



'Land's end': A horse grazes in Saint-Ulric, a village in the northwest of the Gaspé; the peninsula's Percé Rock attracts visitors from around the world

SPECIAL PHOTO FEATURE

Solid as a rock

With its jagged cliffs set against open seas, the Gaspé is an artist's heaven. Photographs by Bertrand Carrière

IN 1929, RENOWNED American photographer Paul Strand travelled to a remote and unknown Canadian fishing village on the Gaspé Peninsula. "How he even heard of it is unknown," says Montreal photographer Bertrand Carrière. Among Strand's now-legendary shots is a 1936 photograph of a fisherman, rugged and unshaven, gazing off intently from beneath a dark doorway. "It's something between documentary and landscape photography," says Carrière, who was so inspired by Strand's work that he travelled to Gaspésie, Que., in 2010 to shoot his own homage.

Why the area attracts artists such as Strand and Carrière—even Georgia O'Keeffe painted

the same remote scenery—is obvious: The Gaspé Peninsula, or simply the Gaspé from the Mi'kmaq word for "land's end," is a 30,000-sq.-km area that dominates the Gulf of St. Lawrence with jagged cliffs set against open seas. At its easternmost point is Percé Rock, Gaspé's 400-million-year-old premier attraction, its natural arch—at 20 m high, one of the largest in the world—so impressive that Jacques Cartier chose this spot in 1534 to plant a 10-m cross and claim possession of New France in the name of the king.

The peninsula's rich history, combined with its humble inhabitants—a population of 92,000 works largely in fishing, agriculture and tourism—attracts visitors from all over the world

to its five distinct regions: the coast, with its abundance of historical homes; upper Gaspé where waves crash into steep mountains; Land's End, where Percé Rock seems to sit at the world's edge; the Bay of Chaleur, a warm shelter and home to the Indian reserve of Listuguj and the intracoastal valley, with its Gothic churches and covered bridges. Here, descendants of English, Irish and Scottish refugees share a sense of hospitality: "When I showed one man Strand's fisherman photo, he said 'I know that guy!'" says Carrière. "Within 20 minutes, I was knocking at his grandson's door." He photographed the man standing in a dark doorway. **ROSEMARY COUNTER**

CANADA 2014: 10 PLACES YOU'VE GOT TO SEE

THIS WEEK: **GASPÉSIE, QUE.**

48°49'53.89" N 64°29'12.85" W

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St. Lawrence scenes: (clockwise from above) Locals relax in front of the Gros-Morne general store; Jean-Pierre Côté builds miniature ships in Cloridorme; L'Anse-au-Griffon is home to a host of artists' studios; Saint-Thérèse-de-Gaspé is renowned for its seafood industry; an artificial garden decorates a backyard in Gros-Morne; the village of Saint-Maurice-de-L'Échouerie is dominated by its church; a shed sits in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts



