

EASTERN CANADA PANORAMA

Ottawa, Quebec City, New Brunswick, PEI, Nova Scotia, Montreal & Niagara Falls

20 days

Created on: 19 Apr, 2024

Day 1 Arrive in Ottawa

Welcome to Ottawa, the capital city of Canada.

Rich with history, culture and prestigious educational institutions, Ottawa's centerpiece is Parliament Hill, the home of Canada's federal government and the heartbeat of Canadian politics. The city name "Ottawa" was chosen in reference to the Ottawa River, the name of which is derived from the Algonquin Odawa, meaning "to trade".

Overnight in Ottawa.

Included Meal(s): Dinner, if required.

Day 2 Ottawa Touring

Today we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of this fascinating city.

A great starting point is a guided tour of Parliament Hill. Designed and built in a Gothic revival style and featuring national symbols of Canada throughout its design, Parliament Hill stands on the banks of the Ottawa River and is affectionately known by locals and politicians as "The Hill". Our tour will then continue through Ottawa, and a must see is the Rideau Canal. Rideau Canal is a National Historic Site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it is the oldest operational canal system in North America. The actual 'canal' is a series of rivers, lakes and connecting locks and canals that form a continuous waterway from Kingston to Ottawa. Built between 1826 and 1832, it pre-dates the locks on the St. Lawrence, and was built to assist the defence of Canada by allowing boats to travel from Montreal to the Great Lakes without having to travel down the St. Lawrence.

We will conclude our city tour at the famed Byward Market, a vibrant neighbourhood in the heart of downtown Ottawa. Here one finds a buzzing hub of outdoor farmers' market stalls and specialty food and market stalls where an array of local artisans showcase their wares. This is a wonderful place to enjoy your afternoon at leisure in the city center.

Overnight in Ottawa.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 3 Ottawa - Montreal - Quebec City

This morning we depart from Ottawa and travel to the province of Québec, known as "la belle" province, which has a predominately French speaking population. This is the largest of Canada's provinces in area, and second only to Ontario in population. The name Quebec, first bestowed on the city in 1608, is derived from an Algonquian word meaning "where the river narrows".

Our first sightseeing stop will be in Montréal, a fascinating city where modern cultural influences merge with history. Montreal is situated on an island in the Saint Lawrence River and named after Mt. Royal, the triple-peaked hill at its heart.

On our tour of Montreal we will discover the Old City, Mont Royal, and the famed underground city. Old Montréal, home to the city's most historic attractions, provides an unbeatable glimpse into city's many lives throughout its extensive history. Old Montréal and the Old Port make up one of the city's most constantly evolving and dynamic quarters. Of course we will also visit the ornate Notre Dame Basilica located in the heart of the Old City.

Later in the day we will continue along the St. Lawrence River until we arrive this evening in Québec City. Tonight we will partake in a local tradition and indulge with dinner at a sugar shack. Sugar shacks, integral to the production of maple syrup, are used to boil the sap collected from sugar maple trees into Maple Syrup.

Overnight in Montreal.

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Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4 Quebec City Touring

Today we will explore Quebec City.

History here dates back to 1608, as this is one of the oldest cities in North America. This is the only fortified city north of Mexico whose walls still exist. While many of the major cities in Latin America date from the 16th century, among cities in Canada and the U.S., few were created earlier than Quebec City.

We will discover Montmorency Falls, the Plains of Abraham, the Citadel and the intriguing history of Old Québec City on our sightseeing tour. The city's historic core is unlike anyplace else in North America, with hundreds of gorgeous mansard-roofed old stone buildings clustered inside a perfect frame of crenellated town walls.

We will see the famed Chateau Frontenac which towers above the narrow cobblestone streets of Old Québec City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As one explores the streets it feels as though you are stepping into a European village uniquely surrounded by the only fortified city walls in North America. Following our city tour you will have some free time to explore this fascinating city on your own. You can stroll the streets of Old Québec, browse local boutiques or indulge in some of the local delicacies.

