

ROUTE GUIDE

Montréal-Halifax



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A MORE HUMAN WAY TO TRAVEL VIA Rail Canada



**20 BATHURST, N.B.**  
Mile: 110.2 Population: 12,714

An industrial town located at the mouth of the Nepisiquit River, Bathurst, is the largest urban centre in the northeast part of the province, and provides a wide range of services. Visitors are interested in Bathurst first and foremost for the many natural sites found close-by and because it is the northern gateway to the Acadian Peninsula.

**21 MIRAMICHI, N.B.**  
Mile: 66.1 Population: 18,129

Miramichi, located at the mouth of the major salmon-fishing river of the same name, is the largest municipality in the area. Unlike other communities on the shore, its population is primarily English-speaking. In fact, every year in early July, an Irish Canadian festival is held here. This town owes its existence to forestry operations, the region's main economic activity for the last two centuries.

**22 ROGERSVILLE, N.B.**  
Mile: 44.4 Population: 1,165

If you can't pronounce "Kouchibouguac," you are not alone. KOOSH-e-boo-gwack is a Micmac word meaning "river of long tides." Here, the land is quite flat and the tides can flow inland several kilometres. Rogersville is located not far from the Acadian coastline and the Kouchibouguac National Park, which was established in 1969 to preserve and protect a number of distinct landscapes. Visitors have access to a tourist information booth, restaurants and lodging.

**23 MONCTON, N.B.**  
Mile: 124.9 Population: 64,128

Due to its geographic location in the heart of the Maritimes and its pool of qualified and bilingual workers, Moncton is now the rising star in New Brunswick. Its site on the Petitcodiac River was a small Acadian outpost before the Acadian Expulsion of 1755. Then, colonists of American origin settled here and founded the city, which prospered in the mid-19th century as a ship-building centre and later as the terminus for the Intercolonial Railway.

To Acadians, who make up more than 35% of its population, Moncton offers the only opportunity to tackle the challenges and enjoy the pleasures of city life. They have made Moncton the headquarters of their main economic and social institutions, including the province's only French-language university, Université de Moncton. Ironically, the city, and by extension the university, got its name from Robert Monckton, commander of the British Forces during the taking of Fort Beauséjour in 1755, which was the prelude to the fall of the French Empire in North America and the start of the Great Disturbance.

**24 SACKVILLE, N.B.**  
Mile: 86.7 Population: 5,411

Sackville emanates a discreet affluence and special sensitivity to its heritage from the past, with its tree-lined streets sheltering beautiful houses. The city is home to Mount Allison University, a highly regarded post-secondary educational institution. It is also home to Radio Canada International, the voice of Canada around the world, broadcasting in seven languages through eight short-wave emitters.

It was in Aulac, just outside Sackville, that the tragic episode of the expulsion of Acadians began following the recapture of Fort Beauséjour by British troops in 1755. Constructed in 1751, Fort Beauséjour occupied a strategic site at the time, overlooking Chignecto Bay on the frontier of the French and British colonies.

**25 AMHERST, N.S.**  
Mile: 76.8 Population: 9,505

The "gateway to Nova Scotia," Amherst is located on the Chignecto Isthmus, an area first settled by the Acadians in 1672 and founded by explorers from the British Isles in 1764. Amherst experienced a great industrial boom from 1880 to 1914, when it was integrated into the Canadian railway network. Known for its beautiful Victorian mansions built during that era, this pretty town is equally visited for the spectacular wall murals found throughout its Victorian business district. From Amherst, one can travel along the shores of the Bay of Fundy to the famous Joggins dinosaur fossil museum or to the beautiful beaches of the Northumberland Strait region, which offer the warmest ocean waters north of Virginia.

**26 SPRINGHILL JCT., N.S.**  
Mile: 59.6 Population: 3,941

Founded in 1790 by Loyalists who first came to farm this region, Springhill flourished as a major Canadian coal mining centre when the famous Springhill Mining Company opened in 1871. Its fascinating Miner's Museum and Mine Tours rival in popularity with a museum dedicated to the town's most famous citizen, international singing star Anne Murray.

