

When respect meets pleasure

Passion Terre



« L'art de voyager vert »

Secret and spectacular Abitibi!

UNCOVER THE SECRETS OF ABITIBI-TEMISCAMINGUE

A REMOTE ADVENTURE !

13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS

JULY – AUGUST - SEPTEMBER



HIGHLIGHTS

- Loose all sense of time as you **embark on a train journey** that will take you through the wild reaches of Western Quebec remote territories!
- Make a stop at the Club Odanak outfitter in Atikamekw lands and enjoy your first contact with great outdoors and Canadian First Nations; Take part in an **Atikamekw cooking workshop!**
- Sleep in **unusual accommodation**: Outfitter lodging, Prospector Tent, rustic camp, cabin.
- **Live the “Rustic Canada” experience** by staying at a round-log camp without water or electricity. A forest ranger will give you all the tips to make it through the night!
- Explore spectacular National Parks: **Aiguebelle National Park**, with its impressive mountains and mineralogical richness, and **Opemican National Park**, open to the public only since 2019!
- Discover some of Western Quebec best-kept secrets: the Val d’Or former gold mine, the Pageau wildlife shelter, or the Kinawit traditional native site.

YOUR ITINERARY

Day 1	ARRIVAL IN MONTREAL (Fridays or Sundays)	Airport shuttle
Day 2	MONTREAL	
Day 3	MONTREAL	
Day 4	MONTREAL – CLUB ODANAK	TRAIN *
Day 5	CLUB ODANAK	
Day 6	CLUB ODANAK – SENNETERRE	TRAIN *
Day 7	SENNETERRE – VAL D’OR	Start of the autotour Abt 1h45 driving
Day 8	VAL D’OR – AIGUEBELLE NATIONAL PARK	Abt. 2h driving
Day 9	AIGUEBELLE NATIONAL PARK	
Day 10	AIGUEBELLE NATIONAL PARK – OPEMICAN NATIONAL PARK	Abt. 3h driving
Day 11	OPEMICAN NATIONAL PARK	
Day 12	OPEMICAN NATIONAL PARK – TEMISCAMING LAKE	Abt. 1h driving
Day 13	TEMISCAMING LAKE – ROUYN NORANDA -MONTREAL, DEPARTURE	Abt. 1h30 driving– End of the autotour Domestic + International flight

***IMPORTANT:** the Montreal-Senneterre line (via La Tuque) does not run every day.

After a short visit of Montreal, we invite you to enter a journey to the wild outdoors of Quebec, without worrying about how to get there! You will experience a unique train line – the Montreal-Senneterre line -, a train that stops on request, sometimes even when there is no house or no train station to be seen anywhere...

Your first stop will be in the Haute Mauricie region where Véronique and Steve will host you at the Club Odanak outfitter, on the ancestral lands of the Atikamekw nation. They will share with you their culture, traditions and attachment to these lands.

Your train journey will continue until you reach the remote Abitibi-Témiscamingue region. Stick your nose to the window and loose all sense of time and space as the train takes you through the amazingly vast sceneries of this beautiful part of Quebec, which covers twice Belgium in size. You will most likely catch a glimpse of hunters and natives wandering their lands, and experience a feeling of true amazement.

DAY 1

Arrival in MONTREAL

Means of transportation from the airport: local shuttle (price not included).

Welcome to Montreal! Time to hear some Canadian French accent, often mixed with the accents of the few 80 cultural communities that inhabit the city! Typical neighbourhoods show this multiethnic identity and offer a better understanding of the colourful history of Quebec immigration.

ACCOMMODATION:

- 🏠 B&B or guesthouse (upon availability).

DAY 2 & 3

MONTREAL

Local means of transportation (not included).

Meal: breakfast.

Take the time to discover the city of Montreal at leisure. This buzzing city offers a vibrant cultural bridge between America and Europe. From the cobblestone streets of the Old Port to the skyscrapers of the business district, take a stroll down the pedestrian underground network and commercial thoroughfares. Overflowing with creativity and dynamism, Montreal's heart beats with its summer and winter festivals: jazz festival, Just for Laughs, movies and fireworks competitions! It is criss-crossed by hundreds of bike lanes and green spaces, which make Montreal a truly enjoyable place to live.

What to see in Montreal:

- The Old Montreal district with the City Hall, Jacques Cartier Square, Bonsecours market and Notre-Dame Cathedral.
- The city center and its business district, shops, underground galleries (very practical in winter time!), universities and charming middle-class residences.
- The Olympic Stadium neighbourhood with Montreal Botanical Garden and Biodome.

OUR SUGGESTIONS (not included):

- 🏠 Take a guided bike tour of the city
- 🏠 What about an electric scooter tour instead?
- 🏠 Explore the Saint-Lawrence River with an electric boat tour
- 🏠 Walk through the city with "Montréal en histoire", an auto-guided multimedia tour with exterior screenings, the largest of the kind in the world.

ACCOMMODATION: B&B or guesthouse (upon availability).



