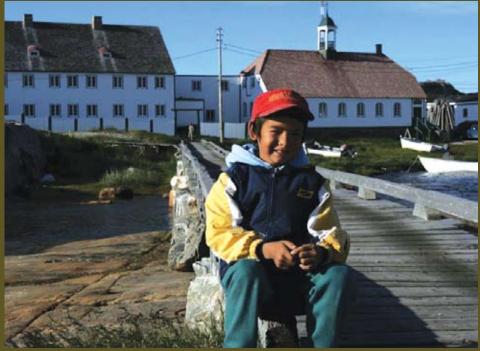




NUNATSIAVUT







Nunatsiavut's

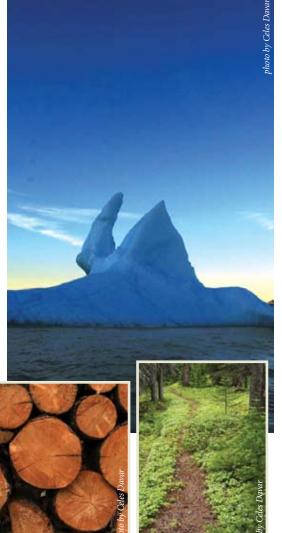
five Inuit communities are a blend of old and new; a culture in transition, a story waiting to be told. Triumph, pride of place and knowing where you belong intermingle with isolation, resettlement and loss of language. Minke whales frolic in Hamilton Inlet. The islands of Hopedale beg exploration. Stand in the shadow of the majestic Torngat Mountains and revel in the wonder of the Northern Lights. Follow the paths of the Moravian Mission. Understand the glorious work of the artisans who make magic with their hands.

Celes Davar experienced all that and much, much more.

The experiential tourism operator and tourism consultant spent 15 days in Nunatsiavut during the summer of 2007. "I went there with no preconceptions nor did I know what to expect," he said. "The natural beauty

is stunning and the marine islands must to be experienced. I think people need to know Nunatsiavut is at the beginning of its journey. It's currently a place for self-reliant travelers or small groups, but it's getting ready to package, create and develop capacity for the best Inuit arctic experiences in the world."

Experiential tourism is a relatively new but rapidly developing concept. In its



simplest terms it means experiencing your destination; being an active rather than a passive tourist. "It's very much where the world is going," Davar explained. "In the last two to three years National Geographic has coined the term geo-tourism. It's the same as experiential tourism in that the emphasis is on experiences being the heart of good travel.









"This September the world's best experiential tourism practitioners will attend a conference in New Mexico focusing on experiential tourism," Davar added. "When you see those kinds of indicators it becomes clear that shifts are happening."

The president of Manitoba-based Earth Rhythms, Inc. noted that experiential tourism integrates sustainable tourism, cultural tourism, responsible tourism and ecotourism. "Nunatsiavut is extremely well positioned because the Inuit cultural traditions - their art, their wild nature, their wild foods, the local cuisine and their spirit - are all there," he said.

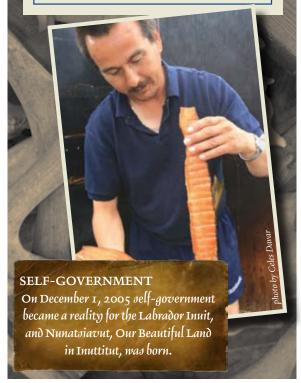
Cruise ship companies term Nunatsiavut an exotic location. Passengers by the hundreds agree. They've sailed into Rigolet, eaten Arctic Char in Nain, toured Hebron and realized why Hopedale is called Agvituk, or "place of whales."

In Makkovik, passengers witness The Moravian Mission. In the Nachvak Fjord, they are speechless – the Torngat Mountains tower almost 6,000 feet over some of North America's wildest coastlines – enough room to explore remote fjords carved by glaciers; view cascading waterfalls, wildlife and ancient burial grounds.

