

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Québec & Charlevoix

Echoes of France, Close to Home

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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

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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. Interesting advice—but it doesn't do justice to the unique New World culture and landscape of this province. True, the first Frenchmen sailed up in 1535, and their influence is still obvious—in the food, language and architecture. As the only fortified city in North America, Québec City might look just as 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 European past thrives so near to home. The Charlevoix region 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.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

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

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

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

DAY 1 »

Québec City

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.

MEALS: D OVERNIGHT: QUÉBEC CITY

DAY 2 »

Hautes-Gorges / La Malbaie

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.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: LA MALBAIE

DAY 3 »

Tadoussac

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.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: LA MALBAIE

DAY 4 »

St-Joseph-de-la-Rive / Baie-St-Paul

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.

MEALS: B OVERNIGHT: BAIE-ST-PAUL

DAY 5 »

Grands-Jardins National Park

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

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: BAIE-ST-PAUL

DAY 6 »

Île D'Orléans / Québec City

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 your 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.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



[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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Le Germain Hotel Quebec**
START CITY: **Quebec**
START TIME: **1:00 PM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Lobby of Le Germain Hotel Quebec**
END CITY: **Quebec**
END TIME: **1:00 PM**