

# Québec maritime: Meet the Unexpected

BAS-SAINT-LAURENT, GASPÉSIE, CÔTE-NORD, ÎLES DE LA MADELEINE



## IMAGINE...

3000 kilometres (1900 miles) of coastline

15 national parks and wildlife reserves

Over one hundred islands in the St. Lawrence

A Lighthouse Trail that includes over 40 sentinels of the sea

13 species of whales

Thousands of seabirds

  
LE QUÉBEC MARITIME

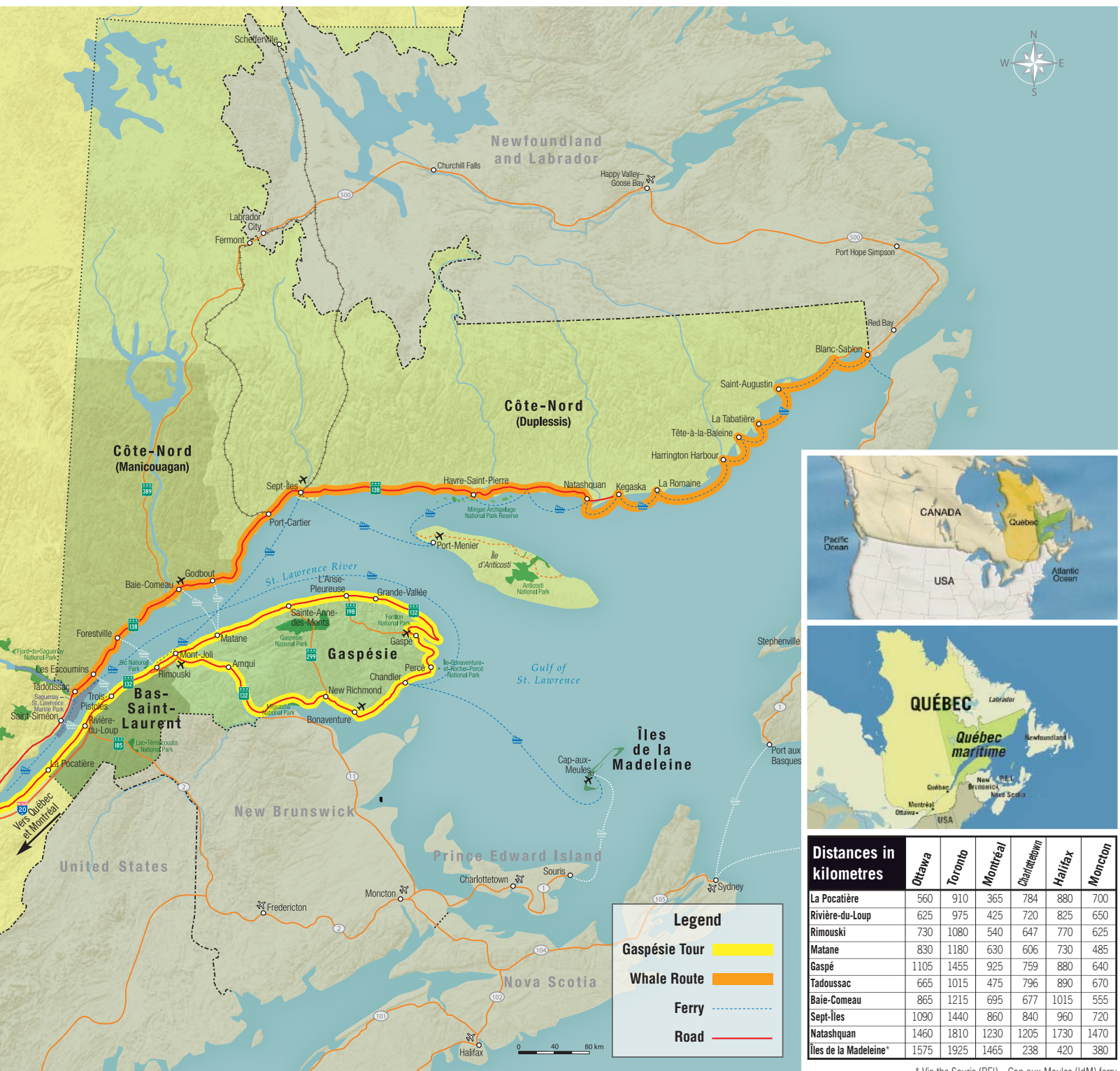
*Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie,  
Côte-Nord, Îles de la Madeleine*



