

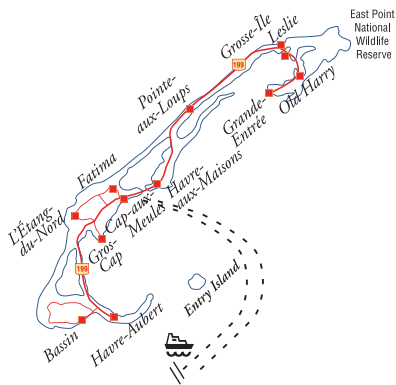
The Îles de la Madeleine, a land of charm and beauty

The archipelago of the Îles de la Madeleine is located in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 215 km (130 mi.) from the Gaspé Peninsula, 105 km (65 mi.) from Prince Edward Island and 95 km (60 km) from Cape Breton Island, as the crow flies. Shaped like an extended fishhook, the Islands stretch over a distance of 65 km (40 mi.) in a southwest-northeasterly direction. The Islanders live in the Atlantic Time Zone, one hour ahead of mainland Québec.



THE ISLANDS

The archipelago is made up of about a dozen islands, six of which are linked by narrow sand dunes. From north to south, the islands are: Grande-Entrée, Grosse-Île, Île-aux-Loups, Havre-aux-Maisons, Cap-aux-Meules and Havre-Aubert. Two other islands of a significant size are part of the archipelago as well: Entry Island, which is inhabited and located 10 km (6 mi.) east of Havre-Aubert, and Brion Island, an uninhabited island lying 16 km (10 mi.) north of Grosse-Île. Since January 2002, the Islands have been grouped into a single municipality, the Municipality of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, which covers a total area of 202 km² (78 sq. mi.).



THE ART OF LIVING IN THE ISLANDS

Culture is particularly important in the Islands. Numerous studios, galleries and boutiques open a door onto creative inspiration. Be forewarned, however: you won't be able to resist the temptation to fill your bags with local handcrafted souvenirs!

As far as the culinary arts are concerned, freshly caught local seafood takes pride of place, including lobster, which is available as of May, and snow crab, which is fished as of April. Pied-de-Vent cheese, marinated smoked herring and delicatessen meats are some of the other gourmet delicacies on offer. To get a taste of all the flavours of the region, look for products labelled "Le Bon goût frais des Îles" ("delicious and fresh from the Islands").

SEA AND WIND

While the Islands are famous for the baby seals born every March on the ice floes, most visitors enjoy this corner of paradise in the summer when the water is perfect for swimming, with water temperatures reaching over 20°C (68°F) in August. The fine-sand beaches, which extend as far as the eye can see, are also ideal for sunning or strolling.

Sculpted by the wind and the sea, the Islands' red cliffs are dotted with caves, sea arches and mysterious nooks and crannies. Explore them in a sea kayak or even in a wetsuit accompanied by an experienced guide from La Salicorne (formerly Club Vacances "Les Îles"), for example. Sea excursions also offer the opportunity to observe seals or visit Brion Island or Rocher-aux-Oiseaux (Bird Rock), both of which are sanctuaries for hundreds of species of seabirds every year.

On the Islands, the wind, like the sea, is incorporated into recreational activities. Adventure companies introduce visitors to the joys of wind sports in complete safety.

HOW TO GET THERE

There are three ways to get to the Islands:

By plane: Several airlines offer daily flights to the Îles de la Madeleine, departing from Montréal, Québec City and Gaspé. Flight time can vary from one to four hours depending on the departure city and the number of en-route stops. The Îles de la Madeleine Airport (YGR) is located on Havre-aux-Maisons Island, less than 15 km (9 mi.) from the central island of Cap-aux-Meules.

By boat: CTMA offers weekly cruises for up to 440 passengers in cabins between Montréal, Québec City, Chandler (Gaspésie) and the Îles de la Madeleine. The ship can also carry cars and motorcoaches. This service is available from June to September.

By car: To get to the Îles de la Madeleine by car, you must drive to Souris (PEI) and then take the ferry. The daily crossing takes five hours. Note that this service is not available in February and March.

SUGGESTED TOURS

For self-guided tours and group tours

We have prepared a few suggested tours that combine visits to the Îles de la Madeleine, Montréal, Québec City and Gaspésie using the sea links offered by the CTMA Group. Other tours include visits to the Îles de la Madeleine and the Maritime provinces via Moncton, New Brunswick, an international gateway. All tours begin in Montréal or Moncton; however, some of them could start in Québec City for visitors who are already familiar with Montréal.

In some cases we specify departure days, based on flight and boat schedules. Upon request, we will be happy to provide detailed tours including suggested activities and descriptions. For further information, contact Le Québec maritime.



Passionately St. Lawrence

Get ready to discover the St. Lawrence aboard the *M/V CTMA Vacancier*, a European-style ship that links Montréal to the Îles de la Madeleine, making several stops along the way including in the enchanting village of Percé and in Québec City. Discover marine mammals, lighthouses and the Îles de la Madeleine during an unforgettable adventure on one of the largest rivers in North America.

