Canada

Quebec: Mega Migration and Belugas of Tadoussac

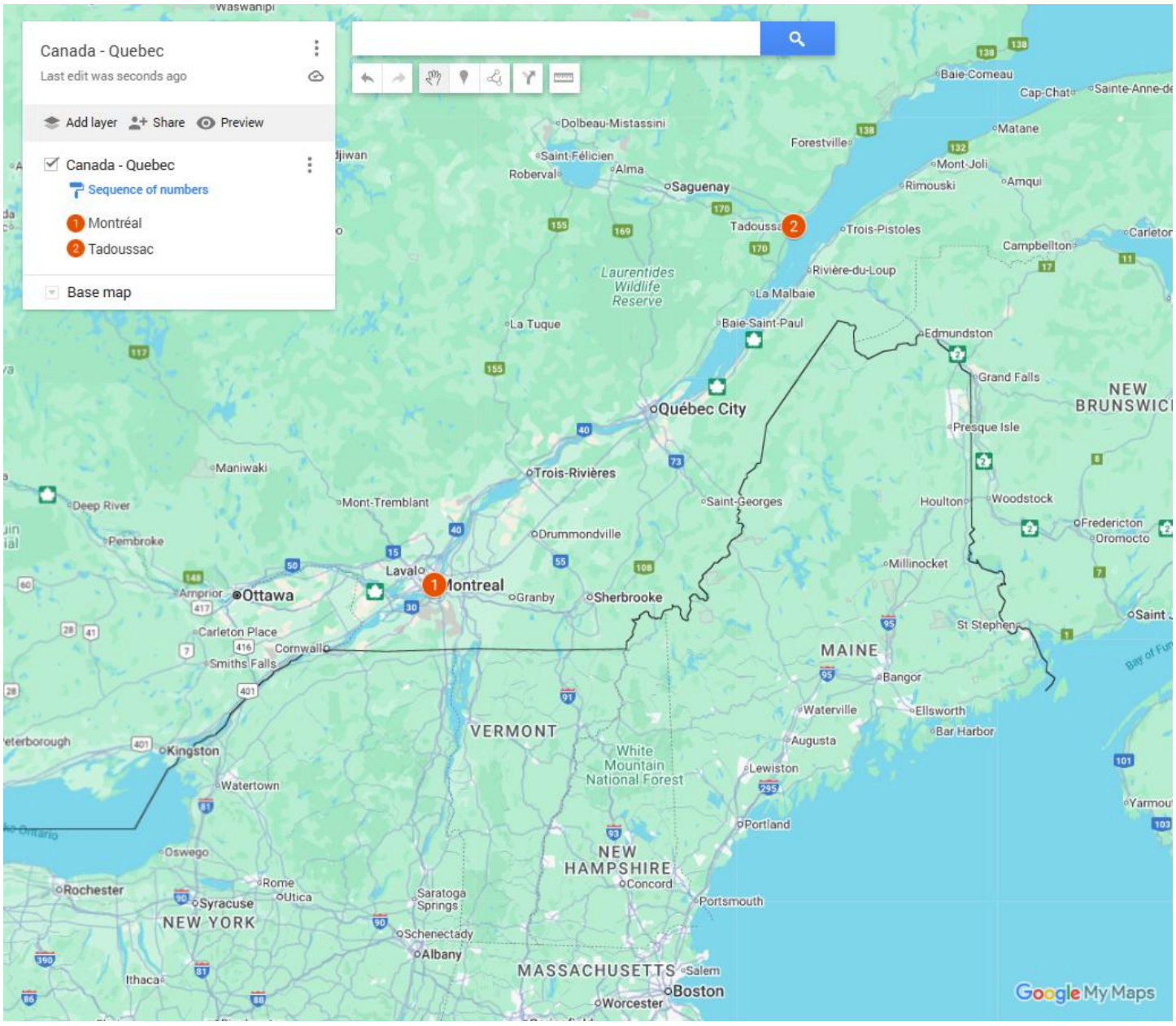


Boreal Chickadee by Lev Frid

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, sea ducks and raptors. Its northern setting makes it an excellent place to view movements of boreal finches and northern raptors, as well as sea ducks 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

Itinerary & Map

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



Birding sites in detail

Cap-Tourmente. This site is a famous migration hotspot for Quebecois birders, with over 300 species being recorded. A beautiful park, we will explore the meadows and marshes of the Cap, which give us our first taste of Laurentide birding. We hope to enjoy thousands of Snow Geese, whilst also keeping an eye out for White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco and Myrtle Warblers, as well as lingering Tennessee and Nashville Warblers. We have a decent chance of seeing American Black Bear too.

The park has produced 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.



Golden Eagle & Northern Raven by Lev Frid

Tadoussac & 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 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.



Black-backed Woodpecker by Lev Frid

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.



Northern Goshawk by Lev Frid

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!



Enjoying a Beluga from Cap-de-Bon-Désir - Lev Frid

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate to easy. Migration is directly relative to prevailing weather conditions, some days the birding will be electric & others will be very quiet.
Birding Ease		Most species provide decent visuals in open conditions. Volume of species varies from year to year.
Accommodation		Comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Reasonable amount of walking, mostly on flat ground with variable substrate. All walks around Tadoussac are optional.
Vehicles / Roads		Comfortable SUV vehicles. Two long drives on sealed roads to get too and from Tadoussac, otherwise short drives only.
Photography		Good to very good, weather dependent.
Annoyances		Can be cold to very cold.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- 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.

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 you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is 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. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- Be prepared for 2 long drives (5-6 hours) to get between Montréal & Tadoussac.
- We expect all guests to rotate seating positions each day to ensure fairness.
- At this time of year, daytime temperatures can be pleasant with highs of 10°C (50°F) but can dip below freezing at night. Early storms may produce rain and snow, which cause temperatures to fall below 0°C (32°F). Strongs winds are expected (and hoped for), but the causes wind chill, that can further reduce your body temperature. Please dress appropriately.
- Strong, warm, waterproof footwear that can handle snow is suggested. Nearly all birding is roadside but occasionally we may walk on trails just off the road. Wind/rain proof outer layers are recommended.
- 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 sea watching or boreal forest site.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour will depart from Montréal–Trudeau International Airport. As day 1 has been set aside as an arrival day, you are free to arrive at any time. The tour will conclude here after breakfast on day 8.

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.

Montréal–Trudeau International Airport (IATA: YUL) is the main port of entry and departure for this tour.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.