



TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE WITH SUBARU

48 HRS | Corner Brook

Sushi, spa, and skiing – a winter escape to Western Newfoundland

BY PAT LEE



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR TOURISM

The chair lift offers an unbeatable view of Marble Mountain.

IDEAS FOR THE NEXT TRIP

LODGING

Hew & Draw Hotel.

DINING

Park West.

Mighty Valley Coffee.

Harbour Grounds.

The Wine Cellar.

Wayward Spruce.

Samuel's Sammiches and Sweets.

WOWO Asian Homestyle Cooking.

ACTIVITIES

Gros Morne National Park.

Corner Brook Winter Carnival (Feb. 21–Mar. 2).

With an average annual snowfall of almost five metres, Corner Brook claims the title of snowiest city in Canada, making it the perfect launching point for a few days of wintery fun on Newfoundland's rugged West Coast.

FRIDAY

Evening

Settling in

A 40-minute drive south from Deer Lake Airport you'll find historic Glynmill Inn, a grand Tudor-style landmark perched above the city with views of the Bay of Islands surrounded by fjord-like landscapes, snow-dusted mountains, and thick boreal forest.

The Glynmill, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2024, has long been the heart of Corner Brook. Legendary Halifax architect Andrew Cobb designed the building, originally intended to house British managers overseeing the construction of the Newfoundland Pulp and Paper Mill in the early 1920s. Within a few years, it



DRU KENNEDY PHOTOGRAPHY / GO WESTERN NL



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Far left: Enjoy the well groomed trails for cross country skiing. Left: Tinned milk is a part of many Newfoundlanders' diets, for tea and coffee especially. The hand-made tin milk punch makes a great souvenir.

transformed into a grand hotel that continues to welcome guests.

Fun fact: Over the years, every radio station in town has broadcast from the property at one time or another, starting with VOWN, Voice of West Newfoundland, in 1943.

When it's time for dinner, head to the lovely and lively Hew & Draw Restaurant on the ground floor of a boutique 36-room downtown hotel of the same name. The name is a nod to the region's long relationship with the land and sea — "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

It shares a space with Boomstick Brewing Co., so you can pair your meal with the cheekily named Wild Bologna IPA, a tasty brew that doesn't actually taste like Newfoundland's favourite deli meat, but would accompany it nicely.

SATURDAY

Morning
Go play outside

Start at the Glynmill's Carriage Room, where large windows overlook the beautiful property, and have a hearty breakfast to fortify yourself for hours on snowmobiles exploring the kilometres of groomed trails in the area, so we head to it.

Along with the usual bacon and eggs, the breakfast menu incorporates many tastes of Newfoundland, including



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The Corner Brook area is a snowmobiler's dream, with numerous trails and gorgeous scenery.

toutons, pancakes with partridgeberries, and salt cod fishcakes.

Suitably fuelled, meet up with snowmobile tour guide Darren Park of nearby Cox's Cove, a community at the mouth of the Bay of Islands. Park, who owns Four Seasons Tours, has lived in Western Newfoundland for 56 years and has never seen a green Christmas, which is great for four-season outdoor activities.

"We do the winter seasons because you're guaranteed to have winter — skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing," Park says, before fitting travellers with helmets and getting everyone comfortable on the snow machines.

After a few hours of breathtaking backcountry riding along trails that wind through the North Arm Mountains, with indeed the promised goodly amount of snow, it's time to head back to town for a restorative afternoon.

SATURDAY

Afternoon
Adventures and relaxation

Just a 10-minute drive from Corner Brook is Marble Mountain, perhaps the crown jewel of winter adventure on Newfoundland's West Coast, attracting downhill skiers and snowboarders in

search of long, well-groomed runs and reliable powder.

Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian range, Marble Mountain has the highest vertical drop in Atlantic Canada and offers 43 runs catering to every skill level.

For further thrill-seeking, there are also ziplining opportunities from Marble Zip Tours with participants soaring over the Humber Valley and taking in views of Steady Brook Falls and Marble Mountain.

For those less inclined to adrenaline, Bishop's Tavern at the mountain base serves a satisfying lunch before an afternoon of relaxation at Harmonia Saltwater Spa and Healing Centre at the Marble Mountain Inn Resort.

Trading snow pants and parkas for bathing suits and fluffy robes, unwind through a thermal cycle of steam room, salt room, dry sauna, and bracing cold plunges.

Relaxed to the max, finish out the afternoon exploring downtown Corner Brook, popping into the Newfoundland Emporium to poke around its eclectic collection of new and used souvenirs, many of them handmade in the province.

Owner Dave LeDrew, who recently passed away at 90, happened to be behind the counter during our visit, regaling us with tales of his life, the store and the town he grew up in.

He said the jumbled store, which continues on after his passing, carried more books than anything else.

"Every captain who ever got off a ship thinks he can write a book. They may not be literature, but they're beautiful," said LeDrew, who also owned Carrefour Atlantic Emporium in Halifax's Historic Properties.

Another must-visit is the Corner Brook Museum and Archives, located in the city's old post office, a stone structure dating back to 1936.

The museum offers a fascinating look into the region's history, from Indigenous Mi'kmaw heritage to the rise of the pulp and paper industry that shaped the city's growth. Exhibits include shipbuilding tools, logging equipment, and wartime memorabilia.

Wrap up the afternoon at Sugar & Dice, Corner Brook's first board game café, for a hot drink and a few friendly rounds before dinner.

SATURDAY

Evening

Catch of the day

Dinner at Newfound Sushi is a must and so are reservations at this cozy, always buzzing, restaurant that serves Japanese-inspired dishes with a Newfoundland twist. Locals rave about rolls like the Scallywag, East Meets West, and East Coast.

It's no surprise as Newfoundlanders love fish, and at Newfound Sushi, it's done to perfection.

Those still up for a nightcap can head to the Grove & Garden to toast a day well spent.

SUNDAY

Morning

Into the woods

If cross-country skiing is more your speed, then Corner Brook is the place to be with 40-some kilometres of groomed trails at its Blow Me Down Trails that take you through serene forests and open meadows.

The province's largest Nordic ski club is a non-profit, and day passes and skis or snowshoe rentals are available at the clubhouse.

Be sure to grab a photo for the at the trailside mirror declaring you "Newfoundland's Best Skier," a claim you'll have ample opportunity to prove, or disprove, during the outing.

SUNDAY

Afternoon

One for the road

Before heading out, grab a bite at Bread + Butter Sandwiches & Deli on West Street, a local favourite for hearty fare — such as an ever-changing menu of sandwiches, breakfast creations, soup, sausage rolls, and more — and reflect on a few days of winter activities that make you plan for a return trip. 🐾



"Let's take the scenic route"

- a Subaru driver

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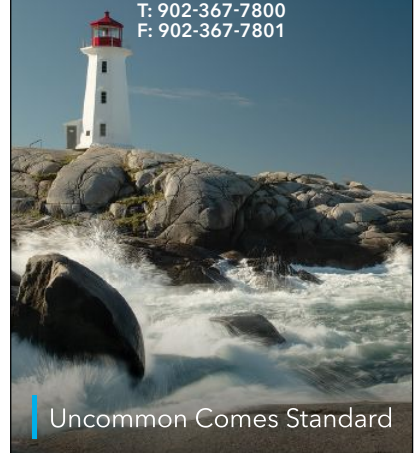
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