

SABLE ISLAND

NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

WHERE
YOUR
IMAGINATION
CAN
RUN
WILD



GET READY TO VISIT SABLE ISLAND IN 2025

Venture to the edge of the world with Picture Perfect Tours and uncover the wild of Sable Island - a remote ribbon of sand where shipwrecks meet untamed nature. Roaming wild horses, thousands of seals, vast dunes, and thriving vegetation make this a photographer's dream and an adventurer's paradise. With only a rare few permitted to visit each year, 2025 is the chance for your imagination to run wild amongst breathtaking moments on this one-of-a-kind island destination.

PICTURE
PERFECT TOURS



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“Sable Island is a unique experience. The landscape is surreal and Geordie knows how to find wild horses and grey seals for excellent viewing and photography opportunities. Geordie is personable, passionate and very knowledgeable about Sable Island. Limited spots are available--book MONTHS in advance.”

Reviewed by Michael J on Google - October 2024

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YES, YOU CAN VISIT

For centuries and decades, visiting Sable Island as a tourist was virtually impossible. It wasn't until Parks Canada became stewards of the island that the mandate of tourism took hold. As a result you can embark on this extraordinary journey with Picture Perfect Tours to Sable Island - a hidden gem of the North Atlantic, where wild horses roam free, shipwrecks whisper stories of the past, and nature reigns untamed.



With eight years of experience guiding visitors to this fragile paradise, we take care of every detail to ensure your trip is seamless, educational, and unforgettable. Our expert guides lead a small group across the island's dynamic landscape to explore its shifting sands, photograph unique wildlife, and learn about its delicate ecosystem. As professional photographers, we capture every breathtaking moment of your adventure, providing you with a stunning collection of images to relive the experience for years to come.

But don't just take our word for it - with over 400 glowing reviews across TripAdvisor and Google, 97% of our guests rate their experience 5 stars.

More people visit Mt. Everest each year than visit Sable Island. Only a select few will set foot on this remarkable island in 2025. Book your seat and see why Sable Island is the world's most underrated travel adventure.

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THE 2025 VISITOR SEASON

From June to October, we have 2 travel windows per month 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.

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.



If you are travelling to Halifax from outside of the Maritimes, we strongly suggest you make the most of your visit and stick around to explore Halifax and the other beautiful regions of 'Canada's Ocean Playground'. That way if the weather cancels your adventure to Sable Island you would still have an incredible vacation exploring the mainland and

would have made the most of your travel costs for reaching Nova Scotia.

If you would like help planning your stay just let us know and we would be happy to help!

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT SABLE ISLAND IN 2025](#)

TRAVEL BY HELICOPTER



We charter a helicopter with our friends at Vision Air Services to make sure your flight to this legendary island is smooth, safe, and fun. You'll travel in style aboard their Sikorsky S-76A++ helicopter with ample seating for eight, Bose noise-cancelling headphones to chat amongst our group mid-flight, and there is plenty of cargo room for our gear.

Departing from Vision Air's heliport at Halifax Stanfield International Airport, we offer flexible options to get you there. Choose a complimentary transfer from downtown Halifax or enjoy free parking if you prefer to drive yourself.

Sable Island welcomes visitors from June to October, with each month offering unique wildlife encounters and changing landscapes. To ensure your adventure goes as planned, we have a second travel day if weather or logistics disrupt our first flight. If both attempts are unsuccessful, you'll receive a full refund minus \$100 + HST per seat.



For winter or early-season flights, Vision Air provides Gore-Tex survival suits for your safety when ocean temperatures are below 10°C. Before your tour, we'll gather necessary details from you to prepare for this unforgettable travel experience.

The average helicopter flight time is 75 minutes each way, depending on the wind conditions.

We will need to know the following information from you and your guests:

- *Guest name*
- *Guest email*
- *Guest weight*
- *Backpack weight*
- *Emergency contact*
- *Emergency phone #*

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT SABLE ISLAND IN 2025](#)

PRICING

Ready to check Sable Island off your bucket list?

Just over 400 hundred people from around the world flew by helicopter last year to this legendary island. Spots fill up very fast. Advanced booking is essential to secure your seat on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

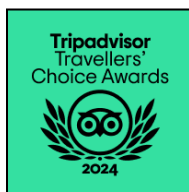


The cost for a single seat is \$3,390 + HST CDN, with a flexible deposit option for early birds. Book your tour between January and May, and you can split the cost into two payments: an initial deposit of \$1,695 + HST, followed by a final payment due 100 days before your trip. After May 31st, all bookings must be paid in full at the time of purchase.

