GQ GUIDE

FROM THE RIVER TO THE GULF



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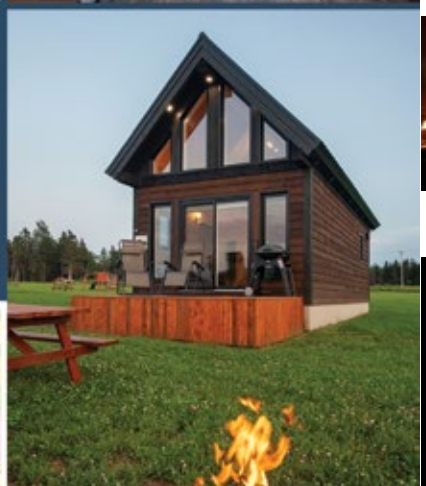






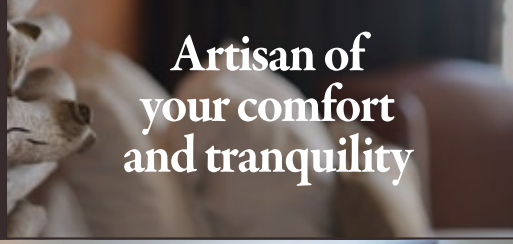
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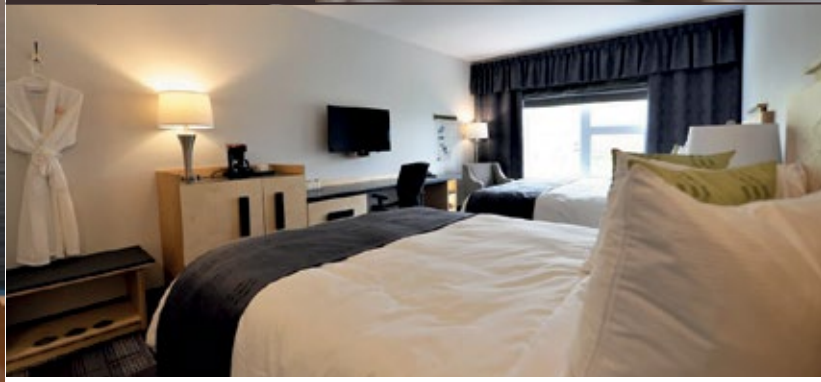
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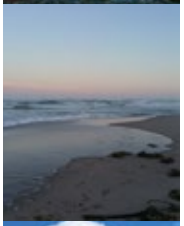



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OFF THE BEATEN PATH

This guide covers Québec's vast maritime region—over 1,000 kilometers of coastline, from the Saint Lawrence River estuary at Québec City to the islands of the Gulf and Acadia in New-Brunswick. Along the way, the South Shore of the river and the Îles de la Madeleine offer some of the province's most dramatic landscapes, where land and sea meet beneath endless skies and ever-changing light.

Home to just over half a million residents—about twenty times less densely populated than the Saint Lawrence Valley—these regions offer space to breathe and a chance to reconnect with nature. They're also shaped by a rich cultural mosaic of Mi'kmaq, Québécois, Acadian, and Loyalist traditions. Those influences have forged distinct regional identities, from the Brayons of Témiscouata and Madawaska to the Madelinots of the Îles de la Madeleine.

Moncton is the only urban center here with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Elsewhere, villages retain their original character, and LGBTQ+ life is less visible—but not absent. Pride events have been spreading through these regions in the recent years from Rivière-du-Loup to Iles-de-la-Madeleine. This guide features over 200 gay-friendly addresses where warmth and hospitality are the norm. To experience the region's true essence, slow down: trade highways for backroads, and pause in villages where life moves with the tides.

This is how I discovered the charm of places like Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, Kamouraska, Notre-Dame-du-Portage, Cacouna, Témiscouata-sur-le-Lac, Le Bic, Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer, Métis-sur-Mer, Baie-des-Sables, Miscou Island, Cap-Pelé and Grande-Vallée—just a few of the many gems that reward a slower pace. In many areas, cell service and internet fade away, making it easier to unplug, savor simple pleasures, and reconnect with the people around you.

André Gagnon, Publisher

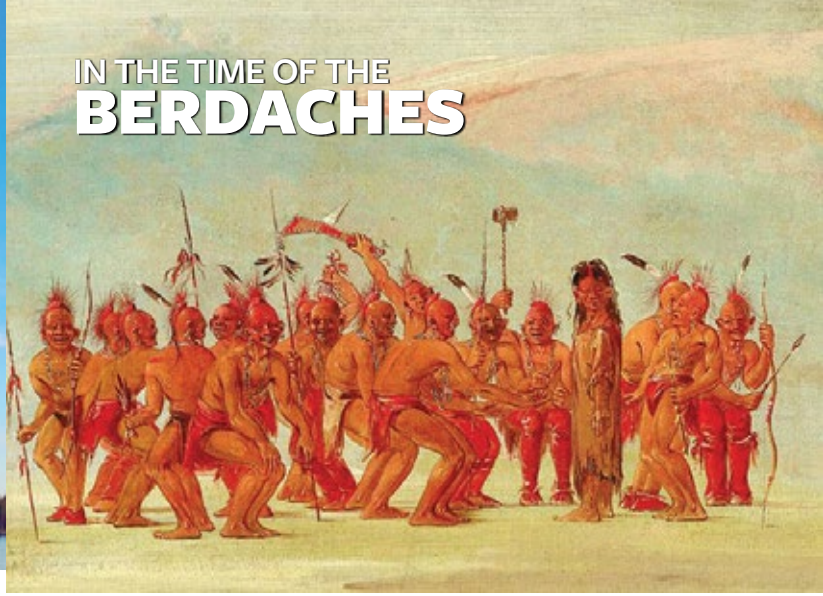


IN THE LAND OF THE MI'GMAQS

The Gaspé Peninsula and the Maritimes have been Mi'gmaq territory for millennia. Although the French called them Micmac, today the **Mi'gmaq** Nation remains vibrant across the region. In Gaspésie, the **Gespeg Mi'gmaq Interpretive Site**—an important early point of contact between French explorer Jacques Cartier and the Mi'gmaq—offers an immersive introduction to the local Mi'gmaq community. Through interpretive activities, it traces the history from 1675 to the present, combining authenticity with hands-on experiences. The on-site shop sells high-quality, handcrafted Mi'gmaq and other First Nations-made goods from Québec.

On the Chaleur Bay, the community of **Gesgapegiag** welcomes visitors exploring Mi'gmaq lands. Stop for a picnic in the community park or see the tipi erected on the shore in 2018. Gesgapegiag has also developed a cottage complex and installed tipis in **Anse Sainte-Hélène**, allowing travelers to enjoy an authentic stay. For a unique overnight, book a replica of **La Grande Hermine**, one of **Jacques Cartier's** ships.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find **Le Relais de la Cache** near the Chic-Chocs Mountains, an ideal base for hiking and snowmobiling. Every July, the community hosts a pow-wow, drawing Mi'gmaq from across the region to celebrate with traditional songs, dances, food, and storytelling—all open to visitors.



IN THE TIME OF THE BERDACHES

When European colonizers arrived in North America in the 15th century, they brought homophobia with them. Guided by Christian doctrine—which confined sexuality to heterosexual marriage for procreation—they tried to suppress the more open attitudes of First Nations peoples. For most First Nations communities, sexuality was seen as a divine gift meant to be enjoyed freely. It was not taboo to speak about it in front of children, and young people were encouraged to explore their desires, provided all partners consented. Relationships weren't limited to adult marriage: men could have multiple wives, or marry other men who took on women's roles—individuals the French called berdaches.

A berdache was a man who chose to take on the social role of a woman. A similar tradition existed for women, though it wasn't called berdache and remains less well documented. These individuals were deeply respected; it was believed they embodied both masculine and feminine spirits, which granted them greater spiritual power. Today, many First Nations use the term Two-Spirit to describe this tradition. Berdaches were often encouraged to remain unmarried and dedicate



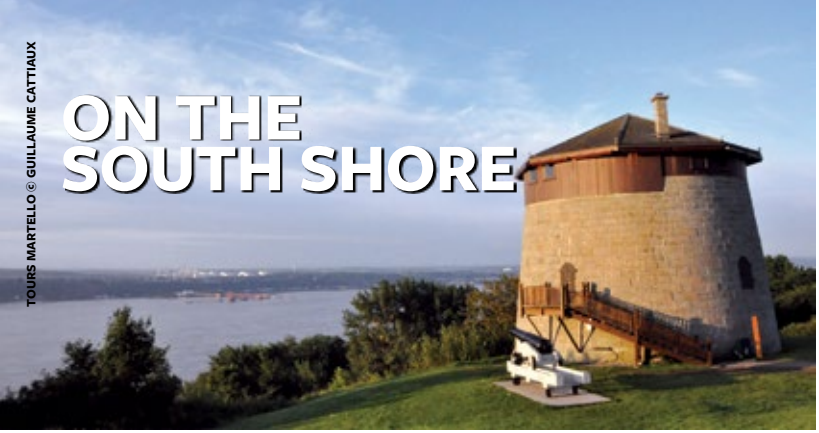
themselves to shamanism. Each year, they were celebrated in a ceremony in which their sexual partners danced in their honor.

For most Indigenous nations, adopting the role of the opposite sex also meant wearing the corresponding clothing from puberty onward. Cross-dressing wasn't stigmatized; it was simply a personal choice. The only expectation was that one fully embrace either a masculine or feminine role—the sex assigned at birth didn't determine identity.

Over time, Judeo-Christian repression nearly erased the tradition. Fortunately, its legacy endured.

In 1979, the Association pour les droits des gai(e)s du Québec (ADGQ) named its magazine—Québec's first gay publication—Le Berdache, acknowledging that homophobia hadn't always been the norm in this land. Homosexuality was not decriminalized in Canada until 1969.





TOURS MARTELLO © GUILLAUME CATTIAUX

ON THE SOUTH SHORE

With nearly 200 km of shoreline, Chaudière-Appalaches stretches along the St. Lawrence between the Québec City area and the archipelagos downstream of Île d'Orléans.

Home to some of Québec's oldest villages—first settled as the hinterland of New France's capital—the region takes its name from the Chaudière River, which flows through Beauce before meeting the St. Lawrence at Lévis. Fertile valleys, rivers, and forested hills make it an easy place to explore by bike or on foot, with great hiking and birdwatching. In spring, maple groves add their own (delicious) rhythm to the season.

Upstream from Québec City, start in **Lotbinière**, where seigneurs left behind manors, outbuildings, and farmland—and where much of the traditional architecture remains remarkably intact. The villages of **Lotbinière** and **Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly** belong to the Association of the Most Beautiful Villages of Québec. Nearby, **Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière** is a romantic 19th-century garden created by the Lotbinière family.

In Joly, camping and naturism enthusiasts will appreciate **Halte 266**, the only gay campground in the greater Québec City area, easily reached from Highway 20.

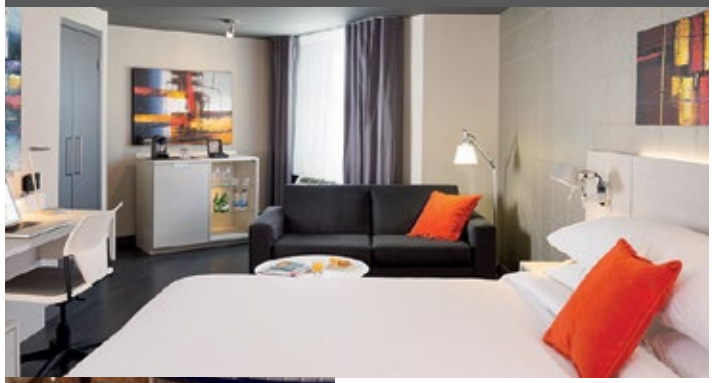
Further south, **Beauce** is known for a fiercely independent character and a dense network of small businesses. To the east, in the Montmagny–L'Islet area, woodcarving fans should make time for **Saint-Jean-Port-Joli**, a village renowned for its craftsmanship.

In the Île-aux-Grues archipelago, visit **Grosse-Île-et-le-Mémorial-des-Irlandais**, a Parks Canada site. Interpreters bring the island's stories to life: in the 19th century, it served as a quarantine station where hundreds of thousands of immigrants arrived—and more than 6,000 died, many of them Irish. It's a sobering reminder of why so many Québec families have Irish surnames.

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LÉVIS
ACROSS FROM QUÉBEC CITY

Directly across the St. Lawrence from Québec City, Lévis is the largest urban centre in Chaudière-Appalaches, with about 155,000 residents. You can reach it via the Québec or Pierre-Laporte bridges—or by the ferry linking Old Québec City and Old Lévis, which comes with some of the best views of the capital.

Lévis's location made it strategically important for defence. After the British laid siege to Québec City from Lévis in 1759, they understood how critical these heights were. Between 1865 and 1872, three forts were built to guard against potential American incursions. Only **Fort Number One** remains today: a pentagonal structure and the last surviving link in Québec City's defensive chain.

Known for its shipyard, Lévis is also home to Desjardins Group, Québec's largest financial institution. In Old Lévis, visit the **Maison Alphonse-Desjardins**, where the cooperative movement's founder lived and launched his first caisse populaire. The historic district still has the feel of a prosperous Québec town.

Near the bridges, south of Highway 20, **Parc des Chutes-de-la-Chaudière** and its impressive waterfalls have long been a gathering place for members of the LGBTQ+ community.



WHERE TO EAT IN LÉVIS?

Lévis's rapid growth has brought a wave of excellent restaurants. After 17 municipalities merged to form the new city—the largest in Chaudière-Appalaches—Lévis has earned a reputation as a culinary hotspot in the National Capital Region.

Nowhere is that more obvious than in Old Lévis, between the ferry terminal and Bégin Avenue, where narrow streets are lined with restaurants and terraces.

Bégin Avenue, near the **Maison Alphonse-Desjardins**, blends history with great dining. **L'Intimiste Restaurant & Lounge** is a standout, offering refined cuisine in a quiet, elegant setting. Owner Martin Patry is known for attentive service and a menu that highlights game, fish, and seafood, paired with a carefully chosen wine list. The lounge is a warm, stylish place to linger.

Closer to the bridges, in Old Saint-Romuald, **Au Grain de Folie** Faim Bistro is a local favourite. Overlooking the St. Lawrence, this unpretentious spot serves a weekly menu built around seasonal ingredients, all thoughtfully prepared by Chef Claudine Hasty. Don't miss the black pudding or the classic desserts; a sommelier can guide you through the imported wines.

In Saint-Nicolas, blueberry lovers should stop at **Les Bleuets du Vire-Crêpe**. Pick fresh berries, browse blueberry products (including cosmetics), or settle in for pastries, desserts, and breakfast.



SEIGNEURIAL
LOTBINIÈRE

The gardens of **Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière** were designated a historic site by the Government of Québec in 1999 and a National Historic Site of Canada in 2003. The estate includes 11 heritage buildings, along with landscaping that blends historic design and contemporary plantings. This peaceful oasis features 11 themed gardens and more than 2,300 plant species.

Just 25 km from Québec City, **Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly** has preserved the feel of an old riverside village. The St. Lawrence runs alongside the main street: flowers brighten the lanes, and landmarks such as the historic church, Calvary, wayside crosses, and ancestral homes shape the village's character. Down by the water, **Les Fonds de Saint-Antoine** is a cluster of villas and cottages with wide views of passing ships and easy riverside walks.

The upper village, settled around 1680, showcases traditional homes in several styles, including three manor houses.



BEAUCE,
A LEGENDARY REGION

South of Québec City and Lévis, Beauce is a rural region in the heart of Chaudière-Appalaches. The Chaudière River runs through a string of towns—**Vallée-Jonction, Sainte-Marie, Saint-Joseph, Beauceville**, and **Saint-Georges**.

The name appears in records as early as 1739. At the time, "New Beauce" referred to the seigneuries granted along the Chaudière River. Local seigneurs borrowed the name from France's Beauce—known for its wheat production—to help attract settlers.

Beauce residents were long nicknamed "Black Legs." A trip to Québec City could take a week, and the steep, rutted roads often forced travellers to get down and push their carts. The expression is said to refer to the horses' legs, darkened by peat bogs and wetlands. For two centuries, the economy was largely agricultural, but the early 20th century brought diversification—forestry, wood processing, and leather and textile industries. By 1951, industrial production had surpassed agriculture, driven by the region's entrepreneurial spirit. Today, Beauce thrives on small and medium-sized businesses in furniture, food, clothing, printing, and metalwork.

That independent streak also helped give rise to the Beauce School of Entrepreneurship, a local institution. Until recently, Beauce was the last rural area in Québec to maintain its own gay bars; they have since closed. Near Saint-Georges, **Taylor Manor**—an Art Deco landmark built in 1917—now operates as an inn. Owners James and Paul restored the house and share the story of its builder, English seigneur Thomas



Taylor, the last lord of the 7,000-acre Cumberland Mills estate in Saint-Simon-les-Mines. Perched above Cumberland Creek and surrounded by forest, the manor is part of a heritage site that also includes an Anglican chapel, a cemetery, and the Taylor family's estate. Officially designated by the Government of Québec, the site offers breakfast, a weekly Sunday brunch, and fine dining by reservation.

ADDRESSES

Au Grain De Folie Faim Bistro 418.834.8333
2286, ch du Fleuve, **augraindefolie.com**
Saint-Romuald, G6W 1Y1

A family-run bistro on the banks of the St. Lawrence River in Old Saint-Romuald in Lévis. Chef Claudine Hasty and her brother Émile have been welcoming guests to their establishment since February 2015. They offer gourmet seasonal dishes and privately imported wines selected by sommelier Aurélien Merluzeau.

Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière 418.926.2462
7015, Route de Pointe Platon, **domainejoly.com**
Sainte-Croix, G0S 2H0

A unique natural site recognized as one of the 150 most beautiful gardens in the world, the Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière offers you numerous activities such as picnicking in the shade of large century-old trees, admiring butterflies and flowers in the gardens, collecting seashells along the riverbank, encountering giants during a walk in the ancient forest and discovering the exhibitions of a Manor steeped in history.

Halte 266 418.728.5522
1878, 5e rang Ouest, Joly, G0S 1M0 **lahalte266.com**

Discover this enchanting site with its wooded trails, its island, its wilderness camping, its large grounds, its naturist section (with pool and shower), and its dedicated and welcoming staff.









FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA

About 35 minutes east of the bridges in Québec City, the South Shore sits at the foot of the Appalachians and offers a chain of villages along the St. Lawrence.

By the late 17th century, after the Côte-de-Beaupré and Côte-de-Lauzon were settled opposite Québec City, the South Shore had become one of New France's most populated regions. Shaped by both farming and the river, it showcases many sides of Québec's landscapes and culture.

Begin in **Berthier-sur-Mer**, where the river widens into an estuary. Just west of Montmagny, this riverside resort village has attracted vacationers since the early 20th century. Walk the wharf, visit the marina, or stretch out on the beach—often described as the first natural beach on the St. Lawrence Estuary—for wide views of the islands and Mont Sainte-Anne across the water. From here, you can also visit Grosse Île, a Parks Canada site. At **Motel La Plage**, you're practically on the shoreline.

THE ELEGANCE OF THE SNOW GOOSE

MONTMAGNY

Montmagny, one of the South Shore's main towns, sits where fresh and salt water meet. Close to the Île-aux-Grues archipelago and easily accessible by river, the area is a haven for shorebirds. Every October, the **Snow Goose Festival** marks the birds' southbound migration, drawing hunters and nature lovers alike. Snow geese are the headliners, but ducks and Canada geese are also hunted here. Anglers can also try their luck with Atlantic sturgeon.

The town traces its roots to one of the South Shore's oldest seigneuries. For more than a century, it was home to the Bélanger stoves factory, which closed after being sold to an American company in 2004. At the mouth of the Montmagny Basin, the river station offers free ferry rides to **Île-aux-Grues**. For birdwatching and waterfront walks, head to the Pointe-aux-Oies promenade, the Bassin promenade, or the Jardin des Stumps. **Old Montmagny**, with its cafés, patios, and restaurants, has an inviting small-town feel—with a hint of Old-World charm.





L'ISLET-SUR-MER
HOME OF SAILORS

Between Montmagny and Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, the village of L'Islet-sur-Mer—often called the "home of sailors"—has produced nearly 200 mariners: captains, pilots, shipowners, and shipbuilders. A visit to the **Musée maritime du Québec** is essential, as it honours the legacy of Captain J.-E. Bernier (1852–1934).

An intrepid navigator, Bernier sailed widely—from the St. Lawrence to the tropics—but he is best known for his Arctic voyages. Between 1906 and 1925, he led 12 expeditions and spent eight winters in the Far North. On July 1, 1909, he placed a plaque on Melville Island to affirm Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic archipelago.

The museum includes an outdoor park with historic vessels, a heritage building devoted to maritime exhibits, and a boathouse where visitors can learn about traditional wooden shipbuilding.

In the village centre, **Auberge La Marguerite** welcomes guests in an ancestral home with eight comfortable rooms, a lovely garden, and a spa. The dining room serves a generous à la carte breakfast, and the inn and restaurant have earned multiple People's Choice awards in recent years.

SCULPTURE IN SAINT-JEAN-PORT-JOLI

Saint-Jean-Port-Joli is a key stop on the South Shore. Named after the 1677 seigneury of Port-Joly, it is widely considered Québec's woodcarving capital (while Baie-Saint-Paul, in Charlevoix, is known for contemporary art). Visitors come for the marina, workshops, galleries, restaurants, and welcoming inns.

Architectural gems abound. The village church, built in 1779 and now a historic monument, is known for its coffered ceiling and thousands of rosette motifs; many of its religious artworks were made by local artists. The **Musée des Anciens Canadiens** traces the village's sculptural and artisanal history, explaining why the area has earned a reputation as a craft capital. Life-sized sculptures of figures such as René Lévesque, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Félix Leclerc—and even Harry Potter—add a playful note.

Don't miss the **Musée de la mémoire vivante** (Museum of Living Memory), whose exhibits draw on personal stories and oral history. Housed in the former seigniorial manor, it was once home to Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, author of Les anciens Canadiens and Mémoires. Nearby, **Parc des Trois-Bérets** displays bronze and stone sculptures in a riverside floral



©marie-pierre morin

garden, beautifully lit at night.

The **Motorcycle Museum**, Canada's first dedicated to motorcycle history, features the Gagnon brothers' collection and a permanent exhibit on the evolution of motorcycles worldwide.

The tourist season begins in June with the **Saint-Jean-Port-Joli International Sculpture Symposium**. For about 10 days, professional sculptors create works live in front of visitors and share their techniques; many pieces remain in the village, expanding the open-air collection at Parc des Trois-Bérets.

In August, the **Sea Shanty Festival** celebrates maritime heritage with workshops, competitions, races, a port market, films and exhibitions, music and dance, seafood tastings, storytelling, and family activities. The four-day event is one of the summer's highlights.



LOCAL FLAVOURS

Hungry in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli? Here are a few go-to addresses. For on-site roasted coffee, tea, croissants, muffins, or a simple continental breakfast, stop by **Café Bonté Divine**. It's a cozy place to fuel up before a stroll along the river or a visit to local artisans.

La Libellule has been serving homemade food for more than 30 years—and you can bring your own wine. Expect hearty soups, fresh-baked bread, creative pitas and pizzas, generous sandwiches, salads, and vegetarian dishes.

For something more substantial, **La Coureuse des Grèves** occupies a beautifully restored heritage house in the village centre. Its market-driven menu changes with the season, and the covered, heated terrace makes it an easy choice year-round. Chef Patrick Gonfond's cooking is bright, local, and harvest-led.

With sweeping river views, **La Marina** sits in one of the region's prettiest marinas. Open from April to December, it's known for its summer terrace, fresh ingredients, and extensive wine list. Owner Julie Lévesque—previously owner of Café Azimut in La Pocatière—has turned it into a welcoming spot for lingering over a meal or a cocktail.

Just steps away, **Pub Ras l'Bock** is a microbrewery founded by three lifelong friends from Saint-Jean-Port-Joli. Since 2015, it has become a local favourite, with a wide range of beers and new seasonal releases each year. They don't serve meals, but their suggested pairings are a fun guide for beer lovers.

ADDRESSES

Auberge La Marguerite 418.247.5454
88, Chemin des Pionniers E **aubergelamarguerite.com**
L'Islet, QC G0R 2B0
Near the river, an invitation to experience the history of the South Shore awaits you. In a warm, heritage home, superior accommodations await, equipped with modern amenities.

Café Bonté Divine 418.598.3330
2, chemin du Roy Est, **cafebontedivine.com**
Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, G0R 3G0
Fancy a good coffee roasted on site, accompanied by a croissant or a muffin? We're here to help!

Fête de St-Jean-Port-Joli 418.598.9465
260-A, Rue Caron, **lacofec.org**
Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, G0R 3G0
This festival celebrates maritime culture from here and elsewhere. Shows, talks, nautical activities, dancing, workshops, and a harbor market.

La Coureuse des Grèves 418.598.9111
300, route de l'église, **coureusedesgreves.com**
Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, G0R 3G0
Throughout the four seasons, La Coureuse des Grèves invites you to a constantly reinvented table featuring local flavors. Warm welcome and attentive service.

La Marina Resto-Bar 418.919.3147
20, rue des Pionnier Est **lamarinarestobar.com**
Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, G0R 3G0
The Marina in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli offers a magnificent view; it's the perfect place to feel like you're on vacation. The menu features dishes made with fresh ingredients, and the wines are selected by the sommelier.

Microbrasserie Ras L'Bock 418.358.0888
50, Rue du Quai, **raslbock.com**
Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, G0R 3G0
Located across from the Saint-Jean-Port-Joli wharf, on the second floor of the renowned Bistro OK restaurant, Pub Ras L'Bock is the place for all kinds of fun. You'll find 13 taps of house-brewed beer to enjoy in a surprising and magnificent setting, with the added bonus of a breathtaking view of the majestic St. Lawrence River.

Musée de Sculpture sur Bois des Anciens Canadiens 418.598.3392
332, av. de Gaspé Ouest **museedesancienscanadiens.com**
Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, G0R 3G0
The largest interpretation center and most prestigious woodcarving museum in America.

Restaurant La Libellule 418.598.9644
17, Place de l'église, **restaurantlibellule.com**
Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, G0R 3G0
Enjoy delicious pitas and all kinds of salads in our dining room or to take away. Full lunches available, sunny terrace.



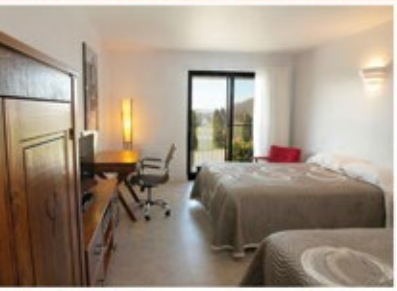




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THIS 19TH-CENTURY RIVIERA

Beyond Île d'Orléans, the St. Lawrence waters grow saltier as they reach the Bas-Saint-Laurent—also called the Lower River. This marks the start of Québec's vast maritime region, stretching over 1,000 kilometers.