This vessel and its island crew welcome you aboard. The ship is comfortable but plainly furnished, with a warm and friendly atmosphere. Cruise passengers will appreciate the welcoming and helpful crew, who will make them feel like part of the family. On deck you can read, relax or admire the stunning scenery. In the dining room, savour a seafood meal with your travel companions. One of your favourite parts of this cruise is bound to be the two and a half days spent in the Îles de la Madeleine, a real treat for gourmets!

Itinerary

Montréal, Îles de la Madeleine, Percé, Québec City

12 days / 11 nights

Day 1 • Boarding in Montréal for a cruise on the St. Lawrence (Friday)

The ship leaves port around 3:00 p.m., sailing past Old Montréal's historic skyline set against the backdrop of Mount Royal. Admire the Clock Tower and Notre-Dame and Sainte-Helene islands before the ship passes under the Jacques-Cartier Bridge. In Lake St-Pierre, observe as the ship changes pilots without slowing down. After sunset, the ship sails under the Pierre-Laporte and Québec bridges before docking in Québec City around midnight in front of the magnificent Château Frontenac.

Day 2 • Gaspésie from the water (Saturday)

After sailing by Tadoussac on the north shore, the ship crosses over to the south shore in the afternoon to glide past the towns of Rimouski and Matane as well as an impressive windmill park that stretches all the way to Cap-Chat. After Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, the shore starts to get quite rugged. Admire the Chic-Choc Mountains in the background as you pass by the town of La Martre. At Mont-Saint-Pierre, if the wind is right, you can watch paragliders sail through the air on wind currents. Later you will pass the Pointe-à-la-Remommée Lighthouse and the fishing village of Rivière-au-Renard, and then sail around Forillon National Park of Canada and Gaspé Bay. After navigating between Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island, the ship docks in Chandler at around 11:00 p.m.

Day 3 • First day on the Islands (Sunday)

The *M/V CTMA Vacancier* docks in Cap-aux-Meules in the morning. After breakfast served on board, we encourage you to set out on your own to discover this archipelago's routes and treasures.

Several options are available depending on your tastes and needs: stay in one of the suggested establishments on the Islands as part of a guided or self-guided package (see the "Acadian charms and adventures" tour), or rent a cabin aboard the ship for the duration of your stay.

If you opt for a guided package, you can participate in a variety of activities with a guide such as a tour of the Islands, nature hikes, nautical activities, etc. If you prefer a self-guided package, we recommend you explore the western, eastern and central parts of the Islands in three stages.

Day 4 • Îles de la Madeleine (Monday)

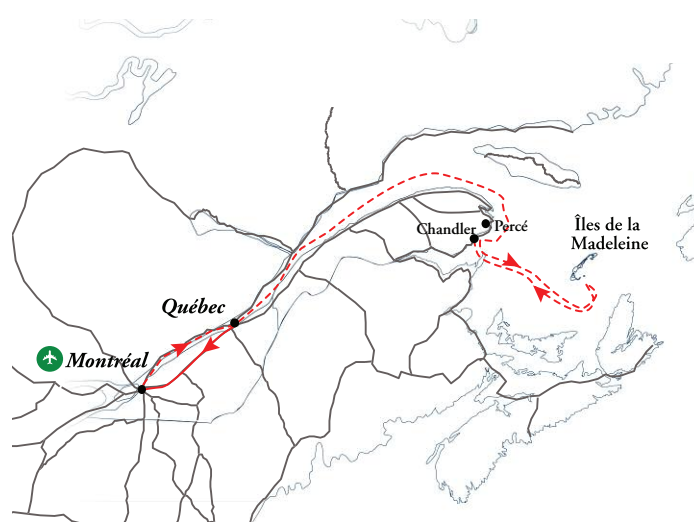
Explore the archipelago according to the package chosen.

Day 5 • Îles de la Madeleine (Tuesday)

Board the *M/V CTMA Vacancier* at 7:00 p.m. The ship leaves the Islands in the late evening.

Day 6 • Gaspésie (Wednesday)

The ship gets into Chandler at around 6:00 a.m. There, you can choose to explore the immediate area or take the shuttle to Percé and its famous rock. The village of Percé is nestled in a beautiful bay surrounded by impressive mountains. Visit its many boutiques and restaurants on foot or by bike. Two sea excursions are offered: a whale-watching safari or a tour of Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock National Park during which you can observe the seals and birds on Bonaventure Island, a wildlife paradise. The ship leaves Chandler at around noon and sails along the Gaspésie coast.



THEME CRUISES

Gourmet cruises featuring island cuisine, musical cruises, Gaspésie and national parks cruises, cycling or motor-cycling cruises... It's up to you to decide how you want to explore the St. Lawrence. All aboard!

