



Day Trips from Montréal

Trois-Rivières p144

Midway between Montréal and Québec City, this historic town makes a pleasant stopover, with its attractive riverfront backed by a small cluster of museums and historic buildings.

The Laurentians p146

Montréal's backyard mountain playground, the Laurentians offer countless recreational opportunities, including hiking, downhill and cross-country skiing, and cycling on a 230km converted railway bed.

The Eastern Townships p149

Québec meets New England in this pretty landscape of rolling hills, sparkling lakes, picturesque villages and farms specializing in cider, wine, cheese and maple syrup.

Trois-Rivières

Explore

The pleasant town of Trois-Rivières boasts history dating back to 1634, making it North America's second-oldest city north of Mexico. Although much of the historic center burned down in 1908, a compact cluster of old buildings remains, creating a harmonious ensemble with the town's picturesque tree-lined streets and scenic location along the St Lawrence River's north shore.

The name Trois-Rivières is a bit of a misnomer. Don't bother looking – there aren't three rivers. The name refers to the way the St Maurice River divides as it approaches the St Lawrence.

Cultural highlights include the **Festival International de la Poésie** (International Poetry Festival; www.fiptr.com), a 10-day international poetry festival in October.

The Best...

- **Sight** Musée Québécois de Culture Populaire
- **Place to Eat** Le Poivre Noir
- **Place to Drink** Gambrinus

Top Tip

If you read French, don't miss the interesting interpretive plaques sprinkled around Trois-Rivières' riverfront district, enlivened by vintage photos and engravings tracing four centuries of local history.

Getting There & Away

➤ **Bus** Orléans Express (☎514-395-4000; www.oleansexpress.com) runs six buses daily from Montréal to Trois-Rivières (\$36, two hours). Buses arrive at Trois-Rivières' Gare d'Autocars (☎819-374-2944; 275 Rue St-Georges), within a 10-minute walk of the historic riverfront district.

➤ **Car** Autoroute 40

Need to Know

- **Area Code** ☎819
- **Location** 139km northeast of Montréal
- **Tourist Office** (☎819-375-1122; www.tourismetroisrivers.com; 1457 Rue Notre-Dame; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun)

SIGHTS

MUSÉE QUÉBÉCOIS DE CULTURE POPULAIRE

MUSEUM

(☎819-372-0406; www.culturepop.qc.ca; 200 Rue Laviolette; adult/child \$12/7, incl En Prison \$19/10.50; ☎10am-5pm Tue-Sun) One of the most interesting stops in the area, this museum has changing exhibits that cover the gamut from folk art to pop culture, delving into the social and cultural life of the Québécois. Recent exhibits include a quirky show on the social significance of garage sales and woodcarvings of birds commonly sighted in the area.

EN PRISON

MUSEUM

(In Prison; ☎819-372-0406; www.enprison.com; 200 Rue Laviolette; adult/child \$12/7, incl museum \$19/10.50; ☎10am-5pm Tue-Sun) Ex-cons bring the harsh realities of the lock-up vividly to life during 90-minute tours that include a stop at dank underground cells known as 'the pit.' English tours run between 11am and 3:15pm from late June to the end of August, and by reservation the rest of the year. The prison exhibit is connected to adjacent Musée Québécois de Culture Populaire.

URSULINE MUSEUM

MUSEUM

(www.musee-ursulines.qc.ca; 734 Rue des Ursulines; adult/child/student \$5/free/4; ☎10am-5pm Tue-Sun May-Nov, 1-5pm Wed-Sun Mar & Apr) Founded by Ursuline nuns in 1639, this museum has a fine collection of textiles, ceramics, books and prints related to Catholicism. Frescoes adorn the adjacent chapel. Nearby, Rue des Ursulines is a pleasant place to stroll, with its picturesque homes (some now operating as B&Bs) and its unseen history, much of which is described on informational plaques throughout the neighborhood.



EATING & DRINKING

RESTAURANT LE GRILL

STEAK \$\$

(☎819-376-4745; www.restolegrill.com; 350 Rue des Forges; mains \$14-37; ☎11:30am-10pm Mon-Fri, 5-11pm Sat & Sun) Locals flock to this trendy steakhouse for filet mignon, but the menu also features gourmet burgers, meal-sized salads, salmon, shrimp, lobster and Le Grill's own jazzed-up version of the Québécois classic poutine: cheesy fries accompanied by peppercorn-cognac sauce