University of San Diego® ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Duration
9 days

Activity Level
Moderate

Journey Type
Land



Ottawa & French Canada

September 12-21, 2027

Ottawa, Montreal & Québec City | Starting from $5,945/pp

Delight in the historic and cultural riches of three remarkable Canadian cities, along with the region's French heritage and the traditions of its Indigenous Peoples, on this enriching, nine-night journey. In Ottawa, tour two of the nation's premier institutions, the Canadian Museum of History and the National Gallery of Canada. While in Montreal, take in the vibrant old town, St. Joseph's Oratory and Habitat 67, plus enjoy a light show inside the stunning Basilica Notre-Dame. In Québec City, stroll through enchanting Old Québec, the birthplace of French North America, and step inside the grand cathedral and fortress. Along the way, visit the fascinating Wendake Huron Traditional Site, Montmorency Falls and pastoral Île d'Orléans . You'll also savor fresh maple syrup at an authentic sugar shack!





Day-by-Day Itinerary

Ottawa & French Canada

Ottawa, Montreal & Québec City

Air Program: 10 days/ 9 nights

Land Program: 10 days/ 9 nights

Breakfasts: 9 | Lunches: 3 | Receptions: 2 | Dinners: 4

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Please note, excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, stairs, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches and boats.

- Mild: Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour
- Moderate: Walk 1-3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50-100 stairs; stand 1-2 hours
- Active: Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city | Ottawa, Canada

Lord Elgin Hotel

R | D

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Ottawa, Canada. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: YOW.

Arrive at Ottawa International Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to the Lord Elgin Hotel. Please note that if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available. Travelers who arrive early in the morning can join a tour of the ByWard Market led by your Travel Director.

This evening, get better acquainted with your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 2 | Ottawa

Lord Elgin Hotel

B | L

Enrichment: History of Canada. A local expert delves into significant chapters in the nation's history and the long-standing, interconnected relationship between Canada and the United States.

Ottawa Walking Tour. Originally inhabited by the Algonquin First Nations people, this area was first described in historic records in 1613 by French cartographer and explorer Samuel de Champlain and later became part of New France, France's colonies in North America. With its abundant natural resources and network of rivers, it prospered as a trading center for timber and fur for more than two centuries. In 1763, following years of conflict with the British, France ceded all their territory in mainland North America east of the Mississippi to Britain

as part of the Treaty of Paris. After the War of 1812 with the United States, Britain feared that the St. Lawrence River was a vulnerable shipping route for their important military base in Kingston and decided to create a secure, alternate transportation path. Plans were laid for turning the Rideau River into a canal, and a town for the workers, known as Bytown, was established here in 1826. Incorporated as the city of Ottawa in 1855, it would be selected by Queen Victoria as the capital two years later. Hear about Ottawa's evolution as you admire the grand Gothic Revival government buildings on Parliament Hill, the National War Memorial, scenic Major's Hill Park and more. (Moderate)

After your guided walk, relax over lunch with your group in the vibrant ByWard Market District.

National Gallery of Canada. View exceptional works of art at the nation's premier art institution, housed in a striking building of glass and granite designed by acclaimed architect Moshe Safdie. The Gallery's extensive collections include paintings, sculptures, photographs and decorative objects by Indigenous and Canadian artists as well as European and American art. (Moderate)

Free Time: Make dinner plans of your own this evening. Ottawa offers wonderfully enticing restaurants, breweries, cafes and one-of-a-kind eateries. If you'd like recommendations, consult your Travel Director.

Day 3 | Ottawa

Lord Elgin Hotel

B | L

Canadian Museum of History. Gain interesting insights about the heritage and culture of the many peoples of Canada, including the First Nations, Métis and Inuit, on a guided tour at this outstanding museum. Set along the Ottawa River in a curvy building designed by Indigenous architect Douglas Cardinal, it boasts a spectacular collection of totem poles in the Grand Hall. See more on your own during free time after the tour. (Moderate)

Following your museum visit, head to a restaurant for a satisfying lunch.

