



# TRAVELER

25th  
Anniversary  
Edition

All Travel, All the Time  
October 2009

# 50

## PLACES *of a* LIFETIME

THE WORLD'S GREATEST DESTINATIONS, PART II  
URBAN SPACES • WILD PLACES • PARADISE FOUND  
COUNTRY UNBOUND • WORLD WONDERS



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# 50 PLACES OF

**A** DECADE AGO, *TRAVELER* published a landmark issue—“50 Places of a Lifetime”—that in subsequent years has become something of a hallmark of the magazine, spawning related books, podcasts, special issues, web content, games, mobile apps—even a round-the-world jet trip from National Geographic Expeditions to lift off in October 2010. Long before *The Bucket List* and *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*, we sought to showcase those treasured destinations that every curious traveler should visit in a lifetime.

Now, in *Traveler's* 25th-anniversary year, we recognize the first 50 places (see page 4) and offer another 50 that speak to the transformation of travel since 1999—how we travel, where we travel, why we travel. Ten years ago, we could see the emerging signs of a new kind of journeying—one that puts a premium on sense of place, authenticity, culture, sustainability, and experience rather than mere sightseeing. These elements became the compass we use to

RUDY SUGAN/CORBIS





## Take a Trip of a Lifetime

Inspired by our Places of a Lifetime, we've put together a **24-day journey** allowing travelers the chance to actually experience some of the 100 destinations featured in this special issue and in the October 1999 issue. For more details, see page 87.

# F A L I F E T I M E

*The World's Greatest Destinations*

steer you to destinations that are more than just numbers in a hot list. Our first 50 picks were icons the world collectively recognizes as superlative. What we offer in the following pages is what sets this magazine apart. We go beyond the obvious. You'll see that we've picked locations of character—and asked those with a personal connection to them to tell us why they are important, unique, compelling. Some are places you may know but haven't seen the way

we view them here. Others, we hope, are surprises that may seduce you to explore them firsthand. We address what makes a destination special, what will reward the traveler, why you should come here rather than go somewhere else. We are more sensitive than ever to the fact that many places we love most are deeply threatened—and our challenge is to preserve them for future generations. When they travel, I want my children to know the same joy I feel every

time I discover somewhere new and different. We all begin that journey by finding a place that sings to us. We hope you find many destinations in these pages that do just that. —Keith Bellows, Editor in Chief

**The Capilano Suspension Bridge hangs 230 feet above the Capilano River in Vancouver, British Columbia. This laid-back coastal city—dominated by natural wonders—is one of Traveler's latest 50 Places of a Lifetime.**



# Your Places Checklist

How many of our Places of a Lifetime have you visited? This list combines our picks from this issue with those from 1999.

	ALL NEW CHEVY EQUINOX	2009 HONDA CR-V	2009 TOYOTA RAV4	2009 FORD ESCAPE HYBRID
HIGHWAY FUEL ECONOMY <sup>1</sup>	32 MPG	27 MPG	28 MPG	31 MPG
MAXIMUM HWY DRIVING RANGE	600 MILES	413 MILES	445 MILES	468 MILES
ONSTAR <sup>2</sup> w/AUTOMATIC CRASH RESPONSE <sup>3</sup> (1 YR)	X			
6 AIR BAGS STANDARD <sup>4</sup>	X	X	X	X
REAR SEAT LEGROOM	39.9"	38.5"	38.3"	35.6"
AVAILABLE POWER LIFTGATE	X			
AVAILABLE REAR SEAT DUAL DVD SCREENS	X			X



## ALL NEW EQUINOX

<sup>1</sup> Based on EPA estimates. <sup>2</sup> Includes one-year Safe & Sound Plan. Call 1-888-4ONSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit [onstar.com](http://onstar.com) for details and system limitations. <sup>3</sup> OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Visit [onstar.com](http://onstar.com) for details and system limitations. <sup>4</sup> Always use safety belts and the correct restraint for your child's age and size. Children are safer when properly secured in a rear seat in the appropriate infant, child or booster seat. Never place a rear-facing infant restraint in the front seat of any vehicle equipped with a passenger air bag. See the Owner's Manual and child safety seat instructions for more safety information.

### URBAN SPACES

- Athens, Greece
- Atlanta, Georgia
- Barcelona, Spain
- Berlin, Germany
- Delhi, India
- Dublin, Ireland
- Florence, Italy
- Hong Kong, China
- Istanbul, Turkey
- Jerusalem, Israel
- London, England
- Mexico City, Mexico
- New York, New York
- Paris, France
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- San Francisco, California
- St. Petersburg, Russia
- Tokyo, Japan
- Vancouver, Canada
- Venice, Italy

### WILD PLACES

- Aleutian Islands, Alaska
- Amazon Forest
- Antarctica
- Arnhem Land, Australia
- Australian Outback
- Auyuittuq National Park, Canada
- Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda
- Canadian Rockies
- Coast Redwoods, California
- Galápagos Islands
- Grand Canyon
- Lake Baikal, Russia
- Madidi National Park, Bolivia
- Okavango Delta, Botswana
- Papua New Guinea's Coral Reefs
- Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal
- Sahara
- Serengeti
- South Georgia Island, South Atlantic Ocean
- Venezuela's Tepuis

### PARADISE FOUND

- Aitutaki, Cook Islands
- Amalfi Coast, Italy
- Boundary Waters, Minnesota
- British Virgin Islands
- Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, Brazil
- Greek Islands
- Hawaiian Islands
- Japanese Ryokan
- Kerala, India
- Lord Howe Island, Australia
- Mayreau, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Molokai, Hawaii
- Mount Rigi, Switzerland
- Pacific Islands
- Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