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# QUÉBEC MARITIME

Eastern Québec is made up of five very different tourist regions that are nonetheless united by the sea and a common maritime tradition. Together they make up a vast destination where nature reigns and the environment is a source of inspiration. In the maritime regions of Québec, ferries serve as an extension of the road network. In addition to allowing you to visit both shores of the St. Lawrence without retracing your steps, they are a novel way to travel and offer unique perspectives on the surrounding scenery and marine mammals.

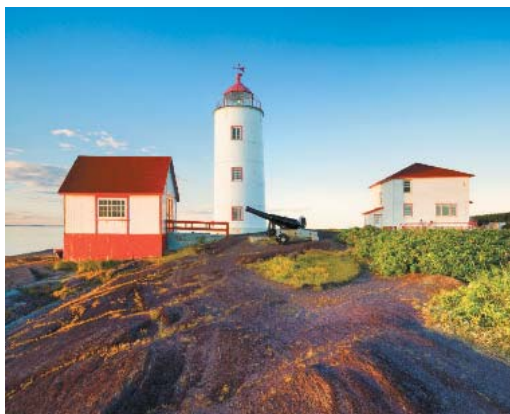


Distances in kilometres	Ottawa	Toronto	Montréal	Charlottetown	Halifax	Moncton
La Pocatière	560	910	365	784	880	700
Rivière-du-Loup	625	975	425	720	825	650
Rimouski	730	1080	540	647	770	625
Matane	830	1180	630	606	730	485
Gaspé	1105	1455	925	759	880	640
Tadoussac	665	1015	475	796	890	670
Baie-Comeau	865	1215	695	677	1015	555
Sept-Îles	1090	1440	860	840	960	720
Natashquan	1460	1810	1230	1205	1730	1470
Îles de la Madeleine*	1575	1925	1465	238	420	380

\* Via the Souris (PE) – Cap-aux-Meules (IdM) ferry

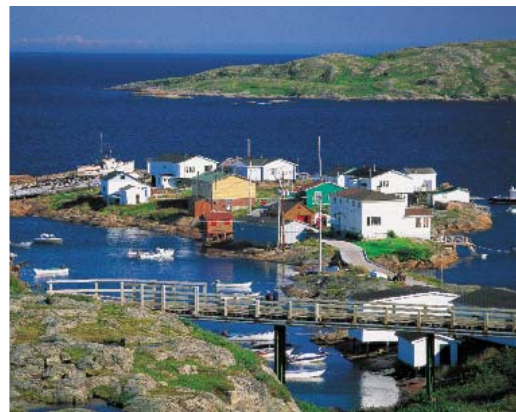
## THE GASPÉSIE TOUR

The Gaspésie Tour is a legendary scenic route that loops around the huge Gaspé Peninsula. If you love the sea and contrasting landscapes, you will definitely want to explore this spectacular seaside drive. Begin your journey in the region of Bas-Saint-Laurent: from the Kamouraska area, Route 132 will take you to Gaspé, at the tip of the peninsula, via famous Percé Rock.



## THE WHALE ROUTE

The Whale Route follows Route 138 from Tadoussac to Natashquan. From there, you can continue your journey aboard an authentic supply ship that will take you from village to village all the way to Blanc-Sablon. Out at sea and from the shore, you can observe up to 13 species of whales in this region, including blue whales, the largest animals on earth.