Rideau Canal Cruise. Embark on a cruise along this historic engineering marvel aboard a 100% electric vessel. Named a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Rideau Canal stretches approximately 126 miles through the province of Ontario from Ottawa to Kingston and represents the best-preserved example of a slackwater canal in North America. This type of canal uses dams and locks to create slow-moving, tranquil reservoirs of water along a route with rapids. Under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel John By of the British Royal Engineers (for whom Bytown was named), the canal was started in 1826 and completed in 1832. Its stone control dams and locks remain largely intact today. Now used as a waterway for pleasure craft, the Rideau Canal is also alive with activity in the winter. From January to early March, ice-skaters of all ages flock here to glide along a roughly five-mile section called the Skateway that winds through the city. (Moderate)

Free Time: Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

Day 4 | Ottawa | Montreal

DoubleTree by Hilton Montreal

B

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart by motor coach for Montreal. Check into the DoubleTree by Hilton Montreal. After getting settled, enjoy lunch at leisure.

Old Montreal Walking Tour. Canada's second-largest city was founded in 1642 by a group of French Catholics as a missionary colony on an island where the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers converge. First called Ville-Marie, the settlement eventually became associated with Mont Royal, the island's mountain, from which the city's name is derived. Today, Montreal is one of North America's most cosmopolitan cities, fiercely proud of its French heritage and the robust multicultural, multilingual community that imbues it with a sophisticated flair. Get acquainted with its charismatic blend of Old-World character and modernity on a guided walk. Stroll in the Place d'Armes, noted for the splendid Basilique Notre-Dame de Montreal, and lively Place Jacques-Cartier, the gateway to the Old Port, the city's birthplace. Enjoy the atmosphere along buzzing Rue Saint-Paul and see highlights like the stately, 19th-century Montreal City Hall and the domed Neoclassical Bonsecours Market. (Moderate)

Free Time: Select a nice place for dinner on your own this evening. Montreal's flourishing culinary scene offers endless delectable options! During your stay, don't miss favorites such as poutine, fresh-cut fries covered with cheese curds and smothered in gravy; smoked beef brisket sandwiches; and tasty Montreal-style bagels, simmered in honey water and baked in wood-fired ovens.

Day 5 | Montreal

DoubleTree by Hilton Montreal

B | D

St. Joseph's Oratory. High up on a slope in Mont Royal Park sits majestic St. Joseph's Oratory, an Italian Renaissance-style Roman Catholic basilica and Canada's largest church. It began humbly as a small chapel erected in 1904 under the direction of André Bessette, known as Brother André, a monk of the Congregation of the Holy Cross and a renowned healer, who was canonized as a saint in 2010. Brother André attributed his miracles to his devotion to Saint Joseph, and as his fame increased, the chapel was expanded numerous times. In 1914, at his urging, the Congregation of Holy Cross approved plans to build a basilica in honor of St. Joseph. On your guided tour, hear more about the development of this monumental church. As a national shrine, St. Joseph's Oratory is a popular pilgrimage site and features 99 wooden steps at the entrance reserved for pilgrims who wish to climb on their knees. (Moderate)

Next, step inside the colorful Jean-Talon Market with free time for lunch and shopping. This bustling public market in the heart of Montreal's Little Italy neighborhood overflows with fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables, meats, regional cheeses, flowers, local artisanal products and much more.

Free Time: Return to the hotel this afternoon for some leisure time, then rejoin your fellow travelers for this evening's outing.

AURA at Basilique Notre-Dame de Montreal. T he city's magnificent Gothic Revival church opened in 1829 and was built by the Society of the Priests of Saint-Sulpice, who had deep ties to the founding of Montreal. While the basilica's exterior is somewhat somber, the richly ornamented interior dazzles with decorative details inspired by Sainte-Chapelle, a royal chapel in Paris. Tonight, enjoy a marvelous, immersive light show that showcases this exquisite space. (Moderate)

After the show, walk with your group to one of Montreal's fine steakhouses for a delicious dinner.

