



2017 MINEQUEST ADVENTURE

EXPEDITION LEADER
JILL HEINERTH

Dive into history in Newfoundland. The destination is Bell Island, home to what was once the world's largest iron ore mine and the shipwrecks just offshore which were attacked whilst carrying the ore to support Canada's war-effort during World War Two. World-class wreck diving is combined with the chance to explore a flooded mine that only a few have ever seen as you immerse yourself in history, led by Jill Heinerth world leading explorer:

- ✓ Explore an abandoned mine system
- ✓ Learn new techniques
- ✓ Dive wrecks that rival Truk Lagoon & Scapa Flow
- ✓ Experience Newfoundland hospitality and culture
- ✓ Led by Jill Heinerth world leading explorer



Dive into history in Newfoundland

Few people have dived the Bell Island mines and the adventure will culminate in dives that take you deep into history. In 2007, the Minequest expedition mapped several portions of the mines, and in 2016 a carefully selected team extended this mapping, laying line in several new passages to give a better understanding of the network of tunnels, remaining artefacts and other remnants of an earlier age. Fourth Element Mine Adventure allows unprecedented access to these mines under the guidance of one of the World's eminent explorers Jill Heinerth

This iron ore deposit was mined from the mid 1800's and was of huge strategic significance in World War 2 as it supplied the raw material for almost a third of Canada's production of steel for the war against Nazi Germany and the Axis powers.

This year, Bell Island Mines are once again in the spotlight as the destination of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society's Expedition of the Year. Follow in the footsteps of some of the world's most intrepid explorer's including Jill Heinerth and fourth element team divers Phil Short and be the first to see what they uncovered.



The Expedition

The first part of the expedition moves off the coast of Bell Island to explore the tragic results of the battle to protect this supply chain, four ships sunk by a German U-Boat whilst transporting this Ore or protecting the convoy. World class shipwrecks sit in recreational and shallow technical depths in astounding condition. Marconi stations remain intact within the Marconi rooms, and telegraphs sit proudly inside the ship's engine room offering a very vivid glimpse into our recent maritime history through breathtaking diving.

Moving to a base in Wabana which in the First Nation Abenaki language means "The Place where daylight first appears" Abenaki Indian the adventure concludes with dives into an underwater museum: an Iron Ore mine, abandoned in the mid 1960's, flooding, effectively stopping time, leaving behind a snapshot of what it must have been like to work underground in this remote part of Canada's coastline.



Tragedy in Conception bay

On the night of September 4th, 1942, a German U-Boat followed the ore carrier Evelyn B into anchorage at Wabana, Bell Island. The next morning and under the guns of the Bell Island Battery, the U-Boat sank two ships: SS Saganaga and SS Lord Strathcona. Twenty-nine men were killed in the attack, all aboard Saganaga. The attack had occurred in broad daylight, in an in shore protected anchorage. The Battle of the Atlantic had suddenly come close to home.

The strategic importance of the Bell Island mines continued to be a target. At approximately 3 a.m. on November 2nd, 1942 another U-Boat entered "The Tickle," (as the Wabana anchorage was locally known), and found several ore carriers at anchor. A half hour later, one torpedo was fired at the 3000-ton Anna T. It missed and exploded ashore at the loading dock, awakening the whole of Bell Island. Two torpedoes were fired at SS Rose Castle. Rose Castle sank, taking twenty-eight of her crew with her; five of whom were Newfoundlanders. The Free French vessel PLM 27 was next, and she sank almost immediately after being hit, with the loss of twelve men. In the ensuing confusion, and despite the presence of a corvette and two patrol boats, the U-Boat escaped on the surface in the darkness. In a ten-minute attack, two ships, along with forty men, had been lost.

The sinking of the ore carriers at Bell Island not only had strategic repercussions, but the sheer audacity of the attacks clearly demonstrated to Newfoundlanders that they were at the front lines of the Battle of the Atlantic.

This dive site is a truly awe inspiring glimpse into the WWII history. As spectacular as the High Seas Fleet in Scapa Flow, it is world class wreck diving.



