

fogo island inn

Joe Batt's Arm
Fogo Island
Newfoundland
Canada
AOG 2X0

The Fogo Island Punt Race Festival

FOGO ISLAND – June 12, 2015, For Immediate Release:

On Saturday, July 18, 2015, at 10 a.m., dozens of rowers will brave the elements in small wooden boats to compete in the eighth annual *Great Fogo Island Punt Race -To There and Back*, the highlight of a larger festival held to celebrate the tradition of boatbuilding on Fogo Island and Change Islands. Fogo Island Inn offers an accommodation package to celebrate these events over a two-night stay at Fogo Island Inn beginning July 17 through to July 19, 2015.

Guests of the Inn will have an insider's access to this deeply-held tradition – a festival that features a Songs and Stories event and an Open Sheds and Stages event throughout the week-end. They will cheer on paired participants as they row the unpredictable waters of the Atlantic in a 7-mile, open-ocean race to acknowledge the strength, courage and tenacity of Island people who came before them.

Additionally, Inn guests who take advantage of the **Punt Race Festival Weekender Package** will be guided to the best vantage points during race day. They will also have an opportunity to speak with local experts about the significant and rich heritage of the punt—a wooden boat that was once used by all island people, not just for fishing, but for communications, carrying water and providing social and other needs when no other transportation was available between communities. Fogo Island Inn guests will also enjoy a one-hour learn-to-row-a-punt experience during their stay.

Friday night arrivals will be treated in the lounge to wine or a cocktail sourced from Canada's finest wineries and Newfoundland's traditional trading partners (France, Portugal, and Spain). After evening's supper at the Inn's award-winning dining room, guests can relax in the cinema for a late-night screening of *Cranky*—a short documentary film about the *Great Fogo Island Punt Race*, or take in the Songs and Stories event held in the community.

Saturday is race day. After a tackle box of treats (freshly brewed coffee, tea and pastries) delivered to their rooms at daybreak, guests will savour a full breakfast in the dining room, and then head out for the start of the race day festivities at 10 a.m. (weather dependent). During the race, guests can enjoy the thrills of the contest from a vantage point of their choosing, and amble about the area to enjoy local vendors, traditional music and soak up the exciting regatta atmosphere.

Throughout the day, guests may continue to take part in the festivities by meeting with boatbuilders as part of the Open Stages and Sheds series. Here, they will learn firsthand about this highly-skilled craft, now being celebrated annually to help preserve the artform for future generations.

Supper may be enjoyed at the neighbouring Nicole's Café or back at Fogo Island Inn, followed by the option of taking part in a Songs and Stories event held in the community. During late evening, guests can delight in a champagne toast under the stars on the Inn's roof to honour the early settlers and visionaries of Fogo Island.

On Sunday, guests will enjoy a last tackle box of early morning treats, followed by a farewell breakfast, then exploring at their leisure and bidding their goodbyes.

Rates begin at \$1,275 per night, exclusive of taxes, for a full-board package (minimum 2 nights). Solo travellers can deduct \$200 from this base rate. Family packages are also available. The **fullPunt Race Festival Weekender Package** includes:

- A welcome cocktail
- A screening of *Cranky*, a film about the Great Fogo Island Punt Race at the Inn's state-of-the-art 37-seat digital cinema
- Transportation to and from all festival venues
- A one-hour learn-to-row-a-punt experience during their stay
- Access to the Open Sheds and Stages event
- Access to evening Songs and Stories events
- A rooftop champagne toast
- A "To There & Back" keepsake
- All gratuities and service charges, excluding the standard 13% HST
- Full use of all facilities within the Inn (cinema screenings, rooftop sauna and hot tubs, contemporary art gallery, gym and heritage library)
- Children 12 and under stay for free

Reservations may be made by calling 709-658-3444 or toll free 855-268-9277

About Fogo Island Inn

Fogo Island Inn sits on an Island, off an Island, at one of the four corners of the Earth. Every one of the Inn's 29 one-of-a-kind guest suites has dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows that open onto the wildest and most powerful ocean on the planet, located less than 100 feet from an organic natural-fibre dream bed. Most suites have a wood-burning fireplace stove; all are furnished with quiet luxuries and handmade furniture and quilts --- a stimulating relief from the numbing uniformity of modern times. Built on the principles of sustainability and respect for nature and culture, the award-winning Inn was designed by architect Todd Saunders. The Inn is a community asset, and all surpluses from the operation are reinvested in the community to help secure a long-lasting resilience for Fogo Island, Newfoundland.

Access to Fogo Island, Newfoundland, Canada:

Gander, Newfoundland is the international gateway to Fogo Island. Commercial flights from Toronto, with connections in St. John's or Halifax, can bring travellers to Gander in just over four hours. The Inn offers a land-and-ferry house-car pick up and return service to Gander for \$600 (1-4 person capacity). Travel from Gander to Fogo Island takes two hours by car or around 30 minutes by charter plane or helicopter. All transfer logistics and accommodations can be arranged by the Inn's reservations team at [855.268.9277](tel:855.268.9277)

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To book now, call reservations team toll-free at:

855-268-9277

or direct at: 709-658-3444

reservations@fogoislandinn.ca

www.fogoislandinn.ca

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