

THE KING OF THE CANADIAN FOREST

This mythical animal, Canada's emblem, is as majestic as it is gigantic. It abounds in some Eastern Canada regions. It is especially the case in the Matane wild life reserve! It is omnipresent in this area. Take this opportunity to observe it in its natural habitat.

 Region	Eastern Canada
 Activity	Family Nature - Adventure Short trips and extensions Summer
 Duration	3 days
 Code	AV-14
 Price	From €187
 Level	1/5
 Comfort	3/5

ITINERARY

Day 1 Matane Wildlife Reserve

Matane Wildlife Reserve At the end of the day, rendez-vous to the Matane Wildlife Reserve entrance (around 3 PM). Setting in the cabins.

Before sunset, slip into your walking shoes and get your camera ready for the moose photo safari. Learn more about the influence of mud flats on moose density and antler growth. This guided activity takes place at the end of the day. Moose can be observed in different habitats depending on the period of summer. Night in a cabin.

- Accommodation : Cabin

Day 2 Matane Wildlife Reserve

Matane Wildlife Reserve In the morning, visit (on your own) of the reserve's interpretation center. You'll learn a lot about this fascinating creature. Following your visit, take advantage of the kayak to go on the lake on your own. If your lucky, you might observe a moose from very close! In the evening, accompanied by your guide, explore the reserve and the animals that you could find in the Matane Wildlife Reserve. Your guide will teach you more about the biology and habits of animals in the reserve. Night in a cabin.

- Accommodation : Cabin

Day 3 Matane Wildlife Reserve

Matane Wildlife Reserve Take advantage of some free time to have some fun in this enchanting setting that allows you to listen to the fascinating sounds of the wild nature. Several activities are proposed on the site.

Note: There are no restaurant services on the premises - the clients must buy their food in the cities near the Wildlife Reserve entrance.

PERIOD & BUDGET

When to travel?

The best period for travelling is during the following months:



Price

From C\$263

The budget is an indication of the price per person, subject to availability. Your local agent will send you a customized quote with the exact price. The price can vary according to availability, level of services, period of travel, number of participants, booking time frame and other items.

Included

- Evening guided excursion of 4h00 with a naturalist guide
- The equipment needed for the guided excursion: rabaska, paddles and life-saving jacket
- Complete kitchen equipment
- Bed linen
- 2 nights accommodation
- Applicable taxes

Not included

- Air travel
- Shuttle to the meeting point (OPTIONAL)
- Personal expenses
- Meals and drinks
- Car rental
- Tips for guide

PRACTICAL INFO

Food

« See the inclusions of this package »

Accommodation

Your accommodation in cabin includes :

- Lodging in cabins or country inns
- Park access fee
- Kitchen kit
- Hot water and shower
- Wood stove or fire place
- Refrigerator and stove (propane)
- Rowboat / maximum of 3 people per boat (Not included at Jacques-Cartier, Saguenay, Monts-Valin and Plaisance National Parks
- Available for rental on site)
- Picnic table
- All applicable taxes

Transportation

We can offer our services for transfers and provide a rental car (seek us)

Budget & exchange

Visa and Mastercards credit cards are accepted almost everywhere. You can also exchange euros. 1 Euro = 1,57\$CAN (04/04/2018)

Tips

In the United States and in Canada, service is never included in the prices. In bars, restaurants and all the places where service is provided, it is expected that you tip the waiter/waitress between 15% and 20% of the total sum. Note that a lot of employees working as waiters are paid by tips only. Not giving anything or not giving enough would be poorly received. Even when paying by credit card, you'll indicate the sum you wish to give. On this type of trip, it is customary to tip the guide(s) 4\$ to 5\$ by persons and per day.

Supplied equipment

Cabins are equipped with the following :

- Cabin's capacity: 2 to 14 people per cottage
- Bedrooms are usually equipped with 2 single beds
- Running water
- Shower, toilet and toilet paper
- Propane lights, stove and refrigerator
- Dishes, pots, pans and cutlery
- Propane, oil or wood heat
- Many cabins are equipped with chimney, or slow combustion stove
- Adult life vests (according to cabin capacity).

N.B. Life vests are included only if boat is included and are free of charge.

Material

Equipment to bring in the cabins :

- Food
- Sleeping bag or bed linen, pillowcase and towel (If you didn't add it as an option) (available for rental at most location)
- Children's life vests
- Flash light
- Insect repellent lotion (available at most location)

- Soap and shampoo
- First aid kit, matches
- Rain gear
- Camera, binoculars

Passport

Consular formalities for Europeans and Swiss nationals:

Upon your registration, please transmit your passport information (name, first name, passport number, date of issues and expiration). Currently, to stay as a tourist for less than six months, a visa is not mandatory and a valid passport is sufficient with a validity exceeding by one day your stay in Canada.

Travelers must imperatively have an **electronic travel authorization (eTA) to enter Canada**. You will have to fill the form online and individually (**one application per person**) on <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/ave.asp> It is essential that you have a valid email address. The 7 CAD fees are payable by Visa, Mastercard or American Express credit cards. The eTA is granted in just a few minutes but we advise you to apply for it as soon as your trip is confirmed. The eTA is an electronic document linked to your passport and **stays valid for 5 years or until the expiration of the passport**, depending on the first of these eventualities to occur. You must then travel with the passport used to apply for it.

CAREFUL: for French women, the eTA must be filled with your maiden name. Hence, to facilitate the check-in at the airport, we ask travelers in Canada to indicate their maiden name for the booking of their tickets.