For information: www.cruisenewfoundland.com

www.wildlands.com www.cruisenorthexpeditions.com www.adventurecanada.com tourism@nunatsiavut.com

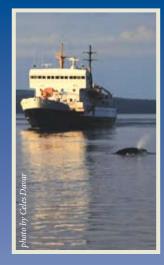
Northern Ranger Schedule: www.tw.gov.nl.ca/ferryservices/schedules



Various phrases come to mind when Davar is asked to define the Nunatsiavut experience. "The first is Tastes of Nunatsiavut: salmon, Arctic char, trout, crab, redberries, seal and caribou. The second is Textures: rock, soapstone, Labradorite, the language, the clothing, and the influence of the Moravians."

Davar coined the third phrase "Arcticexotic. Nunatsiavut is grand: it's wild, it's wildlife, flora and arctic. It's what people want. It's exotic to the world traveler," he said. "The fourth phase is the Inuit Stories of Welcome. They are a very proud people and they are willing to share. Finally, it's the Labrador Edge: the sea, the Torngat Mountains and the islands."

Tourism in Nunatsiavut primarily revolves around the coastal communities, but that will evolve over time. "The coastal communities are important because of the people who live there and the fact that they are the land base for which tourism activities will take place," Davar explained. "But the coastal communities are also the departure point from which to explore the sea. The marine experience in my view is going to become one of the most important aspects of tourism in Nunatsiavut."







Davar visited each of the five Nunatsiavut communities. "I was impressed with the people's generosity, the many opportunities to experience the marine environment, and how possible it was to have signature experiences that were distinctly different in each community," he said.





Stand on the deck of the MV Northern Ranger as it moves up Hamilton Inlet. Inhale deeply. Exhale slowly. The cool, clear air works its magic – awakening all your senses. The sky seems brighter, the colors more vibrant. You feel as if you've just awakened from a deep, restful sleep.

Minke whales (called grumpus locally) play off the ship's bow; seals dive for their dinner. The marine mammals and the birds are found elsewhere along the coast but not like you will find them here. The mysterious Mealy Mountains send a delightful chill of anticipation along your spine. This is the experience of people entering Rigolet for the first time.

Nestled in a sheltered cove at the entrance to Lake Melville, Rigolet is the most southerly Inuit community in the world, the southern gateway to the Northern communities and the Torngat Mountains National Park. During the Second World War, the military was stationed here to protect Happy-Valley Goose Bay.

YEAR-ROUND PORT
Lake Melville is a fresh water lake that freezes over in winter thereby closing the port of Goose Bay to navigation. Rigolet is on salt water and accessible almost year round.

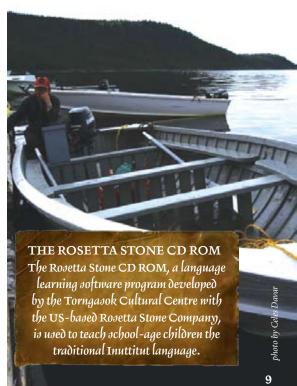
Meet the artists and the artisans. The Aiviktok drum dancers will make the earth move under your feet. Stroll along the community boardwalk. This is where spruce and fir trees meet the saltwater grass. Tulligunnak (roseroot), fevertea and spruce beer flourish in this climate. Smell the grasses used in grass-sewing. Seek out local basket artist Sarah Baikie to hear about the art of grass-basket making. Her hands are poetry in motion as she prepares and then sews the grass – a tradition unique to Rigolet.

Down by the dock look for Jim Williams to be pulling up his hand-crafted, 18-foot wooden boat. Boat building has been passed from father to son. Ask Jim what's involved in harvesting, sawing, steaming and assembling the wood. Finishing the boat is a labor of love and a work of artistry.

The Hudson's Bay Company Net Loft was built in 1876 to store fishermen's salmon nets. The scent of wood and tar, mixed with the smell of fish, will stir many memories. Perhaps your ancestors were fishers. Perhaps this site is reminiscent of their way of life.

The Salmon Festival held mid-August is a great way to become immersed into the community and its culture. The local residents are quiet by nature but friendly and willing to share their stories. Ask about the traditional ways of life and be rewarded for your inquisitiveness.