Traveling with friends? Groups of two or more receive a \$200 discount per person, applied to the final payment.

Want the island to yourself? Private tours are available. Email or call us directly to arrange an exclusive adventure tailored just for you and your family.

Been to Sable Island before? We've got a treat for our returning guests! Our Frequent Flyer Discount offers you -\$400 off your next trips. Contact us for your custom coupon code and come back for more wild horses, endless dunes, and unforgettable memories!



"This trip was a bucket list idea from our father. Him and his three daughters (including myself) went. It was absolutely amazing. We were well informed on the history and schedule of the day before we left. Geordie was very helpful and knowledgeable. We have nothing but great things to say about the whole process and trip. We would recommend Picture Perfect Tours a thousand times to anyone if they are thinking of visiting Sable Island!"

Reviewed by Rejdon on TripAdvisor - Nov 2024

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CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

We understand that plans can change. If you need to cancel your Sable Island tour, here's how our policy works:

- **More Than 100 Days Before the Tour:** Receive a full refund, minus a \$100 + HST cancellation fee per seat.
- **Less Than 100 Days Before the Tour:** Tickets are non-refundable. However, you may transfer your seat to someone else, or we'll do our best to rebook you on a later date. The financial responsibility remains with you if cancellation occurs within this window.

Given the unpredictability of travel, we **strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance** with "Cancel For Any Reason" (CFAR) coverage. We're happy to provide suggestions for insurance providers in Canada or the US.

Important Note on Weather: Sable Island is challenging to reach, with roughly 30% of helicopter attempts canceled due to weather. If our flight doesn't depart from Halifax or if the tour is canceled for logistical reasons, you'll be refunded your ticket price, minus the \$100 + HST non-refundable booking fee.

We know these policies can feel tough, but they're in place to help us manage the complexities of operating tours to one of the world's most remote and weather-dependent destinations. We're committed to making your Sable Island experience unforgettable and are always here to assist with any concerns along the way.

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



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WHEN SHOULD I VISIT SABLE ISLAND

Situated 300 km offshore in the North Atlantic Ocean, Sable Island National Park Reserve has a unique climate because of its location. Winters are warmer but spring and early summer are cooler than the mainland of NS.



A frequent question we get asked is, “when is the best time to visit Sable Island?” Here, we’ll break down the pros and cons of visiting Sable Island during different times of the year to help you choose. Our best advice is for you to choose a date that works best for your schedule. Don’t worry about the weather. It’s a volatile variable that none of us can control so go with the date that works best for you and your bucket list.

June

Pros:

- **Wildlife Activity:** Late spring is a vibrant time with many migratory birds returning to nest. With more warmth and vegetation, there are lots of horses and they tend to be playful with younger foals around.
- **Mild Temperatures:** Temperatures are warming but pleasant, making it more comfortable for a full day of outdoor hiking..
- **Budding Flora:** The island’s becoming green but it’s easy to walk through with the marram grass still low.

Cons:

- **Fog:** Late spring and early summer temperatures are unbalanced because of the gap between the colder ocean and warming air. The result is prolonged stretches of fog which can cancel flight attempts.
- **Cooler Days:** Despite the warming trend, temperatures can still be chilly, especially in early spring.
- **Nesting Terns:** Main Station, where we are based for the day, is surrounded by thousands of nesting terns that we need to avoid.

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July

Pros:

- Warming Weather: Summer brings the most stable and warm conditions, perfect for outdoor activities.
- Lush Vegetation: Sable Island is in peak tropical bloom with a wide array of flora offering a colourful backdrop.
- Wild Horse Sightings: The iconic Sable Island horses are often more active, offering excellent photo opportunities.

Cons:

- Risk of Fog: Though temperatures are warming, the island can often experience heavy fog through to mid-July.
 - Reduced Wildlife: With the summer heat the island's freshwater ponds begin to dry out and horses often disperse looking for water.
 - Tougher Hiking: Higher temperatures lead to softer and dryer sand which makes hiking between the dunes more physically taxing.
-

August

Pros:

- Summer Beaches: Walking on Canada's longest beach in the summer!
- Less Fog: By mid-summer the surrounding ocean and air temperatures have equalized and the chance for thick fog has decreased quite a bit.
- Terns Have Left: The nesting terns have moved on which makes for a quieter and less volatile sensory experience!

