



**PICTURE**  
PERFECT TOURS

## YOUR GUIDE FOR VISITING SABLE ISLAND

Sable Island National Park Reserve was ranked the most underrated travel experience in North America, and the third-most underrated worldwide!

In November 2022 the travel experts at [Explore Worldwide](#), a renowned UK travel agency, analysed data on over 350 of the world's hidden gems and scored them based on popularity, reviews, beauty and the number of visitors.

Sable Island emerged as North America's most underrated destination.





*"...Sable Island was incredible! A spectacular location for sure, but Geordie made the difference. Attention to detail, thorough preparation and a calm approach all contributed to a day that will be remembered for a lifetime. Picture Perfect Tours has my highest recommendation."*

Reviewed by Paul R on Google - July 2022

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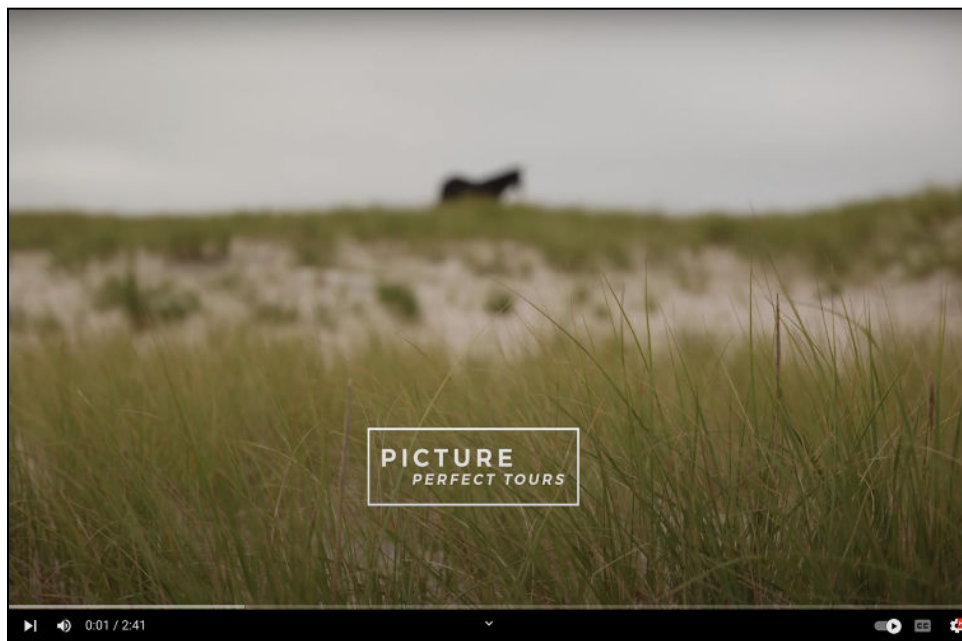
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**There are only a few truly wild places left on Earth. This is one of them.**

Located 300 km out in the middle of the ocean, Sable Island is notoriously difficult and expensive to reach. Parks Canada operates the island with a small staff and requires a certified guide to accompany visitors. Chartering transport is expensive without a group.

Our team at Picture Perfect Tours do the work to get you there. With 6 years of experience, we have all the information you need to be ready for the trip of a lifetime. We organise a group of like-minded nature enthusiasts for your trip. Our guides are licensed and certified to lead groups independently on Sable Island. And we are professional photographers by trade who will share our favourite images of the day with you to remember the experience.



Click on the image above to see a video from our final tour of 2022 on our [YouTube](#) page.

Once on the island, we will hike amongst the dunes and along the beaches to learn about the resilience of these shifting sands, discover how the horses and wildlife survive, see how people have lived there continuously for 222 years, and our changing climate affects this remote outpost in the North Atlantic.

Book with us today to experience one of the most underrated and unique travel destinations in Canada - and the world.

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## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2023



We are excited and humbled to share news and events for 2023 with you.

Between winter and the peak June to October season, we have 19 travel dates to visit Sable Island National Park Reserve (SINPR).

All our adventures will travel by helicopter to increase your chances of being able to land on SINPR in a greater variety of weather.

With 19 travel dates, we are building a variety of themes to highlight the different interests and hobbies of our guests. From a video-focused filming workshop, a sketching and painting group, archaeology and history day, a Mi'kmaq Indigenous cultural experience, and guest professional photographers leading a group. Details for most special events are still to be finalised over the next few weeks and hopefully, more will be added as well.

