



## MINIBUS TOURS IN QUEBEC

## **Itinerary ideas**

## **Summary**

LOWER ST-LAWRENCE - GASPÉSIE	3
THE CÔTE-NORD	
FI FFT OF VEHICLES	

**Important information:** The situation with COVID-19 is changing day by day. For more information on Government du Québec guidelines for vaccination passports, see the <u>official website</u>.



## WHY BOOK A MINIBUS TOUR?

Flexibility, freedom and autonomy

Several departure cities in Quebec

Perfect for a trip with the family or friends

Suitable for small groups

A professional driver-guide

Change of scenery during the tour without thinking about driving

Itineraries customized to your wishes

Daily departures as per your availability



## **LOWER ST-LAWRENCE - GASPÉSIE**

10 DAYS – 9 NIGHTS MONTREAL / MONTREAL



## **Program Highlights:**

Private driver-guide during the whole tour.

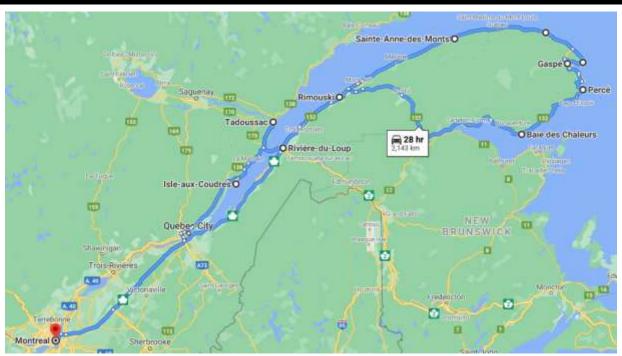
Suitable for small groups.

Nice 5-day loop in the Gaspé Peninsula, including a wide variety of visits.

Incursion into the Lower St. Lawrence following the river.



#### **ITINERARY**



#### DAY 01: MONTREAL / KAMOURASKA / RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP (approx. 442 KM)

Early departure for Rivière-du-Loup.

Along the St. Lawrence River, you will discover Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, a village renowned for its wood sculptures. On the way, stop at Kamouraska, "Where rushes grow at the water's edge". This is how the Amerindians called this place blessed by the gods. In addition to its rich architectural and historical heritage, Kamouraska always amazes by the beauty, diversity, harmony and serenity of its landscape. Enjoy a guided tour of the museum and the village.

Then, continue your route and check in at the hotel.

Meals are at your discretion

Accommodation: Rivière-du-Loup for 1 night

#### DAY 02: RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP / BAIE DES CHALEURS (approx. 354 KM)

Departure for the discovery of the Parc du Bic with a naturalist guide; the Parc national du Bic is located in the maritime estuary of the Saint Lawrence. Its capes, bays, coves, islands and mountains have always been its pride. Stop at Sainte-Flavie, the "gateway to Gaspésie", to smell the salty air and admire the immensity of the St. Lawrence River. At low tide, you will be able to see "Le Grand Rassemblement", a unique work of art-nature made up of more than 80 life-size concrete sculptures, directly in the St. Lawrence and covered with water at high tide. You will cross the Matapédia Valley, a river that stretches over 70 km and is renowned for its salmon fishing. We then continue our journey towards the Baie-des-Chaleurs, which owes its name to Jacques Cartier himself, who in 1534 landed there in the middle of a July heat wave!

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Baie de Chaleurs for 1 night



#### DAY 03: BAIE DES CHALEURS / PERCÉ (approx. 192 KM)

Next, we continue our itinerary around the Gaspé Peninsula with Percé as our destination.

On the way, visit the Banc-de-Pêche-de-Paspébiac historical site, which relates the great epic of fishing in Gaspésie. We continue our journey to Percé, located at the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula, in front of the famous Rocher Percé and Bonaventure Island. Percé is known worldwide for the beauty of its landscape and its architectural heritage.

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Percé for 2 nights

#### DAY 04: PERCÉ

Cruise around Rocher Percé and to Bonaventure Island. This bird sanctuary has the largest concentration of gannets in North America. On the island, enjoy the hiking trails at your own pace. Free afternoon to immerse yourself in Gaspesian life and discover the secrets of Percé: a fishermen's rendezvous on the wharf, a dive by fish-loving gannets, a craft boutique full of ideas...

