tourist information center at Reversing Falls and an information booth at the ship’s pier.

TRANSPORTATION Local taxis will be available on the pier. It is recommended that a price is agreed upon with the taxi driver before leaving the pier.

NOTES

GENERAL INFORMATION Known as the Loyalist City, Saint John began as a collection of small settlements when a large number of Loyalists fled the American colonies after the American Revolution. Today, with a population of over 125,000, Saint John is New Brunswick’s largest city, and the only city located on the Bay of Fundy.

Recently designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, The Bay of Fundy is one of the top natural destinations in Canada. Its coast has been uniquely sculpted by the famous Fundy tides, the highest tides in the world. Scattered with rugged cliffs and inlets, bird filled forests, and picturesque villages, the Fundy coast has much to offer the visitor, from kayaking and boat tours to shore hikes and walks on the ocean floor. In Saint John, the Bay of Fundy meets the St. John River and creates the renowned Reversing Falls Rapids, one of the city’s most popular attractions.

Saint John’s history is as spectacular as its nature, and the city’s downtown historic district is must-see. A large restoration project that was begun in the 1980’s to preserve the city’s heritage has resulted in a beautiful downtown area that contains a number of lovely old buildings, most of which date back to immediately following the Great Fire of 1877. One of the most scenic areas of the city is Market Square and the waterfront which has been beautifully restored to the ornate Victorian style stone and brick buildings of the 19th century.

In recent years, Saint John’s Waterfront has continued to be restored, and now also features a beautiful walking path known as Harbour Passage. Popular with locals and visitors alike, Harbour Passage is a beautiful walk along the Saint John Waterfront from the downtown area to the Reversing Falls Rapids, with several interesting sites and interpretive panels along the way.

As a cultural center, Saint John hosts a number of summer festivals including music festivals such as Salty Jam and The Rising Tides Festival, as well as Buskers on the Boardwalk, which features street performers from across North America.

HISTORY In 1604, a French exploration party led by Samuel de Champlain sailed into the Bay of Fundy. The next century brought a steady flow of settlers to the area as New Brunswick played a strategic role in the growth of the French fur trade. The 1713 Treaty of Utrecht ceded New France to England, however, the era of French control did not actually end until 1758 when Saint John was captured by the English General Monckton.

The end of the American Revolution, brought great hardships for those colonists that fought on the side of the British. Many fled to the North and by the end of 1783 some 14,000 Loyalists had arrived into the Saint John harbor. In 1785, Saint John became the first incorporated Canadian city.

The next great wave of immigrants were the Irish who were fleeing poverty and persecution at home. Over 150,000 Irish arrived between the years of 1815 and 1850.

Trade and industry grew and in the 1820s, Canada’s first chartered bank was established in Saint John and the city became a prominent financial center. By 1850, the city ranked third worldwide as a wooden ship builder and in 1871, Saint John emerged as the leading industrial center.
in Canada. As steam engines began to replace the old ships, the city’s economy suffered. In 1867 Saint John joined the Confederation of Canada and the economy was dealt another hard blow as the new government of Canada placed high tariffs on foreign goods. On June 20, 1877 a fire destroyed the city’s south end. The fire raged for more than 9 hours destroying 1612 buildings and leaving 13,000 people homeless. The city replaced the damage with sturdier, brick and stone buildings built in the ornate Victorian style. The 20th century brought modest economic growth. Saint John’s strategic location proved valuable as a supply depot during the First and Second World Wars. A number of industries began to locate in the city including the pulp and paper industry. The native born billionaire K.C. Irving diversified his petroleum empire with the acquisition and expansion of the Saint John Shipbuilding facility. Saint John enjoys a strong economic base with diverse industrial centers and a growing interest in high-tech markets.

SAINT JOHN PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Old City Market is one of the few buildings that survived the great fire of 1877. A full city block in length, the structure was constructed in 1876 and its interior is modeled after the inverted hull of a ship. The market houses a wide variety of local and imported delicacies, seafood, meat and produce as well as an array of crafts.

2 Trinity Anglican Cathedral was built in 1792, rebuilt in 1856, and rebuilt again in 1880 after the Great Fire. The sanctuary’s famed treasure is the House of Hanover Royal Coat of Arms from the reign of George I.

3 Loyalist House, dating from 1810 is the oldest unchanged building in Saint John. Once the home of a Loyalist family, this National Historic Site is now a museum featuring period furniture and antiques.

