

THREE DAYS ON THE SOUTHERN AVALON PENINSULA

The Southern Avalon Peninsula can be explored via two scenic driving routes: the Irish Loop and the Cape Shore. These coastal routes will bring you to some of Eastern Newfoundland's best outdoor adventures and some of its most interesting cultural and historic sites.



Day 1: The Irish Loop begins just minutes south of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador's largest city. Although, that is easy to forget as you move quickly through coastal wilderness dotted with beautiful ocean-side villages. Your first stop will be Bay Bulls, where you will find [O'Brien's Whale & Bird Tours](#). With regular visits to the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve and its massive colony of seabirds, including the puffin, you'll also find icebergs and whales in season. Just a short distance further south, you'll find the [Colony of Avalon](#), an amazing archaeological site and excellent museum featuring one of Newfoundland's oldest European settlements, dating to 1621. Beyond the Colony's archaeological site you'll see Ferryland Head, where you can find [Lighthouse Picnics](#), a unique experience -- a gourmet picnic enjoyed on cliffs overlooking the rugged shore and open Atlantic Ocean. At the southern end of the Irish Loop is Trepassey, home of the [Edge of Avalon Inn](#), the perfect departure point for Day 2's adventure!



Day 2: You can get to the [Edge of Avalon Interpretation Centre](#) in Portugal Cove South via a short drive. This small centre opens up an entire heritage coastline, at the end of which you will discover the [Cape Race Lighthouse](#) and the [Myrick Wireless Interpretation Centre](#). Spend the afternoon becoming acquainted with some of the earth's earliest life forms, or at least their fossils, at [Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve](#), a UNESCO World Heritage site, accessible by guided tour only. Finish the day off at [The Claddagh Inn](#) in St Mary's for a rural B&B experience or [The Wilds Resort](#) on Salmonier Line for a stay in the middle of the Avalon's wilderness (and a round of golf).



Day 3: The morning will take you to one of the peninsula's most delightful corners: [Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve](#), home to the spectacular Bird Rock and tens of thousands of seabirds such as the Northern Gannet. Head north for lunch in Placentia at [Three Sisters Pub & Eatery](#) and spend the afternoon exploring [Castle Hill National Historic Site](#). [Placentia Vacation Rentals](#) are a great local option for accommodations. If the next leg of your Newfoundland adventure takes you westward, a drive to Arnold's Cove to stay at [The Killick Inn and Suites](#) is a great next step.