

Québec City to Charlevoix

Québec Cultural Walking Adventure



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DAILY ITINERARY

Québec: Québec City to Charlevoix | Cultural Walking Adventure



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

—Travel + Leisure

Echoes of France, Close to Home

We have a friend who says that when she's in the mood for France she just heads for Québec in Canada. Interesting advice—but it doesn't do justice to the unique New World culture and landscape of this historic province. True, the first Frenchmen sailed up in 1535, and their influence is obvious everywhere in the food, language and architecture. As the only fortified city in North America, Québec City might seem equally at home on the Dordogne River as the St. Lawrence. The farmland may even remind you of Normandy. The most startling discovery, though, is that the rich European past thrives so near to home. The Charlevoix region, where we spend much of our time, was declared a Heritage Cultural Region by UNESCO. On a fascinating series of walks, we'll learn why as we visit the villages, the tradespeople and the terrain which make this one of our favorite destinations anywhere. Join us and see how it feels to go to Europe without leaving the continent.

DAY 1

QUÉBEC CITY

- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Québec City
- Enjoy grand views of the river from Château Frontenac

We meet in historic Québec City, overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Founded in 1608 by Samuel de Champlain, it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage City. On our warm-up walk you'll feel like you're stepping back in time as we wind upward from the Lower Town - visiting historic sites, passing under the boughs of century-old trees, soaking in the city's unique blend of French and British heritage. In the Upper Town, we'll visit Chateau Frontenac, one of Canada's most recognizable landmarks, to take in grand views of the river. Among the cobbled stone streets we discover is charming Rue du Petit-Champlain, lined with quaint shops and cafés.

Our welcome dinner lets us explore two of the finest places in Québec City. It's a leisurely evening, as we enjoy our welcome aperitif under a 17th century vaulted ceiling, then enjoy our meal and indulge in dessert, coffee or a nightcap at our final stop.

Overnight: Québec City

Meals: D

DAY 2

HAUTES-GORGES / LA MALBAIE

- Explore Hautes-Gorges National Park, the highest peaks East of the Rockies
- Spot peregrine falcons and rare caribou herd
- Take in river views from our French-style castle Manoir Richelieu

Church steeples pierce the landscape, marking the location of the region's rural villages as we drive from Quebec City into the National Park Les Hautes-Gorges-de-la-Riviere. It's one of Quebec's most beautiful natural monuments. At the foot of the highest peaks East of the Rockies, the valley offers spectacular scenery and is the home to peregrine falcons and a rare caribou herd. Our leisurely paced walk on a gravel path lets us follow a river embedded into sheer walls of stone with gorgeous views of the valley.

Later in the day, we make our way to La Malbaie, one of the province's most elegant resort towns. This area became popular with both American and Canadian politicians in the late 1800's. Manoir Richelieu, a French-style castle perched scenically on the brink of the mighty St. Lawrence River is our home for two nights.

Overnight: La Malbaie

Meals: B, D

DAY 3

TADOUSSAC

- Spot minke, fin and beluga whales on a scenic fjord cruise
- Follow a footpath, with scenic river and fjord views, to an historic fur trading post

Today is a real highlight of our week as we venture along the St. Lawrence and the majestic Saguenay Fjord. The Saguenay's untamed beauty has attracted visitors for decades and our explorations today demonstrate why. This morning, it's all aboard for a magnificent whale watching excursion and zodiac adventure. As the salt water from the St. Lawrence mixes with the fresh water from the Saguenay, a plankton-rich ecosystem is created which makes this one of the best whale watching locations in the world. We have the opportunity to view several varieties of whales, including minke, fin and perhaps the endangered beluga whale for an unparalleled experience with nature.

After lunch in one of Tadoussac's charming cafés, our walk takes us along beautiful footpaths with spectacular views of the St. Lawrence and the Saguenay Fjord to Tadoussac, Canada's first fur trading post where Samuel de Champlain arrived in 1603.

Overnight: La Malbaie

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

ST-JOSEPH-DE-LA-RIVE / BAIE-ST-PAUL

- Visit to an historic paper museum
- Savor artisanal cheeses at a private farm

- **Enjoy a naturalist guided walk through landscapes sought out by artists**

This morning, we head south to St-Joseph-de-la-Rive to drop in on a local paper museum where deluxe papers are handcrafted using 17th century techniques. Later in the morning, our friends Maurice and Francine invite us to their farm. During a memorable visit they share their passion for using traditional methods to craft delicious artisanal cheeses from cow and sheep's milk, followed by a tasting.

