

IN THE HEART OF QUEBEC WILDERNESS : FROM ST LAUWRENCE TO GASPÉSI

ITINERARY

Day 1 Quebec City



Transfert to your hotel.

Accommodation : Hotel

Day 2 Quebec City - Bic National Park



Discover the Old Quebec City. In summer, the Old City is full of life: merchants, artisans, musicians. In the afternoon we cross the St. Lawrence River to its south shore, then we take the road to the Bic National Park. Installation camping in the late afternoon in the park. (B, D)

Accommodation: Camping

Day 3 Bic National Park - Gaspesie National Park



This day is almost devoted to visit the National Park of Bic. An unique walk where we enjoy a panoramic view of the river. By mid afternoon, we continue our way to the National Park in Gaspé. Installation at the camping in the late afternoon.

Day 5: We head towards Mount Jacques Cartier. With its 1248 meters, its the highest peak in southern Quebec. In 1h30 of walking, we reach the tundra. Enjoy a striking

panorama, Mont Jacques Cartier, chances of seeing caribou are excellent. Back at the campsite in the evening. (2B, 2L, 2D)

Accommodation: Camping

📍 Day 4



📍 Day 5



📍 Day 6 Gaspésie National Park - Percé

Early departure to observe moose. Hiking the Lake trail to the Americans. In the afternoon, we drive to Murdochville in the Gaspé center and then to the village of Percé.

Installation for 2 nights camping near Percé.

Day 7: Island Bonaventure will be part of our best memories. A boat trip is scheduled to join the Percé Rock and the island we visit on foot (8 km trail). Back at the



campsite in the evening. (2B, 2L, 2D)

Accommodation: Camping

📍 Day 7



📍 Day 8 **Percé - Forillon National Park**



We leave Percé in direction of the National Park of Forillon. This park is near the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the cutting edge of the Gaspé and marks the culmination of the long Appalachian Mountains that runs from the south eastern of the United States. Long pebble beaches or sandy cliffs. The park is home to abundant wildlife including thousands of seabirds that come every year to live in the hollow of the cliffs. We arrive at the park in the

morning. Hike to Mount Saint Alban. By late afternoon, we start watching beavers in their natural habitat. Installation camping in the park.

Day 9: Hike to Cape Gaspé observe whales and seals. Along the way we could watch the black bear if we are lucky. We picnic at the lighthouse of Cape Gaspé. (2B, 2L, 2D)

Accommodation: Camping

📍 Day 9



📍 Day 10 **Forillon National Park - Tadoussac**



Back on the other side of the St. Lawrence River, to Tadoussac city. Installation at the camping for 3 nights.
Day 11: In the afternoon, a zodiac whale watching in plan on the St. Lawrence river : whales, porpoises, blue whales. Emotions guaranteed ! (2B, 2L, 2D)

Accommodation: Cabin

📍 Day 11



📍 Day 12 **Tadoussac - Grands Jardins Park**



On road toward the Grands Jardins National to discover this beautiful park.

Accommodation: Camping

📍 Day 13 **Grands Jardins National Park - Quebec City**



Transfert to Quebec City with a stop in Baie Saint Paul. We stroll in this village of artists inspired by the enchanting scenery of this region. Transfer to Quebec City, tour and free time in the afternoon. (B)

Accommodation : Hotel

📍 Day 14 **Quebec City**



Last day in Quebec City. Transfer on your own to the airport. (B)

DATES & PRICES

Departures for French-speaking groups:

From	To	Price per person	Guaranteed	Booking
13/06/2020	26/06/2020	C\$3,220	No	
04/07/2020	17/07/2020	C\$3,220	No	
25/07/2020	07/08/2020	C\$3,220	No	
15/08/2020	28/08/2020	C\$3,220	No	

Trip code: UCAQUEB

Included

- Transportation in passenger van (except for the airport transfer on day 14)
- Camping gear (except sleeping bag)• Hard-foam mattress
- Admission to the National Parks
- Camping fees
- Services of a guide

- Whale watching cruise in zodiac (2h30)
- Cruise to Bonaventure Island
- Entrance to the Gaspé museum
- 13 nights accommodation
- 34 meals : 13 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 10 dinners
- Applicable taxes

Not included

- Air travel
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic beverages
- Non-included meals
- Shower in some camping
- Tips
- **Sleeping bag**

PRACTICAL INFO

Staff

You will be supervised by a French-speaking guide-driver (for a group of 9 or more participants, one guide is added). It is important to note that you are expected to participate actively in the preparation of the meals and the installation of the camp.

