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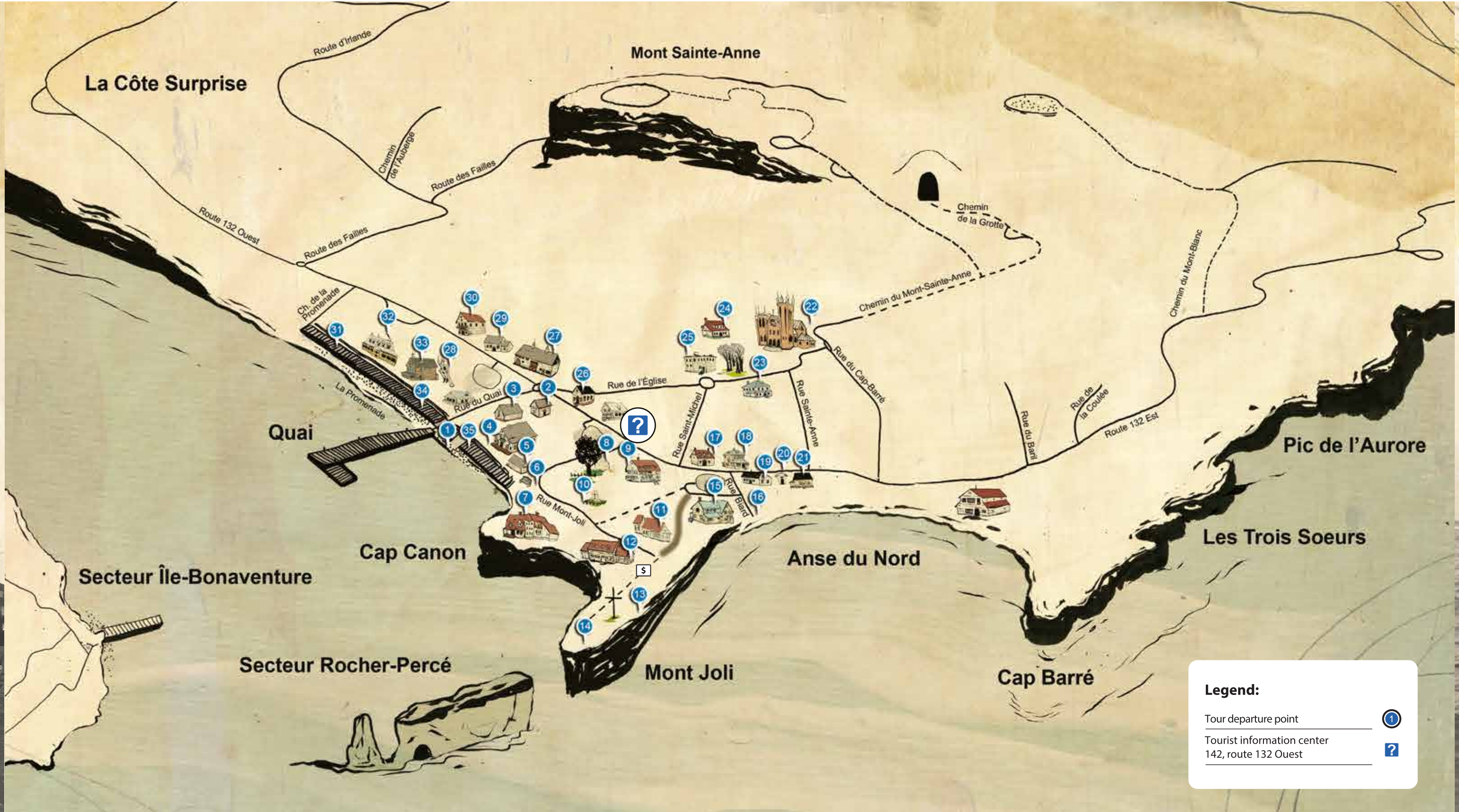
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You are invited...

...to take the time. Take the time to discover the rich history of Percé. This document is a condensed version of the historic interpretive audio-tour of Percé. As you travel through the picturesque spots along this route, discover the extraordinary history of this place through the centuries. From one discovery to the next, we invite you to take your time, as one takes to the sea.

To learn even more about the history of Percé, an audioguided version of this tour is available on Tourisme Percé's YouTube channel. Featuring many historical photographs and often unpublished stories, this audioguide lets you discover Percé's captivating history step by step, at your own pace. You can access it using this QR code

Historical audioguided tour



The beach 1

Whether you are on the beach or out at sea, on a boat or near the wharf, throughout Percé one's look is constantly drawn to the water. The tradition of processing salt cod here on the beach dates back the early French regime.



Cookroom 2

In 1870 the Robin Company owned over 40 buildings, with very few now remaining. Out of town workers who came for the cod fishing season slept in the cookroom.



Snowroom 3

Bait was stored in the Snowroom. This innovation revolutionized the transport and conservation industries. More and more people preferred fresh cod to the salt-cod of centuries past.



Fish stage 4

This large building was once on a pile foundation, directly on the beach. This is where fishermen unloaded the cod, where it was then cleaned and salted in order to draw out blood and moisture.



Salt shed 5

Salt for processing the cod was stored in the salt shed. The wooden frames (vigneaux), which were used to dry the cod in the sun before it was shipped to international markets, were once located here.



Bank 6

In the 1870's, the Robin company owned over 70 fishing boats. Each morning at the break of dawn, more than 140 men took the sea right here in front of you.



