

# Gaspé Peninsula

Québec by the Sea

September 13 - 22



9 nights | 10 days | 23 meals

## Highlights:

Québec City • Charlevoix Region • St. Lawrence River • Baie-Saint-Paul • La Malbaie • Saint Simeon • Rimouski • Gaspé Bay Peninsula • Pointe-au-Père Maritime Historic Site • Matapedia Valley • Miguasha National Park • Baie-des-Chaleurs • Kateri Tekakwitha Church • Percé • Percé Rock • Bonaventure Island • Geopark • Gaspé • Forillon National Park • Cap-Chat • Matane • Reford Gardens • Vignoble Carpinteri Winery • Rivière-du-Loup

## Tour includes:

Round trip airfare with Air Canada  
Nine nights accommodation  
Nine breakfasts  
Six lunches  
Eight dinners  
Meal gratuities  
All side tours and entrance fees  
Services of a step-on guide in Quebec City

## Accommodation:

Québec City	Le Capitole Hotel
Rimouski	Hotel Rimouski
Carleton-sur-Mer	Riotel Carleton-sur-Mer
Percé	Riotel Percé
Matane	Riotel Matane
Québec City	Hotel Manoir Victoria Old Québec

AGELESS PEACE OF MIND: **\$350**

PRICE PER PERSON including all taxes

Double or Twin: **\$6,609**

Single: **\$8,339**

Out of Province Medical Insurance Recommended

1 2 3 4

Must be able to climb at least two flights of stairs, negotiate steps with railings, and tolerate periods of standing during guided tours

The Gaspé Peninsula, also known as Gaspésie, is a peninsula along the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. Gaspé has been considered the Cradle of Canada since Jacques Cartier erected a cross here in 1534.

Recognized by National Geographic Traveler as one of Canada's 50 Places of a Lifetime, Gaspésie gives you the opportunity to discover four national parks; famous Percé Rock; the world's most accessible northern gannet colony; a UNESCO World Heritage Site; summits over 1000 metres (3300 feet); lighthouses; Chaleur Bay, one of the most beautiful bays in the world; remarkable historic sites; and much more.

A long peninsula bathed in the waters of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence, Gaspésie charms visitors with contrasting landscapes ranging from undulating countryside to mountains overlooking the sea. In fishing and agricultural villages and small, dynamic towns built at the mouths of rivers, residents have carved out a place for themselves.

A welcoming land, Gaspésie has been shaped by the cultures and traditions of its various founding peoples: Mi'gmaq, French, Normans, Bretons, Basque, Rochelais, Acadians, Jersey Islanders, English Loyalists, Scottish, and Irish. The influence of these cultures can still be heard in the accents, vocabulary, and songs of modern Gaspésie. A few historic and cultural sites, museums, and interpretation centres celebrate the region's history and talent. For example, fourteen lighthouses dot the Gaspé Peninsula; in addition, the architecture of the region reflects its maritime heritage.

Gaspésian culture can also be experienced through local cuisine and regional arts and crafts. Epicures will particularly appreciate the subtle and highly prized flavours of lobster, snow crab, northern shrimp, fresh fish, and other local delicacies. Furthermore, boutiques, studios, and art galleries will introduce visitors to artists and artisans who create new and exciting worlds using age-old techniques and products.

### DAY ONE: VANCOUVER – QUÉBEC CITY

Meals: D

Depart Vancouver on a direct flight with Air Canada. Upon arrival in beautiful Québec City check in to the well appointed Le Capitole Hotel for a two night stay.

### DAY TWO: QUÉBEC CITY

Meals: B

Explore the historic walled city of Québec with a local guide to see the Place d'Armes, the Laval Seminary, the star-plan Citadelle, and the Place Royale. Also see the Old-world houses crowding the narrow streets in Lower Town by the St. Lawrence River, and the historic Plains of Abraham, in the French-founded city port, and capital of Canada's Québec province. Enjoy leisure time this afternoon.

### DAY THREE: QUÉBEC CITY – RIMOUSKI

Meals: B, D

Depart Québec City for the Charlevoix Region as the coach skirts the St. Lawrence River. This morning there is a stop in Baie-Saint-Paul. Baie-Saint-Paul means breathing a breath of air that is as soothing as it is invigorating. Its postcard worth natural setting is juxtaposed with the excitement of an artistic city. For good reason the city has been named one of Canada's cultural capitals, thanks in particular to its museum of contemporary art and its many galleries. Continue through historic La Malbaie to Saint Siméon to meet the ferry which will take us across the river to Rivière-du-Loup and on to Rimouski, the gateway to the Gaspé Bay Peninsula. Overnight and dinner are at the Hotel Rimouski.



**DAY FOUR: RIMOUSKI – CARLETON-SUR-MER**  
**Meals: B, L, D**

Start your grand tour of the spectacular Gaspé Peninsula featuring panoramic views of the sea, beaches, and cliffs. Continue along the St. Lawrence River to Pointe-au-Père Maritime Historic Site, home of the Empress of Ireland Museum, to learn about the transatlantic liner's history and doomed fate which sank in 1914. Its loss was the worst maritime disaster in Canadian history.

