

A large whale is captured in the middle of breaching the ocean's surface. The whale's dark, textured skin is visible as it moves upwards, and a massive, white splash of water surrounds its body. The background shows a calm blue sea and a distant, hazy shoreline with some buildings.

*Maritime Explorer: Islands of the Gulf*

SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 2, 2010  
ABOARD THE CLIPPER ADVENTURER



Imagine yourself in the world's largest estuary. A place on the planet that is simply a natural wonder. An ecosystem set apart, this vast expanse of water and its islands are home to an astonishing diversity of marine mammals, birds and human cultures. Now envision yourself on a journey by sea exploring the beauty and wonder of this great landscape. Our *Maritime Explorer: Islands of the Gulf* program is designed to do just that. With the guidance of Canada's leading experts we will set out to witness, participate and revel in the great beauty of this land. Biologists, historians, geologists, musicians and photographers will help you better understand and see the mighty Gulf of the Saint Lawrence.

Shaped by an array of factors: freshwater runoff, seasonal ice, shallow depths with deep trenches, partial isolation from the Atlantic and a pattern of vertical mixing we find an environment of high biological productivity. The nutrient rich waters are one of the main feeding grounds for North Atlantic Whale species. From the deck of *Clipper Adventurer* we may experience the carnivorous toothed whales, baleen whales and seals. Perhaps we will catch a glimpse of the endangered blue whale, deep feeding sperm whale or the playful porpoises, dolphins and seals. For photographers and avian admirers alike, the ecological reserves of Bonaventure Island and Cape St. Mary's are sure to be voyage highlights. Here we will hike out to some of the world's most accessible and significant seabird colonies. We also anticipate impressive sightings of the areas inshore, pelagic, waterfowl and shorebirds.

Where there is natural abundance there will be human habitation, and with a lengthy and turbulent history First Nation, Francophone and Anglophone people have all called this region home. On our journey we will have the great pleasure of visiting, the Island of Newfoundland, Île de la Madeline and Île Bonaventure, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and the French islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon. Each stop is carefully planned to help us experience the common thread that unites these stunning North Atlantic islands and their distinct regional differences. Join our special guests from the Canadian Geographic Photo Club as we capture the beauty of the East Coast.





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“Safety was top priority for staff and it showed; next to that was knowledge and enthusiasm exhibited by all. This trip was not only educational but a lot of fun! Also, great choice in cabin mate for me-thanks. Thanks for a wonderful time; I will never, never forget it!!!”

- Sue – Ghost Coast: Wild Labrador 2008



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## Our Intended Itinerary

Day 1: Corner Brook/Bay of Islands  
 Day 2: Îles de la Madeleine  
 Day 3: Percé/Bonaventure Island  
 Day 4: Prince Edward Island

Day 5: Cape Breton  
 Day 6: Newfoundland South Coast  
 Day 7: Saint Pierre & Miquelon  
 Day 8: Cape St. Mary's & St. John's



## Highlights

- The Captain James Cook Monument, a National Historic Site, at Cornerbrook
- Visit the nesting place of 300,000 seabirds at the Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock National Park
- Visit the home of Anne of Green Gables
- Cape Breton is home to the largest Gaelic speaking community in the world outside of Scotland and Ireland
- Pay a visit to France at the tiny island of St. Pierre
- Experience the unique shaped red sandstone cliffs on the coast of Isles de la Madeleine
- Experience the world-famous colours of the Cabot Trail
- Sample Îles de la Madeleine cheeses, Pied-de-Vent and Tomme des Demoiselles among other local delicacies.



# A Sense of Place

© Dennis Minty, 2009



“Where do you belong?” A common question in this province. Not unlike “Where are you from?” but with a big difference. Behind it, there is an expectation of a sense of place and being rooted in it. Most Newfoundlanders and Labradorians feel this in their bones. We don’t really have a choice about it. Nor would we want one. But move one of us to another place on the globe and we can look with wonder, work with vigour, laugh with glee, eat with relish, and mix with pleasure. Then there comes a time when we just have to get home.

We can’t be alone in having this sense of place. I know other people feel it too. I would expect to find it, and do, in New Zealand, in the Hebrides, in the Arctic. Is it something to do with remoteness, otherness, being on the fringe? A bit I suppose. It’s even a little bit tribal, but in a good way.

We don’t own the place; it owns us. Sure its family and heritage and familiarity but there is much more than that. There’s a kind of magical grip on the heart that is bigger than all these things. I don’t understand it fully and choose to leave it as one of life’s mysteries.

