Gaspé Peninsula is 12,000 square miles of mountainous forest with 10 separate ecosystems, 696 plant species, 225 nesting and visiting species of land birds, and 26 species of birds of prey. Fish are abundant as are seals, porpoises, 7 species of whales, and several land mammals including black bear.

The breathtaking beauty of rock formations, sea cliffs, and mountains in Percé attracted artists skilled in many mediums including painting, sculpting, photography, and film direction. Today, Percé is the cultural center.

Forillon National Park is an idyllic natural setting, “the Crown Jewel” of Gaspé Peninsula.
Plan and book your shore excursion early. Ship's excursions, private tours, and rental cars usually “sell out” before your ship arrives. Public bus service and trains are limited. Without a plan, you are limited to walking around the marina and across the bridge to Gaspé City where there isn’t much to see and do.

The two major tourist areas are Percé and Forillon National Park.

Percé is a small fishing village ~ 84 miles, 2 hours, round-trip from the Gaspé tender dock (shown as white line on map). The town has breathtaking rock formations and cliff views. It’s the cultural center with museums, boutiques, art galleries, restaurants, pastry, chocolate, and souvenir shops.

Public buses and trains are limited between the cruise ship tender dock and Percé. You'll need a pre-arranged tour via the ship, private company, or rental car. If you plan a boat tour to Bonaventure Island or a whale watching tour, arrange that tour before your ship arrives in port.

If you like to explore sites on your own, consider a “Percé on your own” tour where the ship or private tour company provides transportation only. Explore the town on foot, take photos of Percé Rock (Rocher-Percé) from the cliff, wharf, and beaches, and have lunch at one of the restaurants.

Forillon National Park is the “Crown Jewel” of Gaspé peninsula offering an incredible array of flora, fauna, wildlife, scenic cliffs, beaches, trails, etc. You can schedule guided hiking tours, kayaking, whale watching, etc. via the ship's excursions or private tours. The park is huge measuring 59,000 acres (94 square miles).

A round trip drive (shown as a blue line on the map) to the scenic park areas is 72 miles and takes 2 hours without stopping. Plan on a minimum of 4 hours total time to visit the park. The park is open year-round.

Self-guided rental car touring of Percé or Forillon Park. Rental car touring is not for everyone. You can drive to Percé is one hour and park the car to explore the area. The drive to Forillon Park is more involved because there are many stops. I've included GPS coordinates and descriptions of the sites with information from Ann Weber's rental car tour in 2013. During her drive, Ann saw a variety of birds, seals, whales, a black bear climbing onto the beach from the water, etc. That's amazing!

CAVEAT

Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan

NOTE: I would like to thank Sheryl Busser and Ann Weber for their help on this port guide.
Most cruise ships tender passengers to Gaspé Marina next to the bridge to the city.

There is a PORT dock ~ 1.6 mile east of the Marina, but that dock is not suitable for large cruise ships. Some of the small cruise ships might use that dock, but most cruise ships tender passengers to the Marina.

The Marina has a Train Station and Tourist Information Center. Budget Car Rental has closed.. (Map Below)

The Jacques De Lesseps Monument honors him for using aerial photography to map Gaspé Peninsula. Gaspé City is across the bridge. People often walk from the Marina across the bridge to the Jacques-Cartier Promenade along the water. You could walk a mile to the museum, see page 12 of this port guide.
NOTE: Gaspé bus and train Service is LIMITED. It doesn't seem practical for travel from a cruise ship. For information on trains and schedules, see http://www.viarail.ca/en/explore-our-destinations/stations/quebec/gaspe

For information on buses and schedules, see http://www.busbud.com/en/bus-schedules/Gaspe,Quebec,Canada/Perce,Quebec,Canada#date=2014-10-17

Budget Car Rental has CLOSED. National Car Rental is setting up a service to deliver cars from the airport to the marina for pickup, but the procedure for renting a car at the marina has not yet been defined by National. I am waiting for the details to include in this port guide. Tom Sheridan

GPS = N 48°49'38.0", W 64°28'40.0"

Address: 8 De La Marina, Gaspé, QC G4X 3B1, Canada—Phone: +1 418-368-1610
Website = http://locations.budget.com/pq/gaspe/y58.html

A full size 4-dr car rents for $ 85 USD including fees. A Toyota Previa 8-pass van rents for $ 95 including fees.

