

Québec's Eastern Townships

Summary

Length

6 days/5 nights,
with 4 days of walking

Price*

6 days/5 nights

Classic accommodation

AU\$1895 per person

Bed & breakfast accommodation

AU\$1695 per person

DeLuxe upgrades also available

Single supplements do apply

* Price before tax. Canada applies a 7% GST to all goods and services sold. For non-residents, half of this tax will be rebated at the time of final payment, so in total a tax of 3.5% will be applied to the tour price.

Departure dates

Start any date between May 15 and October 31, 2005.

Level of difficulty

16 km (10 miles) daily average. On two of the days you will have the opportunity to walk in hilly terrain with moderate and more challenging hills, the walking on the other days is on mostly level ground.

Travel back in time and take in the old-world flavour of Quebec's Eastern Townships. In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, uncover the delights of charming French villages, lush green valleys, enchanted woods, and idyllic farmland. The cross-Quebec Route Verte, abandoned rail lines and forested pathways will lead you from stately Victorian Mansions to captivating covered bridges to the underground labyrinth of one of Canada's oldest copper mines. Hunt for that one-of-a-kind memento in the shops and artists' galleries you encounter along the way. Embrace the region's storied past and culture in one of many scenic villages; enjoy your nights in cozy accommodations and remember to sample the finest in local cuisine. The romance of this landscape is sure to leave you with a lasting impression.

What is a self-guided tour?

On a self-guided tour, there is no guide, no support van, and no group to hurry you along or slow you down. You have the freedom to walk independently, with support behind-the-scenes. Self-guided means choice, flexibility, and a tour that's just right for you. Start on any day of the week. The basics are provided and someone else lugs your bags. You are independent, but not alone. If you need emergency support, there are phone numbers to call. Self-guided is safe, affordable, and above all, enriching.

How does this work?

This is not a guided tour but it is well researched with a local operator's support.

You will have a tour outline and each day, you leave your luggage and head out, following the route descriptions. Walk at your own pace, linger wherever you want, or forge ahead to new horizons. All you'll need to carry are some snacks and light clothing such as rain-wear.

The self-guided formula lets you choose your own meals. Stock up on picnic supplies at the local dépanneur, or treat yourself to a gourmet lunch at a hidden café. Eat as little or as much as you want for the evening meal.

The price includes:

- five nights' accommodation in your choice of charming inns, Bed & Breakfasts or luxe hotels.
- all breakfasts and one dinner
- detailed Route Descriptions and maps
- luggage transfers
- suggestions on where to eat and what to see along the way
- emergency support just a phone call away





Getting There

Your tour starts in the small village of North Hatley, about 120 km east of Montréal. It is possible to reach Montreal by air from all major Canadian cities and most major American cities. From Montreal it is possible to travel to North Hatley by bus. A private transfer from Montréal to the tour start can be arranged.

If travelling by car from the United States, North Hatley is only a 1-hour drive north of the Vermont / Canada border via Interstate 5.

day 1 . . . Arrive in North Hatley. If you arrive early enough, take some time to explore the town and take in the verdant beauty that made this area immediately attractive as a summer get-away for the wealthy. Wander down streets lined with stately Victorian mansions once owned by well-to-do southerners who preferred the Townships as a summer retreat following the American Civil War. It is said that many drew the blinds of their railway cars as they passed through New England, which they commonly referred to as "Yankeeland".

day 2 . . . Begin with a transfer out to the quiet university town of Lennoxville. Take a moment to delve into the history of the region or appreciate the work of a local artist in this culturally rich village. Your return route is an easy stroll to North Hatley along meandering river banks, through shady woods and down a forgotten rail trail. Savour the romance of the post-card-picturesque covered bridges you pass on your journey. Stop and head underground to explore Capelton Mine, one of the oldest copper mines in Canada.

day 3 . . . Today is quite literally a walk in the Parc (du Mont Orford, that is!). Choose the adventure that beckons you and we will look after the details. There are four alternatives, ranging from a short loop trail past lakes and lookouts to a vigorous trek over roots and rocks to a dazzling mountaintop vista. Whether you decide on the Etang, Mont Chauve, Mont Alfred-DesRochers or Pic de L'Ours walk, you will come away with a mind clear of troubles and a day full of memories. At the end of your day you will be taken to the lively town of Magog to discover one of its many wonderful restaurants. This lively town sprang up in the late 1700s around a saw- and flour-mill. Take the time to explore the shops and boutiques of Magog.

day 4 . . . Begin your day with a trip to the beautiful and contemplative Saint-Benoît-du-Lac Abbey on the west

shore of Lake Memphrémagog. Be sure to pick up a sample of the monks delightful cheeses and pies as well as a sampling of their potent apple ciders, before returning to Magog. You will then have the opportunity to explore the marsh trail along the Rivière-aux Cerises and along the north shore of Lake Memphrémagog. Keep an eye out for the legendary lake creature - Memphré, that is said to inhabit the lake.

day 5 . . . Travel once again along the gravel pathways of the Route Verte (also a part of the Trans-Canada Trail) for several kilometers as it winds its way through the Parc du Mont Orford. Traverse this extension of the Appalachian Mountain Chain, through temperate valleys covered with dense Maple forests and take in the majestic landmarks of Mount Orford and Mount Chauve. Witness the evolution of a landscape as you pass by large boulders - erratics - remnants of glaciers long forgotten. Cross the threshold of two streams and return to civilization as you finish your day in the relaxing spa town of Eastman.

day 6 . . . Enjoy a final few moments at your beautiful spa accommodation in Eastman before departing for home or another adventure.

Accommodations

You'll stay at beautiful inns, charming B&Bs, or luxe accommodations.

Add-on

Enjoy an additional few days exploring the Eastern Townships by bike. The hills and valleys of the townships make for some of the most spectacular cycling in Canada. Ask us for more details about different cycling options.

Extras

Consider spending a day or two in Montreal.