



SUMMER ON ICE

BY JAMES STURZ

After Newfoundland sheds its snowy mantle in spring, the coastline teems with nesting puffins, feeding humpbacks, and blue-flag irises. The province is also the best place in North America to see icebergs, a fitting way to honor the *Titanic*, which sank off the coast 100 years ago.



NATURE

Each year, 400 to 800 icebergs float south from Greenland along what's known as Iceberg Alley. They range from car-size "growlers" to "tabulars" as big as suspension bridges. Nothing compares to approaching them by boat and grabbing free floating "Newfoundland popsicles"—chunks of frozen water that could be 15,000 years old.

Boat trips May to September. (877) 632-3247. discovernewfoundland.com

HOTEL

Harland and Wolff, the marine manufacturing company that built the grand staircase on the *Titanic*, also crafted the white-oak staircase, mantels, and wainscoting in the 101-year-old Ryan Mansion in St. John's. The Queen Anne-style property has granite bathtubs, heated marble floors, fireplaces, and a spa. *Titanic* buffs can order a six-course dinner based on the ship's menus, served on gold-rimmed replica china. From \$255. 27 Rennie's Mill Rd., St. John's. (709) 753-7926. ryanmansion.com

DRINK

Quidi Vidi Brewery uses four ingredients in its iconic Iceberg lager: malt, hops, yeast, and water from local icebergs. Yes, you drink it cold. Tours available. 35 Barrows Rd., St. John's. (709) 758-4040. quidividibrewery.ca



WILDLIFE

There are two ways to spot the 5,000 humpback whales that migrate to Newfoundland's Atlantic coast each summer: Sail to Witless Bay, passing North America's largest puffin colony (1 million wings strong), or jump into the 50-degree water—wearing a wetsuit and snorkeling gear—and see the behemoths eye to eye.

Snorkeling trips from \$200, late June to August. (866) 623-2664. oceanquestadventures.com

TALK

Newfoundland's isolation as well as its immigrant populations from England and Ireland helped create Newfoundland English, with its own accent, syntax, and vocabulary. Not surprisingly, many words describe the weather.