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

#### DAY 05: PERCÉ / GASPÉ (approx.62 KM)

This morning, enjoy an exciting visit of the Geopark of Percé. Stroll on the suspended glass platform and enjoy the breathtaking view of Percé and the surrounding area. On the way to Gaspé, visit Pointe Saint-Pierre, composed of pastures, forests and also coastal cliffs of about ten meters high.

Arrival in Gaspé, check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Gaspé for 1 night

#### DAY 06: GASPÉ / FORILLON NATIONAL PARK / SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS (approx.243 KM)

Departure for the visit of the Forillon National Park, located at the end of the peninsula. Its grandiose landscapes of sea, cliffs and mountains cover 244 km². The presence of ten different rock formations and the enigmatic arctic-alpine plants gives the park its unique character. It is home to a wide variety of wildlife: foxes, bears, moose, porcupines and many other mammals. More than 200 species of birds are listed. Thousands of seabirds come to nest on the cliffs each summer. From the park's pebble beaches, it is not uncommon to see seals.

Stop at Cap Bon-ami with its steep cliffs, as well as the park's interpretation center. Also see Fort - Péninsule, the only fully preserved World War II coastal battery accessible to the public in Quebec. On the way, after passing Mont-Saint-Pierre, whose sky is sometimes dotted with the colorful sails of hang gliders, a photo break at the lighthouse of La Martre will allow you to bring back unforgettable memories.

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Sainte-Anne-des-Monts for 1 night

#### DAY 07: SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS / RIMOUSKI (approx. 182 KM)

Free time this morning before heading to Rimouski.

Guided tour of the Jardins de Métis. A national historic site, the Jardins de Métis is recognized as an exceptional work of horticultural art. Created between 1926 and 1958, they are the work of a passionate woman, Elsie Reford. Some three thousand varieties of plants are scattered in our gardens.

Visit the Pointe-au-Père Maritime Historic Site, which offers 200 years of maritime history. You will climb up one of the highest lighthouses in Canada, and take a tour through the wreckage of the Empress of Ireland, one of the most famous shipwrecks after the Titanic.

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Rimouski for 1 night

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#### DAY 08: RIMOUSKI / TADOUSSAC (approx.150 KM + 1H10 FERRY)

Departure towards Tadoussac. Take the ferry from Rivière-du-Loup to Saint-Siméon.

(The departure time of the ferry depends on the day of the week).

Arrival in Tadoussac and stroll on the Pointe-de-l'Islet trail, less than a kilometer long (about 20 minutes walk on wooden sidewalks) to admire the Saguenay River and the St. Lawrence River from the rocky capes. It is the best place to observe minke whales and belugas from the shore.

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Tadoussac for 1 night

#### DAY 09: TADOUSSAC / ISLE-AUX-COUDRES (approx.140 KM + 15 MIN FERRY)

Whale watching cruise in Tadoussac (boat). Quebec is one of the most important whales watching sanctuaries in the world. A cruise allows you to see them in their natural habitat. Then departure for the Charlevoix region, recognized as an artist's paradise and designated a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.

Continue to Isle-aux-Coudres via the St-Joseph-de-la-Rive ferry. You will discover a haven of peace and tranquility where the proverbial hospitality of the "Marsouins", the friendly nickname given to its inhabitants, never fails. Visit of the Isle-aux-Coudres mills. A watermill built in 1825 and a windmill built in 1829. Still in operation, the watermill grinds wheat and buckwheat flour with which the millers make bread and cakes.

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Cap-aux-Pierres for 1 night

#### DAY 10: ISLE-AUX-COUDRES / MONTREAL (approx.380 KM)

Drive back to Montreal. Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Depending on various factors (road conditions, timing, logistics etc...), some of the inclusions mentioned in the above program could be postponed to another day; all services will however be respected. (Thematic meals, activities, stops).

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Transportation in a 21-seat minibus, 15-seat minicar, 11-seat sprinter OR 8-seat minicar, from day 1 to day 10, driven by a private English-speaking driver-guide
- Wi-Fi on board the vehicle (mobile router; internet speed may be slower in case of heavy use and/or a large number of simultaneous users)
- 9 nights accommodation in the hotels suggested in the program or similar in standard room (see chart below).
- 9 breakfasts
- Ferry fees
- Visits and excursions indicated in the program
- Provincial taxes and GST and/or federal HST

\*Some activities may not be available at the beginning and end of the season and will be replaced.\*

#### Not included

Flights - Transfers, unless otherwise indicated - Meals, unless otherwise indicated - Tour guide - Tips - Beverages - Optional excursions - Baggage handling - Insurance