While the St. Lawrence Valley has long been shaped by agriculture, fishing has an even deeper history here. As early as the 15th century, Basque fishermen sailed from Europe to these shores, leaving their mark on the area now known as *Les Basques*, near Trois-Pistoles.

Tourism took off in the 19th century with the arrival of the transcontinental railway. From Kamouraska to Métis-sur-Mer, on the edge of neighboring Gaspé Peninsula, Montréal's bourgeoisie flocked to the coast to escape the pollution of the Industrial Revolution. The elegant villas they built earned the region its nickname: the Riviera.

The poet Émile Nelligan, born into a bourgeois family, spent summers in Cacouna. Inspired by tales of shipwrecks, he wrote his most famous work, *Le Vaisseau d'Or* (*The Golden Ship*).

With the rise of automobile travel and New England seaside resorts, the Riviera's appeal faded among the wealthiest visitors. Many of the old villas have since been converted into charming inns, offering travelers a chance to experience the dramatic meeting of river and sea.

For those expecting sandy shores, the Bas-Saint-Laurent delivers the first true beaches along the saltwater St. Lawrence River. Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer, a seaside gem near Rimouski, is a must-visit for sea lovers. Though this sparsely populated region stretches 200 kilometers along the coast—with Rimouski, its largest city (population 50,000)—LGBTQ+ nightlife is low-key. Still, a vibrant queer community has thrived here for over two decades, and several LGBTQ+-friendly establishments welcome visitors to enjoy the region's peaceful rhythm, where nature and the sea take center stage.



LA POCATIÈRE

A town of 4,000 people, La Pocatière anchors the rural Kamouraska region, a 60-kilometre stretch along the edge of Lower St. Lawrence. Its student population thrives thanks to the regional CEGEP and the **Institut de technologie agricole (ITA)**, which serves all of eastern Québec.

The CEGEP's performance hall sits on the campus of the striking **Collège de La Pocatière**, a former classical college founded in 1827. It's named after André Gagnon, the internationally acclaimed pianist from the nearby village of **Saint-Pacôme**.

At the town's heart, the **Musée québécois de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation** (Québec Museum of Agriculture and Food), also on the college campus, offers a look at traditional rural life.

Beyond academics and culture, La Pocatière is an industrial hub, home to Alstom Transport's railway equipment plant. Built on bluffs above tidal flats, the town offers sweeping views of the estuary and the Charlevoix coast across the water.

A common stop for travellers heading to the Gaspé peninsula, La Pocatière benefits from the ITA's influence, which has driven the Lower St. Lawrence's agri-food revival.

Don't miss **Le Mouton Blanc**, an artisanal cheese factory where you can sample the famous T**omme du Kamouraska** and other sheep's milk cheeses, along with lamb products.



KAMOURASKA

A SCENIC ESCAPE



Kamouraska lines the southern shore of the Bas-Saint-Laurent, a string of villages founded in the late 17th century. The village of Kamouraska stands out for its blend of historic charm and stunning landscapes. From the heights of Mont Coton and Mont Cabouron, the view unfolds over rolling farmland, quiet villages, the St. Lawrence River, and the distant Laurentian Mountains of Charlevoix. Along the estuary's edge, eel-fishing nets dot the foreshore, the Kamouraska archipelago stretches offshore, and sunsets paint the sky in vivid hues.

This 300-year-old village invites exploration through its museum, art centre, and cultural events. Many of its historic homes now operate as cozy inns, including LGBTQ+-friendly options like the 19th-century **Villa Thomas Ward**.

Settled around 1692, Kamouraska flourished under the Taché family's seigneury. Though damaged during the 1759 Conquest, it became a fashionable retreat by the early 1800s. Nearby, Saint-Pascal—now the region's administrative hub—offers modern services along Highway 20.

To uncover the area's past, visit the **Musée régional de Kamouraska**. Housed in an 1851 convent, the museum explores fishing, navigation, and agriculture through guided tours that highlight the village's architectural heritage.

Sunsets here are unforgettable. From the southern shore, the sun sinks behind the Laurentian Mountains or casts golden reflections across the St. Lawrence River. Between Kamouraska and Rivière-du-Loup, the light is said to create "golden bridges" over the water—a spectacle best enjoyed with the crisp sea air.

Artists have long been drawn to this landscape. The **Centre d'art de Kamouraska** showcases contemporary works through exhibitions, workshops, and lectures. In **Saint-André-de-Kamouraska**, the **Maison culturelle Armand Vaillancourt** supports emerging artists with exhibitions, events, and a community café.

For a nature retreat, **L'Ébranché** near **Saint-Bruno-de-Kamouraska** offers unique stays in treehouse yurts and rustic cabins. Just minutes from the St. Lawrence River, it's a perfect escape for solo travelers, couples, or groups.

THE TASTE OF KAMOURASKA



When visiting Kamouraska, you simply must sample the local flavors: the opportunities are too good to pass up. You won't want to miss the **smoked eel**, a regional specialty.

Niemand Bakery has been a local institution for twenty years, offering breads and pastries made with local flours and a touch of German flair from the baker-miller. Next door, the **Côté Est café-bistro** is a must-visit for food lovers, showcasing regional specialties and local flavors. For a breathtaking view of the river, enjoy an ice cream on the terrace of La Fée Gourmande chocolate shop and stock up on their tempting array of chocolate treats. In the former **La Fée Gourmande** location, the Chez Casgrain village café is open every day, year-round. It's sure to charm you in many ways.

In La Pocatière, for over 30 years, **Azimut Resto Urbain** has been offering delicious cuisine, using only the finest ingredients that have earned it its reputation. Enjoy dishes inspired by international cuisine, such as seafood, grilled meats, regional specialties, and the delectable salmon tartare.

Its covered front patio makes the experience even more enjoyable in season.

Le Mouton Blanc, a unique farm in the Lower St. Lawrence region, produces fine raw sheep's milk cheeses, exclusive to the Kamouraska terroir, including the famous **Tomme** with its mild, rich, and slightly sweet flavor. Directly at the farm, you can discover over 40 artisanal cheeses, meats and charcuterie, and gourmet grocery products from the Lower St. Lawrence.









RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP
HEART OF THE BAS-SAINT-LAURENT

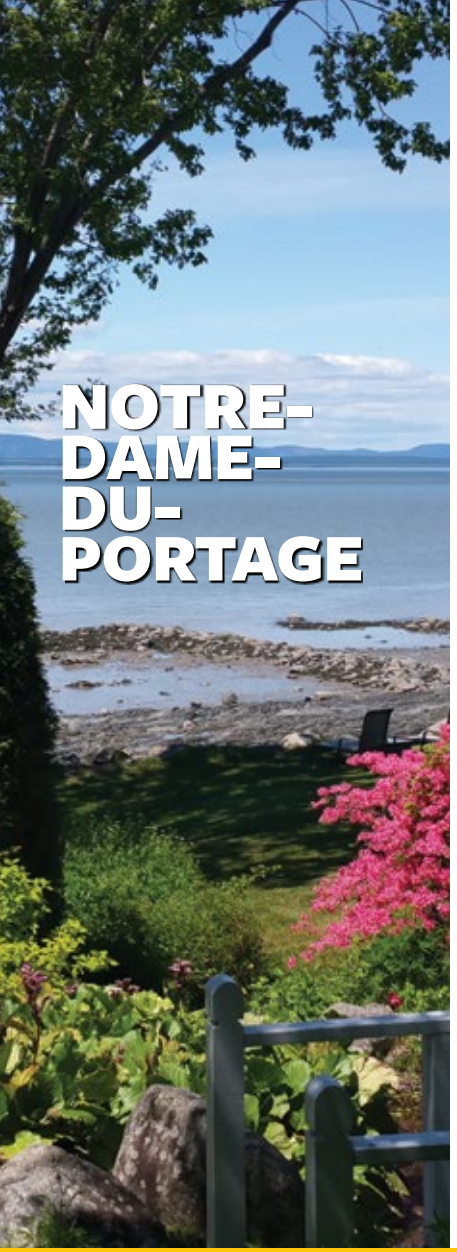
Rivière-du-Loup sits at the heart of the Bas-Saint-Laurent, where the landscape shifts from the St. Lawrence Valley to sweeping coastal vistas. From the charming villages of Kamouraska to the towns of Rivière-du-Loup, Cacouna, and Trois-Pistoles, shades of blue dominate the scene.

With 20,000 residents, Rivière-du-Loup is the region's largest city and a key crossroads. It links Témiscouata—and beyond, to the Saint John River Valley in New-Brunswick—with Charlevoix and the Saguenay via the ferry to Saint-Siméon. The Trans-Canada Highway also branches off here, heading through Témiscouata toward the Maritime provinces.

Whale-watching cruises depart from Rivière-du-Loup, offering one of the best vantage points on the south shore of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park. Fin whales, belugas, seals, and seabirds are common sights, while the rugged shoreline—dotted with islands and historic lighthouses—unfolds along the way. **Parc de la Pointe**, at the base of a steep promontory jutting into the river, is a local favorite, its salt air and landscaped grounds drawing visitors year-round.

In the city center, **rue Lafontaine** is the main hub for dining and nightlife. Once overshadowed by big-box stores, this historic commercial street now buzzes with restaurants, bars, and cafés. Nearby, **parc Blais** hosts summer festivals and transforms into an ice rink in winter. The park was set to host the fifth edition of Fierté Rivière-du-Loup pride event in May 2025. Along the Rivière du Loup—the river that gives the city its name—**parc des Chutes** and its Platin sector showcase the region's hydroelectric heritage. A 33-meter waterfall is the park's centerpiece, while trails, picnic spots, and footbridges offer scenic views of the river and its urban ecosystems.

For a glimpse into the past, the **Saint-Patrice** district, west of rue Fraser, reflects the era when the Anglo-Canadian bourgeoisie summered here. From 1871 to 1890, Canadian Prime Minister John A. Macdonald and his cabinet frequented the area. Later, politicians Ernest Lapointe and Louis Saint-Laurent continued the tradition. Today, the waterfront is lined with grand villas set amid meticulously landscaped grounds.



NOTRE-DAME-DU-PORTAGE

Just west of Rivière-du-Loup, the village of Notre-Dame-du-Portage is one of the best-preserved settlements from the 19th century. Its collection of century-old summer homes lines the shore, all offering sweeping views of the St. Lawrence River. A small sandy beach near the wharf makes a quiet spot for a swim.

A short drive away, the Fraser seigniorial estate is a designated heritage site. The 1829 manor house, outbuildings, and grounds anchor the historic Rivière-du-Loup circuit.

For a taste of island life, head to **Île Verte**, a short trip from Rivière-du-Loup. With fewer than 50 residents, the island feels frozen in time—houses are still known by the names of their original owners. The heritage trail includes three stops: the Michaud School, the Skeleton Museum, and the lighthouse site. The Île Verte Lighthouse, built between 1806 and 1809, was the first on the St. Lawrence River and one of Canada's earliest. It remained in use until 1972.



DINING OUT

Rivière-du-Loup packs a surprising number of excellent LGBTQ+-friendly restaurants into its compact downtown, especially along **rue Lafontaine**.

Start at **Pain Gamin**, a bakery that turns out artisanal sourdough, fougasses, and all-butter pastries daily. The shelves are stocked with whole-grain and stone-ground breads, pizzas, cakes, and cookies, all made from Québec flours. Pair your pick with Italian-style espresso, fair-trade tea, or a light lunch.

A short walk away, **Le Bistro L'Inter** serves up grilled meats, kebabs, stir-fries, and calf's liver on a patio that's the most charming in town. The wine list is equally generous.

For a more refined meal, head to **Saint-Patrice** on **rue Fraser**, near the major hotels. Once a retreat for Canada's prime ministers, the restaurant now offers French-inspired dishes built from local ingredients in two distinct spaces: the chic, relaxed **Saint-Patrice** dining room and the sleeker **Novello** section.

Just outside town in **Notre-Dame-du-Portage**, **Auberge sur mer** has been a landmark since 1878. The fourth generation of the April family now runs the inn and its seasonal restaurant, **April Bistro**, where lunch and dinner menus spotlight local ingredients against a backdrop of the **St. Lawrence River** and its sunsets.

ADDRESSES

Auberge Sur Mer
aubergesurmer.ca
418.862.0642
363, route du Fleuve
Notre-Dame-du-Portage G0L 1Y0

A century-old inn located a few steps from the St. Lawrence River, in the beautiful village of Notre-Dame-du-Portage, close to Rivière-du-Loup, at the crossroads to the Maritimes and the Gaspé Peninsula.

Bistro l'Inter
interbistrogrill.com
418.862.3321
407, rue Lafontaine
Rivière-du-Loup (QC) G5R 3B6

In the heart of Rivière-du-Loup on Lafontaine Street, Bistro l'Inter offers a grill menu that will delight meat lovers with its certified Angus beef, skewers, stir-fries, and veal liver. A good wine selection and one of the most beautiful terraces on the street.

Boulangerie artisanale Au Pain Gamin
paingamin.ca
418.862.0650
288, rue Lafontaine
Rivière-du-Loup (QC) G5R 3A8

On the garden side is the bakery and its shop, while on the courtyard side is a friendly café where you can enjoy baked goods.

Motel au Fleuve d'Argent
fleuveargent.com
418.862.5315
202, rue Fraser
Rivière-du-Loup (QC) G5R 4C3

Relax on the porch of your cottage or motel while admiring the majestic sunset views of the Lower St. Lawrence or take advantage of the swings and play areas for the little ones.

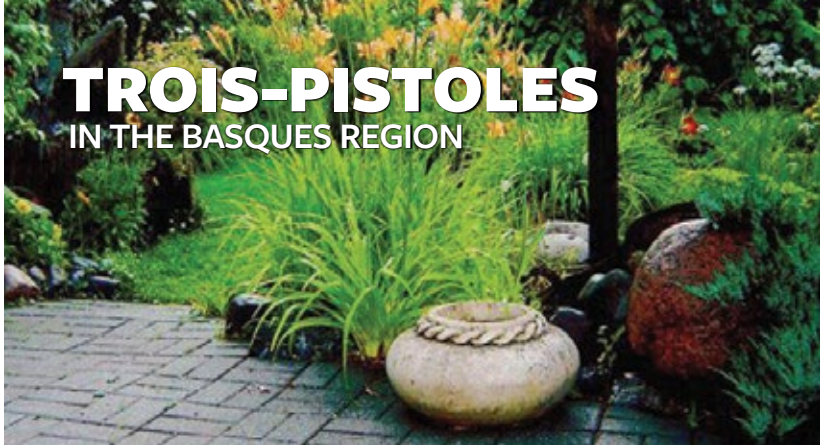
Motel au Vieux Piloteux
motelauvieuxpiloteux.com
418.867.2635
185, rue Fraser
Rivière-du-Loup (QC) G5R 1E2

Offering quality and comfort at an affordable price with 23 modern, comfortable, and well-appointed rooms.

Musée du Bas St-Laurent
mbsl.qc.ca
418.862.7547
300, rue Saint-Pierre
Rivière-du-Loup (QC) G5R 3V3

With a mission focused on contemporary Quebec art and regional history, the museum offers exhibitions and activities suitable for all audiences. It features a permanent exhibition highlighting the history, people, and culture of the region.





TROIS-PISTOLES
IN THE BASQUES REGION

Midway between Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski, Trois-Pistoles sits at the heart of the Basques region. The name honors Basque fishermen who arrived in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the late15th century—long before Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence River. These fishermen hunted whales and traded with First Nations, leaving traces later uncovered in 1990 through archaeological digs on the Ile aux Basques. The discoveries inspired the 1996 opening of **Parc de l'Aventure Basque en Amérique**.

Tales and Legends

For 30 years, Trois-Pistoles has hosted the **Rendez-vous des Grandes Gueules,** a festival celebrating Francophone storytelling. In October 2022, the event marked its 25th anniversary with a return to in-person gatherings, featuring diverse voices and unforgettable performances.

The **Forge à Bérubé** began as the region's first storytelling festival, held while blacksmith Bérubé still worked the forge. After acquiring the site in 2000, organizers transformed it into a professional cultural venue while preserving its heritage character. Today, the forge hosts film screenings, musical performances, theatrical productions, and creative residencies, serving as a cultural hub for Trois-Pistoles.

Art and legend lovers should visit the **Jardin des Légendes** (Garden of Legends). Behind a heritage home—now the **Déco Fleurs** florist—this riverside retreat brings local legends to life through sculptures. From Trois-Pistoles, a ferry connects to **Les Escoumins** on the **Haute-Côte-Nord**.



DINING OUT

The **Fromagerie des Basques** is a must-visit in Trois-Pistoles, offering aged and fresh cheeses, curds, and regional products. In town, **Biarritz** restaurant serves seafood, grilled meats, pasta, and kebabs—all BYOB. Its terrace overlooks the estuary, and the restaurant also offers takeout and ready-to-eat meals.

For coffee and light bites, stop by **Grains de Folie** café. For decadent cakes and chocolates, visit **Aux Petits Caprices** in **Saint-Simon-de-Rimouski**, on the edge of the Basques region.

ADDRESSES

Aux Petits Caprices
418.738.2354
197, Route 132
Saint-Simon-de-Rimouski
QC G0L 4C0

The unassuming front of this pastry shop and café hides the extraordinary cakes and creations of Suzanne Lanthier and Paul Marineau, exceptional and almost legendary pastry chefs.

Hôtel La Liberdad
Réservations : lamarbella.ca
418.851.2736
734, rue Notre-Dame Est,
Trois-Pistoles (QC) G0L 4K0

With a view of the river, this small, cozy hotel with a contemporary feel has beautiful, comfortable, and modern rooms with one or two beds. Nineteen units including telephone, cable, Wi-Fi, large parking lot, air conditioning, and rest area.

Restaurant Le Biarritz
lebiarritz.ca
418.851.4705
89, rue Notre Dame Ouest
Trois-Pistoles (QC) G0L 4K0

Bring-your-own-wine restaurant with terrace. Varied cuisine offering fish, seafood, salads, meals, pasta, and kebabs. Table d'hôte menu, affordable à la carte menu, and relaxed atmosphere.



TÉMISCOUATA-SUR-LE-LAC

Leave Rivière-du-Loup behind and follow the Témiscouata Valley inland, where the landscape shifts to rolling forests and Acadian countryside. Here, the legendary Republic of Madawaska blends Québécois and Acadian cultures into a distinct Brayonne identity—one that spans Québec, New Brunswick, and Maine. In 2014, Témiscouata-sur-le-lac hosted the World Acadian Congress.

The Madawaska River, which flows into the Saint John River, begins in Lake Témiscouata, a 45-kilometre expanse and the second-largest lake on the south shore of the St. Lawrence river. Warmer than the coast and dotted with freshwater beaches, the lake is ideal for swimming.

Lake Témiscouata National Park protects a slice of the Acadian forest and the Notre-Dame Mountains. Hiking, cycling, boating, and interpretive programs reveal 10,000 years of human history amid pristine nature.

Nearby, the resort town of **Pohénégamook** offers outdoor activities and natural spas. Across the lake in **Auclair**, visit **Domaine Vallier Robert**, a maple winery since 1996. Tour the eco-museum, sample oak-barrel-aged products, and pick up a unique regional souvenir.

Half an hour from Rivière-du-Loup, **Parc du Mont-Citadelle** in **Saint-Honoré-de-Témiscouata** is a renovated outdoor centre with chalets, yurts, and campsites. The summit of Mont-Citadelle—one of Témiscouata's highest peaks—offers sweeping views of the St. Lawrence River and the Charlevoix mountains.

ADDRESSES

Domaine Vallier Robert, économusée de l'acériculture
domainevallierrobert.ca
418.899.2825
145, rue du Vieux Moulin
Auclair (QC) G0L 1A0

Refinement, balance, and quality. The estate showcases maple in a contemporary, educational, gourmet, and unexpected way. Specializing in maple-based alcoholic beverages.

Hôtel 1212
le1212.com
418.853.1212
612, avenue Principale
Dégelis (QC) G5T 0E2

Located in Dégelis, near Lake Témiscouata, it offers a relaxing stopover for travelers or tourists in transit to the Maritimes. It also boasts an exceptional restaurant, the Microbrasserie Madawaska, which will satisfy even the most demanding appetites and alates.

Microbrasserie Madawaska
madawaska.beer
418 853-1212
612, avenue Principale
Dégelis QC G5T 0E2

A few kilometers from the New Brunswick border, the Hotel 1212 offers dining services at the Madawaska Microbrewery. Guests can enjoy beers brewed on site as well as dishes prepared by the chef. The menu is inspired by the seasons and local products.





THE CHARM OF LE BIC

Between Rimouski—the main city of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region—and the seaside resort of Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer lies Le Bic and its national park. **Parc national du Bic** unfolds along the shores of the St. Lawrence River where dramatic headlands, sheltered bays, hidden coves, and rugged islands create a landscape of striking beauty. Thousands of seabirds nest on the cliffs, rare plants cling to the rocks, and seals bask along the shoreline. The park hums with the sounds and scents of the sea, while ocean breezes carry the promise of some of the world's most breathtaking sunsets—just as locals insist.

While Rimouski lost much of its historic architecture in the 1950 fire, Le Bic has preserved several inns dating back 150 to 200 years. In the village center, **Auberge du Mange-Grenouille** stands out with its 22 rooms in a building from the 1840s, making it one of the region's most popular inns and restaurants. Nearby, the **Gîte de la Baie Hâtée**, an 1820 ancestral home, once welcomed mostly English-speaking visitors. During World War II, it even housed the Prime Minister of Luxembourg. For a seaside escape, **Refuge du Vieux Loup de Mer** offers authentic chalets near Parc national du Bic. Those seeking a modern, eco-friendly stay can opt for **Domaine Floravie**, where seven mobile all-wood cabins provide stunning views of the river. Designed to minimize environmental impact, the cabins are moved closer to the river in summer and to sheltered spots before autumn tides arrive.



ALL THE FLAVOURS OF THE
BAS-DU-FLEUVE

Rimouski, a university town and regional hub, offers a diverse dining scene that showcases the best of the Bas-Saint-Laurent. From refined French cuisine to artisanal sweets, the area delivers unforgettable tastes.

Le Bic, a picturesque village now part of Rimouski, is home to one of the region's most celebrated restaurants: **Auberge du Mange-Grenouille**. 2025, the inn marked its 35th season, cementing its reputation as a benchmark for fine dining in the Bas-Saint-Laurent. Housed in a century-old building, the restaurant welcomes guests in a uniquely decorated dining room where owner Mathieu Deschênes and chef Félix St-Pierre prioritize warm hospitality, local ingredients, and human connection. Their menu highlights seasonal produce, paired with wines, beers, and spirits from regional producers.

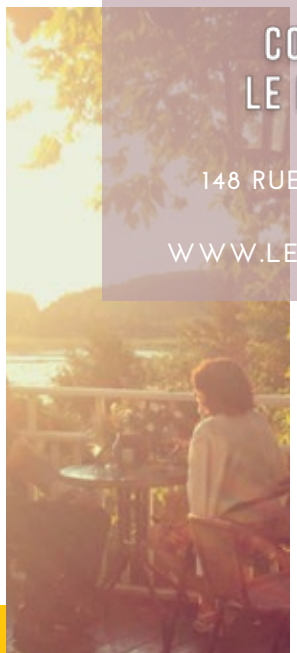
For an overnight stay, the inn offers comfortable rooms—some with courtyard or garden views—and the *Le Grenier* suite, featuring a private terrace and panoramic views of the Îles du Bic. Breakfast is served daily, and the lobby boutique showcases local artisans, offering unique creations and Mange-Grenouille-branded items. Don't miss the terrace for late-af-



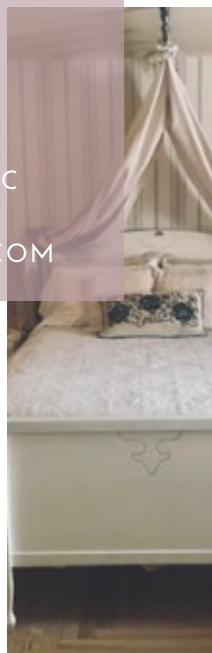
LE MANGE GRENOUILLE
INN AND RESTAURANT

COME ENJOY WHAT
LE BIC HAS TO OFFER

148 RUE SAINTE-CÉCILE-DU-BIC
LE BIC, QC
WWW.LEMANGEGRENOUILLE.COM







ternoon cocktails and sunset views over the islands.

Nearby, **Croqu'Érable** crafts artisanal maple fondant using an ancestral method. The shop also sells maple-infused chocolates, berry-maple blends, chocolate port glasses, bars, and exclusive pieces, along with sublime jams made from local berries.

ADDRESSES

Auberge du Mange-Grenouille
aubergedumangegrenouille.qc.ca
418.736.5656
148, rue Ste-Cécile-du-Bic
Le Bic (QC) G0L 1B0

An exceptional stop for food lovers seeking new terroir experiences. Indulge in gourmet cuisine, an impressive wine list, an outdoor spa, and a secret garden overlooking the Îles du Bic.

Domaine Floravie
domainefloravie.com
418.736.4000
100, route Santerre
Le Bic (QC) G0L 1B0

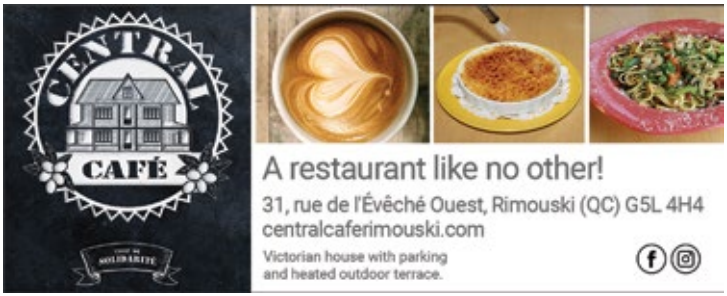
Tiny House cottages in a flower-filled field offer sweeping views of the sea and mountains. The region is renowned for its stunning sunsets.

Gîte aux 5 lucarnes du Bic
gite-aux-5-lucarnes.business.site
418.750.7141
2175, QC-132 Est
Rimouski (QC) G0L 1B0

This cottage invites you to relax and explore. Enjoy nearby Parc national du Bic with hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, wildlife observation, golf, sea excursions, and horseback riding. Many other attractions are just a short distance away.

Gite de la Baie Hatée
gitedelabaiehatee.wordpress.com
418.736.5668
2271, route QC-132 Est
Le Bic (QC) G0L 1B0

The Maison de la Baie Hatée, an ancestral home dating back to 1820, once served as a refuge for the Prime Minister of Luxembourg during World War II. Start your day with a hearty breakfast featuring homemade dishes, and reserve an evening meal for a delicious dinner. Certified massage therapy and osteopathy services are available by appointment.