While at the historic site, visit the lighthouse, one of the tallest in the country. Travel through the Matapédia Valley, named for the salmon-rich Matapédia River, for a guided tour of the Miguasha National Park., a UNESCO World Heritage Site with fossils from 380 million years ago. Driving east from village to village, discover Gaspésie's unique cultural mosaic: English Loyalists, Acadians, the Basque, the Irish, Jersey Islanders, and First Nations peoples along with their vibrant cultures are still present in this region. The stay is at the waterfront Carleton-sur-Mer, the heart of Baie-des-Chaleurs.

**DAY FIVE: CARLETON-SUR-MER – PERCÉ**  
**Meals: B, L, D**

This morning visit Kateri Tekakwitha Church, a teepee-shaped church that features Micmac artwork and view the community of Gesgapegiag's colourful wigwams. Visit Pabos Interpretive Centre and embark on an adventure, discover more than 250 years of a coastal seigneurie's history in an exceptional natural setting. The museum's permanent open-air exhibition provides a glimpse into daily life in the Seigneurie of Grand-Pabos during the 18th century and enjoy some local cuisine. Then head to the charming Percé village, with the famous nearby Percé Rock rising out of the sea. Admire the immense limestone block that is Percé Rock - formed at the bottom of the sea during the Devonian period. Enjoy a two night stay in this picturesque community. Dinner is served at the hotel.

**DAY SIX: PERCÉ**  
**Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, enjoy an unforgettable cruise around Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island, where we can view the spectacle of 250,000 nesting birds (including puffins) on the rugged cliffs. With 375-million years of history, the largest community of Northern Gannets in North America, and fascinating marine mammals, this promises to be a unique experience!

This afternoon visit Percé's new attraction, Geopark. Supported by UNESCO, the park features a suspended glass walkway offering spectacular views over Percé Rock and walking trails to other local geological wonders. The afternoon is at leisure to take in the spectacular views from the promenade along the seafont, lively with boutiques and cafés. Tonight we enjoy a dinner of fresh lobster at a local restaurant.

**DAY SEVEN: PERCÉ – MATANE**  
**Meals: B, L, D**

Gaspé, or Gespeg in the Mi'gmaq language, means "land's end" and has so many exciting highlights to visit! Located at the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula, this town has so many activities to experience that combine nature, culture, and history. Discover a vibrant downtown whose array of sites and services make it the most attractive city in the eastern Québec. You'll also be charmed by the legendary hospitality of the people of this region that's by turns urban, rural, industrial, and historic—but above all, maritime. ....continued



(...Gaspé Peninsula continued) Enjoy the scenic drive around the Gaspé Peninsula, with its perfect blend of sea and mountains, coastal villages, and sheltered fishing coves. This morning our journey continues to Forillon National Park, the official beginning to the International Appalachian Trail. The park is home to traditional fishing villages, pebble beaches, and quiet coves. Follow the peninsula road to the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse, the tallest in Canada, lighting the way since 1858. This national park is located at the easternmost tip of the peninsula. The scenery is stunning with boreal forest, unique geological formations, and abundant wildlife. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant enroute.

The afternoon's drive provides some of the best scenery of the peninsula with soaring cliffs, lighthouses, and expansive views of the St. Lawrence River. Along the way view the community of Cap-Chat, the sea and mountain scenery are dominated by 133 wind turbines, in one of North America's largest wind farms. Here, you can view the highest and most powerful vertical-axis wind turbine in the world. Later travel to Matane, famous for its Nordic shrimp, windmills, and the Matane River - the only place in Quebec where you can fish in the town square! Enjoy a two night stay. Dinner is served at the hotel.

#### **DAY EIGHT: MATANE** **Meals: B, L, D**

Our first stop this morning is Reford Gardens, a labour of love and internationally renowned as an exceptional horticultural achievement with its 3,000 native and exotic plants. Few gardens have been built under such adverse atmospheric conditions as the stunning Les Jardins De Métis. These thoughtfully designed gardens (also called Reford Gardens) were built from 1926 to 1958 by innovator and horticulturist Elsie Reford, who spent thirty years transforming a fishing camp on the Métis River into a vast 40-acre estate garden brimming with bold and innovative character.

Stroll amid some 3,000 plant varieties, including the famous Himalayan blue poppy, as part of 15 gardens in a naturally beautiful botanical wonderland. Spend time exploring the many areas of the gardens, such as the Linear Garden, the Stream Garden, or Bird Garden specifically designed to attract many varieties of birds.

Visit Vignoble Carpinteri, a local winery and Italian-style villa built on a former strawberry farm for lunch and wine tasting. Spend the remainder of the afternoon exploring downtown Matane and then meet up with the group for dinner.

#### **DAY NINE: MATANE – QUÉBEC CITY** **Meals: B, L, D**

Travel from Matane to Rivière-du-Loup for a stop and an included lunch. Rivière-du-Loup is a small city on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River. The city is surrounded by two majestic rivers, the Rivière-du-Loup and the St. Lawrence River. Continue the drive as we now leave the Gaspé area for Québec City. Overnight at the Hôtel Manoir Victoria. Join the group tonight for a special farewell dinner and reflect on your Gaspé Adventure.

#### **DAY TEN: QUÉBEC CITY – VANCOUVER** **Meals: B**

Explore Québec City on your own before a mid afternoon flight back to Vancouver. The hotel is ideally located in Old Quebec to get a final taste of this beautiful, historic city before returning home.