Day 7 • Whale watching and day in Québec City (Thursday)

At daybreak, the ship picks up pilots near Les Escoumins and then sails past Tadoussac, a gathering place for whales. Next is the Saguenay Fjord and then Charlevoix, a region that has inspired many painters. Then keep an eye out for Grosse Île National Historic Site, Île d'Orléans and the Montmorency Falls. Around noon, the ship stops in Québec City. Enjoy a stroll on the many cobblestone streets and visit the shops and attractions that this unique city has to offer.

Days 8-9 • Québec City (Thursday, Friday)

Enjoy two days and nights in Québec City.

Day 10 • Québec City / Montréal by train or motorcoach (Saturday)

Day 11 • Montréal (Sunday)

Day 12 • Montréal/home (Monday)



Sea and island charm

This tour is a special treat. Encounter the natural wonders of the St. Lawrence and its islands in the gulf. Discover one of Québec's best-kept secrets: the archipelago of the Îles de la Madeleine. Explore by land or sea the dozen or so islands that make up this archipelago, each of which has its own attractions. This is a great place to visit, whether you want to enjoy an active or relaxing vacation.

Itinerary

Montréal, Québec City, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie, Îles de la Madeleine
15 days / 14 nights

Day 1 • Home / Montréal (Saturday)

The world's second-largest French-speaking city after Paris, Montréal is a vibrant city that's always in the mood to celebrate.

Day 2 • Montréal / Québec City (Sunday)

Fall under the spell of Québec City, North America's only fortified city. Stroll through its oldest neighbourhoods, like Petit Champlain, Place-Royale and the Old Port.

Day 3 • Québec / Le Bic (Monday)

Drive along the Navigators' Route and discover charming villages with their ancestral homes. The Bas-Saint-Laurent islands and Bic National Park are both paradises for nature lovers.

Day 4 • Le Bic / Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (Tuesday)

As you head east towards Gaspésie, be sure to visit the Pointe-au-Père Maritime Historic Site and the Reford Gardens.

Day 5 • Sainte-Anne-des-Monts/Gaspé (Wednesday)

Located between sea and mountains, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts is perfect for nature activities such as sea excursions on the St. Lawrence with Exploramers and hikes in Gaspésie National Park, an ideal spot for moose and caribou observation.

Days 6-7 • Gaspé / Percé (Thursday, Friday)

You will be awestruck by the stunning scenery in this part of the country. Experience magical moments at Forillon National Park of Canada and Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock National Park.

Day 8 • Chandler / Îles de la Madeleine (Saturday)

Discover Chaleur Bay, one of the most beautiful bays in the world. In the evening, board the *M/V CTMA Vacancier* and spend the night in your cabin on the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Day 9 • Îles de la Madeleine (Sunday)

The *M/V CTMA Vacancier* docks in Cap-aux-Meules in the morning. After breakfast served on board, we encourage you to set out on your own to discover this archipelago. Absorb the charms of these islands.

Several options are available depending on your tastes and needs: stay in one of the suggested establishments on the Islands as part of a guided or self-guided package (see the "Acadian charms and adventures" tour), or rent a cabin aboard the ship for the duration of your stay.

If you opt for a guided package, you can participate in a variety of activities with a guide such as a tour of the Islands, nature hikes, nautical activities, etc. If you prefer a self-guided package, we recommend you explore the western, eastern and central parts of the Islands in three stages.

Day 10 • Îles de la Madeleine (Monday)

Explore the archipelago according to the package chosen.

Day 11 • Îles de la Madeleine / Chandler (Tuesday)

Board the *M/V CTMA Vacancier* at 7:00 p.m. The ship sails towards Gaspésie in the late evening.

Day 12 • Chandler / Rimouski (Wednesday)

The ship gets into Chandler in Gaspésie around 6:00 a.m. Explore the Matapédia Valley, best known for its plateaus, mountains and streams of unparalleled purity.

Day 13 • Rimouski / Québec City (Thursday)

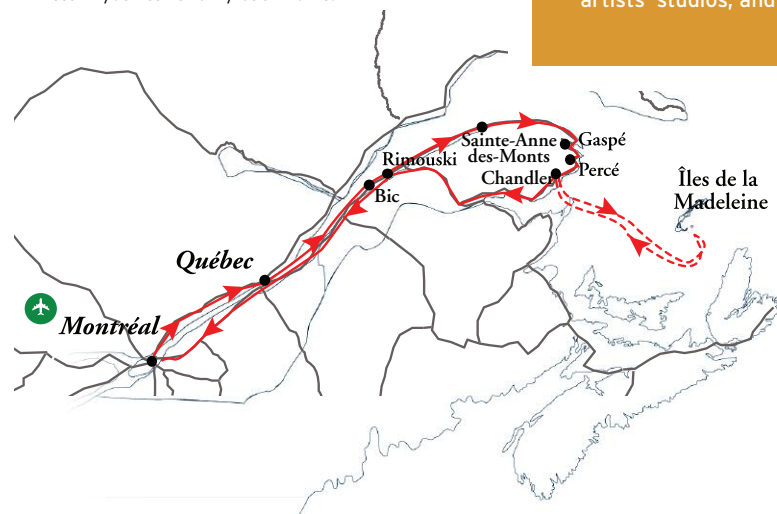
Head back on the Navigators' Route and continue your exploration of the St. Lawrence all the way to Québec City. Stop in Rivière-du-Loup on the way.

Day 14 • Québec City / Montréal (Friday)

To end your trip on a high note, take one of Southern Québec's scenic routes such as the Chemin du Roy, which runs along the St. Lawrence.

Day 15 • Montréal/home (Saturday)

Return your car and fly back home.

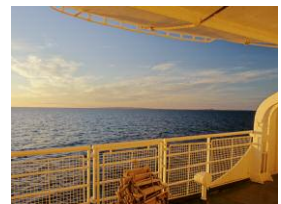


Highlights of your trip:

- The picturesque coastal road around the Gaspé Peninsula, which is one of North America's 25 most scenic routes according to the renowned Michelin road atlas. A genuine 3-star voyage!
- The scent of fresh sea air during a mini-cruise in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- The scenery of the Islands dotted with colourful houses, red cliffs, small fishing harbours and fine-sand beaches.
- The fresh taste of seasonal seafood prepared to perfection.
- The warm welcome of the Islanders, a seafaring people with Acadian roots.
- Six national parks and numerous wildlife reserves with abundant flora and fauna.
- A rich and unique francophone culture.

Don't have sea legs? You can also fly from Gaspé to the Îles de la Madeleine. It only takes an hour (two if you factor in the time change).

Slow down time! Why not extend your holiday and take the boat back a week later? This will give you time to explore the Brion Island Ecological Reserve, go on a sea excursion, hike around Entry Island, try out wind sports, go sea kayaking or cycling, visit art galleries and artists' studios, and more!



Maritime fun

This is an original trip during which you can partake of the warm hospitality so typical of the Îles de la Madeleine, Gaspésie, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Acadian communities, fresh fish and seafood, scenic coastal roads and abundant wildlife are all omnipresent in these maritime regions of Eastern Canada.

Itinerary

Prince Edward Island, Gaspésie, Îles de la Madeleine, New Brunswick
15 days / 14 nights

Day 1 • Home/Moncton (Thursday)

Pick up your rental car and explore the city.

Day 2 • Moncton/Charlottetown (Friday)

Take the Confederation Bridge, which links Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick. Wander throughout downtown Charlottetown, which has many beautiful Victorian residences and charming neighbourhoods.

Day 3 • Charlottetown / Îles de la Madeleine (Saturday)

The ferry leaves Souris for the Islands at 2:00 p.m. and arrives around 7:00 p.m., just in time for you to sample some of the local fish and seafood. Seafood lovers will want to note that lobster season is from May to early July. Early in the morning, the wharves bustle with activity.

Days 4-5 • Îles de la Madeleine (Sunday, Monday)

The *M/V CTMA Vacancier* docks in Cap-aux-Meules in the morning. After breakfast served on board, we encourage you to set out on your own to discover this archipelago's routes and treasures.

Several options are available depending on your tastes and needs: stay in one of the suggested establishments on the Islands as part of a guided or self-guided package (see the "Acadian charms and adventures" tour), or rent a cabin aboard the ship for the duration of your stay.

If you opt for a guided package, you can participate in a variety of activities with a guide such as a tour of the Islands, nature hikes, nautical activities, etc. If you prefer a self-guided package, we recommend you explore the western, eastern and central parts of the Islands in three stages.

Day 6 • Îles de la Madeleine / Chandler (Tuesday)

Board the *M/V CTMA Vacancier* at 7:00 p.m. The ship sails towards Gaspésie in the late evening.

Day 7 • Chandler/Percé (Wednesday)

Join a boat excursion and visit Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock National Park.

Day 8 • Percé / Gaspésie National Park (Thursday)

Drive through Forillon National Park of Canada along one of Québec's most scenic roads. Whale-watching excursions are offered in both Percé and Gaspé.

Day 9 • Gaspésie National Park / Matane (Friday)

Enjoy a hike in Gaspésie National Park. Take a side trip to the Matane Wildlife Reserve, where you might be lucky enough to spot a moose. Spend the night in the Reserve or in Matane.

Day 10 • Matane/Caraquet (Saturday)

Head to New Brunswick via the magnificent Matapédia Valley road. Stops at the Matamajaw Historic Site in Causapsal and the covered bridge in Routherville are a must. In the afternoon, follow the road along the Acadian Coast to Caraquet and visit the Village Historique Acadien.

Day 11 • Caraquet/Bouctouche (Sunday, Monday)

Enjoy a variety of nature activities at Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada.

Day 12 • Bouctouche/Moncton (Tuesday)

Visit Le Pays de la Sagouine, a reproduction of a mid-century Acadian coastal village inspired by the town's distinguished playwright, Antonine Maillet, and her most famous character, La Sagouine.