RIMOUSKI
A CITY BY THE SEA

Rimouski sits on the edge of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, just before the Gaspé Peninsula, and is Eastern Québec's largest city on the South Shore, with a population of 46,000. This lively university town offers a welcoming LGBTQ+ scene and a vibrant cultural and nightlife hub along Saint-Germain Boulevard. Between Le Bic to the west and Saint-Luce-sur-Mer to the east, the area delivers a mix of maritime adventures—sandy beaches, sea kayaking, and more.

For nearly 30 years, Rimouski has been the heart of LGBTQ+ life in the Bas-Saint-Laurent. It hosts the Eastern Québec Gay and Lesbian Coalition and the regional HIV prevention organization MAINS Bas-St-Laurent. The city also celebrates **FestiQueer**, a winter festival that brightens the region for a decade. **Uniphare** (formerly MAINS Bas-St-Laurent) serves the broader Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie regions, offering support, information, and services in sexual and emotional health, gender identity, harm reduction, and more for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, sex workers, and drug users. Drag shows occasionally light up the performance hall at **Coopérative de solidarité Bains publics**, and Rimouski is now home to its first drag troupe, **Haus of Boudoir**.

Though the 1950 fire left the city center with few historic buildings, Rimouski preserves one of


Haus of Boudoir

the region's rare New France-era structures: the **Lamontagne house**. Built around 1744, this half-timbered pierroté home is one of the last examples of its kind in New France. An 1810 extension expanded its original square plan, and today it operates as an interpretive center for life in New France.

From the Rimouski marina, a shuttle runs to **Île Saint-Barnabé**, three kilometers offshore. The island is a key migratory stop for over 72 bird species, including cormorants and great blue herons.

Each Labour Day weekend, downtown Rimouski transforms for its **jazz festival**, now in its 30th edition. The lineup features world-renowned artists, rising international stars, Québec's top jazz acts, and emerging regional talent.

About 10 kilometers from Rimouski, the **Medieval Festival of Saint-Marcellin** in August offers a three-day escape to the year 1000. Tournaments, a medieval village with a 15-meter watchtower, a trebuchet, and the famous Lord of the Manor banquet bring history to life.

In July, the **Grandes Fêtes du Saint-Laurent** draws crowds with its mix of Québec and international music stars alongside up-and-coming artists—one of the biggest festivals east of Québec City.

Before the holiday season, the **Marché des Saveurs du Bas-Saint-Laurent** gathers dozens of regional artisan producers, making it a must for food lovers.







POINTE-AU-PÈRE
HISTORIC SITE

Rimouski's maritime museums offer a deep dive into the region's seafaring past. The standout is the **Site historique maritime de la Pointe-au-Père**. Here, you can explore the former lighthouse station and climb the 1909 lighthouse—one of Canada's tallest—which once guided ships along the St. Lawrence River. The tour takes you to the top for sweeping views of the river.

Next door, the ***Musée Empress of Ireland*** recounts the tragic story of the Empress of Ireland, a luxury liner that sank in 1914 with the loss of 1,012 lives. Often overshadowed by the Titanic, this disaster is brought to life through recovered artifacts, photographs, interactive exhibits, and firsthand accounts. A multimedia presentation recreates the ship's final hours.

For a hands-on experience, step aboard the **Onondaga**, Canada's only publicly accessible submarine. The audio-guided tour reveals the cramped, high-stakes world of the 60 crew members who lived aboard the 90-meter vessel. For a deeper immersion, you can even spend a night on board, sleeping in the same quarters as submariners.

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MAISON DE TORRÉFACTION



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173, Saint-Germain Ouest, Rimouski (QC) G5L 4B8
418 721-7776 • lemoussonneur.ca



DINING OUT ON SAINT-GERMAIN STREET

Saint-Germain Street is the heart of downtown Rimouski, lined with LGBTQ+-friendly spots that make it the city's liveliest dining hub. In summer, the **Urban Terraces** spill onto the sidewalks, offering the perfect way to sample the street's best restaurants.

Just off Saint-Germain on Belzile Street, **Le Bien et le Malt** has been a pioneer since 2008. This craft brewery pours nine beers brewed on-site, along with meads, ciders, and a curated selection of imported wines and scotches.

Across the street, **Yin Yan Sushi** delivers the freshest seafood in town. With the sea so close, their nigiri, sashimi, hosomaki, and maki are hard to resist—plus sushi pizzas and Asian classics like tuna steak, beef tataki, and crispy shrimp.

Nearby, **Union Pacifique** has spent over 15 years refining contemporary French cuisine, pairing it with artfully presented wines in a rustic-chic space.

A short walk from Avenue de la Cathédrale, **Le Narval** redefines Eastern Québec's local flavors with inventive, high-end dishes.

LE
Ketch

ANCHORED IN SAINTE-FLAVIE!



Beautiful outdoor terrace with a spectacular view of the river



490, route de la Mer, Sainte-Flavie(QC) G0J 2L0
418 775-8129
leketch.com



Its 2025 Michelin star made it the first outside Montréal and Québec City.

At the corner of Saint-Louis, **Club Saint-Louis** brings a fresh twist to casual dining. Run by the team behind **Mange-Grenouille**, this sandwich shop serves up affordable, chef-made sandwiches, soups, and salads, all paired with beers from Rimouski's L'Octant microbrewery.

The area around **Gaïa** health food store and **Saint-Germain Market** is packed with gourmet stops. Le Farinographe, an artisanal bakery across the street, offers breads and pastries perfect for takeout or freezing. Nearby, **Péchés Mignons** has been a destination for 30 years, stocking high-end chocolates, pastries, loose-leaf teas, and confections from Québec and beyond.

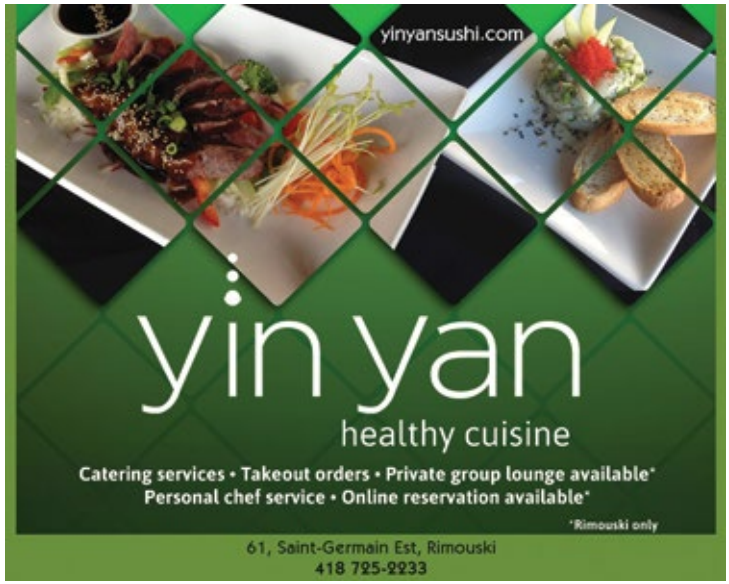
For coffee with a maritime twist, **Le Moussonneur** on Rue Saint-Germain roasts its beans in-house, soaking them in seawater from the Magdalen Islands before sun-drying and roasting. The café-lounge's expert baristas craft espresso blends and host tastings in a cozy setting.

Across the street, **L'Arlequin** bistro serves refined regional dishes that have put Bas-Saint-Laurent on the culinary map. Bring your own wine to complete the experience.

On de l'Évêché Street West, **Central Café**—a solidarity cooperative since 2015—keeps its menu fresh with local ingredients. Try the burgers, shrimp skewers, smoked salmon, or pan-fried pasta.

Further west, **Bovino Grill** is the go-to for premium steaks in a lively setting. Their butcher counter also sells high-quality meats to take home.





ADDRESSES

Boulangerie Le Farinographe
418.725.5297
lefarinographe.com
110, rue St Germain O #1
Rimouski (QC) G5L 4B5

This artisanal bakery offers a wide selection of naturally leavened breads made from organic Québec flours, along with pure butter pastries, filled breads, and sandwiches.

Bovino Grill
418.723.4411
bovino.ca
478, rue St-Germain Ouest
Rimouski (QC)

With its vibrant décor and well-stocked wine cellar (including a unique SAQ + $9 package deal), Bovino Grill stands out. Enjoy high-quality meats grilled to perfection, a diverse menu, and a lovely terrace—everything you need for a memorable meal.

Central Café
418.722.4011
centralcaferimouski.com
31, rue de l'Évêché Ouest
Rimouski, Québec G5L 4H4

In the heart of downtown, this worker cooperative, established in 2015, serves unique dishes crafted by its chefs using regional ingredients and products.

Le Moussonneur
lemoussonneur.com
418.721.7776
173, rue Saint-Germain Ouest
Rimouski (QC) G5L 4B8

An unroasted coffee bean soaked in seawater from the Îles de la Madeleine. A tradition dating back to when coffee from Asia spent six months in the holds of sailing ships, absorbing the salty moisture of distant oceans.

Péchés Mignons
418.725.5707
pechesmignonsrimouski
119, rue Saint-Germain Ouest
Rimouski (QC) G5L 4B6

A downtown staple for over 30 years, Péchés Mignons offers products from Québec and European artisans. Browse a wide selection of loose teas, fine chocolates, gourmet bite-sized treats, bars, cakes, and pastries.

Site historique maritime de la Pointe-au-Père
shmp.qc.ca
418.724.6214
1000, rue du Phare
Rimouski (QC) G5M 1L8

This summer, visit the Empress of Ireland Museum in a safe and welcoming environment at the Pointe-au-Père Maritime Historic Site.

Yin Yan Sushi
yinyansushi.com
418.725.2233
61, rue Saint Germain E,
Rimouski (QC) G5L 8W2

Here, you'll find nigiri, sashimi, hosomaki, maki, sushi pizzas, and more. The menu also features Thai dishes, beef tataki, crispy shrimp, and much more.









AT THE BEACH IN
SAINTE-LUCE-SUR-MER

Just east of Rimouski, Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer is the Bas-Saint-Laurent's premier seaside escape. The village is best known for its long sandy beach—the finest on the south shore of the St. Lawrence estuary—and the Anse-aux-Coques boardwalk that traces the waterfront. The shallow cove warms quickly in summer, making it ideal for swimmers who prefer cooler waters. While locals flock here, it remains a quiet discovery for most visitors.

From the boardwalk, you'll take in sweeping views of the bay and learn about the **Nipigon**, a former Royal Navy ship that sank off Sainte-Luce, now a favorite dive site. Nearby, the wreck of the **Empress of Ireland** lies in the St. Lawrence River. The ocean liner went down in just 14 minutes on May 28, 1914, claiming over 1,000 lives. Québec designated the wreck a cultural heritage site in 1999.

The village's 1841 church is a standout, with striking stained-glass windows and impressive architecture. Each year in late August, **Les Sculpturales** brings together four professional sculptors who carve monumental pine-log works along the Anse-aux-Coques boardwalk. Visitors can watch the artists at work before the finished pieces are displayed throughout the village.







Take a moment to come and relax, letting yourself be rocked by the waves, in an extraordinary atmosphere. Our terrace is covered and heated, facing the majestic fleuve Saint-Laurent.

31, route du Fleuve Ouest
Sainte-Luce (Québec) G0K 1P0

418 739-4815
www.anseauxcoques.com



For a meal, **Café-Bistro de l'Anse-aux-Coques** is a local favorite. Across from the boardwalk, it serves regional dishes with a focus on seafood—think fresh fish, modern thin-crust pizzas, grilled meats, and eggs Benedict. The terrace and elegant dining room offer prime views of the waterfront.

A short walk away, **L'Appât** specializes in evening dining, with a menu that changes daily based on the freshest local catches. Opt for tapas or a full tasting menu with wine pairings, along with Québec classics and international wines.

Near the wharf, **Bistro des Ancrés** has taken over the former **Bistro du Nipigon** in the historic rectory beside the church. Its terrace overlooks Anse-aux-Coques. In summer, **Cantine Lobo de Mar** on Route du Fleuve serves authentic Mexican tacos with local twists, plus catering options.

ADDRESSES

Auberge Sainte-Luce 2023
aubergesteluce.ca
418.739.0145
46, Route du Fleuve Ouest
Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer (QC) G0K 1P0

At the gateway to the Gaspésie, this inn is nestled in a charming seaside village. Located directly on the riverbank, it offers comfortable, quiet, and peaceful accommodations—plus breathtaking sunsets and the invigorating benefits of salty sea air.

Café Bistro L'Anse-aux-Coques
anseauxcoques.com
418.739.4815
31, route du Fleuve Ouest
Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer (QC) G0K 1P0

Take a moment to relax and let the waves lull you in this extraordinary setting. The covered and heated terrace overlooks the majestic fleuve Saint-Laurent.

L'Appât-sur-Mer
lappat-sur-mer.com
418.739.0139
19, route du Fleuve Ouest
Sainte-Luce (QC) G0K 1P0

A refreshment bar and cabin located in front of Sainte-Luce beach. Two modern, fully equipped apartments with terraces offer stunning river views. On the ground floor, the refreshment bar serves an original menu, delicious cocktails, and beers from local and regional microbreweries.





SAINTE-FLAVIE
GATEWAY TO THE GASPÉ PENINSULA

Just a few kilometres from Sainte-Luce-sur-Mer, Sainte-Flavie and the Mitis region mark the beginning of the Gaspé Peninsula. Travellers heading east must choose between Route 132 East and Route 132 West, as the road loops around the peninsula's coastline before returning through the Matapédia Valley.

Once an agricultural village, Sainte-Flavie offers classic Lower St. Lawrence landscapes—rocky shores that often give way to sandy beaches. Over time, the village has developed a strong cultural focus. The **Marcel Gagnon Art Centre**, with its gallery, boutique, restaurant, and waterfront inn, anchors the Arts Route, which links local galleries and artists' studios. Behind the centre, look for **The Grand Gathering**, an artwork featuring 80 life-sized figures that emerge from the sea at low tide and disappear again as the tide rises.

In the village centre, the **Old Rectory** hosts summer art exhibitions, while the **Tithe Barn** presents 19th-century agricultural life. The **Paleontology Museum** is another intriguing stop.

The **Vieux-Moulin**, a former flour mill built in 1830, now houses a small museum. Artisans there produce award-winning meads and invite visitors upstairs to the **Museum of New France**, which displays heritage treasures and Indigenous artifacts. In the shop, sparkling and still meads share shelf space with a wide range of hive products.









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G0J 2L0
418 509-4675



CHARMING
MÉTIS-SUR-MER

Just a few kms from Sainte-Flavie, the **Reford Gardens** in Grand-Métis are internationally recognized as an exceptional work of horticultural art and are well worth a visit. These English-style gardens are the result of the work of a passionate woman, Elsie Reford, who, between 1926 and 1958, transformed her fishing camp into a private paradise. Some 3,000 species and varieties of plants are spread across fifteen gardens. Contemporary artworks are scattered throughout the grounds and blend harmoniously with the historic gardens.

In the **Estevan villa**, a magnificent summer residence dating from 1887 and designated a heritage site, a permanent exhibition recounts the history of the Reford family. You can also enjoy musical brunches, a menu based on the Gardens' produce, literary teas, and outdoor concerts. It's also a popular wedding venue (what an enchanting and romantic location!).

Every year since 2000, internationally renowned landscape architects, architects, and artists have come to create contemporary gardens as part of the **International Garden Festival**.

The neighbouring village of **Métis-sur-Mer** is undoubtedly the best-preserved resort town from the era when the Lower St. Lawrence region was the preferred summer destination for Montreal's upper class. Its hundreds of villas and impressive estates are still often occupied by Anglo-Montreal families, just as they were in the last century.



MONT-JOLI
THE HEART OF THE MITIS

Though often grouped with the Gaspé Peninsula for tourism, the Mitis region is part of the Bas-Saint-Laurent.

The town of **Mont-Joli**, the region's main hub, borders **Sainte-Flavie** and has been eastern Québec's capital of painted murals since 2010. To breathe new life into its downtown, the town launched the **Mural, Arts, and Heritage Circuit**—a route featuring 21 murals, nine works of public art, and six heritage buildings and sites.

At the town's center, **Château Landry** acts as a cultural hub. With a screening room and café-bistro, it hosts storytelling evenings, live music, mural-circuit events, and exhibitions, making it a gathering spot for locals and visitors alike.

For travelers heading farther east or north, **Mont-Joli Airport** serves as the main air gateway to eastern Québec. Built during World War II by the Department of National Defence, the site was chosen for its flat, elevated terrain, which minimizes snow buildup in winter. A new stretch of Highway 20 now links the airport directly to Rimouski, about 30 kilometers away.



A TASTE OF THE
GASPÉ PENINSULA

Whether you're stopping over before embarking on your Gaspé Peninsula tour or staying overnight, visitors to Mitis will find several restaurants where they can savor Gaspé seafood and local produce while taking in the breathtaking seascape.

The **Marcel Gagnon Art Centre**, which is also an inn, restaurant, and venue, offers lunch, a daily menu, and dinner, all by the sea. From its expansive terrace, the **Belle Vue** restaurant at the Mon Joli Motel, perched atop the plateau overlooking the village, boasts stunning views of the sea and the village below.

At the Reford Gardens, Elsie's former living room and dining room now house the **Estevan villa** restaurant, where you can enjoy a magnificent set lunch menu in an enchanting setting. In Métis-sur-Mer, the **Café sur mer**, an eclectic café/boutique/meeting place/concert hall and other venues, is sure to charm you, and its delicious scones and lemon tarts add a touch of English flair.

To experience all the flavors of the region, a visit to the **Hydromiellerie du Vieux Moulin** in Sainte-Flavie is a must. Its blueberry, raspberry, apple, and pear meads, both sweet and dry, have won numerous awards. The shop also offers a wide variety of honeys and honey products, including jams, salad dressings, spreads, jellies, and creamy honey chocolate, all produced locally.



LOCAL FLAVORS
LA MITIS

Start in Sainte-Flavie at **Le Ketch**, a microbrewery with a sea-view terrace pouring beers from Gaspé. The spot also doubles as a casual eatery and live-music venue.

Next door, **Au goût du large** at Gaspésiana balances fine dining with a relaxed bistro feel. The menu highlights seafood specialties and quality meats, best enjoyed on the terrace overlooking the beach.

At the Mont-Joli roundabout where Highway 20 meets Route 132, **Ma Cabane en Gaspésie** is well worth a stop. A family's fourth-generation maple grove in the Matapédia Valley supplies the shop, which also carries a wide range of local products from the Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie, and Îles de la Madeleine—pastries, artisanal bread, gourmet goods, sandwiches, breakfast items, lunches, and gift baskets.

A short walk away, **Distillerie Mitis** sits on the banks of the rivière Mitis. The micro-distillery uses its own water to craft gin and a Northern rum. For beer lovers, **Dépanneur du Carrefour** carries a wide selection of Québec microbrews.

ADDRESSES

Distillerie Mitis
distilleriemitis.com
418.775.4011
1034, avenue de la Gaspésie
Mont-Joli (QC) G5H 0B2

The Mitis Distillery specializes in crafting fine spirits. Located at the foot of the Mitis River, it uses the river's water to produce its spirits, which lends unique characteristics to the fermentation process and results in a high-quality product.

Domaine Repos du Pirate
domainereposdupirate.com
418.509.4675
780, route de la Mer
Sainte-Flavie (QC) G0J 2L0

Fully equipped cottages and lofts offer breathtaking views of the estuary of the fleuve Saint-Laurent and its sunsets. An outdoor hot tub, heated year-round, is available to all guests. Free laundry facilities ensure a comfortable stay for the whole family—an unforgettable escape!

Hydromellerie du Vieux Moulin
vieuxmoulin.qc.ca
418.775.8383
141, route de la Mer
Sainte-Flavie (QC) G0J 2L0

In the warm ambiance of an ancestral watermill, passionate artisans produce award-winning honey wines and other honey-based products.

Le Ketch
Leketch.com
418.775.8129
490, route de la Mer
St-Flavie (QC) G0J 2L9

A true local bar with friendly staff, excellent beers, a diverse menu to suit all tastes, board games, sea views, and lively music nights.

Motel Sainte-Flavie
motelsainteflavie.ca
418.775.7269
451, Route de la Mer
Sainte-Flavie, G0J 2L0

This motel in the heart of the village offers a superb view of the sea and magnificent sunsets, right across from the pier. Ideal for a stroll on the beach.









MATANE
BETWEEN SEA AND MOUNTAINS

The first stop on the Gaspé Peninsula tour, the city of Matane is known throughout Quebec for its shrimp. The city is indeed an important processing center for northern shrimp, which is actually caught on the other side of the estuary, off the North Shore. Of course, it's the perfect place to enjoy them, but the region has much more to offer.

A small city of 15,000 inhabitants with a diversified economy, it is first and foremost a place where the sea and the mountains unite to form an irresistible duo. The mountainous terrain has allowed for the development of a significant wind farm, and in recent years Matane has become a center for wind turbine production.

In June 2025, Matane hosted its first **Pride March**.

Thanks to the ferries connecting it to Baie-Comeau and Godbout on the North Shore, Matane is a busy hub. Visitors are charmed by its internationally renowned salmon river that flows through the town. Exploring the hinterland and the villages nestled from east to west along the Matane coastline, you'll discover breathtaking panoramas.

Forty kilometers southeast of the town, the **Matane Wildlife Reserve** attracts tourists. It covers 1,275 km² in the Chic-Choc Mountains at the end of the Appalachian range. The wildlife reserve is a prime fishing spot for brook trout, lake trout, and Atlantic salmon. The undisputed king of the reserve, however, is the moose, the largest of the deer. It boasts the highest concentration of moose in Quebec. Unsurprisingly, this reserve is very popular with hunters during hunting season.



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www.qualityinnmatane.com

CITQ : 005460



MORE THAN JUST SHRIMP!

Matane's port activities offer visitors relatively little direct contact with the sea in the heart of the city. The **Riôtel** is an exception to this rule, built right on the beach. Its **Cargo** restaurant, bar, and lounge nods to Matane's industrial and maritime heritage while offering a breath-taking ocean view that creates a soothing atmosphere to enjoy your meal or a drink. This casual restaurant is open for breakfast and dinner and offers bistro-style cuisine.

In the heart of Matane, **Café Aux Délices** is a true institution since 1910. Its home-style cooking showcases fresh, local products. On Saint-Jérôme Street in the city center, among the LGBTQ+ friendly spots, be sure to visit **La Fabrique** craft brewery. Enjoy their beers brewed on-site in a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere, accompanied by sandwiches and burgers featuring local flavors, and stay for a performance by up-and-coming musicians or a visual arts exhibition.

A few blocks away, the **Toujours Dimanche** bakery-café is easy to spot with its rainbow flag on the door. Part bakery, part café, and part grocery store, they offer breads, pastries, and treats. Enjoy continental-style breakfasts, prepared meals, smoothies, espressos, and other specialty beverages on-site or to go. In the heart of





Matane, **Le Vivier**, formerly the Toujours Dimanche grocery store, offers bulk goods, local and organic products, and a selection of eco-friendly tableware and personal care products. At the **Quality Inn Hotel**, the **La Terrasse** restaurant boasts a charming oceanfront terrace and offers grilled specialties, fish, seafood, and Chinese hot pot. The continental breakfast for guests is generous.

ADDRESSES

Brasserie artisanale La Fabrique **publafabrique.com** **418.566.4020** 360, avenue St-Jérôme Matane (QC) G4W 3B1	La Fabrique is a craft brewery offering a selection of on-site brewed and imported beers, a pub-style menu featuring burgers, sandwiches, fish & chips, Belgian fries, and appetizers, as well as a varied cultural program.
Café aux Délices **cafeauxdelices.com** **418.562.0578** 109, rue Saint-Jean Matane (QC) G4W 2G8	Since 1910—originally under the name Mickey Mouse—this café has delighted taste buds across generations. Known for its excellent pizza and must-try buffet, it also offers delivery and catering services.
Cargo **restocargo.com** **418.566.2651** 250, Avenue du Phare E, Matane, QC, G4W 3N4	At RIÔTEL, this casual restaurant is open for breakfast and dinner, offering a breathtaking view of the river in an urban setting. In the evening, enjoy a gourmet, refined menu that changes with the seasons.
Quality Inn & Suites **qualityinnmatane.com** **418.562.6433** 1550, avenue du Phare Ouest Matane (QC) G4W 3M6	The perfect place for your stay. The Quality Inn & Suites Matane offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere, ideal for any type of visit.
Pavillon sur mer par RIÔTEL **riotel.com/pavillon-sur-mer** **1.877.566.2651** 250, avenue du Phare Est Matane (QC) G4W 3N4	This site boasts stunning views, with 24 air-conditioned rooms combining comfort and simplicity at an affordable price. Located just 500 feet from RIÔTEL Matane, it features an outdoor pool in season and a view of the nearby marina.
RIÔTEL Matane **riotel.com/matane** **1.877.566.2651** 250, avenue du Phare Est Matane (QC) G4W 3N4	An urban seaside hotel offering accommodations, dining, an indoor pool, and more. With 68 rooms in six categories, the hotel is well-designed, efficient, and trendy—tailored to travelers' needs.



THE GASPÉ PENINSULA

WHERE WIND MEETS WILDERNESS

East of Matane, the mountains press closer to the coast, shaping the rugged landscapes of the Gaspé Peninsula. For 150 kilometers, small towns and villages dot the shoreline, clinging to the curves of bays. This is the Upper Gaspé—a land of wind turbines rising along the mountainsides, their blades turning against the sky.

Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Cap-Chat, the region's two largest towns, are home to LGBTQ+-friendly businesses and a growing green-energy scene.

Cap-Chat is best known for its wind farms, including **Projet Éole**, the world's tallest vertical-axis turbine (110 meters). The site doubles as an interpretive center, offering insights into the region's renewable energy industry. For the best wind-turbine views, head west—though the east side delivers striking photo opportunities.

Further along the coast, **Mont-Saint-Pierre** has earned its reputation as Québec's paragliding capital. Each summer, its skies fill with colorful wings, and

in July, the Free Flight Festival draws pilots from around the world. By late August, **Mont-Louis** takes center stage with the Gaspé Peninsula Storytelling Festival, celebrating the region's rich oral traditions.

For hikers, **Gaspé National Park** is a must. Accessible from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts or Mont-Saint-Pierre, the park protects a unique alpine environment. Its centerpiece, **Mount Jacques-Cartier**, is **Québec's** second-highest peak. The high-altitude climate fosters Arctic and alpine flora, tundra expanses, and a rare herd of woodland caribou—the last south of the St. Lawrence River.

