

Trip 3 – Episode #12: The Viking Trail, Part 1

During our travels, several of our friends have referred to us as “intrepid”. We find that amusing, since we tend to avoid anything that’s too strenuous, dangerous or challenging.

But there we were ... on the Viking Trail! Heading north toward L’anse aux Meadows, where the Vikings first landed 1000 years ago.

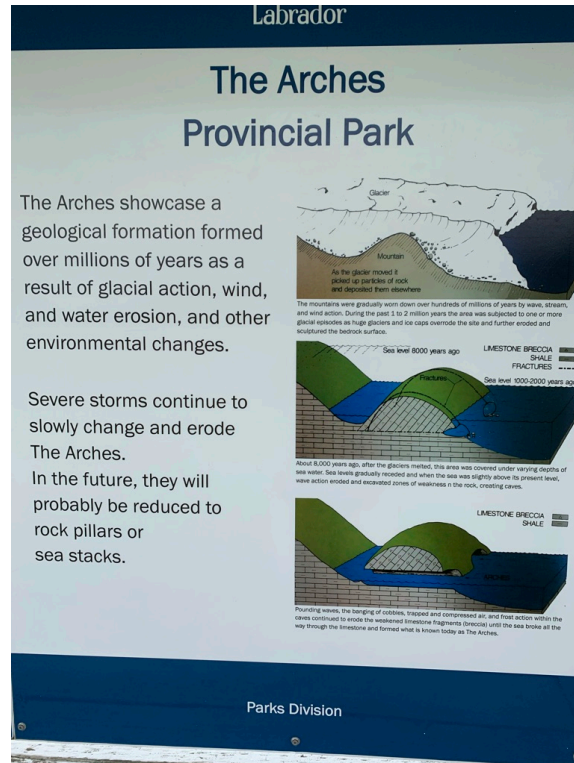
How intrepid is that??



We expected there would be many unexpected sights, but we didn’t expect this. The Arches Provincial Park. So called because ...



It was such a beautiful spot. And we were glad we got there when we did. According to the information piece, some day, the erosion caused by storms and the waters, will diminish them to pillars.



I expect this is what they'll look like in a few hundred years.



In an attempt to live up to our intrepid status, we went down to investigate more closely.





Our intrepid
status was
totally
destroyed by
these
travellers.



And this dog really wished that his people weren't so intrepid. The poor thing followed them up and didn't know how to get down. It took much persuasion.



Back on the road, we saw intrepid fishermen. (We're quite happy to haul in a nicely fileted poached salmon.)



Along the route we saw signs for another National Historic Site, Port au Choix.



Being intrepid, we steered Charles to the left and drove the 15 km to get there. Despite the grey, inclement weather.



They have quite a nice interpretation centre, which displays evidence of the people who inhabited the area 5000 years ago.



We saw the kinds of tools they used to hunt, fish, cook and provide clothes and shelter.



And the way they lived.



Speaking of intrepid, how about this seal?



And we saw acknowledgement of the dedicated team that unearthed all these findings.



We considered going out and exploring more of the grounds where there were archeological sites of interest. But we looked out the window and it looked kind of icky.



So we got back in Charles and continued on the Viking Trail. Like the nomadic peoples who searched for welcoming spots to find shelter and food, we were in search of a place to park Charles for the night.

We found a spot in Anchor Point, where both the land and the sea were wild and windswept.



And just to prove how intrepid we are, look who we had as neighbours!



The wind was wild, but it was worth it for the show we got.







It was just as wild the next morning.



After a nice bracing walk along the beach, we got back to the Viking Trail. And we saw lots of great sights along the way.





Some sights that made us smile.



Newfoundland is known for its unusual names, and we enjoyed lots along the way.



And then, after driving hundreds of kilometres to get to the land of the Vikings, we saw a sign of a different kind of civilization ...



Finally we saw a sign that we had arrived in our destination.



It was definitely a feast for the eyes. Everywhere we looked, there was either incredible natural beauty, uniquely charming and colourful buildings, or combinations of both.









On our very first day, Jim met a real Viking! (They made them big in Iceland!)







Some images just looked so quintessentially Newfoundland, they could've been out of a tourism ad.



Our friends, Scott and Pete, recommended a restaurant there called The Norseman, and at first glance, we wondered if maybe we'd gotten the name wrong. It didn't look like a place where you'd enjoy fine cuisine.



But as soon as we stepped inside, we knew it was going to be okay. It smelled delicious. And everything looked as though care had been taken.



And look at these scallops. You can tell how delicious they were just by looking at them.



The lobster was among the best I've ever tasted and the accompanying root vegetables were a tasty yet light accompaniment.



And I had Figgy Duff for dessert, because ... why not? It was delish. Thanks Scott & Pete for one of the best meals of our trip.

We managed to catch a stunning sunset during the drive back to our campsite - Viking RV!





Exhausted and full, your intrepid heroes, slept at Viking RV and prepared for another eventful day, with more Vikings! To be continued...