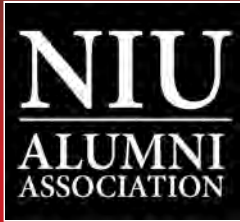


The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
Presents



Discover French Canada – Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec City

September 14 – 21, 2018

\$3,549 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

With the crisp air of autumn comes the chance to experience a quintessential Montreal and Quebec City Getaway. Quebec is a province steeped in tradition and rich history, where you can immerse yourself in the French heritage and lifestyle. Stroll through narrow cobbled lanes full of quaint shops, and explore the stunning countryside with picturesque villages and local culture.

Day by Day Itinerary

Friday, September 14 – CHICAGO / MONTREAL (HD)

This morning we depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on our non-stop flight to Montreal, Canada's largest and most cosmopolitan city. On arrival at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport we'll meet our Tour Escort who will introduce us to the Province of Quebec. Leaving the airport, we'll make our way into downtown Montreal, often touted as one of the best cities in North America. Our destination is the Jacques-Cartier Pier from where we'll embark on a cruise along the St. Lawrence River, the perfect introduction to Montreal's European flair. Montreal is an island surrounded by the St. Lawrence, Ottawa and Prairies Rivers. Afterward, we'll continue to our downtown hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure.



where we'll find shops and outdoor vendors with an array of artisan wares. This afternoon we'll tour Rideau Hall, home to the Governor General of Canada, where we'll have a rare opportunity to step inside this impressive historic building, prior to our return to Montreal.

Saturday, September 15 – MONTREAL (B)

Our day will begin with a sightseeing tour of Montreal that will introduce us to a wealth of unique and beautiful architecture, along with a distinct cultural flavor - it's time to explore the historic Old Town, and brush up on your French. We'll travel past the Olympic Park, created for the Summer Olympic Games in 1976, and into Old Montreal, nestled between the St. Lawrence seaway and the downtown skyscrapers. Here we'll visit the Basilique Notre-Dame-de-Montreal, the city's oldest and grandest Catholic church, and take in the Place d'Armes. Then we'll make our way to the Mount Royal Park Lookout for a panoramic view of the city, followed by a visit to Saint Joseph's Oratory, an Italian Renaissance style basilica which is the largest in Canada and is dedicated to the country's patron saint. Following our tour, the afternoon is at leisure to explore Vieux-Montreal, where historic 18th century buildings create an aura of romance and charm amid this modern city.

Sunday, September 16 – MONTREAL (Ottawa) (B,L)

Today we'll enjoy a full-day tour to Ottawa. Sit back, relax and marvel at the passing scenery as we get set to explore Canada's capital city. On arrival, an introductory sightseeing tour will take us to Parliament Hill, where we'll learn about its history and function, as well as the gothic buildings that dominate the city skyline, including Confederation Square that is home to the National War Memorial. Then we'll make our way to Rideau Canal, the provinces only UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the world's largest naturally frozen ice skating rink in winter. We'll see the 19th century stone building that houses the Bytown Museum as well as the majestic Fairmont Chateau Laurier. Next, we'll make our way to the ByWard Market. For nearly 200 years this rollicking public market has played host to artisans, farmers and craft merchants. After lunch, we'll set aside time to explore the ByWard Market Square, a pedestrian friendly atmosphere

Monday, September 17 – MONTREAL / QUEBEC CITY (King's Road) (B,L,HD)

This morning we depart Montreal and follow the scenic King's Road connecting the province's two biggest cities: Montreal and Quebec City. Along the way, we'll stop in the village of Maskinongé for a guided tour of Magasin General Le Brun, a historical site with a museum and authentic general store that was typical of the 19th and 20th centuries. Then we'll travel to the city of Trois-Rivières, located at the confluence of the Saint-Maurice and Saint Lawrence Rivers. Our destination is Chez Dany's Sugar Shack, where hospitality and conviviality are the watchwords. An accordionist, cellist and singer provide the musical ambience in this rustic building where we'll enjoy lunch and learn how maple syrup is made. Afterward, we'll continue our journey to Quebec City, the heart and soul of French Canada. Overlooking the St. Lawrence River on the cliffs of Cap Diamant, Quebec City's European charm and architecture is evident throughout.