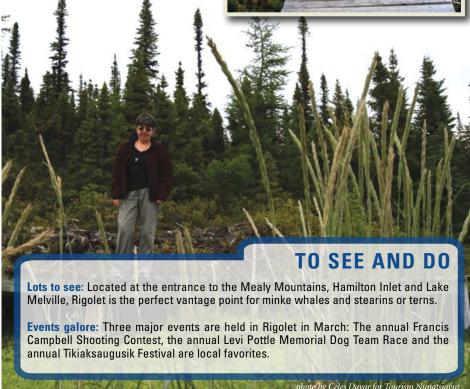




During the winter, a groomed snowmobile trail provides access to Rigolet from North West River and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Winter also brings the Levi Pottle Memorial Cup Dog Team Race, and always there is snowmobiling. Ice fishing on the many lakes and streams is a past-time not to be missed. Stand on a frozen lake, feel the sun on your face and in the wind in your air. Imagine living in such a pristine, peaceful environment.

Rigolet is primarily an Inuit-based community with its own distinct dialect of the Inuttitut language. There are three retail outlets and a craft centre. Pass the time browsing, admiring and purchasing authentic souvenirs. The only thing missing is you.







Randy Edmunds is passionate about Makkovik. Visitors are welcomed with open arms. There's a standing invitation not only to stay as long as you want but to get involved in Randy's business. Remove Atlantic salmon and Arctic char from a salmon net. Fish from Randy's boat and find your catch of the day on the menu later. For the owner of the Adlavik Inn it's all about offering visitors a unique cultural experience.

Makkovik extends out into the Labrador Sea. The air is cooler here. The local plant processes crab, the only fish plant along the coast to do so. Stand on the shoreline. Feel the sting of the ocean and breathe deeply the tangy scent of the salty air. Watch the fishermen maneuver their crafts alongside the harbour wharf. Witness the dexterity with which they handle their catch.

There is much to the learned in Makkovik. Emma Broomfield is widely known for her work with sealskin. The community craft centre offers all matter of intricate, colorful, handmade items – thick mittens, warm coats and cozy slippers.

MAKKOVIK

is located on the north coast of Labrador at the mouth of Makkovik Bay. In 1896, the Moravians chose Makkovik as the site of their most southerly mission station, building a church, mission house and boarding school. The church and mission house were destroyed by fire.

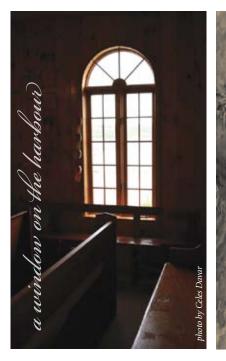
East of Makkovik Harbour is the site of the first Moravian landing in Labrador. An archaeological dig was undertaken in 2001 at the site of the house built in the summer of 1752. The remains of the first missionary house established by the Moravians were found in Nisbets Harbour, now known as Ford's Bight.

Lose yourself in the White Elephant Museum. The structure was once a part of the Moravian Mission station built in 1896 as a boarding school. It was never used for that purpose, thus the term The White Elephant. Today, the building showcases its history as a dispensary and



midwifery clinic. Mission diaries, family bibles and texts written in both English and Inuttitut (the native Inuit language) are displayed, along with European and Inuit tools used for fishing, trapping and hunting.

To spend time in the great outdoors is to be truly inspired by all that surrounds you. Follow The Poet's Path in the Moravian Woods. The quiet beauty and the knowledge of how the path was created will invoke feelings of inner peace and tranquility.



The Adlavik Inn, located in Makkovik, is a small inn with a large hospitable welcome. The inn has five double occupancy rooms with a full bathroom, cable TV, telephone, laundry services and a restaurant rapidly earning a name for its "great food" with a menu that includes traditional cuisine. In many cases guests enjoy what they harvest themselves. Winter tours are by snowmobile with the exception of a dogsled ride "around the bay." Summer tours are enjoyed aboard a 40 foot cabin cruiser, the M.V. Jason's Pride. The Lori Ann, an 18 foot speedboat, gives you an unbelievable view of the shorelines.