- Quirimbas Archipelago, Mozambique
- Salina, Italy
- Seychelles
- Torres del Paine, Chile
- Yap's Outer Islands, Micronesia

### COUNTRY UNBOUND

- Alps
- Asturias, Spain
- Azure Coast, Turkey
- Big Sur, California
- Canadian Maritimes
- Cordillera Terraces, Philippines
- Danang to Hue, Vietnam
- Gaspé Peninsula, Canada
- Gobi desert, China and Mongolia
- Lake District, England
- Loire Valley, France
- Mendoza, Argentina
- Montenegro
- North Island, New Zealand
- Norway's Coast
- Piedmont region, Virginia
- Rif Mountains, Morocco
- Sawtooth Mountains, Idaho
- Tuscany
- Vermont

### WORLD WONDERS

- Acropolis, Greece
- Angkor, Cambodia
- Cyberspace
- Easter Island, Chile
- Fatehpur Sikri, India
- Great Wall, China
- Karnak, Egypt
- Kuelap, Peru
- Leptis Magna, Libya
- Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- Machu Picchu, Peru
- Mesa Verde, Colorado
- Petra, Jordan
- Potala Palace, Tibet
- Pyramids, Egypt
- Sagrada Família, Spain
- Samarkand and Bukhara, Uzbekistan
- Terra Cotta Army, China
- Taj Mahal, India
- Vatican City

### 51ST PLACE OF A LIFETIME

- The Ocean
- Space

### COLOR KEY

- 2009 Destinations
- 1999 Destinations



IN THIS ISSUE

# 50 PLACES OF A LIFETIME

THE WORLD'S GREATEST DESTINATIONS, PART II



**OUR MISSION** NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER reports on destinations of distinction and character, and we support efforts to keep them that way—believing that to enhance an authentic “sense of place” will benefit both travelers and the locations they visit.



# Grand Isolation

*Embraced by the vast Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada's Gaspé Peninsula—or "land's end" in native Micmac—treasures its abundant nature and small-town charm.* **BY KEVIN PARENT**

I live in Miguasha, a small fishing village in the **Gaspé Peninsula** at the eastern tip of Québec. From my bedroom window I can see across the Bay of Chaleur, considered by some one of the most alluring bays in the world, and into the forested hills of the Chic-Choc Mountains.

Surrounded by the Gulf of St. Lawrence (actually a semi-enclosed sea), the Gaspé is geographically isolated. Its "back in the day" village life draws Québécois film crews as well as travelers seeking natural landscapes. Fish and forests are the peninsula's main resources, but the soul of the Gaspé is its people. Most are of French extraction, with Scottish, Irish, and English—as well as native Micmac—adding to the mixture. Culture and tradition are important here. We gather to drink, practice slap shots at the local ice rink, and build bonfires on the beach on summer nights.

Music, starting with Irish Catholic church choirs and kitchen jam sessions, is part of the fabric of life on the peninsula. In Carleton-sur-Mer, a seaside resort on the south shore, for example, the music offerings range from the local marina's jazz happy hour to the Naufrageur Brewery's traditional music scene, to "le Bateau," a 374-foot-long boat turned

bar that features rock-and-roll music and dancing.

The people here—artists, musicians, writers—are sociable, yet we also enjoy our alone time. We will sail across the bay to secluded Heron Island and walk along the shore, play an uncrowded golf course in Carleton, or even better, fly-fish one of the peninsula's top salmon rivers. Years ago, I landed a 31-pound Atlantic salmon on a small July stonefly at Angus Pool on the Matapedia River.

The pleasures of the Gaspé Peninsula's cultured, rural life seem endless.

Visit Percé to admire the red cliffs, eat fresh lobster, and walk up Percé Rock—a limestone butte rising from the sea—at low tide. Attend a play or concert in L'Anse-à-Beaufils. Hunt for fish fossils at Miguasha National Park, a World Heritage site. Finally, do not leave the Gaspé with-

out taking a drive on Highway 132. It runs along a scenic coast where nothing comes between you and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, that body of water that makes all of this grand isolation possible.

*Singer-songwriter Kevin Parent grew up in the French-speaking area of the Bay of Chaleur on the Gaspé Peninsula. In 2007 he released his first English album, Fangless Wolf Facing Winter.*

## VITAL STATS Location:

On the eastern tip of Quebec, Canada, just north of New Brunswick

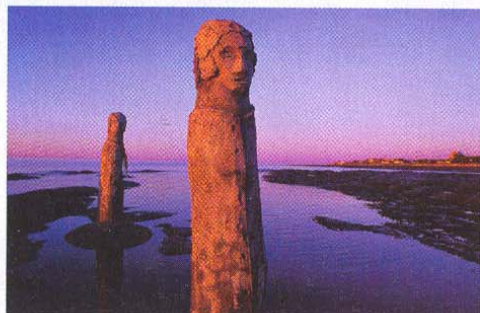
• **Population:** 135,000

• **Climate:** Average summer temp is 68°F; average winter temp is 23°F

## Activities:

Salmon and deep-sea fishing, hiking, kayaking, visiting local farms

• **Notable:** French explorer Jacques Cartier mapped and claimed Gaspé Bay for French King Francis I in 1534; the Parc National de L'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé protects one of the largest bird sanctuaries in the world; the International Appalachian Trail runs along the Gaspé's Chic-Choc Mountains and ends at the lighthouse on Cap-Gaspé.



Percé Rock rises from the Gulf of St. Lawrence just off the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula. Life-size concrete sculptures by Marcel Gagnon (inset) appear to move with the tides in Sainte Flavie, a gateway to the peninsula.

