Tourist circuits to explore

CHEMIN DU ROY

The Chemin du Roy (King’s Road) is the first roadway built between Québec City and Montréal that could accommodate wheeled vehicles along its entire length. It runs from Old Québec and winds through Old Cap-Rouge, Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, Portneuf and several villages before coming to an end in Montréal.

Starting from the square in front of city hall (Place de l’Hôtel-de-Ville) to Place d’Youville. From there, complete the tour by car, following the tourist route signs. 

Today, nearly all of the King’s Road has been integrated into the Route Verte provincial bike path network.

Enjoy the many outstanding panoramas along the majestic St. Lawrence River.  [Ad p. 48]
Sillery Heritage Site

This heritage site consists of some 350 buildings and several small woods. On the banks of the St. Lawrence River stands the Jesuits’ house and a few 19th century working-class homes. St. Michael’s Church and a cluster of working-class homes are located in the Côte de Sillery district. Luxurious villas, some owned by 19th century lumber barons, as well as several institutional buildings, are perched atop the promontory.

Parc du Bois-de-Coulonge

The property, once known as Spencer Wood, became well-renowned in the field of horticulture in North America. For nearly 20 years, the Governors General of United Canada lived on the property, which was purchased by the Québec government in 1870 and served as the residence of Québec Lieutenant Governors until 1966. Bois-de-Coulonge is remarkable on account of its proximity to the St. Lawrence, the beauty of its gardens and its historical characteristics. Parking. Hours: open daily.
Villa Bagatelle

1563, chemin Saint-Louis
418-654-0259 • www.maisonsdupatrimoine.com

Villa Bagatelle, with its cross-shaped layout and superb wooden ornamentation, was built in the picturesque English architectural style of the 19th century. Many cultural exhibitions on art and history are held here. Admire the magnificent gardens featuring rare plants and underbrush species. From the footpaths winding through the site, you can hear the gurgling of a charming little brook as it flows beneath the shade of the trees. **Hours:** open from March to December, variable hours. Special rates for groups upon reservation. [Ad p. 49]

Domaine Cataraqui

2141, chemin Saint-Louis
418-528-7433 • www.capitale.gouv.qc.ca/cataraqui

This 9.7-hectare estate consisting of a villa and nine outbuildings with stunning architecture is one of the few remaining sites to bear witness to the vitality of the English community in Québec City in the 19th century. Entirely renovated in 2010, the villa may be rented for private or corporate events. In the summer, you may take a free guided tour of the villa and estate. **Hours:** historical gardens, daily. Free guided tours of the villa and grounds in the summer.

Maison des Jésuites de Sillery

2320, chemin du Foulon
418-654-0259 • www.maisonsdupatrimoine.com

Located on the site of the first Jesuit mission, which was founded to convert Aboriginal peoples and encourage them to give up their nomadic lifestyle. There is a permanent exhibition on the history of the Jesuits’ activities in New France. Artefacts, iconographic documents, models, interactive displays, audio recordings and video clips tell the story of this 17th century mission and the fateful meeting between two peoples of contrasting cultures. **Hours:** variable hours. January and February: closed. Special rates for groups upon reservation. [Ad p. 49]

Promenade Samuel-De Champlain

2795, boulevard Champlain
418-528-0773 • 1-800-442-0773
www.capitale.gouv.qc.ca/promenade

The promenade Samuel-De Champlain is a large park extending nearly 2.5 km (1.5 miles) along the St. Lawrence River, from the Cageux Wharf to the Côte de Sillery. A gift from the government of Québec to the city for its 400th anniversary, this park provides a renewed perspective of the riverbank. Contemporary art park, observation tower, thematic gardens, interpretation panels and a guided tour for groups upon reservation. **Hours:** open daily.

Maison Hamel-Bruneau

2608, chemin Saint-Louis
418-641-6280 • www.maisonsdupatrimoine.com

This charming house has been transformed into a centre for the arts and science. It displays exhibitions dealing with a range of topics, including current events. The 2016 program comprises a number of cultural activities and exhibitions presenting famous local artists. **Hours:** April to May and October to December, closed on Monday and Tuesday. June to September, closed on Monday. Group rates upon reservation.
Aquarium du Québec
1675, avenue des Hôtels
418-659-5264 • 1-866-659-5264
www.aquariumduquebec.com

Our collection includes nearly 10,000 specimens representing 300 species of mammals, indigenous and exotic fish, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles. Marine mammals, such as polar bears, walruses and several seal species, frolic in the outdoor park. Watch how exciting feeding time at the Aquarium can be. Touch live starfish, sea urchins or sting rays—if you dare! Children can play in the water games and in the aerial rope trail. **Hours:** open year-round.  

The Québec Bridge and the Pierre-Laporte Bridge

Designated as a national historic site by the minister of Canadian Heritage and an international historic monument of civil engineering by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Québec Bridge has a suspended span 549 metres in length between the two main pillars. It is considered the longest cantilever bridge in the world. During construction, its central span collapsed twice (1907 and 1916). After years of construction, the bridge was finally opened to railway traffic in 1917. It was not until 1929 that motorists began to use it. The bridge is now illuminated at night.

Right beside it stands the Pierre-Laporte Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in Canada, which took four years to build and opened in 1970. Its flooring is attached to two cables measuring 60 cm (23.6 in) in diameter. They are made up of more than 12,500 steel wires which, placed end to end, would circle three-quarters of the globe.

