



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Harp Seal Adventure



Baby harp seal, Iles de la Madeleine

DAY 1 - Arrive Montréal.

On arrival at International Airport take a taxi (not included) to your centrally-located hotel.

PRIVATE LIMOUSINE TRANSFERS: If you prefer we can arrange for you to be met at Montréal Airport by a representative of World Discovery and taken by private chauffeur-driven limousine to your hotel. The one-way cost is £30 per person.

DAY 2 - Montréal.

Montréal is the gateway to the province of Québec, a vibrant modern city located on an island in the St Lawrence River. Despite its modernity, the city also boasts a wealth of historic buildings and your hotel is located in the old quarter, with its narrow cobbled streets lined with restaurants and boutiques. For an introduction to the city's history we recommend a visit to the excellent **Museum of Archaeology and History** within walking distance of your hotel. You should not miss the amazing interior of the Basilica of Notre-Dame. Montréal is famed for its cuisine and in the evening there is a host of restaurants to choose from. The hotel's own Verses Restaurant is worth sampling, or if you wish to add in a touch of history, you could try the **Auberge Le Saint Gabriel**, the oldest inn in North America (1754).

Meals included: Continental buffet breakfast.

DAY 3 – Flight to Iles de la Madeleine.

Take a flight to Iles de la Madeleine, a string of a dozen small islands in the Gulf of St Lawrence. You will be bewitched with their sense of isolation and unspoiled natural beauty. On arrival you will be met and taken to your hotel, your base for the next 3 nights.

Meals included: Continental buffet breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAYS 4 AND 5 – Harp Seal Adventure.

A full programme of activities has been arranged for you during your stay on Iles de la Madeleine. Three half day excursions will take you to explore the Eastern, Central and Western parts of the island; you will visit the Seal Interpretation Centre, and there is a thrilling 3 hour excursion by helicopter during which you get to see the seals at really close range. For the first two weeks of their life, baby seals or 'whitecoats' grow at an amazing rate, thanks to the fact that their mothers' milk is 40% fat. During this period, their lovely white coat gradually peels off and their appearance gives rise to another nickname, 'ragged-jacket'. The baby is weaned approximately two weeks after birth and his mother leaves him on the ice to go off and mate. Once he has finished shedding his baby coat, the young seal is called a 'beater'. His fur becomes silvery and mottled with darker patches.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner each day.

DAY 6 - Fly to Québec City.

Included transfer to the airport for your flight to Québec City, perched on a cliff overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Your hotel is located in the heart of the Old Quarter.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 7 - Québec City.

A free day to explore this truly historic city. Take in the old city with its cobbled streets, stone buildings and strongly fortified walls. Enjoy the views over the St Lawrence River from the Dufferin Terrace and take time to explore the colourful streets, stores, pavement cafes and restaurants. Québec City was the first French settlement in North America and celebrated its 400th birthday in 2008. The most famous incident in the city's history, from a British perspective, was the victory of General Wolfe over the French on the Plains of Abraham in 1759; this effectively led to Canada being handed to Britain by the Treaty of Paris four years later. Well worth exploring (on a guided tour - you can't visit it on your own) is the La Citadelle, the huge fortress at the southern edge of the walled city. Québec City is also famed for its superb cuisine and there are many restaurants to choose from. One we particularly recommend is the La Crémaillère, housed in a mansion that once belonged to the British Governor James Murray. There is also the better known (and therefore harder to book) Aux Anciens Canadiens, in another historic building dating from 1676.

DAY 8 – Depart for home.

Transfer to the airport for your homeward flights.

DAY 9 - Arrive home.

Arrive London Heathrow in the morning.