

# Lucy's Canadian Adventure: New Brunswick

By Peggy Newland

Lucy's head hangs out the window of the car as we drive on the bottom of the sea toward Minister's Island in New Brunswick, Canada. It's low tide and we drive on shells, hardened sand and pebbles as we cross to the lush island of spruce lined trails, rugged cliffs, fields and fields of pink and purple lupine, and cows happily munching in pastures overlooking the Passamaquoddy Bay. Around a curve on the dirt road, we come to the "summer cottage" of Sir William Van Horne, a "Renaissance Man" who oversaw the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was a renowned painter, violinist, art and fossil collector.

Built in the late 1800's, we tour the cottage and see all 50 rooms, 17 bedrooms, grand dining room, billiards den, kitchens, but Lucy is most interested in the bathhouse built into the rocks, with a natural pool dug into red stone that fills at high tide. Because we can't be here at high tide (the tidal "road" will be 14 feet underwater), we tidepool a bit before walking the Perimeter Trail. An old carriage road, we follow the rocky coastline on mowed grasslands and precipices until we find a set of Adirondacks facing east for packed picnic lunches and a water break for Lucy.

The afternoon brightens on the drive back to our dog-central historic inn—The Algonquin Resort—where Lucy is the queen of the castle-like getaway. First built in 1889, with room charges of \$3/day, and updated through the 1900's, adding wings, terraces, and suites, this was a destination for the "moneyed set" from Montreal and across the eastern seaboard. A fire destroyed the wooden structures in 1914, before the hotel was rebuilt in 1915 in Tudor-style with towers, and elevated, white-washed elegance fit for royalty, like Prince Charles and Princess Diana, in 1983.

"It's Lucy," the concierge says, reaching for iced water for her bowl. Other guests and front desk staff come to greet her, and we wait in Lucy's entourage. Our room, on the first floor, has terraced windows that let in sunshine and seaside breezes for a quick siesta before walking downtown to St Andrews, a national historic harbor village with a market square, wharf, and classic architecture of 18th century Brit-

ish settlements. Think arched rooflines, turrets, lush pocket gardens, and porches combined with multi-colored shops and cafes, and this is a summer retreat without the crowds of coastal New England. After a seafood dinner near the wharf, we play cribbage, on the wraparound porch, Lucy napping next to us.

The next morning, after outdoor yoga on the expansive lawns, and a huge buffet breakfast of fresh fruit, made-to-order omelets, fresh pastries, and coffee, we head up to Chamcook Mountain Trail for panoramic views over Minister's Island, The Algonquin, Katy's Cove, and the island-dotted bay. Afterward, with temperatures rising, we make a break for the "happy dog" swimming beaches of Katy's Cove. Dogs leap into the saltwater bay while their humans float in sun-warmed currents, and with a sandy beach, it makes for a "dog day" afternoon, especially with dedicated walking trails through forests and tidal marshes and drinking fountains built for dogs.

That night, we take Lucy to Braxton's Bar, and dine on the terrace. We start with Kale Caesar salads, a cheese plate, and share fresh crab cakes as candles are lit. Lucy sits politely, and soon is given a bowl of water and some cheese tidbits. Brian chooses a T-bone steak (Lucy gets a snip) and I go for Atlantic salmon. Then it's desserts of dark chocolate truffle opera cake and a champagne mousse.

The next morning, after yoga, and breakfast, we head up the coast, toward Blacks Harbour and the rustic Pea Point Island Lighthouse. We scramble up rocks at low tide and bushwhack to a promontory for an eagle eye view over Gray Mare Ledges, tiny Bar, Flea, Fox, and Mink Islands, and we watch the Grand Manan ferry glide toward Bay of Fundy. On the hike back, Lucy's takes a dip in two coves and sniffs at a crab before jumping away.

We continue to New River Beach Nature Trails for amazing "Acadia-style" hiking on empty, newly created paths past Raspberry Cove, Chittick's Beach, and Barnaby Head. Boardwalks and covered wooden bridges wind through rocky beaches, misty spruce, deep coves, and sunken bogs. Lucy races up and back, smelling for squirrels, and then leaping into waves, and is worn out for our last leg up to the capital city of Fredericton.



After a quick jaunt over the Bill Thorpe Walking Bridge, we pop into Picaroons Brewing Company on the St. John River for a picnic-style BBQ with local microbrews. We have plans for a dog-friendly art walk tomorrow morning and some stops along the downtown Fredericton Taproom Trail, before taking a dip in Killarney Lake

in the afternoon, but tonight is meant for people and pooch watching as bicyclers, families, college students, and strollers parade past on an early summer evening. Friends gather on Adirondack chairs and dine around wooden tables. This is a place to sit and stay, laughing as the moon rises, and the summer beckons.

## if you go

**The Algonquin Resort St. Andrews by-the-Sea, Autograph Collection.** [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com). 855-529-8693. 184 Adolphus Street, St. Andrews, NB. Ask for summer savings promotions and bring up to two pets/per stay. Dog friendly dining on the expansive porches and meadow-view outside bar/pub.

**Radisson Kingswood Hotel and Suites.** [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com). 877-424-6423. 41 Kingswood Way, Hanwell, NB. Ask for a room with a view of the pond and expansive golf courses. Dog treats upon check-in. Fifteen-minute drive to dog friendly downtown Fredericton.