Day 6 | Montreal

DoubleTree by Hilton Montreal

B

Habitat 67. In 1967, Montreal hosted the Universal and International Exhibition, better known as Expo 67, a world's fair that also celebrated Canada's centennial. Over its 183-day run, almost 55 million visitors explored more than 90 pavilions, including the groundbreaking Habitat 67 residential complex along the St. Lawrence River. Created by architect Moshe Safdie, these modular concrete dwellings were designed to maximize natural light and fresh air and featured interconnected walkways and garden terraces. On a guided tour, learn more about this revolutionary architectural icon and appreciate it up close. (Moderate)

Free Time: Pursue your own interests this afternoon before the evening event.

Bourgie Concert Hall. Attend a musical performance tonight at this intimate concert hall on the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts campus. Inaugurated in 2011, the venue is housed in the converted nave of the former Erskine and American Church. Adorning the hall are 81 breathtaking stained-glass windows, including 20 originals by Tiffany, which add a lovely ambience to the concert experience. (Moderate)

Day 7 | Wendake | Québec City

Clarendon Hotel

B | L | D

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for the Traditional Huron Site in Wendake. Once you arrive, savor a refreshing lunch at a restaurant that specializes in Indigenous cuisine.

Traditional Huron Site . Learn about the rich culture of the Wendat people, who have lived in Québec since 1650, at this meticulously recreated Wendat village. On a guided tour, delve into the traditions, ways of life and historical struggles of the Huron-Wendat Nation. Go inside a longhouse and smokehouse and delve into sweat lodge purification rituals. (Moderate)

Later this afternoon, check in to the Clarendon Hotel in Québec City.

AHI Connects | Erabliere du Lac-Beauport Sugar Shack. Get a sweet taste of Québecois traditions at this family-owned sugar shack outside of Québec City. Learn about the evolution of maple syrup production, from its discovery by First Nations peoples to modern techniques, at the Maple Museum. Afterward, savor a satisfying dinner featuring folk music and lots of fresh maple syrup! (Moderate)

Day 8 | Old Québec

Clarendon Hotel

B

Enrichment: Spotlight on Québec City. A local expert traces the city's fascinating development across three formative periods: the French Regime, British Heritage and the Canadian Way.

Old Québec Walking Tour. For thousands of years, this area was home to Indigenous peoples who hunted, fished and raised corn. In 1608, Samuel Champlain established a trading post and fort at the foot of Cape Diamond (Cap Diamant) known as the "Habitation," marking the first permanent French settlement. Strategically positioned with a convenient port for seafaring vessels, the growing city quickly became the predominant hub for domestic and overseas trade as well as a military center. Its Upper and Lower Towns at the top and bottom of Cape Diamond expanded over the centuries, and impressive fortifications were erected around the Upper Town.

On your guided walk at this UNESCO World Heritage site, begin in the Upper Town and take in the grandeur of the Château Frontenac, a hotel built in 1892 by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in an architectural style influenced by the medieval châteaus of France's Loire Valley. See the 17th-century stone ramparts and elegant landmarks from the late 18th century. Then, take a funicular ride down to the Lower Town. Soak up the historic charm of Place Royale, the site of Champlain's "Habitation," and stroll around the narrow lanes of the picture-perfect Petit Champlain district. (Moderate)

Enjoy lunch on your own in this charming district.

Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec & the Citadelle. Return to the Upper Town after lunch for a guided tour of the city's beautiful cathedral-basilica, standing on the site of Québec City's first chapel built by Samuel Champlain in 1633. After that structure burned, the Jesuits constructed a stone church in 1647, and the oldest parts of the cathedral-basilica date to this era. A special standout inside is the ornate, gilded baldachin, or canopy, supported by angel statues that appears to float over the choir area. Next, enter the imposing Citadelle de Québec, an active military base since 1920 and a National Historic Site. Listen as your guide shares details about these defensive fortifications built by the British between 1820-1831. (Moderate)

Free Time: Set your own agenda this evening for dinner. In addition to the Québecois classic, poutine, perhaps you'll indulge in some of Québec City's most famous dishes including fèves au lard, baked beans seasoned with pork; cretons, a savory pork pâté on toast; the tourtière meat pie; and pouding chômeur, a sweet, rich pudding.

Day 9 | Montmorency Falls | Île d'Orléans | Québec City

Clarendon Hotel

B | R | D

Montmorency Falls & Île d'Orléans. This morning, visit stunning Montmorency Falls, about 100 feet taller than Niagara Falls and the highest waterfall in the province of Québec. Get fantastic views of the cascading waters from a cable car. Afterward, travel to Île d'Orléans, a serene, pastoral island in the St. Lawrence River with six picturesque communities. Delight in the enchanting scenery, laidback vibe and bounty of farm-fresh treats and artisanal goods during free time on your own. While on the island, you'll also relish a tasting of local wines at a winery. (Moderate)

Back in Québec City tonight, celebrate your Canadian sojourn with your fellow travelers during a Farewell Reception and Dinner at a restaurant.

Day 10 | Depart gateway city

B

After breakfast, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Québec City Jean Lesage International Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details





What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 3 nights in Ottawa, Canada, at the first-class Lord Elgin Hotel.
- 3 nights in Montreal at the first-class DoubleTree by Hilton Montreal.
- 3 nights in Québec City at the first-class Clarendon Hotel.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions & Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program with baggage handling.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.





FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Lord Elgin Hotel

Feel the sense of heritage at this stately, historic hotel, which opened in 1941. Ottawa's top attractions, including Parliament Hill, ByWard Market and Rideau Canal, are within an easy walk from its central downtown location. Relish attentive service from the warm, professional staff and well-appointed, comfy guest rooms with complimentary Wi-Fi. The Forty-One restaurant features excellent breakfast, lunch and dinner menus of Canadian and Continental cuisine as well as a casual bar and lounge. When you want to unwind, head to the fitness club, lap pool, whirlpool or sauna.



Tripadvisor

Clarendon Hotel

Historic charm abounds at this elegant property in the heart of scenic Old Québec. Continuously operating since 1870, the Clarendon Hotel features beautiful architectural details that create a warm ambience. You'll also enjoy a friendly welcome from the helpful staff who work hard to ensure that your stay is a pleasant one. After touring, retreat to your spacious, modern guest room with handy amenities including complimentary Wi-Fi. For tasty French-inspired dishes, check out the Brasserie Les Mordus on site, which features daily rotating menus with a special focus on fish and seafood.



Tripadvisor

DoubleTree by Hilton Montreal

Enjoy a comfortable, relaxing stay at this first-class hotel in the heart of Montreal's downtown entertainment district, Quartier des Spectacles, with connected access to the restaurants and shops of the Complexe Desjardins mall and within walking distance of Place des Arts and the Old Town. During down time, swim or lounge at the spacious indoor pool area. For a special dining experience, make plans to visit the elegant Restaurant Bivouac bistro. The hotel's large, modern guest rooms feature complimentary Wi-Fi.



Tripadvisor

Pricing

$500 Full Payment Discount expires April 15, 2027
$250 Special Savings expires November 24, 2026

Trip Price (USD)

Base Price	**$5,945**
Special Savings (Expires November 24, 2026)	**-$250**
Full Payment Discount *	**-$500**
Special Price	**$5,195**
You Pay	**$5,195 per person**

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


CANADA
Montmorency Falls
Wendake
Île d'Orléans
Québec City
Ottawa
Montreal
Atlantic Ocean