Cons:

- Quieter Wildlife: Warmer temperatures can lead the horses to be less active and more restful during the heat of the day.
- Tougher Hiking: There is no shade while out hiking and the heat of the summer and moving through tall grass can be exhausting.

September

Pros:

- Ideal Weather: The goldilocks of weather on Sable - not too hot, not too cold and being just right.
- Dramatic Light: As the days get shorter the light for photographers becomes more dramatic as the sun sits lower in the sky.
- Wild Horse Sightings: The freshwater ponds near Main Station reappear with cooling weather and often attract more horses.

Cons:

- Hurricanes: September is traditionally when hurricanes reach NS and these can alter or ground flights for extended periods.
-

October

Pros:

- Golden Grass: The vegetation starts to dry out and the rolling dunes turn a beautiful golden colour in the fall.
- No Fog: In the fall it is very rare for flights to be cancelled because of the balanced air and ocean temperatures.
- Travel Costs: The peak tourism season in NS starts to wind down and accommodation and flights to Halifax can be cheaper.

Cons:

- Cooling Temperatures: The weather starts to become cooler, especially towards November.
- Hurricanes: October is still part of the active hurricane season but the chances for a hurricane decrease later in the month..
- Shorter Days: Limited daylight hours in late fall can restrict the amount of time available for activities on the island.

Winter - January & February

Pros:

- Grey Seal Madness: Chance to witness a spectacular wildlife event with over 300,000 grey seals taking over Sable Island.
- Winter Coats: The wild horses look different as they adopt their thicker woolly coats during the winter.
- 3-Day Window: We get an extra third day as part of our travel window compared to the peak season.

Cons:

- Cold Temperatures: These can be the coldest weeks of the year but when dressed properly for the outdoors it's not an issue.
- Shorter Days: Sunrise is later and sunset comes sooner so we spend approximately 6-7 hours on Sable instead of the usual 8 hours.

WINTER ON SABLE ISLAND

Experience a unique winter wildlife adventure with a small group and your experienced photographer-guide to embark on a thrilling day, unlike any other on Earth.



Experience a spectacular wildlife event as more than 300,000 grey seals arrive to battle, breed, and give birth at Sable Island National Park Reserve and the famed wild horses are adorned in their thick, woolly winter coats.

Winter light and snow cast a magical glow over the island's stark beauty, providing a backdrop for nature enthusiasts to observe the abundance of island wildlife.

Details on our 2026 winter schedule will be released in the spring of this year. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more!

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CAN I STAY OVERNIGHT

This question is most often at about 3:30 PM towards the end of the tour to Sable Island when it dawns on visitors that they will have to head back soon.

Overnight stays for tourists are not permitted. However, [back in 2018 Parks Canada was exploring the idea](#) of hosting overnight visitors, but that idea was shelved because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

While no one will be able to pitch a tent amongst Sable's dunes, a few people do stay overnight. These individuals can include:

- Parks Canada Staff: Parks always has at least 2-4 staff living on the island at all times for maintenance and operations work.
- Researchers: Various scientists conducting studies on Sable's unique flora, wildlife, and weather stay over all year round.
- Volunteers: The Sable Island Institute and other groups occasionally host volunteers on the island to help with research projects.
- Contractors: People hired to work on the island's infrastructure may stay for a few days or up to a few weeks.
- Filmmakers, Artists and Media: With special permits, they may stay overnight to work on a project or record the island's essence.

The prohibition on overnight stays for tourists stems from Sable Island's fragility, lack of dedicated visitor accommodation and the difficulty of getting both on and off the island.



The island has no dedicated accommodations for tourists. Main Station was built in 1946 and most of the buildings, rooms and amenities date to that era. The current building with accommodation, kitchen, bathroom and a lounge for approved visitors is lovingly called the “Sandbar Hotel”.

Sable Island's remoteness makes travel challenging. Visitors may intend to stay overnight for a day but weather such as fog, hurricanes or a flooded beach could ground flights for weeks at a time – leaving visitors stranded.