**27 TRURO, N.S.**  
Mile: 0.4 Population: 11,765

Served by the railway since 1858, Truro has been known as the "hub of Nova Scotia" and is the main industrial, commercial and shopping centre of the region. The town offers historical architecture, and excellent restaurants. Built around the Salmon River, which empties itself into the Minas Basin, the Bay of Fundy gives visitors a glimpse of its famous tidal bore. Twice daily, a wave of water from the Fundy literally gushes upstream on the Salmon River, reversing its flow. Truro is home to the famous Stanfield Underwear Company, which invented cotton stretch knitwear

**RAILWAY SIGNS TO WATCH FOR**

One of the railway traditions – the milepost – provides the key to locating a train's current position. Mileposts may be on either side of a track, and are usually rectangular white signs with black numbers. Though Canada now uses the metric system, the original markers for railroads were, and still are, in miles. Each line is subdivided at Railway Division Points; these subdivisions are not a standard length, they were based on the distance a steam locomotive could travel in a day.

**Mileposts**

Milepost numbers rise from east to west and reset to zero at the start of each subdivision. Subdivisions are 43 to 146 miles (69 to 235 km) long.

**Siding and Station Name Boards**

Newer siding and station name boards are white with a black name. Older station name boards are also white with a black name but the lettering is all capitals and the sign is mounted on a building.



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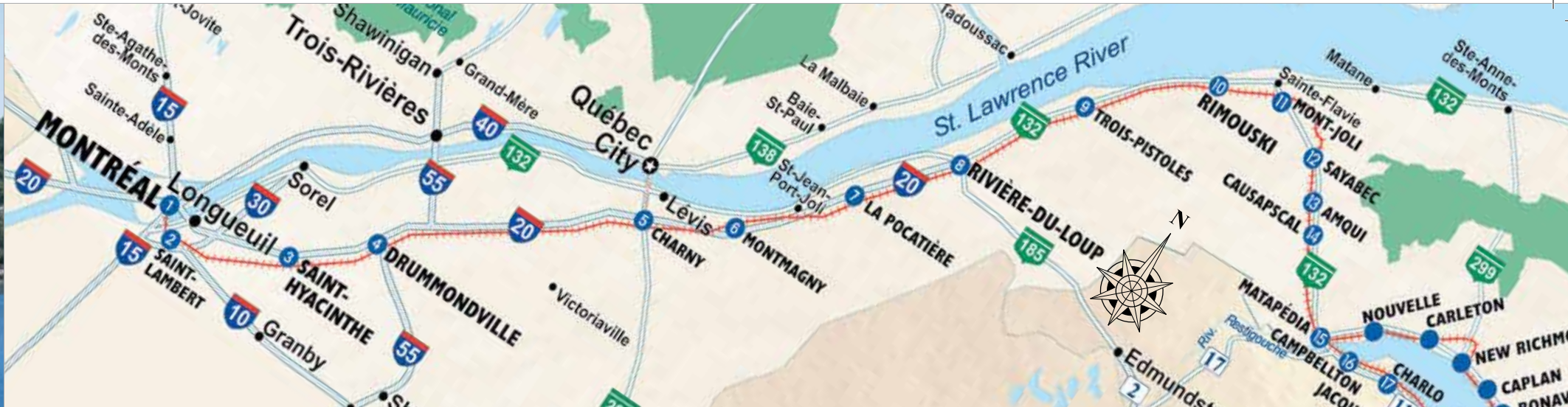
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This guide chronicles the points of interest along the *Océan's* route. From Montréal, your train travels 1,346 km (836 mi.) through rural communities of the Lower Saint Lawrence, down the Matapédia Valley, across New Brunswick and on to Nova Scotia. With six weekly departures from Montréal and Halifax, the *Océan™* offers convenient ferry or bus connections to Saint John, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, Newfoundland and Québec City. This journey will delightfully charm you with its friendly ambiance, unique dining experience, cosy sleeping accommodations and the warmth and friendliness of our personnel. Welcome to your home away from home.



