



Chaloupe



French fishery



Bread Oven Program

Port au Choix is located on Newfoundland's Viking Trail, midway between Gros Morne National Park and L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site.

The town is home to the Port au Choix National Historic Site. Port au Choix is referred to as "The Fishing Capital of Newfoundland". People have been making a living from the sea in this area for over 5000 years.



Open Daily: June – September
Hours: 9:30 am. – 5:00 pm.
Located across from Fish Plant
Port Au Choix, NL A0K 4C0
(709) 861-2142 or (709)861-3406
pacheritage@gmail.com



Point Riche Lighthouse

FRENCH ROOMS

CULTURAL CENTER



PORT AU CHOIX, NL

Visit the French Rooms Cultural Centre

- Learn about the French Deserters
- Taste freshly baked bread from a French Bread Oven
- View a film of a house being floated here during the Resettlement Era
- Take your photo sitting in a Chaloupe
- Go see the Point Riche Lighthouse
- Purchase local crafts at the Gift Shop

Permanent settlement by European's in the town of Port au Choix was prohibited under the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713. France was given exclusive rights to fish in this area of Newfoundland referred to as the "French Shore". French fishermen were allowed here to catch and dry their fish, but had to return to Europe each fall. After the signing of the "French Shore Treaty" in 1904 France relinquished its exclusive rights to fish in the area and permanent settlement was allowed. At Old Port au Choix harbour where French fishermen once dried their fish, visitors can view a reconstructed French Bread Oven and Chaloupe, and the French Shore Treaty Monument erected to commemorate this historic event in Newfoundland's history.



Bread Oven

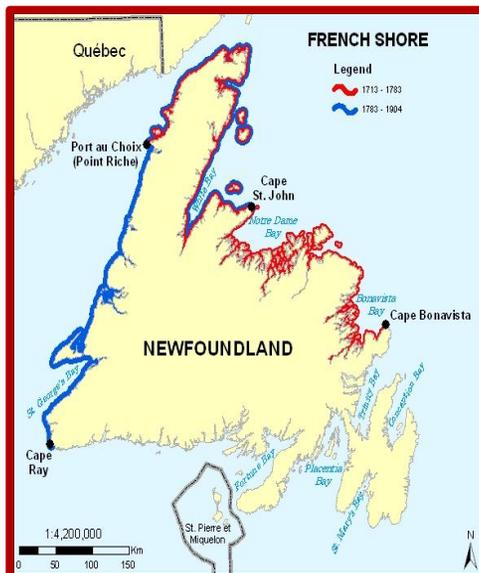
A reconstructed fishing boat (Chaloupe) and French Bread Oven located at Old Port au Choix help tell the story of the French fishermen who frequented the area. Visitors to this location can don a pair of oilskins and sit in the Chaloupe to have their photo taken.

Several times a week the Bread Oven is "fired up" (weather permitting) and for a small fee visitors get an opportunity to see and sample freshly baked bread from the oven, topped with local jams.

Check at French Rooms Cultural Center (Heritage Centre) for Bread Oven schedule

Fee: \$5.00 per person

Shortly after Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949, Premier Joseph Smallwood's government set in motion a plan to centralize the province's population as they did not have the funds to deliver public services such as roads and health care. Three resettlement programs were introduced between 1954 and 1975 which resulted in 300 abandoned communities and the relocation of 28,000 people. During this period, people from a number of smaller outlying communities were encouraged to move to Port au Choix. As in most Towns, today's population is much more culturally diverse. Residents today continue to rely heavily on the area's maritime resources for economic prosperity, while maintaining many of the traditional values that make Newfoundland unique. Visit the Heritage Centre Building and watch the film "The Move" and see the Rumbolt family house being floated from its home to a new location in Port au Choix.



French Shore map



Rumbolt house floated into Port au Choix, 1965