Means of transportation: train – departure at 8.15 am / arrival scheduled at 1.16 pm (schedules are subject to change) + private transfer.

Meals: breakfast + dinner.

This morning, **you will leave Montreal by train** towards the vast outdoors of the Haute-Mauricie region. Throughout the window, wild forests will slowly replace city views and skyscrapers. You just boarded one of the last trains to still serve some of Quebec most remote villages. As you will likely witness, it often stops upon request to pick up passengers in the middle of beautiful nowhere. No train station, no house to be seen, and yet people will be waiting next to the tracks to gesture a stop to the driver. You may have understood it already: time aboard is not defined by our usual definition of modern punctuality. Do not forget to bring food and an exciting card game, and enjoy as the train will take you out of time and space.




You will reach La Tuque in the early afternoon. Private transfer to the **Club Odanak** outfitter. Located in a beautiful area of lakes and forests, the Club Odanak offers 45 km² of natural areas with over 40 km walking trails. The land used to be solely used as fishing and hunting grounds but the Club recently chose to open itself to more diverse activities and to bring guests to its amazing outdoors. Located on the Atikamekw ancestral lands, the outfitter is also entirely managed by this First Nation community. It will be a great opportunity to discover native culture and enjoy the great Canadian outdoors.



Access to all walking trails, to the beach and boating equipment (kayaks and canoes).

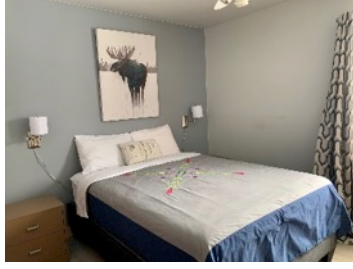


ACCOMMODATION:

-  Lodging at the Club Odanak.

Meals: breakfast + lunch + dinner

Full board stay at the Club Odanak to fully enjoy the beautiful surroundings and all available equipment on site. You will also meet with your charming hosts, Steve and Veronique, who manage the entire place. You will also participate in an **Atikamekw cooking workshop** (Abt. 2 hours).



ACCOMMODATION: Lodging at the Club Odanak

Means of transportation: private transfer + train – departure at 1.18 pm / arrival scheduled at 7.40 pm (schedule is subject to change).

Meals: breakfast +lunch

After lunch, private transfer to La Tuque train station to continue your soothing train journey towards the Abitibi-Temiscamingue region. Get comfortable in your seats, play games, read and relax as our timeless train's magic happens again.

ACCOMMODATION: Night in a motel close to the train station (late arrival)



Start of the autotour - No meals included.

In the morning, you will collect your rental car and drive towards Val d'Or, a former gold mining town and gateway to the Abitibi-Temiscamingue region. Founded in 1935 on Anicinabek ancestral hunting lands, it harbours both native and non-native residents -immigrants from about fifty countries. Walk down 3rd Avenue to experience the city's unique vibe.

OUR SUGGESTIONS (not included):

- 🌿 **Visit Val d'Or Gold City**, the only site in Canada to fully immerse visitors in the heart of a former gold mining industry. The mine was once one of the country's most prolific gold mine and lasted for decades. Visit the historic old mining village, still inhabited nowadays.
- 🌿 If you are lucky, you may enjoy one of Val d'Or numerous summer festivals (music festivals, stories and legends festivals, among others)
- 🌿 Make a stop at the **Kinawit** traditional Anicinabek site, just a few minutes away from the city center next. The site is located next to the Lemoine Lake, a maritime path that was used by Cree and Algonquian for centuries. Learn about the history of Canadian First Nations and participate in a workshop.
- 🌿 Sample locally produced beer at "Le Prospecteur" brewery!
- 🌿 Have a taste of regional cuisine at the "Les Becs Sucrés-Salés" restaurant.
- 🌿 Fill up on meats and cheeses in prevision of coming adventures at "La Tanière William J. Walter "



ACCOMMODATION: Night in a motel or at "Le Passant" B&B (upon availability).

Meal: breakfast

Continuation towards **Amos** to visit the Pageau wildlife shelter. Honey lovers will not miss to stop at the “Miellerie de la Grande Ourse” (Great Bear Honey Factory) along the way. **Then catch a first glimpse of the Aiguebelle National Park**, a breathtaking natural treasure whose hills and lakes bear witness to the great glaciers of before. You will spend your first night in the park in a “Rustic Canada” camp without water and electricity to fully experience life in the great outdoors. A forest ranger will welcome you with all the necessary tips to enjoy the night!

**INCLUDED ACTIVITIES:**

- 🕒 **Visit the Pageau Shelter:** learn about the amazing story of the Pageau family and their 30-year love story with Quebec wildlife. The Pageau Shelter is a home for sick, wounded and orphaned wild animals. With care and patience, they are nurtured back to health and every time that it's possible, released into the wild. Bears, moose and wolves, white-tailed deer, racoons, birds of prey and a lot of other little orphans having taken residence for short or long term.