Beaches line the coast in every town, though most are a mix of sand and pebbles. Anse-au-Goémon, straddling Cap-Chat and Ste-Anne-des-Monts, is the sandiest. Before leaving Cap-Chat, stop at the **Distillerie Cap-Chat**. Its spirits, infused with local flowers, herbs, and spices, are distilled using pure water from the Chic-Choc Mountains.









CHARMING STE-ANNE-DES-MONTS

With its 7,000 inhabitants, the town of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts is home to the majority of the population of the Upper Gaspé Peninsula.

As early as the late 17th century, a seigneury was granted there with the aim of establishing a permanent fishing post. Indeed, in 1815, primarily attracted by fishing, the first residents of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts settled there.

Today, the beautiful Sainte-Anne-des-Monts is largely a service and recreational tourism town, but it has retained the charm of a fishing village.

In May 2025, the town hosted its first Pride March, an event organized by the new **LGBT Haute-Gaspésie** organization.

On the wharf in the heart of the waterfront, the **Exploramer Museum-Aquarium** is the town's main tourist attraction. This museum is an activity complex focused on the marine environment and ecosystems of the St. Lawrence River, featuring an aquarium with 21 tanks of fish and marine organisms, themed exhibits about the sea, sea excursions, and various cultural events. The wharf also houses a marina.

Nearby, the avenue that runs along the waterfront boasts several charming inns and restaurants, often housed in historic buildings such as the Château Lamontagne, which overlooks the bay, or the **Auberge La Seigneurie des Monts**, whose older section dates back to 1790.

In the summer, the patios of the inns and restaurants on the avenue offer opportunities to grab a bite or a drink by the sea.

Route 299, known as the Park Route, connects Sainte-Anne-des-Monts to New Richmond, traversing the entire Gaspé Peninsula inland and providing access to **Gaspésie National Park.**

La Seigneurie des Monts
AUBERGE
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DINING OUT

While passing through Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, the wine bistro **La Planche** d'Hôtel & Cie

offers a menu inspired by French brasseries and featuring local Quebec specialties. At the same address, be sure to visit **Plein ma valise** to stock up on gourmet supplies. Fine cheeses, artisanal charcuterie, and other culinary delights will awaken the taste buds of epicureans.

In the heart of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, the historic **Auberge La Seigneurie des Monts** welcomes you by reservation in the mornings with hearty breakfasts at **Café Alice** et **Victor**. Its bistro, **La Poste**, offers thin-crust pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven. Its terrace is very popular in the summer.

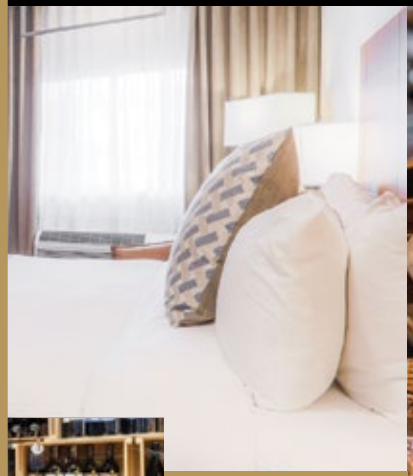
If you'd prefer dinner with a sea view, Le Littoral pub on 3rd Avenue is a must.

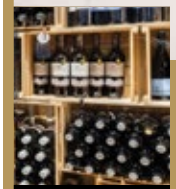
Le Littoral offers bistro cuisine inspired by the Gaspé Peninsula, featuring grilled meats and seafood, and a fine selection of local beers. In summer, its terrace offers the perfect spot to enjoy the seaside and the vibrant city life.

Next door, the **Le Malbord** craft microbrewery offers top-quality local products and beers reflecting the culture of the Upper Gaspé region, brewed on-site in a welcoming space perfect for meeting and gathering.

If you prefer fine dining in a refined atmosphere with breathtaking views of the city and the sea, head to **Auberge Château Lamontagne**. In this magnificent 19th-century bourgeois residence, Chef Jérôme Paquet offers a changing menu featuring fish and seafood, beef, lamb, and foie gras. In summer, its expansive, flower-filled terrace is sure to delight.

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ADDRESSES

Auberge du Vieux Faubourg
aubergeduvieuxfaubourg@gmail.com
418.763.5345
45, 1re Avenue Ouest
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts
(QC) G4V 1B4

Auberge du Vieux Faubourg
Perched atop Cap des Groseilliers and facing the majestic fleuve Saint-Laurent, this heritage building (circa 1874) houses seven rooms—including one suite—and a restaurant with a "bistronomic" menu. Open year-round.

Auberge La Seigneurie des Monts
bonjourgaspesie.com
418.763.5308
21, 1re Avenue Est
Ste-Anne-des-Monts (QC) G4V 1A2

La Seigneurie des Monts is an ancestral inn dating back to 1864, with a section from 1790. It features seventeen rooms and several common areas.

Distillerie Cap-Chat
distilleriecapchat.com
418.786.0202
16, Rue Notre Dame Est
Cap-Chat-Est, QC G0J 1G0

In the heart of Cap-Chat, this distillery produces gins, vodkas, and spirits infused with wild and natural flowers, plants, spices, and herbs—most sourced from the surrounding area.

Hôtel & cie
hoteletcie.com
418.763.3321 / 1.855.963.3321
90, boulevard Sainte-Anne Ouest
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts
(QC) G4V 1R3

Located in the heart of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, this 42-room, 4-star hotel also houses the bar and grill La Broue dans l'Toupet. Certified Terroir et Saveurs by the Association de l'agrotourisme et du tourisme gourmand du Québec.

Microbrasserie Le Malbord
lemalbord.com
418.764.0022
178, 1ère avenue Ouest
Ste-Anne-des-Monts
(QC) G4V 1C9

Housed in a former seaside grocery store in the heart of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Le Malbord has become a friendly gathering spot, reviving this heritage building with chic and rustic décor. It offers refined craft beers inspired by the richness of the local terroir.

Panora Loges fluviales
panoraloges.ca
418.907.9153
610, boul. Ste Anne Est
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts
(QC) G4V 1P2

For a unique experience on the shores of the majestic fleuve Saint-Laurent, these superior-quality cottages provide complete privacy and remarkable comfort, surrounded by the region's striking natural beauty.

Projet Éole
projeteole.ca
418.967.8812
5, chemin du Cap
Cap-Chat, (QC) G0J 1E0

Visit one of the largest wind farms and admire the world's tallest vertical-axis wind turbine.





FURIES IN MARSOUI

Just outside Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, the **festive Sea Shack hostel**, "the place where everyone is cool," as its slogan proclaims, has played a significant role in showcasing emerging and alternative Quebec entertainment for 20 years, offering a diverse range of cultural events. It is also a welcoming space for the gay and lesbian community.

Further along the coast, the village of Marsoui has been hosting Furies, a human-scale, eco-responsible, and LGBTQ+-friendly contemporary dance festival, for the past five years in July. This festival is the initiative of the community organization **Mandoline Hybride**, whose mission since its founding in 2007 has been to develop contemporary art in its various forms, with dance as its core focus.

Mandoline Hybride operates through four permanent programs. In addition to Furies, Regards Hybrides aims to foster the articulation, development, and dissemination of practices and discourses at the intersection of dance and film. With its collection, its international biennial, and its services for artists and presenters, Regards Hybrides is the only project of its kind in Canada. Its Salon58, established in 2018, is dedicated to hosting artists in residence and a program of intimate concerts, emphasizing artistic experimentation and close engagement with audiences.

Its café-bookshop, L'Hybride, is more than just a café: it acts as a hub, allowing Mandoline Hybride to innovate, consolidate its initiatives, implement them, and share them.



TAKE TO THE AIR AT MONT-SAINT-PIERRE

Once past Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, the road begins to zigzag between the sea and the mountains. And at the end of the bays, you'll discover the charming villages of the Upper Gaspé Peninsula nestled in glacial valleys.

About 50 km from Ste-Anne-des-Monts, the village of **Mont-Saint-Pierre** is known as the **paragliding capital** of Quebec and Eastern Canada. The unique feature of this site is that takeoffs are from the cliff of this famous mountain at an altitude of 430 meters. With its spectacular panorama, the summit of Mont Saint-Pierre is a must-see attraction in the Gaspé Peninsula.

You can also enjoy quality outdoor activities year-round amidst exceptional, ancient landscapes with their scree slopes, hanging valleys, and glacial cirques. Here, you can try tandem paragliding, go off-piste skiing in the powder during the winter, explore the 110 kms of trails winding through the village, including the prestigious **International Appalachian Trail**, by mountain bike, ATV, snowmobile, cross-country ski, or snowshoe. Its glacial valley provides access to the **Chic-Chocs Wildlife Reserve** and **Gaspésie National Park** in the Mont Jacques-Cartier sector.

Since the summer of 2024, the **Station de montagne sur mer** solidarity cooperative has been working to promote tourism to "The Hidden Side of Mont-Saint-Pierre" with the immersive Odyssée experience. Discover the summit of Mont Saint-Pierre, this magnificent natural amphitheater, and all the outdoor activities, including the beach, in this unique glacial valley, both in winter and summer.



MONT-LOUIS
BETWEEN NATURE AND CULTURE

A few kilometers from Mont-Saint-Pierre, Mont- Louis is the largest village in the Upper Gaspé Peninsula. An important fishing post since the 18th century, Mont-Louis perpetuates this tradition thanks to two fish processing plants that source their fish from about fifteen fishermen, including **Atkins & Frères**, renowned worldwide for its high-end smoked products.

With a bit of luck, it's not uncommon to spot whales in the waters near its cove. In the summer, its beach, which borders the sea in the heart of the village, is very popular with tourists.

Just four kilometers to the east, Anse-Pleureuse offers a verdant picnic area on the shores of its lake.

Here, as in Mont-Saint-Pierre, you'll find a landscape where the Appalachian cliffs stand out powerfully and magnificently against the sky and the sea, with hiking trails, murre-watching opportunities at the Gros-Morne lookout, ice climbing, and a geologically interesting panorama that invites you to take a flight. Taking advantage of this environment, the municipality has looked to the future by welcoming two wind farms, one of which is the largest in Canada.

But the village also stands out culturally with its artists, art galleries, and performance venue at **La Pointe Sec**, as well as gastronomically with its restaurants and seafood. La Pointe Sec is the heart of the village's cultural life. This cultural space, managed by a non-profit organization, La Machine à Truc, allows emerging artists from the region and beyond to perform on stage, whether they come from the world of music, theatre, or other art forms.



BETWEEN
SEA AND LAND

A visit to the Gaspé Peninsula isn't complete without sampling or bringing home some seafood. Visitors will want to treat themselves or stock up by visiting **Atkins & Frères Fish Market** in Mont-Louis. Since 1993, these artisans have taken their mission of contributing to the convivial pleasure of fine dining even further by sharing it directly with their fans, offering smoked fish and seafood, as well as other gourmet products.

In **La Pointe Sec**, the La Face B bar offers a simple menu, small plates to share, and a selection of natural and organic wines.

In season, its terrace offers a breathtaking view of the sea and the village of Mont-Louis. It showcases local beers from microbreweries in the Gaspé Peninsula and Eastern Quebec. It's the perfect place to enjoy a drink with friends or a meal in good company. Still in Mont-Saint-Pierre, **Carrefour Aventure** offers a great selection of homemade artisanal ice cream to refresh you during the season.

For a good coffee, **L'Amarré** is a friendly and colourful spot right across from the sea, in the heart of the village of Mont-Louis. They offer specialty coffees, a pantry and preserves of local products, a selection of Gaspé beers, and ready-to-eat meals. Perfect for relaxing on the beach or by the harbour.

ADDRESSES

Atkins et frères
atkinsetfreres.com
418.797.5059
1, rue du Chanoine-Richard
Mont-Louis (QC) G0E 1T0

Since 1993, these artisans have expanded their mission to share their passion for smoked fish, seafood, and fine foods directly with enthusiasts.

Festival gaspésien de contes et légendes La Pointe Sec
lapointesec.com
418.797.2137
40, 7e rue Est
Mont-Louis (QC) G0E 1T0

Since 2013, this annual August festival in Mont-Louis brings together storytellers from across the Gaspésie and Québec for a celebration of tales and legends.

FURIES – Festival de danse contemporaine
furiesfestival.com
comm@mandolinehybride.com
1, Rte Principale O.
Marsoui (QC) G0E 1S0

FURIES, an annual human-scale, eco-friendly, and LGBTQ+-friendly contemporary dance festival, takes place in late July. It showcases striking choreography in everyday settings, with performances held indoors and outdoors at various locations around the village of Marsoui.

La Pointe Sec
lapointesec.com
418.797.2137
40, 7e rue Est
Mont-Louis (QC) G0E 1T0

A cultural space for emerging regional and visiting artists to take the stage, whether in music, theater, or other art forms.

L'Hybride Café-Librairie
lhybridecafelibrairie.com
cafe@mandolinehybride.com
1, route Principale O, porte 5,
Marsoui (QC) G0E 1S0

L'Hybride Café-Librairie
More than just a café, L'Hybride—located on Plage Henley in Marsoui—offers food and drinks made with local products, a coworking space, a bookstore, a sociocultural program, DJ equipment, and beach sports gear.

Auberge Festive Sea Shack
aubergefestive.com
418.763.2999
292, boul. Perron Est
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts
(QC) G4V 3A7

A one-of-a-kind destination on the seafront in Ruisseau-Castor, this has been a hub for connection, discovery, culture, and celebration for over 20 years. An inn, campground, bar, performance hall, canteen, and beach come together to celebrate Gaspésie and Québec culture, creating a unique community.







IN THE HEART OF THE CHIC-CHOCS

Taking Route 198, near Anse-Pleureuse, you leave the coast and discover the mountainous hinterland of the Gaspé Peninsula and the spectacular landscapes of the Chic-Choc Mountains. About 50 km from Mont-Louis, the former mining town of **Murdochville** has been experiencing a revival since the 2000s and has become a sought-after mountain tourist destination. After the mining decline of the 1980s, the town became a four-season destination with the development of Chic Chac, a recreational tourism company that offers various types of accommodation and operates a festive and gourmet restaurant and bar, Le Quartier Général, in the town's former church. Chic-Chac is a company specializing in adventure tourism, particularly guided backcountry skiing with ski lifts.

With Chic Chac's acquisition of the **Mont-Miller** ski resort, Murdochville is now a sought-after winter destination, boasting 100% natural snow. The resort offers 32 trails and glades. The mountain is served by a T-bar lift.

From December to March, depending on conditions, skiing takes center stage in some of the finest powder snow in North America, with an annual accumulation of 7 meters. Guided alpine hiking, snowcat rides, and, for the ultimate experience, heli-skiing packages and off-piste descents are also available.

The recent addition of the **Centre de plein air du Lac York**, located about ten kms from Murdochville, completes the picture from June to mid-September, offering activities on the water, on land, and on trails, not to mention golf, rafting, and numerous hikes in this environment surrounded by a wind farm. The site offers a wealth of tourist activities in the area, including a multitude of outdoor activities during the warmer months, and boasts unique landscapes and breathtaking sunsets.

ADDRESSES

Centre plein air du Lac York **chic-chac.com/activites/ete/centre-plein-air-lac-york** **418.784.3755** Route du Lac York Murdochville (QC) G0E 1W0	Surrounded by mountains and wind turbines, the Centre plein air du Lac York welcomes visitors to a unique natural setting from June to September. Enjoy a variety of land, water, and forest activities for the whole family, including camping, cottages, biking, fishing, golf, and swimming.
Station de ski Mont-Miller **chic-chac.com/ski-et-snowboard/station-de-ski-mont-miller** **418.784.3311** 606, QC-198 C, Murdochville (QC) G0E 1W0	This ski center boasts 100% natural snow, a 280-meter vertical drop, 32 trails and glades, and a T-bar lift. Known for the best powder snow in North America, it also offers heliskiing, snowcat tours, catskiing, and guided alpine touring.
Le Quartier général - Chic Chac **chic-chac.com** **418.784.3311** 550, avenue Dr. William-May Murdochville (QC) G0E 1W0	The Chic-Chac restaurant serves breakfast and dinner, with varied menus to suit all tastes. Housed in a former church, it now serves as the headquarters for ChicChac's operations, including meal service, a bar, and meetings for guided activities.



THE ESTRAN
WHERE LAND MEETS SEA

Leave the highlands of Upper Gaspésie behind, and the Estran—a coastal strip revealed at low tide—signals your arrival at the sea. This rugged stretch of the Gaspé Peninsula, carved by valleys, mountains, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is home to four villages: Sainte-Madeleine-de-la-Rivière-Madeleine, Grande-Vallée, Petite-Vallée, and Cloridorme. The landscape here is unforgettable: patchwork farmland in the valley floors, dramatic cliffs rising from the water, and villages clinging to the shoreline.

Grande-Vallée is the last major stop before Gaspé, its village center perched on a headland—one of the most photographed views in the region. During World War II, the area played a key role in the Battle of the St. Lawrence, when German U-boats patrolled the St. Lawrence River and Gulf. Today, the wreck of the SS *Frederika Lensen* lies in the cove, a popular dive site. Nearby, **Espace Esdras-Minville** celebrates the economist who pioneered a cooperative movement here in the early 20th century, empowering local communities.

The village's long municipal beach is perfect for a break, with the **Grande-Vallée Hôtel-Motel** overlooking the harbor from Quai Street. Its restaurant, **L'Aubergine**, serves Gaspésie-inspired dishes, pairing fresh seafood and meats with local beers and wines.

A short drive east, **Petite-Vallée** is a tiny cove-side hamlet with an outsized cultural reputation. The **Festival en chansons**, held every June for over 40 years, and the **Théâtre de la Vieille Forge**—rebuilt after a fire—have made it a hub for music, theater, and performing arts in eastern Québec.

Cloridorme's fishing harbor is a prime spot to watch sunsets or chat with sailors who've crossed the Atlantic. The village, population 600, proudly flies the rainbow flag—an initiative by painter **Marc Alain Marticotte**, supported by the municipal council.

Beyond its striking landscapes, Cloridorme and the Grand-Cloridorme

L'ÉTOILE DU NORD
Restaurant-Motel
A gathering place since 1924!



Create unforgettable memories with us.
Settled right on the water and proudly serving guests for over 100 years, we look forward to welcoming you!
–James Barnard and our wonderful team









Experience the authentic spirit of Gaspésie!

Since 1878, L'Étoile du Nord has stood watch over Pointe-à-la-Frégate, the same waters where the Penelope shipwrecked in 1815. By 1924, our historic building had become the village's beloved gathering place, where locals came to meet, talk, and connect. Today, we welcome you to experience that same warm hospitality in our one-of-a-kind dining room with sweeping ocean views.

Delicious traditional cuisine	8-room motel with ocean views
Stunning oceanfront setting	Plenty of activities nearby

1, route du Pêcheur, Cloridorme (Québec)
G0E 1G0 · 418 395-2966
info@etoiledunord.net · etoiledunord.net

Follow us online!

Stay with us in Gaspésie. **Book your stay today!**

River form a rich natural heritage. Artisans thrive here, with workshops and boutiques along Route 132 showcasing painting, sculpture, and textiles. Stop by the **Anse Saint-Yvon** rest area or the Havre café-boutique on the wharf to browse local creations. The **Cantine du Pêcheur** snack bar, also on the wharf, serves up classic Gaspésie seafood and farm-fresh meals. The port has a small beach and parking, and every August, the **Clorid'Art Visual Arts Symposium** highlights local talent.

West of Cloridorme, **Pointe-à-la-Frégate** marks the site of the 1815 shipwreck of the British frigate **Penelope**. Overlooking the point is **Hôtel L'Étoile du Nord**, a historic inn dating back to 1924. Its distinctive architecture and panoramic Gulf views make it a standout, while the dining room serves traditional Gaspésie cuisine.

ADDRESSES

L'Aubergine
hmgvm.com
1 800.380.1190
37, rue du Quai
Grande-Vallee (QC) G0E 1K0

A range of dishes featuring Gaspésie flavors and regional beverages to satisfy every appetite at L'Aubergine.

Clorid'Art
CloridArt
2, route du Portage
Cloridorme (QC) G0E 1G0

Since 2022, the determination of painters Daniel Lévesque and Marc Alain Marticotte has made this annual event possible. For three days at the end of summer, local artists showcase their work, with opportunities to attend artistic performances and painting workshops for children.

Hôtel Motel Grande-Vallée
hotelgrandevallee.com
418.393.2648
37, rue du Quai
Grande-Vallée (QC) G0E 1K0

A peaceful haven in the heart of Grande-Vallée since 1893, just steps from the pier. Enjoy spectacular panoramic views of the majestic gulf, nestled between sea and mountains. Twelve comfortable rooms feature unique, rustic décor.

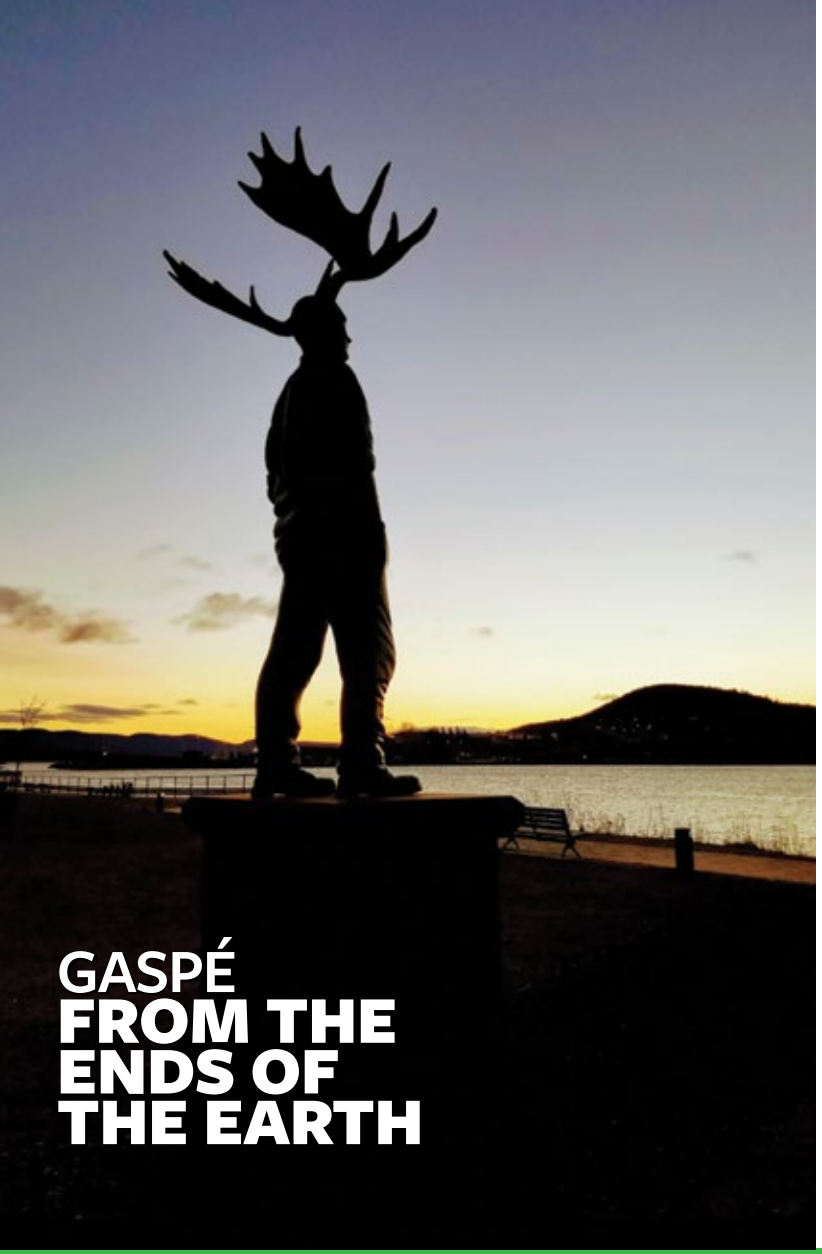
Le Festival en Chanson de Petite-Vallée
festivalenchanson.com
418.393.2592
Village en chanson de Petite-Vallée
41, rue Principale, Petite-Vallée (Qc)

A major national music event for nearly 40 years, this festival highlights the diversity and richness of Québec's music scene, featuring emerging artists and professional performers of French-language songs.

Restaurant-Motel L'Étoile du Nord
etoiledunord.net
418.395.2966
1, route du Pêcheur
Cloridorme (QC) G0E 1G0

Since 1924, this small village hotel has served meals in its restaurant, offering breathtaking views of the gulf, and provided accommodations in eight comfortable rooms. It specializes in traditional Gaspésie cuisine in an enchanting seaside setting.





GASPÉ FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

The main city of the region that bears its name, **Gaspé** was the first point of contact between French explorer Jacques Cartier and the continent's First Nations in 1534. It remains the capital of the Gaspé Peninsula today. While it was once primarily an administrative city, Gaspé is now well worth a visit. The rugged terrain of this region is unique, with ten different rock formations, seabird colonies, and Arctic plants. The former fishing station of Grande-Grave has become a heritage site and bears witness to the way of life of fishing families for thousands of years.

The **Musée de la Gaspésie**, located on Boulevard de Gaspé, is dedicated to preserving and promoting Gaspé history and culture. It presents exhibitions, publishes the magazine Gaspésie, and operates a historical archives center.

It is in Forillon National Park, north of Gaspé, that the Appalachians end in a series of rolling hills and plateaus known as the Notre-Dame Mountains, with their flat summits and slopes.



DINING OUT ON RUE DE LA REINE



Rue de la Reine is the lively commercial hub of **Gaspé**, lined with boutiques, cafés, and inviting patios. Whether you're after a sit-down meal, takeout, or local specialties, this revitalized street delivers.

Start at **Marché des Saveurs Gaspésiennes**, a gourmet grocery and café showcasing regional products. Stock up on Québec cheeses, charcuterie, imported delicacies, and pastries—or grab a bite from the daily menu. Across the street, **Oh les Pains** bakes artisanal breads, brioches, and cookies, perfect with a coffee or homemade soup.

A short walk away, **Café Brise-Bise** is a local landmark and **Gaspé's** first LGBTQ+-friendly bistro-bar. Its waterfront terraces host intimate performances year-round. Nearby, **Beige Farine** offers bulk goods with a zero-waste ethos, while Hôtel Baker's tavern, **Têtu**, reinterprets Gaspé and Québec classics with bold flavors.

Every August, Rue de la Reine takes center stage for the **Festival de Musique du Bout du Monde**, drawing over 170 artists to its vibrant streets.

ON THE GASPÉ BAY



The Gaspé Bay region boasts some of the most beautiful sandy beaches in the Gaspé Peninsula. Very close to the town, **Boum Défense Beach** stretches along a sandbar between the bay and the sea. Since 2016, the concrete blocks that once blocked car access have been removed, making it easy to reach areas where naturism has been practiced for decades.

