



**Getting There**

Centre Hill Hiking Trail begins at end of Sunnyside, a town that stretches for 8 km along the bottom of Trinity Bay.

People have occupied the area for over 5,000 years and some very significant events have taken place in our harbour—the first recorded meeting between English and Beothuk (1612), the use of a trail by the French after attacking settlements in Trinity Bay (1697) and the first transatlantic cable landing (1858). And, archaeologists have unearthed exciting new discoveries. The building of the Hibernia gravity base structure (GBS) in the 1990s is also part of our history. It was built to withstand direct hit from a 6 million ton iceberg.

**An Old Mountain Range**

Many of the hills along the road in Sunnyside are made of colourful red and green slate—sedimentary rocks that were formed under water half a billion years ago. Crossing the bridge in Centre Cove brings you into a different terrain. The hills are higher and more rounded—made of lava and ash from erupted volcanoes. Centre Hill is likely what remains of an extinct volcano.

**Along the Trail**

The trail starts with a moderate climb and ends with a steep climb to the top of Centre Hill. It winds through forest, marshes, trout ponds, bog and heath. Watch for bakeapple plants in the marshes, pitcher plants in the bog, blueberries and Labrador tea on the heath. You may see signs of moose or bear and an osprey nest at the bottom of Centre Hill.

**The View from the Top**

The last 400 metres are strenuous—but the view from the top is well worth it! At 383 metres (1153 feet) above sea level, you will enjoy a panoramic view of five different bays—Trinity, Placentia, Fortune, Bonavista and Conception.

There is a fire lookout at the top of the hill that was manned from the 1930s to the 1960s. In 1920, a fire spread along the north side of the harbour, destroying a church, 15 houses and leaving a desolate ruin. A week later, another fire destroyed the timber on the south side of the harbour.

After reaching the summit, the trip back will be easy—downhill slopes with places to stop, rest and enjoy the beauty of the landscape. Enjoy your stay in Sunnyside. Please take only pictures and leave only footprints.