NOTE: The first 100 Km are included; each additional Km is $ 0.18 USD

The round trip driving route of Forillon National Park in this guide is ~ 116 Km (72 miles) and takes ~ 2 hours. The round trip driving route to Percé is 138 Km (84 miles) and takes ~ 2 hours. In addition to travel time, plan on spending a minimum of 2 hours in Percé or Forillon National Park.

GPS Coordinates
This port guide includes GPS Coordinates for tourist sites and key locations. Open this guide in one window on your computer and open Google or Bing Maps in a second window. Copy and paste the GPS coordinates into Google or Bing maps to find sites, get directions, and time for travel by car, bus, walking, or bicycle. The coordinates can be used with any Bing or Google map format such as “map”, “satellite”, “birdseye”, “earth”, and “terrain” to see detailed views of the location at any map scale. These coordinates can also be used in hand-held or vehicle GPS devices. Note that these devices can accept different formats. It's important to set your device to accept data in this format:

Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds shown as N ddd° mm' ss.ss", W ddd° mm' ss.ss"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>GPS COORDINATES</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tender Dock used by most cruise ships</td>
<td>N 48°49'41.4&quot;, W 64°28'41.3&quot;</td>
<td>Next to Gaspé Marina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Dock used by a few cruise ships</td>
<td>N 48°49'32.8&quot;, W 64°26'19.1&quot;</td>
<td>1.6 miles east of the Marina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train Station, Tourist Information Center, &amp; Budget Car Rental</td>
<td>N 48°49'38.0&quot;, W 64°28'40.0&quot;</td>
<td>Next to Gaspé Marina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments by Sheryl Busser based on her 2014 visit to Gaspé

I had booked a $ 46 private tour to Percé scheduled to depart 1-hour after our ship arrived at Gaspé. Our ship's tendering process was chaotic and took an hour in ports prior to Gaspé. Fearing we would miss the departure time for our private tour, I canceled that tour and booked the ship's afternoon “Percé On Your Own” tour. I'm glad I did. The ship's tender took a long time at Gaspé. In addition, the ship's tour bus encountered road construction that had delayed all of the tours. Our bus was an hour late returning to Gaspé from Percé . No problem. We were on a ship's excursion; the ship would not leave without us.

Before our afternoon tour to Percé, we had time to walk across the bridge to Gaspé City and along the water. Some passengers took a shuttle bus into the city. I think the shuttle cost was $10.

The drive to Percé took an hour along Rte 132, a winding, scenic, coastal road. We could see Percé Rock in the distance as our bus approached the town. This rock formation is unbelievable!

We had over 2 hours free time in Percé . We walked along the cliffs and beach to view and photograph Percé Rock from different vantage points and had ample time for lunch and visiting the gift shops.

Sheryl Busser
Delays and Problems with Ship's Tenders  (Comments by Tom Sheridan)

I agree with Sheryl Busser's comments about delays when tendering to a port. The tendering process is prone to delays and even cancellation.

Tendering is slow. Cruise ships do not use all of the life boats as tenders. Most of the life boats are kept on the ship for potential emergency evacuation of the ship. It takes a long time to move thousands of passengers from the ship to the tender dock. Plan on a 30-60 minute, or longer, delay when you are tendering into a port.

Wind, sea swells, and fog can slow down or even cause cancellation of the tender process.

I've been on many ships where the captain aborted the port and sailed on because fog or wind made the tender process dangerous. Even when tendering is relatively safe, there is risk of falling when stepping between the tender and the ship. Swells can cause the tender to move abruptly up-down. In one instance, the crew shouted and stopped me from stepping from the tender onto the floating dock at the ship. They saw a sea swell that caused the tender to rise abruptly. Had I stepped off the tender, the floating dock next to the ship would have been almost 3-feet down. I would would certainly have suffered a severe sprain or broken bone.

Another issue is the ship's “priority” that determines when you can disembark. In Newport Rhode Island, our ship's tenders were initially restricted to passengers on the ship's shore excursions. Other passengers had to wait an hour before boarding a tender. As an Elite Princess customer, I have “priority” and can be on the first tender.
Percé Has Interesting Topography

The 3-D topo map above shows the steep sea cliffs, valleys, and mountains in Percé. The Wharf at Rue du Quai is at sea level. The cliffs rise up at each side of the Wharf and fall back to sea level at Rue Biard. There is beach access on both sides of the Wharf and at Rue Biard. In other locations, you are on cliffs looking down at the sea.

The park office for Bonaventure Island and Rocher-Percé is at Point “A” on the map. The ticket office & internet are at Point “B”. From a practical standpoint, town center is at Point “A” on the map. To visit the boutiques, shops, galleries, museums, and restaurants walk along Rue du Quai at the Wharf, Rue del Eglise toward St Michael Church, and Rte 132 east and west. Walk along Rue Mont-Joli to see Rocher-Percé from the cliff.