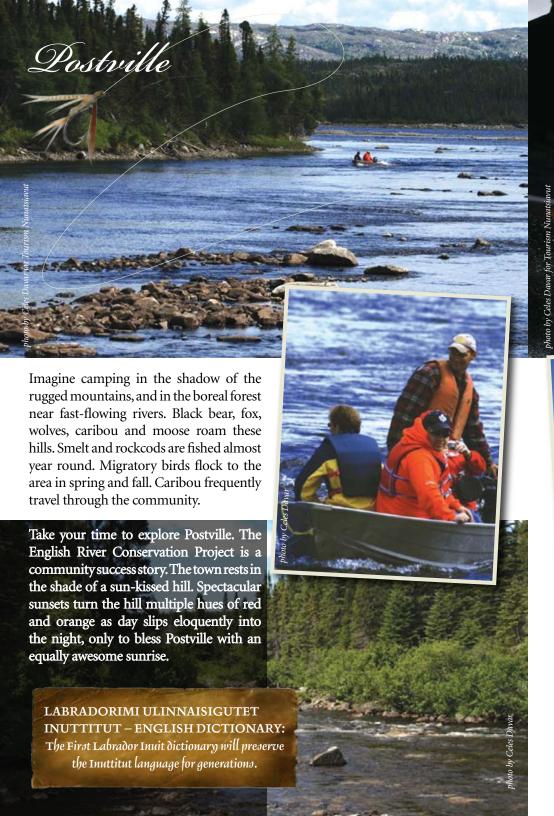
For more information, please visit www.labradorabletours.com or contact
The Adlavik Inn by telephone at (709) 923-2389 or e-mail adlavikinn@labradorabletours.com





RECORDING ARTISTS

Gerald Mitchell, singer, guitarist and artist, was known as the Labrador Balladeer. Gary Mitchell has recorded folk songs. The men are regular performers at the Makkovik Jamboree and Makkovik Trout Festival.



The magnificent outdoors. See it, feel it, embrace all that it has to offer. Nestled deep in scenic Kaipokok Bay, Postville is also a popular location for Arctic char and brook trout. The multiple fish species in the bay and nearby English River are said to be unbelievable.

Kippakok Bay runs inland between forested hills. A highway for boats and pleasure craft during the summer, it becomes a causeway for snowmobiles and dog-teams in the winter. This is where many Inuit traded their furs in the fall, winter and spring, sometimes staying for weeks before returning to the interior.

Examine the uniquely decorated Kamutiks used for travel during the winter. The coastal boat, Northern Ranger, visits often when the box is free of ice. The

Examine the uniquely decorated Kamutiks used for travel during the winter. The coastal boat, Northern Ranger, visits often when the bay is free of ice. The first stop in the spring is a highly-anticipated event with the entire community turning out to the local wharf. Carrying everything from refrigerators to candy, the ship's cargo is precious; the crew and passengers a lifeline to the outside world.

Inspiring scenery, icebergs, whales, dolphins and perchance a polar bear. Explore ancestral gravesites, historic sites and the Moravian Mission Church guided by Leon Jacque. The licensed guide and Postville resident offers eco tours in and around Kaipokok Bay, which has a diverse abundance

of fish known to
Northern Labrador.
Tour the waterways
in a 21-foot speed
boat. Relax at Leon's
traditional cabin,
located 30 miles
outside Kaipokok
Bay at West Turnavik
Island. Sample
traditional meals,
fresh salmon and
Arctic char.

Postville is located 25 to 30 kilometres into the scenic interior of Kaipokok Bay, 110 air miles north-northeast of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. To book an eco tour, contact Leon at (709) 479-9780 or e-mail leonjacque@hotmail.com.

In the community first known as the Post, local boats are called flats. The view of the bay is inspiring from any vantage point. Walk along the shore; taste lovage for the first time. There are two variety stores and one general store. A craft center produces duffle work, embroidery, mittens and dolls. This could be your opportunity to meet a local craftsperson, to learn the history of artwork passed down from generation to generation, to understand the stories of a way of life not forgotten.



