



Berg watching: Visitors to Tuckamore Lodge can check out the ice by foot or kayak (below).

## LODGE

# Beauty and the east

Salmon and icebergs and bears, oh my! All this and more at Newfoundland's Tuckamore Lodge

WHEN CANADIANS ARE STRICKEN WITH a desire to experience Mother Nature on a mood-altering level, they usually go west, where the mountains are bigger, the bears are brawnier and the rivers are choked with migrating salmon. But it's my opinion that all those nature-craving Canadians should stop in their tracks and pull a hard 180.

People, The Rock is where it's at. Specifically, Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula, a stretch of bog-covered glory that just might be the best-kept outdoor secret in Canada, and which contains a secret of its own: Tuckamore Lodge, a log-cabin temple to outdoor adventure and the perfect base from which to experience a week of backwoods fun.

This place has everything the West Coast has except for extreme politics and—even more important—crowds. Consider the marine opportunities: Two different ocean currents—the Labrador Current and the Gulf Stream—combine



around these parts, making for a profusion of sea life that reads like a best-of list. Launch yourself in a sea kayak and you're liable to see humpback, fin, minke and killer whales, and you'll be chaperoned on your journey by porpoises who, like everyone else in Newfoundland, are friendlier than you ever thought possible. If you come between the start of May and the middle of July—a stretch of calendar known as "iceberg season"—prepare to sidle up to your very own iceberg. There are 200 forecast to drift by in 2006.

Landlubbers at Tuckamore Lodge do equally well. Only a blindfolded idiot could spend a morning in the bush here and not see a moose. Caribou are almost as plentiful and not nearly as skittish. And of course there are mountains. They may not be as big as the ones that grow in Alberta and B.C., but they are arguably more hikeable, furnished with bogs and ponds (Newfiespeak for lakes), and culminating in eye-watering views that stretch clear across to Labrador.

When it comes to salmon, Newfoundland puts on a show that wouldn't look out of place in remotest B.C. I spent an afternoon on a river where salmon were jumping roughly once every minute and you could see the silver-flanked beauties holding in the current next to your feet. And yet there was no one else on the river, a situation that seems about as improbable as finding yourself alone at a Papal mass in Rome or at a casino in Las Vegas during fight night.

The lodge itself is sumptuously comfortable, but doesn't go in for unnecessary lavishness that flies in the face of its surroundings. In short, there's lots of wood, lots of windows and lots of delicious food. Not that you'll be wanting to spend much time indoors, of course. Except, maybe, if there are bears around. Not black bears, of which there are plenty, but the ones that hitch a ride over on ice floes and are dressed all in white. —Mark Schatzker



**THE LOWDOWN:** Tuckamore's two main lodge buildings are located on Southwest Pond, just outside the fishing village of Main Brook at the tip of the Northern Peninsula. Each building has a communal dining room, and all rooms are double occupancy with private bathrooms. The lodge is open year round, and prices start at \$1,900/week. Flights from Toronto and Montreal land at the nearby airport in St. Anthony. For more information, [www.tuckamorelodge.com](http://www.tuckamorelodge.com), 1-888-865-6361.