There are boat tours to see Rocher-Percé and the thousands of birds nesting on the cliffs of Bonaventure Island. Make arrangements for these tours long before your ship arrives in Gaspé or book a ship excursion that includes the boat tour.

Most people need about 2 hours minimum to explore Percé. Add 2 to 3 hours transit time from/to Gaspé. **For planning purposes, allow ~ 5 hours minimum for an excursion to Percé.**
GPS Coordinates for the Wharf in Percé = N 48°31'16.5", W 64°12'43.6"
Use these GPS coordinates in Google maps to see a street level photo from the Wharf (photo below)

Google street level photos are useful to explore an area. By dragging the little “yellow man” icon onto the map, you can literally walk around the town and see the sites.

An Outstanding Source of Tourist Information for Percé
This website has every conceivable type of tourist information. The information is well done and it is FREE to download. I highly recommend you visit this website to download the maps, brochures, hiking trail maps, lists of shops, descriptions of tours, etc.

see  http://www.rocherperce.com/?id=30&titre=Useful_informations&em=8

Below is information from this tourist website:

Attractions And Activities
Percé and its surroundings invite you to a refill of energy and wonder. Explore the trails of Bonaventure Island. Climb to strategic viewpoints and marvel at the surprising panoramas. A boat ride around the island is a guarantee of unforgettable memories as well as seeing great whales. Sea kayaking, scuba diving, sea fishing and guided tours are some of the many activities available. Those interested in art and culture will be amazed by the artistic and cultural vitality of Percé, where one may meet with the artists and artisans, see shows, or discover Percé's rich historical and architectural heritage.

Click on these WEBLINKS from the website

| Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé |
| Boat excursions at the Île-Bonaventure and Rocher-Percé sectors |
| Whale watching cruises | Sea kayak, Scuba diving |
| Fishing (deep sea, wharf, rivers) | Sea swimming |
| Walking trails | Historic general store of l'Anse-à-Beaufils |
| Bird watching | Touristic and cultural harbour of l'Anse-à-Beaufils |
| Tourist rest areas and playgrounds | Scenic Route Des Failles |
| Dog sleeding | Rest and relaxation holidays |
| Guided carriage tour | Le Chafaud Museum |
| Scenic Train l'Amiral product of the land |
| Studios of artists & artisans and products of the land |
| Percé historical tour |
| Businesses offering activities |
| Circuit architectural de Percé |
| Shops and galeries |
| Lobster interpretation excursions |
| Semi-precious stones gathering |
| Helicopter Tour |
| Shopping |
| La Fermette d'Antan |
| Golf |
| Church |
| Shows and events |

Gaspe-11-25-2014
Should I Rent A Car in the Port? (Comments by Tom Sheridan)

NOTE: Rental car touring from a cruise port is not for everyone. I am NOT trying to convince you to rent a car. My goal is to describe the thought process and criteria I use to decide when to rent a car.

Risk of not getting back to the ship on time?

Before I rent a car from a cruise port, I plan a driving route with GPS coordinates. I know exactly where I will be going, how to get there, and know that my GPS will show me the time I will get back to the ship. I carry my Garmin GPS from home because I'm familiar with it and can enter the GPS coordinates before my cruise.

I set a driving time schedule. For example, the round trip driving time to Percé or Forillon Park is 2 hours. Adding 2 hours to explore the area, the total time is ~ 4 hours for my driving tour.

When I get the rental car, I note the time and add 4 hours. My goal is to return the car at least 1 hour before the last ship's tender. If necessary, I shorten the driving tour to ensure I will return 1 hour before the last tender.

When I get the car, I save the exact location using the “Where Am I” button on the GPS as “my starting point.” As I drive, I note delays due to traffic, road construction etc. and adjust my schedule accordingly. If there is road construction, I will encounter it outbound from the port so I can factor that into the time to return to port. While driving, I can check my return time to “my starting point” by setting that as the “destination”.

I'm confident because I have a detailed driving plan, know where I am at all times, and know how long it will take me to get back to the car rental. Using this approach, I have rented cars at ports around the world and never had a problem getting back to the ship on time.

Advantages of renting a car

Cruise ship excursions are in “uncomfortable” buses. When the bus stops, 15 minutes or longer, is wasted by people getting on/off the bus. Also, the ship's excursion bus may have a schedule of stops that I don't like. It's not what I want to do. I like to take photos, but it's difficult to do that in a moving bus with dirty windows.

