

Gaspé Peninsula

A 3-Day Gaspé Peninsula Road Trip

DURATION

BEST TIME TO GO

FROM

The gannet colony on Bonaventure Island is only reachable by boat from early June through early October, and Forillon's trails and whale season both peak in July and August.

for 2 people

Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula is the kind of place Montrealers drive eight hours for and everyone else skips entirely — which is exactly why its coastal villages, whale-filled bay, and the sea-pierced silhouette of Percé Rock still feel undiscovered. Flying straight into the peninsula's own small airport cuts the trip to a genuine long weekend: three days looping from Gaspé town through Forillon National Park to Percé and one of North America's largest, most accessible seabird colonies.

Day 1

Fly In & Gaspé Bay

Fly into the peninsula's only airport, pick up a rental car, and settle into the harbor town that anchors the whole loop.

PAL Airlines — Québec City to Gaspé

~1h10m flight · from \$280 CAD (~\$205 USD)/person round-trip

The only practical way in without a two-day drive from Montreal — PAL's turboprops land at tiny Michel-Pouliot Gaspé Airport (YGP), a 10-minute drive from downtown.

PAL Airlines · +1 800 563 2800 · palairlines.ca

Rental Car Pickup — National Car Rental, Gaspé Airport

~15 min · from \$65 CAD (~\$48 USD)/day

A compact SUV handles Route 132's curves fine; the airport counter is the only practical pickup point on this trip, so reserve ahead in peak summer weeks.

National Car Rental — Gaspé Airport · +1 418 368 2440 · nationalcar.ca

Check-In — Riôtel Gaspé

Check-in 3pm · from \$155 CAD (~\$113 USD)/night

A straightforward, comfortable hotel right on Gaspé Bay, five minutes from downtown — the reliable option on a peninsula with few hotel chains.

Riôtel Gaspé · +1 418 368 5283 · riotel.com

Dinner — Brise-Bise

Dinner · \$25-40 CAD (~\$18-30 USD)/person

A lively downtown bistro-bar in a converted general store, known for fresh Gaspé shrimp and a terrace that fills up on summer evenings.

Brise-Bise · +1 418 368 1456 · brisebise.ca

Day 2

Whales, Forillon National Park & On to Percé

A long day covering the peninsula's wild tip, from a boat full of whales to a cliff walk at its easternmost point, before the drive down to Percé.

Whale-Watching Zodiac — Croisières Baie de Gaspé

~2.5 hrs · \$89 CAD (~\$65 USD)/person

A small-boat tour out of Gaspé Bay into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where minke and humpback whales — occasionally blue whales — feed through the summer.

Croisières Baie de Gaspé · +1 418 892 5500 · baleines-gaspe.com

Forillon National Park — Cap-Bon-Ami to Cap Gaspé

Half day · \$10.50 CAD (~\$7.70 USD)/person peak season

Parks Canada's fee covers every trail in the park — drive to Cap-Bon-Ami's limestone cliffs, then walk the flat, 1.5-hour Les Graves Trail out to the lighthouse at Cap Gaspé, the easternmost point of the peninsula, with a real shot at spotting whales or seals from the bluffs.

Drive — Forillon to Percé

~1.5 hrs via Route 132

A coastal drive past fishing villages and roadside poissonneries, with Percé Rock's silhouette appearing and disappearing around every headland for the last 20 minutes.

Check-In — Hôtel La Normandie

Check-in 3pm · from \$175 CAD (~\$128 USD)/night

A 45-room waterfront hotel on Route 132 with a dining room looking straight out at Percé Rock — ask for a sea-view room on the upper floors, and eat dinner in on your first night here.

Hôtel La Normandie · +1 418 782 2112 · hotelnormandie.ca

Day 3

Percé Rock & Bonaventure Island

The trip's payoff — the sea-pierced rock the peninsula is named for, and a hike into one of the continent's largest gannet colonies — before the drive back to the airport.

Les Bateliers de Percé — Bonaventure Island & Percé Rock Cruise

~3 hrs, several daily departures · \$36 CAD (~\$26 USD)/person

A boat circles the 300-foot sea-carved arch of Percé Rock, then lands on Bonaventure Island, home to roughly 116,000 northern gannets — the largest, most accessible colony of its kind in North America. From the dock, it's a 2.5-mile walk to the cliffside colony.

Les Bateliers de Percé · +1 418 782 2974 · lesbateliersdeperce.com

Lunch — La Maison du Pêcheur

Lunch · \$25-40 CAD (~\$18-30 USD)/person

Percé's best-known seafood table, in a century-old fisherman's house right on the water — the seafood platter and the lobster guedille (a Quebec lobster roll) are both worth ordering.

La Maison du Pêcheur · +1 418 782 5331 · maisondupecheur.ca

Drive & Flight Home — Gaspé Airport

~45 min drive, then PAL Airlines departure

The same Route 132 drive back to Michel-Pouliot Gaspé Airport for the return flight — build in buffer time, since there's little reason to rush the last look at the coast on the way out.