Overnight in Quebec City.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

Day 5 Quebec City - Edmundston, NB

After we depart from Québec City our first stop today will be at the Albert Gilles Copper Museum. Albert Gilles was a renowned master craftsman working with metal, and he was responsible for the creation of historic pieces for the Roman Catholic Church including some personally commissioned by Pope Pius XII. The Albert Gilles Copper Museum is now operated by his daughters who remain the artists in residence.

Later we will cross the St. Lawrence River. Though the Saint Lawrence River itself is slightly less than 750 miles (2,000 km) in length, it is part of a much larger system which begins in the U.S. state of Minnesota, and in its entirety, covers approximately 2,500 miles (4,000 km). We will continue to the province of New Brunswick, the only constitutionally bilingual province in Canada. New Brunswick was one of the four original provinces making up the national confederation in 1867. Together with Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, it forms the regional grouping known as the Maritime Provinces.

After a short drive we will arrive in Edmundston where we will visit the New Brunswick Botanical Gardens showcasing 80,000 plants throughout 8 thematic gardens.

Overnight in Edmundston.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6 Edmundston - Saint John, NB

Our journey today will take us along the scenic Saint John River, and we soon arrive at the Hartland Bridge. Starting in northern Maine, the Saint John River flows into Canada and runs south along the western side of New Brunswick before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean in the Bay of Fundy. The Hartland Bridge first opened in 1901 and is a National Historic Site of Canada - and the longest covered bridge in the world. In the beginning, the entire span was built out of wood and was not covered. However, after ice destroyed some of its pylons, they were replaced with concrete, and the bridge was given its signature covering in the 1920s.

This afternoon we step back in time at Kings Landing, a living history museum featuring buildings dating back to 1820. Whilst here we will

enjoy a break for lunch and tour of the site dedicated to showcasing rural life in New Brunswick during the 19th and early 20th century.

Overnight in Saint John.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Lunch

Day 7 Saint John - Moncton

This morning we will witness to the natural phenomenon that is Reversing Falls, on the Saint John River in the heart of Saint John. This is perhaps the world's greatest example of tidal impact upon a river. As the tidal water from the bay rises it forces the water to reverse flow creating whirlpools and rapids in the river. Twice each day 100 billion tons of water, a volume equal to all of the world's rivers enters and exits the Bay of Fundy. At this location, water levels rise as much as 9 meters or 28 feet in a tidal cycle.

A true highlight lays ahead today as we arrive at Hopewell Rocks, also called the 'Flower Pots', standing 40-70 ft high emerged from the waters of the Bay of Fundy, only fully visible during low tide. Time and tide have carved from the cliffs and coves these distinctive sandstone formations topped with trees. During periods of low tide, you can walk 2 km of beach and explore several coves filled with these flowerpot rocks.

The Bay of Fundy may feature the world's highest tides, but if we are able arrive at low tide then we may have the opportunity to walk on the sea floor and experience the famous rocks up close.

Overnight in Moncton.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8 Moncton - Summerside, PEI

Today we continue to the town of Shediac, known as the "Lobster Capital of the World", where we see the World's Largest Lobster before embarking on a lobster cruise to learn about lobsters and the local fishery while we savour a freshly cooked lobster lunch.

Following our cruise, we make our way to the province of Prince Edward Island crossing on the Confederation Bridge. The curved, 12.9 km (8 mile) long bridge is the longest in the world crossing ice-covered water, linking mainland New Brunswick with Prince Edward Island, and continues to be one of Canada's top engineering achievements of the 20th century. After four years of construction using more than five thousand local workers, the Confederation Bridge opened to traffic on May 31, 1997. We arrive in the capital city of Charlottetown and have the remainder of our evening at leisure.

□

Overnight in Summerside.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Lunch

Day 9 Charlottetown & PEI Touring

Today we will enjoy a tour of Charlottetown.

Charlottetown might be a small city, but it's bursting with big energy and infectious island vibes. Canada was born (or perhaps more accurately, conceived) in Charlottetown when the Fathers of Confederation met at Province House National Historic Site in 1864 to plot out the creation of Canada.

At Cavendish National Park one discovers miles of sand dunes, barrier islands, sandstone cliffs, wetlands, and forests. The beaches of Cavendish are part of Prince Edward Island National Park. The road through the park leads to a choice of many access points to the beach which offer a safe place to park and enjoy a walkway to the water.

