



Randonnée Tours

Eastern Townships Walking 6 Days

Summary

Length

6 days/5 nights with 4 days of walking

Dates

Start any date between May 15 and October 31

Level

16 km (10 miles) daily average

On two of the days you will have the opportunity to walk in hilly terrain with moderate and more challenging hills, the walking on the other days is on mostly level ground

Travel back in time and take in the old-world flavour of Québec's Eastern Townships. In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, uncover the delights of charming French villages, lush green valleys, enchanted woods, and idyllic farmland. The cross-Québec "Route Verte", abandoned rail lines and forested pathways will lead you from stately Victorian Mansions and captivating covered bridges to the underground labyrinth of one of Canada's oldest copper mines. Hunt for that one-of-a-kind memento in the shops and artists' galleries you encounter along the way. Embrace the region's storied past and culture in one of many scenic villages; enjoy your nights in cozy accommodations and remember to sample the finest in local cuisine. The romance of this landscape is sure to leave you with a lasting impression.

Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive in **North Hatley**. If you arrive early enough, take some time to explore the town and take in the verdant beauty that

made this area immediately attractive as a summer get-away for the wealthy. Wander down streets lined with stately Victorian mansions once owned by well-to-do southerners who preferred the Townships as a summer retreat following the American Civil War. It is said that many drew the blinds of their railway cars as they passed through New England, which they commonly referred to as "Yankeeland".

Day 2

Begin with a transfer out to the quiet university town of Lennoxville. Take a moment to delve into the history of the region or appreciate the work of a local artist in this culturally rich village. Your return route is an easy stroll to North Hatley along mean-

dering river banks, through shady woods and down a forgotten rail trail. Savour the romance of the postcard-picturesque covered bridges you pass on your journey. Stop and head underground to explore Capelton Mine, one of the oldest copper mines in Canada. (18km or shorter option of 8 km - elevation gain 30m).

Day 3

Today is quite literally a walk in the Parc (du Mont Orford, that is!). Choose the adventure that beckons you and we will look after the details. There are four alternatives, ranging from a short loop trail past lakes and lookouts to a vigorous trek over roots and rocks to a dazzling mountaintop vista. Whether you decide on the Etang, Mont Chauve, Mont Alfred-DesRochers or Pic de L'Ours walk, you will come away with a mind clear of troubles and a day full of memories. At the end of your day you will be taken to the lively town of Magog to discover one of its many wonderful restaurants. This lively town sprang up in the late 1700's around a saw- and flour-mill. Take the time to explore the shops and boutiques of **Magog**. (option of 6, 9, 15km)



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How to get there?

Your tour starts in the small village of North Hatley, about 120 km east of Montréal.

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

A transfer from Montréal to the tour start can be arranged.

If travelling by car from the United States, North Hatley is only a 1-hour drive north of the Vermont / Canada border via Interstate 5.

Itinerary



Day 4

Begin your day with a trip to the beautiful and contemplative Saint-Benoît-du-Lac Abbey on the west shore of Lake Memphrémagog. Be sure

to pick up a sample of the monks' delightful cheeses and pies as well as a sampling of their potent apple ciders, before returning to Magog. You will then have the opportunity to explore the marsh trail along the Rivière-aux Cerises and along the north shore of Lake Memphrémagog. Keep an eye out for the legendary lake creature - Memphré, that is said to inhabit the lake. (8km)

Day 5

Travel once again along the gravel pathways of the "Route Verte" for several kilometers as it winds its way through the Parc du Mont Orford. Traverse this extension of the Appalachian Mountain Chain, through temperate valleys covered with dense maple forests and take in the majestic landmarks of Mount Orford and Mount Chauve. Witness the evolution of a landscape as you pass by large boulders - erratics - remnants of glaciers long forgotten. Cross the threshold of two streams and return to civilization as you finish your day in the relaxing spa town of **Eastman**. (21km - elevation 310m)

Day 6

Enjoy a final few moments at your beautiful accommodation in Eastman before departing for home or another adventure.

Accommodation

Classic



Cornemuse B&B, North Hathley

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.



The price includes:

- 5 nights hotels with 1 night in Spa Eastman
- 1 dinner included
- Detailed route instructions and map
- Luggage transfers
- Area Manager available throughout the tour

"Very accommodating owners at the hotels, nice updated digs, spotlessly clean. The area manager was more than excellent. He is efficient, friendly, personable and most accommodating. I think he has some good ideas about routes, length and timing based on his experience with Randonnee clients."

- L Sellar

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.



Spa Eastman,
Eastman

With an international reputation as a spa destination, the tranquil accommodations complement nicely. Rooms are housed in seven unique pavilions which form a sort of small country village.

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