Day 13 • Moncton (Wednesday)

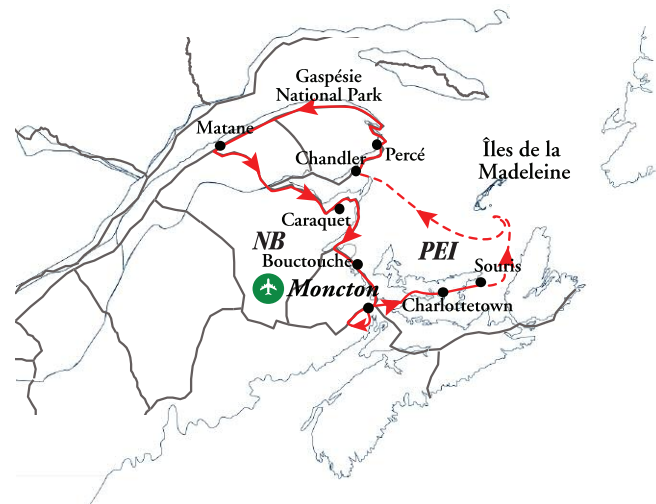
Explore Fundy National Park of Canada and don't miss the Hopewell Rocks, where some of the world's strongest tidal currents have sculpted towering statues of red sandstone.

Day 14 • Moncton/home (Thursday)

Enjoy a last day of discoveries before heading home.

Highlights of your trip:

- Meeting local artists and artisans in the Îles de la Madeleine. Set aside some time for some shopping, as the Islands are a perfect place to find unique and authentic souvenirs.
- Great restaurants in the Islands. Look for products labelled "Le Bon goût frais des Îles" ("delicious and fresh from the Islands").
- Whale-watching safaris in Gaspésie or the Bay of Fundy.
- Numerous national parks and wildlife reserves.
- The historic Acadian village in Caraquet.
- The picturesque coastal road around the Gaspé Peninsula, which is one of North America's 25 most scenic routes according to the renowned Michelin road atlas. A genuine 3-star voyage!
- The highest tides in the world at Fundy National Park of Canada.



Grand tour of the Maritimes

Itinerary

Nova Scotia, Îles de la Madeleine, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick
15 days / 14 nights

Day 1 • Home/Moncton (Thursday)

Day 2 • Moncton / Saint John (Friday)
As soon as you arrive, head to Fundy National Park of Canada, which encompasses some of the last remaining wilderness in southern New Brunswick. Here, the conifer-dominated Caledonia Highlands roll down to meet the fog-generating Bay of Fundy. The tidal fluctuation of the Bay of Fundy is the highest in the world. Watch fishing boats come and go to the rhythm of the bay. Inland, explore lush forests and deep stream valleys.

Day 3 • Saint John / Halifax (Saturday)

Travel with Bay Ferries from Saint John to Digby, Nova Scotia. Visit Digby, home port to the world's largest scallop fleet. Take a side trip on Digby Neck for some of Nova Scotia's best birding and whale watching.

Drive south to Liverpool, a town rich in privateer legends. Then stop in Lunenburg, which has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the best surviving example of a planned British colonial settlement in North America. The inhabitants have managed to safeguard the city's identity throughout the centuries by preserving the wooden architecture of the houses, some of which date from the 18th century. On your way to Halifax, stop in at the Peggy's Cove Lighthouse.

Day 4 • Halifax / Port Hawkesbury (Sunday)

Halifax deftly blends the past with the present to produce a skyline dotted with elegant 18th- and 19th-century architecture alongside ultra-modern towers of glass and steel. The heart of Halifax is perfect for exploring on foot, with tree-lined streets, international restaurants, galleries, libraries and museums.

Day 5 • Port Hawkesbury / Sydney (Monday)

Step back in time by visiting the Fortress of Louisbourg. Ramparts, streets, households and interpreters help to create the look, texture and mood of another century. Cannons on stone ramparts, a busy waterfront tavern and the crackling of a kitchen fire all tell how people of a different age lived and worked.

Day 6 • Sydney / New Glasgow (Tuesday)

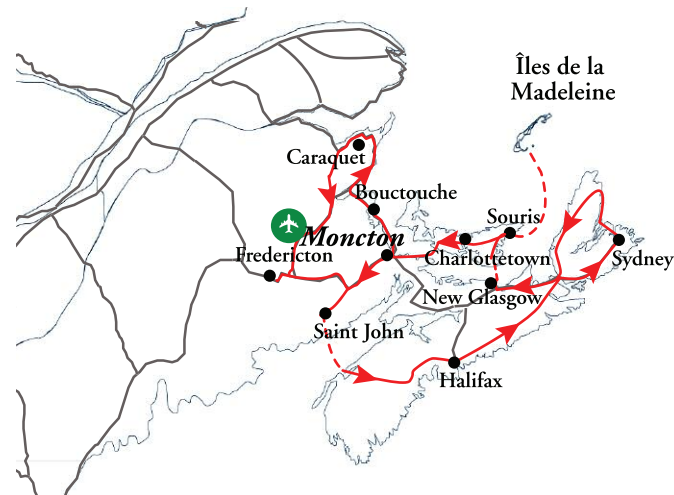
Head to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park of Canada, which stretches across the northern tip of Cape Breton Island between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic Ocean. The world-famous Cabot Trail, one of Nova Scotia's scenic travelways, loops across northern Cape Breton, running for almost 300 km (190 mi.). Approximately one third of the trail is located within park boundaries.

