

# 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)

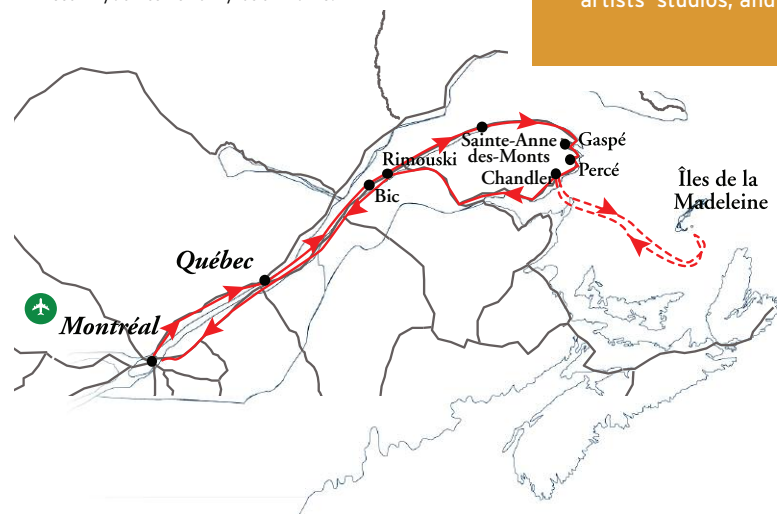
Head back on the Navigators' Route and continue your exploration of the St. Lawrence all the way to Québec City. Stop in Rivière-du-Loup on the way.

### 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!