#### **DEPARTURES IN 2022**

Rates in CAD\$, per person in double occupancy, starting from	Minibus 21 seats*				
Daily departures	15/16 persons	13/14 persons	11/12 persons	10 persons	
From June 01 to 17	2249	2399	2599	2849	
From June 18 to 30	2299	2449	2649	2899	

Rates in CAD\$, per person in double occupancy, starting from	Minicars 15 seats (and trailer)*					
Daily departures	13/14 11/12 9/10 8 7 6 persons persons persons persons persons					
From June 01 to 17	2299	2499	2789	2969	3219	3549
From June 18 to 30	2329	2529	2799	2899	3249	3569

Rates in CAD\$, per person in double occupancy, starting from		S	printer 11 seats	*	
Daily departures	10 persons	9 persons	8 persons	7 persons	6 persons
From June 01 to 17	2749	2919	3129	3399	3759
From June 18 to 30	2769	2939	3149	4419	3779

Rates in CAD\$, per person in double occupancy, starting from		Minicars	s 8 seats*	
Daily departures	7 persons	6 persons	5 persons	4 persons
From June 01 to 17	2999	3299	3719	4349
From June 18 to 30	3029	3329	3749	4369

Rate in CAD\$, per person, starting from	Reductions / Supplements
Single supplement	719
Triple reduction	On request
Quadruple reduction	On request

<sup>\*</sup> These rates are based on the number of people occupying the bus. Prices are based on double or triple occupancy. For all other types of rooms, a supplement will be applied. For all other bases on these types of vehicles, please contact us.

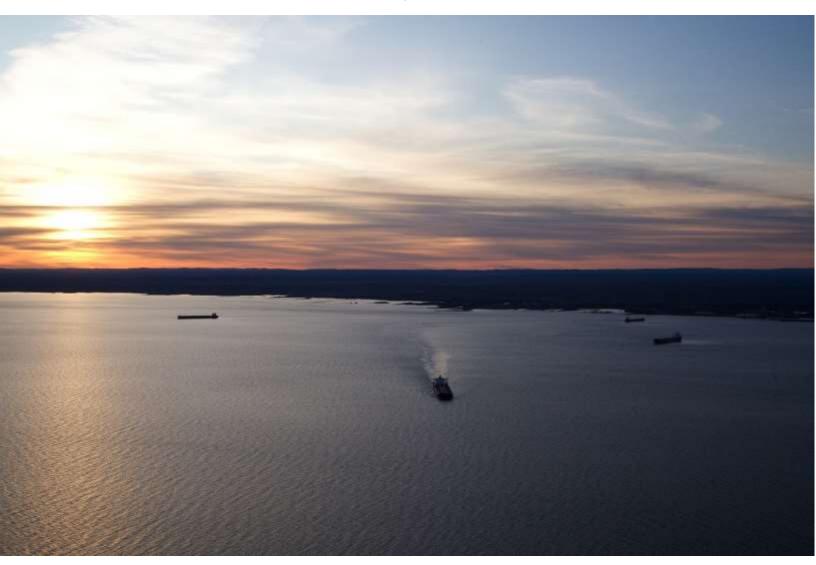
Hotel Options or similar				
City Name and Category				
Rivière-du-Loup	Hôtel Universel Rivière-du-Loup 3*			
Baie-des-Chaleurs	Hostellerie Baie Bleue 3*			
Percé	Riotel Percé 3*			
Gaspé	Hôtel Baker 3.5*			
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts	Auberge La Seigneurie Des Monts 3*			
Rimouski	Comfort Inn Rimouski 2.5*			
Tadoussac	Hôtel Tadoussac 3.5*			
Isle-aux-Coudres	Hôtel Cap-aux-Pierres 3*			







# THE CÔTE-NORD 11 DAYS – 10 NIGHTS MONTREAL / MONTREAL



## **Program Highlights:**

Private driver-guide during the whole tour.

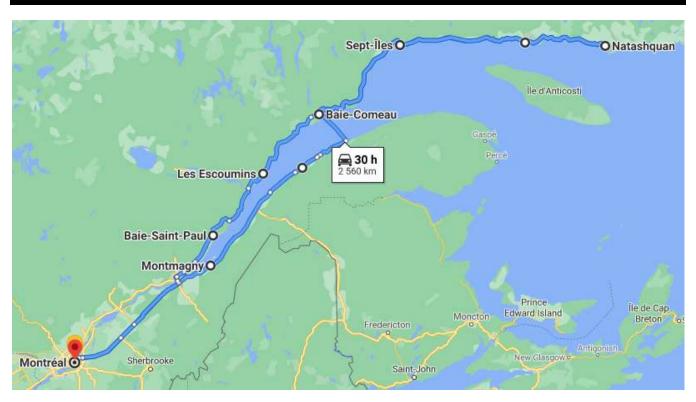
Suitable for small groups.

