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# The Explorers' Route

13 days / 12 nights

## DAY 1: EXPLORING NATURE, LOCAL HERITAGE AND FLAVOURS

**Welcome to Quebec for Explorers!** Upon your arrival in Montreal, hit the road toward the Laurentides region, a land of rolling forests, sparkling lakes, and charming villages.

Explore Oka National Park by hiking up to the Calvaire lookout, where **breathtaking panoramic views** await. Along the way, discover the history of the site, closely linked to the Trappist monks who created the famous Oka cheese.

Then, enjoy one of the **many authentic gourmet experiences** along the Chemin du Terroir.

## DAY 2: NATURE ADVENTURE, WILDLIFE AND MOUNTAINS

Head toward Sentier des cimes Laurentides. **Walk above the treetops**, climb the panoramic tower, and take in spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.

Then, enjoy a nature adventure at Kanatha-Aki. **Inspired by Indigenous philosophy**, this unique destination offers a variety of activities for nature lovers, including spending a day with a trapper, horseback riding, fly fishing or hand fishing, ziplining, and bison interpretation experiences.

End the day with a hike in Mont-Tremblant National Park. The **oldest national park** in Quebec is a vast outdoor playground featuring six major rivers and more than 400 lakes. Go hiking or canoeing in the La Diable sector.

## DAY 3: THE LAURENTIANS FROM ABOVE AND FROM THE WATER

Treat yourself to an unforgettable experience by soaring above the forests and lakes of the Hautes-Laurentides **aboard a seaplane** with Air Mont-Laurier. Admire Kiamika Regional Park from the sky and, for a longer flight, discover the immense Baskatong Reservoir, spanning 320 km<sup>2</sup>.

Paddle through 40 islands across **184 km<sup>2</sup> of pristine water and wilderness**, while keeping an eye out for bald eagles soaring overhead. Here, adventure and tranquility meet at every turn.

## DAY 4: DISCOVERING THE HAUTES-LAURENTIDES FROM FERME-NEUVE

Hike in Montagne du Diable Regional Park. La Paroi de l'Aube is one of the four peaks within the park. The **4.2 km hiking trail** — and occasional climb — leading to its summit rewards visitors with breathtaking views of endless forest landscapes. In autumn, the scenery transforms into a spectacular display of vibrant colors.

Just a few minutes' walk from the famous Windigo Falls, stay in one of the charming fully equipped **tiny houses or in a cozy cabin** nestled in the heart of nature within the park.

## DAY 5: THE UNDERGROUND OF VAL-D'OR AND THE SURVIVORS OF AMOS

Head toward the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region. "L'Abitibi a le ventre en or" ("Abitibi has a belly of gold"), sang Raoul Duguay. Dressed as a miner, **descend 91 metres underground through the tunnels of Cité de l'Or** and immerse yourself in the daily life of miners from 1935 at the former Lamaque mine.

In the afternoon, visit Refuge Pageau, a **wildlife refuge** dedicated to rescuing and caring for orphaned or injured wild animals. Meet moose (their long legs are truly impressive!), wolves, bears, foxes, and many other fascinating creatures.



## DAY 6: ROUYN-NORANDA AND ITS HERITAGE

Immerse yourself in nature at Aiguebelle National Park. **Cross a 90-metre suspension bridge**, climb a dizzying staircase along a rocky escarpment, hike to a summit, or paddle by canoe. Along the trails, you may even come across a moose. Aiguebelle National Park is full of surprises.

In the afternoon, step back in time at Magasin général Dumulon. During the early settlement of Abitibi, pioneer Jos Dumulon opened a general store in 1924. Today, the region's very first business has become a heritage site that transports visitors straight into the atmosphere of the 1920s. It truly **feels like stepping into another era**.



## DAY 7: THE TREASURES OF TÉMISCAMINGUE

For two centuries, the French and the British competed for control of the **lucrative fur trade**. This rich history comes to life at Fort Témiscamingue/Obadjiwan National Historic Site, where colonial rivalries unfolded against the backdrop of a millennia-old Indigenous presence. A stop at T.E. Draper – Chantier Gédéon also offers a fascinating **glimpse into the region's forestry heritage**.

Set off along the water and legends of Opémican National Park. **This newer national park** is designed with families in mind, offering camping, mountain biking, swimming, and canoeing on Lake Kipawa. Visitors can also enjoy a playground, a children's rally activity, and accessible trails suitable for wheelchairs and strollers.



## DAY 8: EXPLORING THE OUTAOUAIS: MANSFIELD AND BRYSON

Adventure awaits at Parc des Chutes Coulonge. This spectacular park **features 50-metre waterfalls and a canyon**, along with aerial courses, zip lines, and a thrilling via ferrata experience. Visitors can also learn about the history of log driving — the transport of timber along the rivers.

For adrenaline seekers, an optional rafting adventure awaits on the Ottawa River. **Spend a full day riding the waves** — and inevitably getting splashed along the way. The experience with Rafting Momentum includes meals, overnight camping, and an exhilarating descent through turbulent rapids. Expect adrenaline, splashes, and plenty of laughter.



## DAY 9: GATINEAU: BETWEEN CULTURE AND NATURE

Discover what shaped Canada and **explore the richness of its cultural heritage** at Canadian Museum of History. The museum is also home to the Children's Museum. Although Canada is a young country, its history stretches back thousands of years and is deeply rooted in the **cultures and histories of Indigenous Peoples**.

Just minutes away, the National Capital Region is fortunate to have **Gatineau Park, a vast outdoor playground** offering cycling, camping, hiking, kayaking, and fishing, as well as visits to the Mackenzie King Estate.

After a full day outdoors, unwind at Nordik Spa-Nature, **the largest spa in North America**. Relax in soothing baths and saunas, including the Källa floating pool, one of only two saltwater floating pools in the Americas.



## DAY 10: ADVENTURE AND HERITAGE IN PETITE NATION

At Plaisance National Park, **explore wetlands rich in biodiversity**, ideal for birdwatching, while discovering the impressive Chutes du Moulin and the park's beautiful natural landscapes.

Then, visit Manoir-Papineau National Historic Site, **an iconic 19th-century manor house**. With its grand architecture, the site offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Papineau family and the legacy of New France.



## DAY 11: WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS AT OMEGA PARK

Set off on a safari — photo safari, of course! — at Parc Oméga to **observe wildlife in their natural habitat**: bison, elk, bears, deer, wild boars, wolves, and more. The park features a 12 km driving trail as well as two walking trails totaling 6 km.



## DAY 12: RETURN JOURNEY

Final moments in Quebec. Head back to Montreal, return your vehicle, and board your flight home to France with unforgettable memories of exploration and adventure.