Haldimand Beach, further away, is a municipal beach with all amenities, including a snack bar and a souvenir shop. It is certainly the best-equipped and most popular beach. This long sandbar continues on the other side of the railway bridge over the river, towards Douglastown—a very beautiful, largely natural, and much less crowded municipal beach.

North of the bay, **Forillon National Park** also boasts several beautiful ocean beaches. Among them, **Cap-aux-Os Beach**, near Highway 132, is one of the most popular. Nearby, Aube sur Mer offers yurt accommodations and various activities, including sea kayaking on the bay.

Inside the park, **Penouille Beach** is very well-maintained while retaining its natural charm. The sand and pebble beach at Cap-des-Rosiers in the park has been restored to its natural state thanks to the relocation of Highway 132. It offers a breathtaking view of its legendary lighthouse.

Forillon is also considered by many to be the best place in Quebec to observe large whales. **Croisières Baie de Gaspé** allows you to discover these lesser-known treasures of Quebec. Six species can be observed, including the blue whale, the fin whale, the spectacular humpback whale, and the minke whale.

ADDRESSES

Brise-Bise
brisebise.ca
418.368.1456
135, rue de la Reine
Gaspé (QC) G4X 1T5

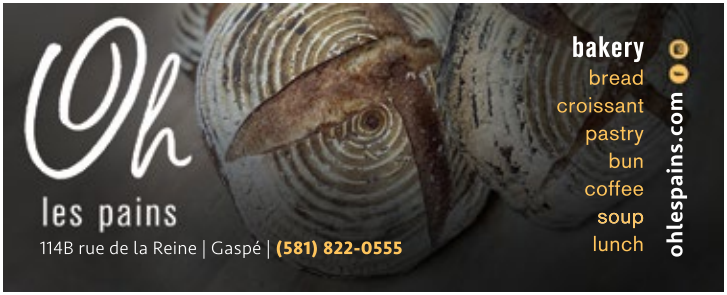
A colorful and lively bistro where you can sample a wide range of Québec beers and discover local talent through its music scene.

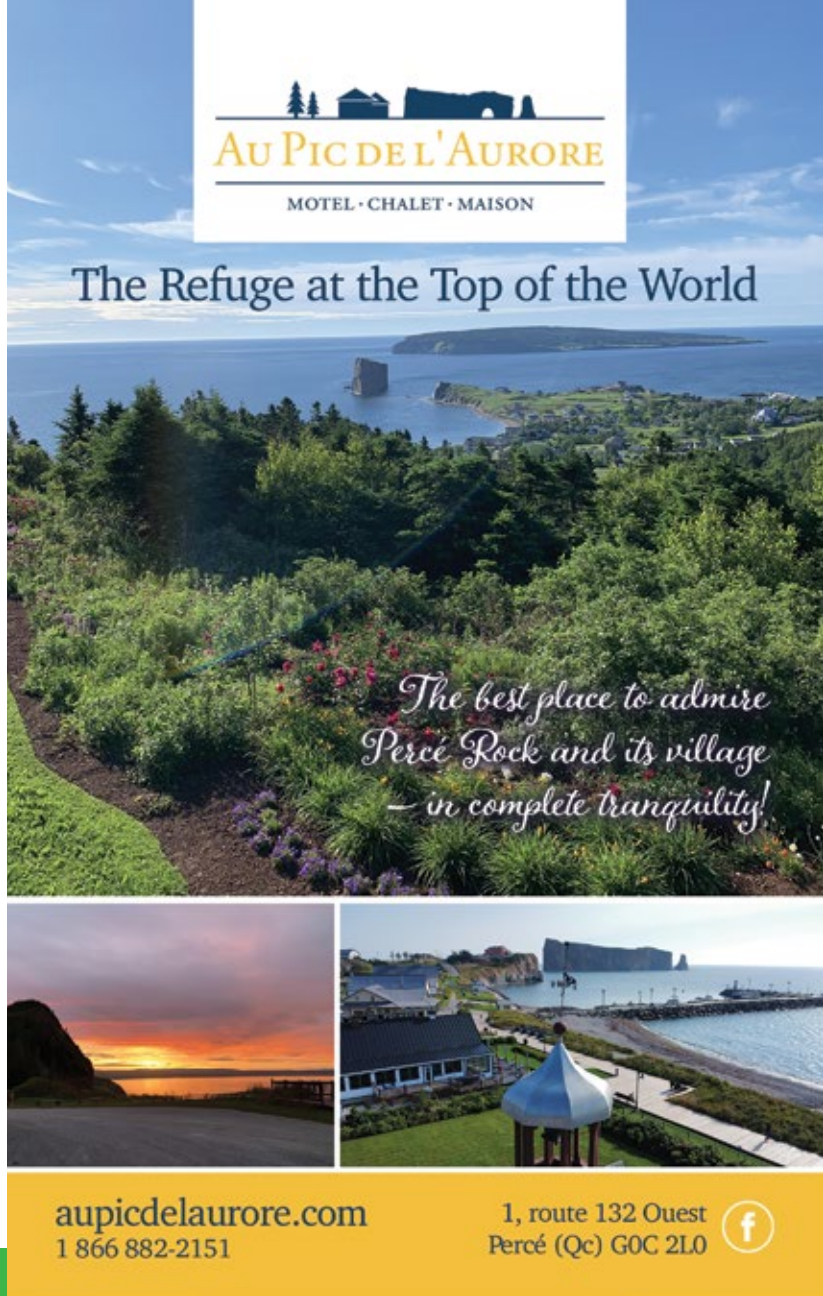
Marché des Saveurs Gaspésiennes
418.368.7705
119, rue de la Reine
Gaspé (QC) G4X 1T5

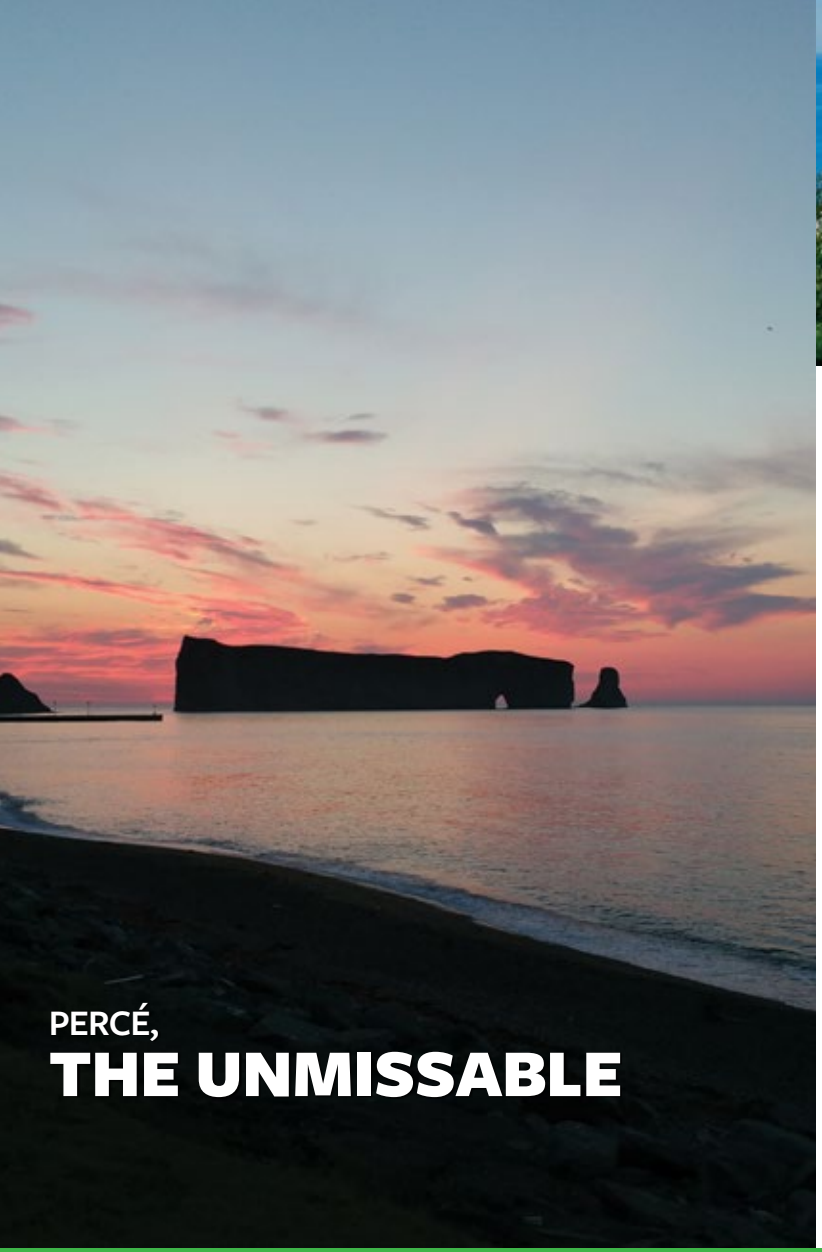
The market showcases delicatessen products, cheeses, charcuterie, and local produce. Enjoy a dining area and terrace where you can sample the offerings.

Oh les Pains
ohlespains.com
581.822.0555
114b, rue de la Reine
Gaspé (QC) G4X 1T4

Baking bread is like giving birth every day! This bakery produces delicious loaves, crispy pastries, and simple treats, along with hearty soups, excellent coffee, and a welcoming atmosphere. State-of-the-art equipment caters to both socially conscious and commercial clientele, in harmony with the local and regional ecosystem.







PERCÉ, THE UNMISSABLE



Less than 75 kms from Gaspé, Percé is undoubtedly the quintessential tourist destination of the Gaspé Peninsula. From the Pic de l'Aurore (Dawn Peak) to the scenic Côte Surprise (Surprise Coast), it is a site of exceptional beauty, internationally renowned. The natural setting is enchanting, with its famous **Percé Rock**, which was described and mapped by Samuel de Champlain in 1603, and Bonaventure Island, a bird sanctuary just across the bay. Percé provides access to the **Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé National Park**, a refuge for a Northern Gannet colony that hosts more than 120,000 of these birds from April to October, making it the largest colony in the world, in addition to being easily accessible.

In the heart of Percé, the **Geopark** offers geology enthusiasts, adventure seekers, and thrill-seekers a unique opportunity to travel back 500 million years.

Under the banner of novelty and fun, and easily accessible, it's the place to enjoy yourself amidst the exceptional beauty of Percé and discover its hidden secrets.

On the outskirts of Percé, beer and spirits lovers are in for a treat.

The **Pit Caribou Microbrewery**, a true Percé institution, has set up shop in Anse-à-Beaufils. You can discover its beers at the store or enjoy them on the terrace overlooking the sea. On the Côte des Pères in Val d'Espoir, **Brasserie Auval** creates beers with highly sought-after, distinctive flavors. Continuing along the road towards Cap d'Espoir, be sure to stop at La Société Secrète, a craft distillery housed in a former Anglican church that produces premium spirits using regional ingredients. The rooftop terrace offers a breathtaking view of the sea.

In Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, a few kilometers from the heart of Percé, visit the spectacular **Brett & Sauvage Nano-brewery**, which offers seven categories of beer, but only one basic recipe, all made with the same grain blend and using heritage hops.



PERCÉ

BY THE BEACH

At Coin-du-Banc, 8 km from the heart of Percé, lies the most beautiful beach in the region. Coin-du-Banc beach stretches for several kms, and its waters can take on a turquoise hue that contrasts sharply with the blue of the sea in the distance. From here, you can admire Percé Rock, Canne-de-Roches Cove, and its red and gray cliffs. At the far end of the beach, naturism has been practiced for decades. This beach invites you to stroll in search of agates, and the sunrises and moonrises are exceptional.

It is also at Coin-du-Banc that you will find the **Portage River**, known locally as the Emerald River.

This magnificent site is one of the starting points for the Rivers Trail, which extends 27 kms through the forest to Anse-à-Beaufils, south of Percé. You can admire its waterfall and even swim in it. It's called the Emerald River because of the depth of its waters and the color of the stones at the bottom, which give it a green appearance.

Near the developed section of Coin-du-Banc Beach, the **Auberge du Camp de Base Gaspésie** offers a unique playground for nature lovers. Located directly on the beach, it's possible to enjoy numerous outdoor activities, both on the sea and in the mountains. Giving a second life to a century-old inn, it's one of the last authentic examples of tourism from yesteryear. You'll stay in a unique inn-museum setting.

At the other end of **Coin-du-Banc Beach**, on the Barachois side, those who love wide, tranquil sandy beaches shouldn't miss crossing the disused railway bridge near the rest stop to discover one of the most beautiful beaches in the Gaspé Peninsula. A few kilometers away, near St-Georges-de-Malbaie, ideally located on Pointe Saint-Pierre between Percé and Gaspé, **Le Nordet** has given a second life to the former Motel Bond. This eco-friendly hotel offers complete rejuvenation with its **Thuya Spa**, nestled in nature between the sea and the forest.

A variety of outdoor and water activities are available.



CULTURE

On the cultural front, a visit to the former fish processing plant south of Percé, the **Vieille Usine de l'Anse-à-Beaufils**, is a must. For years, it has been the region's cultural hub, with its performance venues, gallery, and bar and bistro on the wharf. Nearby, the **Magasin historique (Historic Store)** brings to life the era of the general store, often run by Jersey Islanders in this region.

At the end of August, Percé invites film enthusiasts to the **Percéides**, an international festival of auteur and art films. As the only auteur film festival in the Gaspé Peninsula, **the Percéides** stands out for its free spirit, innovative programming, and commitment to accessibility for non-professional audiences interested in bold contemporary cinema.

The festival's selection is sensitive to the annual production of feature films and short films, as well as to cinematic forms that explore different genres such as fiction, documentary, animation, popular cinema, rural cinema, and auteur and experimental cinema.

The festival also acts as a presenter of contemporary art in situ with its new cinema in the heart of Percé. Nearby, the **Pit Caribou** microbrewery comes alive in the evenings with a rich program of musical performances.

The visual arts are not forgotten.



artiste-peintre Denis Loiselle

Painter **Ovila David Huard** offers an experience of visual arts and discoveries. Look out for the opening of his gallery in a new, larger building in 2024. A little south of the tourist village, painter **Denis Loiselle** welcomes you to his studio-gallery to discover his painting, a passion he pursued later in life after a career in medicine. The two painters are members of the Gaspé Peninsula Arts Circuit.

To enhance your geology knowledge, the **Geopark** offers **Tektonik**, an immersive multimedia experience that provides an overview of Percé's geological and heritage features. Visitors begin their exploration of 23 geosites, with the majestic Percé Rock as their anchor. Listen closely to the legends whispered by the stones for millions of years. You can travel back in time to meet Agathe, our mysterious "fortune teller," while witnessing the spectacular formation of the famous Percé Rock.





GASPESIAN BEER

BOUTIQUE AND TERRACE WITH 12 LINES OF DRAFTS OPEN 7 DAYS

MICROBREWERY
27 Rue de l'Anse
l'Anse-à-Beaufils
(10 minutes from Percé)

SEVERAL EVENTS DURING THE SUMMER SEASON 2025

ADDRESSES

Auberge Les Trois Soeurs
aubergelestroissoeurs.com
418.782.2183
77, route 132
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

Just steps from the pier, where boats come and go and birds take flight, this hotel offers 60 rooms, suites, rooms with kitchenettes, apartments, and cottages—ensuring the comfort of a distinguished establishment.

Camp de Base Coin-du-Banc
campdebasegaspesie.com
cdbcoindubanc
418.645.2907
315, route 132 Est
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

Comfort. Variety. Adventure. One of the last authentic examples of old-fashioned tourism, Camp de Base Coin-du-Banc offers lodging, dining, and a unique playground for nature lovers.

Domaine Renard
domainerenard.ca
418.782.4560
425, route d'Irlande
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

Six fully equipped geodesic domes welcome visitors year-round, just a stone's throw from Percé Rock, offering enthusiasts a unique experience in the heart of the UNESCO Geopark.

Hôtel Côte Surprise
hotelcotesurprise.com
418.782.2131
367, route QC-132 Ouest
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

Come for a relaxing and gourmet experience where comfort and rustic elegance take center stage. A unique estate with breathtaking views.

Hôtel Le Mirage
hotellemiragegaspesie.com
418.782.5151
288, route QC-132 Ouest
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

At Le Mirage, you'll experience the essence of Percé—warm hospitality and splendid décor. Each of the 67 superior rooms offers a stunning view of Percé Rock and Île Bonaventure.

Manoir de Percé
manoirdeperce.com
418.782.2022
/ 1.800.463.0858
212, route 132 Ouest
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

In the heart of Percé, across from the magnificent rock and a municipal water park, the 40 rooms at the Manoir—all with views of Île Bonaventure—are fully equipped. The pier, shops, art galleries, and other attractions are just a five-minute walk away.

Nano-brasserie Brett & Sauvage
brettetsauvage.com
581.359.0359
37, chemin de St-Isidore
Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé
QC G0C 3B0

Nano-brasserie Brett & Sauvage
What sets this nano-brewery apart is its use of no commercial yeast in fermentation. Its beers are made with the same grain recipe and feature old-fashioned hops. Seven beer categories are offered, all based on a single core formula, with a focus on regional products.

RIÔTEL Percé
riotel.com/perce
1.800.463.4212
261, route 132
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

Open during the summer season, this hotel is located on the waterfront opposite Île Bonaventure and Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé, in the heart of the village. It offers exceptional views and 39 rooms of various types, many air-conditioned and most with seaside views.

A must-visit in Percé.

Maison MATHILDE RESTAURANT

Filled with Gaspésie flavors, this little gem of a restaurant offers refined cuisine inspired by our local products, where fish, lobster, seafood, and grilled dishes come together

The charm extends to our magnificent terrace, allowing you to enjoy the breeze and the stunning sea view.






85, ROUTE 132, PERCÉ / 418-782-2349 / LAMAISONMATHILDE.COM



Les Trois Soeurs Hôtel

Les Trois Sœurs Hotel offers an unbeatable view of the majestic Percé Rock. Immerse yourself in the beauty of the seaside and enjoy the comfort of a distinguished establishment. The perfect retreat to recharge before embarking on your next adventure.

77, ROUTE 132, PERCÉ / 418-782-2183 /HOTELLESTROISSOEURS.COM



GASPÉ DELIGHTS

While passing through Percé or Gaspé, it's the perfect opportunity to savor the fresh seafood and fish from the Gulf. In Percé, the **Maison du Pêcheur (Fisherman's House)** has become a local institution, offering regional cuisine, wood-fired pizzas, and grilled meats for 40 years. The **Manoir de Percé**, in the heart of the village, offers gourmet regional cuisine during the high season, specializing in bouillabaisse, artisanal smoked salmon, and grilled meats, in addition to breakfast.

Several hotels and inns house a good restaurant or bar. **La Maison Mathilde** restaurant is next to the Auberge des Trois Sœurs. Unpretentious and with a friendly atmosphere, this restaurant offers quality dishes (lobster, fish, seafood, pasta, meats, and poultry). In the heart of Percé, with its new décor, **Pub Pit Caribou** is the perfect place to enjoy beers brewed in Anse-à-Beaufils by this microbrewery. You'll discover its exclusive offerings, guest beers, and private imports, in addition to live music, shows, and karaoke.

The popular **Buvette Thérèse**, where the cuisine changes with the seasons, periodically hosts drag shows while you enjoy a glass of wine or an inspired cocktail.

Nearby, **Black Whale** offers a menu featuring seasonal dishes and a wide selection of seafood and local products, sure to please even the most discerning palates, in a building steeped in history. Also in the heart of Percé, **Pub Aire Salin** serves its own line of beer, brewed in collaboration with the Brett & Sauvage Nano-brewery. They offer light meal platters featuring cheeses, charcuterie, and smoked seafood.

Don't miss a coffee at **Nath & Cie Café-Librairie**, where you can discover a selection of favorite books and handcrafted items. On Route 132, smoked salmon lovers should make a detour to **Fumoir Le Paternel**, where the Bujold family tradition, which made the restaurant at the Manoir de Percé famous, is carried on.

At Anse-à-Beaufils, the café-bistro at the **La Vieille Usine** performance hall and gallery, with its terrace right on the wharf, is a natural meeting place. The menu boasts Gaspé Peninsula delicacies, excellent coffees, and a variety of other beverages. Its popular happy hours and musical evenings will liven up your stay.





ADDRESSES

Buvette Thérèse
buvettetherese.com
418.689.9609
162, route 132 Ouest
Percé, G0C 2L0

A beloved local spot where the menu changes with the seasons, cocktails are crafted with care, and wines are chosen with passion. We look forward to serving you.

Maison du Pêcheur
maisondupecheur.ca
418.782.5331
155, place du Quai
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

For 40 years, this has been a must-visit in the heart of Percé, offering spectacular views of the rock and Île Bonaventure.

Microbrasserie Pit Caribou
pitcaribou.com
418.782.1444
27, rue de l'Anse
Cap-d'Espoir (QC) G0C 1G0

The Pit Caribou Microbrewery and its team welcome you with open arms to their world of craft beer. Brewed in L'Anse-à-Beaufils near the heart of Percé—a charming fishing village—their beers reflect the authenticity and freshness of the people of L'Anse.

Nath & Cie Café-librairie
nathetcompagnie.com
418 782-4561
224, route 132 Ouest
Percé, QC G0C 2L0

The perfect place to enjoy a coffee while discovering a curated selection of books and handcrafted items we love. A welcoming, community-focused space where friendly encounters and cultural celebrations come together, blending the practical with the pleasant in every season.

Pub Aire Salin
Pub-Aire-Salin
418.782.0108
182, route 132 ouest
Percé, QC G0C 2L0

A pub in the heart of Percé offering light meal platters (cheese, rillettes, smoked fish and seafood, sausages, etc.), Québec beers, wines, and spirits.

Pub Pit Caribou - Percé
pitcaribou.com
418.782.1443
182, route 132 Ouest
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

In the heart of Percé, this pub offers a fine selection of microbrewery beers alongside a few local snacks inspired by land and sea to satisfy your cravings.

Restaurant Maison Mathilde
418.782.2349
85, route 132 Ouest
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

This charming restaurant at Auberge Trois Soeurs offers a relaxed family atmosphere, comforting breakfasts, an à la carte menu all day, and a very popular table d'hôte in the evening.

Restaurant Maison Black Whale
nathetcompagnie.com
418 782-4561
170, route 132 Ouest
Percé (QC) G0C 2L0

Seasonal cuisine featuring a wide selection of seafood dishes and local produce year-round, delighting even the most discerning palates. A friendly gathering place where refined dishes and local ingredients take center stage—a cuisine that evolves with the seasons.



CHANDLER
HOME TO MARY TRAVERS

South of Percé, in Chandler, the second largest city in the Gaspé Peninsula, you'll find the region's most beautiful sandy beaches, a secret that has been fairly well kept until now.

Born from the merger of the towns and villages of Pabos, Chandler, and Newport in 2001, this former industrial town, dominated for nearly a century by the pulp and paper industry, is gradually establishing itself as a tourist destination in the Gaspé Peninsula.

And yet, the historical name of Pabos is associated with one of the most important maritime seigneuries in the history of New France.

The **Espace Napaga** archaeological site allows us to discover this permanent fishing station and seat of the important Gaspé seigneury, occupied from 1729 to 1758 until its destruction by the British during the Seven Years' War. In this open-air museum, you can discover various vestiges of the French Regime, including the manor house, fishermen's huts and a store, as well as the potential remains of the cemetery, chapel, outbuildings, and fishing facilities.

The town's current name comes from **Percy Milton Chandler**, the first president of the company that built a large sawmill and pulp mill at the mouth of the Grand Pabos River in the mid-1910s. This story came to an abrupt end in 1999 with the closure of the **Gaspésia** mill, as the pulp and paper industry experienced a severe crisis.

Newport is the birthplace of **Mary Travers**, an icon of folk music, better known by her original name, "La



Bolduc," portrayed on the big screen by Debbie Lynch-White in 2018. This grande dame breathed new life into Quebec song in the 1930s with her famous turlute during the height of the economic crisis.

(il manque un bout, je crois) Enjoy your coffee at a table in the middle of a giant mug.

Just steps away, at Péché Malté, you can stock up on craft beers, local wines, and Gaspé Peninsula products.

Among the region's most beautiful beaches, **Marina** Beach in the heart of Chandler is one of the most popular. The **Espace Napaga site – nature and archaeology** – also borders a lovely sandy beach. But the most spectacular is undoubtedly **Beaux Sables** Beach, which lives up to its name.

On Commercial Street, coffee lovers gather at the bright **Mich Café** and pair their brew with a delicious homemade pastry. In the summer, the small terrace is so crowded that it had to be extended into the park across the street by the sea.

At the Fraser Motel, the **Le Sieur de Pabos** restaurant is one of the best in the region, offering a prix fixe menu featuring dishes made with fresh, local Gaspé ingredients. Its chefs will satisfy even the most discerning palates.

At Place du Havre, born from Gabriel and Kevin's great passion for wellness, natural products, and mental, physical, and emotional health, the **Gabéko** artisanal soap shop offers a wide range of body, bath, and home products. In the summer, its products are also available at its boutique in Percé.





ADDRESSES

Camping Napaga **espacenapaga.com** **418.689.6043** 115, chemin de la Plage Pabos Mills (QC) G0C 2J0	Adjacent to the Espace Napaga open-air museum site between Percé and Bonaventure, the campground is just steps from the exhibits, shop, beach, trails, and Bistro La Grave. Located by the sea and at the mouth of two rivers, this site has it all: fine sandy beaches and stunning sunset views. Ready-to-camp options are also available.
Espace Napaga **espacenapaga.com** **418.689.6043** 115, chemin de la Plage Pabos Mills (QC) G0C 2J0	An accredited museum institution surrounded by nature on the archaeological site of Pabos in the Gaspésie. It preserves over 18,500 artifacts discovered there, offering a unique glimpse into the daily lives of inhabitants of one of New France's most important commercial fishing settlements until the Conquest.
Mich Café **Michcafe** **418.689.7799** 165, rue Commerciale Ouest Chandler (QC) G0C 1K0	High-quality coffee, local and homemade pastries—all in an enchanting setting with a sea view and excellent service.
Motel Chandler / Resto-pub Ô P'tit Café **motelchandler.com** **418.619-4444** 515, rue Daignault Chandler (QC) G0C 1K0	A classic highway-side motel, just the way we like it. Close to everything, it features a restaurant-pub with a back terrace, hearty breakfasts, and comforting meals. Clean rooms and attentive service make for a very pleasant stay.
Motel Fraser **motelfraser.com** **418.689-228** 325, route 132 Pabos Mills (QC) G0C 2J0	A true old-school motel with renovated, quiet rooms and an unpretentious restaurant-bar. It also offers meeting rooms accommodating 10 to 100 people.
Le Sieur de Pabos **motelfraser.com/restaurant-le-sieur-de-pabos** **418.689-228** 325, route 132 Pabos Mills (QC) G0C 2J0	The restaurant-bar at Motel Fraser serves regional and contemporary cuisine. Classics like pasta, pizza, and poutine are on the menu, along with a gourmet table d'hôte that changes with seasonal availability and produce. Enjoy the wine list, takeout meals, and online ordering.



