Bas-Saint-Laurent/Gaspésie Self-Guided Quebec Maritime Tour

Total Distance: 1,710 kilometres in 6 days of riding

For complete details, check out tour article: Winter Without End. Download PDF of itinerary.

Notes: TQ = Trans Quebec; RT = Regional Trail; LT = Local Trail. Days 2, 3 and part of 4 (morning) and 7 (afternoon) use Bas-Saint-Laurent map; Days 4 (afternoon), 5, 6 and 7 (morning) use Gaspésie map.

Bas-Saint-Laurent Day One

Trailer 920 km from Toronto to Riviere-du-Loup (drive time from Greater Toronto Area: about 11 hours) Where To Stay: Hotel Universel. For touring riders heading east, the Hotel Universel is the best staging location on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. Located on Highway 20 at Exit 503 and right on Regional Trail 526, it offers truck & trailer parking in a secure compound, as well as secure outdoor sled parking and indoor (heated) sled garages — and a gas station/convenience store next door. Very snowmobile-friendly, the Hotel Universel has a scrumptious on site restaurant and cozy bar, an indoor pool and hot tub, plus a new hotel wing with world-class rooms, including a new spa & health club.

Bas-Saint-Laurent Day Two

Ride 300 km day trip from Rivière-du-Loup and back on Kamouraska Loop via RT526, TQ85, TQ5, RT553, TQ35, RT526, TQ85, RT544, RT565, TQ5, TQ85, RT526. **Fuel:** Saint-Bruno, Mont Carmel, Rivière-du-Loup. **Lunch:** Clubhouse at junction of TQ35 and RT526. **Where To Stay: Hotel Universel**

Bas-Saint-Laurent Day Three

Ride 332 km day trip from Rivière-du-Loup and back on Témiscouata Loop via RT526, TQ85, RT544, TQ35, RT548, TQ35, RT569, RT548, TQ85, RT526. **Fuel:** Cabano, Squatec, Rivière-du-Loup. **Lunch:** Squatec **Where To Stay:** <u>Hotel Universel</u>

Bas-Saint-Laurent/Gaspésie Day Four

Ride 277 km on south trails of Monts-Notre-Dame Loop from Rivière-du-Loup to Saint-Gabriel de Rimouski via RT526, TQ85, RT567, TQ5, RT571, RT548, RT546, TQ5, RT578, RT579. Fuel & Lunch: Squatec. Where To Stay: Domaine Valga. The Domaine Valga is an authentic Quebec log chalet with nine guest rooms, some with private bathrooms. Easy to find off Regional Trail 579 (about mid-way between Rimouski and Mont Joli) the atmosphere is casual and the meals home-cooked (go online to make your dinner choice when you make reservations). Fuel: Les Hauteurs about 5 klicks south.

Gaspésie Day Five

Ride 256 km from Saint-Gabriel de Rimouski to Point-à-la-Croix via RT579, RT587n, TQ5, TQ587s, TQ5. Fuel: Les Hauteurs, Albertville, Saint-Francois-d'Assise, Point-à-la-Croix. Lunch: Albertville Where To Stay: Restaurant-Motel Interprovincial — (Note: has been bought by the Sélecotel chain, so name may change). There's a huge sign out front that simply says: "Motel" — and it's the only one near the trail. Located just off Trans Quebec Trail 5 (turn south across railway tracks), there's also well marked gas about 2 klicks west of the motel. The on site Pastali

Restaurant specializes in good Italian food and also offers a full menu. No convenience store accessible by sled, but the front desk will provide a phone number for one delivers quickly to the motel for a modest \$2 service fee.

Gaspésie Day Six

Ride 240 km from Point-à-la-Croix to Matane via TQ5. **Fuel:** Caupuscal, Matane. **Lunch:** Amqui. **Where To Stay:** Riotel Matane. Located on the east side of town right on the shore of the St. Lawrence River just off Trans Quebec Trail 5, the way to the Riotel along back lane ways and side streets is well-signed and goes right past a gas station/convenience store. The hotel offers some ground floor rooms where sleds can park in front and features an on site restaurant and bar, plus an outdoor hot tub and indoor sauna. A new wing is being built to expand the hotel.

Gaspésie/Bas-Saint-Laurent Day Seven

Ride 305 km on north trail of Monts-Notre-Dame Loop from Matane to Rivière-du-Loup via TQ5, TQ85, RT526. Fuel: Saint-Eugène, Rivière-du-Loup. Lunch: Clubhouse on TQ5 west of Saint-Eugène. Where To Stay: Hotel Universel

Bas-Saint-Laurent Day Eight

Trailer home.

Who To Contact: <u>Tourisme Quebec Maritime</u>; <u>Tourisme Quebec</u>; <u>FCMQ</u> (for permits and trail info)

Maps Needed: Bas-Saint-Laurent; Gaspésie

Riders should reconfirm the routes and services mentioned in this article as they may have changed since publication.