4 Fort Howe Historic Site was built in 1777 and served as the harbor defense and city jail. The building itself is now closed, however the rocky promontory in which it sits offers an excellent panoramic view of the city and harbor.

5 New Brunswick Museum is a three-story exhibition facility featuring the natural history of the Province. The museum contains a model of a full size right whale, displays on maritime and geological history, as well as an art gallery with local contemporary art.

6 Reversing Falls is one of the most visited attractions of Saint John. At low tide, the St. John River empties into the Bay through a narrow rocky gorge in a series of rapid and waterfalls. The rising tide pushes on the river and slows the river current to a complete stop. As the tides continue to rise to levels higher than the river, the river’s current reverses direction, causing the river to flow backwards.

7 Carleton Martello Tower was built to guard the harbor’s shipping approaches during the War of 1812. During WWII the structure served as a military intelligence center.

8 Cherry Brook Zoo is located in the northern section of Rockwood Park. It is the only exotic animal zoo in Atlantic Canada and houses over 100 animals.

Beyond Saint John

St. Martins was founded in 1783 and became one of the busiest shipbuilding centers on the Atlantic Coast in the 1800’s. Now a quiet little fishing village, it is most noted for the seaside caves scooped out of the red sand stone cliffs by the Fundy tides.

Irving Nature Park is a 15-minute drive from Saint John. Noted for its rugged, unspoiled coastal scenery, the park is typical of the ecosystems of the Bay of Fundy coast and offers a variety of hiking trails and bird watching opportunities.

Fundy National Park, located 11/2 hours north of Saint John, contains a variety of environments and landscapes from deeply cut valleys and sloping cliffs to dense forest of maple, yellow birch, beech, red spruce and balsam fir. The scenic rocky shoreline has been sculpted by the famous Fundy tides, the highest tidal change on the planet. The park offers a number of outdoor activities including hiking, biking, and fishing.

Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park is located just to the North of Fundy National Park and is also known for its curious rock formations sculpted by the Fundy tides. The giant natural arches and mushroom-shaped pillars jutting up from the sea floor are known as the “flowerpots”.

SHORE EXCURSIONS: To make the most of your visit to Saint John and its scenic surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, please be advised to take only necessary items and to secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS: Bargaining: Most shops have set prices. Bargaining is not a custom in New Brunswick.

Tipping: A 15% tip in restaurants and taxis is customary.

Local Cuisine: Saint John offers a wide variety of cafes, restaurants, and pubs. Due to the cool waters, the area is most noted for its lobster and a variety of shellfish including oysters, scallops, clams, crabs, and mussels. Traditional fish and chips are also quite popular with the locals.

Drink Specialties: The local specialty is Moosehead beer. Located a short distance from downtown Saint John, the Moosehead Brewery is the oldest independent brewery in Canada. Begun in 1867 by the Olund family, the 125-year tradition of brewing expertise has withstood the test of time and continues to be a popular worldwide export.

SOME SAINT JOHN FIRSTS

In 1785, Saint John became Canada’s first incorporated city.

• In 1838, the ‘Saint John News’ became the first penny paper in the British Empire.

• In 1851, Canada’s first automobile, a three-wheeled carriage, was driven down Saint John’s cobblestone streets.

• In 1858, Canada’s first steam locomotive was built.

• In 1883, Canada’s first free public library was opened.

SHOPPING FACILITIES: Prince William Street and Germain Street mark the commercial heart of Old Saint John. Between Germain and Charlotte street is the famous Old City Market. The market offers antiques, crafts and a variety of foods including cheeses, seafood, meat, and produce. Brunswick Square Mall and Market Square are connected to the Old City Market via a network of underground walkways. Market Square contains mostly cafes and restaurants, along with some shops.

LOCAL CURRENCY: The unit of currency in Canada is the Canadian dollar. While most retail centers and site seeing venues accept U.S. dollars, the exchange rate will be high and your change will be given in Canadian dollars. It is advisable to exchange currency at banks which are located throughout the city.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES: The main Post Office is located at 125 Rosethay Ave. A Canada Post retail outlet is also located in the Brunswick Square Mall. There are a few public telephones available near the port. Phones work as they do in the United States. American coins are accepted in pay phones. Direct calls can be made to the states by dialing 1 or 0 followed by the area code and number. For international calls to countries outside the U.S. or Canada, dial 011, followed by the country code and number. To speak with an international operator, dial 00.

TOURIST INFORMATION: The City Tourist Information Center is located in Barbour’s General Store, just a short stroll from the cruise terminal at the bottom of King Street. There is also a