Day 7 • New Glasgow / Souris (Wednesday)

Take one of the first ferries early in the morning from Caribou, Nova Scotia, to Wood Islands, PEI. The Points East Coastal Drive attracts visitors who appreciate natural spaces and outdoor activities. Lighthouse lovers will delight in the lighthouses along the way.

Days 8-10 • Îles de la Madeleine (Thursday to Saturday)

Explore the archipelago according to the package chosen.



Highlights of your trip:

- A visit to the Fortress of Louisbourg—the largest reconstructed 18th-century French fortified town in North America.
- Fundy National Park of Canada, home to the highest tides in the world.
- The scenic Cabot Trail, which loops through Cape Breton Highlands National Park of Canada.
- The Îles de la Madeleine, the most refined destination of Atlantic Canada. You will be charmed by the art of living of the Islanders.

Day 11 • Îles de la Madeleine / Souris (Sunday)

Wander throughout downtown Charlottetown, which has many beautiful Victorian residences and charming neighbourhoods.

Day 12 • Prince Edward Island / Bouctouche (Monday)

At Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada, you can enjoy a variety of nature activities. Also visit Le Pays de la Sagouine, a reproduction of a mid-century Acadian coastal village inspired by the town's distinguished playwright, Antonine Maillet, and her most famous character, La Sagouine.

Day 13 • Bouctouche/Caraquet (Tuesday)

Head towards the Acadian Coast, where a stop at the Village Historique Acadien is a must. Acadian history in the Maritime provinces of Canada dates back to the 17th century. Discover this history and explore the many facets of Acadian life.

Day 14 • Caraquet/Fredericton (Wednesday)

Tree-lined avenues graced with Victorian architecture complement Fredericton's vibrant cultural life of national historic sites, museums and fine galleries.

Day 15 • Fredericton/Moncton (Thursday)

Fly home from Moncton in the evening.



Acadian charms and adventures

If you want to explore the Îles de la Madeleine, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick on a more limited budget, then this is the tour for you. Thanks to the CTMA cruise and ferry, the shuttle service in PEI and the all-inclusive packages available in the Îles de la Madeleine, you won't need to rent a vehicle for most of your trip. You can also fly to Montréal and leave from Moncton.

Itinerary

Montréal, Îles de la Madeleine, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick
16 days / 15 nights

Day 1 • Home/Montréal (Wednesday)

Day 2 • Montréal (Thursday)

The world's second-largest French-speaking city after Paris, Montréal is a vibrant city that's always in the mood to celebrate.

Day 3 • Boarding in Montréal for a cruise on the St. Lawrence (Friday)

The *M/V CTMA Vacancier* leaves port around 3:00 p.m., sailing past Old Montréal's historic skyline set against the backdrop of Mount Royal. Admire the Clock Tower and Notre-Dame and Sainte-Helene islands before the ship passes under the Jacques-Cartier Bridge. In Lake St-Pierre, observe as the ship changes pilots without slowing down. After sunset, the ship sails under the Pierre-Laporte and Québec bridges before docking in Québec City around midnight in front of the magnificent Château Frontenac.

Day 4 • Gaspésie from the water (Saturday)

After sailing past Tadoussac on the north shore, the ship then crosses over to the south shore. Whales, windmills, the Chic-Choc Mountains, Forillon National Park of Canada, and Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island National Park—you will catch glimpses of all of these attractions and more on your trip down the St. Lawrence.

Days 5-8 • Îles de la Madeleine

(Sunday to Wednesday)

To make the most of your stay on the Islands, take advantage of the various all-inclusive packages available so you won't need to rent a vehicle or worry about where to spend the night.

Here is an overview of your options:

Auberge La Salicorne offers discovery getaways in the Islands. Several options are available so you can enjoy a vacation at your own pace. Take part in unique activities, tour the Islands, relax on the beach or explore the cliffs, and get to know the Islanders and their way of life.

Are you interested in ecotourism? Vert-et-Mer offers educational ecotourism expeditions to Brion Island and Entry Island, where you will stay in a yurt. All expeditions include meals, a guide and lodging.

Many other types of accommodations are available on the Islands, from a youth hostel in Gros-Cap to a former convent in Havre-aux-Maisons, as well as the Butte Ronde B&B and Château Madelinot.

Do you want a guided tour of the Islands? Autobus Les Sillons offer theme packages with professional guides. They will introduce you to the history and legends of the Islands, including shipwrecks, pirate stories and the Basque occupation.