A rental car gives me complete flexibility to go where I want, stop for photos as I choose, and personalize the tour for my preferences. Everyone in the car has a comfortable, window seat, with excellent visibility. My wife can sit in the car while I walk a short distance from the parked car to take photos. A rental car with four passengers has a cost/person less than half the cost of a ship's bus excursion.

Limitations of renting a car

I need to be in control of the time schedule on my driving tour. Hence, I do not combine car rental with some other transit method. For example, there are boat rides in many ports that provide a view of the area, a stop at small islands, whale watching, etc. Since I cannot predict, nor control delays on a boat ride, I would use the ship's excursion tour rather than a car rental when a small boat ride is part of the excursion. My small boat excursion to Portofino Italy was 2 hours late because of wind and waves. Fortunately, I was on the ship's excursion; returning late was not a problem. The ship did not leave without me.

I would not rent a car in ports where, any of the following conditions exist:

- Roads are not clearly marked and/or I do not have accurate GPS coordinates for the sites I plan to visit.
- I need a tour guide to travel with me to explain the stops because the sites are not self-evident.
- It will take a long time to get a rental car from the port. I will waste precious time in port getting the car if the rental agency is a long way from the ship, not open when the ship docks, etc.
- When the only thing I need/value is travel from the ship's dock to one tourist site, I do not rent a car. Instead, I select the fastest, reliable transit method considering public buses, trains, taxis, or the ship's excursion to transport me to/from the tourist area so I can explore it on my own, on foot.

Each port is different, I judge some ports “perfect” for car rental touring

Some of my favorite ports for Rental Car Touring are Santorini Greece, Charlottetown PEI Canada, and Quebec City. See these port guides for details. For me, Gaspé is a “perfect” port to rent a car.
Rental Car Touring from Gaspé Port

Caveat: I have not actually rented a car at this port (see details below) but, this is how I had planned to do it.

There is a Budget Car Rental across the parking lot from the tender dock at Gaspé Marina. I reserved a minivan for $93 CAD for pickup and 10 am and return at 5 pm on October 5, 2014. I had prepared a detailed analysis of the port with maps, driving directions, and GPS coordinates for driving tours to Percé and Forillon National Park. The Ruby Princess would be in port from 10 am to 6 pm. Assuming that I picked up the rental car around 10:30 AM, I would have 6.5 hours in port for a 4-hour tour = plenty of time.

My “planned” driving tour to Percé uses two GPS coordinates.

Budget Car Rental = N 48°49'38.0", W 64°28'40.0" Percé Wharf = N 48°31'16.5", W 64°12'43.6"
It's a 42 mile, 1-hour drive on Rte 132 to Percé. If there was road construction, I would encounter it en route Percé and factor it into my schedule to get back to the ship on time. My plan was to drive to the Percé Wharf, park the car, explore the area, have lunch, and return long before the last ship's tender.

Sheryl Busser reports her ship's bus excursion to Percé left Gaspé Marina in the afternoon. One of the advantages of renting a car is that I'd leave the port as soon as I got off the tender leaving Budget Rental for Percé in the morning. I wouldn't waste any time walking around the port waiting for an afternoon bus excursion. I would arrive at Percé before the “ship's afternoon bus excursion” and that bus would be behind me on the only road between the Marina and Percé returning to the port. I'd get back on time.

My “planned” driving tour to Forillon National Park has GPS coordinates for all the stops along the route. I prefer visiting the park rather than Percé because I like the tranquility of non-commercial, natural areas.

On October 5, 2014, I took the first tender from our cruise ship to Gaspé. At 10:03 AM, I was at Budget. Timing was good, I had 7 hours for my 4 hour driving tour.

A ship's officer announced the weather would deteriorate, winds and fog would increase, and tendering could become unsafe. We were instructed to return to the ship. Drats, curses, and rats! This was my first visit to Gaspé. I had a plan, a detailed route with all the GPS coordinates on my Garmin GPS in my pocket.

Luckily, Ann Weber sent me an email offering use of her photos for this port guide based on her rental car driving tour of Forillon Park in 2013. She drove the route I had planned, so this port guide uses my driving route coordinates and site descriptions with Ann's photos and driving tour experience.

Gray skies and wind at the tender dock when Ruby Princess aborted Gaspé Port on 10-5-2014 (photo below)
Rental Car Driving Tour of Forillon National Park

Comments by Ann Weber based on her 2013 Driving Tour of Forillon National Park

We visited Gaspe in the fall of 2013. We arrived at the port early, on one of the first tenders. I had reserved a van from Budget and found them very helpful.