Whatever it is and however it is explained, it exists, in spades. And it is this sense of place that travellers see in Newfoundlanders and Labradorians when they visit. It doesn’t matter if it’s in La Poile, a tiny community of a few hundred with no road access to anywhere, or in old St. John’s, our inspiring, port city, visitors find people who are open, enjoy life, are happy to share what they have, are quick to dance and who love, truly love where they live.

Then there is the place itself. As a professional photographer, I have been making images of it all my life, and it still knocks my socks off. Give me a soft summer morning with the mists painting the headlands and the mewing of gulls in the background. Give me a breaching humpback exploding through the ocean’s blue surface, 40 tonnes of life airborne from two or three flicks of the tail. Give me the majesty of Saglek Fjord in the Torngat Mountains of Labrador with ancient, giant, weathered peaks all around and underfoot, a cushion of brilliant colour. I hear the word “spiritual” in quiet, church-like murmurs. Give me a soaring gannet against a northern blue sky, its wings broader than a tall man’s height. Then the wings fold into the body as it plunges with force into the sea to snatch a silvery herring. Give me the steep roofed salt boxes and the shallow-slopped biscuit boxes, houses built by the hands of their owners 100 years ago before “vinyl clapboard” and “bungalows” were ever part of the lexicon. Give me the small boats moored in quiet coves and the increasingly rare flakes and stages where fish was off-loaded, gutted, split and dried in the sun by families toiling together to make ends meet.

Travellers can’t help but absorb some of this sense of place. This enrichment can inspire them to think about their own lives and what’s important. Some will bring home a fine collection of images, but all will have a bank of new memories to lighten the spirits as their journeys continue.

- Dennis Minty

Born in Twillingate, Newfoundland, Dennis has followed a varied path to arrive at his current profession as a photographer. Through 30 years of both local and international work, Dennis has served as an award winning wildlife biologist and environmental educator; designer and manager of a nature education centre; author; multimedia developer and adventure tour guide. Dennis has authored or co-authored five books and two educational CD-ROMs. One of his environmental education projects, “Finding the Balance, Environmental Issues on a Global Scale” was officially endorsed by the United Nations. Dennis has also received the Canadian Governor General’s Medal for his work in environmental education. As a photographer/biologist/educator, he has travelled extensively to the many countries of Africa, the Seychelles, the Caribbean, Europe and North America. But his favourite place is his home, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Dennis will be joining us on our Newfoundland Circumnavigation

# Maritime Explorer: Resource Staff

*This is just a sampling of the outstanding staff on this voyage.  
Please visit our website for a full list of staff members.*



Brian Atkinson  
*Photographer*

Brian has worked as a professional photographer for the past 25 years, in some 60 countries. On assignment for *Canadian Geographic* Brian has photographed Guatemalan migrant workers in Quebec, the seal hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the fishery in the Bay of Fundy, the French shore in Nova Scotia, the wilderness coast of New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy, the rural community of New Denmark and a host of other stories. The author of four books, Brian is now working on a photographic book that documents Guatemala's recent history. For Brian, photography is about people and the chance to work with people from all over the world and give a voice to their stories.



Dave Bidini  
*Musician / Author*

Dave Bidini's first book, published in 1998, was the popular and critically acclaimed *On a Cold Road*, about what it's like to tour Canada in a rock 'n' roll band. He has since written two more books, *Tropic of Hockey* (2001), and *Baseballissimo* (March, 2004). When he is not writing or traveling the world, Bidini is rhythm guitarist for the Rheostatics. The band has released ten albums to date, including *Music Inspired by the Group of Seven*, the soundtrack to the film *Whale Music*, which yielded the hit song "Claire," and *The Story of Harmelodia*, a children's album. He also starred in the Gemini Award-winning film *The Hockey Nomad*. Dave Bidini lives with his wife and two children in Toronto.



Marina Montevecchi  
*Ornithologist*

Marina graduated from the Adventure Tourism Program at the College of the North Atlantic on Newfoundland's west coast. Marina has worked as for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, while living on an isolated island off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where she studied, monitored and protected nesting shorebirds and seabirds in the Monomoy Wildlife Refuge. Marina will lecture on seabirds including tracking studies of gannets from Bonaventure Island and Cape St. Mary's. The coastal geography and ecosystems we will visit provide a perfect stage on which to raise awareness about protecting our environment.



