

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.

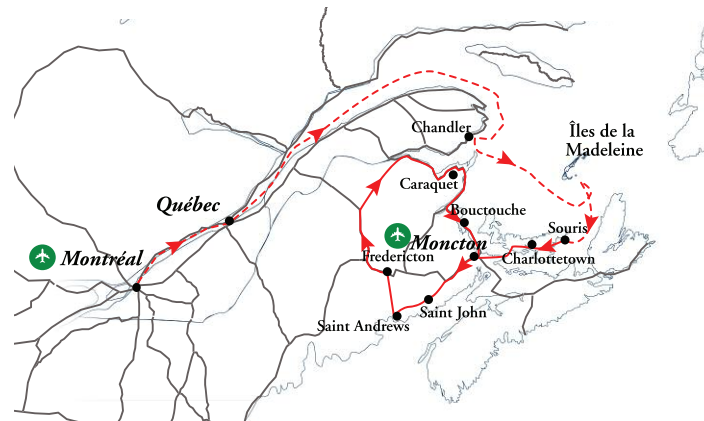
If you are looking for a more active adventure, why not try power kiting or bugging for a half-day with Aérosport Carrefour d'Aventures? You can also go on a sea kayaking excursion with Vert-et-Mer or Parc de Gros-Cap. Fun guaranteed!

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.

