



# Randonnée Tours

## Eastern Townships Cycling 6 Days

### Summary

#### Length

6 days/5 nights with 4 days of cycling

#### Dates

Start any date between May 15 and October 31

#### Level

The terrain is moderately hilly. In general you can expect a number of hills with the day's riding. It might take about fifteen minutes to ride up some of these.

Average daily distance is 55km/ 35 mi and the terrain is mainly level.

This usually requires four to six hours of pedaling the bike per day.

Approximately 35% of the route is on crushed rock bike trails and hard packed dirt roads.

### Itinerary

Experience French *joie de vivre* right here in North America! Step into history and take in the European ambiance in the heart of southern Québec's Eastern Townships. Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachians, discover a land of enchanted forests, babbling brooks and peaceful lakes. Pedal along undiscovered country roads and specially-designed bike paths through covered bridges, past serene monasteries, and spectacular round barns. Listen for the toll of local church bells. The perfect souvenir awaits your discovery among the many galleries, studios and antique shops that populate the many picturesque villages you'll encounter. Each night settle into your cozy accommodation and be treated to first-class cuisine. You'll never forget your visit to this breathtaking corner of Canada.



#### Day 1

Arrive in **Magog**, known as the 'jewel box of the Townships'. Take the time to discover the vibrant main street, filled with boutiques and

restaurants. You may also choose to explore the lake-front walking and cycling paths. This afternoon you will meet your area manager and get fitted to your bikes.

#### Day 2

Pedal along the shores of Lake Memphrémagog en route to the lakefront Abbey Saint-Benoît-du-Lac — where Benedictine monks have worked and lived since the early part of last century. Be sure to pick up a few supplies for a picnic lunch at the monastery, which is famous for excellent cheeses and apple cider. It is then off to take up the challenge of cycling through Mount Orford Provincial Park along the **Trans-Canada Trail**. This wonderful park is noted for the beauty of its scenery. End-



ing your day in Magog, with a relaxing dip in one of its many beaches. Approximate distance—65km (shorter and longer cycling options are available today).

#### Day 3

Leave Magog to cycle through the rolling foothills of the Appalachians, encountering a postcard-picturesque covered bridge and scenic little hamlets. Reach the American border town of Beebe Plain, where the main street straddles the border. Canadian flags are prominently displayed to the north, while American Flags fly proudly to the south. Your destination is another border town—**Stanstead**. Tonight you will spend the night in a lovely Victorian manor house. Approximate distance—45 km (longer cycling options are available).



## How to get there?

Your tour starts in the town of Magog, about 115 km (70 miles) east of Montréal.

It is possible to reach Montréal by air from all major Canadian cities and most major American cities.

Magog can be reached by bus from Montreal. Or a private transfer from Montréal to the tour start can be arranged.

If travelling by car, it is possible to leave your car in Magog, where you will be able to pick it up at the end of your cycling trip.

If you are coming from the United States, Magog is only a short drive north of the Vermont /Canada border via Interstate 91.

## The price includes:

- 5 nights hotels
- All breakfasts and 1 dinner
- Use of a top quality 21-speed hybrid bike complete with handlebar bag, pump, and all the necessary accessories for changing flats. We recommend that you bring your own helmet for safety and hygiene reasons
- Detailed route instructions and map
- All necessary transfers during the tour

## Itinerary

### Day 4

Head north through the lakeside village of Ayer's Cliff to **North Hatley**, your destination for today. Along the way you may choose to stop at the birthplace of Louis Saint-Laurent—Canada's 16th Prime Minister, in Compton (an excellent spot for an ice-cream stop!). Be sure to save some time to investigate the many studios and antique shops in the area. This village has long been a haven for artists and artisans, and is renowned for its wonderful antiques and art. You will also want to explore the lovely shores of Lake Massawippi. Approximate distance—55km (longer cycling options are available today).

### Day 5

Your day ride out of North Hatley takes you through a diversity of experiences - beautiful countryside with quiet forests, rolling pastures and stunning vistas, to a riverside bike network through the City of Sherbrooke - the 7th largest city in Quebec. Take the time to explore the delightful architectural heritage, amazing art galleries and excellent museums, before you weave your way back to North Hatley via the university town of Lennoxville and an amazing Capleton copper mine. Approximate distance—55 km.

### Day 6

Take a final stroll around **North Hatley** or do some last minute souvenir hunting, before departing for another adventure.

## Accommodation

### Classic



#### La Maison Drew

Magog

This beautifully restored heritage building is located downtown, steps from the theatre, art galleries, boutiques and restaurants. Each room has cozy bedding and a fireplace. Enjoy a healthy, gourmet breakfast in the solarium.



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#### Cornemuse B&B,

North Hatley

This 107 year-old inn was begun by a Scottish family who welcomed guests who enjoyed the tea room and magnificent verandahs with gentle breezes from Lake Massawippi. Each room is decorated with antiques and the 3-course breakfast is superb. The hostess, Diane Brisson, has been known to dress in period costume to serve tea to the delight of guests. Eastern Townships recipient of Grands Prix du Tourisme Québécois award.