Phillippe Toussaint  
*Naturalist*

Born in a small town in eastern Quebec, Philippe studied journalism, environmental science and outdoor guiding. His curiosity for just about anything from food to nature and people has brought him around the world. Along the way, he discovered that he could open doors with his great sense of humour and the persistent smile on his face. Based in Montreal, where he spends most of the year, he admittedly uses his profession – guiding – as a way to discover new areas and meet people of various cultures. An avid cyclist, hiker and cross-country skier, Philippe has guided adventure tours in most regions of the Province of Quebec, as well as some in north eastern and south western United States.



Michelle Valberg  
*Photographer*

Michelle Valberg is an award-winning Canadian photographer, renowned for her soulful portraiture and stunning landscapes. She possesses a magical combination of artistic creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and community commitment with a diverse career and excellent reputation. Valberg's work has appeared in numerous magazines and has been the subject of her two self-published books—*Look Beyond... The Faces & Stories of People with HIV/AIDS* and *Dare to Dream... A Celebration of Canadian Women*, which became a national bestseller. Each of her book projects has raised money for Ottawa-based charities. Valberg is currently at work on her third book — *The Land & Life of the Inuit... Through the Generations*—due to be released in 2011.





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© Dennis Minty, 2009



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“All the activities that were planned in the ship so we could benefit from the amazing group of people as part of the staff, learn more about the communities where we were going and the interaction with local people when we were in the town visits.”

- *Atlantic Arts Float, 2009*



© Dennis Minty, 2009



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# About Our Partnership with The Royal Canadian Geographical Society



The Royal Canadian Geographical Society is dedicated to imparting a broader knowledge and deeper appreciation of Canada — its people and places, its natural and cultural heritage and its environmental, social and economic challenges. The Society is one of Canada's largest non-profit educational organizations and

is funded primarily by membership fees and generous donations. The Society's Board of Governors and its program committees are comprised entirely of volunteers.

## About the Society

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society was founded in 1929 with a mandate "to make Canada better known to Canadians and to the world." Celebrating its 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 2010, its mandate is fulfilled mainly through the publication of *Canadian Geographic* in English and *Géographica* in French, and through the Society's geographic education program, speaker series, research grants and expeditions programs.



## About Canadian Geographic

Published by The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, *Canadian Geographic* is one of the most

widely read magazines in Canada. Each issue of the magazine allows readers to explore, discover and learn about their country. The Canadian Geographic Photo Club, Canada's largest online photographic community, is the home of the annual Canadian Geographic Photo Contest and the Wildlife Photography of Year Contest.

This year, the Society and *Canadian Geographic* are proud to partner with Adventure Canada to offer both their *Newfoundland Circumnavigation* and *Maritime Explorer: Islands of the Gulf*, a unique cruise for photo enthusiasts organized in association with the Canadian Geographic Photo Club.

Those on the Adventure Canada mailing lists are entitled to a one-year subscription to *Canadian Geographic* magazine at the special price of \$24.95. Simply phone 1-800-267-0824 to subscribe. All travellers will receive a one-year subscription to *Canadian Geographic*, compliments of Adventure Canada.



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CANADIAN  
Geographic

# PHOTOCLUB

CANADA'S PHOTOGRAPHY COMMUNITY

The Canadian Geographic Photo Club is the preeminent site for all Canadian photographers. With more than 22,000 members, the CG Photo Club is a unique community that shares an interest in showcasing Canada's physical and human landscapes in more than 90,000 arresting, surprising and spectacular images uploaded to the site by club members.

Photography has been an essential element of Canadian Geographic magazine since it began 80 years ago. The CG Photo Club is a natural extension of that fact. The magazine's annual photography contests continue to draw thousands of submissions and the winning photos are published each January in Canadian Geographic.

The newest contest, the *Canadian Wildlife Photography of the Year*, organized in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Nature, has grown by leaps and bounds. The Wildlife contest winners are published in the December issue of Canadian Geographic. Moreover, they are the subject of national travelling exhibits organized by the museum and, in conjunction with Canada Post, the 2009 winners will be featured on postage stamps.

CG Photo Club is an unparalleled forum for amateur and professional photographers. An interactive website, the CG Photo Club encourages members to post their photos, share their stories, comment on others' work, learn from online tutorials, and go behind the scenes with CG photographers on assignment.

Join members and photographers of Canada's favourite photo club on the *Maritime Explorer: Islands of the Gulf* program where, in addition to Adventure Canada's award-winning program, they will also offer workshops on a variety of photographic topics.

VISIT [PHOTOCLUB.CANADIANGEOGRAPHIC.CA](http://PHOTOCLUB.CANADIANGEOGRAPHIC.CA)



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