Celes Davar spent 15 days in Nunatsiavut and Labrador. "I learned about people, cultures, and language from eastern Canada for which I had little prior understanding," he said of the experience. "This is a land of great beauty - in its people, landscape and cultural traditions."

This is his list of "never before" personal experiences:

- Going twice to a salmon net with local fishers to retrieve Atlantic salmon and Arctic char.
- Eating fresh Arctic char that has been smoked for 15 hours in a cold smoke, using blackberry (crowberry) sod over coals.
- 3. Walked with, learned from, became educated by, and was inspired by three amazing stone carvers Canadian legends and icons John Terriak, Glibert Hay, and Walter Piercey. To walk with them is to understand marble, soapstone, serpentine, Labradorite, and Newfoundland marble from a spiritual perspective.
- Listened to the language of Inuttitut being spoken in five different communities. Tried sounding out Inuttitut phrases.
- Saw minke whales in Hamilton Inlet. Photographed them splashing about in front of the arriving coastal boat, the Northern Ranger.
- Met a grass-sewer who makes mats, bowls, platters and baskets. Learned how to identify "sewing grass."
- 7. Went up-stream like the Atlantic salmon do, on the English River, to learn about salmon conservation at an eight-year old salmon trap and fence project monitoring salmon, char and trout. Was inspired by the local people. Coined a phrase that seems to capture their sense of pride - Guardians of the English River.
- 8. Interviewed by the radio producer for the The OKalaKatiget Society (OK Society), which in English means "People who talk or communicate with each other." Heard my comments translated into Inuttitut.

- Saw, touched, and watched Labradorite being cut a beautiful, blue-crystal studded rock that was polished at a stone plant in Hopedale.
- Met the ships' mate of a crabbing boat, walked through a large crab plant and sampled fresh crab.
- Purchased customized stone carvings, sealskin mittens, and sealskin boots from the artists.
- 12. Traveled with a local guide through some of the most beautiful islands north of the Caribbean, watched the sun set, traveled with a mother eider and her young, and watched our guide catch an Arctic char.
- Tasted lovage for the first time. Saw eggs in an eider duck nest close by.
- 14. Walked through the lofts, hallways and floors of historic Moravian structures.
- 15. Experienced the rare Rigolet square dance and participated in a "stepper down" with fiddle and guitar players. Listened to the beautiful sounds of Inuit drum-dancers.
- 16. Learned about Innu and Inuit cultures at the beautiful Labrador Interpretation Centre.
- 17. Met wonderful new friends, artists, fishers, and entrepreneurs. Was inspired by the people, their welcoming nature, and the traditions they introduced me to!



"Visit Hopedale" should be on everyone's to do list. The name engages the imagination; the surrounding islands are incredible to see, the water so blue it's phenomenal - not unlike the Caribbean. The local cuisine includes smoked Arctic char, brook trout and fresh Atlantic salmon.

Located in the heart of Nunatsiavut, Hopedale is a wealth of things to see and do. Investigate the Moravian Museum. Understand the link to a former settlement called Hebron. Visit the Agvituk Historical Society Museum and Interpretation Center. Count the eggs in an eider duck nest. Taste the native berries and herbs – let lovage, a local herb, be your guide.









A wooden boardwalk leads to the white and green-trimmed Hopedale National Historic Site. Explore the late 18th or early 19th century architecture of the Moravian mission house, storehouses and workshops. Books in the German language are displayed with medical and dental instruments, blacksmith's tools, furniture and Inuit clothing. The acoustics in the mission church are amazing; the pipe organ is a work of art. Feel the wood, read the inscriptions, listen to curator David Igloliorte describe the impact on the culture and traditional way of life.

Wonder aloud why the buildings were made in Germany and shipped in pieces to Labrador - adding a whole new dimension to the phrase "some assembly required."

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Hopedale, originally called Agvituk
meaning "a place where there are
whales," was established in 1782 by
Moravian Missionaries. The Hopedale
Mission building, which is still
standing, is considered one of the oldest
buildings east of Quebec.