Complete tour, perfect balance between cities and nature.

Vast open spaces, remarkable coastal landscapes, a change of scenery guaranteed!



#### **ITINERARY**



#### DAY 01: MONTREAL / BAIE SAINT-PAUL (approx.351 KM)

Early departure to Baie-Saint-Paul. You will drive along the magnificent roads of the Charlevoix region, certainly the most beautiful in Quebec! You will drive on the 138, a tourist road that will allow you to discover the backcountry. When you arrive in Baie Saint-Paul, take a short break on the main street to stroll through the art galleries. Be sure to make a gourmet stop at Boutique Pedneault et Frères, which will please you with its variety of regional products.

Check-in at the hotel. You will have the rest of the day to explore the city at your own pace.

Meals are on your own.

Accommodation: Baie Saint-Paul for 1 night

#### DAY 02: BAIE SAINT-PAUL / TADOUSSAC / REGION OF LES ESCOUMINS (approx.160 KM)

On the way to Les Escoumins, you cross the beautiful Charlevoix region, which combines culture and nature. For decades, the beauty of the landscape has attracted many painters and artists of all kinds and the number of boutiques, workshops and art galleries that can be found here testifies to this. You will officially enter La Côte-Nord when you arrive in the region of Tadoussac, at the estuary of the Saguenay Fjord.

Visit on your own of the Centre d'Interprétation des Mammifères Marins. A naturalist-guide is present to answer your questions!

Then, drive to Les Escoumins for a personal discovery of the village.

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Region Les Escoumins for 1 night



#### DAY 03: REGION LES ESCOUMINS / SEPT- ÎLES (approx.390 KM)

Today, you are traveling a long route to Sept-Îles. Route 138, the only road along the entire Côte-Nord, is also called "the Whale Route" because 13 different species, including the blue whale, frequent the waters not far off the coast. Stop at the Parc Nature de la Pointe-aux-Outardes. Discover the species that are part of the fauna and flora that inhabit this North Shore territory with the generous nature of its different ecosystems. Authenticity, rejuvenation and discovery guaranteed! Throughout the visit, you will discover traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, cooking, legends and spirituality. A privileged moment of sharing and reflection. You will also have the chance to taste salmon wrapped in bark, cooked on embers in the Innu way, accompanied by a banique (traditional bread) and Labrador tea.

Note: This activity is subject to availability and offered from Wednesday to Sunday only.

Take Route 138 to Sept-Îles: the only road along the entire Côte-Nord and bordering the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which locals refer to quite naturally as "the sea".

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Sept-Îles for 1 night

#### DAY 04: SEPT- ÎLES / HAVRE-SAINT-PIERRE (approx.220 KM)

Early departure for Havre-Saint-Pierre.

Stop along the way to admire the Manitou Falls: 35 meters high, it awaits you at the end of a hiking trail. Then, discover the Romaine-1 power plant by visiting three of its floors with a guide-interpreter of the site. Walk under a penstock and feel the driving force of the water to generate electricity. Also climb the top of the damn to see the reservoir and admire the breathtaking view of the valley.

Note: Flat, closed shoes are mandatory. Bring a warm sweater, as it is cool in the dam, even in summer. Visitors 18 years of age and older must present photo identification (health card or driver's license) before visiting the facility.

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

**Accommodation: Havre Saint-Pierre for 3 nights** 

#### **DAY 05: HAVRE-SAINT-PIERRE**

Spend the day discovering the archipelago. Bring warm clothes, put on good walking shoes and go hiking. Don't forget your binoculars, your water bottle and your camera! Some 200 species of birds frequent the park reserve, including the famous puffins.

Take a boat trip to discover part of the Archipel de Mingan. You will discover an absolutely unique place. The archipelago is distinguished by the largest concentration of erosion monoliths in Canada. Made up of more than a thousand islands and islets, it will captivate you with its giants of limestone and the diversity of its ecological environments where it is possible to observe a rich flora as well as several species of marine birds. A fantastic experience awaits you. During this adventure, you will make two stops: Quarry Island and Niapiskau Island. A guided tour with a Parks Canada guide is planned on each island.