Food

Meals: During overnight stays in camping, all the meals are included. We offer breakfast in the morning, a picnic for lunch and a hot meal made with local products is prepared for dinner. We enjoy numerous grilling over the campfire or BBQ. We provide cooking equipment and utensils. Your help will be greatly appreciated during the preparation of the meals. Meals taken out are not included.

Drinks: Don't forget that you can buy duty free products at the airport of embarkation. Alcohol is always appreciated after a long day of walking. Stops are planned throughout the trips to buy drinks. They are not included in the price.

Accommodation

You will be staying in a youth hostel in Quebec city for the first and last night (Room with private bathroom).

For the rest of the trip, you'll be staying in tents where showers will sometimes have to be paid for (around 1\$-2\$ CAD for 4 to 5 minutes.) there's no showers in some non-equipped camping sites.

During your trip, you will be able to do your laundry in some laundromat available in some camping

sites (around 2\$-3\$ - washing and drying). We stay in three-place tents for more comfort. You must bring your sleeping bag. It will be with you all along the trip. Everybody is expected to participate in the collective tasks: preparation of the meals, dishwashing, installation of the camp and loading of the vehicle.

Transportation

For transfers from park to park and village to village, we travel in a comfortable 15-passenger minibus. Luggage are carried inside the minibus or in a trailer pulled by the minibus depending on the number of participants.

Budget & exchange

Visa and Mastercard 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

All the cooking and camping equipment (excepted the sleeping bag) is provided for this trip: dishes, portable stoves, canvas, refuge etc. tree-person tents with a vestibule and auto-inflating mattress are provided.

Vital equipment

From head to toe

Head:

- Hat, fleece hood, caps

Torso :

- Breathable underwear of synthetic fibers
- Shirts of breathable synthetic fibers
- Fleece
- Waterproof and breathable jacket fitted with a Gore-Tex typed membrane
- Poncho or rain cape

Legs :

- Synthetic and breathable hiking trousers
- Shorts
- Swimsuit
- Synthetic tights to create extra heat

Hands :

- Gloves of fleece Feet
- Socks of synthetic fibers
- High-upper hiking shoes
- Hiking sandals

To sleep :

- Down sleeping bag, sarcophagus shaped. Suggested comfort temperature : 14°F

Material

- Toilet bag : biodegradable soap and shampoo, toothbrush, biodegradable toothpaste
- Bath towel of micro fibers
- A pair of sunglasses
- Sunscreen (face and lips)
- Flashlight or headlight with spare batteries
- 1.5-liter to the minimum flask, light and isothermal
- Pocket knife, multi-purpose preferred (to be placed in your checked-in luggage)
- Hygienic gel

Helpful equipment

- Waterproof case for your passport and/or your ID card, your driver's license, your immunization record, your travel insurance, your credit card and your personal documents
- Plastic bags to insure the waterproofing of your belongings, camera and clothes.
- Dirty laundry bag, earplugs, notepads, books, card games.
- Walking stick (optional). They are a precious helper to your knees during the ways down (up to 30% of your weight + your bag are carried by the stick) and maintain your effort during the way up (arms also help)
- A pair of binoculars
- Camera and battery charger
- Socket adapter
- A 32 Ft cord (0.5 in) to hang out on your bivouac.

Luggage

Your entire luggage must be divided into two bags. Avoid stiff bags and suitcases. Limit the weight to

the maximum.

Allow:

- A flexible traveling bag with a zip on the side to give an easier access to its content. During the times of travel it will carry the belongings that you don't need during the day
- A little backpack (68 oz capacity) for the belongings needed during the day (sweaters, spare shirts, flask, glasses, lunch)

Just in case, prepare what's necessary to "survive" for the first days in case of a late arrival of your checked-in luggage (toothbrush, shirts, walking shoes on ...)

Medicine

Your guide will have an emergency first aid kit.

It is nevertheless advised that you have your own first aid kit:

- Moisturizing sunscreen (body and lips)
- Estoplast and scissors
- Vitamin C
- Eye lotion
- Doliprane and/or aspirin
- Aintidiarrheal and intestinal antiseptic (immodium/intetrix)
- Healing cream and local antiseptic
- Common antibiotics (optional)

Hygiene: You can drink the water in Canada. In remote regions, the guide will provide pellets to purify the water.

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/francais/visiter/ave.aspl> 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 conveyer 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 conveyer 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.

Local time

There's an eight-hour difference between Paris and Calgary. When it's midday in Paris, it is 4.00 AM in Calgary.

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.

