

Velo Les Cantons de l'Est

July 9-13, 2012 Magog, Quebec

The Eastern Townships of Quebec lie to the south east of Montreal towards the US border. It is characterized by rolling hills, mixed forest and small farms, rivers, lakes and small towns. It is in an area originally settled by english loyalists and Scots who used the power and water provided by rivers to open lumber and later textile mills. Sherbrooke, Magog, Stanstead, Granby all were important areas of textile production. Later it became a favourite recreational area for Montrealers and wealthy Americans.

Magog

Magog began as a camp on Lac Memphremagog for the First Nations in the region. The town was founded in 1776, when Loyalists immigrated from nearby Vermont. They called it The Outlet, referring to the flow of water emptying into the Magog River from the lake. The town was later named after Lake Memphremagog, on which the city is situated. Because of its location on a large lake, Magog has always been an attractive recreational area in the summer. Its proximity to several ski areas has made it a 4 season destination.

Today the main street is an eclectic mix of boutiques, restaurants and cafes; a lovely lakeside boardwalk and public beach attracts summer tourists who can stay at a number of motels, condos and B&B's. Magog is on Quebec's route des vins and la route verte

Another attraction, the Abbey of St Benoit du Lac sits on the shores of the lake a few kilometers outside Magog. This Benedictine community produces and sells an array of products on their farm. The celebration of Eucharist at 11am should not be missed. The abbey also offers accommodation for men and women.

Entertainment:

The Piggery is a historic summer theatre(english) located in an old barn outside North Hatley about 20 minutes from Magog. This historic old theatre has been entertaining the summer residents of the area with classic summer theatre since the 1960's

There are a number of restaurants, cafes and bars in and around Magog to keep guests entertained and well fed. Estriloge offers guests un diner champetre – a dinner cooked in a local home with locally produced meat and produce.

Aventure I and II tour the lake each day, and offer an evening sailing that includes dinner.

Bike Routes

Quebec's famous Route Verte criss-crosses the area and attracts thousands of bicyclists every year. The routes we'll ride during the week will give you plenty of opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauty of the area, its rivers, lakes, rural farms and quaint summer tourist towns, as well as the famous Quebec joie de vive and food. All riders will meet initially in the parking lot next to the information centre in Magog. We may alter the days during the week depending on weather.

a. Magog-Sherbrooke return – 10am start?

This is a 45 km ride that begins in Magog and follows the Magog river to the town of Sherbrooke. This is a relatively flat ride that follows one section of the route verte. Along the way we will have a chance to stop at a winery, and sample some local dishes at a casse croute along the river.

b. Waterloo – Granby Loop – 46 km 9am start?

This ride begins in Waterloo – a 30 minute drive from Magog. We'll begin at the information centre in

Waterloo and take the route verte thru mixed woods along a paved trail to Granby. After a stop for lunch, we'll continue to Parc Yamaska. After paying the \$5 entry, we'll follow the trail around the lake and stop for a relaxing swim . From the parc we pick up la Compagnarde – a crusher dusted trail back to Waterloo.

http://www.estriade.net/images/stories/carte_du_reseau.jpg

c. Ayers Cliff – Stanstead Loop – 45 km – 930am start

we'll begin in the village of Ayers Cliff – a quaint tourist town on beautiful lac Massawippi a 15 minute drive from Magog. The Tomifobia trail – an old rail line follows a gentle incline thru mixed forest to the town of Stanstead on the US Border; in fact the border divides the main street of the town! After lunch we'll follow route 143 thru rolling hills back to Ayers Cliff.

http://www.sentiernaturetomifobia.com/img/carte_snt2010.pdf

d. Sherbrooke – North Hatley Loop 40km 9am start

We carpool to Sherbrooke -a 30 minute drive and park at Lac des Nations at the train station. The ride begins along the lake and eventually heads inland. After a 2 km climb, we head down a paved country road towards the town of North Hatley on lac Missawippi. We will stop for lunch here, either in the park or one of the village cafes. After lunch we'll take the rail trail les grandes fourches along the Riviere Massawippi to Lennoxville and back to Sherbrooke.

Accommodations:

Magog is a lovely tourist town; easy to get around and for that reason I have looked here for some suggestions. Sherbrooke is only 30 minutes away and also has lots of accommodation.

Mont Orford Provincial Park is a 10 minute drive/20 minute bike ride from Magog and offers a variety of types of camping.

http://www.sepaq.com/pq/mor/index.dot?language_id=1

Motel Outlet provides basic motel accommodation and is a 10 minute bike ride to the beach in Magog

<http://www.moteloutlet.ca/home.html>

Club Azur Condo Rentals – They provide 1,2 bedroom fully furnished condos – a short bike or walk from downtown and the boardwalk

<http://www.clubazur.com/default-english.html>

Motel Fleur de Lys – They provide basic motel accommodation as well as several furnished chalets.

They are on the lake – a short walk/ride to downtown along the boardwalk. I am currently looking into a group rate.

<http://www.motellefleurdelys.net/e/accueil02.html>

I hope you can join us.

David Ripley Manon Gaudreau

call if you have questions

422-2437