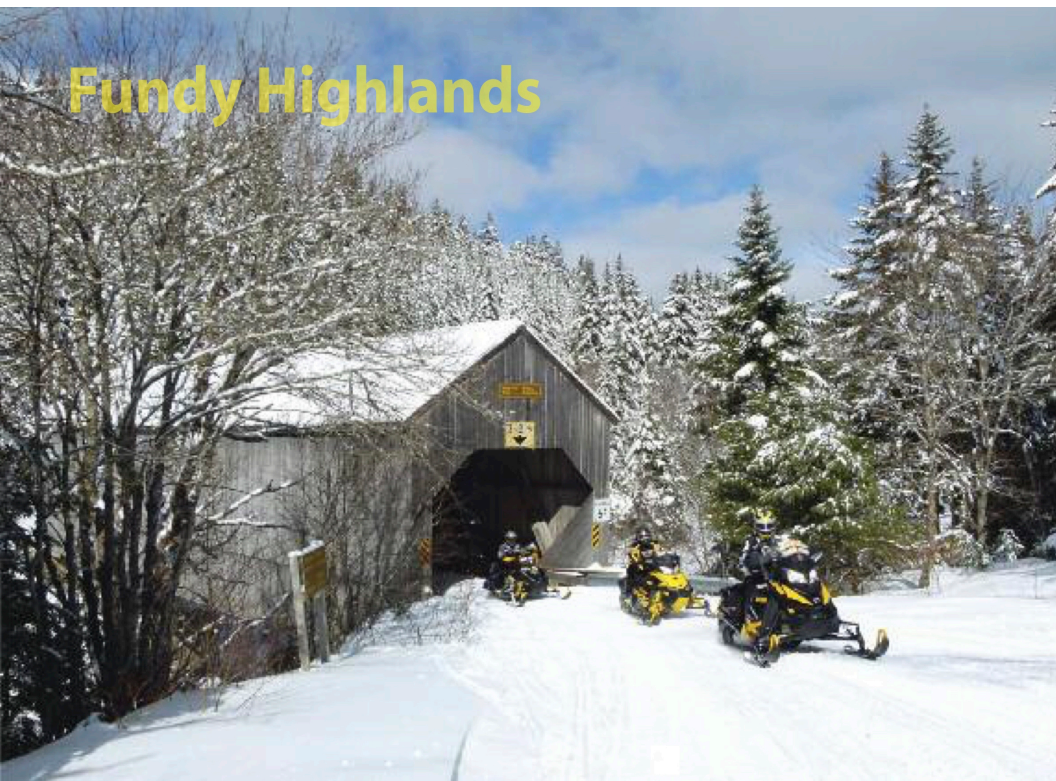


Fundy Highlands



FUNDY HIGHLANDS

The Fundy Highlands are a large snow pocket located in southern New Brunswick along the west shore of the Bay of Fundy, between Saint John to the southwest and Moncton to the northeast. The Highlands benefits from good snow generated by maritime weather and terrain elevation. It is part of the same Appalachian Mountain range that thrusts up again in Cape Breton. This high country is interspersed with a multitude of forestry roads that serve as wide, smooth trails each winter – and snowmobilers searching for some of Atlantic Canada's best riding need look no farther than this.

Getting There

When snow's good everywhere, riders can choose to trailer (or snowmobile) to the periphery of the Fundy Highlands area, then ride in from such locations as the Hampton Inn, Moncton

(east) or the Queen's County Inn, Chipman (north) for two to four days of great sledding without much repetition. You can also ride in by trail from the Fredericton (west) or Miramichi areas (north) or from Nova Scotia through the Sackville area as part of a saddlebag tour.

I've visited the Fundy Highlands twice now and never run out of snow. However, while there can be oodles of it in the heart of the highlands, depending on the season or time of winter coverage can be skimpy north towards Poley Mountain or Sussex, southwest towards Saint John, or even northeast towards Moncton. When these periphery areas are uncertain, there's likely still great snow in the Fundy Highlands proper. You can find it by trailering to stay over at Adair's Wilderness Lodge (in the west - Local Trail 814) or on day trips to the SENBSA (Southeast New Brunswick Snowmobile Association) clubhouse

(in the east - Local Trail 864), while overnighing in Moncton. Both these locations have gas, food and parking (Adair's has lodgings too). This way, you can do your entire ride within the Highlands.

Visiting the Bay

The Bay of Fundy is not only a major weather factor for the Highlands, it's also one of New Brunswick's primary tourist attractions. So part of our mission on this tour was to ride down to its shore. We accomplished this at the Broadleaf Guest Ranch near Riverside Albert (Local Trail 864), which overlooks the bay. We also snowmobiled right on to a fishing wharf at Alma (Local Trail 871) and onto the beach itself at Martin Head (Local Trail 819). We would have made the bay a fourth time at Saint Martins (Local Trail 808) if the snow hadn't melted off the side of a final section of road down to the water. Each of these scenic local trails



is worth a ride for its own sake, even if the tide's out when you reach the Bay of Fundy.

Our Route

Our Snow Goer Canada crew staged out of Moncton's Hampton Inn. To get to the Fundy Highlands from this location, you either ride a circuitous northern loop or head west toward Magnetic Hill, following a decently marked but unofficial route that at one point travels the centre median of the Trans Canada Highway. We departed by the former and returned by the latter, so both work okay for Highlands access.

For our three-day tour, we rode clockwise out of Moncton to Caledonia Mountain and down to the Bay of Fundy. We skirted the north side of Fundy National Park on trails running roughly parallel to the coast, and finally looped north through the Highlands interior to Chipman on New Brunswick trail 15, from where we deadheaded back to Moncton on new Local Trail 704.

Trails 15 and 704 are interesting examples of old and new. Trail 15 is the old, and it appears on the Saint John & Moncton South Zone 8 trail map in blue. This colour indicates a fully functional provincial trail, but it's not, at least from the junction of Local Trail 852 and north to Chipman. To start, it has a confusing mishmash of old trail numbers as well as "15's" along its length. It's comprised mostly of haul roads, but with a few goat paths thrown into the mix just to keep us on our toes. That said, I've snowmobiled it twice without getting lost; this old trail is just not up to New Brunswick's usual high standards, unlike the new Local Trail 704. Officially opened in last winter as a shortcut from Chipman to Moncton, 704 is as good as trail riding gets (with the exception of one dipsy-doodle around a railway track). The crew that put in 704 needs to spend some time on 15!

In fairness, I should note that neither 15 nor 704 are in the Fundy Highlands proper – and that every trail we

rode in the Highlands was outstanding. So from whatever direction you choose to enter New Brunswick's Fundy Highlands, once there you'll discover a real sledding gem that will keep your heart pounding for every minute of every ride – and that will keep you coming back for more!

Special thanks to Ross Antworth, Alison Aiton, Mike Eddy, Floyd Cock and Pam Wamback for assistance with this tour. Craig's tours are made possible by BRP (Ski-Doo), Gateway Powersports, FXR Racing, Triton Trailers, and Woody's.

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