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

#### DAY 06: HAVRE-SAINT-PIERRE / NATASHQUAN / HAVRE-SAINT-PIERRE (approx.300 KM)

Today, an excursion to the village of Natashquan, a place often evoked in the works of the famous songwriter Gilles Vigneault. Don't hesitate to take advantage of your free time to visit the "Galets de Natashquan", a place of memory and nostalgia of the time when cod fishing was a common trade and livelihood in this small village. Or take advantage of the waters accessible for swimming and the fine sand of the municipality's magnificent beaches.

At the end of the day, return to Havre-Saint-Pierre.

Meal included: Breakfast (B)



#### DAY 07: HAVRE-SAINT-PIERRE / BAIE-COMEAU (approx.450 KM)

You are now heading back west to Baie-Comeau, the second largest city on the Côte-Nord with a population of 22,000. Stop at Rivière-au-Tonnerre on the way back. This village of 300 people is home to the Maison de la Chicoutai, an establishment that has earned its letters of nobility and has become a must on the flavour route. Take advantage of the break to visit the beautiful wooden church, with a traditional Norman cross plan. Its nave is more than eight meters high and is decorated with about sixty sculptures carved with a pocket knife.

Continue to Baie-Comeau and free time upon arrival.

Optional: Self-guided tour of the Jardins des Glaciers: + 25 \$CA / person

Check in at the hotel

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Baie-Comeau for 2 nights

#### **DAY 08: BAIE-COMEAU**

Take advantage of your day to take an exceptional guided tour of a giant hydroelectric dam. The Manic-Outarde project is a vast hydroelectric development project, with a total of seven power stations, on the Manicouagan and Outardes rivers, conducted by Hydro-Québec between 1959 and 1978. The first suggested stop is 22 kilometers from Baie-Comeau at the Georges-Dor Pavilion, where you will have the chance to visit the Jean-Lesage power plant, also called "Manic-2".

Note: Flat, closed shoes are mandatory. Bring a warm sweater, as it is cool in the dam, even in summer. Visitors 18 years of age and older must present photo identification (health card or driver's license) before visiting the facility.

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

#### DAY 09: BAIE-COMEAU / RIMOUSKI (approx.160 KM + 2H20 ferry)

Departure for Rimouski. You leave today the north shore of the St. Lawrence River to reach the south shore by ferry. The distance between the two coasts is about 60 km. Continue to Matane which has a landscape composed of foreshore and terraces and takes its name from a Micmac word meaning "beaver pond". Depending on your arrival time, you can stop at the fish pass of the Mathieu-D'Amours dam. The city of Matane is indeed divided by the long and winding river of the same name. This famous salmon river comes down from the hinterland and ends up in the heart of the city, where fishermen can sometimes be seen. A "barachois" (lagoon) partially blocks the estuary of the river and contributes to form a natural harbour. We will explain how the fishway was set up and how it works. During the season, mainly in the middle of the summer, in July, you can regularly see the salmon making their ascent.

On the way to Rimouski and free time upon arrival.

Optional: Self-guided tour of the Pointe-au-Père maritime historic site: + \$30 CA / person

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Rimouski for 1 night

#### DAY 10: RIMOUSKI / MONTMAGNY (approx.240 KM)

On your way to the Chaudière-Appalaches region, the majestic St. Lawrence River will still be present as you travel along the coastline! Take a break in Kamouraska, a village known for its rich architectural and historical heritage, remarkable for the harmony and serenity of its landscapes. Guided tour of the Seigneurie des Aulnaies, the most important interpretation center of the seigneurial system in Quebec

Continue to Montmagny and check in at the hotel.

Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Accommodation: Montmagny for 1 night



#### DAY 11: MONTMAGNY / MONTREAL (approx.305 KM)

Departure for Montreal and arrival in late afternoon.

Lunch and dinner on your own Meal included: Breakfast (B)

Depending on various factors (road conditions, timing, logistics etc...), some of the inclusions mentioned in the above program could be postponed to another day; all services will however be respected. (Thematic meals, activities, stops).



