

TOUR TO SABLE ISLAND AND THE GULLY MPA

JUNE 9 – 17, 2012



Sable Island is a remote sandy island 300 km east southeast of Halifax Nova Scotia. It is populated by wild horses, birds, seals, sharks and a few people. For many years it has borne the designation “Graveyard of the Atlantic.” It has for centuries been notably difficult to access and remains such even now. It is in the process of becoming our most recent Canadian National

Park and by June of 2012 I am told, Parks Canada will be in charge.

The Gully MPA (Marine Protected Area) is a massive underwater canyon cutting through the edge of the



continental shelf some 40 kms beyond Sable Island. It is extraordinarily deep and provides sustenance to the many mammals and fish that live within its bounds. There are two other canyons to

the east, but the Gully is the only one that has protected status. This area is home to 160 endangered Northern Bottlenose Whales who live here year round. This last summer we were the first tourists ever to visit this area. Boats have crossed but not stopped legally. Fishermen have to wait outside Zone 1.



The tour will leave Halifax June 9th 2012. Clients can board the night before (June 8th) after 6pm so as to settle in. We will sail for Sable Island which will take nearly two days and we'll arrive there approximately on the evening of Sunday the 10th.

We will be in the area of Sable Island from the 11th - 13th and will wander on the island, looking at horses, seals, identifying birds, photographing...We will sleep and eat on board and on the last night in this area will sail to the Gully protected area on the continental shelf about 40K further out. So we should have two days (again approximate) in the Gully seeing whales and other creatures, and can then head towards Saint Pierre which is a 30 hour trip. En route we should see puffins and other whales as we did on this summer's voyage. The exact itinerary may change due to weather conditions. We expect to have fog, but with fog we should have less wind and calmer seas. We also hope to have a broad area in which to land on Sable Island which will make disembarkation easier....



We will have a professional biologist on board to tell us about Sable Island. This year we had Prof Ian MacLaren on board, a retired marine biologist from Dalhousie University, and he was much loved by all. There is no question that he cannot answer! He was on Sable Island before Zoe Lukas (See the Greenhorse Society) with his young family back in the '60's. Ian, should he come again, will do some "chumming" (tossing smelly salmon overboard to attract birds), and will walk with you over the island. We hope to have Zoe Lukas talk to us on the beach. DFO regulations require legitimate research to be done in Zone I of the Gully. For



this we will have on board a graduate student from the Whitehead Lab at Dalhousie. He or she will be doing Bottlenose Whale research. The Whitehead Lab has been doing research in the Gully since the '80's. You will be able to talk to her or him and discuss the research. We may also be monitoring birds for another

scientist. This last year I was there twice and saw many Bottlenose Whales, coming up to our boat, swimming on their backs, looking up at us, frolicking, and generally enjoying themselves. They have enough to eat and do not migrate. The species is extremely curious.



Our vessel is a 90 foot refurbished Dutch Trawler, now taking tours along our coasts as far as Greenland. It comes with the highest recommendations. It is equipped with beautiful cabins, a kitchen and a sitting area with reading material. Karen (one of the captains as well as boat cook) makes magnificent meals as well as before dinner snacks. You are encouraged to bring along your special snacks, alcohol, teas, etc., but you will not be hungry. There is considerable attention paid to safety. We will have a "safety hour" on deck shortly after we sail. The ship is provided with survival suits, life jackets and additional life boats. It's also equipped with current navigational equipment. Further, the Wanderbird sails routinely from the Caribbean to Greenland every summer and then back, so has encountered all manner of maritime conditions.

Sea sickness is a common problem and if you suffer from this, please bring along whatever you need to combat it: patches, pills, etc. You will be asked to provide evidence of your **medical insurance** as well as **medical evacuation insurance**.

The cost of this tour is \$3400.00 USD and the deposit is \$1000 USD to be paid to hold the spot. The **cost will cover all expenses on board including a flight back to Halifax (which was not included this last summer) from Saint Pierre on Monday June 18th, leaving around 9:30am.** (If you are not interested in this let me know and I will deduct \$250 USD off the price.) It does NOT cover the cost of a hotel in Saint Pierre on the night of June 17th , nor dinner that night, nor in Halifax before the tour on June 8th, nor taxi, nor expenses of a personal nature... We will disembark at some point between noon and dinner time at the docks in Saint Pierre on June 17th and retire to our hotels.

The tour cost after the deposit is paid is due: 1) January 1st and 2) February 15th. 2012

Ship accommodation arranged in this manner:

4 cabins each containing one double berth plus a bathroom with shower.
(accommodation for 8)

2 cabins each containing two single berths plus a bathroom with shower
(accommodation for 4)

Do call or write if you have any questions and bear in mind that space will fill up abruptly.

My regards.

Jennifer Modigliani

Photographer/Director

Sacajawea Tours,

www.sacajaweatours.com

www.photosbymodigliani.com

jennifer@sacajaweatours.com

Tel: 902-579-3344

DETAILS

Dates: Saturday June 9th. – Sunday June 17th.

Departure: Halifax

Disembarkation: St. Pierre, FR

Duration: 9 days

Price: \$3400.00 U.S.D.

Book with Sacajawea Tours 902-579-3344

Email: jennifer@sacajaweatours.com

Please note that guests are **required to have **Travel Insurance** and **Medical Evacuation** coverage for this trip. It is also wise to obtain **cancellation insurance** as well since due to the nature of the tour and the ship's full schedule of summer travel, all monies paid are non-refundable. Impossible weather conditions will result in cancellation and the provision of another tour. A refund of the initial deposit can be made within the first month after booking but will be subject to a \$200 booking fee*

*** Dates and prices subject to change.*

**** This tour cost is more than in 2011, but is 3 days longer and includes a flight back to Halifax, as well as removing the shuttle service from the beginning of the 2011 trip, so indeed is cheaper per day.*

***** Clients are on their own in regard to the following: 1) Hotel for June 17th night in Saint Pierre. Taxi costs to hotel. Dinner that night and breakfast the following morning if there is time. 2) Taxi to the Saint Pierre Airport (which is cheap since it is close) 3) Transportation from Halifax International Airport on June [17th.at](#) the end of the tour.)*

******Costs due on deadlines given and if late, the client risks their place on the tour being given to someone else.*

******Images courtesy of Catalina Gomez, Kristin O'Brien, Rick Miles and Jennifer Modigliani*

