ROCKJUMPER
Worldwide Birding Adventures

Canada

Quebec: Mega Migration and Belugas of Tadoussac

1st October to 8th October 2023 (8 days)



Northern Goshawk by Lev Frid

Tadoussac is a largely undiscovered jewel in North American birding. It is one of the best places to view visible migration in the world, often involving flights of thousands of birds – finches, shorebirds, seaducks and raptors. Its northern setting makes it an excellent place to view movements of boreal finches and northern raptors, as well as seaducks such as Black, Surf and White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks and Common Eiders, gulls such as Glaucous, Iceland and Black-legged Kittiwake as well as Northern Gannets on the mighty St. Lawrence River. The St. Lawrence also hosts a resident population of Beluga whales, the southernmost in the world – which are easily visible just by walking down to the river from our hotel!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrival in Montréal**
Day 2	**Montréal to Tadoussac via Cap-Tourmente**
Days 3 to 6	**Tadoussac and surrounds**
Day 7	**Tadoussac to Montréal**
Day 8	**Final departure**

TOUR ROUTE MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…



Black Scoters by Lev Frid

Day 1 - Arrival in Montréal. After arriving in Montréal, we will meet up this evening for a welcome dinner and talk over our plans for the forthcoming tour of this hidden birding gem.

Day 2 - Montréal to Tadoussac via Cap-Tourmente. Our birding begins this morning in Montréal, a large and modern Canadian city where both French and English are spoken. From here, we will take a scenic 5.5hour drive to Tadoussac, stopping at Cap-Tourmente - a beautiful park famous for thousands of Snow Geese, and which also gives us a good chance of seeing American Black Bear. We will explore the meadows and marshes of the Cap, which will give us our first taste of Laurentide birding.

Cap-Tourmente is a famous migration hotspot for Quebecois birders, with over 300 species being recorded at the site - including an amazing grab-bag of rarities such as Purple Gallinule, Tundra Bean Goose, Curlew Sandpiper, Tropical Kingbird and many others! You never know what may show up.

Once we arrive in Tadoussac, we will settle into our comfortable hotel, only steps from the St. Lawrence River, which will serve as our home base for the next 5 nights.

Days 3 to 6 - Tadoussac and surrounds. Tadoussac is a largely undiscovered jewel in North American birding. It is one of the best places to view visible migration in the world, often involving flights of



Beluga Whales by Charmaine Anderson



Two-barred Crossbills by Lev Frid

thousands of birds – be they finches, shorebirds, seaducks or raptors. Its northern setting makes it an excellent place to view movements of boreal finches and northern raptors, as well as seaducks such as Black, Surf and White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks and Common Eiders, gulls such as Glaucous, Iceland and Black-legged Kittiwake as well as Northern Gannets on the mighty St. Lawrence River.

The St. Lawrence also hosts a resident population of Beluga Whale, the southernmost in the world – which are easily visible just by walking down to the river from our hotel! Much of the Icelandic population of Barrow's Goldeneye is found here at this time of year.

The famous dunes are an exciting place to view migration, with birds from raptors to finches often passing at eye-level. Some days, thousands of crossbills, grosbeaks and redpolls pass through in a few hours, but every day offers new and exciting birding. The possibility of finding surprises is always there, such as a day-roosting Boreal Owl, a transient Gyrfalcon, or even a truly rare vagrant such as Ross's Gull, which has occurred in the area on multiple occasions.

We will explore northwards along the river to the breathtaking Pointe-aux-Outardes (Snow Goose Point), stopping at various jetties and beaches in search of shorebirds and alcids. Large flocks of Dunlin, White-rumped Sandpiper, Sanderling and other late migrating shorebirds entertain us while we diligently scan for rarities, whilst flocks of Razorbills and possibly even an Atlantic Puffin or other alcids lounge on the river.

We will also seek out resident species such as Spruce Grouse, Black-backed and American Three-toed Woodpecker and Boreal Chickadee in the vast boreal forest surrounds. Nearby freshwater marshes can host thousands of Snow Geese and other waterfowl. Our four full days at Tadoussac should provide us with at least one good raptor flight, where Golden Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Goshawk are the stars, as they migrate along the river, often low and sometimes in double-digit numbers!



Golden Eagle & Northern Raven by Lev Frid

Day 7 - Tadoussac to Montréal. We will have one more morning to bird the Tadoussac area for new arrivals or species we may not have found yet. In the late morning, we shall start making our

way back to our hotel in Montréal where we shall enjoy a celebratory dinner.

Day 8 - **Final departure.** The tour will end after breakfast this morning.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Extra activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services.)

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY** flights (see above);
- Any additional beverages;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient participants, a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

Special notes:

- Each day begins at the hotel with breakfast. Then, a short drive to a nearby birding location depending on the weather – usually starting at the Tadoussac dunes to watch the morning flight and then moving on to either a seawatching or boreal forest site.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include **ANY** airfares. The tour will depart from Montréal–Trudeau International Airport (IATA: YUL). As Day 1 has been set aside as an arrival day, you are free to arrive at any time. The tour will conclude at Montréal–Trudeau International Airport (IATA: YUL) on day 8 after breakfast. Out hotel has regular shuttles to and from the airport.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Montréal–Trudeau International Airport (IATA: YUL) is the main port of entry for this tour. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**