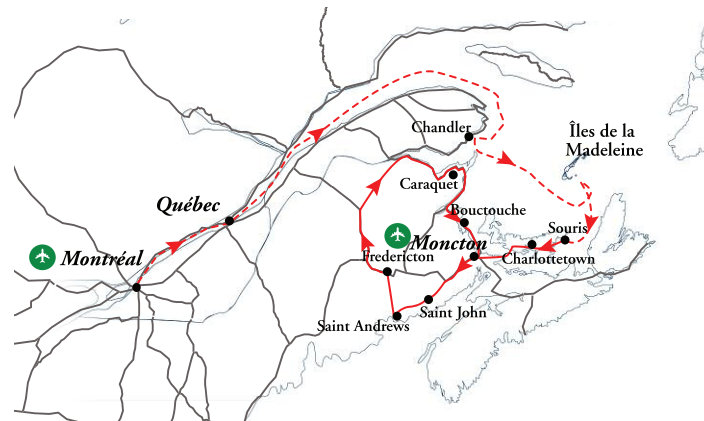
If you are looking for a more active adventure, why not try power kiting or bugging for a half-day with Aérosport Carrefour d'Aventures? You can also go on a sea kayaking excursion with Vert-et-Mer or Parc de Gros-Cap. Fun guaranteed!

Do you want to stay in the western part of the Islands? Stay at Havre-sur-Mer, Sympathetic Inn, which offers comfortable rooms or apartments overlooking the sea and hearty gourmet breakfasts. While you are there, visit the nearby Aquarium des Îles where you can see and touch a wide variety of fish and marine species from the St. Lawrence.

Day 9 • Îles de la Madeleine / Prince Edward Island (Thursday)

The ferry leaves early in the morning. Take advantage of the five-hour crossing to relax and enjoy the fresh air. Once in Souris, take the East Connection shuttle, which runs daily between Souris and Charlottetown.

Charlottetown celebrates its status as the Birthplace of Canada in many fun ways. At Founders' Hall, visitors to the multimedia exhibit centre are transported through Canada's history, from the Charlottetown Conference to the Canada of today. Charlottetown is also a lively cultural centre where theatre productions range from professional musicals to improv-style entertainment. Music begins on street corners and extends all the way to nightclubs, pubs and stages covering the gamut from Celtic to jazz.



Day 10 • Day in Prince Edward Island (Friday)

Rent a car, which you will leave in Moncton at the end of your trip. (Some rental companies don't charge drop-off fees between Charlottetown and Moncton.) Take the Confederation Bridge, which links PEI to New Brunswick.

Day 11 • Charlottetown / Saint John (Saturday)

In Fundy National Park of Canada you can admire an amazing tidal phenomenon, but even more exciting is experiencing it first-hand in a jet boat.

Day 12 • Saint John / Saint Andrews (Sunday)

St. Andrews-by-the-Sea is one of the most beautiful resort towns in all of Canada. Spread out on the shores of Passamaquoddy Bay, it sparkles with small-town charm and big-city culture. This small community is rich in Aboriginal, Loyalist and immigrant history, which is why St. Andrews has been designated a National Historic District.

Day 13 • Saint Andrews / Fredericton (Monday)

Tree-lined avenues graced with Victorian architecture complement Fredericton's vibrant cultural life of national historic sites, museums and fine galleries.

Day 14 • Fredericton/Caraquet (Tuesday)

Head towards the Acadian Coast, where a stop at the Village Historique Acadien is a must. Acadian history in the Maritime provinces of Canada dates back to the 17th century. Explore the rich culture of the Acadians and learn more about their lifestyle, architecture, food and daily life with educational games and a tour of Acadian communities.

Day 15 • Caraquet/Bouctouche (Wednesday)

Travel to Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada, where you can enjoy a variety of nature activities. Also visit Le Pays de la Sagouine, a reproduction of a mid-century Acadian coastal village inspired by the town's distinguished playwright, Antonine Maillet, and her most famous character, La Sagouine.

Day 16 • Moncton/home (Thursday)

Spend part of the day in Moncton and fly back home.



From the Îles de la Madeleine to the Chic-Choc Mountains...

This tour gives you the opportunity to explore the St. Lawrence, the Îles de la Madeleine and the Chic-Choc Mountains. To the Micmacs, the Chic-Chocs were the Sigshogs—an impassable wall—the highest mountains in Eastern Canada. Depending on your taste for adventure, this tour is perfect for both those who want to be in the heat of the action and those in search of contemplation. Visit wildlife reserves and various natural sites in both the Îles de la Madeleine and Gaspésie for a nature experience you won't soon forget.

Itinerary

Montréal, Îles de la Madeleine, Gaspésie, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Québec City

16 days / 15 nights

Day 1 • Home/Montréal (Thursday)

Pick up your rental car and explore the city.

