

## In Search of the Great Auk

*Available All Seven Seasons*



Fogo Islanders have lived lives entwined with the sea for generations and know intimately the beasts and birds that share their Island, coloring its skies and seas year-round. The pursuit of birds is an excuse to be out in the elements—catching a hint of their melodious songs, a flash of feathers, a glimpse of elusive footprints and tracks, the joys of discovering a nest—tracking is as exciting as seeing itself. One such unmistakable sight, Todd McGrain's bronze statue *The Great Auk*, sits a prominent watch at Joe Batt's Point. It gazes out towards nearby Funk Islands, the bird's traditional roosting spot. Flightless, and once so plentiful the colony was used as a navigational aid by early Europeans, Great Auks were hunted to extinction in 1844. The statue now stands as a marker memorializing the tragic loss of the species, kept alive in our imaginations as part of the artist's Lost Birds Project.

Today, the coastal waters and Fogo Island's environs are home to the Great Auk's many cousins: auks or alcids, a family of related seabirds that breed in dense colonies and have modified wings that make them poor flyers, but excellent swimmers. Built for the sea, they are tough and resilient, like Fogo

Islanders themselves, capable of not only surviving, but thriving in the sometimes-perilous environment of the North Atlantic. The diminutive but hardy Dovekie, about the size and shape of an apple; the Common and Thick-billed Murre, which can dive to depths exceeding 100 meters; the much-loved Atlantic Puffin, with its colorful bill and nests burrowed into grass-covered soil—these birds help tell the story of the island and its history; carriers of tradition and bringers of delight.

*The **In Search of the Great Auk** itinerary at Fogo Island Inn includes all meals, an Island Orientation with a Community Host, and a range of outdoor activities and excursions. A two-night minimum stay is required. To reserve, call International Reservations at **+1 709 658 3444**, US & Canada Reservations at **+1 855 268 9277**, or email [reservations@fogoislandinn.ca](mailto:reservations@fogoislandinn.ca)*



*Todd McGrain, The Great Auk. Joe Batt's Point, Fogo Island.*

## Sample 3-Night Itinerary

### DAY 1

#### AFTERNOON

Arrive on Fogo Island and allow the Island to reveal itself on the 30-minute drive through outport communities as you make your way off to your refuge, Fogo Island Inn. Take time for exploration. Revel in the natural beauty found around every bend.

Check into Fogo Island Inn, a traditional yet contemporary masterpiece of modern architecture and design. The Inn was named as Travel + Leisure's Best Resort Hotel in Canada, 2017-2018, among the country's best hotels from coast to coast.

#### LATE AFTERNOON

Briefing in the Lounge introducing the weekend's programming.

#### EVENING

Supper is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy the abundant offerings brought to our shores by the Labrador Current while the waves of the Atlantic crash just beyond your table setting.

#### LATE EVENING

A special film screening for bird-lovers in the Inn's Cinema.

## DAY 2

### DAYBREAK

Greet the sun as she rises and find a handmade wooden daybreak box outside your door filled with coffee or tea and fresh pastries. Linger.

### MORNING

Breakfast is served in the Dining Room at your leisure.

### 10:00AM

Meet your Community Host in the Lobby for your Island Orientation. Be prepared for fresh perspectives and insights, stories and laughter during your half-day outing being led in your discovery of this “salty Narnia” by the people of the place, whose sense of self comes from deep historical ties to landscape and seascape.

### DINNER (LUNCH)

Lunch back at Fogo Island Inn.

### AFTERNOON

Birdwatching excursion and amble to the Great Auk accompanied by one of Fogo Island’s knowledgeable bird-enthusiasts: Ferg Foley, former fish & wildlife conservation officer; Ferg Penton, ferryman and seabird specialist; Aiden Penton, old-time birder; or a number of other passionate, local birders.

### SUPPER

Return to the Inn and enjoy supper served in the Dining Room, where the provenance of every menu is inspired by the seasonal taste of the outport terroir. Everything coming out of the kitchen is intended to feed more than your hunger.

### EVENING

Soak your tired but content muscles in our rooftop saunas and hot tubs as you gaze up at the infinite starry sky.

## DAY 3

### DAYBREAK

Meet another morning with your Daybreak Tray. Ease into the day gradually.

### MORNING

Breakfast at your leisure in the Dining Room.

### MIDDAY

Birdwatch Walk & Talk with one of our local birders, or visit the Fogo Island Marine Interpretation Centre's lost bird display in Seldom, outlining one of the most diverse bird colonies in the Northwest Atlantic—The Funk Islands, ancestral home of the now-extinct Great Auk.

### DINNER (LUNCH)

Lunch served back at the Inn in the Dining Room.

### AFTERNOON

Tour the specially-commissioned bird-feeders that dot the Island and feed the birds that colour our seas and skies.

### EVENING

Dine in our Inn's award-winning Dining Room. Here is where you will enjoy a contemporary take on Newfoundland cuisine, while waves crash on the shoreline just beyond your table setting.

### LATE EVENING

Convene to the Lounge to enjoy cocktails flavoured from the island's many varieties of edible berries, explore the exhibit currently on display at the Fogo Island Gallery, or take in a screening in the Cinema.

## DAY 4

### DAYBREAK

Enjoy your Daybreak Tray from the comfort of your room.

### MORNING

Fortify yourself for your journey home with a farewell breakfast in the Dining Room.

### DEPARTURE

Depart Fogo Island Inn for the journey homewards.

## Contact

For Further Information:

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