Our plan was to return at least an hour before the last tender. This schedule made it impractical to attempt a driving tour to both Forillon Park and Percé, so we focused on Forillon and returned to the port on time.

It was a great day and the park was amazing! It was past season; the “staffed” buildings were closed, but we still saw a lot and had a great time. If you visit the park, keep an eye out for wildlife. We saw many birds, seals, two whales, a black bear climbing onto the beach from the water, and we were greeted by a porcupine crossing the road as we entered the park.

There are numerous places to stop along the route. We visited a fort, walked to the waterfall, and stopped at beaches and cliffs to take photos. I highly recommend visiting Forillon Park.

Ann Weber

GPS Coordinates for Driving Tour of Forillon National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAP</th>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>GPS COORDINATES</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Budget Car Rental</td>
<td>N 48°49'38.0&quot;, W 64°28'40.0&quot;</td>
<td>Next to Gaspé Marina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Musee de Gaspé</td>
<td>N 48°50'10.6&quot;, W 64°28'30.9&quot;</td>
<td>Major historical museum $ 10.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Jacques-Cartier Monument</td>
<td>N 48°50'18.1&quot;, W 64°28'40.5&quot;</td>
<td>Photo stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Sanctuaire Notre-Dame Des Bouleurs</td>
<td>N 48°52'18.0&quot;, W 64°33'00.3&quot;</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Fort Peninsula</td>
<td>N 48°51'12.7&quot;, W 64°23'51.3&quot;</td>
<td>WW II defensive fort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Park entrance South Toll Booth $</td>
<td>N 48°48'45.3&quot;, W 64°15'56.5&quot;</td>
<td>Pay a fee to enter the park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Parking lot Blvd Grande Grave</td>
<td>N 48°48'19.6&quot;, W 64°14'42.6&quot;</td>
<td>Photo stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Grande Grave Harbor, Hyman's General Store</td>
<td>N 48°47'32.2&quot;, W 64°13'29.6&quot;</td>
<td>Hiking, Kayaking, Whale-watching &amp; Historic Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>L'Anse-Aux-Amerindiens</td>
<td>N 48°46'09.5&quot;, W 64°11'37.1&quot;</td>
<td>End of the park road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Waterfall, La Chute parking</td>
<td>N 48°50'35.6&quot;, W 64°15'56.2&quot;</td>
<td>Parking lot for waterfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>RTE 132 &amp; Chemin-du-Cap-Bon-Ami</td>
<td>N 48°50'29.9&quot;, W 64°14'07.0&quot;</td>
<td>Road intersection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Park Entrance North Toll Booth $</td>
<td>N 48°50'19.6&quot;, W 64°12'55.4&quot;</td>
<td>Stop to show you’ve paid a fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Cap Bon Ami</td>
<td>N 48°48'49.5&quot;, W 64°13'22.1&quot;</td>
<td>Gorgeous scenic cliff views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Cap des Rosiers Lighthouse</td>
<td>N 48°51'22.2&quot;, W 64°12'04.2&quot;</td>
<td>Tallest lighthouse in Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Cap -des- Rossiers</td>
<td>N 48°52'33.33&quot;, W 64°12'59.17&quot;</td>
<td>End of tour, turn around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Budget Car Rental</td>
<td>N 48°49'38.0&quot;, W 64°28'40.0&quot;</td>
<td>Next to Gaspé Marina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The route from “A” to “I” is 26.2 miles, 35 minutes driving time

The route from “A” to “O” is 44.2 miles, 1 hr and 9 minutes driving time

The route from “A” to “P” is 72.1 miles, 1 hr and 47 minutes driving time. I rounded it up to 2 hrs time

Plan on spending 2 to 3 hours exploring the park. Total tour time including driving time = 4 to 5 hours.
On the following pages, I've listed details, descriptions, and maps showing each of the stops along this route. I suggest you read the descriptions and choose the stops you wish to visit. Personalize your driving tour to spend time as you choose. There are some trails at some of the sites.

NOTE:

1. There are very few, if any, places to buy food or drink in the park especially in the fall when all of the "staffed" buildings are closed. However, there are several places with park benches and chairs. If you plan to eat lunch in the park, bring the food with you.
2. It would be good to have a long telephoto lens to photograph wildlife in the park.
B | Musee de Gaspé | N 48°50'10.6", W 64°28'30.9" | Major historical museum $ 10.50
---|------------------|-------------------|---------------------
C | Jacques-Cartier Monument | N 48°50'18.1", W 64°28'40.5" | Photo stop

The map at left shows A = Budget Rental,  B = the parking lot entrance to Gaspé Museum, and C= the parking lot entrance to a scenic overlook and parking lot near the Jacques-Cartier monument. The monument is outside. You don't enter the museum nor pay admission to view the monument. **Photo below**

Gaspé museum is the most important tourist site in the city.

