Eastern Canada’s four largest cities each boast a personality and culture unique to itself. On this tour we will visit some of the charming towns and cities of our northern neighbor. **Niagara-on-the-Lake** is a wonderful village just a few miles from Niagara Falls, but feels like a completely different world from the bustling tourist center along the waterway. The most populous city in Canada and the provincial capital of Ontario, **Toronto** is well known for its skyscrapers and high-rise buildings, especially the CN Tower. **Ottawa** is a cosmopolitan city with grand Victorian architecture and renowned museums befitting the capital. **Quebec City**, dating to 1608, retains its French origins with the Vieux-Québec and Place Royale, with narrow streets, stone buildings and a European feel. **Montreal** is the largest city in Quebec and combines Old World charm with the sophistication of a modern, bustling city. We will also explore the **Thousand Islands region**, named for the nearly 1,800 islands nestled within this scenic international waterway with endless shorelines, rich history and unique culture. This vacation is one that will surely enlighten all of your senses!

**Tues, June 11th – Visiting our Northern Neighbor and Niagara Falls!**
Grab your passport and meet your tour directors Dea and Declan at the St. Louis Airport as we head for Canada!

We fly on Southwest Airlines to Buffalo, New York, where we meet our coach, head across the border at Niagara Falls, and stop at **Table Rock Welcome Center in Niagara Falls Park**. Our destination this afternoon is the serene **Niagara-on-the-Lake**, known as “the prettiest town in Ontario.” The Heritage District is made for walking, with its boutique shops, cast iron planters bursting with flowers and horse-drawn carriages transporting riders to another time and place.

Once we have checked into our hotel in Niagara Falls and have had a chance to relax and refresh, enjoy free time in the area. Enjoy the unique shops and galleries. Tonight we dine as a group at a locally owned restaurant. (D)

**Wed, June 12th –Toronto Highlights and Royal Ontario Museum!**
After breakfast in the hotel, we board the coach and travel to **Toronto**, where we meet our local guide and embark on a 2-hour walking/windshield tour of this lovely city, with highlights including **Chinatown**, **Queen’s Park**, **Rogers Centre** (originally named SkyDome), **Eaton Center**, **Harbourfront**, the trendy **Yorkville area**, the **Distillery District**, the **Financial District** and more. We end at the **Kensington Market**, home to an array of indie shops, vintage boutiques, specialty grocers, cafes and international restaurants. Have lunch on your own as you take in the ambience of this special place.
Our next stop is the Royal Ontario Museum, the largest museum in Canada, featuring notable collections of dinosaurs, minerals and meteorites, Near Eastern and African art, Art of East Asia, European history and Canadian history. It also houses the world’s largest collection of fossils from the Burgess Shale, with more than 150,000 specimens. The museum also contains an extensive collection of design and fine arts, including clothing, interior and product design, especially Art Deco.

We then check into the hotel to relax and refresh before we head out for our CN Tower Dinner, where, in just 58 seconds, you will find yourself at a height of 1,136 feet overlooking breathtaking views of Toronto. A most memorable dinner is served at the 360 Restaurant located on the Lookout Level of the Tower. We then return to the hotel. (B, D)

Thurs, June 13th – Castle and Capital

Enjoy breakfast served at the hotel before we head to Canada’s capital city, Ottawa. But first, we visit Casa Loma, Canada’s majestic castle. Step back in time to a period of European elegance and splendor in the former home of Canadian financier Sir Henry Pellatt, who built Canada’s foremost castle complete with decorated suites, secret passages, an 800-foot tunnel, towers, stables and beautiful 5 acre estate gardens.