Green Gables is the name of a 19th-century farm in Cavendish, and is perhaps one of the most notable literary landmarks in all of Canada. The Green Gables farm and its surroundings are the setting for the popular Anne of Green Gables novels by Lucy Maud Montgomery. Today

the site is also known as Green Gables Heritage Place, and the house was designated a National Historic Site in 1985.

At the end of our day we will stop at the fishing village of North Rustico. Strongly connected to its proud fishing tradition, North Rustico residents pride themselves on their closeness to both land and sea. The village of North Rustico was founded in 1790 around a small natural harbour along the Gulf of St. Lawrence coast.

Overnight in Summerside.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Lunch

Day 10 Summerside - Baddeck, NS

Today we will board the scenic Wood Island Ferry and enjoy a short journey across from Prince Edward Island to the northern shores of Nova Scotia. Roughly 360 miles (580 km) long but not more than about 80 miles (130 km) wide at any point, the province comprises the peninsula of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island (separated from the mainland to the southwest by the narrow Strait of Canso), and a number of small adjacent islands.

Dotted with quaint fishing villages, the countryside of Nova Scotia has charming beauty. Alexander Graham Bell, most famous for inventing the telephone, was an inventor, innovator and considered a humanitarian by many. His life's works are on display at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum and together we discover the incredible history of this man who helped shape modern communication.

Tonight we overnight in Baddeck. Baddeck is situated in the heart of Cape Breton Island, considered to be the beginning and end of the world famous Cabot Trail. Stretching along the shores of the beautiful Bras d'Or Lake, Baddeck is a bustling village that maintains its essence as a quaint community.

As in other parts of Cape Breton Island, the first people to settle here were the Mi'kmaq, members of the Wabenaki First Nation people, attracted to this beautiful, serene place by the abundant fish and excellent game.

Overnight in Baddeck.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 11 The Cabot Trail

One of the world's most scenic coastal drives, the Cabot Trail lies ahead of us today. With incomparable ocean views, surrounded by thick coastal forest the roadway winds along the rugged coastline through Cape Breton Highlands National Park to the northernmost tip of Cape Breton Island. A full day along the Cabot Trail allows time to absorb where we are and take some short walks in the region. We will stop at a variety of scenic overlooks and cultural heritage sites. This day is sure to be a highlight of the entire journey across Canada.

The beauty of Cape Breton Island's Cabot Trail attracts many artisans who look for inspiration within their natural surroundings when creating their art. Many of the artisans living around the Cabot Trail operate working studios and invite visitors to stop in to say 'Hello' and to watch them create beautiful works of art and one-of-a-kind treasures.

Overnight in Baddeck.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12 Baddeck - Halifax

Our destination today is Halifax, a city whose history helped shape and define Canada. Halifax was founded as a town in 1749, later becoming a city in 1842. Built around a large, natural harbour Halifax has played an important role in economic, military and migration activities throughout its history. Halifax's storied harbour was an entry point for immigration in the early 1900's when the majority of Canada's immigrants first arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax harbour. This Atlantic Ocean port city is dotted with heritage buildings, public parks and some first-rate museums. Part of what makes Halifax special is it's small size and easy-going atmosphere, combined with the perfect balance of

rural and urban, all wrapped into one.

Today we will board a whale watching coastal cruise and get a chance to see the harbour and the surrounding coast up close whilst keeping our eyes peeled for marine mammals.

Overnight in Halifax.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 13 Halifax Touring

Our sightseeing tour today will allow us to delve deeper into the history of Halifax as we experience the city through the eyes of a local. Our tour includes the Citadel, downtown Halifax, Old Town Clock and so much more as our local guide brings the storied history of Halifax to life.

Nova Scotia is home to 160 lighthouses, and we have the opportunity to see many of them as we travel the coastal "Lighthouse Trail" along Nova Scotia's south shore before arriving at the most famous lighthouse in the province located at Peggy's Cove. A lighthouse has stood on the shores of Peggy's Cove since 1868, the current lighthouse and second to occupy Peggy's Cove opened in 1915 and is still an active lighthouse today managed by the Canadian Coast Guard. This graceful lighthouse is perhaps the most photographed in Canada.