*A grand journey! This exhibition takes visitors on a stunning trip around the Gaspé. West to east, from the sea to the mountains, from the past to the present, visitors explore the region and meet the men and women who shaped it. What a way to discover—or rediscover—the history of the vast, beautiful Gaspé peninsula!*

Open year-round.
June 1 to October 31, 2014, daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
November 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, closed.
Admission: adults: $10.50


NOTE: You can walk from the cruise ship tender dock to the museum. Cross the bridge and walk on Jacques Cartier promenade next to the water as show by the yellow dots on the map. The distance is ~ a mile and you are walking slightly uphill near the museum. The slope of the hill is like climbing a 7-story building.

D | Sanctuaire Notre-Dame Des Bouleurs | N 48°52'18.0", W 64°33'00.3" | Church
---|-----------------------------|-------------------|------

Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows

The Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows has been a Roman Catholic place of worship, meditation, and pilgrimage since 1940. It is open all day, every day.

There's a chapel and three small buildings in the mountains connected by a trail to the Grotto of Lourdes, Calvary and the Way of Sorrows of Mary.

Masses are held on Tuesdays at 7 pm
The site offers excellent views of the mountains
For information, call 418 368-2133
Gaspé Bay was judged one of the best harbors in North America. Because it is well sheltered by both coastal relief and the sandy points of Penouille and Sandy Beach, the Gaspé basin is easy to defend. In addition, large ships are able to drop anchor there.

In World War II, Military strategists built a naval base with fixed defenses, protected entry points, an anti-submarine net, and three coastal batteries; namely, Fort Prével, Fort Haldimand and Fort Peninsula.

On May 1, 1942, the HMCS Fort Ramsay naval base was officially inaugurated. Three months later, over 2000 men were dispatched to the base by 3 military forces (the Navy, Army, and Air Force). The flotilla sent to the Gaspé included 19 warships: 5 minesweepers, 6 Fairmile patrol boats, 7 corvettes and an armed yacht. The Air Force also dispatched a few amphibious planes. (Source: Parks Canada)

Parks Canada has produced an excellent video of Fort Peninsula.


There are a few park benches near the parking lot with great views of the coast. This could be a nice spot for a picnic lunch. Bring a sandwich and a soda with you because there aren't any places to buy lunch in the park during the fall cruise season.

It's a short walk ~ 500 feet from the parking lot to the fort. You'll walk through large concrete tunnels to the gun near the shore. There are posters at the site explaining the history. This is a popular place to visit.

**Gun at Fort Peninsula (photo by Ann Weber)**
National Park Service Website

Dates and hours of operation  2014 season : May 31 to October 13

There are two toll booths to the park shown on the driving route as points F and L on the driving route.
Toll booths are open May 31 to October 13  Daily Entry before June 25 and after Labour Day = Adult $ 5.65

Days and hours when “staffed” sites in the park are open
- Penouille and L'Anse-au-Griffon Visitor Centres: June 20 to September 1st
  - Interpretation Centre: May 31 to October 13
  - From May 31 to June 20 and from September 2 to October 13: 10 am to 5 pm
  - From June 21 to September 1st: 9 am to 5 pm
- Hyman & Sons General Store: May 31 to October 13
  - From May 31 to June 20 and from September 2 to October 13: 10 am to 4 pm
  - From June 21 to September 1st: 10 am to 5 pm
- Anse-Blanchette: June 14 to September 14
  - From June 14 to 20 and from September 2 to 14: 10 am to 4 pm
  - From June 21 to September 1st: 10 am to 5 pm
- Dolbel-Roberts House: June 21 to September 1st, 2014, from 1 pm to 5 pm

The park is open year-round, but for obvious reasons, the “staffed” buildings are closed at some times.

Driving Route from the Toll Booth at point “F” to the end of the park road at point “I”

The map at left shows this section of the driving route. It is one of the most important areas in the park. There are several beautiful beaches and rock formations in this area. Park your car and take photos. Keep an eye out for wildlife.

Ann Weber photographed a black bear climbing out of the water onto the beach. I believe her location was at point “G” on the map.