As per Parks Canada, all groups visiting Sable Island must be led by a certified guide.

You can pay in full upfront or we have a new 50/50 pricing plan to make it easier to spread out the costs when booking a seat between January and May. A 50% deposit is required to reserve a seat with the remaining payment due 30 days before the departure date.

There is a **new group discount of -\$200 per person** when purchasing for a group of 2 or more. The discount will be applied to the final payment. We are available for private tours to Sable Island for you and your team.

We are formalising a new **frequent flyer discount** for the many guests who are joining us for more than one adventure to Sable Island. Contact us for a custom discount code to save -\$350 on future trips to Sable Island with us.

Finally, we are introducing a \$100 + HST non-refundable fee for all cancellations after June 1st to process credit card and ticketing system fees.

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## TRAVEL BY HELICOPTER

We are excited to renew our partnership with Vision Air Services. Their Sikorsky S-76A++ helicopter offers more flexibility in weather conditions, better in-flight comfort and greater reliability while landing on Sable Island's helipads.



The helicopter has Bose noise-cancelling headphones so our group can chat during the flight. There is ample seating room for 8 people and lots of storage room for gear.

June to October is when most guests from around the world visit Sable Island. Each month of the year is beautiful in its own way, and each month has its own advantages and challenges.

If we don't reach Sable because of weather or logistics on the first day of our travel window, then we attempt another flight the next day. If neither day works out then our attempt is cancelled and guests are refunded minus \$100 + HST.

In winter or early June, we are required by Transport Canada to wear survival suits during flights if the ocean temperature is below 10 Celcius. Vision Air will provide a variety of sizes for everyone in the group to choose from and there is no extra charge for these.

A few weeks before the tour we will request safety information from you and everyone in your group that will include:

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

## PRICING

Only a few hundred people each year are allowed to visit Sable Island. These tours are extremely popular and sell out quickly. Advance 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. Prices for our special events will vary.

**Early bird bookings from January to 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 30 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.

For repeat guests with us to Sable Island, we have a **Frequent Flyer offer of -\$350 for a repeat adventure to Sable Island.** Please contact us to receive your custom Frequent Flyer coupon code to be applied during the checkout.



*"We had a magical day on Sable Island. From the first view of the sandy crescent stretched out in the shining water as we came in by helicopter, to the rugged charm of the wild horses, the thousands of seals at the water's edge with the waves rolling in, birds soaring overhead, the marram grass of the dunes swaying in the wind... and the peaceful feeling so far from anywhere."*

Reviewed by Valerie E on TripAdvisor - June 2022

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## CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

**Cancellations must be received more than 14 days prior to the start of the tour.** If cancellation is less than 14 days prior to 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.).

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 14 days' notice.

A non-refundable fee of \$100 + HST is included as part of each seat purchase to process credit card and ticketing software expenses. To receive a full refund, including the \$100 fee, customer cancellation must be made before June 1st.

Sable Island is a notoriously difficult place to reach. **Approximately 30-40% of flight 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 Picture Perfect Tours cancels the tour at any point, you will be refunded your ticket cost minus the \$100 + HST booking fee.



*"Excellent guided tour of Sable Island, it was everything and more than I expected!"*

Reviewed by Cindy M on Google - July 2022

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## JUNE

As the weather warms and the days get longer, June provides great temperatures for exploring Sable Island. Not too hot and not too cold. The horses can be a little more playful with the warming weather, and the older foals still have their winter coats.

The tricky side of June is there can be a high degree of fog delaying or cancelling flights. If the ocean temperatures are below 10 Celcius we need to wear survival suits during the flights.

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**Thursday, June 22nd** (Friday, June 23rd) - ~~SOLD OUT~~ - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.



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## JULY

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.

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**Thursday, July 6th** (Friday, July 7th) - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.

**Tuesday, July 18th** (Wednesday, July 19th)- \$3390 + HST

- **Mi'kmaq Perspectives** - Timed to coincide with the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, this will be a trip with an Indigenous focus on Sable Island's wildlife, landscape and creation stories of Mi'kmaq culture hosted by local artist, dancer

**Thursday, July 27th** (Friday, July 28th)- \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.



## AUGUST

This is certainly the hottest time of the year out on Sable Island, especially in the gaps between the tall dunes that are blocked from the cooler ocean winds. Very little chance of fog.