Day 2 • Boarding in Montréal for a cruise on the St. Lawrence (Friday)

The ship leaves port around 3:00 p.m., sailing past Old Montréal's historic skyline set against the backdrop of Mount Royal. After sunset, the ship sails under the Pierre-Laporte and Québec bridges before docking in Québec City around midnight in front of the magnificent Château Frontenac.

Day 3 • Gaspésie from the water (Saturday)

After sailing past Tadoussac on the north shore, the ship then crosses over to the south shore. Whales, windmills, the Chic-Choc Mountains, Forillon National Park of Canada and Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island National Park—you will catch glimpses of all of these attractions and more on your trip down the St. Lawrence.

Day 4 • Arrival in the Îles de la Madeleine (Sunday)

The archipelago of the Îles de la Madeleine is located in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 215 km (130 km) southeast of the Gaspé Peninsula as the crow flies. The archipelago is made up of a dozen islands, six of which are linked by narrow sand dunes. After breakfast, drive onto the Islands and set out to discover this corner of paradise.

Several options are available depending on your tastes and needs: stay in one of the suggested establishments on the Islands as part of a guided or self-guided package (see the "Acadian charms and adventures" tour), or rent a cabin aboard the ship for the duration of your stay.

If you opt for a guided package, you can participate in a variety of activities with a guide such as a tour of the Islands, nature hikes, nautical activities, etc. If you prefer a self-guided package, we recommend you explore the western, eastern and central parts of the Islands in three stages.

Day 5 • Îles de la Madeleine (Monday)

Explore the archipelago according to the package chosen.

Day 6 • Îles de la Madeleine / Percé (Tuesday)

Explore the archipelago according to the package chosen.

Day 7 • Percé/Gaspé (Wednesday)

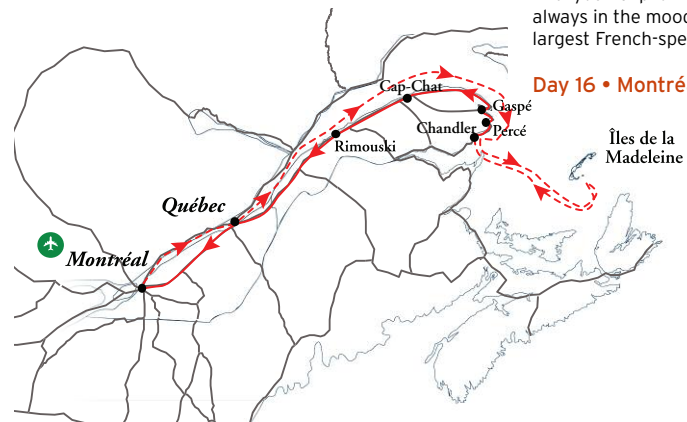
Explore Forillon National Park of Canada or Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock National Park: sea excursions, hikes, whale watching and visits to historic buildings are on the agenda.

Day 8 • Gaspé / Cap-Chat (Thursday)

Drive the picturesque coastal road around the Gaspé Peninsula, which is one of North America's 25 most scenic routes according to the renowned Michelin road atlas.

Days 9-11 • Cap-Chat / Matane Wildlife Reserve (Friday to Sunday)

Stay at the Chic-Chocs Mountain Lodge (take the shuttle from Cap-Chat). Perched 615 m (2000 ft.) above sea level in the Matane Wildlife Reserve, Eastern Canada's first mountain lodge offers you a unique experience. A program of guided activities is available. Less expensive options are the Gîte du Mont-Albert hotel in Gaspésie National Park or other hotels near the park.



Highlights of your trip:

- The magnificent St. Lawrence, one of the largest rivers in North America.
- The scenery of the Islands dotted with colourful houses, small fishing harbours and long fine-sand beaches.
- Guided nature walks through the rich ecology of the eastern part of the Islands (bird-watching, geological formations, study of various ecosystems). Enjoy exploring East Point, Boudreau Island, Brion Island or Entry Island.
- Hiking, wildlife observation, whale watching and seabird observation in Forillon National Park of Canada and Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock National Park.
- The opportunity to observe moose, caribou and white-tailed deer in the Matane Wildlife Reserve and Gaspésie National Park.
- Chute Hélène, a 50-m-high waterfall, and its crystal-clear basin.

Day 12 • Cap-Chat / Rimouski (Monday)

As you drive along the Navigators' Route, don't miss the Reford Gardens and the Pointe-au-Père Maritime Historic Site.

Day 13 • Rimouski / Québec City (Tuesday)

Visit Bic National Park and the lovely little villages all along Route 132 on the way to Québec City.

Day 14 • Québec City (Wednesday)

Fall under the spell of Québec City, North America's only fortified city. Stroll through its oldest neighbourhoods, like Petit Champlain, Place-Royale and the Old Port.

Day 15 • Québec City / Montréal (Thursday)

End your trip on a high note by visiting a vibrant city that's always in the mood to celebrate! Montréal is the world's second-largest French-speaking city after Paris.

Day 16 • Montréal/home (Friday)

