



CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Québec & Charlevoix

Echoes of France, Close to Home



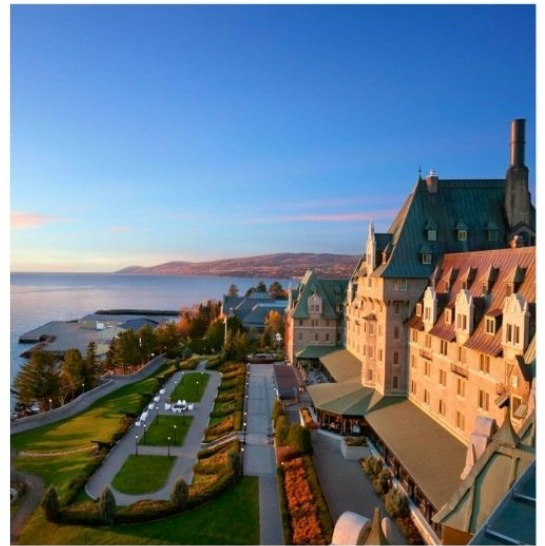
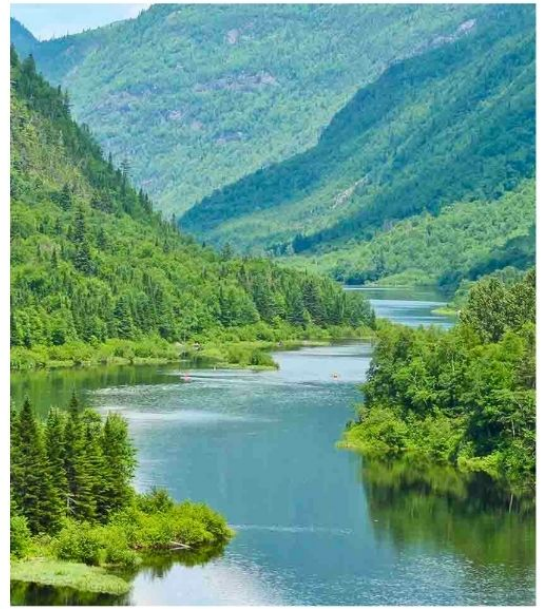
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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

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. 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.



DAY 1 »

Québec City

- Stroll through cobbled streets and leafy lanes as your guide reveals Québec City's living history.
- Capture panoramic views of the St. Lawrence River from the iconic Chateau Frontenac's grand terrace.

Your adventure begins in historic Québec City, perched above the St. Lawrence River. As you set out on a warm-up walk, you'll feel time slip away beneath your feet-winding upward from the cobbled lanes of the Lower Town, passing under century-old trees, and soaking in the city's irresistible blend of French and British heritage. Your well-connected local guide brings the city's stories to life, leading you through charming Rue du Petit-Champlain, past inviting cafés and boutiques, and on to the grand Chateau Frontenac for panoramic river views. This is a city that wears its history with pride, and you're discovering it at eye level, just like a local friend would show you.

This evening, settle into the rhythm of Québec with a welcome dinner that's as much about the company as the cuisine. You'll sip your aperitif under a 17th-century vaulted ceiling before moving on to savor a leisurely meal at one of the city's finest spots. There's time to linger over dessert, coffee, or a nightcap-your first taste of the warmth and whimsy that defines this region and your Classic Journeys experience.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: QUÉBEC CITY

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

Hautes-Gorges / La Malbaie

- Wander along a river path in Les Hautes-Gorges, surrounded by dramatic cliffs and soaring peaks.
- Settle into a boutique hotel perched above the St. Lawrence, enjoying its serene and scenic setting.

After breakfast, you'll leave the city's bustle behind for the cinematic countryside of Charlevoix. Church steeples dot the landscape as you journey to the National Park Les Hautes-Gorges-de-la-Rivière-Malbaie-one of Québec's natural masterpieces. Your curated walk follows a gravel path along the river, hemmed in by sheer stone walls and the highest peaks east of the Rockies. Peregrine falcons may soar overhead, and if you're lucky, you might spot a rare caribou. With your expert guide at your side, you'll experience the valley's grandeur and learn the stories that shape this wild corner of the world.

By afternoon, you arrive in La Malbaie, a resort town that has charmed politicians and artists for generations. Your home for the next two nights is a perfectly sited boutique hotel perched dramatically above the St. Lawrence. Here, you'll dine and unwind like a local, with the river and mountains as your backdrop.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: LA MALBAIE

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Tadoussac

- Embark on a thrilling whale-watching adventure, spotting minke, fin, and possibly beluga whales.
- Walk scenic footpaths to Tadoussac, Canada's first fur trading post, rich with history.