Overnight in Halifax.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 14 Halifax - Edmundston, NB

Today we begin our journey back west as we bid farewell to Nova Scotia and cross back in to the province of New Brunswick. We soon arrive in Fredericton - the capital city of New Brunswick. This small city with such important history and culture dates back 12,000 years to the earliest settlements in the area. Over the course of history, Fredericton has been both a French Colony and an English Colony; together we discover this history as our local guide takes us on a city tour of Fredericton.

Continuing on, we once again arrive in Edmundston for our last night in Atlantic Canada.

Overnight in Edmundston.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 15 Edmundston - Montreal, QC

This morning we rejoin the path of the St. Lawrence Seaway as we travel to Montréal. Our journey along the area is nicely timed to witness the colourful fall foliage of the changing season. Brilliant, red, yellow and orange leaves scattered among evergreen trees create an eye popping and enchanting sight.

Montréal is the ideal city to enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore. This is also a city that continues to evolve and thrive in a way that entices and intrigues everyone fortunate enough to visit. Whether art, history, music or culinary creations peak your interest, you are sure to find it in Montréal.

Overnight in Montreal.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 16 Montreal - Kingston, ON

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Today our journey takes us from Montreal to Kingston, situated on the edge of Lake Ontario. Kingston is the gateway to the pristine 'Thousand Lakes' region and today the city is also known as the 'Limestone City' due to the number of granite buildings found in the city. We will enjoy a trolley tour of this historic city, the first capital city of the Province of Canada in 1841, which was then a British Colony. Our tour will delve into the history of Kingston and concludes at Bellevue House, a National Historic Site of Canada and the childhood home of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald.

Overnight in Kingston.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 17 Kingston - Niagara Falls

Traveling south through the rolling countryside of Ontario, we soon arrive in Niagara Falls. The self proclaimed "Honeymoon Capital of the World", the city of Niagara Falls sits on the banks of the Niagara River and provides the perfect view of the famed falls - Horseshoe Falls, American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls. The three waterfalls straddle the international border of Canada and USA and collectively have the highest flow rate of any waterfalls in the world, with a vertical drop of more than 165 ft.

In order to fully appreciate the power of these waterfalls, we board the Hornblower Cruise, formerly the Maid of the Mist, which allows us to cruise to the base of the thundering falls. After viewing the falls from their base, we rise high above them for a spectacular view from the Skylon Tower as we enjoy dinner at the top this evening.

Overnight at Niagara Falls.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 18 Niagara Falls - Toronto

This morning we will visit Niagara-on-the-Lake, a picturesque country town with dozens of local wineries, each with their own unique method and style in creating wine this region is known for. The Niagara region, blessed with a unique climate and rich soil, makes for near perfect wine producing conditions.

We will visit a local winery for a tour of their processes and of course to taste the finished product. This afternoon we depart Niagara and travel to the city of Toronto, the most populous city in Canada and the capital city of Ontario. This evening is yours to discover what Toronto has to offer.

Overnight in Toronto.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 19 Toronto Touring

Toronto is ours to discover today. On the banks of Lake Ontario, Toronto's skyscrapers seemingly rise from the water and touch the clouds. Along with being a commercial and financial powerhouse, Toronto has also successfully positioned itself as a thriving artist community where music, theatre and movies come to life. Hosting the prominent Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) every fall, Toronto shares the name "Hollywood North" with Vancouver, a reference to the countless number of movies filmed here each year.

Our touring of the city will include Yonge Street, the longest street in the world, Casa Loma, Chinatown, the waterfront and the CN Tower. The CN Tower was the world's tallest free standing structure until 2007 when its title was taken by the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. Although no longer the tallest in the world, the CN Tower remains an icon of Toronto's skyline.

Overnight in Toronto.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 20 Depart Toronto

This morning your incredible journey through Eastern Canada concludes as you bid farewell to your new found friends and depart with unforgettable memories of this amazing country.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast