

# The "Great Northern Experience" Snowmobile Tour

## Itinerary

### Exploring the Great Northern Peninsula by Snowmobile.

On a "Great Northern" Experience snowmobile tour, you may experience two UNESCO World Heritage Site's, see in their natural surroundings an abundance of wildlife, ride over several types of terrain and trails, rest and eat in top quality accommodations, and enjoy the local culture. That's right, snowmobiling the Long Range Mountains of Western Newfoundland is in the "best kept secret" category. From your base at the "Torrent River Inn" in Hawkes Bay, Newfoundland sledders can visit the World Heritage wonder of Gros Morne National Park's back country one tour and ride to another World Heritage site at L'anse aux Meadows at the top of Newfoundland the next.

With over 12,000 sq miles to explore, the Great Northern Peninsula presents excellent Back Country Wilderness touring opportunities, as well as World Class Groomed Snowmobile Trail riding. The best of both worlds! Hawkes Bay, located right in the middle of the Viking Trail, offers the best options with many services available to snowmobilers, including several choices of directions and hundreds of miles of groomed trails to ride. Shorter rides take sledders over hundreds of km's of groomed trails, along the coastal communities or through thick boreal forest on a trail network that goes on forever. This combination of groomed and back country trails means you get the "Great Northern" Experience of a lifetime.

Our most popular run takes sledders to the rim of Western Brook Pond. Of course, only here could a gigantic inland glacier-carved fjord with walls 2,000 feet high, be called a pond. It's just a few hours ride on a sled, but a couple of days hike in summer, to the edge of the gorge for a view that's both exhilarating and humbling at the same time. Once you stop to enjoy the view, the land reaches out and grab's you, filling your space with a new appreciation for nature.

Our second run takes sledders over the Long Range Mountains, down the Souffetts Valley into the former community of Harbour Deep. It's only a few hours ride, but in many ways, a trip back in time, long before many Newfoundland communities had the modern services we enjoy today, our only access to the outside world was by water, similar to residents of Harbor Deep today. You will also learn about NFLD Ranger, Danny Corcoran's ordeal, and that faithful spring morning in 1936 when he set out to walk from Harbour Deep to Hawke's Bay. A true story brought to life in the book "Will anyone search for Danny" by Earl Pilgrim's, retired wildlife officer and local legend in his own right, but that's another story.

Our third run takes you to the land of the Vikings. The Viking Site at L'anse aux Meadows is our destination, but it the spectacular scenery at the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula that will truly amaze and astonish you. You will experience excellent trail riding; mountain sledding and wide open spaces where the caribou and moose roam. Standing on the same ground as where the Vikings landed 1000 years ago, you get a full understanding of just how tough they must have been.<BR

### Hawkes Bay:

The area surrounding Hawkes Bay has some of the most stunning natural beauty in

the Province for the snowmobile-touring enthusiasts. It's in the **"best kept secret"** category also, for location alone, having hundreds of miles of former logging roads at the towns backdoor and an inland bay (3 miles x 7 miles) that freezes solid every winter, at the front door. It's a true snowmobiler's paradise, providing a wonderful backdrop and playground to enjoy all the fun and excitement this sport brings.

Hawke's Bay is nestled at the end of a beautiful inland bay, protected from the higher winds and fog, often experienced along the coast. The town is at the mid-way point along the Viking Trail and is the central location between Gros Morne National Park to the south and L'anse Aux Meadows National Park to the North. This area has all the services needed by snowmobilers making it a convenient "home-base" while exploring the many attractions of the Great Northern Peninsula.

### **World Class Snowmobile Trails:**

With the completion of the Viking Snowmobile Trail, we now enjoy over 1100 km of World Class snowmobile trails on the Great Northern Peninsula. The Northwest Trackers Snowmobile club established in 1994 is responsible for over 300 miles of trails in the Hawkes Bay area. With the acquisition of a new groomer in 2000 this loyal group of volunteers, keep all our trails in super condition, all winter long. The Viking Snowmobile Trails system is regularly groomed from Deer Lake, thru to Hawkes Bay and then on to St. Anthony.

### **Guides:**

Our guides are trained in GPS, compass and maps, first aid, and winter survival techniques. They are experienced snowmobilers and have first hand knowledge of the area, ensuring your tour is safe and enjoyable one. There will be one guide for each group size up to eight. Guides will also be responsible for transporting extra fuel needed on the tour.

### **Safety:**

The management and staff at the Torrent River Inn will endeavor to ensure safety and enjoyment by all participants, but since sledding involves certain unforeseen risks, a liability waiver is required to be read and signed prior to departure. We respect the environment and promote the philosophy to **"Tread Lightly"**. We are not a race organization and we insist that guests travel at reasonable speeds to ensure safety. Minimum age requirement: 18 years. Your initial meeting with us begins with a demo and orientation of proper machine operation and riding techniques. Risks may be encountered in any outdoor activity. Participants must realize and accept that there is a certain element of risk involved with snowmobiling. Even though these risks are minimal, they do exist. Torrent River Inn reserves the right to deny participation to any individual in order to maintain the safety and integrity of the group, equipment, and/or the natural resources.

### **Accommodations:**

Accommodations will be at the Torrent River Inn in Hawkes Bay, where you begin and end each tour. Our Inn has 30 comfortable guest rooms with private bath, telephone, cable TV, and coffee machines in each unit. All package prices are based on double occupancy. We arrange other quality accommodations, at each of our major tour destinations.

### **Meals:**

We begin each day with a Big Breakfast, served up early so we can hit the trails ASAP and start enjoying the great Newfoundland outdoors. Lunch will either be at one of

several cabins on the trail, outdoors over an open fire, or at another restaurant along the trail. The hearty Newfoundland meal awaits you each evening after your long day on the trails. Dinner is a great time, to relax and share the highlights of your adventure with your friends. Please inform us in advance, of any food allergies or meal preferences, so we can ensure your trip will be a memorable experience.

### **Entertainment:**

On the last evening of your tour, the Torrent River Inn will host a reception for your group, featuring old time Newfoundland entertainment (local talent), a hearty scoff, and humorous tales from the trail. It's the perfect way to end your "Great Northern" Experience.

### **Snowmobiles:**

The snowmobiles used on our tours are all standard touring sleds, with average cc's being in the 380 to 600 ranges. The touring snowmobile is comfortable for long rides as well as durable enough for the backcountry riding you will encounter on our tours.

### **Trail permits:**

In order to maintain our top notched Snowmobile trails, the Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation issues trail permits for snowmobiles to display each year. Our rental sleds will have these permits already on display, so you won't have to purchase new ones if you are taking our all-inclusive tours. If you choose one of our basic tours, and don't already have a current trail permit, please show your support by purchasing one before you hit the Trails this winter. Permits can be purchased at the Torrent River Inn or from most snowmobile dealership across Newfoundland and Labrador.

### **Things to include:**

We recommend for proper fit and comfort, you bring your own:

- Ski or Snowmobile suit
- Good insulated snow boots
- Warm winter socks
- Warm winter mitts or gloves
- Helmets are recommended, however it is not mandatory by law.
- Sunglasses are a necessity, the sun reflects of the snow, and can be blinding at times.
- Saddle Bags or Back Packs are a good idea for carrying personal items
- Camera
- Sunscreen

Everyone should be prepared for winter weather conditions and temperatures. This is not an area you should be skimping on, so please dress appropriately.

### **Transportation to/from Hawkes Bay:**

Two airports service Hawkes Bay: St. Anthony airport to our north is approx. 175 km away, and both Air Labrador and Provincial airlines fly daily regular scheduled flights to/from St. John's. Deer Lake airport to our south is approx. 200 km away, Air Labrador, Air Nova and Provincial airlines have daily regular flights to/from St. John's. If you are book on one of our All Inclusive Tours, we will make all your flight arrangements and have our shuttle service there to pick you up when you arrive. If you plan on driving to Hawkes Bay, take the Viking Trail (Route 430) at Deer Lake and proceed north to the Torrent River Inn (approx 200 km).

### **Snowmobile Season:**

The Snowmobile season normally runs from early January thru to mid May each year.

For the snow-starved sled hogs, the Great Northern Peninsula usually gets the largest annual snowfall and lowest average temperatures, resulting in the longest sled season in Newfoundland. The Marble Mountain ski resort 170km to the south, averages 16 feet of nature's white blanket ever year. The prevailing winter westerlies pick up extra moisture over the chilly Gulf of St. Lawrence, then deposits it atop and on both sides of the Long Range Mountains that form the spine of western Newfoundland. January and February is usually the months we get dumped on (big time), with lots of powder snow around to try out your snowmobile. March, April and May usually sees the snow settle, making the riding much easier as the snowy season is over and the sun begins to gain power. Snowmobiling late into the evenings is essential if you want to get a full appreciation of the tranquility and uninterrupted view from Horizon to Horizon.

### **In Conclusion:**

The staff and management at the Inn will make every effort to ensure your group enjoys this experience and treasures the memories forever. If you require further information on our Tours, our Inn, or Snowmobiling in our area, please call:

1-800-563-8811 or E-Mail: [snowmobiling@TorrentRiverInn.ca](mailto:snowmobiling@TorrentRiverInn.ca)

**We look forward to seeing you on our Tours and/or Trails this winter.**