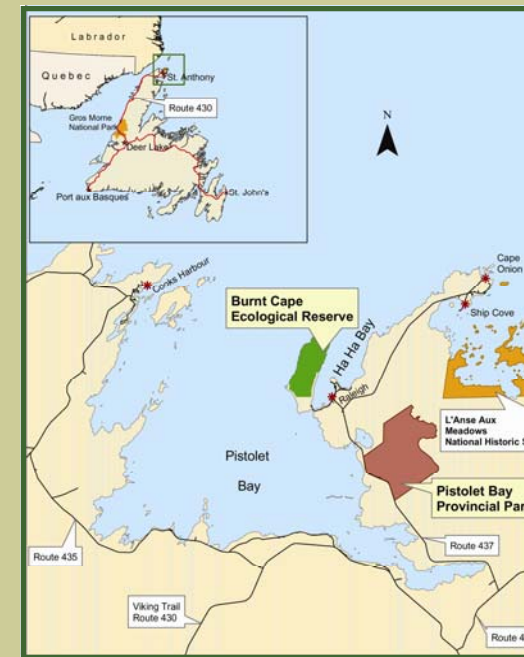


**B**urnt Cape Ecological Reserve consists of some fascinating geological features such as the sea cave at Whale Cove, known locally as the Big Oven. This impressive cave, is generally clean of fallen rock and contains a sea pool with shingle gravels. On the northwest side of the Cape there are a series of small rounded holes in the limestone, locally known as the Cannon Holes.



A tour of Burnt Cape



Directions: Take Route 430 north from Deer Lake and continue for approx. 421 km to Route 436. Exit onto route 437, and follow the signs for Pistolet Bay Provincial Park.

For further information contact:  
 (May - Sept)  
 Pistolet Bay Provincial Park  
 (709) 454-7570  
 Interpreters for Burnt Cape  
 (709) 454-7795



Parks and Natural Areas Division  
 Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
 33 Reid's Lane, Deer Lake, NL  
 A8A 2A3  
 Tel: 635-4520  
[parksinfo@gov.nl.ca](mailto:parksinfo@gov.nl.ca)

# Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve



Fairy Slipper Orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*)

**Located in Raleigh on the Great Northern Peninsula Newfoundland**

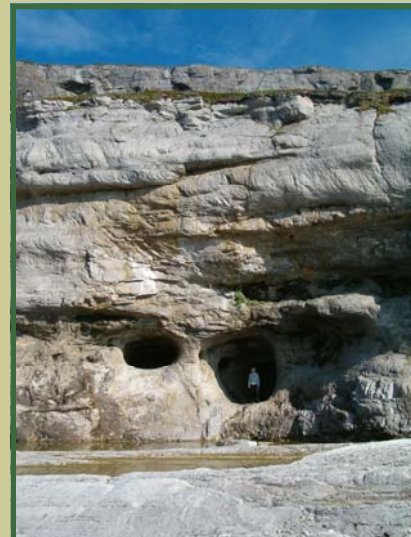
Interpreters offer daily tours of Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve from mid May to September. Tours begin from Pistolet Bay Provincial Park, which is located 4.5 km outside Raleigh.

Through support from interested parties, such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Town of Raleigh, Friends of Burnt Cape and Parks and Natural Areas Division, a new Interpretation Centre is in the planning.

The opportunity to view rare plants and explore an ecological reserve on foot is a rare privilege. Please keep this in mind while you visit.

### Before you go on tour:

- ☀ Wear warm, windproof clothing and appropriate boots for hiking.
- ☀ Prepare to be outdoors for 1 - 2 hours.
- ☀ Removal of natural objects (plants, rocks or fossils...) is prohibited.
- ☀ Do nothing that may damage the plants or their environment.
- ☀ Please tour with an Interpreter.



Cannon Holes



Big Oven

Burnt Cape is also an ideal location for viewing icebergs, whales, and seabirds.

# Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve

Visitors to the Great Northern Peninsula can expect a glimpse into a unique world of rare plant species. The Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve is home to more than 300 species of plants, over 30 of which are known to be rare on the Island of Newfoundland.



Stratigraphy of Burnt Cape

Burnt Cape is an elevated coastal site situated at the tip of the Northern Peninsula. It is located on the northwest side of Ha Ha Bay, with part of the east side of the Cape facing the Town of Raleigh.

The primary reason for setting aside Burnt Cape as an Ecological Reserve is the occurrence of a large number of rare plant species. Since the early 1900's when M.L. Fernald, a well known Harvard botanist, visited the site, Burnt Cape has been considered one of the most important botanical sites on the island of Newfoundland.

Burnt Cape contains a rich mixture of arctic and calciphilous (calcium loving) plants, including the rare Burnt Cape Cinquefoil (*Potentilla usticapensis*), Small Roundleaf Orchid



Burnt Cape Cinquefoil

(*Amerorchis rotundifolia*), Fairy Slipper Orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*), Dwarf Hawk's Beard (*Crepis nana*) and River Beauty (*Epilobium latifolium*).

The site also has a population of the threatened Fernald's Braya (*Braya fernaldii*).



Dwarf Hawk's Beard



Fernald's Braya



Small Roundleaf Orchid

Burnt Cape has the shortest growing season, lowest summer temperature and the lowest average annual temperature of any coastal location on the Island of Newfoundland. It is this cool climate and abundant precipitation that has produced the large amount of frost activity which has created the sorted stone circles or frost polygons that are found here.



Frost Polygons

Wind is also a factor that restricts plant growth and keeps the plants hugging the ground. It is the combination of these climatic factors together with the limestone gravel which has created the conditions suited to many of the rare plants growing on Burnt Cape.



River Beauty

The limestone of Burnt Cape is rich in fossils. These fossils date back to a time when a warm tropical sea covered the area, roughly 400 million years ago. They are mainly gastropod and cephalopod species, both members of the mollusc family. Gastropods are thought to have crawled along the sea floor and often have a coiled pattern to their shell. The cephalopods include early squid-like creatures. Other fossils that may be found include trilobites and sponges.