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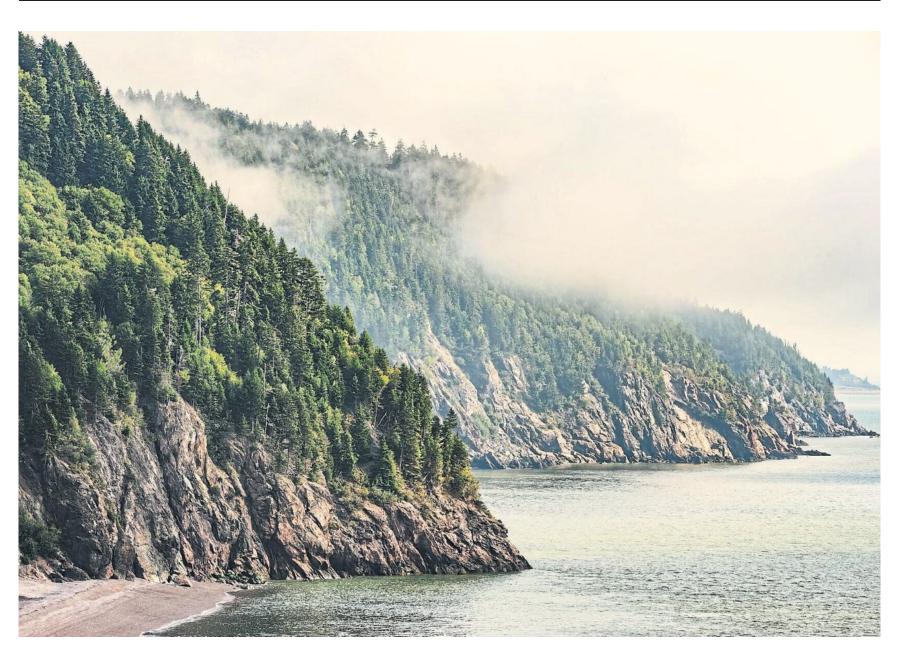
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SECTION T SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 TORONTO STAR





ON3 ON



CATHY DONALDSON SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Few places in Canada showcase na-

ture's raw power like New Brunswick's Fundy coast, where the world's highest tides shape a landscape of soaring cliffs and billionyear-old rock formations.

You don't need to be an expert to appreciate the natural phenomena, but a tidal primer helps. The funnel-shaped Bay of Fundy has two high and two low tides every 24 hours. Each cycle moves nearly 100 billion tonnes of water - more than all the world's rivers combined. (For perspective, the difference between high and low tide can reach 16 metres, the height of a fourstorey building.)

Travellers wanting to fully experience this rugged coastline can take a road trip along the 460-kilometre Fundy Coastal Drive, arguably one of Canada's most scenic routes, particularly from spring through fall when the Fundy Trail Provincial Park is open. While it doesn't matter which end you begin from, Moncton is a good place to start learning how the mighty Fundy tides affect the region.

Twice daily, the incoming tide rushes into the Petitcodiac River, which flows through the city. A low rumble can be heard at Bore Park in

ONLY IN CANADA

Chase natural wonders on New Brunswick's NDY COAST

Powerful tides, dramatic cliffs, a UNESCO-recognized biosphere this is one of Canada's most scenic road trips

downtown Moncton as the leading edge of the tide meets the Petitcodiac head on, temporarily reversing the river's flow and creating a bore - it's a wave about 0.5 to one metre in height — travelling upstream. NICK HAWKINS/ Smaller waves ripple behind.

At Hopewell Rocks Provincial BRUNSWICK Park, about a half-hour drive away, the Fundy tides again display their strength. When the park is open (from mid-May to mid-October), you can walk the ocean floor at low tide and look up to towering sea

The rugged **Bay of Fundy**

NEW

stacks, rock formations whose bases have been sculpted by the water's relentless ebb and flow. The sea stacks, nicknamed "flowerpots," are narrow at the bottom but sprout trees and other vegetation at

At high tide, you can view the coast closer look at the natural arches and tunnels created by erosion, you can kayak through the sea stacks with a local tour operator like Bay-

their wider tops.

mount Outdoor Adventures.

Further down the coast, the cliffs of Cape Enrage offer another vantage point to check out the world's highest tides. The windswept headland's name is a nod to the currents that have challenged sailors for centuries. For added thrills, you can zipline over the bluffs or rappel down rock faces, just two of the activities offered by Fundy's Cape Enrage, the tourism destination here that also operates as a not-forprofit organization.

Only a 15-minute drive away is Fundy National Park, open yearround, where more natural wonders abound. Since the park encompasses 20 kilometres of shoreline along the Bay of Fundy, it's another superb locale to spy tidal shifts. Inland, there are ancient Acadian forests covering the rolling hills, and waterfalls rushing through deep river valleys.

The park is a key part of the UN-ESCO Fundy Biosphere Region, which includes more than 430,000 hectares of the upper Bay of Fundy coast. Wildlife thrives here, too: Whales are drawn to the nutrientfrom higher ground to see how the rich ocean water; shorebirds flock water reshapes the landscape. For a to the salt marshes to fatten up on mud shrimp; deer, moose and bears shelter in the coastal wilderness. Visitors can also explore the area's SEE FUNDY COAST, T4





NEW BRUNSWICK TOURISM PHOTOS

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The Fundy Coastal Drive is arguably one of Canada's most scenic routes. Walton Glen Gorge, right, has been nicknamed the "Grand Canyon of New Brunswick."