LUNENBURG, N.S.



**1 MONTRÉAL, QUE.**  
Mile: 74.1 Population: 1,620,693

Montréal is a city at the crossroads of America and Europe. Both Latin and northern, international and Québécois, Montréal holds nothing back. It surprises overseas visitors with its rebellious character and surchalance, while its European cachet charms North Americans.

When it comes to celebrating jazz, film, comedy, singing or the provincial holiday Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, hundreds of thousands of people invade the city's streets, making these events friendly and popular gatherings. The city's cultural attractions, such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Pointe-à-Callière Museum of Archaeology and History, the Musée d'art contemporain and the McCord Museum of Canadian History, complement its other must-see attractions, such as Mont-Royal Park, the Olympic Stadium and its famous tower, the Montréal Botanical Garden and the Biodôme.

The Montréal area has evolved over the years and now boasts an increasingly cosmopolitan population. Francophones and anglophones have learned to appreciate their respective differences, and both enjoy the advantages of the province's metropolis. In the last hundred years, immigrants from every continent have joined these two main components of Montréal society. Some of these minorities, notably the Italian, Greek, Jewish, Portuguese and Chinese communities, settled in neighbourhoods where they maintain a touch of the lifestyle from their homeland. This great variety of neighbourhoods and the people who live in them contribute to Montréal's delightfully distinct charm.

**2 SAINT-LAMBERT, QUE.**  
Mile: 70.3 Population: 21,599

The development of Saint-Lambert, today a peaceful suburb of Montréal merged with Longueuil on January 1, 2002, is closely tied to the construction of the Victoria Bridge in the mid-19th century. The railway's presence attracted a large anglophone community, giving it a slightly British flavour. The Saint-Lambert lock, inaugurated in 1959, is the gateway to the St. Lawrence Seaway, which starts here and ends 3,700 km to the west at the tip of the Great Lakes. The seaway allows ships to navigate through the natural obstacles along the St. Lawrence River and directly supply the continent's industrial heartland.

**3 SAINT-HYACINTHE, QUE.**  
Mile: 40.9 Population: 51,616

The city of Saint-Hyacinthe came into being at the end of the 18th century. Thanks to the region's fertile soil, it grew quickly, attracting a number of religious, commercial and business institutions. Food conversion and distribution still plays a leading role in the city's economy. Thanks to its Agri-Food Science Park, in 1993, it was the first Canadian city to be inducted into the International Association of Science Parks. A major regional agricultural fair is held here every year in July. Saint-Hyacinthe has also made construction of the huge world-renowned Casavant organs its speciality.

**4 DRUMMONDVILLE, QUE.**  
Mile: 98.3 Population: 67,392

Drummondville was founded after the U.S.—Canada War of 1812, initially as a military post on the Saint-François River. The colony soon became a major industrial centre thanks to the establishment of mills and factories in the vicinity. With the advent of hydroelectric power at the start of the 20th century, industry took the lead over agriculture, and the manufacture of silk and gunpowder became the basis of Drummondville's industrial development. They gradually gave way to the textile industry, particularly from the 1920s on, with the establishment of two large industries, Dominion Textile and Celanese. Textiles proved to be the engine of local economy and job creation for several decades.

Le Mondial des Cultures, a celebration of the world's cultures, takes place during the second week of July. This event is organized to promote exchange among the world's various traditions and cultures.

**5 CHARNY, QUE.**  
Mile: 8.1 Population: 10,367

Since January 1, 2002, Charny has been merged with Lévis (130,006 inhabitants). It owes its existence to the railway. It is still a very important rail centre and transfer point between several destinations, including Québec and the south shore of the St. Lawrence. Québec's largest rotunda (a railway hangar in a circular shape) is found here. Charny is also located on the bank of the Chaudière River, which forms wild rapids at this point before flowing into the St. Lawrence River.