Point “H” on the map is the place for renting kayaks, taking whale watching tours, and entering some of the hiking trails. Ann Weber photographed whales, birds, and a man on a kayak in this area.

The road in the park ends at point “I” on the map. There's a network of trails crisscrossing the southern tip of the peninsula. It's about a two mile walk from point “I” to the lighthouse at the tip of the peninsula.

NOTE: I am not a hiker, but I caution you to take heed of your time if you plan to hike. There is a ship's excursion tour that stops at point “H” for a guided trail walking tour.
Based on my analysis of terrain using Google maps and photos, I believe the location of the bear was at the west end of the beach on Blvd Grande Grave as shown on the map above.

A black bear on the beach (Photo by Ann Weber)
These wildlife photos by Ann Weber are remarkable considering the distances involved and movement of the wildlife. I'm jealous and wish I had been there to take my photos as well.

The photos of the whales and seals were taken somewhere along the coast between points “G” and “H” on the driving route. Whales are known to be in this area and kayaks are rented and launched at point “H”.

| H | Grande Grave Harbor, Hyman's General Store | N 48°47′32.2″, W 64°13′29.6″ | Hiking, Kayaking, Whale-watching & Historic Store, Grande Grave was a cod fishing village. In old French, the word “grave” means “pebble beach where cod was dried”.

This is a must-visit area. It is very picturesque along the shore and there are dramatic rock formations. Activities are described as follows:

There are nine hiking trails nearby with a range of difficulty. Know and heed safety warnings re the area’s numerous black bears.

Aquatic activities include scuba diving, snorkeling, whale-watching, and, sea-kayaking with opportunity for spotting up to seven different kinds of whales.

Cap Adventure offers kayak tours off the beach at Grand-Grave to the seal colonies. Seals are curious and
get close to the kayaks and may even lay a flipper on your kayak.


This is an historic general store that originally sold canned goods, patent medicines, Sunday dishes, farm implements, fishing tackle, clothes and more. You can watch a video called "Time and Tide Remembered" in the projection room. The upstairs exhibit, "Living with the Seasons", shows how families worked to survive given the natural resources at hand. The Hyman warehouse was used to store the huge amounts of dried cod produced over the summer before it was exported. Exhibits provide engaging descriptions of the international cod trade at the turn of the century. The staff in the Hyman Store will greet you and introduce you to the past with the help of educational games and personalized interpretation.  (Source: Parks Canada)

Open Hours:

Hyman & Sons General Store: May 31 to October 13
From May 31 to June 20 and from September 2 to October 13: 10 am to 4 pm
From June 21 to September 1st: 10 am to 5 pm

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L'Anse-Aux-Amerindiens</th>
<th>N 48°46'09.5&quot;, W 64°11'37.1&quot;</th>
<th>End of the park road</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The park road ends at this point. Stop for photos before turning around. You'll need to backtrack past the toll gate to drive to the waterfall called La Chute. If you are a hiker, you could hike the trails from this point to the tip of the peninsula to see the lighthouse, but that's about a two mile hike one-way. I'm not a hiker, but if you do hike, make sure you have trail maps, keep track of time, and know the cautions re black bear.
La Chute Waterfall (Photo by Ann Weber)

The parking lot “J” is shown on the map below

It's a one Km (0.6 mile) beginner-level, 30-minute walking trail from the parking lot to the waterfall. There are boardwalks and stairs along the trail. The waterfall is 17 meter (53 feet) high.

**La Chute:1 km (loop)**

*This short trail offers you the serenity of the forest. It takes you first to the foot of a waterfall measuring 17 m in height, then through a maple grove and finally to a lovely cascade.*

(Source Parks Canada)


---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K</th>
<th>RTE 132 and Chemin-du-Cap-Bon-Ami</th>
<th>N 48°50'29.9&quot;, W 64°14'07.0&quot;</th>
<th>Road intersection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Park Entrance North Toll Booth $</td>
<td>N 48°50'19.6&quot;, W 64°12'55.4&quot;</td>
<td>Stop to show you've paid a fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Cap Bon Ami</td>
<td>N 48°48'49.5&quot;, W 64°13'22.1&quot;</td>
<td>Gorgeous scenic views</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have included GPS coordinates for the road intersection “K” and the north part toll booth “L” for reference. Keep your receipt from the south toll booth park entrance so you will not have to pay again to re-enter the park.

Cap Bon-Ami has gorgeous, high cliffs, overlooking the sea. It's a must visit area.
The map below shows the roads near Cap-Bon-Ami, a cliff about 180 to 230 feet above the sea.