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**Tuesday, August 8th** (Wednesday, August 9th) - \$3390 + HST

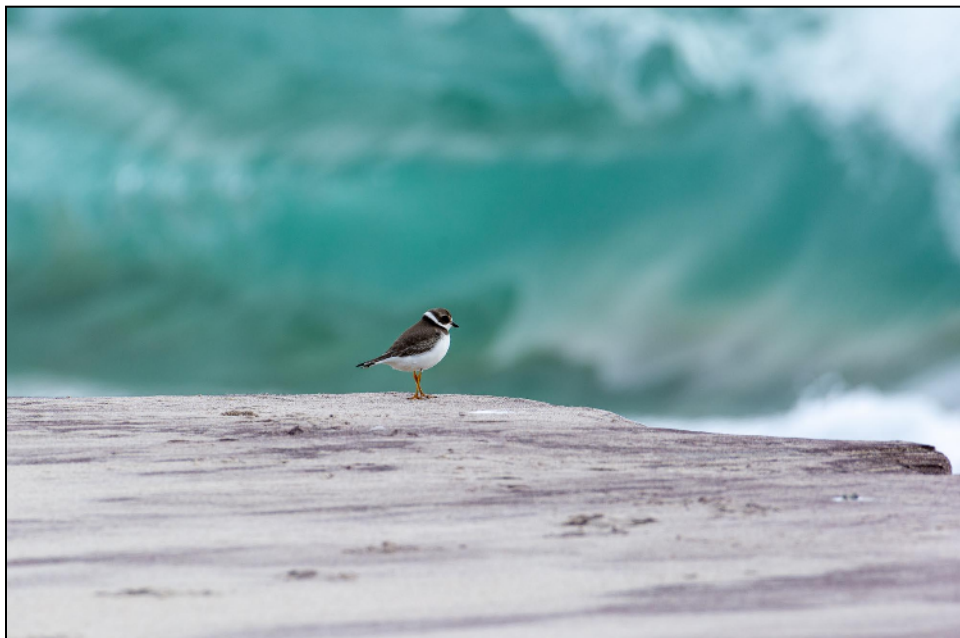
- Open group tour.

**Thursday, August 17th** (Friday, August 18th) - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.

**Thursday, August 24th** (Friday, August 25th) - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.



## SEPTEMBER

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.

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**Saturday, September 2nd** (Sun, September 3rd) - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour on Labour Day Weekend

**Tuesday, September 5th** (Wed, September 6th) - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.

**Thursday, September 21st** (Fri, September 22nd) - \$3390 + HST

- **Sketching with Briana Corr Scott** - Author of the illustrated children's book 'She Dreams of Sable Island' will lead a drawing workshop.



**Saturday, September 30th** (Sun, October 1st) - \$3390 + HST

- **Archaeology on Sable Island** - Learn about the challenges of archaeology on Sable Island from retired archaeologist Charles Burke.

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## OCTOBER

Cooling temperatures make this a pleasant month to visit with the grass bronzing and horse coats getting thicker at the end of the month.

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**Tuesday, October 10th** (Wednesday, October 11th) - \$3590 + HST

- **Len Wagg Photo Workshop** - Discover visual storytelling with acclaimed photographer and best-selling author Len Wagg on a 1 ½ day workshop starting with a class in Halifax before flying out on a fantastic trip to Sable Island.

**Thursday, October 19th** (Friday, October 20th) - ~~SOLD OUT~~ - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.

**Tuesday, October 24th** (Wednesday, October 6th) - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.

**Saturday, October 28th** (Sunday, October 29th) - \$3390 + HST

- Open group tour.



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## SABLE ISLAND IN WINTER

If you think you know Sable Island - think again. Parks Canada offers an extraordinary opportunity to bring winter visitors to Sable Island and we can help you get there!



A true Canadian adventure, we fly by helicopter over Nova Scotia's frozen coast to Sable Island where winter offers visitors a completely different experience. The stark, snow-covered landscape against the steely North Atlantic is a visually striking view of the island.

