



Harrington Harbour, Quebec

Sea kayaking and hiking an Atlantic archipelago outpost

YEAR-ROUND POPULATION: 300

MILES FROM ASPHALT: 146

THE SCENE: Civilization goes on hiatus on the wild and stony shore of Quebec's Gulf of St. Lawrence, where islands are scattered among waters riotous with porpoises and whales. Coastal Route 138 peters out at the village of Natashquan, and for the next 230 miles, there are no roads to link the subsequent 16

communities — just ferry and air service. Only the most determined visitors make it all the way to Harrington Harbour, a cluster of pastel-colored houses connected by a network of wooden boardwalks that span streams and gullies. Settled in 1871 by fishermen from Newfoundland, the town has been left largely untouched due to its isolation — though in recent years, a

few Montreal intellectuals have come here in search of solitude and natural beauty.

THE ACTION: Harrington Harbour's protected setting amid an archipelago of seven small islands makes it ideal for exploration by sea kayak. Bring your own craft aboard the ferry or do a custom paddling trip up the coast from Natashquan with Expedition Agaguk (from \$1,750; 418-538-1588, expedition-agaguk.com). In town, the local vis-

itors' bureau offers guided hikes over the tundra to local points of interest, such as Margaret's Cave, where a 16th-century castaway

survived for two years before her rescue by passing fishermen (guided hike, \$8; 418-795-3131).

PRACTICALITIES: One of only two lodging options in town is with Amy Evans, who has a

two-story, seven-room B&B overlooking the water (\$56, including breakfast; 418-795-3376). Come weekend evenings, the local commercial fishermen crack crab claws and swap fish tales at the Harbourside Bar & Restaurant (418-795-3251).

GETTING THERE: The Relais Nordik ferry leaves on Thursday morning each week from Natashquan (from \$121 round-trip; 800-463-0680, relaisnordik.com).



SECRETS SPOTS



BAHAMAS From the air, occasional dark patches stand out against the otherwise turquoise waters surrounding the Out Islands. These are blue holes, deep caves set in shallow waters, and the deepest is 663-foot Dean's Blue Hole, on Long Island. Diving up to 120 feet, you'll find reef fish, schools of tarpon, the occasional shark, and above all, solitude (800-688-4752, bahama-out-islands.com).



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