In April 1959, 58 families gathered at the Moravian church in Hebron, then the most northerly settlement in Labrador, for an Easter Monday celebration. Before the notes of their heartfelt hymns had fully drifted away the departure of the mission established in 1831 was announced. It was the beginning of the end.

Old buildings are all that remain of Hebron today. The National Historic Site is one of the most visited in Northern Labrador and can be reached by boat (see Cruise, pg 76). Walk through the former settlement. The original complex included a church, classrooms, offices and living quarters prefabricated in Germany and then to Labrador where they were assembled.



Hopedale is the capital of Nunatsiavut and the home of the Nunatsiavut Legislature. The town is surrounded by rocky islands, in all shapes and sizes; former communities were once a part of the landscape; rivers teem with fish. A local carver coaxes magic from a piece of grey stone, revealing beautiful Labradorite. Stay at the Amaguk Inn, take advantage of the tours offered by Labrador Adventures.

The Hopedale Summer Festival slated for July celebrates community spirit with a fishing contest and other events. In the winter, the rich heritage and culture come to life during Labrador Music Night, the Inuit Games and annual Ethel Pijogge Memorial Dog Race. Whatever the season, the Inuit people make Hopedale a place not soon forgotten. More than a town visited, this is an experience remembered.

Fly fisherman understand how it feels to pursue the majestic Atlantic salmon. In the battle of woman, man or child against nature it's invigorating to have a monster on the end of your line. The fish wants freedom. You want bragging rights. Small wonder anglers warn that to hook your first salmon is to be hooked for life.

Yet there's more to fly fishing than wetting a line. The knowledge of the local guides; their pride in sharing their expertise, and the camaraderie of your fellow anglers creates a sense of well-being whether the fish are biting or not. The Amaguk Inn, operated by Grace Hotel Limited in Hopedale, provides accommodations, guided scenic tours, boat tours and tours for fishing enthusiasts.

For more information please contact Eddy or Patty Pottle at (709) 933-3750 or by e-mail: ppottle@nf.aibn.com



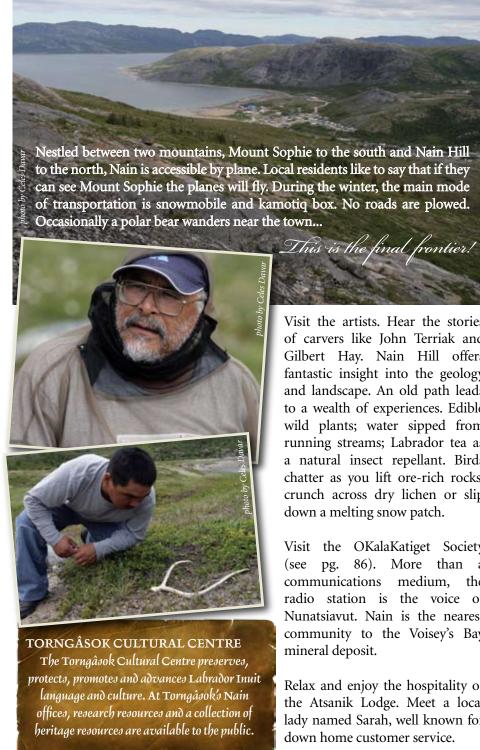
In poem, story and song, many have tried but few have accurately described the spectacular Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights. To see this splendid natural phenomenon, the night must be cold and clear, the sky black as ink, the land silent as a grave. This is a lightshow like no other; it's said that if you whisper they will dance.

Be still, and listen!



The youth are inspired. There's a vibrant feeling, a realization that the past can shape the future.

Nain is Labrador's most northerly settlement, the northern gateway to the other Nunatsiavut communities and the gateway to the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve. Cruise ships and coastal boats sail the scenic bays, stopping to disembark passengers, food and supplies. The community faces a large harbour, the main means of transportation in summer and winter.



Visit the artists. Hear the stories of carvers like John Terriak and Gilbert Hav. Nain Hill offers fantastic insight into the geology and landscape. An old path leads to a wealth of experiences. Edible wild plants; water sipped from running streams; Labrador tea as a natural insect repellant. Birds chatter as you lift ore-rich rocks, crunch across dry lichen or slip down a melting snow patch.