#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Transportation in a 21-seat minibus, 15-seat minicar, 11-seat sprinter OR 8-seat minicar, from day 1 to day 11, driven by a private English-speaking driver-guide
- Wi-Fi on board the vehicle (mobile router; internet speed may be slower in case of heavy use and/or a large number of simultaneous users)
- 10 nights accommodation in the hotels suggested in the program or similar (see chart below).
- 10 breakfasts
- Ferry fees
- Visits and excursions indicated in the program
- Provincial taxes and GST and/or federal HST

\*Some activities may not be available at the beginning and end of the season and will be replaced. \*



#### Not included

Flights - Transfers, unless otherwise indicated - Meals, unless otherwise indicated - Tour guide - Tips - Beverages - Optional excursions - Baggage handling - Insurance

#### **DEPARTURES IN 2022**

Rates in CAD\$, per person in double occupancy, starting from		Minibus 2	21 seats*	
Daily departures	15/16 persons	13/14 persons	11/12 persons	10 persons
June 01 to 30	2369	2569	2799	2979

Rates in CAD\$, per person in double occupancy, starting from		Mi	nicars 15 sea	ts (and traile	r)*	
Daily departures	13/14	11/12	9/10	8	7	6
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June 01 to 30	2349	2559	2699	2869	3099	3349

Rates in CAD\$, per person in double occupancy, starting from		s	printer 11 seats	*	
Daily departures	10 persons	9 persons	8 persons	7 persons	6 persons
June 01 to 30	2819	2999	3239	3519	3909

Rates in CAD\$, per person in double occupancy, starting from		Minicars	8 seats*	
Daily departures	7 persons	6 persons	5 persons	4 persons
June 01 to 30	3119	3439	3889	4549

Rate in CAD\$, per person, starting from	Reductions / Supplements
Single supplement	719
Triple reduction	On request
Quadruple reduction	On request

<sup>\*</sup> These rates are based on the number of people occupying the bus. Prices are based on double or triple occupancy. For all other types of rooms, a supplement will be applied. For all other bases on these types of vehicles, please contact us.



Hotel Options or similar	
City	Name and Category
Baie Saint-Paul	Hôtel Baie Saint-Paul 3*
Les Escoumins	Complexe Hôtelier Pelchat 2*
Sept-Îles	Hôtel Gouverneur Sept-Îles 3*
Havre-Saint-Pierre	Hôtel Motel du Havre 2*
Baie-Comeau	Hôtel Le Manoir 3.5*
Rimouski	Hôtels Le Navigateur 3.5*
Montmagny	Hôtel L'Oiselière Montmagny 4*

**Important information:** The situation with COVID-19 is changing day by day. For more information on Government du Québec guidelines for vaccination passports, see the <u>official website</u>.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Prices in this document are for information only; they were issued at press time, for the current year. Please note that due to exchange rates and temporary promotions, they can increase or decrease at any time. Contact your travel agent for the price and promotion of the moment The prices indicated exclude the contribution to the Customer Compensation Fund of \$3.50 per \$1,000 of tourism product or service purchased from a travel agent in Quebec.





#### **FLEET OF VEHICLES**

#### **MINIBUS**

For the operation of small groups, it may be possible to provide minibuses. This type of vehicle can reduce costs and make the travel space more user-friendly when there are fewer participants.

Note however that cost should not be the only consideration in this choice. This type of vehicle is also recommended for short and moderate tours, for programs including passages in hilly regions or on less winding roads.

It should be noted that these minibuses do not have a luggage compartment. Luggage must be placed on the seats at the back of the vehicle or in a small rear section provided for this purpose. The small 15-seater buses have a trailer for suitcases. That is why the number of suitcases should be limited to 1 per person when traveling by minibus. It is also important to mention that these buses do not have a toilet on board.

#### The minibus 21 passengers

Reclining seats, video, cd/dvd, air conditioning, microphone.







### The minibus 15 passengers

Non-reclining seats, air conditioning, Am/Fm radio (no video or cd/dvd or microphone) Luggage is transported in a trailer.









## The minibus/Sprinter 12 passengers

Non-reclining seats, video, cd/dvd, air conditioning, microphone.









#### The minibus 8 passengers

Non-reclining seats, air conditioning, Am/Fm radio (no video or cd/dvd or microphone).





#### General notes on minibus transportation:

- Wi-Fi: Depending on some remote areas, the Wi-Fi connection may not be fully functional. Also being a
  mobile router, the internet speed might be slower in case of heavy usage and/or a large number of
  simultaneous users.
- Please note that for minibuses, some restrictions apply depending on the destinations of the tour.
- Photos are for reference only (leather seats for example are not in every vehicle)