When we arrive in Ottawa late afternoon, we visit the renowned Byward Market, Canada’s oldest and largest public market and the city’s premier destination for shopping, dining, arts and entertainment. The architecture and variety of shops and boutiques are simply amazing. Afterwards, we check into our downtown hotel located in the heart of Canada’s capital city. This historic landmark, with its eye-catching art deco style, is a leader among the downtown hotels. Refresh and relax before dinner at a local favorite, just a short walk from the hotel through the historic district. (B,D)

Fri, June 14th – Ottawa, Canada’s Capital

Enjoy a full, hearty breakfast in the hotel before we board the coach as our local guide, dressed in historic garb and in historic character, leads us on a 2-hour tour of Ottawa. We see the Capital, the Eternal Flame, the Museum of Civilisation Lookout in Hull, the Prime Minister’s residence, Rideau Hall, the Rockcliffe District and more.

We then enjoy a guided tour of Canada’s Parliament Buildings. This gorgeous Gothic-style structure overlooks the Ottawa River and sits on top of Parliament Hill. There are hundreds of individual gargoyles, grotesques, reliefs and bosses carved into the stonework of the buildings.

We then head to Byward Market for lunch on our own before we visit the Canadian Museum of History, one of the most visited museums in the country, linking past, present and future. Marvel at the world’s largest indoor collection of totem poles and explore the traditions and achievements of Canada’s first people.

We then visit Jacques Cartier Park, where we embark on a 75-minute narrated Ottawa River Cruise. Your cruise will take you by the National Arts Center, University of Ottawa, Parliament, Notre Dame, Rideau Falls, Victoria Island, various Embassy Buildings and more! We then return to the hotel, where dinner is on your own this evening. (B)

Sat, June 15th – Head towards Quebec

After a hearty breakfast, we check out of the hotel. Before we leave Ottawa, we tour Rideau Hall, where it has been the official residence in Ottawa of both the Canadian monarch and his or her representative, the Governor General of Canada, since 1867. During your tour, you will visit the staterooms where the Governor General fulfills official duties welcoming dignitaries and honoring Canadians. The residence is also home to a magnificent collection of Canadian art and furniture.
Our next stop is Quebec City, where this afternoon we meet our local guide and embark on a 2-hour tour of this historic city. During your tour you will see such sites as the Plains of Abraham, Cape Diamond, The Joan of Arc Garden, Parliament, Place d’Armes, Old Quebec known as Vieux-Québec, Place Royal and more!

We then check into our hotel located in the heart of the historic and culturally vibrant Old Quebec City. There will be time to relax and refresh before the evening’s meal at an historic restaurant located in the charming Petite Champlain Quarter. Enjoy magnificent views of the Saint Lawrence River and the Chateau Frontenac while dining on casual fare.

After dinner, there will be time to walk around Petite Champlain and to ride the Old Quebec Funicular, a funicular railway that connects the Upper Town to the Lower Town. As you travel at a 45-degree angle, you will have amazing views of the surrounding area. (B, D)

Sun, June 16th – Quebec City and Huron-Wendat Nation

Enjoy breakfast this morning before we explore La Citadelle, the “Gibraltar of America.” The citadel was built at the top of Cape Diamond in the mid-1800s and is the largest British fortress built in North America. Learn about its critical role in the city’s defense system. After our tour, there will be time to explore the Royal 22e Regiment Museum. Enjoy an interactive experience while exploring the architectural heritage of the fortress and the regiment’s history through interviews, video archives and interactive battle maps.

Next we visit the Huron-Wendat Village. This authentic reconstruction of a Huron village is a window into the history, traditions and ways of life of the Huron-Wendat Nation, as we visit the Long House (Huron’s traditional housing), the smokehouse and drying tent, the sweating tent and the giant tee-pee. You will also learn of the history, food, transportation, religion and medicine of the Huron people. Climb into a large canoe and listen as our guide tells us about their traditional means of transportation and the methods of making of canoes and snowshoes. We will also learn about the Medicine Wheel, a tool that was commonly used in ceremonies, teachings and therapies by the native people of North America. Made of deer leather and goose and pheasant feathers, the medicine wheel is used to chase away illness.

