintain a 20m distance from all wildlife on Sable Island
- It is generally cooler on Sable with cool breezes coming off the ocean. Layering in comfortable activewear is the best approach.
- The UV index on Sable can be high, even on cloudy days. Make sure to bring sunscreen, lip balm with an SPF rating, a hat and sunglasses.
- Bring at least a week's worth or more of any critical, prescription or allergy medications in the unlikely event that your visit is extended.
- Pack your camera, spare batteries, memory cards and your binoculars.
- And last but not least... bring your keen sense of adventure!



*"I had always dreamed about going to Sable Island since I was a kid but never imagined that I would ever get there. This October my dream came true and I spent a magical day on the island exploring and photographing the horses, seals, all things nature and learning about the past and present."*

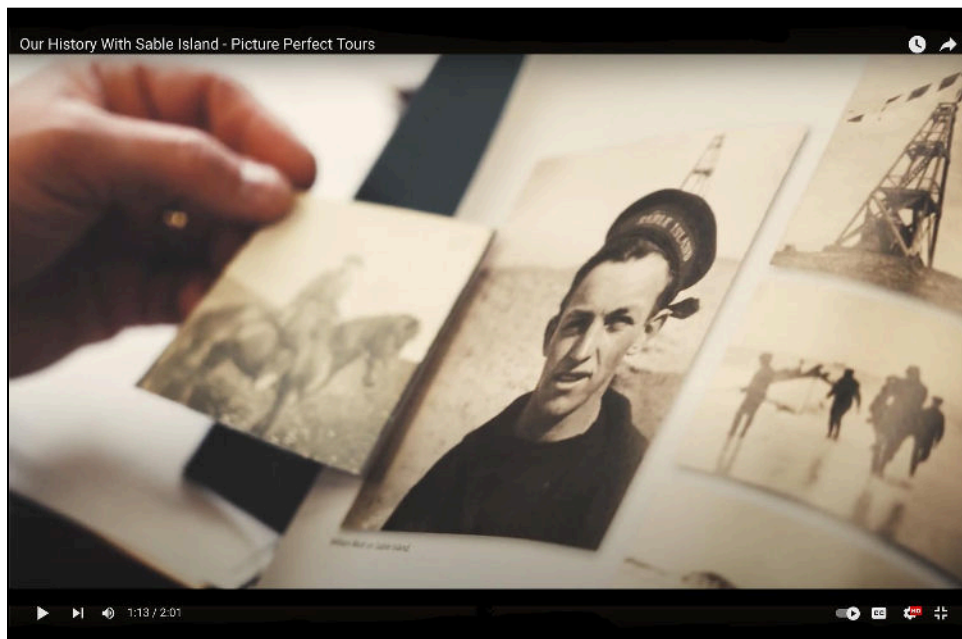
Reviewed by Lynn F on TripAdvisor - Oct 2023

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## OUR HISTORY ON SABLE ISLAND

My family's journey with Sable Island started in January 1913.

That month my great-great-grandfather Cpt. Joesph Blakeney and his family became the superintendents of Sable Island. His daughter, my great-grandmother Muriel, met a young lifesaver named William Mott. A romance began and within a few years, they were married before moving out west to start a small family and an electrical business in Vancouver, B.C.



[Click on the image above to learn more about our connection to Sable Island](#)

Fast forward almost 3 decades ago, and the allure of Sable Island was partly responsible for my choosing Halifax as a place to study and call home.

Over time, I have combined my passions for travel, photography and the people of the Maritimes to showcase the best of our region with Picture Perfect Tours - including, of course, Sable Island.

Without this place, I wouldn't be here. I'm excited to share with you my stories and Muriel's old photos of this magical ribbon of sand.

Geordie Mott - Picture Perfect Tours

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## CONTACT US



There is so much more to discuss and absorb when it comes to the allure of Sable Island. If you have any questions, concerns, comments or requests at all please contact us at any time.

We look forward to sharing with you the remote beauty of Sable Island in 2024.

Owner - Geordie Mott

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