Perhaps the most spectacular winter experiences on the island are when 80% of the world's grey seal population descend on the beaches in mid-December each year to give birth and breed. Almost 100,000 pups are born before most of the parents head back out to sea. The pups stay alone on the island well into March before they too head back to the ocean.



Amidst this winter backdrop, the island's wild horses are in all their glorious winter coats just before the foals are born in early spring. This will be a unique experience and we will have all the details and tips to enjoy the day and the images to remember a trip of a lifetime.

**2024 WINTER DATES WILL BE RELEASED IN NOVEMBER**

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## 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 6 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 - Begin downtown Halifax pickups for airport transfer
- 07:15 - Arrive at the Stanfield International Airport
- 07:30 - Weigh passengers & gear, load plane, bathroom, safety brief
- 08:30 - Transport departs for Sable Island
- 10:00 - Land on the south beach or helipad at Sable Island
- 10:30 - Unload plane, safety orientation with Parks Canada
- 11:00 - Hike with Zoe Lucas to introduce the island’s history and ecology
- 15:30 - Arrive back at the plane for late lunch and rest break
- 16:30 - Short hike to the east
- 17:30 - Group arrives back at the helicopter to load gear
- 18:00 - Helicopter departs for the airport
- 19:30 - Arrive at Stanfield International Airport
- 20:00 - Unload helicopter, goodbyes and depart for drop off in Halifax
- 21:00 - Arrive home and have a well-deserved adult beverage



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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
- 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
- Gratuities

## EXCLUSIONS

- Meals, snacks & beverages
- Personal travel &/or medical insurance
- Fees for emergency room & board
- Refund if cancellation is less than 14 days



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## COVID19 & VISITING SABLE ISLAND



As of October 2022, Transport Canada and the province of Nova Scotia have made important changes to the emergency health measures act regarding air travel and masking mandates. If there are changes to emergency health measures we will let you know.

### Proof of Vaccination

Passengers are no longer required to show proof of vaccination before boarding a plane or aircraft to Sable Island.

### If You Are Unwell

Passengers no longer need to complete a company health check form prior to boarding. However, if you are not feeling well we ask that you stay home, and delay your travel plans while we will work with you to find another tour date.

### No Mask Mandates

Face masks are not mandatory during our van transport to the airport, inside the airport lounge and during flights.

However, out of respect for others and the isolated staff on Sable Island, we highly recommended wearing a mask. A well-fitted, non-medical mask or face covering must be:

- Made of 2 layers of tightly-woven material such as cotton or linen
- Completely covering the nose and mouth without gaping
- Able to be secured to a person's head with ties or ear loops
- Suggested to be worn at all times during the flights

## 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 prior to 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 12 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 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!



*"A perfect day! I've been dreaming of visiting Sable Island for years, and did try last year, but was disappointed when the trip had to be cancelled because of the weather. But this trip had perfect weather, perfect everything!"*

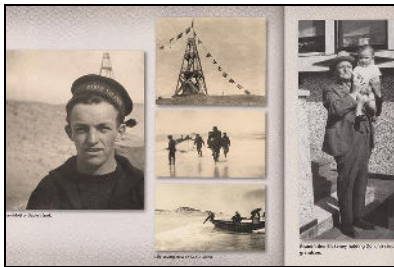
Reviewed by Anita J on TripAdvisor - July 2022

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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 Joseph 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.



Their son, my grandfather, took over the business, and when I was growing up my grandfather had a multitude of turn-of-the-century artefacts and images from Sable Island. His 'Graveyard of the Atlantic' curios was alluring for a kid.

William passed well before I was born, but as a child, I was fortunate to meet Muriel. Before her passing, she entrusted our family with her old photo albums with pictures of Sable Island during WWI. This top image is my great-grandfather William on Sable Island, and below is Muriel on a horse.



The allure of Sable Island was partly responsible for my choosing Halifax as a place to study and call home. I combined my passions for travel, photography and the people of the Maritimes to showcase the best of our region with Picture Perfect Tours.

To learn more about my history with Sable Island and to see historic images from the Dalhousie University Archives collection click [here](#) to watch a video on our [YouTube](#) page.

Without Sable Island, I wouldn't be here. I'm excited to share with you my stories and Muriel's old photos of a place like no other.

Geordie Mott

Owner - Picture Perfect Tours

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## CONTACT US



There is so much more to discuss and absorb when it comes to the magic 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 2022.

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