

## Fogo Island Inn is Open!

Innovation and high-concept at the world's edge

June 25, 2013

Exciting news! Fogo Island Inn is open to welcome guests from around the world!

The Inn, located on Fogo Island, off the remote northeast coast of Newfoundland, is perched on the furthest edge of the Earth and surrounded by whales, seabirds, and icebergs. The 29-suite property stands on crooked pilotis on the dramatic and rocky coastline, providing panoramic views through its wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling windows.

[www.fogoislandinn.ca](http://www.fogoislandinn.ca)

The opening is a milestone in the work of [The Shorefast Foundation](#) and its founder, visionary **Zita Cobb**. Following a career in the high technology industry, Cobb returned to Fogo Island, her birthplace, to invest millions of her own money – with support from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada – to reinvigorate the waning economy. The local economy was bruised after a 1992 moratorium on the traditional cod fishery. One of the goals of the foundation is to create jobs while fostering cultural resiliency; the Inn is operated by a staff of 70 – most of whom are Fogo Island residents.

In the words of Ms. Cobb, “The proximity to nature here is constant and thrilling. The North Atlantic is all around us – its depth, weight, age, and power are intensely harmonizing. Although it is at first blush a very contemporary structure, the Fogo Island Inn keeps community with the four centuries of lived experience in this place. Fogo Island is a place where there are no strangers; it is indeed a welcoming wilderness. When you leave, you’ll be leaving home.”

[Todd Saunders](#), the Newfoundland-born, Norway-based architect, designed the property. (Like Cobb, Saunders has ties to the place; he was born in nearby Gander, Newfoundland.) The strong, uncomplicated lines of the Inn’s exterior complement the natural landscape and reflect the aesthetic of Saunders’ other designs for the island: Shorefast’s Fogo Island Artist Studios. These architectural gems (four are finished with two more to be completed) provide a creative community for visiting artists and thought leaders from around the world to come and be inspired by the culture, history, and beauty of the island.

The island’s people and stories are felt throughout the Inn: all suites and public areas hold bespoke furniture and fixtures entirely handmade by local carpenters and artisans; the textiles– quilts, rugs, pillows – are hand-crafted by the island artisans following the centuries-old traditions of “made not bought”. Inn interiors are the result of a collaborative effort among local people and international designers. (Ilse Crawford and her team at Studioilse provided the master plan for the content and programming to support local craft and business, and enable a series of designers to work together.) Most rooms and suites have wood-burning stoves – as do all public areas. There are eight different accommodation categories, with names referencing a part of the island’s DNA (e.g., Mooring, Storehouse, and Gappy). The property has a fine-dining restaurant, lounge, bar, gym, conference space, and lecture hall and cinema – all with bold-ocean views

and wood-burning fireplaces. And, on the Inn's rooftop, there are Northern European designed wood-fired saunas and hot tubs – all with star-gazing in mind.

The Inn reflects Shorefast's commitment to the arts. It is home to the Fogo Island Contemporary Art Gallery, the Dr. Leslie A. Harris Heritage Library (specializing in the Northeast Coast of Newfoundland), and the Fogo Island Cinema, a partnership with the National Film Board of Canada.

Varying with the seasons, based on double occupancy, rates range from \$550 to \$2950 (for two persons). Rates are full board and include daybreak trays, breakfast, dinner, afternoon tea, supper, snacks, gratuities, and all non-alcoholic beverages.

#### DESTINATION HISTORY and WHAT TO DO:

Home to 150 species of plants and herds of wild caribou, Fogo Island is the largest of the offshore islands of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Its archipelago is so remote that it has its own time zone and is known as one of the mythical four corners of the world – the very edge of the earth. With a population of fewer than 3,000 residents, the island gets its name from the Portuguese word for fire, who, along with the French, English, and Irish, were among the first to discover it as early as the 16th century.

Guests of the Inn can explore the history and landscape through a number of bespoke experiences indigenous to Fogo Island – cultural, the natural world, and the arts. On Fogo Island people can find what they are looking for even if it's been with them all along; life moves to the rhythm of the natural world. Through these Fogo Island experiences and creative adventures, guests have an opportunity to connect ... perhaps to be welcomed into a home for supper, enlightened while hiking rugged coastal trails, amazed while fishing for cod in the traditional way, or

inspired through an art workshop ... guests might leave with a fresh perspective on the world.

Inn reservations and Fogo Island Experiences at [reservations@fogoislandinn.ca](mailto:reservations@fogoislandinn.ca) or telephone: 1-709-658-3444.

#### GETTING THERE:

From St. John's, NL or Halifax, NS, guests can connect, via commercial airlines, to Gander, NL. From Gander guests drive one hour to Farewell to board the Change Island/Fogo Island ferry that makes several trips a day. (The ride is about 45 minutes.) The Inn can arrange all travel within Newfoundland.

Charter flights with fixed wing and helicopter are also available from St. John's, Gander, and Deer Lake.

#### ABOUT SHOREFAST:

Founded in 2004 under the direction of Zita Cobb and her brother Anthony, the Shorefast Foundation was established to revive the economies of Fogo Island and Change Islands. The Fogo Island Inn is an initiative of Shorefast\*. All surpluses from the operation of the Inn belong to the local community.

Shorefast is a Canadian registered charity that undertakes projects built on social entrepreneurship, using entrepreneurial methods to create positive change. It looks for and uses new ideas, products, resources, and opportunities in novel ways to tackle challenges and work toward benefiting communities.

#### ABOUT THE ARCHITECT:

Todd Saunders melded dynamic building and material experimentation with traditional methods of craft in his work for Shorefast. His projects can also be seen across Norway as well as England, Denmark, Italy, Sweden, and Canada.

[www.saunders.no](http://www.saunders.no)

\*A shorefast is the line and mooring used to attach a cod trap to the shore. It is a strong symbol of the cod fishing heritage of the island and a metaphor for being bound to place and community. The name was chosen because it symbolizes the Foundation's belief in the importance of community and culture and in the power of authentic connections between individuals and their communities to culture and physical place.

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