I'm not sure where the best place is to take photos because I haven't been there. My plan was to start taking photos at point “M” and then drive north for photos near point “L” at the harbor on the map above.
Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse was erected between 1854 and 1858 atop a rugged cliff near the village of Cap-des-Rosiers, an important area for Gaspé marine traffic where the St. Lawrence River meets the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Standing 34 metres high, this monumental lighthouse is the tallest in Canada. Built of regional limestone and faced with white marble, it has a gracefully tapered circular design and a large glass lantern and is a prominent visual landmark in the local area owing to its scale and silhouette.

It is considered a showpiece of the Quebec agency of the Canadian Coast Guard (a special agency within the Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and remains an operating light essential to marine safety. The lighthouse was recognized as a National Historic Site in 1973 and as a Classified Federal Heritage Building in 1994, the highest heritage category for federal property.

(Source: Heritage Canada The National Trust)

This is a scenic drive along the hills and cliffs next to the sea. You'll find a few stores and cafes and attractive homes and buildings in the village. I'm not sure how far you wish to drive. I judged point “O” to be the farthest I needed to drive to see the sights and planned to use it as my turn around point to return to the ship.

After driving past the picturesque village, I planned to turn around at this building which I has spotted on Google street-level photos.
Forillon National Park Map – **My Driving Route is shown as a dashed yellow line**


For more guides, see [www.TomsPortGuides.com](http://www.TomsPortGuides.com)
National Park Service Website

Dates and hours of operation  2014 season : May 31 to October 13
North and South areas toll booths: May 31 to October 13
Penouille and L’Anse-au-Griffon Visitor Centres: June 20 to September 1st
Interpretation Centre: May 31 to October 13
From May 31 to June 20 and from September 2 to October 13: 10 am to 5 pm
From June 21 to September 1st : 9 am to 5 pm
Hyman & Sons General Store: May 31 to October 13
From May 31 to June 20 and from September 2 to October 13 : 10 am to 4 pm
From June 21 to September 1st : 10 am to 5 pm
Anse-Blanchette: June 14 to September 14
From June 14 to 20 and from September 2 to 14 : 10 am to 4 pm
From June 21 to September 1st : 10 am to 5 pm
Dolbel-Roberts House: June 21 to September 1st, 2014, from 1 pm to 5 pm

Daily Entry (Reduced Level of Service - Before June 25 and after Labour Day)  Adult $ 5.65

For more guides, see www.TomsPortGuides.com
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
User feedback helps me make corrections and improve the format and content in my quest to produce the “ultimate” port guides. I welcome offers to collaborate with me or provide materials for use in my guides.

PLEASE Help “spread the word” about my website
The only negative feedback I get is, “I wish I knew about your port guides before my vacation”. Please tell your friends and post a reference to my guides and website on the blogs. To receive email notification when new guides are available, send your email address to me at TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

Copyright Notice & Terms and Conditions for Use of My Guides
My port guides and everything on my website www.TomsPortGuides.com is copyrighted by Thomas Sheridan with all rights reserved, and protected by international copyright laws.

PERMITTED USE: Personal, non-commercial use of my port guides and/or material from my website.
I allow individuals to take my guides apart for personal, non-commercial use. Many cruisers carry a map or a few pages from my guide on a shore excursion. That's OK. I also allow people to post my guides on websites they set up for fellow travelers to share information on shore excursions such as the websites set up by Cruise Critic members for the Roll Calls. That's OK. My guides are for use and enjoyment of individual travelers.

PROHIBITED USE of my port guides and/or material from my website.
NO person, company, organization, website, etc. is permitted to use material from my website for a commercial purpose, to sell, require a membership to download my port guides, or use my copyrighted material for a commercial purpose.

NO person, company, organization, website, etc. is permitted to distribute excerpts from my guides or material from my website as electronic, digital, or paper copies. My Port Guides must be kept intact, as downloaded from my website, with this copyright notice.

NO Cruise Ship employee, representative, contractor, port lecturer, etc. is permitted to distribute excerpts from my guides or material from my website as electronic, digital or paper copies. My Port Guides must be kept intact, as downloaded from my website, with this copyright notice. A blatant example of violation of my copyright was a cruise ship docked in Copenhagen where the shore excursion desk personnel removed maps from my guide, removed my name as the copyright owner, and copied/distributed my maps.

Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

If there is any question about use of my guides, contact me at TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

Tom Sheridan

Gaspe-11-25-2014  Page 24 of 24  For more guides, see www.TomsPortGuides.com