**6 MONTMAGNY, QUE.**  
Mile: 78.1 Population: 11,353

Montmagny has a long industrial history. It was the home of the Bélanger factories, which for many generations manufactured cast-iron cooking appliances that were highly prized by Québec families. Twice a year, in the spring and fall, Montmagny welcomes an unusual visitor: the snow goose. In the fall, these geese return from the Arctic regions, where they spend the summer and touch down here before heading south to milder climes. En route, they stop on Montmagny's elevated riverbeds, a protected site offering them abundant food. This is when the town celebrates the Festival de l'oise blanche with all sorts of activities related to the observation and interpretation of this beautiful migrating bird.

The excursion to the national historic site of Grosse-Île and the Irish Memorial is a journey back in time to a painful era in North American immigration. Fleeting epidemics and famine, emigrants from Ireland to Canada were especially numerous between 1830 and 1850. To limit the spread of cholera and typhus in North America, the authorities decided to quarantine transatlantic passengers before landing at the Port of Québec. In total, some 4 million immigrants from 42 different countries passed through the Port of Québec between 1832 and 1937.

**7 LA POCATIÈRE, QUE.**  
Mile: 42 Population: 4,575

In 1672, the former seigneurie of La Pocatière was granted to Marie-Anne Juchereau, widow of an officer in the Carignan-Salières Regiment. The opening of a classical college in 1827, and of the first agricultural school in Canada in 1859, transformed this market town into a centre of post-secondary studies. Also found here is the main factory of the multinational giant Bombardier, which specializes in public transit equipment. Subway cars for the Montréal metro, the New York subway system and many other large cities around the world are manufactured here.

**8 RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP, QUE.**  
Mile: 188.8 Population: 18,586

Rivière-du-Loup has become one of the largest urban centres in the Lower St. Lawrence region thanks to its exceptional geographic location, which made it a crossroads of communications, first maritime, then rail, back when the city was the eastern terminus of the Canadian Railway. Today, Rivière-du-Loup is the departure point for both the highway leading to New Brunswick and the ferry to Saint-Siméon on the north shore of the St. Lawrence.

**9 TROIS-PISTOLES, QUE.**  
Mile: 161.7 Population: 3,500

Legend has it that a French sailor passing through the region in the 17th century lost his silver goblet, worth three gold pistoles, in the nearby river, giving a very picturesque name to both the river and, later, this small industrial town on the Lower St. Lawrence. Trois-Pistoles is dominated by a colossal church erected in 1887, Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, that is crowned with three bell towers plated in silver-coloured sheet metal. Birdwatchers and archaeology buffs alike will enjoy an excursion to l'Île aux Basques, where a few years ago remains were found of the activities of Basque fishers who came to this island every year for the whale hunt in the 15th century, a good 100 years before Jacques Cartier, official discoverer of Canada, set foot here.

**10 RIMOUSKI, QUE.**  
Mile: 123.4 Population: 42,240

The development of the Seigneurie de Rimouski, a Micmac name that means "land of the moose," was laboriously undertaken at the end of the 17th century by merchant René Lepage, who hailed from Auxerre, France. As a result, it became the most advanced settlement in the Gulf of St. Lawrence under the French regime.

Beside Rimouski, at Pointe-au-Père, the monument to the Empress of Ireland commemorates the tragic night of May 29, 1914, when more than a thousand people lost their lives in the St. Lawrence when this Canadian Pacific passenger vessel that ran between Québec City and England sank. The Musée de la Mer presents a fascinating collection of objects salvaged from the shipwreck and presents a detailed account of the tragedy. The nearby lighthouse marks the exact spot where the river officially becomes the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

**11 MONT-JOLI, QUE.**  
Mile: 105.4 Population: 6,568

Located on the border of the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspé regions, Mont-Joli developed in the years 1900 and 1910 thanks to the Intercolonial Railway. In addition to its many natural attractions, the town offers a number of cultural activities.