Working in harmony with the natural elements that surround it, the Chaleur Bay is sheltered from the winds and enjoys a microclimate that tempers its waters. This bay truly lives up to its name! It was given to it by Jacques Cartier in 1534, when he landed there in the middle of a July heatwave! Continuing along Route 132 from Percé or the Matapédia region, the landscape changes, and you pass through verdant villages.

Since 2018, the village of New Carlisle has honoured the memory of its most famous son at the Espace **René-Lévesque**, located just across from the historic **Hamilton Manor**. An iconic and charismatic figure of modern Québec, and a major player in the Quiet Revolution, René Lévesque founded the Parti Québécois in 1968 and served as Premier of Québec from 1976 to 1985. The LGBT community owes his government the addition of sexual orientation to the prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms in 1977, a first in the Americas.

After watching a short film, you will be invited to discover René Lévesque through an audio-guided walk in a magnificent garden overlooking the sea, where the blue flag iris, Québec's floral emblem, sets the tone.

Just across the street, the **Hamilton Manor**, built in 1852, immerses us in the history of the Loyalists who founded New Carlisle. This manor house possesses significant heritage value with its English Neoclassical style, a rare feature in Quebec. You can visit it and even stay overnight if you wish.

A witness to over two centuries of



history recounting the great epic of fishing in the Gaspé Peninsula, the **Paspébiac Fishing Bank Historic Site** stands majestically with its eleven period buildings. You will relive the great adventure of the two most important Jersey fishing companies of the 18th and 19th centuries, Robin and LeBoutillier. This Jersey presence, combined with the Acadian and Québécois origins of the population, has given the Paspébiac people a unique accent that you will discover by listening closely.









FROM BONAVENTURE

Here, we firmly enter the Acadian sphere of influence, with New Brunswick just across the bay.

Several villages were founded by Acadian refugees. The village of Bonaventure invites you to the **Musée Acadien du Québec (Acadian Museum of Quebec)**, which recounts the epic story of the Acadians who, fleeing the deportation of 1755, settled from Lanaudière to Montérégie, as far as the North Shore and the Magdalen Islands. Many settled in the neighboring Gaspé Peninsula, enriching the region's accent and culture.

In Bonaventure, you should also visit the **Bioparc**, where you can discover the five ecosystems of the Gaspé Peninsula. Some thirty animal species and approximately seventy plant species can be observed there. Visitors can discover the Gaspé Peninsula's natural beauty by hiking a one-kilometre trail that winds through the following ecosystems: the bay, the lagoon, the river, the forest, and the tundra. The trail showcases and protects the Gaspé's flora and fauna, offering visitors an ecological perspective that inspires action.

On Pointe de Beaubassin, in the heart of the village, the charming **Chalets du Bioparc** allow you to enjoy the attractions of this tourist hub in the shadow of its lighthouse. You'll benefit from the proximity of the beach and its freshwater, the marina, the campground, and the very friendly **Café Acadien**.



TO NEW RICHMOND

New Richmond is the main town in Bonaventure. Pointe Taylor Park on the Bay of Chaleurs is a popular outdoor recreation area with a campground.

Near Black Cape Cemetery, **Burton Beach** is popular with the LGBT community.

About 20 km from town, **Pin Rouge Resort** is a four-season destination and a popular ski resort during the season.

It is also home to the **LGBT+ community organization Baie-des-Chaleurs**, which has been working since 2011 for all LGBT+ communities of all backgrounds in the 25 municipalities of the Bay of Chaleurs. The organization defends the rights and interests of these diverse communities and organizes activities regularly.

In New Richmond, the **Bayou** restaurant-pub at the Hotel Le Francis boasts one of the most impressive wine cellars in the Gaspé Peninsula and offers a changing menu featuring local flavors. The menu features fish and seafood, grilled meats, and French and Quebecois cuisine. The Motel **Le Fin Gourmet**, a friendly establishment, has a dining room offering all the classics for travelers. For a good coffee in the heart of New Richmond, a stop at **Coull Café** and its flower garden is a must.

ADDRESSES

Hébergement La Ruelle **laruelle.ca** **418.534.4143** 253, boulevard Perron Est Saint-Siméon-de-Bonaventure (QC) G0C 3A0	La Ruelle offers three magnificent tourist apartments: a loft in an ancestral home and two apartments in a converted stable. Each unit stands out with its chic and rustic décor, featuring reused materials and works by artists and artisans from the Gaspésie.
Manoir Hamilton **manoirhamilton.com** **418.752.6498** 115, Boul. Gérard-D.-Lévesque, New Carlisle (QC) G0C 1Z0	Built in 1852, this English neoclassical manor house is a rare gem in Québec. Its architecture, influenced by the Palladian style, is unique in the Gaspésie and holds significant heritage value.
Musée Acadien du Québec **museeacadien.com** **418.534.4000** 95, avenue Port-Royal Bonaventure (QC) G0C 1E0	Discover the turbulent history of Acadians in Québec through the museum's permanent and temporary exhibitions and various activities, including its georally—a long or short circuit where you explore the history, heritage, architecture, and urban art of Bonaventure with the help of a GPS.
Le Vieux Poulailler **418.886.9272** 134 A, boul. Perron Ouest New Richmond (QC) G0C 2B0	You'll be charmed by the enchanting setting of Le Vieux Poulailler. This unique accommodation also houses a café-boutique. Located just steps from the shopping center and Pointe Taylor, where you can enjoy the seaside and water activities.
Resto Bar Café Acadien **cafeacadien.com** **418.534.4276** 168, rue Beaubassin Bonaventure (QC) G0C 1E0	Housed in a former fishery where fish and seafood catches were processed, this site was converted in 1995 into a seaside inn and restaurant. Open for lunch, dinner, aperitifs, and evening meals, it offers a menu featuring local specialties such as mussels, oysters, and clams.
RIÔTEL Bonaventure **riotel.com/bonaventure** **1.877.534.3336** 98, avenue de Port-Royal Bonaventure (QC) G0C 1E0	Formerly known as Le Château Blanc, the distinctive façade of this establishment has marked the site since 1906, housing a seasonal hotel.



THE FLAVORS OF THE BAY

To sample local flavors, Bonaventure offers several friendly spots. On Pointe de Beaubassin, **Café Acadien** is housed in a former fish processing plant where fish and seafood were once processed near the wharf. Converted into a seaside inn and restaurant in 1995, Christophe and François have been welcoming guests since 2015 for lunch, dinner, aperitifs, or dinner.

Its Quebec and Gaspé-inspired cuisine showcases local products and offers tasty, authentic, and innovative menus. Its five rooms allow you to stay right in the heart of the action.

On Route 132, the **Ferme Le Caprivore** shop offers fresh products from its goat farm. The artisans butcher and transform the goats into sausages and terrines. You'll find local soaps and body soaps made with goat fat, as well as a wide range of products from other local artisanal producers.

In Saint-Siméon-de-Bonaventure, the Bourdages family, firmly rooted in the same land for over 200 years, boasts seven generations of passionate farmers who have developed, over time, a magnificent agritourism business, **Ferme Bourdages**. Specializing in strawberry cultivation and processing, the farm offers visitors an authentic rural experience that combines discovery, flavor, and enjoyment. Be sure to try their strawberry and rhubarb wines.

In Caplan, specializing in artisanal



spirits, **Distillerie des Marigots** produces a complex and surprising gin made with 14 native and locally grown botanicals. Housed in a beautifully designed wooden building with sea views, it offers guided tours of its facilities, including a Charentais still made entirely of copper, a shop, and a tasting area.

In Paspébiac, those with a sweet tooth shouldn't miss **La Ganache Huppée**. On the menu: artisanal chocolates, pastries, baked goods, and excellent coffees. Products and services of the company.

ADDRESSES

Coull Café **coull.cafe** **418.886.9272** 134 A, boul. Perron Ouest New Richmond (QC) G0C 2B0	This café-boutique in downtown New Richmond offers a warm and authentic space showcasing local products and artisans. Specializing in coffee, the establishment serves four varieties roasted in the Gaspésie and offers homemade pastries, carefully prepared by Danika.
Distillerie des Marigots **distilleriedesmarigots.com** **418.388.2008** 300, boul. Perron Est Caplan (QC) G0C 1H0	Distilled on the cliffside to the sound of crashing waves, the spirits from Distillerie des Marigots stand out for their refinement and rich flavors, characteristic of the terroir in which they are produced.
Ferme Bourdages Tradition **fermebourdages.com** **418.534.2700** 255, avenue du Viaduc Saint-Siméon-de-Bonaventure (QC) G0C 3A0	The Bourdages family, deeply rooted in the same land since 1821, represents seven generations of passionate farmers who have developed a magnificent agrotourism business focused on the cultivation, processing, and harvesting of strawberries.









ADDRESSES

Auberge du Marchand
aubergedumarchand.com
418.759.3766 / 1.888.959.3766
530, boulevard Perron
Maria (QC) G0C 1Y0

Auberge du Marchand offers 16 rooms and two fully equipped apartments (4½), with access to a relaxation area, a shared kitchen on the same floor as the rooms, the beach, and a large grounds featuring games, a fireplace, and a picnic area by the sea.

Auberg'Inn/Aux 4 vents
aux4vents.ca
418.364.3885
725, boul. Perron
Carleton-sur-Mer (QC) G0C 1J0

This accommodation complex offers family rooms, apartments, and mini-lofts, both on-site and in surrounding buildings. The Umi Yama restaurant is also located here.

Bleu Mer
lebleumer.com
418.364.3885
496, boul. Perron
Carleton-sur-Mer, QC G0C 1J0

Located in the heart of downtown, this establishment features 20 rooms and studios directly opposite the municipal beach and Écovoile Baie-des-Chaleurs. It provides affordable year-round accommodations.

RIÔTEL Carleton-sur-Mer
riotel.com/carleton
418.364.3355
482, boul. Perron
Carleton-sur-Mer (QC) G0C 1J0

Long known as the Hostellerie Baie-Bleue, this establishment offers various types of accommodations, including rooms and suites in the main building, an economy package at the neighboring motel, or cottages. Located on the shores of Baie-des-Chaleurs, it is also home to the Gaspésie Convention Center and the Pub Saint-Joseph restaurant.

Le Manoir Belle Plage
manoirbelleplage.com
418.364.7289
474, boulevard Perron
Carleton-sur-Mer (QC) G0C 1J0

Located in the heart of Carleton-sur-Mer between the sea and the mountains, Hôtel Le Manoir Belle Plage offers lodging, dining, and meeting spaces.

Motel l'Abri
motellabri.com
418.364.7001
160, boul. Perron
Carleton-sur-Mer (QC) G0C 1J0

Motel l'Abri's accommodations include rooms with kitchenettes, comfortable and luxurious apartments, and standard rooms. Services include laundry facilities, a library, a TV room, and a gym.



FROM MARIA TO CARLETON-SUR-MER

Carleton-sur-Mer has long been a major tourist destination with its beaches on the bay, its swimmable waters, and its thalassotherapy centers. The barachois is home to one of the most beautiful municipal campgrounds in Quebec.

For sand lovers, a visit to the Saint-Omer sandbar is a must. Saint-Omer is a village now part of Carleton-sur-Mer.

Dominating the region's landscape, Mount Saint-Joseph enjoys a unique geographical position.

With its 555-meter elevation gain and only 5 km from the shoreline, it is the highest peak on the Chaleur Bay. Even if it's just to enjoy the breathtaking view it offers of Carleton-sur-Mer and the entire region, all the way to New Brunswick, the climb to the summit, easily accessible even by car, is worthwhile. Respecting the landscape and striving for harmony, **Mont Saint-Joseph Regional Park** offers quality activities, accommodations, and services, including a chalet and terraces at the summit.

In Carleton-sur-Mer, **Aquamer Thalasso-Spa** is a true institution that has contributed to the destination's renown. The establishment offers a wide range of services for relaxation and a pavilion for visitors who simply wish to stay, with healthy dining available on-site.

To extend summer and enjoy the fall colours, Carleton-sur-Mer invites you to its **La Virée Trad Festival** during Thanksgiving weekend. This festival offers an immersion in living heritage. An outdoor site and the convention centre's halls host artists of traditional music, song, and dance, storytelling, and legends, and offer workshops in foot percussion, jigging, violin, and more.



DINING OUT

Carleton-sur-Mer is the main tourist and gastronomic destination at the head of the Chaleur Bay. Here, several establishments showcase seafood and local Gaspé products. On the Carleton wharf, the menu at **Le Marin d'eau douce**, adapted to regional products, has a touch of the exotic and offers flavorful dishes sure to please lovers of fish, seafood, meat, and game. Whether inside or on the terrace with a sea view, you'll appreciate its vegetarian, French, and international cuisine.

Umi Yama offers sushi for dine-in or takeout. In the summer, its colorful terrace offers a magnificent view of the bay. Nearby, for a good pizza or a quick bite, the **Central** pizzeria is very popular.

At the start of the wharf, Belle and Sabine welcome you to **Saint-Honoré**, showcasing classic French cuisine. Also on the wharf, **Chaleur B Chocolat** is well worth a visit. This chocolate shop won the prestigious award for best milk chocolate in the world in 2023.

With a beautiful view of the bay, Jean-Louis in the kitchen and Armand in the dining room welcome you to **Cap à la Mer.** Enjoy seafood and fish dishes, wonderful stews, and other house specialties prepared according to traditional Gaspé recipes.

At the Riotel Carleton, **Resto Pub Saint-Joseph** doesn't try to reinvent cuisine, but rather to bring a touch of our rich local produce to the dishes. As a bonus, you can breathe in the fresh sea air on the magnificent terrace.



AUBERGE DU MARCHAND MARIA

ACCOMMODATION
RESTAURANT
GOURMET GROCERY

Our beach and our large grounds with children's playground, fire pit, and seaside picnic area will help make your stay unforgettable!





530, boul. Perron
Maria (QC) G0C 1Y0
418 759-3766
1 888 959-3766
aubergedumarchand.com

Local products and favorites from Quebec and elsewhere



In Maria, the **Auberge du Marchand** offers delicious Gaspé lamb dishes.

Bistro and regional cuisine are available morning, noon, and evening.

In the dining room or on the terrace. Its fish, seafood, and gourmet grocery section offer a variety of products.

ADDRESSES

Central Pizzeria & casse-croûte **centralcarleton.com** **418.364.0202** 550 D, boul. Perron Carleton-sur-Mer (QC) G0C 1J0	Year-round, seven days a week, pizza lovers and food enthusiasts gather in the 30-seat dining room or on the sea-view terrace. Since 2023, its excellent pizzas and quick-specialty menu have delighted everyone, whether dining in or taking out.
Marin d'eau douce **marindeaudouce.com** **418.364.7602** 215, rue du Quai Carleton-sur-Mer (QC) G0C 1J0	Built just steps from a beach on Chaleur Bay, you'll fall in love with the breathtaking view, which perfectly complements Chef Mustapha's refined French cuisine.
Umi Yama Sushi **umiyama.ca** **418.364.3885** 725, boulevard Perron Carleton-sur-Mer (QC) G0C 1J0	A magnificent terrace, exquisite cocktails, a view of Chaleur Bay, and a unique design made from recycled materials—Chef Eviant Pedroso Sanchez is sure to delight your eyes and taste buds with his wide range of sushi and signature dishes with Asian flavors.





FROM MIGUASHA TO MATAPÉDIA

About 20 km from Carleton-sur-Mer, **Miguasha National Park** in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region preserves fossilized fish and plants that tell the story of life on Earth 380 million years ago—when species first transitioned from sea to land. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999, the park is celebrated for its exceptional fossils, offering a window into a pivotal chapter of evolution.

West of Miguasha, a detour leads to **Château Bahia**, a year-round inn in Pointe-à-la-Garde. Built over 18 years by Jean Roussy and his father, this fairytale-like retreat sits just 500 meters from Route 132, surrounded by one of the Gaspésie's most beautiful forests. The property overlooks the bay, and its elegantly decorated rooms provide a peaceful escape. In summer, a lively terrace hosts events with musicians and artists, making it a great spot for food, drinks, and good company.

At the end of Chaleur Bay, just off Route 132, **La Maison verte gaspésienne** offers a range of accommodations. Guests can stay in the ancestral home's three luxurious rooms or two rental apartments, or opt for one of the charming chalets along the Petite Rivière-du-Loup, which flows through the property. The adjacent campground, sheltered from the bay's winds, provides mountain views and access to a trout-filled river. Campers can choose from packages with one to three services.





FOLLOWING THE
MATAPÉDIA RIVER

Route 132's loop of the Gaspé Peninsula leaves the estuary and Chaleur Bay behind as it climbs into the Matapédia Valley and crosses the Chic-Choc Mountains, where the Appalachian range tapers to an end. This chain runs north–south along North America's Atlantic coast and carries the Via Rail line linking Montréal and Gaspé. If your itinerary skips the peninsula's interior, this stretch offers the best glimpse of its hinterland.

As you ascend, the road enters the Matapédia River's mountainous basin, which flows over 100 km to Baie des Chaleurs. The surrounding Chic-Choc peaks create a distinct microclimate—winters are longer and snowier, summers hotter and more humid than on the coast. The river begins at Lac Matapédia, near Sainte-Angèle-de-Mérici in the Mont-Joli hinterland, then winds toward the bay. Between Routhierville and Matapédia, the valley narrows, its steep slopes framing the river. The folded and fragmented sedimentary rock here gives the Appalachian landscape its rugged character.

The **Matapédia** is one of Québec's premier salmon rivers and the longest in the Gaspé Peninsula. The road twists through mountains, lakes, and river gorges, delivering dramatic scenery at every turn.

The valley's first inhabitants were the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet, who lived here more than 2,500 years ago. European settlement began in the 19th century, spurred by the expansion of postal routes and rail links—including the Montréal–Halifax line. By the late 1800s, these developments had drawn settlers and fueled the growth of the forestry industry. The region's varied terrain supports rich wildlife, from salmon spawning grounds to white-tailed deer wintering areas and moose habitats, making it a prime destination for hunting and fishing—the backbone of local tourism.

Amqui, the valley's largest town and county seat, is home to over 6,000 residents—about a third of the region's population. The Mi'kmaq word Amqui means "where we have fun," a nod to its history as a gathering place for powwows. Today, it's the valley's top tourist hub, offering the most lodging and dining options. Its 1890 train station is a designated heritage site. Nearby **Val-Brillant** hosted the Gaspé Peninsula's first Pride event in 2001 at a local chalet and condo complex.

Twenty kilometers from Amqui, the small town of **Causapscal** owes its existence to the railway elite's private hunting and fishing estates. In the early 1880s, Scottish magnate Lord Mount Stephen, who made his fortune in railway construction, established a salmon-fishing estate along the river. He brought workers to Causapscal to maintain the property and oversaw the construction

of the town's first buildings. At its center, the **Matamajaw** fishing site preserves this history, dedicated to salmon angling.

While in Causapscal, stop at **La Coulée Douce**—one of the Gaspé Peninsula's best restaurants. Its regional cuisine highlights local ingredients, with Atlantic salmon as the signature dish.

ADDRESSES

Auberge l'Ambassadeur
auberge-ambassadeur.com
418.629.6464
266, boulevard Saint-Benoit Ouest
Amqui (QC) G5J 2E8

Located in the heart of the Matapédia Valley, this inn features 48 comfortable rooms that are sure to please. What's more, it is now a 4-star establishment.

Auberge La Coulée Douce
lacouleedouce.com
418.756.5270
21, rue Boudreau
Causapscal (QC) G0J 1J0

One of the best restaurants in the Gaspésie, offering cuisine inspired by fresh local ingredients, including its specialty: Atlantic salmon. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as for meetings and happy hours. A member of Gaspésie Gourmande and the ARQ. Lodging is available in the inn and cottages.







DISCOVER ACADIE

East of the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspésie, New Brunswick is the heart of Acadian culture in Canada. Northern Nouveau-Brunswick—bordering Québec—is predominantly Acadian, as are most of the regions along the province's east coast on the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Whether you take the Trans-Canada Highway through the Saint John River Valley to Moncton or Highway 11 from the Matapédia region along the Gulf Coast, you'll pass through Acadian territory. Though closely tied to French Canada, Acadians maintain a distinct national identity and history—one shaped by the autonomous colonial administration of Acadie during the French era.

After their deportation from the Bay of Fundy in 1755, Acadians resettled across the Atlantic, from Louisiana to France, as well as in Maine, Québec, and Canada's Atlantic provinces. Nowhere, however, have they preserved such a vibrant and unique identity as in Nouveau-Brunswick, where they make up a third of the population. This identity is celebrated in their national flag—a tricolour with a star—which you'll see throughout Acadian regions, especially during National Acadian Day on August 15th and its famous **Tintamarre**.



ALONG THE RESTIGOUCHE RIVER

The **Restigouche** River begins where the Matapédia Valley spills into its waters, winding through the Appalachian foothills before emptying into Chaleur Bay. One of the world's great salmon-fishing rivers, it holds deep significance in Canada's natural and Indigenous heritage. The name *Restigouche* comes from *Listuguj*, the Mi'kmaq community that has lived along its banks for centuries—long before European settlement. Today, the Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation remains on the Québec shore, directly across from Campbellton, New Brunswick.

On the river's right bank, **Campbellton** and the communities of **Listuguj** and **Pointe-à-la-Croix** (linked by an interprovincial bridge) form the largest urban centre in the Chaleur Bay region, with around 15,000 residents. The Mi'kmaq originally called the site *Wisiamkik*, meaning "muddy place," referring to the river's sediment-rich waters. By the early 1700s, during French colonial rule, it was known as *Pointe-des-Sauvages*. In 1755, Acadian deportees esta-

blished a small village here, while over 1,000 more settled across the river at *Petite-Rochelle*. The settlement thrived briefly before being destroyed in 1760 on the orders of James Wolfe after the fall of New France.

Explore the Restigouche Esplanade or visit *Restigouche Sam*, the world's largest salmon monument. For sweeping views, hike to the summit of **Sugarloaf Mountain**. From its 305-metre peak, you can see Campbellton, the Restigouche River, Chaleur Bay, and the distant mountains of the Gaspésie in Québec.

On the Québec side, the ***Battle of Restigouche National Historic Site*** commemorates the 1760 naval battle—a pivotal moment in the Seven Years' War. In Pointe-à-la-Croix, the Young House (built in 1830) now houses the ***La Petite-Rochelle Interpretation Centre***, which tells the story of the Acadians who lived alongside the Mi'kmaq and endured years of conflict and displacement.

ADDRESSES

Appalaches Dômes & Spa **oldchurchcottages.com** **506.329.5444** 62, Islandview Dr. Flatlands (NB) E3N 4X2	In 2022, Jo-Anne and Danny created a unique oasis on a large plot of land bordering the Restigouche River: Appalaches Dômes & Spa. Three fully equipped domes offer a hot tub, sunset views, and stargazing at night—glamping at its finest.
Pronto – Bistro Italien **prontocampbellton.com** **506.753.5000** 99, Roseberry St Campbellton (NB) E3N 2G6	Founded with the simple concept of bringing a bistro-style restaurant to Campbellton, Pronto serves Italian dishes such as delicious appetizers, salads, and pasta, along with an accommodating drink menu.
Island View Cottage **oldchurchcottages.com** **506.329.5444** 62, Islandview Dr. Flatlands (NB) E3N 4X2	Rent this unique vacation cottage, converted from a historic disused church on the banks of the Restigouche River. It features two floors with numerous private and common spaces, all in a colonial-style setting.
Maison Napier **phili664.wixsite.com/maison-napier** **506.760.1945** 5, rue Stanley Campbellton (NB) E3N 1G7	Experience a stay steeped in history at Maison Napier bed and breakfast. Housed in a three-story manor over a century old, tastefully renovated and furnished over the past seven years, it offers four bedrooms and a two-bedroom apartment.







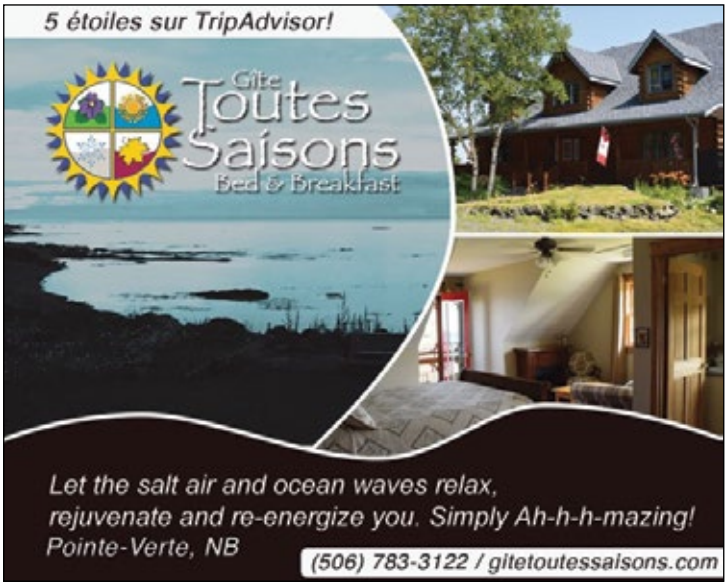
BATHURST
AND THE CHALEUR REGION

Gloucester County is the heart of Acadian life in New Brunswick, home to 80,000 people—85% of them Acadian. It stretches along the eastern shores of the baie des Chaleurs, encompassing Bathurst and the Acadian Peninsula. With a population of 12,000, Bathurst is the region's largest city.

Once an industrial hub, Bathurst has shifted toward a service-based economy, and its waterfront has reclaimed much of its natural beauty. The area is framed by Youghall Provincial Park and its scenic beach. In the city center, the Waterfront Promenade is a lively gathering spot lined with boutiques, artisan workshops, restaurants, and a waterfront art gallery. While exploring, stop by **R&J Bakery** for fresh bread and *viennoiseries*—they sell out fast.

West of Bathurst, the village of **Petit-Rocher** has long been a draw for its popular gay camping event over Labour Day weekend, giving the area a reputation as an LGBTQ+-friendly destination. This tradition continues with **Fierté Chaleur Pride**, based in Bathurst. In **Pointe-Verte, Gîte Toutes Saisons** is one of New Brunswick's first LGBTQ+-friendly bed and breakfasts. Run by the Thibodeau family, this seaside inn prioritizes guest comfort above all. The only rule? Sleep when you're tired, wake when you're rested, and eat when you're hungry. For everything else, your hosts can arrange massage therapy to help you unwind.