What seems to be just a remarkably broad valley with rolling hills and seaside villages is, in fact, an enormous crater formed by a meteorite impact about 350 million years ago! At its heart is our home, Baie-St-Paul, a lively center for the arts and birthplace of the Cirque du Soleil. Meeting up with a naturalist-friend, we explore the local flora and fauna as we follow a path past scenic fields and along a sandy beach on the shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Later in the afternoon explore on your own the art galleries and museums in the village. Dinner on your own this evening in town or at the hotel.

Overnight: Baie-St-Paul

Meals: B

DAY 5

GRANDS-JARDINS NATIONAL PARK

- **Take a spectacular wilderness walk to Charlevoix Crater**
- **Picnic lunch along the trail**

Today we get a chance to appreciate the true immensity and beauty of the crater that craters the Charlevoix region. We're off to Grands-Jardins National Park. "Grands-Jardins" means "great gardens", and it's a well-deserved name. Our walk follows a well-maintained path up to Mont du Lac des Cygnes (Swan Lake Mountain) with a stop for a picnic along the way. The ascent takes us through lovely groves of trembling aspen trees, past a glacier-carved lake, into forests of black spruce and balsam fir, and ultimately up to the wide-open slopes. At this highest vantage point, we're right on the rim of the ancient crater. Lac des Cygnes glitters below, the air is crisp and clean, and the awesome views are nearly limitless.

After an exhilarating day in the outdoors, tonight's farewell dinner is at our guides favorite local restaurant, a perfect way to end our time in the wild's of Québec

Overnight: Baie-St-Paul

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

ÎLE D'ORLÉANS / QUÉBEC CITY

- **Explore Île d'Orléans, including its picturesque villages**
- **Visit the spectacular Montmorency Falls**

After a leisurely breakfast, we drive to Île d'Orléans. The small island boasts the largest concentration of buildings dating from the French settlers. Our scenic walk takes us to Sainte-Pétronille, the most picturesque village on the island, with its impressive Regency-style English villas and exquisitely tended gardens.

Just across the bridge from Île d'Orléans is Montmorency Falls. At 274 feet, it's one-and-a-half times as high as Niagara Falls. A lovely walk culminates at a bridge above the falls. You'll get an awesome (and safe) view of the waters as they tumble over the cliff. At the foot of the cascade, you'll have one of those frame-worthy photo opportunities with the towers of Quebec City and the Chateau Frontenac rising in the distance.

Say farewell to you guide in Québec City.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Le Germain Hotel Quebec

Inside this 100-year-old property in Quebec City's Old Port, the freshly updated interior is chic and very contemporary. The elegant and cozy rooms feature bold graphics. You're only steps from streets that are recognized as a World Heritage Site.

OVERNIGHT: Québec City | **NIGHTS:** 1



Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu

Perching grandly over the St. Lawrence River, this expansive resort property offers spectacular views, loads of activities, and unique gastronomy. Rooms are spacious and comfortably appointed. Claim a chair on the long covered porch to enjoy the vista.

OVERNIGHT: La Malbaie, Charlevoix | **NIGHTS:** 2



Le Germain Hotel Charlevoix

Nestled between the mountains and the St. Lawrence River, this hotel has a surprising and appealing urban feel. The property has its own pastry shop, spa and heated outdoor pool. Rooms are decorated in contemporary rustic style.

OVERNIGHT: Baie-saint-paul | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH 6 Days, 5 Nights

START Lobby of Le Germain Hotel , Quebec, Canada

END Lobby of Le Germain Hotel , Quebec, Canada

TERRAIN Easy to moderate on good trails, always with mini-van support.

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Wine on Us
- Invisible Check-In
- Perfect Pairings Dinners
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

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AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

Franklin
President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Québec...

- Exploring Old Québec City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Boarding a Zodiac on the St. Lawrence River for an exciting wildlife cruise with a chance to spot whales close-up
- Walking to Montmorency Falls, one-and-a-half times higher than the Niagara Falls
- Relaxing at your sleek, award-winning hotel in Baie-Saint-Paul
- Connecting with the local people and culture of the region through your amazing and well-connected local guide

"WE MISS THE AMAZING FOOD!!!! Every meal was a masterpiece. Great selection of entrees."

-Barbara Theilen., Dallas, TX.