You travel with children:

Children and adults are submitted to the same obligations regarding passports and visa described above. Registration of minors on parents' passports is now impossible; children must hold an individual passport. It is compulsory to apply for an eTA for each child individually.

CAREFUL, from January 15th 2017 onwards, for all French minors traveling abroad alone, an authorization to leave the country is compulsory.

The child will have to submit the three following documents:

- The minor's valid passport
- A photocopy of the signatory's identity card, valid or expired for less than 5 years and the birth certificate
- The form, signed by one of the legal guardians, available online on <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1359>

Concerning other nationalities, seek the Canadian consular authority of your country.

ARRIVAL IN CANADA VIA A TRANSIT THROUGH THE UNITED STATES :

CAREFUL, we can exceptionally use American airlines for travels bound for the American continent (North and South).

They stop over in the US: **you must possess an electronic or biometric passport which is still valid 6 months after your departure from the US** (under "passport", a rectangle under a circle meaning a secure symbol).

You must also **apply for an electronic travel authorization (ESTA)** on the official website <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Valid for a duration of two years or until the expiration of the passport, this authorization must be requested at the latest 72h before your departure: we advise you to apply to it as soon as your trip is confirmed. It has to be paid for (14 USD online by credit card). The name you put on the form must be the same as the one that figures on your plane tickets and must of course appears on your passport. If the name used on the ESTA form is different from the one on your tickets, the airline can deny your boarding. Minors must also fill out an ESTA authorization.

The Visa Waiver Program allows French nationals to enter the American territory without a visa, either via transit or for a stay of 90 days to the maximum. A visa is nevertheless necessary if you only have an emergency passport. Furthermore, travelers who went to Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen or Soudan since March 11th 2011 and people who are national of Iran, Iraq, Syria or Soudan cannot benefit from the Visa Waiver program anymore: more information on <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/conseils-par-pays/etats-unis/>

ARRIVAL IN THE US OR TRANSIT THROUGH THE US :

Upon your arrival, the immigration service will take your photo and fingerprints. You'll have to wait behind the yellow line and not cross it unless you're told to, it can take some time. Customs controls will take place at the first access point to the territory (in case of a transit through a Canadian airport, it will be considered as a first access point to the US and the following process must be applied). Once you've been through the immigration service, you'll get your luggage back from the conveyor belt and go to the customs. In case of a continuation of your trip, you'll have to get your luggage back and bring them the baggage conveyor which serves.

Weather

Spring is a rainy season in the major part of Canada. During the day, temperatures generally get high but nights still cool. The median temperature is 12°C in March, April and the beginning of May. Summer officially starts on June 21st but for most Canadians, July and August are the real summer months. It is warm in most regions of Canada. In the South, they are above 20°C during the day and can sometimes pass 30°C. Autumn starts in September. Temperature gets chillier and leaves change color and fall. This season can be very rainy. In some regions, particularly in the North and in the mountains, it may start to snow towards the end of October. During the day, normal temperatures vary between 10 and 12°C in the major part of the country.

Unlike Europe, seasons are well defined in Canada. Temperatures can get higher than 30°C in summer and down to -30°C in winter. In fact, Canadian climate changes a lot from a region or a season to another. Canada extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and lies at the same latitude as Roma at his southern extreme, where it reaches the Arctic.

To know the current climate and weather conditions by provinces and territories, go to www.meteo.gc.ca or www.meteo.com

Spring : Spring comes as soon as February on the West Coast. In the rest of Canada, weather gets warmer at the beginning of April and lasts until June.

Summer : Summer in Canada brings cool to hot temperatures from the end of June to the end of September. The warmth of summer lasts from June to August, and July is often the hottest month.

Autumn : Autumn brings pleasant and cool temperatures, particularly in September and in October. It is the best time of the year to enjoy the spectacular beauty of Autumn leaves in the East of Canada, to take long walks while breathing fresh air.

Winter : A major part of Canada is covered with a white coat during winter, temperatures fall below the freezing point, and snowfalls start at the end of October. However, winters are very cool on the West Coast where the snow doesn't stay long.

Electricity

As everywhere in the US, voltage runs at 110 Volts/60 cycles. New electric devices can be adapted to the current. It's preferable to check whether or not your device is equipped with a current transformer. In general, it is a black box located between the electric plug and your device. If your device isn't compatible with the 110-volt current, you'll need to get a current transformer sold separately. As electrical plugs are flat, you'll also need an adaptor to plug your device in. You'll find it easily on the spot or before departure in a shop specialized in travels. A waterproof Zip Lock bag is a good way to keep your equipment in a dry place.

Sustainable tourism

Since the outset, Altai works for an eco-tourism and an organization of trips that respects equitable and sustainable principles.

The harmonization of practices assures:

- A fair economical repartition
- The improvement of local teams' working conditions and their awareness of the protection of the environment
- The information of travelers about respecting the local population and environment and the collection of their feelings at their return.

You can also act in favor of an eco-tourism by adopting simple green gestures during your trips:

- Avoid letting waste out, throw it in the trash can or bring it with you
- Use potable water sparingly (take a shower instead of a bath and report any leaks) and avoid wasting it (use biodegradable soap to wash yourself)
- Avoid damaging cultural sites: don't touch the statues, don't move the stones and objects
- Exchange instead of giving (too Important gifts can destabilize the local economic stability of the country depending on their living standards)
- When taking a walk, especially in some fragile ecosystems, observe the fauna from afar, do not go beyond beaten roads, limit stamping and do not bring any souvenirs: give up picking rare flowers picking fossils...
- In some hotels, you can have individual air conditioning. It is advised to systematically switching it off when you're out of the room to avoid energetical overconsumption and greenhouse gas emission.