AT THE HEART OF
ACADIAN PRIDE

The Acadian Peninsula juts into the Gulf of St. Lawrence east of Bathurst, forming the tip of Chaleur Bay. Though the first Acadians settled here in the early 1700s, the region flourished after the Deportation, when many returned to rebuild their lives. Today, it remains a stronghold of Acadian culture—and a welcoming destination for LGBTQ+ travelers.

In 2016, Caraquet's openly gay mayor, Kevin Haché, raised the rainbow flag over the town hall on the International Day Against Homophobia. The 4,000-person community, which calls itself Acadia's cultural capital, has since hosted the **Acadie Love** LGBT Pride Festival. The 2018 edition drew Antonine Maillet, who made her first public appearance at an LGBTQ+ event. With its deep history and thriving arts scene, Caraquet is a must for anyone exploring Acadian culture.

The town boasts impressive cultural infrastructure, including the **Centre culturel** (home to the Galerie Bernard-Jean and a performance hall), the **Carrefour de la Mer**, and a local cinema. Around 30 organizations, from Acadie Love to the Théâtre populaire d'Acadie, use these spaces.

In summer, the **Quai des Artistes** near the port showcases local artisans in six colorful cabins—ideal for picking up unique works. Just next door, Bertrand's **Village historique acadien** is one of the region's top attractions. This living-history site spans 1770 to 1949, with over 40 historic buildings and costumed interpreters bringing Acadian resilience to life.

Caraquet's biggest event is the Acadian Festival around August 15 (National Holiday), a carnival-like celebration drawing thousands. Nearby Paquetville, birthplace of singer Édith Butler, is also home to **Distillerie Fils du Roy**. Their award-winning **Thuya** gin has put the micro-distillery on the map.

From Île Miscou to Val-Comeau, the peninsula's sandy beaches—warmed by the Chaleur Bay or Northumberland Strait—offer stunning coastal escapes.



Tracadie-Sheila sits on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, its narrow channels and lagoon giving it a unique coastal character—even without a deep-water port. The area is a hub for boating, fishing, camping, and beachgoing, making it a top choice for outdoor getaways.

Nearby, **Val-Comeau Provincial Park** features a stunning 2 km stretch of golden sand, backed by towering dunes and lapped by the Gulf's waves. The park has all the amenities of a well-equipped beach, while local fishermen offer deep-sea fishing excursions from the wharf.

At the town's entrance, the **chapelle du Sanctuaire Saint-Joseph** is a cherished landmark—a replica of the historic Acadian church in **Grand-Pré, Nouvelle-Écosse**.

Just outside town, **Deux Rivières Resort** occupies a quiet peninsula along the Tracadie river. The resort blends business and leisure with a modern convention centre, 33 cottages, and a 24-room hotel. From here, sunrises and sunsets over the water are spectacular, and on clear days, the shores of **Prince Edward Island** appear in the distance. A short walk takes you to the town centre.



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Bertand, (NB)
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hotelchateaualbert.com

ADDRESSES

Centre de Villégiature Deux Rivières **deuxrivieres.ca** **506.394.4050** 100, rue Rivières Tracadie-Sheila E1X 4S	High-quality chalets or hotel rooms, clean and comfortable, in a peaceful and well-maintained setting. With a convention center and a health spa, it's the perfect place for business travelers and vacationing families alike.
Château d'Acadie 3559, rue Principale, Tracadie-Sheila (NB) E1X 1C9	The Château d'Acadie is a welcoming and enchanting bed and breakfast for travelers. Built in 1939, its architectural style showcases traditional elements of the era and is unique in the region.
Hôtel Château Albert Village historique acadien **villagehistoriqueacadien.com/hotel** **506.726.2893** 5, Rue du Pont Bertrand (NB) E1W 0E1	Open from June to September, this hotel offers a unique experience and an authentic stay from the early 20th century. A replica of the Hôtel Château Albert, built in 1907 in Caraquet, it invites you to stay without television or telephone. Clawfoot bathtubs, wood paneling, and a cozy atmosphere ensure relaxation.
La Flânerie **facebook.com/laflaneriecaraquet** **506.727.3132** 36, boul. Saint-Pierre est Caraquet (NB) E1W 1B6	In the heart of Caraquet, discover an original selection of home products. From handicrafts to the latest trends in interior design, this boutique surprises with its diversity in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
Maison Touristique Dugas B & B **maisontouristiquedugas.ca** **506.727.3195** 683, boul. Saint-Pierre Ouest, Caraquet (NB) E1W 1A1	Located on the shores of Caraquet Bay, Maison Touristique Dugas offers accommodations with its own identity and distinctive style. Enjoy the fresh sea air, charming welcome, and quality service. A family-run business since 1970.
Quai des Artistes **centrartnb.ca/quai-des-artistes** **506.727.3277** 29, avenue du Carrefour Caraquet (NB) E1W 1A5	A space for creation, sales, and entertainment where maritime décor sets the stage for discovering remarkable works by local artists and artisans. Seasonal displays are featured in six colorful cabins, and original works created on-site are available for purchase.
Rendez-vous de la fierté Acadie Love **acadielove.ca** **506.702.683** 220, boul. Saint-Pierre O Bureau 216 Caraquet (NB) E1W 1A5	The Acadie Love Pride event celebrates diversity through cultural activities with an educational component.



ACADIAN
FLAVOURS

Caraquet, the cultural heart of Acadia, offers a standout dining scene. Start on boulevard **Saint-Pierre** at **Bobby Comptoir**, a cozy spot serving daily-changing Acadian classics. Locals and visitors alike praise its sugar pie—said to be the region's best. The café's vibrant decor and rainbow flag make it easy to find, and its artsy vibe draws a creative crowd.

A short stroll away, **Grains de Folie** occupies a restored historic building beside **Librairie Pélagie**. This café-bakery crafts artisanal breads, French-style pastries, and wholesome meals, all made with fresh ingredients. Pair your order with one of their excellent coffees.

For a taste of Acadian heritage, visit **La Table des Ancêtres** at the **Village Historique Acadien** (June–September). Housed in the **Maison Dugas**, the restaurant serves traditional dishes just as they were made generations ago.

Pizza fans shouldn't miss **Chez Isa** on rue du Pont, near the Historic Village. The seafood pizza is a must-try, but the daily specials and lunch menus also deliver.

Downtown, **Origines maritime** near **Carrefour de la Mer** offers a refined take on Maritime flavours. Chef Benjamin Cormier's seasonal

seafood and local dishes are best enjoyed with a reservation—especially on weekends.

Casa Guajillo blends Mexican flair with Acadian influences in a century-old home. Known for its charcoal-grilled and wood-smoked dishes, the restaurant also boasts a cozy mezzanine, a seasonal terrace, and decadent desserts. Reservations are recommended.

On the road to **Tracadie-Sheila**, **Brasseux d'la côte** is a must for craft beer lovers. Since 2017, this brewery has produced around 15 Acadian coast-inspired beers, some award-winning. Tastings let you explore the full range of flavours.

In **Bas-Caraquet**, near the area's beaches, **Café Maris Stella** is a charming stop for coffee, pastries, and light lunches. Open daily until 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES

Boulangerie Grains de Folie
grainsdefolie.ca
506.727.4001
171, rue Saint-Pierre Ouest
Caraquet (QC) E1W 1A5

Bread, pastries, French pastries, and healthy options for your breakfasts and dinners—all prepared from fresh ingredients. Served with a good cup of organic coffee or a latte personalized by their famous barista, Jean Pascal.

Café Maris-Stella
Café-Maris-Stella
506.727.5686
8216, rue Saint-Paul
Bas-Caraquet (NB) E1W 6E2

In the heart of Bas-Caraquet, this café-restaurant offers everything you need for a delicious breakfast or lunch in the morning and afternoon. Takeout orders are also available. Open year-round, with outdoor seating in the summer. Several gluten-free options are available, along with daily specials on weekdays.

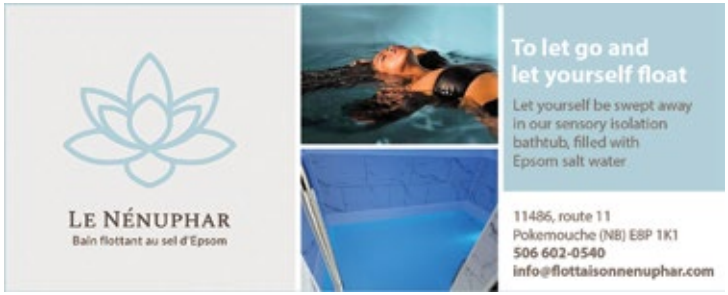
Casa Guajillo
casaguajillo
506.727.4696
618, boul. Saint-Pierre Ouest
Caraquet (NB) E1W 1A2

An authentic Mexican restaurant that has been serving gourmet cuisine in a century-old house in Caraquet since 2022. Rodolfo and Marie-Pier welcome 22 guests, and the menu of traditional Mexican dishes features local and regional products.

Origines - Cuisine maritime
originescuisinemaritime.com
506.727.2717
49A, boul. Saint-Pierre Ouest
Caraquet (NB) E1W 1B6

Since 2018, owners Chef Benjamin Cormier and Monique Snow have been offering fine gastronomic cuisine inspired by the Maritime region. A gourmet menu awaits the most discerning palates, while the three-course prix fixe menu highlights seasonal options.











SHIPPAGAN

A former 20th-century shipbuilding powerhouse—where massive vessels carried timber overseas—Shippagan later became New Brunswick's leading fishing hub. Today, peat harvesting fuels the local economy, creating hundreds of jobs across the town and surrounding region.

Just 15 km from Highway 11 (the route linking the regional capital, Caraquet, to Tracadie-Sheila), Shippagan sits slightly off the beaten path. Its location between Baie Saint-Simon and the Chaleur Bay inlet—where it meets the **gulf of St. Lawrence**—makes it a prime spot for outdoor activities. Visitors can camp, kitesurf, sail, cycle, swim in the sea, or simply relax on sandy beaches. The town's cycling routes and shoreline trail, which runs along the edge of the centre, offer scenic ways to explore the area. The **Véloroute de la Péninsule acadienne** connects the entire peninsula, with rest stops along the way.

Shippagan is also home to the **New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre**, where aquariums showcase the diverse marine life of the golfe du Saint-Laurent, from fish to invertebrates. The town hosts a campus of the **Université de Moncton**, adding a university presence.

For a unique stay, **Cielo Glamping** in Upper Shippagan offers fully equipped domes with terraces and hot tubs, all with direct bay access—ideal for unwinding in nature.

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AS SEEN IN:



SEE

MISCOU AND LAMÈQUE

From Shippagan, follow the road to the tip of the Acadian Peninsula, where the islands of Lamèque and Miscou lie between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Chaleur Bay. Their quiet shores are lined with sandy beaches, ideal for swimming and sunbathing.

Lamèque Island thrives on fishing—home to over 40 species of fish, mollusks, and crustaceans—and peat harvesting, which covers a quarter of the island. Every July, the **Festival provincial de la tourbe** celebrates this industry. **The Parc écologique de la Péninsule acadienne** offers a nature interpretation center focused on local wildlife, particularly birds, and native flora. Explore its ecosystems via a 0.5 km boardwalk, an observation tower, a 2 km interpretive trail with an arboretum, and a modern pavilion where guides answer questions. Since 2010, wind turbines have added a striking feature to the landscape. In winter, the area draws cross-country skiers, skaters, sledders, and snowshoers.

A short drive away, Miscou Island is known for its dwarf conifers

La vieille école,
it's also
a hub for local artists
and folks!

la vieille école
de miscou

A small hotel
located on a unique island,
Miscou: A gem of natural beauty
at the end of the world!

Cafe / Bistro
Accommodations / Spa
Live entertainment / Bar
Reception venue

(506) 344-0190

La vieille école de Miscou

and peat bogs. Crossing the bridge onto the island, you'll pass a wharf used by local fishermen. The dramatic shores and beaches are stunning, with Miscou's public beach especially warm in peak summer. At the island's northern tip, Birch Point features a historic 23-meter lighthouse overlooking the meeting point of Chaleur Bay and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The "**See Miscou and Die**" Festival runs here in late July and early August, alongside a summer-long series of concerts. In autumn, the peat bogs turn the landscape a vivid scarlet.

Near the beach, **La Vieille École de Miscou**, housed in the island's old schoolhouse, welcomes visitors with accommodations, a spa, meals, and live performances (open June to September). August brings the **Festival du thon**, featuring games, music, food, and tastings, plus a celebration for **Acadian National Day** on August 15.

ADDRESSES

Cielo Glamping Maritime **glampingcielo.com** **506.601.8005** 232, Chemin des Huîtres Haut-Shippagan (NB) E8S 2N7	A four-season ecotourism accommodation site since January 2019, located on the shores of Baie Saint-Simon, where sunsets are breathtaking. Five fully equipped luxury domes, plus year-round electric hot tubs. The Hub also offers a unique food concept focused on the production, promotion, and sale of new local products.
La Vieille école de Miscou **LavieilleecoledeMiscou** **506.344.0190** 10577, route 113, Miscou Lamèque (NB) E8T 1Z6	Housed in a former school since 2021, this is a home for travelers, locals, and artists alike. It offers accommodations, meals, music, and a meeting place. The Tuna Festival takes place here in August, with other events and workshops held throughout the season.
Le Nénuphar **flottaisonnenuphar** **506.602.0540** 11486, route 11 Pokemouche (NB) E8P 1K1	A floatation therapy center offering Epsom salt baths to help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, improve sleep, and relieve chronic pain. With complete sensory deprivation, it's possible to reach a deeper level of relaxation.
Malia Spa et Villégiature **malia-spa.ca** **506.344.2488** 11, rue Principale Lamèque (NB) E8T 1M9	Your wellness and relaxation destination by the sea. Malia offers 16 rooms spread over two floors, each more beautiful than the last, including two luxurious suites. The spa provides a variety of services to delight you, and the restaurant will enchant you.



DINING OUT

Thanks to its fishing ports, the Acadian Peninsula is a seafood lover's dream. Here are a few good places to eat in Shippagan, Lamèque, and on Miscou Island.

In downtown Shippagan, near the bridge to Lamèque and Miscou, P**inokkio** serves wood-fired pizzas—white or rosé—along with salads, pasta, seafood, and steaks. The menu mixes international and regional flavors, with mussels marinière in a creamy white-wine sauce among the standouts. In season, the patio has sweeping views of the islands.

For something different, head to Haut-Shippagan's **Hub at Cielo**, next to Cielo Glamping. The chef offers a "Cielo platter" experience, letting you build a meal from local products in the on-site shop. Try the Pearls and Oysters package, or stop in for coffee from their roastery, craft cocktails, or local beers.

In Lamèque, **Malia Spa and Resort Restaurant** focuses on seafood and hearty breakfasts, and

Taco Wednesdays draw a crowd. Nearby on Main Street, **Aloha Café Boutique** adds Hawaiian flair to the peninsula, with a seasonal patio and an eclectic gift shop.

At **Kabernet Gourmet Pub**, quality ingredients are the through line. The menu runs from appetizers and chef's specials to burgers, meats, and fish, plus an extensive dessert list. The wine and spirits selection is strong, too.

On Miscou Island, **Vieille École de Miscou** serves breakfast for overnight guests and light meals for day visitors, with a menu that changes seasonally. Time your visit for the Tuna Festival in August to sample festive specials.

ADDRESSES

Aloha Café boutique **alohacafeboutique** **506.599.0088** 41, rue Principale Lamèque (NB) E8T 1M9	With its Hawaiian-inspired décor, this café offers an exotic menu. A lovely back patio welcomes you in season, and its gift shop is filled with practical and fun items.
La Vieille école de Miscou **LavieilleecoledeMiscou** **506.344.0190** 10577, route 113, Miscou Lamèque (NB) E8T 1Z6	In a completely renovated former school, this social economy enterprise has been offering, since 2021, a café area with smoothies, pastries, traditional breakfasts, homemade fish cakes, filled
Pinokkio – Pizzeria Resto-Bar **pinokkio.ca** **506.336.0051** 121, 16e rue Shippagan (NB)	Located near the bridge to the Îles de Lamèque and Miscou, it offers panoramic views of the surrounding area. Enjoy wood-fired pizzas, appetizers, salads, pasta, seafood, and steaks—international and regional cuisine is on the menu. Seasonal outdoor patio, wine and beer selection.



Malia
SPA & VILLÉGIATURE
11, rue Principale
Lamèque, N.-B. E8T 1M9
506-344-2488
communicationmalia@gmail.com
malia-spa.ca



A relaxing and rejuvenating getaway, all in a stunning seaside setting. It's a sensory experience you won't forget.

- 16 elegant and comfortable rooms and suites
- Spa with modern facilities
- Gourmet restaurant
- *Reception room*
- *Kayaks available on site*
- *Bike trail nearby*

The restaurant

The Malia restaurant offers a variety of dishes, including:

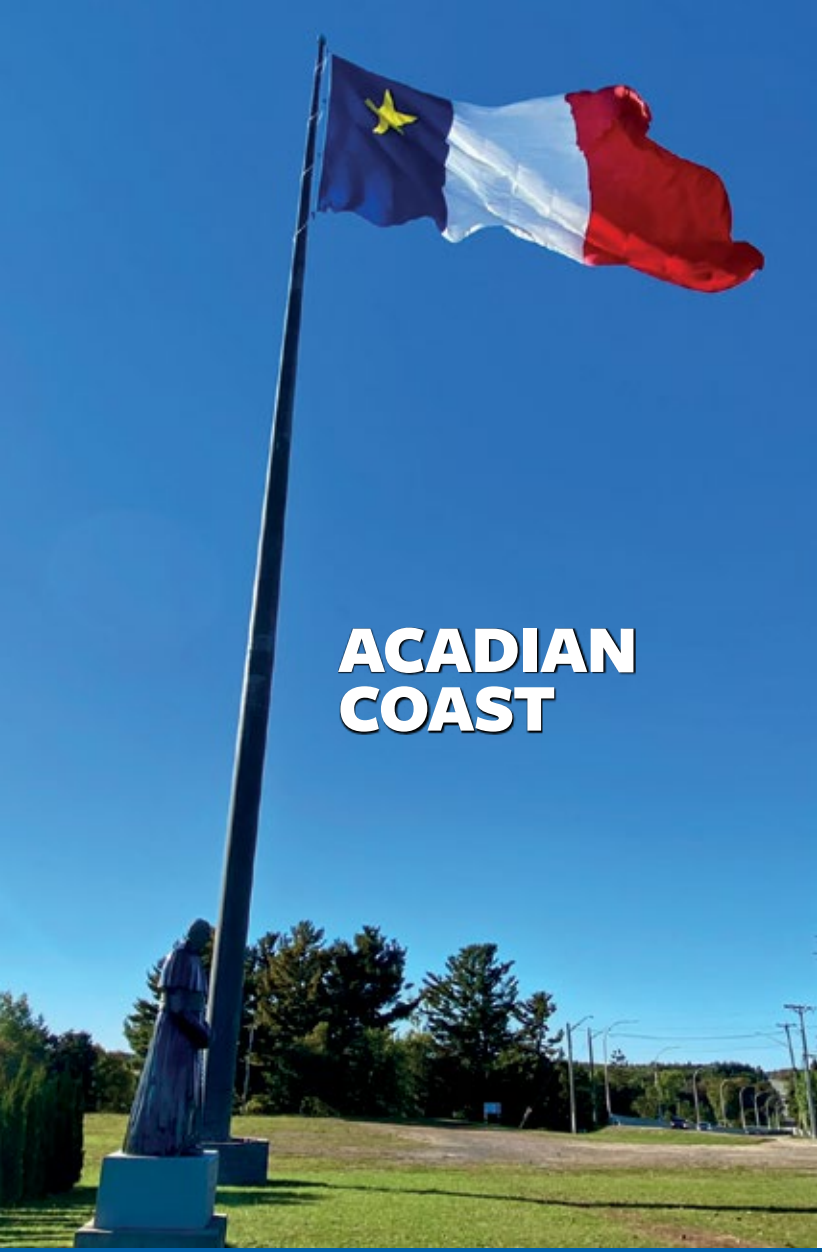
- Gourmet cuisine
- Mexican-inspired menu
- Breakfast options

Restaurant opening hours

LUNCH
du lundi au vendredi de 7 h à 11 h et le samedi et dimanche de 8 h à 12 h.

DINNERS
Wednesday to Saturday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.





ACADIAN COAST

BEACHES, CULTURE, AND ANTONINE MAILLET'S LEGACY

Southeastern New Brunswick's Acadian Coast is famous for its warm waters—some of the mildest north of Virginia—and its sweeping beaches. Kouchibouguac National Park, near Bouctouche, is a highlight, with some of the province's most striking coastal landscapes.

In **Saint-Louis-de-Kent**, the Acadian flag was first designed in 1883. A towering flagpole in the village center has flown the flag since 2009, marking the 125th anniversary of its official adoption at the second Acadian National Convention in Miscouche, **Prince-Edward Island**, in 1884. The design was proposed by **Marcel-François Richard**, the parish priest of **Saint-Louis-de-Kent**. A statue in the historic park honors him as one of the 19th century's most passionate Acadian nationalists.

Bouctouche, the birthplace of writer Antonine Maillet, is home to





Au Pays de la Sagouine (The Land of La Sagouine), a lively theme park celebrating her iconic character. From June to September, the site buzzes with performances, music, and theater, while the nearby boardwalk leads to **Île-aux-Puces** (Flea Island), where Acadian traditions come alive. After dark, *Akadi Lumina* transforms nearby trails into a 1.5 km illuminated night walk, offering a magical introduction to Acadian culture (May–October). The event is Rainbow-certified and hosts a Pride weekend in June, featuring Drag Bingo—a five-year tradition—and, in 2025, its first Pride Gala, honoring LGBTQ+ artists, activists, and cultural figures.

Just east of Bouctouche, the Irving **Eco-Centre** sits along *l'Arvune de la Sagouine*. Every September, the Bouctouche **Eco-Festival** celebrates the region's natural and cultural heritage, spotlighting coastal ecosystems, local products, and environmental initiatives. The dune here is one of North America's longest, stretching 12 km into Bouctouche Bay and protecting a fragile habitat for diverse wildlife.

For a meal, **Restaurant La Sagouine** in town is a local favorite, especially for its legendary breakfasts. The restaurant sits next to the bed and breakfast of the same name, making it a convenient stop for day-trippers.

ADDRESSES

Au Pays de la Sagouine **sagouine.com** **1.800.561.9188** 57, rue de l'Acadie Bouctouche (NB)E4S 2T7	The 32nd season of this historic institution celebrates the work of Antonine Maillet, bringing Acadian traditions to life. Join us on Île-aux-Puces for a vibrant world filled with engaging characters, shows, music, and theatre, from June to September. At sunset, Akadi Lumina illuminates the nearby wooded trails with an enchanting nighttime experience.
Gîte de la Sagouine **sagouine.nb.ca** **506.743.5554** 45, boulevard Irving Bouctouche (NB) E4S 3J5	A true Victorian haven in the heart of Bouctouche. Four comfortable bedrooms and a warm atmosphere, with charming touches throughout—clearly a passion project for owner Carole Savoie.
Restaurant du Gîte de la Sagouine **sagouine.nb.ca** **506.743.5554** 45, boulevard Irving Bouctouche (NB) E4S 3J5	Delicious Acadian cuisine for breakfast, lunch, or dinner! The restaurant offers a varied menu and fast service. Try their crêpe or seafood casserole, and don't miss their chowder.





SHEDIAC
THE LOBSTER CAPITAL



AT CAP-PELÉ

Twenty-five kilometres south of Moncton, Shediac is the Acadian Coast's top beach destination. **Parlee Beach Provincial Park** fills up every summer, drawing visitors to its warm waters and sandy shores.

This Acadian peninsula—where Moncton meets Nova Scotia—is home to *Shiac*, a local dialect blending French and English. A contraction of "Shediac," the term is rarely heard outside the region.

Shediac calls itself the lobster capital of the world. The town's lobster fishery is internationally recognized, and each July, the Lobster Festival celebrates the end of the fishing season. In 2024, the festival marked its 75th anniversary. A giant lobster sculpture in the town centre, installed in 1989, has become a must-see photo stop.

Beyond lobster, Shediac offers charming inns and excellent dining. **Gîte Le Griffon**, a gay-friendly guesthouse on the main street, occupies a historic bourgeois residence. Nearby, **Moque-Tortue**, a playful bistro, extends its *Alice in Wonderland* theme to a lively summer patio. The same creative team runs **Adorable**, a chocolate shop across the street, and the **Morse et Marteaux** food counters at Parlee Beach and the **Neptune** drive-in theatre.

Twenty kilometres east of Shediac, **Cap-Pelé** captures the essence of Acadian coastal life. The village thrives on lobster, herring, and scallop fisheries, with canneries and *boucanières*—traditional herring smokehouses—lining the shore. Settled in the 19th century, early farmers used *aboiteaux* (a historic Acadian dike system) to reclaim coastal marshes, with natural dunes serving as barriers.

Aboiteau Beach, a 5-kilometre stretch of pristine shoreline in **Cap-Pelé**, is one of New Brunswick's most beautiful warm-water beaches. Eco-friendly and largely undeveloped, it offers all amenities, including a beach pavilion tucked among towering dunes. Nearby campgrounds and rental cottages make it a perfect retreat. Long a favourite with the LGBTQ+ community, the beach earned **Rainbow Beach** certification in 2025.



SEAFOOD &
ACADIAN FLAVORS

Shediac—self-proclaimed lobster capital of the world—is the best place on the Acadian Coast to dive into fresh seafood and Acadian classics.

On Main Street in the heart of downtown, **La Coast** has been a local go-to since 2012. Chef-owner Mohamed Attia turns out seafood in every style, plus steaks, burgers, chicken, pasta, and salads. The beer list is one of the region's deepest, with 16 taps and a long bottle selection. Breakfast is a legend, and the doors stay open year-round for meals and drinks.

A few doors down, **Moque-Tortue** packs a triple punch: restaurant, escape rooms, and Atlantic Canada's biggest board-game library. Housed in a whimsical *Alice in Wonderland* themed house, it serves seafood specialties alongside a full menu of well-prepared dishes. Sunday

PLONGEZ DANS NOTRE
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brunch is a local ritual, and summer evenings bring live music to the patio.

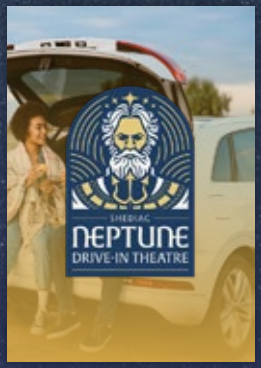
Next door, **Adorable Chocolat** is the creation of owners Sébastien and Heather. The shop handcrafts chocolates on-site from simple, natural ingredients and doubles as a café. Mornings start with fresh brioches and pastries; soups, sandwiches, and desserts follow. Coffee and cocktails are served daily until 6 p.m.