Today's journey takes you along the St. Lawrence and into the heart of the majestic Saguenay Fjord-a place where freshwater and saltwater mingle to create one of the world's richest marine ecosystems. All aboard for a thrilling whale-watching excursion: keep your eyes peeled for minke, fin, and perhaps even the elusive beluga whale. Your small group and naturalist guide ensure you're right in the heart of the action, learning about the region's unique wildlife and the delicate balance of this extraordinary environment.

After lunch in a cozy Tadoussac café, you'll set out on foot along scenic paths overlooking the fjord and river. Your walk leads you to Tadoussac, Canada's first fur trading post, where Samuel de Champlain landed in 1603. With every step, you're immersed in the stories and landscapes that make this region unforgettable-a true "only with Classic Journeys" day.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: LA MALBAIE

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

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

- Discover the art of papermaking and experience a hands-on lavender workshop with a local expert.
- Explore Baie-St-Paul's crater valley, then stroll scenic paths with a naturalist along the St. Lawrence.

This morning, you head south to St-Joseph-de-la-Rive, where you'll drop in on a charming paper museum and witness deluxe papers being handcrafted using 17th-century techniques. Later in the morning, you visit a historic lavender farm, where your friend Louise, who is both the owner and a certified lavender biologist, welcomes you personally and guides you around the property. She shares the farm's rich heritage dating back to 1844 and the surrounding landscape. You'll enjoy a hands-on activity with the lavender plants, tour the drying shed and the still where lavender hydrosol is produced, and finish with a tasting of lemon lavender cake and a glass of freshly squeezed sparkling lavender lemonade. The farm, awarded the Charlevoix Heritage Award, offers a truly authentic encounter with local tradition.

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 some 350 million years ago! At its heart is Baie-St-Paul, a lively center for the arts and birthplace of Cirque du Soleil. Meeting up with a naturalist friend, you'll explore the local flora and fauna as you follow a path past scenic fields and along a sandy beach on the shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Later in the afternoon, you're free to explore the art galleries and museums in the village-Baie-Saint-Paul is renowned for its vibrant arts scene, with nearly twenty galleries and the acclaimed Musée d'art contemporain de Baie-Saint-Paul all within walking distance. Dinner is on your own this evening, whether in town or at your boutique hotel.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: BAIE-ST-PAUL

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Grands-Jardins National Park

- Ascend Mont du Lac des Cygnes, traversing aspen groves and glacier-carved lakes with sweeping views.
- Marvel at the vast Charlevoix crater from the summit, surrounded by pristine wilderness and fresh air.

This morning, you're off to Grands-Jardins National Park, where the immensity of the Charlevoix crater unfolds before you. Your walk-curated for both beauty and purpose-ascends Mont du Lac des Cygnes, weaving through groves of trembling aspen, past glacier-carved lakes, and into forests of black spruce and balsam fir. At the summit, you'll stand on the rim of the ancient crater, with Lac des Cygnes glittering below and limitless views stretching in every direction. Your guide, a true friend of the region, shares local lore and natural history as you picnic in the fresh mountain air.

After a day spent in the wilds of Québec, you'll gather for a farewell dinner at your guide's favorite local restaurant. It's a perfect, convivial end to your Charlevoix adventure-one last chance to toast new friends and savor the flavors of the region.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: BAIE-ST-PAUL

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Île d'Orléans / Québec City

- Wander among heritage homes and gardens on Île d'Orléans, meeting locals preserving island traditions.
- Walk to the top of Montmorency Falls for breathtaking views of Québec City's skyline and river.

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before crossing to Île d'Orléans, an island that feels like a living museum of French-Canadian heritage. Your scenic walk leads you to Sainte-Pétronille, the island's most picturesque village, where Regency-style English villas and lovingly tended gardens line the way. Your guide introduces you to the island's stories and its people-keepers of traditions that date back centuries.

Before returning to Québec City, you'll visit Montmorency Falls, which tumble dramatically from a height one-and-a-half times that of Niagara. A lovely walk brings you to a bridge above the cascade, offering a breathtaking (and safe) vantage point for photos with the city and Chateau Frontenac rising in the distance. Back in Québec City, you'll bid farewell to your guide and the friends you've made, carrying home memories of a journey that could only happen with Classic Journeys.

MEALS: B

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	2	3	4
Day 2	3	5	6
Day 3	1	2	3
Day 4	2	3	4
Day 5	3	5	6
Day 6	2	3	4

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Quebec City, La Malbaie, Baie-St-Paul and other villages; as well as well-maintained countryside, island and riverside trails of compressed dirt and stone. The footpaths offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain with some elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Le Germain Hotel
Quebec
CITY: Quebec, Canada
TIME: 1:00 PM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Le Germain Hotel
Quebec
CITY: Quebec, Canada
TIME: 1:00 PM

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- 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 on us.
- ▶ **INVISIBLE CHECK-IN**
When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.
- ▶ **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.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.