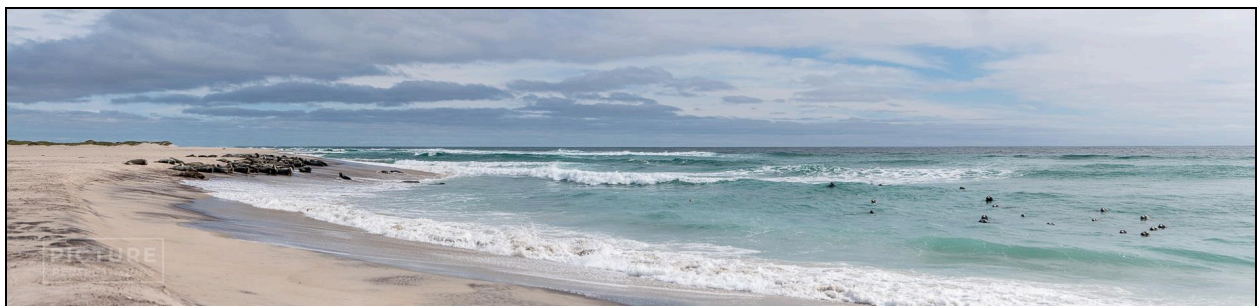
SAMPLE ITINERARY

"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 8 years.

Actual times will change based on sunrise and sunset times, as well as weather conditions and flight restrictions mandated by Transport Canada, but this is an ideal day of what you can expect when visiting the island:

- 06:30 - Depart downtown Halifax for the airport
- 07:15 - Arrive at the Halifax Heliport (549 Barnes Dr, Goffs, NS)
- 07:30 - Introductions, safety video, load helicopter, flight briefing
- 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



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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
- Introduction with Zoe Lucas of the Sable Island Institute when available
- A package of 50+ 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
- Guides is an Outdoor Council of Canada hiking leader
- 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 450+ 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.

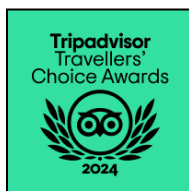
If this was easy to do and simple to get to, then everyone would have been here. This is one of the wildest and most remote places left in the world, and the reward for making the journey is an incredible experience.

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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 of 1400 lbs and we need to weigh everyone and everything before departure.
- You need to arrive in Halifax the day before the adventure and plan on remaining in the area for the full two days of our travel window.
- This experience makes for a really long and exhilarating day, often 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!



"So you're looking for advice, eh? One word GO! That's it. Spend your money, save your money, steal it, do what I did, spend the kids' inheritance. Just go. No need for photos here. Lots on the web. And lastly, the people you meet will outshine the horses and seals."

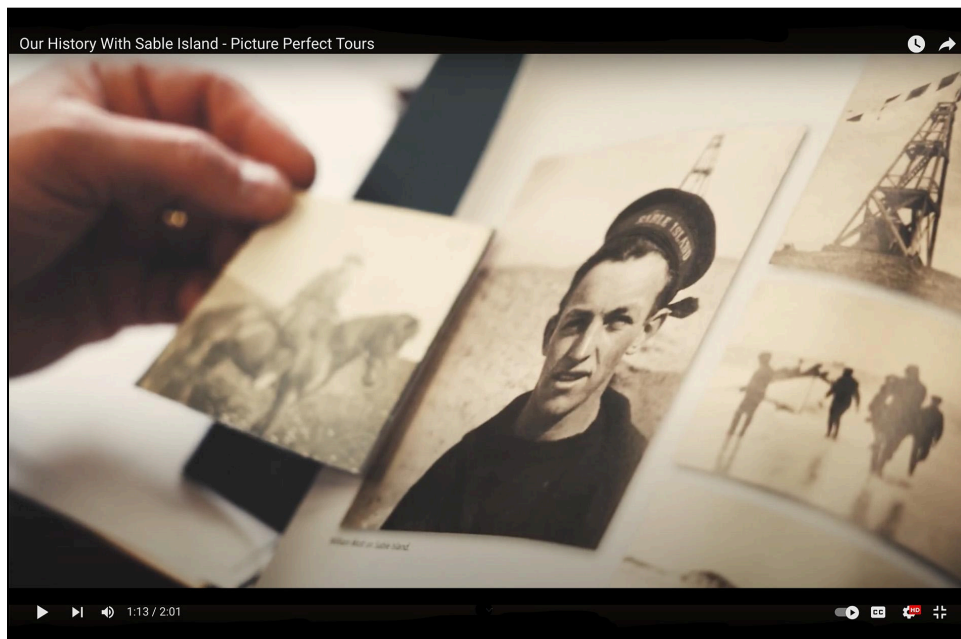
Reviewed by E7993XLBOBM on TripAdvisor - Jan 2024

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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 2025.

Owner - [Geordie Mott](#)

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