The same duo has also revived the **Neptune** drive-in, which reopened in May 2024. Under the name **Morse et Marteaux**, they've extended the "Wonderland" theme to the snack bar, complete with a custom-built Texas-style wood-fired smoker. Sébastien Després smokes chicken and beef over hardwood, then features the meats at both the drive-in and the snack bar they operate at **Parlee Beach** in **Pointe-du-Chêne**, as well as at their two Shediac restaurants.



DÉCOUVREZ D'AUDACIEUSES
SAVEURS MARITIMES
ET SOUVENIRS
SOUS LES ÉTOILES
SHEDIAC WONDERLAND







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ADDRESSES

Adorable Chocolat **adorablechocolat.ca** **506.351.0367** 395, Main St Shediac (NB) E4P 2B1	This chocolate shop has been open since 2010, serving delicious homemade treats daily to visitors from across Atlantic Canada. Simple, natural ingredients are used in a variety of options to suit all tastes and dietary restrictions.
Bistro Le Moque-Tortue **moquetortue.ca** **506.532.4911** 402, Main St (Unit A) Shediac (NB) E4P 2G1	Just seven doors down from the 4-star Gîte Le Griffon, this playful bistro, Le Moque-Tortue, boasts the largest collection of board games in the Atlantic region, as well as well-designed escape rooms. The menu features delicious, well-prepared dishes.
Cantine Morse et Marteaux **parcsnbparks.info** **506.533.3363** Parc provincial de la Plage Parlee 45, Chemin Parlee Beach Pointe-du-Chêne, NB E4P 8V5	On one of North America's most beautiful beaches, this Shediac Wonderland-operated snack bar offers a variety of products, including a Texas menu with smoked meats and fried foods. A shelter with tables is available for dine-in. Open year-round for takeout orders.
Ciné-parc Neptune **neptunedrivein.ca** 691, Rue Main Pointe-du-Chêne (Shédiac) E4P 4Z9	Established in 1962, the Shediac drive-in theater reopened in 2024 after a two-year temporary closure. The Shediac Wonderland team welcomes guests from May 17 to the end of October, with several new features, including the menu at the Morse et Marteaux canteen. Capacity: 350.
Gîte Le Griffon **legriffon.ca** **506.532.5412** 426, Main St Shediac (NB) E4P 2G4	An elegant Victorian villa located a few minutes' walk from downtown Shediac, named after one of the characters from Alice in Wonderland: the Gryphon.
La Coast Restaurant et Bar **506.532.15302** 358, rue Main Shediac (NB) E4P 2K9	Fresh and well-made. La Coast Restaurant and Bar invites you to dine in their restaurant. Easily accessible by car and public transport.



MONCTON
AT THE HEART OF PRIDE

Moncton is New Brunswick's largest metropolitan area. Though the city once resisted bilingualism—despite over a third of its population being Francophone—it has long capitalized on its linguistic diversity, attracting service companies in need of a bilingual or Francophone workforce. Today, the region has outpaced Saint John in growth and is home to key Acadian institutions, including the Université de Moncton, the province's only Francophone university. This energy has drawn young Francophones from rural Acadian communities, fueling the expansion of its twin city, Dieppe—the region's predominantly Francophone municipality. With a population of 150,000, Moncton also serves as a rail and road hub linking Nova Scotia and the Gulf Islands.

As the center of LGBTQ+ life in New Brunswick, Moncton embraces its inclusive identity. Rainbow-painted crosswalks line the downtown core, and every August, the city hosts River of Pride, its annual LGBTQ+ festival. After the Pink Flamingos bar closed in 2021, **Aris Bar & Nightclub** opened in 2024, reviving the city's LGBTQ+ nightlife. Since 2022, Dieppe has also celebrated its own Pride event in June, **Fierté Dieppe**.

Moncton's most famous attraction,



Magnetic Hill, has puzzled visitors since the 1930s. Park at the bottom of the slope, turn off your engine, and watch your car appear to roll uphill—a striking optical illusion. The site is one of Canada's most popular tourist draws and a designated heritage attraction.

Beyond illusions, the Bay of Fundy's legendary tides create a real spectacle in Moncton: the tidal bore. This daily phenomenon reverses the flow of the Petitcodiac River, a sight best observed from downtown. For a deeper dive into the region's natural wonders, **Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park** lies 30 km away at the river's mouth. Here, erosion has sculpted around 20 towering rock formations along a two-kilometer stretch of coastline. The park's landscape shifts dramatically with the tides—entry is valid for two consecutive days, letting visitors experience both high and low tide. Check tide schedules in advance and wear sturdy footwear for exploring the trails and exposed ocean floor.

For a distinctive stay, **Old Church Cottages** offers the Jones Brook cottage in Boundary Creek, 10 km from Moncton. Housed in a converted Protestant church, this three-story property sits alongside Jones Brook and is available year-round, ideal for group getaways.



MONCTON
DINING OUT

Moncton blends the energy of a university town with a bilingual identity—English dominates, but its Francophone heart beats strongest around **Université de Moncton** and the **Aberdeen Cultural Centre**, the city's Francophone arts hub. This creative core has also become a magnet for LGBTQ+-friendly spots.

Just off campus, **Laundromat Espresso Bar** on Saint-George St. (steps from the former Triangles club) pulls in coffee lovers and beer drinkers alike. Part European café, part neighborhood bar, it spills onto the sidewalk in summer. A few blocks away, **Notre-Dame de Parkton** smokes its own meats and pairs them with house-made sauces, soups, and desserts.

At the **Aberdeen Cultural Centre, Brumes du Coude** stands out as one of the region's best restaurants. Chef-owner Michel Savoie, trained in Europe, reinterprets classic French dishes with local ingredients. Since 2024, he's also run **Sève** in nearby **Dieppe**, a cozy cocktail bar serving creative drinks, small plates, and artisanal cheeses—all spotlighting local producers.

Near campus, **Café Clémentine** fuels students and faculty with fresh, homemade food and micro-roasted organic coffee in a laid-back, lively space. The café's brews are fair-trade and sourced from a nearby roaster.

ADDRESSES

Café Clémentine **506.384.4782** 62, promenade Elmwood Moncton (NB) E1A 3W9	This small café offers delicious coffees, fresh meals, and a relaxed atmosphere, featuring exhibitions by local artists.
Jone's Brook Cottage **oldchurchcottages.com** **506.329.5444** 2888, ch. Upper Mountain Boundary Creek, NB E1G 4A1	Rent this unique vacation cottage, converted from a historic and deconsecrated church on an exceptional site near Moncton. Decorated in a Salmon River style, the cottage offers peace and tranquility for families or couples year-round.
Laundromat Espresso Bar **506.382.6272** 382, rue St-George Moncton (NB) E1C 1X2	A favorite spot for the French-speaking artistic community, this café-bar offers local charcuterie and craft beers from around the world.
Les Brumes du Coude **506.858.0777** **lesbrumesducoude.com** 140, rue Botsford Moncton (NB) E1C 4X5	The restaurant serves generous, well-crafted dishes reminiscent of a French bistro. Inspired by seasonal fare from land and sea, Chef Michel Savoie invites you for a pleasant evening around the table, sharing his culinary memories. You'll discover an alluring blend of French, Acadian, and other traditional cuisines.
Rivière de la Fierté **rivieredelafierte.com** 281, Rue Main Moncton (NB) E1C 9X5	Pride River is a non-profit organization in southeastern New Brunswick whose mission is to ensure LGBTQ+ representation in all communities, whether through events, workshops, advocacy, or resource sharing.
Sève bar-apéro **sevebarapero.ca** 200, rue Champlain, suite 100 Dieppe (NB) E1A 1P1	A neighborhood cocktail bar—a place to unwind and recharge from Tuesday to Friday. Enjoy cocktails, mocktails, wine, beer, and small plates featuring local land and sea products, artisanal cheeses, comforting dishes, and desserts. Reservations by message only.







PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Canada's smallest province, Prince Edward Island (PEI) spans just 5,700 square kilometres and is home to around 140,000 residents—making it the country's most densely populated province. Separated from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by the Northumberland Strait, PEI was accessible only by ferry or plane until the Confederation Bridge opened in 1997. At 12.9 kilometres, it's the world's longest bridge over ice-covered waters. Visitors heading to the Iles de la Madeleine by car can catch a ferry from the eastern town of Souris to the Québec archipelago.

The island was first inhabited roughly 10,000 years ago. The Mi'kmaq arrived around 2,000 years ago, and in 1534, Jacques Cartier became the first European to set foot here, calling it "the most beautiful land imaginable." Though French and Basque fishermen visited, they didn't settle permanently. After mainland Acadia was ceded to Britain in 1713, France began colonizing Île Saint-Jean (as PEI was then known) with Acadians, using it to support the colony of Île Royale (now Cape Breton Island), where the Fortress of Louisbourg was built. The island's fertile soil made agriculture thrive, supplying food to the fortified town.

By 1755, before the Acadian Deportation, the population had grown to about 5,000. After Britain took control at the end of the Seven Years' War, most Acadians were deported, leaving only a small community in the **Évangéline region**—the birthplace of singer **Angèle Arsenault**. French heritage lives on in place names like Souris, Tracadie, and Crapaud. In 1798, the island was renamed Prince Edward Island in honour of Prince Edward, father of Queen Victoria.

Today, most residents are of British descent, while Mi'kmaq and Acadian descendants number in the thousands. The island is known for its distinctive red soil, potato crops, and a fishing industry that supplies seafood across the province. Tourism is now a major economic driver.

Social attitudes have shifted since 2001, when a Québec same-sex couple was refused service at a Charlottetown-area bed and breakfast. Today, the province actively promotes LGBT tourism, and in 2015, its largely rural population elected **Wade MacLauchlan**, an openly gay man, as premier.

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CHARLOTTETOWN
CRADLE OF CONFEDERATION

Whether you're stopping en route to the Îles de la Madeleine or making Prince Edward Island your final destination, Charlottetown—the provincial capital—is worth exploring. The city blends Victorian-era charm with modern revitalization, particularly along its waterfront, where former industrial sites now house pedestrian pathways, parks, and a cruise ship terminal (opened in 2007). This transformation has made Charlottetown a key stop for vessels navigating the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

History takes center stage at **Province House**, home to the Provincial Legislature and the site of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference—the first step toward Canadian Confederation. Nearby, **Founders' Hall**, a repurposed railway workshop, traces the events that shaped the nation. For culture, the **Confederation Centre of the Arts** offers year-round performances, including the **Charlottetown Festival** each summer. The centerpiece A**nne of Green Gables**, Canada's longest-running musical, based on Lucy Maud Montgomery's beloved novel. Montgomery, the island's most famous literary figure, was born here.

In summer, downtown Charlottetown buzzes with life. Visitors can follow the footsteps of the Fathers of Confederation while enjoying live music, local tastings, and historical reenactments. The city also embraces its LGBTQ+ community, with welcoming spots like the **Cranford Inn**, a lesbian-friendly B&B, and the **Shipwright Inn**, known for its British-inspired hospitality.



FROM CAVENDISH TO RUSTICO

Less than an hour from Charlottetown, the seaside resort of **Cavendish** and the surrounding area offer some of the best coastal access on the north shore of Prince Edward Island. Since 1937, Prince Edward Island National Park has stretched along 60 kilometers of coastline on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The park includes some of the Island's finest beaches, among them one of the most popular, **Cavendish Beach**.

The area owes much of its fame to the novels of Lucy Maud Montgomery and her character **Anne of Green Gables**, which have been translated into some 40 languages. The MacNeill family's Green Gables Farm, where the author grew up and which inspired Anne, is now part of the National Park.

Farther east, beyond the park, **Rustico** is the Island's oldest Acadian village. In the heart of the village, the **Doucet House**, built around 1770 and complete with its traditional bread oven, is the oldest house on the Island. It now serves as a museum.

A short walk away, the striking **Saint Augustine Church**, built in 1838, served as the cathedral of the Diocese of Charlottetown for about 20 years. Today, it is the oldest Catholic church in the diocese still used for worship. Beside it stands the **Farmers' Bank**, founded in 1861 at the initiative of Father Belcourt. Following a model later adopted across Acadia and Québec, it is

considered a forerunner of the credit union movement. Inside is a bust of Napoleon III, who helped this Acadian community at the request of its religious authorities.

For exploring this charming village and the surrounding area, the **Barachois Inn** is just steps away. It occupies an elegant Second Empire-style residence built in 1880 by the Acadian businessman Joseph Gallant, who also used it as his store. The MacDonald family, who run this gay-friendly inn, later added an annex in keeping with the style of the heritage building, creating several comfortable rooms.

ADDRESSES

Around the sea **aroundthesea.ca** **866.557.8383** 130 Lantern Hill Drive North Rustico, PEI C0A 1X0	Around The Sea is the world's first rotating house with luxury condo-suite rentals. Located on the seafront in North Rustico on Prince Edward Island's Green Gables Shore, Canada.
Barachois Inn **barachoisinn.com** **1.800.963.2194** 2193 Church Road, Route 243 North Rustico (PE) C0A 1X0	Five stars say a lot—but not enough for this magnificent home, guesthouse, and experience. The MacDonald family embodies the tradition of true innkeepers: welcoming, attentive, and dedicated to the quality and comfort of their guests. The ancestral home is a gem, renovated with care and decorated with taste and attention to detail. Exceptional.
Graham Inn **grahaminn.com** **800.794.3324** 7910 Cavendish Drive North Rustico, PEI C0A 1X0	Welcome to the extraordinary Graham Inn in the heart of Green Gables. Nestled against the national park and just minutes from stunning beaches, sports, dining, theatre, award-winning golf courses, shopping, fishing, and Green Gables attractions, everything you need for a dream vacation is at your fingertips.
Green Gay Bulls **GreenGayBullsBnB** **902.651.2202** 7401 Trans Canada Highway #1 Vernon Bridge, PEI C0A 2E0	A relaxed and welcoming guesthouse with friendly and humorous hosts, a décor that reflects a passion—perhaps an obsession—for interesting and well-chosen objects. Peaceful gardens, river access, a relaxing fishpond, areas where naturism is permitted, comfortable rooms, and a delicious breakfast. Yes, please!

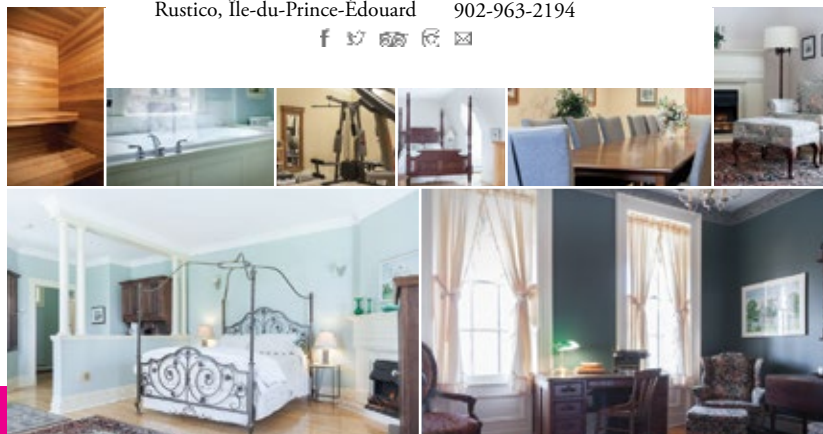


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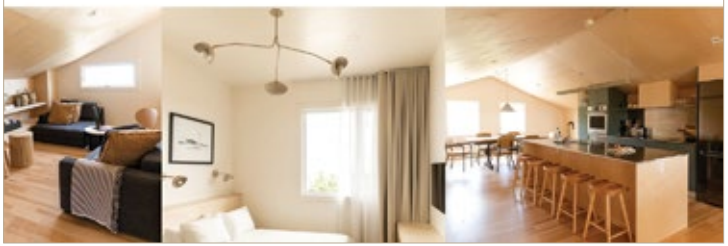




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THE JEWEL OF THE GULF



Scattered across the heart of the gulf of St. Lawrence, the Îles de la Madeleine form a slender, 65 km-long archipelago of ten linked islands. Sand dunes stitch the islands together, while red and grey sandstone cliffs rise above pastoral landscapes. Nearly 300 km of fine-sand beaches—some of the Atlantic region's finest—ring the shores.

Although politically part of Québec, the islands are culturally Acadian. Most residents trace their roots to Acadian exiles, and the Acadian tricolour flag (blue, white, and red with a gold star) often flies beside Québec's fleur-de-lis. Like other Acadian communities along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the islands observe Atlantic Time—one hour ahead of the rest of Québec.

For centuries, fishing has sustained these remote islands, and their maritime heritage remains strong. The surrounding waters also hold a sobering record: North America's largest marine cemetery, with over 700 documented shipwrecks.

The main municipality, Îles-de-la-Madeleine, is served by air and ferry. A second ferry links the archipelago to neighbouring Prince Edward Island. To reach the Îles de la Madeleine ferry terminal, travellers pass through Québec and New Brunswick.



HAVRE-AUBERT'S CHARM

Havre-Aubert, the historic heart of the Iles de la Madeleine draws visitors with its blend of heritage and coastal charm. At its center lies **La Grave**, the archipelago's only historic site—a narrow pebble beach lined with fishing shacks, cafés, and shops. This is where the islands' first settlers built their lives, and today, it remains the lively core of local culture. Within easy walking distance, you'll find restaurants, an aquarium, museums, a marina, a performance hall, and a working fishing port, along with seasonal events that keep the village buzzing.

For a deeper dive into the islands' history, pick up the self-guided audio tour at the **Musée de la Mer**. The tour covers everything from ancestral skills to the sociocultural evolution of the archipelago, offering a richer understanding of the region's unique identity.

Beach lovers won't want to miss **Sandy Hook Beach** (also called **Havre-Aubert Beach**), one of the archipelago's most famous stretches of sand. Each summer, it hosts the **Sandcastle Competition**, drawing creative builders from near and far. A long, leisurely walk along the shore leads to **Bout du Banc**, where the views of **Entry Island** are spectacular. For a more relaxed journey, hop aboard the **Balade au bout du banc**—a quirky open-air trailer tour pulled by a vintage tractor. The beach is also a popular gathering spot for the LGBTQ+ community.

Beyond its natural beauty, the Magdalen Islands have long been a muse for artists. At the entrance to **La Grave**, stop by the **Économusée** and **Artisans du sable**, where sand is sculpted into intricate, lasting artworks. If you're inspired, sign up for a sandcastle workshop to hone your skills before the next competition.



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CAP-AUX-MEULES

For most visitors arriving by ferry in summer, Cap-aux-Meules is the gateway to the Iles de la Madeleine—offering the first taste of the archipelago's unique charm. It's also the departure point for boat trips to Entry Island. As the administrative and service hub of the islands, Cap-aux-Meules Island has the largest population and provides all essential services, along with most of the businesses that stay open year-round. The port is a busy center for both offshore and inshore fishing.

The island is home to three villages. Beyond Cap-aux-Meules itself, L'Étang-du-Nord to the west and Fatima to the north showcase the region's natural beauty and diverse activities. Fatima's windswept coastline features steep, dramatic cliffs, while the long, flat stretch of **Dune-du-Nord** beach once served as the archipelago's first airstrip.

To the west, in L'Étang-du-Nord, **La Côte** is a popular public park where locals gather to stroll along the fishing port. The landscaped cove, centered around a striking sculpture, offers a peaceful spot for walks.

Martinique Beach, with its shallow waters perfect for swimming, stretches 12 kilometers along the dune linking Cap-aux-Meules Island to Havre-Aubert Island in the south. Overlooking **Plaisance Bay**, it connects to **Cap-aux-Meules Beach**.

In the heart of Cap-aux-Meules, **Aux pas perdus** is a must-visit. Spread across two buildings, this venue features a professional performance hall that hosts top Québec musicians while keeping the warm, intimate vibe of the islands. Local art adorns the space, and the front bar is ideal for happy hour or unwinding after a show. **Aux pas perdus** also offers accommodations and a restaurant serving pasta, Asian dishes, and burgers—most made with local ingredients like **Pied-de-Vent** cheese and seal meat.









THE COUNTRYSIDE CHARM OF

HAVRE-AUX-MAISONS

Havre-aux-Maisons Island feels distinctly rural, its winding roads dotted with brightly painted houses and dramatic cliffs that shift color with the light. The landscape is largely treeless—a legacy of extensive clear-cutting in the last century.

Highlights include **Petite-Échouerie**, a striking beach with calm waters, and **Dune du Sud**, a seemingly endless stretch of white sand. Nearby, **Pointe Basse** offers a quieter shoreline and a glimpse into the island's fishing heritage.

The small harbor at **Pointe-Basse** was once a center for herring smoking, a tradition revived by **Le Fumoir d'Antan**. Today, visitors can sample smoked fish and learn about the process. Just steps away, **La Moule du Large** sells mussels and oysters farmed 7 km offshore, where water temperatures never exceed 18°C. The company is the only one in North America using this method, ensuring exceptional flavor.

For cheese lovers, **Fromagerie du Pied-de-Vent** is a must-visit. The island's namesake cheese and the award-winning **Tomme des Demoiselles** are produced here, alongside a selection of local products and ready-to-eat cheese dishes.

Wine and spirits enthusiasts should stop by **Vignoble Le Barbocheux**, where the legendary *bagosse*—a traditional artisanal wine, not beer—is crafted. The vineyard also produces a fortified port-style wine and small-batch fruit liqueurs.

GRANDE-ENTRÉE

ISLAND LIFE AT ITS MOST AUTHENTIC

At the northern tip of the Magdalen Islands archipelago, Île de Grande-Entrée offers a quieter side of island life. Known as Québec's lobster capital since 1994, this is where over half the islands' annual lobster catch comes ashore. Route 199 ends at the lively fishing port, where brightly painted boats line the shore.

A short drive away, Old Harry's **Grande Échouerie Beach** is one of the archipelago's most stunning stretches of sand. Some say its waters are the warmest in the islands—comparable to those at Pointe-de-l'Est and **Pointe-aux-Loups**. A growing hotspot for kitesurfing, the beach also borders the **Pointe-de-l'Est National Wildlife Area**, perfect for long, windswept walks.

For a deeper connection to local life, **Auberge La Salicorne** offers all-inclusive stays in a working fishing village. Try cockle fishing, explore sea caves, or simply wander the beaches and cliffs while getting to know the community.





THE FLAVOURS
OF THE ISLANDS

The Îles de la Madeleine offer a chance to savour the archipelago's culinary specialties, rooted in fresh local ingredients and simple, flavourful preparations.

In **Cap-aux-Meules**, **Quai No360** on **Chemin du Quai** serves market-fresh dishes paired with a curated selection of wines and cocktails in a relaxed setting. Across the street, **Chez Renard**, a café-bar, also focuses on seasonal fare.

Nearby, **Aux Pas Perdus** is a vibrant bistro with inventive, unpretentious dishes. Since 2007, **Brûlerie des Îles** has been roasting premium coffee beans on-site, offering a variety of blends for dine-in or takeout.

A short drive away in **Fatima**, **Decker Boy** has been a local institution for over 35 years. Its seafood pizza is legendary across Québec, and the menu also includes fried chicken, subs, and the famous **Banax** doughnuts.

On **Étang-du-Nord**, **Gourmande de Nature** invites visitors to learn fish-cooking techniques, discover local products, or simply explore their history. Nearby, **Restaurant Eva** serves bistro-style dishes like halibut ceviche with tequila, pork-and-ravioli with scallop mousse, and smoked mussels—alongside creative cocktails and desserts. **Le Flâneur**, a boutique-workshop-gallery, also offers excellent coffee and a cozy tearoom.

Heading toward **Havre-Aubert Island**, **Les Araynes** stands out for its healthy, flavourful menu (though its carrot cake is a decadent exception). The evening table d'hôte and hearty breakfasts make it a favourite.

In **Havre-Aubert**, **Auberge Chez Denis** à François at the entrance to the historic **La Grave** site offers an elegant dining room with seafood-focused dishes like lobster in the shell, seafood paella, and seal with pearl onions. Lunchtime favourites include mussels and fries or fish soup.

On **La Grave**, **Café de la Grave**—housed in a former general store—is a cultural hub. Beyond its excellent cuisine, it has long been a gathering place for live music, art exhibitions, and spontaneous jam sessions.

On **Havre-aux-Maisons Island**, **Pizza d'la Pointe** serves rustic, colourful pizzas on fresh dough, including the must-try fisherman's pizza. Next door, **Hélène des Îles** crafts pastries and viennoiseries on-site for a sweet finish.

Nearby, **La Moulière**, the restaurant-bar at **Domaine du Vieux-Couvent**, is known for its bistro-style dishes highlighting the islands' best flavours.

In **Grande-Entrée**, **Resto Madelinot** at **Auberge La Salicorne** showcases maritime-inspired table d'hôte menus for lunch and dinner.

ADDRESSES

Balade au Bout du Banc
boutdubanc
581.453.1310
chemin du Have-Aubert
Havre-Aubert (QC)

At the very end of Havre Aubert, a rare and precious place is hidden, accessible only to the curious who dare to venture there. Since 2016, visitors have been offered a natural and cultural experience through a ride from the beach to the exceptional site at the end of the sandbar, aboard a comfortable and safe tractor-pulled cart.

Café De La Grave
cafedelagrave.com
418.937.5765
969, chemin de la Grave
Havre-Aubert (QC) G4T 9G2

Between memories of the past and those yet to come, we invite you to create and share these precious moments that will become part of the Café's history.

Les Araynes
lesaraynes
418.937.2131
102, route 199
Havre-Aubert (QC) G4T 9B3

A tasty and healthy menu (except for the carrot cake!), a set menu in the evening, and a warm atmosphere, plus six fully equipped studios with kitchens and separate entrances.

Maison Papier
maisonpapier.ca
418.937.4279
2979, chemin de la Montagne
Bassin, Îles de la Madeleine
(QC) G4T 0A4

The boutique showcases the work of visual artists from the Îles de la Madeleine in the form of printed reproductions on paper. The goal is to promote their talent while making art more accessible, allowing a wider audience to surround themselves with meaningful works that inspire and enrich everyday life. Located in the lobby of the Petit Hôtel de la Montagne.

Musée de la Mer des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
418.937.5711
museedelamer-im.com
1023, chemin de la Grave
Havre-Aubert (QC) G4T 9C8

The permanent exhibition at the Maritime Museum, "Living in the Islands – Experiencing the Islands," explores the archipelago's history through a fascinating journey through time and all aspects of the culture of this maritime and island people. Models, artifacts, documents, and photographs that have marked their journey are on display, along with a variety of temporary exhibitions.

Petit Hôtel de la Montagne
petithoteldelamontagne.com
438.816.9977
2979, Chemin de la Montagne
Bassin, Îles de la Madeleine
(QC) G4T 0A4

A small, self-service hotel with large shared spaces. Rooms are accessible via individual coded locks. Communal areas include a café, a shop, a laundry room, a huge terrace, a fully equipped kitchen, a library lounge, and a dining room.









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