



Tall trip; Ship takes adventure-seeking passengers under sail along beautiful west coast 🚢

CLIFF WELLS
The Western Star



Capt. Kim Smith stands before Canadian Sailing Expeditions' tall ship Caledonia. Smith said the vessel is getting about 6.5 knots of speed from a 12-knot wind. He hopes to have that in the seven knot range before long. — Star Photos by Cliff Wells

CORNER BROOK — The Caledonia's call in Corner Brook marks the start of the home port cruise season in the city.

Canadian Sailing Expeditions' lead vessel is slated to call Corner Brook and the west coast home for the next few weeks.

The Caledonia arrived from Quebec Tuesday and is slated to take a four-day cruise up the Northern Peninsula, arriving back in Corner Brook Saturday. She leaves port Sunday and returns the following Saturday, taking passengers to Goose Arm, Lark Harbour, Norris Point, Man O'War Cove, Woody Point, Cox's Cove and returning to Corner Brook. The ship and crew repeat the voyage with up to 77 passengers each week until Aug. 30. Then the ship returns to Halifax to cruise around Nova Scotia before a refit in mid-October. She's scheduled to head to the Caribbean in to start a cruise cycle from mid-November until early May.

Capt. Kim Smith said the 17,000 square feet of barquentine-rigged sail can move the vessel along at around 6.5 knots in a 12-knot wind. He's hoping to have that around 7 knots when the ship is dialed in properly.

Lorna Atkins, of Gilford, Ont., said the trip she took from Quebec is one she's been waiting for for a long time.

"I saw the Concordia (another Canadian Sailing Expeditions' vessel) in Woody Point four years ago when it was there as a charter boat," Atkins said. "It took me four years to get back there, but I did it."



“They had us in ports to see whales and so on, never big ports, but we were doing everything.”

Atkins said it was an adventure fit for almost everyone.

“Look at me, this shoe (left) is taller than the other,” she said. “I’m not getting around very well, but we went hiking and biking. I was safe.”

Jim Adams, of Edmonton, Alta., said one of the better parts of the trip from Quebec to Corner Brook was the food.

“They call it an adventure cruise and it really is,” Adams said. “We’ve had lectures, hiking, biking and kayaking. We’ve had five-star food through it all.

“A friend of mine saw the cruise in a magazine and she told two friends and I told two friends and the rest is history. The crew have been spectacular.”

Aaron Dickson, the ship’s chief officer, said the experience of a trip aboard the Caledonia is a lot of fun for the crew as well as the passengers.

“Working on this ship is great fun,” Dickson. “It’s the experience of a lifetime. I have a commercial background, so it’s great to get an opportunity to work on something a little more traditional.”

Dickson said a voyage on the fully certified passenger vessel. He said the Caledonia carries the highest near coastal classification and is certified for unlimited voyages.

He said the crew of 21 works hard, but they enjoy what they do.

“We have 17,000 square feet of sail and it’s hard work, but it’s a lot of fun,” he said. “You don’t get this experience on most other vessels.

“We travel the same way the old explorers used to travel, by sail. Our passengers get a chance to see western Newfoundland from a true explorer’s perspective.”

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