Bell Island mines

The mine, which closed in the mid-1960s, is a key part of the history of Bell Island, having been the driver of economic prosperity on the island, and a pivotal resource in Canada's war effort.

As a dive site it offers not only the intrigue of an almost completely unexplored site, but it is a snapshot taken of lives lived 7 decades ago.

"It is a dive into history because of course there [are] a lot of artefacts left down there and you get that great sense of adventure: you never know what you are going to find. It is the perfect recipe for adventure." Rick Stanley, Minequest expedition leader and coordinator of the ongoing MineQuest Project, adding that the exploration project is ongoing and anyone diving in the mines joins just a handful of others who have made many remarkable discoveries already.

"It's not just a tunnel, it's an underwater museum. There's so many things to see down there and yet more waiting to be discovered."



Jill Heinerth

More people have walked on the moon, than have been to some of the places that Jill's exploration has taken her right here on the earth. From the most dangerous technical dives deep inside underwater caves, to searching for never before seen ecosystems inside giant Antarctic icebergs, to the lawless desert border area between Egypt and Libya while a civil war raged around her, Jill's curiosity and passion about our watery planet is the driving force in her life.

Jill's accolades include induction into the Explorer's Club and the inaugural class of the Women Diver's Hall of Fame. She received the Wyland ICON Award, an honor she shares with several of her underwater heroes including Jacques Cousteau, Robert Ballard and Dr. Sylvia Earle. She was named a "Living Legend" by Sport Diver Magazine and selected as Scuba Diving Magazine's "Sea Hero of the Year 2012."

In recognition of her lifetime achievement, Jill was awarded the inaugural Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration. Established by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 2013, the medal recognizes singular achievements and the pursuit of excellence by an outstanding Canadian explorer.



Expedition logistics

The principal base will be at the award winning Ocean Quest Adventure Resort, run by Rick Stanley and his team. Accommodation will be in a self-catering lodge: a very comfortable place based on 2 in each room, with plenty of communal space, a large kitchen and two beautiful patios with one overlooking the ocean and the other with BBQ/ outdoor dining.

Wreck dives are from a 42' tour boat with heated cabin and galley with diver lift platform. Dive Master surface support provided for both wreck and mine dives. Diver support includes two (2) steel tanks, nitrox and stages including O₂, rebreather support.





YOUR MINEQUEST ADVENTURE DAY BY DAY

Day 1

Arrival and meet and greet. This will give you an opportunity to get your gear in order for the next day's dives.

Day 2

Two dive day on the PLM-27 and Saganaga. The shallowest of the four wrecks, the PLM-27 (15m to the deck), will provide you a great start to your shipwreck diving adventure. The Saganaga, features amazing swim-throughs and a couple of oddities. During this dive, you'll find out just what that anchor is doing on the deck.

Day 3

Two dive day on the Lord Strathcona. The second deepest of the wrecks, the Strathcona, well preserved but shallow enough to allow longer bottom times.

Day 4

Two dive day on the Rose Castle and PLM-27. The deepest of the wrecks, the Rose Castle is the best preserved wreck. Her rigging is still intact, and the Marconi Room is not to be missed! Later this afternoon you will be transported to Bell Island for two (2) nights at a partner accommodation.

Day 5 & 6

One dive a day in the Mines of Bell Island. Closed since 1949, the No. 2 Mine is now prepared for underground tours and diving. From the moment you walk in the door you begin to experience the history of Bell Island and get a sense of pride that the Islanders take in their community and their past. As you are overnighing on the island it will give you plenty of opportunity to fully immerse into the island's culture, history and natural beauty.



YOUR MINEQUEST ADVENTURE DAY BY DAY

Day 7

Day of rest to get you ready for your flight home. In the unlikely event of a "blow out", this day may be used to get your fifth day of diving in. If in season, you can choose to add one of Ocean Quest's Close Encounters with options to snorkel with whales, go on a zodiac adventure or go kayaking around the coastline of Bell Island for half of the day. For many, the final evening of time spent in Newfoundland involves a traditional Screech-In, where you will become an honorary Newfoundlander.

Day 8

Departure, and as you are now an honorary Newfoundlander, always be welcomed back.

Please note!

Please note that the itinerary is only a preliminary plan. Activities can change, or may need to be exchanged, in the case of adverse weather conditions or other unexpected incidents. Your expedition leader is there to make sure that you get the most out of your holiday.



Date July 1-8, 2017
Destination Newfoundland - Canada

Included in the price

- Group transfer St John's international Airport - Ocean Quest - Bell Island - St John's international Airport
- 5 nights in shared room in self-catering lodge at Ocean Quest Adventure Resort
- 2 nights in shared room at Bell Island
- 3 days wreck diving with 2 dives a day and lunch
- 2 days mine diving with 1 dive a day and lunch
- Dive Master surface support provided for both wreck and mine dives (guided dives available upon request)
- Diver support includes two steel tanks, nitrox and stages including O², rebreather support
- Expedition leader Jill Heinerth

Not included in the price

- Flight to/from St John's international Airport, Canada
- Other activities, dive equipment, drinks and meals not specified above
- Tips
- Dive guide

Price per person USD 3 100

How can I pay for my trip?

You can pay by bank transfer or our online payment system. We accept only Visa and MasterCard. Contact us if you would like to pay in another currency. Do not make the currency exchange without our permission. Please note that all extra payment fees must be paid by the customer.

How much do I pay and when?

When you have accepted the offer from Fourth Element Adventures, you will receive a booking confirmation within one to two workdays. To confirm your spot, a deposit of 350 USD is required within 7 days of the booking date. This trip does not include the international flight. Please double check with us about what date and time you need to arrive/depart to your destination before booking the flight yourself and then send us your flight schedule. The final trip payment should be in Exposure Expeditions account a minimum of 14 days prior to your departure date.

Contact

Fourth Element Adventures
+46 31 774 18 00 - adventures@fourthelement.com

Extras

→ Equipment rental

Dive equipment rental is available. Please contact us for the most updated price.

Important

→ Your passport must be whole and valid for more than six months after your arrival back home. Please note that you need to apply for an ESTA if you are flying through, or to the US, and do not hold an American or Canadian passport. The application must be done online via: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> and a fee is incurred which is not included in the price of this trip. The application must be done a minimum of 72 hours before arrival to the US. Please also read this new rules for ESTA for those of you who has visited Syria, Irak, Iran or Sudan: <http://sweden.usembassy.gov/vwpchanges.html>

→ All divers must have a dive certificate, dive logbook and proof of dive insurance with them on their dive trip.

→ For the wreck dives you must be qualified to at least Advanced Open Water level with a minimum of 30 logged dives; preferably in cold water environments. For the mine diving you must be full cave diver certified. If you have not been diving within one year of your departure we strongly recommend that you complete a scuba review course.

→ Please make sure that you have a valid cancellation and travel insurance which includes scuba diving. If you do not have travel insurance or need a complement, we strongly recommend you to purchase a diving insurance such as DAN or similar, diversalertnetwork.org.

→ Due to ever increasing baggage restrictions on flights, overweight and extra baggage must be reported to, and accepted by the flight company. Pricing and baggage allowance varies between flight companies. Please note that Fourth Element is not responsible for baggage being denied pre-departure, or at the time of check-in.

This trip has been arranged together with Exposure Expeditions!

We reserve the right for price changes due to currency fluctuations. When you book your trip you accept Exposure Expeditions terms and conditions: exposureexpeditions.com/en/my-trip/terms-conditions. The given information that Exposure Expeditions has in its written information (i.e. the trips content, amount of dives, diving at a special location) is provided under the pretence of optimal conditions (i.e. political/ governmental decisions, weather, etc). The dive leader or boat captain in charge of the trip, always has the right to change the contents of the trip due to weather, political decisions, or other acts that lie outside of their control that can affect the customers or ships safety. In this situation, the customer has no right to compensation or refund.