Frederick-James Villa 7

Up on the cliff is the villa that the American painter Frederick James built towards the end of 1880 and where he produced a number of paintings until his death in 1907.



Logan Park 8

This park was inaugurated in 1913 in honour of geologist William Logan, who explored the Gaspé Peninsula in the 19th century. There is also a plaque honouring local soldier's participation in the First World War.



Bisson Hotel 9

After the war, the fisheries continued to decline. People began coming to Percé as a holiday destination. In 1928 Abner Bisson built the luxurious Percé Rock House, with only the annex now standing.



Anglican Cemetery 10

After the Conquest, a number of businessmen and workers from the Channel Islands colonized the Gaspé Peninsula. Here stood the town's first Anglican chapel and cemetery, closed in 1860.



Captains' House 11

There are few modest fishermen's homes still standing. One of these is the captains' house, moved from the beach to Mount-Joli, where it was added to this summer home.



Wexford Manor 12

Built in 1923 for the wife of a rich New York financier, this vacation home was then owned by an Irish family. Since 1965, The Canadian Heritage of Quebec ensures its conservation.



Mount-Joli Cross 13 (\$ fee to access the belvedere)

The first cross to be installed on Mount-Joli was placed by Recollect missionaries in 1672. Centuries later, a cross still stands on this cliff as if on the edge of the world.



Percé Rock 14

This 400 million year old rock composed of limestone and iron once had two arches, one of which collapsed in 1845. Under the action of the waves, it loses 300 tonnes of rock each year.



Biard House 15

Charles Biard, from Jersey Island, established his fishing company in 1901, as well as Biard's Beach Hotel. Of the many original cabins, only the house now remains.



North Beach 16

In 1833 there was a number of fishing structures located here, including those of John LeBoutillier. The fish processing plant near Barré Cape housed the Fishers Cooperative of Percé.



Guernesey House 17

This house was built in 1901 for the directors of the Valpy and LeBas Company. Mr. Tardif, from Guernsey Island, and his daughter turned it into a rooming house decorated in a very British manner.



Haven Hotel 18

In 1929, the highway connected Percé with the rest of the peninsula. A number of hotels, including the Haven, opened that year. With its cabins, the Haven became one of the most popular hotels in Percé.



J.-Ernest Boulanger Store 19

American artist Hoyland Bettinger showed films of the Northern Gannets here. In 1944 Joseph-Ernest Boulanger, a fisherman from Percé, opened his general store, which has remained in the family for 3 generations.



Bleu Blanc Rouge Motel 20

In 1950, the tour of the Gaspé Peninsula brought thousands of visitors to Percé, who enjoyed motels like Bleu Blanc Rouge, named in honour of the French origins of its owners Mr. Boulanger and Mrs. Bourget.



A.-Stanislas Garneau House 21

From 1884, this was the home of lawyer Alphonse-Stanislas Garneau, which was renovated to accommodate his growing family. Four of his children served in the First World War, all of whom returned.



St. Michael's Church 22

In 1896, parish priest Lavoie built the fifth Catholic Church in Percé with rocks from the Cannes-de-Roches quarry. Next door stands the majestic rectory.



Alphonse Garneau House 23

From the end of the 18th century, Percé was the administrative center of Gaspé County. In 1911, Alphonse Garneau practiced law and built this house near the courthouse.



LeBoutillier Home (Brasset Home) 24

In 1861, in this large home hidden by a tree-lined lane, lived customs agent Georges LeBoutillier, son of John LeBoutillier. In 1930 it became the property of Maurice Brasset.



The Pratto 25

The Brothers of the Cross from Rimouski opened the Commercial Academy for boys in 1912. The Pratto was named after Cape Pratto, mentioned by Jacques Cartier, which then became the town's school.



English School 26

In the last half of the 20th century, the English speaking population dropped to 25%. This school, built in 1929, saw its enrolment slowly diminish.



Art Center 27

This barn, built in 1805, is one of the oldest buildings remaining from the time of the Robin Company. Two artists, Suzanne Guité and Alberto Tommi, founded the Art Center of Percé in 1956.



Bell House-Shipwreck 28

In the 1850's a ship's figurehead was found on Percé's beach. The statue, identified as representing St-Théodote, is now in display at Musée le Chafaud. As a historical reminder a statue has been placed on the front of the building.



Black Whale 29

This building housed the first arts and crafts store in 1934, managed by the Percé Handicraft Committee. The name Black Whale came from the whales hunted in the Bay of Gaspé during the 19th century.



Robin Store 30

The fishermen's families came to this Robin Company general store, built around 1840, for their supplies. Originally located near the beach, it was moved here in order to serve a wider clientele.



The Promenade 31

The ocean is in constant movement, seawater wets the rocks on the beach. By observing the rocks and pebbles, those who live by the sea can read the currents and tell whether the tide is rising or falling.



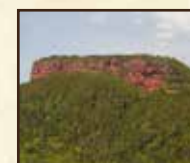
Agent's House 32

In the office of this large house, the Robin Company's agent kept the company's book, as well as supervising the workers responsible for drying the salt cod in the sun.



Bell House 33

This dormitory once housed the Robin's employees. Today, even though the bell no longer chimes the hours, the wind still turns the weather vane bearing the initials of the Charles Robin & Company.



View of Mont Sainte-Anne 34

This mountain is named after Saint Anne, patron saint of all fishermen. Under the French regime in the 17th century, French sailors named the mountain after its unique flat summit: la Table à Roland (Roland's Table).



The beach 35

Here we are back on the beach, facing the sea, with a full catch of images from the past. Thank you for having taken the time...