



Burnt Cape is becoming one of the most popular destinations for visitors who embark on the Viking Trail. And who can argue with them? It has a natural beauty which is rugged, spectacular and pristine.

Located a short distance from Raleigh, the place is regarded as one of the most interesting botanical and geological sites in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve is home to more than 30 species of rare plants, a type of limestone that's rich in a variety of fossils, and several marine caves and geological formations. It's little wonder that the reserve is a preferred destination for people interested in nature.

Burnt Cape is an elevated coastal site located on the northwest side of Ha Ha Bay at the northern tip of the Northern Peninsula.

The area has been considered an important botanical site since the early 1900s, when M.L. Fernald, a well-known botanist from Harvard University, visited the limestone peninsula.

In recent years, steps have been taken to

preserve the significance of the area. It was declared an ecological reserve and sections of the cape, which had been disturbed by quarrying operations, have been rehabilitated.

One of the most important reasons for setting aside the area as a reserve was the presence of many species of rare plants. It's the only known location in the world for the Burnt Cape Cinquefoil and the only known Newfoundland location for two other species, the Dwarf Hawksbeard and the Arctic Lesser Dandelion.

Also significant are the fascinating land features on the cape, including a marine cave known as the 'Big Oven', and a series of small, rounded holes in the limestone known as the 'Cannon Holes'.

Last summer the Nature Conservancy of Canada selected Burnt Cape as one of 10 'Gifts to Canadians'.

Be sure to take advantage of the daily tours offered by interpreter-guides. Information is available at the Raleigh Town Council building, or at Pistolet Bay Provincial Park, located a short distance from the town.