Not far, in Grand-Métis, you can visit the magnificent Jardins de Métis botanical garden. In 1927, Elsie Stephen Meighen Reford inherited the domain from her uncle, Lord Mount Stephen, who made his fortune by investing in the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway. The following year, she decided to create an English garden, which she maintained and expanded until 1959. A few years later, the government of Québec acquired the domain

and developed it for public display. Today, repurchased by the founder's grandson, Jardins de Métis is divided into eight distinct ornamental garden entities.

**12 SAYABEC, QUE.**  
Mile: 75.9 Population: 1,953

Located at the head of Lac Matapédia, Sayabec (after the river of the same name, pronounced "saybec," which means "blocked") relies mainly on the forest industry, but also on tourism. This village is the gateway to the Matapédia Valley and benefits from practically all the services found in a large city. A large number of sports fishermen can be found shopping in Sayabec's stores.

**13 AMQUI, QUE.**  
Mile: 60.9 Population: 6,261

Thanks to its location in the heart of the Matapédia Valley, Amqui has become a major service centre over the years. Here, even the tourist information kiosk has its own distinct architecture; it was built in the model of the former Amqui station. Inside, a mural display reveals the region's historical heritage. It appears that the site was once a major gathering point for First Nations peoples. In fact, the town takes its name from the Micmac word for "where one has fun"!

**14 CAUSAPSCAL, QUE.**  
Mile: 47.5 Population: 2,458

The Causapscal sawmills dominate this town divided by the Matapédia River, one of the best salmon fishing rivers in North America. A longstanding source of conflict between the local population and private clubs, salmon fishing is now a major contributor to the regional economy.

**15 MATAPÉDIA, QUE.**  
Mile: 12.8 Population: 696

The Patapédia and Matapédia rivers are tributaries of the Restigouche River. The Matapédia River carved out a deep valley between the mountains, which define the western border of the Gaspé Peninsula. Nearby, the national historic site commemorating the Battle of the Restigouche has many objects on display as well as an interesting audio-visual reconstruction that brings to life the sequence of events during the summer of 1760, when a French fleet that had sailed from Bordeaux to liberate New France fell into the hands of the English. Only three ships made it into Chaleur Bay. The English, who considerably outnumbered them, decimated the French flotilla in a matter of hours.

The village of Saint-André-de-Restigouche, a Micmac village that is the hub of the largest First Nations community in the Gaspé region, rises to the north of Matapédia. This is the site of Fort Listuguj, which takes us back to the 18th century, when French colonists, the Micmac and recently deported Acadians who cohabited the region fought side by side against English invaders.

**Please note:** Québec and the Atlantic provinces are not in the same time zone. When you enter New Brunswick, set your watch forward an hour.

**16 CAMPBELLTON, N.B.**  
Miles: 0 and 173.2 Population: 7,384

The town of Campbellton, located on the estuary of the Restigouche River, is the largest municipality in the region. Salmon fishing is now so closely associated with the town's history that every year in late June and early July, a Salmon Festival is held here. The arrival of the railway had a great influence on Campbellton. In the 15 years that followed its arrival (1875 to 1876), settlement occurred primarily to the west. The establishment of the McLennan Engineering workshops in 1888 and the erection of the second Alexander mill in 1891 (which later became the Richard mill) intensified the construction of homes in the west side of the town.

**17 CHARLO, N.B.**  
Mile: 154.3 Population: 1,376

Located on the shores of Chaleur Bay, tucked between the earth and the sea, the town of Charlo has a natural beauty all of its own. It has a tourist infrastructure that delights vacationers and offers a range of outdoors activities thanks to its proximity to the Chaleur Provincial Park. The village covers 31 km<sup>2</sup>, 12 km of which are beaches, green spaces, rivers and lagoons.



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