Tuesday, September 18 – QUEBEC CITY (B)

Our day begins with an introductory tour of Quebec City beginning in the Haute-Ville, or Upper Town, which overlooks the St. Lawrence River and includes much of what makes Quebec so beloved. We'll start along the grand Terrasse Dufferin offering a magnificent view of the river and distant mountains. Then we're headed to the Place d'Armes that is home to the defining landmark of the Quebec skyline, the Chateau Frontenac. We'll also visit the Basilica Notre-Dame-de-Quebec and take in a view of the magnificent Citadel fortifications. The Lower Town, or Basse-Ville, which encompasses the oldest residential area of

the city, and Vieux-Port, the old port district awaits. Walking along the Rue du Petit Champlain, the oldest street in North America, we'll see cozy restaurants and charming cafes before reaching the Place-Royale. Located on the square, we'll also see the oldest stone church in Quebec, the Eglise Notre-Dame-des-Victoires. The last section of the Lower Town that we'll visit is the Old Port. Once a port of call for European ships bringing supplies and settlers to the new colony, today this delightful area has an airy riverside walking site, full of new and restored modern attractions. Following our tour, the afternoon is free to explore Quebec City at your leisure. Parisian in atmosphere, every tiny street is worth visiting. Whatever you choose to do Quebec City has something for everyone!

Wednesday, September 19 – QUEBEC CITY

(Montmorency Falls & Sainte-Anne-de-Baupre) (B)

This morning we leave Quebec City to explore the beautiful Côte-de-Baupré's picturesque countryside, one of North America's oldest roads. Just a few miles out of town, we'll arrive at the Parc de la Chute-Montmorency. Classified as an historic site in December 1994, the park offers spectacular views over the Ile d'Orleans and the capital. At its heart is the Montmorency Falls, Quebec's most celebrated waterfall that is higher than Niagara Falls and empties out into the St. Lawrence River. Although the park surrounding the falls offers several ways to view the cascade, the suspension bridge – not for the faint of heart – and an aerial tram are the two most popular choices. Following our visit, we'll travel to one of Canada's most sacred places, the pilgrimage shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Baupre. In 1876, Sainte Anne was proclaimed patron saint of Quebec, and in 1887 the existing church was granted basilica status. Although there has been a church on this site since 1658, the first basilica was destroyed by fire in 1922. The present day medieval basilica was built in 1923 with an interior that is illuminated by 240 stained glass windows, with a remarkable rose window as its centerpiece.

Thursday, September 20 – QUEBEC CITY

(Ile d'Orleans)

(B,HD)

Today we will enjoy a tour of the Ile d'Orleans and be charmed by its more-than-a-century old history. Despite its small size, this island in the middle of the St. Lawrence River is home to chocolate factories, historical monuments, and orchards as well as small ancestral inns. Sprinkled with villages, the Ile d'Orleans offers a fascinating look at the traditional Quebec routine of peaceful rural life. We'll begin with a visit to Sainte-Petronille, known as the "tip of the island" by those who live on it. Splendid views of Montmorency Falls, Beauport Bay, and Cap Diamant make it one of the finest scenic points in the Quebec City area. Then we'll travel through Saint-Laurent, home to the farm stands and strawberry fields for which the island is renowned. On the far end of the island, Saint-Francois draws visitors in with its scenic viewpoint and an observation tower from where we can admire the islands in the archipelago and the St. Lawrence estuary below. Our next stop will take us to Sainte-Famille, the island's oldest parish. Its stunning views of the Baupre shoreline and Mont-Sainte-Anne open onto expansive orchards. Our last stop of the day will be Saint-Pierre. The village is the most populated of the island because of its proximity to the bridge, and here we'll have an opportunity to visit the gift and artisan shops to sample ice cider, terrines, confits, apple butter, blackcurrant liqueur, and other local delicacies.

Friday, September 21 – QUEBEC CITY / CHICAGO (B)

The morning is at leisure to finish any last-minute shopping, as most of Quebec City's main sights are easily reached on foot. Early this afternoon we travel to Quebec City's Jean Lesage International Airport in preparation for our return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Discover French Canada* vacation that will last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

***** Welcome Home *****

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Air Canada and United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Escort.
- First-class hotel accommodations.
- Meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees, travel insurance; airline checked luggage fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Escort and local Step-on Guides; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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