## ÎLES DE LA MADELEINE

A green archipelago surrounded by white-sand beaches and red cliffs, the windswept Îles de la Madeleine exerts a magnetic attraction on visitors. Located in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Islands are ideal for wind and sea sports. Fish and seafood abound in local restaurants, including the renowned Island lobster. Whether you opt for a cruise departing from Montréal or Chandler (Gaspésie), or take the ferry from Prince Edward Island, your trip to the Islands is sure to be an enchanting experience.





## REMARKABLY BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL PARKS

The maritime regions of Québec boast 10 national parks, which give you access to the best natural and cultural wonders our destination has to offer.

**1.** Shaped by the sea, the cliffs, islands and islets of Bic National Park are sure to enchant you. Prolong your stay by spending several nights in a campsite, yurt or Huttopia tent. **2.** Gaspésie National Park offers mountain hiking opportunities as well as comfortable lodging and gourmet regional cuisine. Keep your eyes peeled and you may spot caribou, moose and over 150 species of birds. **3.** Forillon National Park is incredibly beautiful and offers visitors a truly impressive range of attractions: sheer cliffs plunging into the sea, hundreds of species of plants and animals, and the vestiges of a bygone cod fishing village. **4.** Île-Bonaventure-et-Rocher-Percé National Park is home to some 200,000 seabirds, including the largest and most accessible northern gannet colony in the world. From Bonaventure Island, you can also admire Percé Rock, the region's most well-known attraction. **5.** Miguasha National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, boasts a unique fossil-rich cliff containing specimens that are 380 million years old. **6.** Whales and other marine mammals come to feed in great numbers in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park—much to the delight of visitors. **7.** Fjord-du-Saguenay National Park offers majestic scenery, which you can explore during a hike along bluffs of dizzying heights. A sea excursion will take you into the Saguenay Fjord where you can observe beluga whales. **8.** Anticosti National Park is located on a mythic island, home to crystal-clear rivers, breathtaking canyons, immense caves, the impressive Vauréal Falls and some 160,000 white-tailed deer. **9.** The hundreds of islands and islets in the Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve provide shelter for marine mammals and seabird colonies as well as strangely shaped limestone monoliths that stand guard over the sea. **10.** The newly created Lac-Témiscouata National Park offers visitors access to long sandy shores, flora and fauna, as well as hiking trails and aquatic and archeological activities.



## UNIQUE VACATION IDEAS

### THE LIGHTHOUSE TRAIL

The St. Lawrence is dotted with over 40 lighthouses built on islands, cliffs and capes. Visitors in search of panoramic views as well as history and architecture buffs will enjoy exploring the Lighthouse Trail, a scenic drive that provides access to over a dozen of these lighthouses and their outbuildings, all of which have been transformed into interpretation sites, inns or cottages.

### UNUSUAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Looking for something a little out of the ordinary? Spend a night in a cabin in the trees or stay in a yurt, prospector's tent or teepee for a complete change of pace! In the winter, enjoy a unique and unforgettable experience by staying in a mountain hut, yurt or igloo.

### WILDLIFE OBSERVATION

A wide variety of animals can be observed in the regions of maritime Québec: 13 species of marine mammals, including baby seals in the Îles de la Madeleine; northern gannets, in the most accessible colony in the world, as well as many other bird species; the only herd of caribou south of the St. Lawrence; an impressive concentration of moose; black bears and more!

### REGIONAL FLAVOURS

Food lovers will be delighted to know that *Québec maritime* is a fine dining destination. Crab, lobster, shrimp, shellfish, fresh and smoked fish, fine cheeses, game meat, garden produce and microbrew beers are all on the menu. You may purchase these products directly from their producers or at farmer's markets; you can also enjoy them at fine restaurants throughout our regions.





Photos: J.-P. Sylvestre, P. Canali, M. Loiselle, É. Marchand, C. Bouchard, R. Garnett/Tourisme Îles de la Madeleine, M. Bonato/Tourisme Îles de la Madeleine, M. Loiselle/Sépaq, M. Deslongchamps, Canopée Lt. S. Larose

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