Cartier-Roberval Archeological Site

This site reflects the first French settlement in America. In 2005, an extensive program of archaeological excavations was launched to protect this unique historic site. More than 6,000 artifacts from the 16th century were found and the remains of at least five construction areas. Guided tours during the summer season.
Neuville
4,270 inhabitants

Donnacona
7,088 inhabitants
www.villededonnacona.com

Only 25 minutes west of Québec City lies Donnacona, a booming city with so much to offer visitors and residents alike. A socio-economic hub in Portneuf, Donnacona lies along the St. Lawrence River in an area criss-crossed with smaller rivers. Boulevard Saint-Laurent runs through the heart of the “English District,” which overlooks the river and former paper mill (Donnacona Paper closed in 2008) and was once home to the mill’s administrators. Many of the beautiful manors where they once lived can still be seen today. You can dock your boat and admire the gorgeous landscape at the municipal wharf in the Écureuils District. This site, one of the city’s main attractions, is part of the Haltes du Saint-Laurent network of marinas in the riverside communities of Neuville, Donnacona, Cap-Santé, Portneuf and Deschambault-Grondines.

Cap-Santé
3,417 inhabitants
www.capsante.qc.ca

Located in a natural setting, Cap-Santé is a charming site the whole family will enjoy. Spread over terraces at different levels along the St. Lawrence River, Cap-Santé is the oldest parish of the regional county municipality of Portneuf. A number of special events and festivals showcasing heritage sites are held here, such as a traditional Christmas market, an art show (biennale Cap-Santé Riche en Couleurs) and Sunday concerts in August.

Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures
19,077 inhabitants

Érablière le Chemin du Roy
237, chemin du Lac
418-878-5085 • 1-877-876-5085
www.erablierequebec.com
This sugar shack takes its name from the 18th-century highway that crosses the grounds (Le Chemin du Roy is French for The King’s Road). Savour a delicious Québécois sugar shack meal or local cuisine in a quaint setting (reservations required). Enjoy traditional folk music and entertainment, tour of the sugar shack and grove, maple products made on the premises, cross-country skiing and hiking trails. Parking. Hours: sugar shack package available year-round (reservations required).

Cap-Rouge Historical Site
Old Cap-Rouge includes rue Provancher, rue Saint-Félix and the marina (Parc nautique de Cap-Rouge). This area has been revitalized and has regained its pride of yesteryear. Many heritage buildings are located here. The numerous art galleries add to the charm of this picturesque district, which is laid out at the foot of a 55 m (181 feet) high railroad trestle over 1000 m (3280 feet) long. To the east lies a park (the Parc de la Plage-Jacques-Cartier), where you can go for a pleasant stroll. North of rue Provancher you will find trails lined with interpretation panels that run along the Cap-Rouge River. Cap-Rouge Church, designed by architect Joseph Ferdinand Peachy, was built in 1859 using stone quarried in the region.

Parc familial des Berges
This park is located on the eastern shore of the Jacques-Cartier River. A wooden foot-bridge allows for the discovery of a marsh in the interpretation hiking trail. Beach, canoeing, kayaking, picnic area. There is a services pavilion for visitors.

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### Vieux Chemin

The Vieux Chemin roadway, named one of the 20 most beautiful streets in Canada by the *Globe and Mail*, overlooks the beautiful St. Lawrence River from atop a promontory. Guided tours in the summer. This majestic church (1752–1768), one of the last examples of French Regime architecture, is part of the tour circuit of historically significant churches in Portneuf, *Les Voies du Sacré*.

### Portneuf

3,146 inhabitants

www.villedeportneuf.com

Renowned for eel and sturgeon fishing and proud of its industrial heritage, Portneuf (1861) is a charming town along the St. Lawrence. Great view from the marina and deep-water wharf (the longest in Canada, measuring 1 km/0.6 mi.). Visitors can go bird watching or stroll along groomed trails through a natural setting, thanks to the coastal infrastructure at the confluence of the Portneuf and St. Lawrence rivers. No user fee for the trails.

### Deschambault-Grondines

2,259 inhabitants

www.deschambault-grondines.com

In 2002, two villages on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River merged to form Deschambault-Grondines, a cultural, touristic and historical hub. Today, it is one of the villages in the province of Québec that seek to promote themselves as tourist destinations by conserving and enhancing their heritage. It is also part of the network of Québec municipalities providing a safe and pleasant stopover on account of the many attractions and services available.

### Vieux Presbytère de Deschambault

117, rue Saint-Joseph, Deschambault-Grondines
418-286-6891
www.culture-patrimoine-deschambault-grondines.ca

This former presbytery was built in 1815 on Cap Lauzon, a beautiful site overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Visit the permanent exhibit on traditional architecture and the temporary exhibitions on contemporary art. A designated historical monument, this heritage interpretation centre constitutes the institutional heart of the village, along with the church, convent, city hall, community hall and general store. **Hours:** June to September, daily. Reservation required outside this period.

### Moulin de La Chevrotière

109, rue de Chavigny, Deschambault-Grondines
418-286-6862
www.culture-patrimoine-deschambault-grondines.ca

Built in 1802, this mill, located on the western edge of Deschambault, was named an historic monument. It stands on rue Chavigny, a street formerly part of the King’s Road. Today, this mill houses a permanent exhibit on the skilled trades and hosts visual art exhibitions. **Hours:** summer, daily. September, open Wednesday to Sunday.
Aliksir Essential Oils

1040, chemin du Roy, Deschambault-Grondines
418-268-3406 • 1-866-596-3406
www.aliksir.com

Aliksir, located on a family farm, has been producing essential oils since 1988, concentrating on coniferous-based oils before progressively expanding to include oils from different shrubs and organically-grown wild plants. Aliksir imports a vast range of essential oils from the four corners of the world, purchasing these products directly from producers or distributors. They ensure the purity and quality of all products they sell. **Hours:** June to October, daily. October to June, closed Sundays.

The *Chemin du Roy* stretches all the way to Montréal. Ask for a guidebook for more information about this historic roadway.