**OUR SUGGESTIONS (not included):**

- 🕒 Do not miss to stop at the **Miellerie de la Grande Ourse**, an organic honey factory. The visit includes riding a bee-proofed chariot to get close to the beehives. You will learn about the fascinating world of bees and see through a glass door how bees work and live within the hive. Conclude the visit by shopping delicious honey products at the factory store.



ACCOMMODATION: *Rustic Camp in Aiguebelle National Park (reception by a forest ranger).*

No meals included

Aiguebelle National Park tells a story of 2.7 billions years. Its breathtaking surroundings - rifts, hills, prairies, clear and brown open waters – will both surprise and amaze you. Hiking enthusiasts will enjoy the over 50 km walking trails while experiencing a night in nature will definitely be a night to remember. The southern Abijevis hills, lakes, rocky cliffs and natural panoramic viewpoints will enjoyably punctuate the day. Do not miss the suspended footbridge, the helical staircase and the fire warden tower, which allow access to the hilly parts of the park.

OUR SUGGESTIONS (not included):

- 🕒 Consider renting a boat or a bike and participating in scheduled activities with naturalist guides (see the Services and Discovery Center for more details).
- 🕒 Explore the vast outdoors with a park ranger: wildlife observation, fishing trip (with meal included) or canoeing expedition.



ACCOMMODATION: Night in a cabin or in a Prospector tent (“ready-to-camp formula”) in Aiguebelle National Park.

No meals included

Continuation towards Rouyn Noranda and the Temiscaming Lake. As you will get close to **Rouyn Noranda**, notice the copper landmark upper hill that proudly welcomes you to the “National Capital of Copper”. Enjoy the beautiful scenery and a small urban break before heading to **Opemican National Park**, next to the beautiful Temiscaming Lake.

OUR SUGGESTIONS (not included):

- 🌿 Stop at the **Dumulon General Store** for a little time travel. Founded by the Dumulon family in 1924, this historic site was the first general store of the Rouyn County. Visit this authentic trade and post office to learn about the history of Rouyn-Noranda pioneers. For those interested in learning the importance of general stores for the surrounding villagers, we recommend reading the “Magasin Général” comic book by Régis Loisel & Jean-Louis Tripp.
- 🌿 Visit the **MA – Art Museum** to see the works of both native and immigrant artists, shown together to encourage better understanding and solidarity.



ACCOMMODATION: Night in a Prospector tent (“ready-to-camp” formula) in Opemican National Park.

No meals included

It is quite impossible to remain unmoved when confronted with the spectacular landscape of Opemican National Park. Bordered on every side by Temiscaming Lake and Kipawa Lake, the park covers 253.5 km² of wild nature. Walking its trails, you may encounter endangered species of birds such as fishers, peregrine falcons or chimney swifts. Climb up the Inukshuk trail and learn about the history of floating drive. So many beautiful stories wait to be uncovered.

**OUR SUGGESTIONS (not included):**

- 🌿 Consider renting canoeing, kayaking, paddling or biking equipment or participating in scheduled activities with naturalist guides (see the Services and Discovery Center for more details).
- 🌿 Explore the vast outdoors with a park ranger: wildlife observation, fishing trip (with meal included) or canoeing expedition.

ACCOMMODATION: Night in a Prospector Tent (“ready-to-camp” formula) in Opemican National Park.

No meals included

Enjoy one last beautiful morning in spectacular nature before continuing towards Ville-Marie, a small village on the shores of the majestic Temiscaming Lake – the lake stretches 110 km long and covers an area of 300 km². As you walk the streets of Ville-Marie, you will see century-old Victorian houses, a former agricultural school built with fieldstones and Boomtown houses in the old city center. At walking distance, the “Parc du Centenaire” offers a fantastic view upon the lake. It is also the starting point of Quebec “Green Route” and a much-appreciated site for summer activities. The Municipal Marina, just next to it, offers services and equipment to boaters and tourists.

OUR SUGGESTIONS (not included):

- 🌿 Visit the oldest residence still in existence in the Temiscamingue region: la **Maison du Frère-Moffet** (“the House of Friar Moffet”), an historic house built in 1881. Friar Moffet is one of the most told stories of the region. Thriving to populate the land, this distinctive figure promised “financial autonomy” to unemployed Montrealers. He would then give them a piece of wild land that they had 6 years to pay back. A true businessman!
- 🚲 Take a bike-taxi to explore the streets of Ville-Marie and learn about the city’s historical figures and anecdotes. A fun and ecological trip down memory lane!



ACCOMMODATION: B&B or guesthouse (upon availability).

Domestic flight not included.

International flight not included.

Meal: breakfast.

Drive back to Rouyn-Noranda to return your rental car.

Domestic flight to Montreal followed by your international flight back home (flights not included).

End of our services.

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A piece of advice for responsible travellers:

As visitors, we try to leave as few traces as possible. You can be actively responsible by waste sorting and keeping your waste in a bag during your excursions. Those simple yet meaningful actions in our everyday life contribute a great deal to protecting our environment.

NOTE:

All stated timetables are given as a guide and may be adapted to your requirements or subject to change.