



UNIQUE EXPERIENCES EASTERN QUÉBEC

Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie Regions

DAY 1 / MONTRÉAL / MONT-JOLI / RIMOUSKI

Route from Monreal to Rimouski.

Overnight stay in **Hôtel Rimouski**
225, boulevard René-Lepage Est, Rimouski
Tel. : 418-725-5000
www.quebecmaritime.ca/hotelrimouski

DAY 2 / RIMOUSKI

08h30 Breakfast

10h00 Visit of **Pointe-au-Père Maritime Historic Site** and visit of their new Onondaga Submarine, unique in Canada! www.quebecmaritime.ca/empres

This visit will give you the chance to learn more about the Empress of Ireland Shipwreck, the second most important maritime tragedy in Canada after the Titanic. Also, do not miss the opportunity to climb the 128 steps of Pointe-au-Père Lighthouse!

Lunch on the road

Visit **Bic National Park** www.quebecmaritime.ca/parcbic

Located in the St. Lawrence River Estuary, Bic National Park proudly showcases its capes, bays, coves, islands and mountains, which have contributed to its celebrity. Thousands of seabirds, including the common eider, come to nest in the park, and rare plants bloom on its rocky capes. Seals delight visitors as they bask in the sun near the shore. Come and experience a one-of-a-kind outing along the banks of the St. Lawrence!

19h00 Dinner and overnight stay at **Auberge du Mange Grenouille**
148, rue de Sainte-Cécile-du-Bic, Le Bic
Tel. : 418-736-5656
www.quebecmaritime.ca/mangegrenouille

DAY 3 / RIMOUSKI / GRAND-MÉTIS / MATANE (120 KM)

Breakfast

09h30 Departure from Rimouski (Le Bic) towards Grand-Métis

10h30 Visit **Reford Gardens / Jardins de Métis** www.quebecmaritime.ca/jardinsmetis

Lunch at Villa Estevan in Reford Garden

Recognized worldwide as one of Canada's outstanding garden, Reford Garden is home to more than 3000 species, cultivars, and varieties of plants in over a dozen gardens. Contemporary works of art have been installed on the site and complement the historic gardens.

Departure from Grand-Métis towards Matane

Visit **Matane Salmon Observation Centre** www.quebecmaritime.ca/rivierematane

Experience the migration odyssey of the Atlantic salmon. The wild Atlantic salmon has always captivated the human imagination, as it is a symbol of strength, fighting spirit and nobility. The Matane Salmon Observation Centre (fish ladder) reveals an important phase in the life of the Atlantic salmon: its return to the river. Discover the fascinating characteristics of this fish in a friendly atmosphere.

Dinner and overnight stay at **Riôtel Matane**

250, avenue du Phare Est, Matane

Tel.: 418-566-4344

www.quebecmaritime.ca/riotelmatane

DAY 4/ MATANE / SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS (100 KM)

AM Departure towards Sainte-Anne-des-Monts

Visit and lunch at **Exploramer**, Discovering the Sea and presentation of Smarter Seafood programme. www.quebecmaritime.ca/exploramer

*Exploramer is an activities complex showcasing the wonders of the St. Lawrence. **Smarter Seafood: For the sound management of marine resources!** Since the summer of 2009, Exploramer proposes the "Smarter Seafood, for the sound management of marine resources" certification programme that encourages restaurants and fish markets to offer lesser-known products chosen from the numerous edible species found in the St. Lawrence Gulf, in the prospect of sustainable development and the protection of biodiversity.*

Lunch in Exploramer

PM Departure from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts towards Gaspésie National Park

Activity program in **Gaspésie National Park** www.quebecmaritime.ca/parcgaspésie

Soft hike in Gaspésie National Park with a guide to observing moose!

Exploramer in Gaspésie National Park is home to the highest portion of the Appalachians in Québec (25 summits more than 1000 metres high!), the only caribou herd south of the St. Lawrence, a large moose population, arctic-alpine flora and ever so much spectacular scenery! Come and soak in the splendours of the Chic-Choc and McGerrigle mountains and keep an eye out for interesting wildlife (caribou, white-tailed deer, moose and over 150 species of birds) as well as unique plants (alpine tundra and several rare plant species). The basic mission of the park is to protect a representative sample of the natural environment of the Gaspesian massif and the exceptional elements found there.

Dinner and overnight stay at **Auberge Le Gîte du Mont-Albert**

2001, route du Parc, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts

Tel. : 418-763-7494

www.quebecmaritime.ca/montalbert

DAY 5 / SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS / GASPÉ (200 KM)

08h00 Departure from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts towards Forillon National Park (200 KM)

Scenic drive on a coastal road featuring capes, cliffs, lighthouses and the St. Lawrence River with several stops for photo opportunities

12h30 Registration to a whale-watching excursion with **Croisières Baie de Gaspé** in the bay of Gaspé.

www.quebecmaritime.ca/croisieresgaspe

13h00 Departure for the whale-watching excursion

Length: 2h30

Visit of **Forillon National Park of Canada** including Cap Bon-ami, Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse and Anse Blanchette. www.quebecmaritime.ca/parcforillon

Located at the easternmost point of the Gaspé Peninsula, Forillon National Park marks the end of the long Appalachian mountain chain. It is no surprise that this area is part of Canada's network of 41 national parks. Its many features that are typical of the region include undulating topography, plant and animal life specific to the boreal forest and alpine tundra, as well as breeding areas for marine birds and mammals. The region's rich cultural history of fishers and merchants who lived in Forillon at the turn of the 20th century is presented at the Grande-Grave Heritage Site. A visit to the Hyman & Sons store and L'Anse-Blanchette will take you back in time to relive this era.

Drive to Gaspé

Dinner and overnight stay at **Auberge Maison William Wakeham**

186, de la Reine, Gaspé

Tel. : 418-368-5537

www.quebecmaritime.ca/maisonwakham

DAY 6 / GASPÉ / PERCÉ (75 KM)

AM Departure towards Percé

Departure for a boat excursion with **Bateliers de Percé** in **Bonaventure-Island-and-Percé-Rock National Park** www.quebecmaritime.ca/parcperce

PM Soft hike on Bonaventure Island to get to the gannets colony

Bonaventure-Island-and-Percé-Rock National Park is home to the largest migratory bird refuge in North America. Its colony of 122,000 northern gannets is the most accessible and the largest in size in the world. The island also offers four hiking trails and a historic heritage trail that reflects Bonaventure Island's prosperous past.

17h30 Happy Hour at **Riotel Percé** ☺
www.quebecmaritime.ca/riotelperce

19h00 Dinner at **La Maison du Pêcheur** (Fishermen's House)
www.quebecmaritime.ca/maisonpecheur

Dinner and overnight stay at **Hôtel le Mirage**
288, route 132 Ouest
Tel. : 418-782-5151
www.quebecmaritime.ca/lemirage

DAY 7 / GASPÉ / QUÉBEC CITY / MONTRÉAL

Departure towards Gaspé

10h00 Visit **Musée de la Gaspésie and Jacques Cartier Monument National Historic Site**
www.quebecmaritime.ca/museegaspesie

The Musée de la Gaspésie is a history museum that collects, preserves and promotes the history and heritage of the Gaspésie region through its exhibits and collections. This regional museum is the perfect place to discover or rediscover the history of the Gaspé Peninsula. The permanent exhibit, Gaspésie... A Grand Journey, along with several temporary exhibits presents the history, art, heritage and culture of Gaspésie.

12h00 Lunch at **Bistro-Resto Le Brise-Bise**

13h45 Arrival at Gaspé airport