

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

September 3-7
September 10-15

2013

September 2-6
September 9-14

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any date. Call or email for details.

Trip Size

8-16 participants

Total Days:

6 days/ 5 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Magog/North Hatley

Activity Level:

Average daily distance is 55km/35 miles

Terrain:

Mainly level

Quebec, Biking Eastern Townships

Experience French joie de vivre right here in North America! Step into history and take in the European ambiance in the heart of southern Québec's Eastern Townships. Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachians, discover a land of enchanted forests, babbling brooks and peaceful lakes. Pedal along undiscovered country roads and specially designed bike paths through covered bridges, past serene monasteries, and spectacular round barns. Listen for the toll of local church bells. The perfect souvenir awaits your discovery among the many galleries, studios and antique shops that populate the many picturesque villages you'll encounter. Each night settle into your cozy accommodation and be treated to first-class cuisine. You'll never forget your visit to this breathtaking corner of Canada.

Itinerary



Getting there:

Magog: It is possible to reach Montreal by air from all major Canadian cities and most major American cities. Magog can be reached by bus from Montreal. Or a private transfer from Montréal to the tour start can be arranged. If you are coming from the United States, Magog is only a short drive north of the Vermont / Canada border via Interstate 91. If travelling by car, it is possible to leave your car in Magog, where you will be able to pick it up at the end of your

cycling trip.

DAY 1:

Magog - Arrive in Magog, known as the 'jewel box of the Townships'. Take the time to discover the vibrant main street, filled with boutiques and restaurants. You may also choose to explore the lake-front walking and cycling paths. This afternoon you will meet your guide at 4:00 and get fitted to your bikes.

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Cost

Land Cost (current year):

CAD \$1950/US \$1950
Includes 5B/2L/4D

Single Supplement:

CAD \$440/US \$440

Bike Rental:

CAD \$140/US \$140



DAY 2:

Magog - Pedal along the shores of Lake Memphrémagog en route to the lakefront Abbey Saint-Benoît-du-Lac — where Benedictine monks have worked and lived since the early part of last century. Be sure to pick up a few supplies for a picnic lunch at the monastery, which is famous for excellent cheeses and apple cider. It is then off to take up the challenge of cycling through Mount Orford Provincial Park along

the Trans-Canada Trail. This wonderful park is noted for the beauty of its scenery. Ending your day in Magog, with a relaxing dip in one of its many beaches. Approximate distance—65km (shorter and longer cycling options are available today).

DAY 3:

Stanstead - Leave Magog to cycle through the rolling foothills of the Appalachians, encountering a postcard-picturesque covered bridge and scenic little hamlets. Reach the American border town of Beebe Plain, where the main street straddles the border. Canadian flags are prominently displayed to the north, while American flags fly proudly to the south. Your destination is another border town—Stanstead. Tonight you will spend the night in a lovely Victorian manor house. Approximate distance—45 km (longer cycling options are available).



DAY 4:

North Hatley - Head north through the lakeside village of Ayer's Cliff to North Hatley, your destination for today. Along the way you may choose to stop at the birthplace of Louis Saint-Laurent—Canada's 16th Prime Minister, in Compton (an excellent spot for an ice-cream stop!). Be sure to save some time to investigate the many studios and antique shops in the area. This village has long been a haven for artists and artisans, and is renowned for its wonderful antiques and art. You will also want to explore the

lovely shores of Lake Massawippi. Approximate distance—55km (longer cycling options are available today).

DAY 5:

Sherbrooke - Your day ride out of North Hatley takes you through a diversity of experiences - beautiful countryside with quiet forests, rolling pastures and stunning vistas, to a riverside bike network through the City of Sherbrooke - the 7th largest city in Quebec. Take the time to explore the delightful architectural heritage, amazing art galleries and excellent museums, before you weave your way back to North Hatley via the university town of Lennoxville and an amazing Capleton copper mine. Approximate distance—55 km.

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Accommodations



Tapioca, North Hatley

This award winning 4-star B&B is of the most attractive in the region and features turrets, terraces, and a large veranda. All rooms have views and guests enjoy a hearty four-course breakfast. A lovely Victorian-style Heritage home, Tapioca enjoys an excellent reputation by virtue of its charm, elegance and welcoming hostess.



Domaine Les bois Lee Farm, Stanstead

This beautiful five acre estate is located in the heart of Stanstead. Rooms are furnished with antiques, thick duvets, linen sheets and fireplaces; the property also features a therapeutic bath, outdoor spa and heated salt-water pool.



Spa Eastman, Eastman

With an international reputation for their spa treatments, Spa Eastman also offers unique and tranquil accommodations that complement the spa environment quite nicely. Spread throughout seven different pavilions, the accommodations almost form a small country village and offer something for every taste.



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 5 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 5% must be charged on trips in Canada.

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**