



Bonaventure Island Experience Guide

Home to One of the World's Largest Northern Gannet Colonies



Located just off the coast of **Percé, Québec**, **Bonaventure Island** is one of Canada's premier wildlife destinations and a paradise for bird lovers, photographers, and nature enthusiasts. Protected as part of **Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé**, the island is world-famous for its enormous colony of **Northern Gannets**, dramatic coastal cliffs, and spectacular views of the iconic Percé Rock.

For travelers extending a New England & Canada cruise through Québec or exploring the Gaspé Peninsula, Bonaventure Island is an unforgettable experience that combines incredible wildlife encounters with breathtaking scenery.

It's one of the few places in the world where you can stand just a few feet away from thousands of nesting seabirds in their natural habitat.



Why Visit Bonaventure Island?



Bonaventure Island is renowned for its unique combination of wildlife and coastal beauty.

Visitors come to experience:

- One of the world's largest Northern Gannet colonies
- Spectacular cliffside scenery
- Historic island homes
- Scenic hiking trails
- Coastal boat rides
- Exceptional wildlife photography
- Stunning views of Percé Rock

It's one of Québec's greatest natural attractions.



The Northern Gannet Colony



The island's greatest attraction is its incredible **Northern Gannet** colony.

Each summer:

- More than **100,000 Northern Gannets** return to nest.
- Visitors can safely observe the birds from designated viewing areas.
- Gannets perform spectacular diving displays while feeding.
- The sounds and activity of the colony create an unforgettable experience.

It's one of the most accessible seabird colonies anywhere in the world.



Percé Rock Views



Throughout the island you'll enjoy breathtaking views of **Percé Rock**, one of Canada's most recognizable natural landmarks.

From Bonaventure Island you can admire:

- The massive limestone sea arch
- The Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Rugged coastal cliffs
- Fishing boats crossing the bay

Many photographers consider this the best vantage point for capturing Percé Rock.



Hiking the Island



Several well-maintained trails cross the island.

Along the way you'll discover:

- Forest paths
- Coastal cliffs
- Historic homes
- Wildflowers
- Bird colonies
- Scenic overlooks

Most visitors spend several hours exploring at a relaxed pace.



Historic Island Village



Before becoming a protected park, Bonaventure Island was home to small fishing families.

Today you can explore:

- Restored historic homes
- Heritage buildings
- Cultural exhibits
- Stories of island life
- Traditional architecture

These preserved buildings provide a glimpse into the island's fascinating past.



Wildlife Beyond the Birds



Although the gannets steal the spotlight, you may also see:

- Atlantic Puffins
- Black Guillemots
- Razorbills
- Common Murres
- Harbor Seals
- Bald Eagles
- Peregrine Falcons

Bring binoculars for the best viewing opportunities.



Getting There



Visitors reach Bonaventure Island by seasonal boat tours departing from **Percé**.

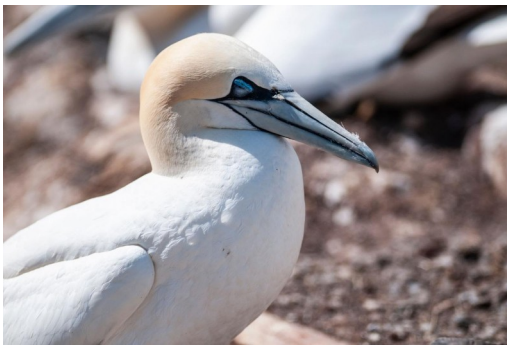
Most excursions include:

- Scenic cruise around Percé Rock
- Boat transportation to the island
- Time for self-guided exploration
- Wildlife viewing opportunities

The boat ride itself is a highlight of the experience.



Best Photography Spots



Don't miss these incredible photo opportunities:

- Northern Gannet colony
- Percé Rock
- Coastal cliffs
- Historic village
- Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Boat ride around the island

Telephoto lenses are especially useful for bird photography.



Visitor Tips

- Wear comfortable hiking shoes.
 - Bring binoculars for birdwatching.
 - Pack water and light snacks.
 - Dress in layers—ocean breezes can be cool.
 - Respect wildlife viewing areas and remain on marked trails.
 - Bring a camera with plenty of zoom if you enjoy wildlife photography.
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Premium Travel Group Tip

The boat ride to Bonaventure Island is just as memorable as the island itself. Sit on the outside deck if weather permits—you'll enjoy fantastic views of **Percé Rock**, seabirds soaring overhead, and perhaps even seals swimming alongside the boat before you ever set foot on the island.



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 - Coastal Photography Guide (*future guide*)
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Fun Facts

- Bonaventure Island is home to **one of the world's largest and most accessible Northern Gannet colonies**, with more than **100,000 birds** during nesting season.
- Northern Gannets can dive into the ocean at speeds approaching **60 mph (97 km/h)** to catch fish.
- The island is protected as part of **Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé**.
- Boat tours to the island typically include close-up views of the famous **Percé Rock**, one of Québec's best-known natural landmarks.

- Bonaventure Island was once home to permanent fishing communities before becoming a protected park.
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Why You'll Love Bonaventure Island

Bonaventure Island offers one of the most extraordinary wildlife experiences in Eastern Canada. Standing among thousands of nesting seabirds, hiking scenic coastal trails, and gazing across the Gulf of St. Lawrence toward the towering silhouette of Percé Rock creates memories unlike any other. Whether you're a birder, photographer, or simply someone who appreciates nature at its finest, Bonaventure Island is an unforgettable destination.



Joe's Logbook

Bonaventure Island is one of those places that reminds you just how incredible the natural world can be.

Reading about a colony of more than 100,000 Northern Gannets is impressive—but standing there, hearing the calls of thousands of birds and watching them soar overhead and dive into the sea, is something entirely different. It's an experience that stays with you.

One thing I recommend is taking your time on the trails. Most visitors head straight for the gannet colony, and rightly so, but don't miss the island's quieter corners. The historic homes, peaceful forests, and spectacular coastal views tell the story of the people who once called this island home.

If you enjoy wildlife, photography, or simply visiting places that are truly unique, Bonaventure Island is one of those rare destinations that exceeds expectations. It's a reminder that some of the best travel experiences come not from crowds or big cities, but from spending time surrounded by nature in one of its most remarkable settings.