Visit the OKalaKatiget Society (see pg. 86). More than a communications medium, the radio station is the voice of Nunatsiavut. Nain is the nearest community to the Voisey's Bay mineral deposit.

Relax and enjoy the hospitality of the Atsanik Lodge. Meet a local lady named Sarah, well known for down home customer service.

Celes Davar has some observations about the five Nunatsiavut communities. "They have an opportunity to become leaders in northern circumpolar sustainable tourism. That's the bigger vision," he said. "They also have the opportunity to become leaders in bridging the Inuit traditions with the contemporary age, meaning conservation, climate change, and tourism.

"To make that happen will take time and cooperation among the communities. Tourism isn't only what is built on the land," Davar said. "The land is the base from which to explore the islands, the marine food, the traditions and the ecology of the Labrador Sea."

The Torngat Mountains National Park is Canada's newest national park. This park was created with the consent of Inuit and it protects almost 10,000 square kilometres of spectacular arctic wilderness and Inuit heritage. Discover the highest mountains on the mainland east of the Rockies, some of the oldest rock in the world. Experience the rhythm of the land through the presence of caribou, polar bears, Arctic char, seals and so much more. Above all, experience this place as an Inuit homeland, a place of power and spirits.

The Torngat Mountains are extremely rugged and stretch along the world's most wild but beautiful coastlines. It is a land of magical fjords slicing deep inland through the mountains with cliffs rising as high as 900 metres straight out of the sea. The park is a remote wilderness area above the treeline, and without facilities, trails or road access. Visitors to the park should be well prepared and experienced in wilderness and arctic environments unless they choose to explore by means of expedition cruise ships or other cruising vessels. All visitors must register before entering the park; For more information:

www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/nl/torngats/

torngats.info@pc.gc.ca

709.922.1290

CJ Webb Inc., an Inuit family business, offers marine transportation services to the north and south of Nain, as well as tours for those interested in a northern/ sub-arctic adventure. The company has a reputation for fun, safe travel and excellent food. As one client noted: "What a joy it was to see your friendly faces...! You have no idea how welcome you made us feel with your gentle ways and helpful hands. Thanks for sharing tea, food and your special love of this beautiful place." For more information, contact

Maggie Webb by email at

mwebb@nf.sympatico.ca

for more information...

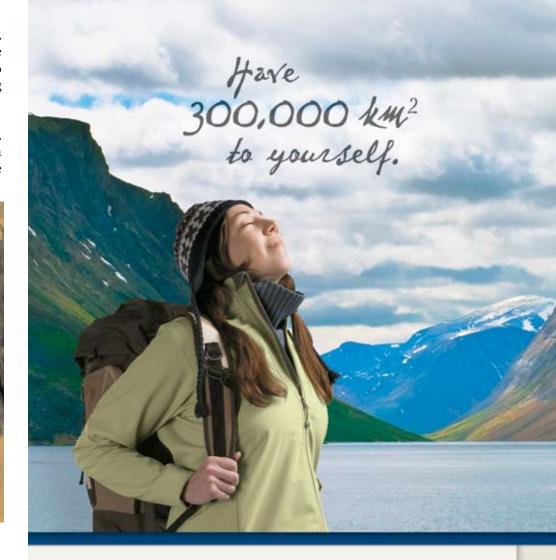
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web.mac.com/celesdavar/ Stepping_Stones_with_Tourism_Nunatsiavut

LABRADOR ADVENTURES: www.labradoradventures.com/

OUR LABRADOR: www.ourlabrador.ca

DESTINATION LABRADOR: www.destinationlabrador.com



Stand still. The horizon has never been this quiet. The depths of the Grand Canyon are painted with people and even Alaska feels over-populated. Labrador is the only place left where you can have this much space to yourself. Whatever your adventure, Labrador patiently waits.

For current weather information and forecasts, or the latest in festivals and events, visit us online at **www.OnlyLabrador.com** or call Alex at **1 888 896-6507**.

LABRADOR WHERE ON EARTH



Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism Nunatsiavut Government

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