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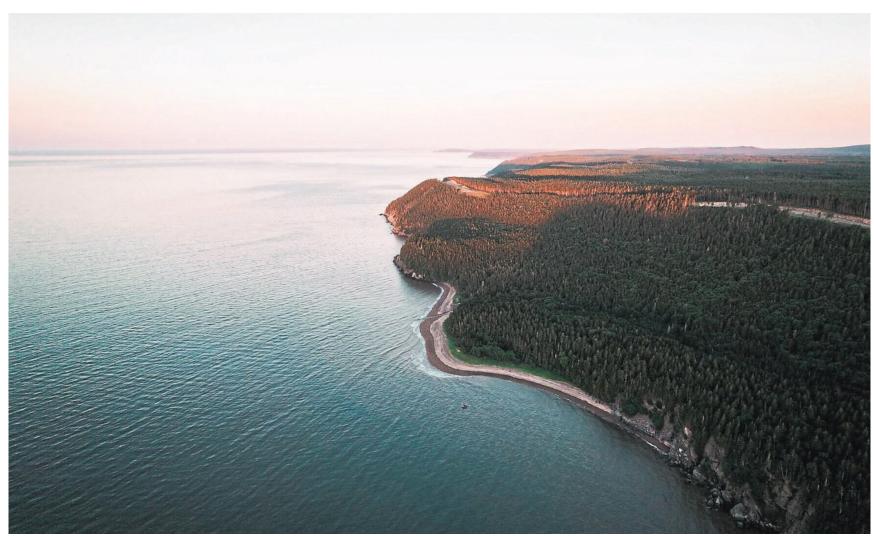
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MATT HEWITSON/NEW BRUNSWICK TOURISM

Long after you've left New Brunswick's Fundy coast, the draw of this place may linger, as will the call of its tides, Cathy Donaldson writes.

A memory etched deep

FUNDY COAST FROM T2

history through museums and other sites that describe the sawmills, shipbuilding and fishing operations of earlier generations.

Continue onward to the Fundy Trail Provincial Park (open seasonally), which features the Fundy Trail Parkway, a 30-kilometre scenic drive hugging the bay. Travellers can access waterfalls, beaches and panoramic lookouts via the route, as well as the Walton Glen Gorge Trail. You can hike this path to an observation deck perched above the gorge, which is nicknamed the "Grand Canyon of New Brunswick."

Anyone fascinated by the prehistoric forces that shaped this landscape should also spend some time in Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark. The 2,500-square-kilometre region in southern New Brunswick covers more than 60 geological and fossil sites, including Saint John's Reversing Falls Rapids.

Here at the falls, you can see cliffs composed of two rock types: billion-year-old light grey stone, once part of South America, and 500-millionyear-old dark grey shale and sandstone, once part of Africa. The two continents came together when an ancient ocean closed, and the supercontinent ATLANTIC CANADA" (2024) AND million years ago.

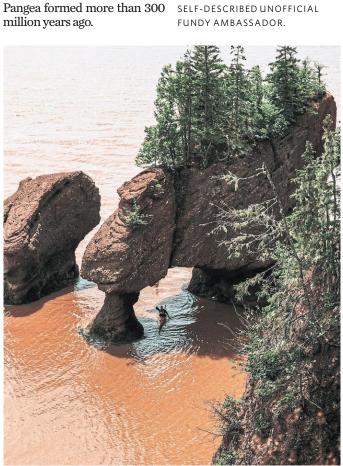
CANADIAN TRAVEL

Only in Canada is a new travel series that acts as a love letter to the bucket-list destinations and experiences in our beautiful country. Look for the Only in Canada series every week.

If you time your visit well, you can head to the massive sandstone caves of Fundy-St. Martins or take the gravel causeway to Ministers Island - both destinations are accessible only at low tide. Keep an eye out for fishing boats perched high and dry along wharves in the area. If you return to the docks about six hours later, you'll see the same craft bobbing in the waves, as if by magic.

Long after you've left New Brunswick's Fundy coast, the draw of this place may linger, as will the call of its tides: the whisper of gentle waves lapping against sandstone caves, the rumble of an incoming tidal bore, the crash of surf on rugged cliffs. This is more than a destination; it's a rhythm, a force, a memory etched deep, like the tide-carved rocks that have stood for millennia.

CATHY DONALDSON IS A MONC-TON-BASED TRAVEL WRITER, CO-AUTHOR OF "LONELY PLANET



For a closer look at the natural arches at Hopewell Rocks, travellers can go kayaking with a local tour operator.



Valid on new bookings from APR 12 to APR 14, 2025. Rates in CAD, per adult. Based on double occupancy. All inclusive meal plan. Total prices, taxes & fees included. 1 week unless otherwise stated above. Toronto departures. Lowest room category. Availability & Prices are subject to change without notice. Refer to the Hola Sun Holidays brochure and our website for full terms and conditions. For more hotels & destinations, risit www.holasunholidays.ca | TICO Reg: 4062527