The cross represents the four cardinal points and intends to protect each and every home around the world and the caribou bones are a symbol of luck. Many cultures have used the medicine wheel or circle like structures as sacred ways of organizing and passing on understanding, knowledge and information about existence. You will have the opportunity to make your own medicine wheel to bring home!

During our visit, we will enjoy a traditional meal consisting of soup, Bannock (Indian Bread) and a Bison Burger served with potatoes seasoned with fresh herbs, accompanied by seasonal vegetables. Dessert is Algonquin Cake with a burnt sugar sauce. Yum!

We then return to the Old City and embark on a guided tour of the Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac, Canada’s most beloved hotel and the most photographed hotel in the world. As you explore this castle like hotel that stands high on a bluff overlooking the mighty Saint Lawrence River, you will learn of the historical events that have shaped the identity of the Frontenac over the years, as well as its architectural development. After our tour, we will be treated to an afternoon tea at the Frontenac. You’ll feel like royalty when you sip tea served with biscotti, chocolate and pastries!

We then return to the hotel to freshen up before our Cabane a Sucre dinner, known as a Sugar Shack dinner. Enjoy a traditional shack meal of homemade pickles, homemade bread and butter, French-Canadian pea soup, coleslaw, baked beans, maple-smoked ham, potatoes, pork rinds, pancakes with maple syrup and maple taffy on snow. Dinner is followed by live entertainers who play traditional music and let you have a chance to play the spoons! We have a guided tour of the Maple Sugar shack and the adjoining property. (B, L, D)
**Mon, June 17th – Montreal’s Old World Charm**

After breakfast at the hotel, we visit the **Augustinian Monastery**. Once off limits to outsiders, *Le Monastère des Augustines*, now a boutique hotel and museum, is a haven of heritage, culture and wellness. It is also the home of the first hospital on the continent north of Mexico. During your tour, discover the community’s way of life, their work caring for the sick and how they balanced their traditional vocations for action and contemplation. When Sister Lise Tanguay first arrived at the historic Quebec City order in 1965, it was a closed community for the 170 nuns who slept and prayed there. They were truly cloistered and did not leave or go outside. They could only visit patients at the Hôtel Dieu Hospital, which adjoins the monastery building. But since the boutique hotel opened last year, the 73-year-old nun shares the space with tourists from around the world. Now, its refurbished cells are fully booked and *National Geographic Traveler* has named it the Number One destination for a mental and physical reboot.

After lunch on our own, we head to Montreal, where we enjoy a tour of this amazing city. Our tour includes admission to the **Notre-Dame Basilica**, and sites such as **Ste-Catherine Street, St Helen’s Island, Saint Joseph’s Oratory, Jacques Carter** and more! We end at our hotel located minutes away from the best of the city, where we spend the next two nights. Our dinner tonight is the renowned **Alpenhaus**, which has been serving delicious European specialties for over 38 years. The atmosphere in this rustic, cozy hideaway is seconded only by the amazing flavors from the kitchen. We then return to the hotel this evening. *(B, D)*

**Tues, June 18th – Magnificent Montreal!**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel before you immerse yourself in the culture, cuisine and history of Montreal! Start your day with a visit to one of the most beautiful destinations in the city, **Montreal Botanical Garden**. With its collection of 22,000 plant species and cultivars, 10 exhibition greenhouses and some 30 thematic gardens, it ranks as one of the world's largest and most spectacular botanical gardens. You are certain to be captivated by the colors and fragrances from around the world.

By this time, we will have worked up an appetite. Arrive at the **Jean Talon Market** where you may enjoy lunch on your own. This European style market has over 300 vendors. The open-air market is surrounded by other food businesses: meat, fish and cheese stores, bulk food emporia, dealers in spices and imported goods and bakeries. You will be amazed by the displays, aromas and tastes surrounding you.

Travel into Montreal’s **Old Port** area and experience one of its newest attractions, the **Observation Wheel**. Climb aboard a climate controlled gondola and enjoy a breathtaking panorama from a nearly 200 foot vantage point. After a sky high ride, enjoy free time to explore **Old Montreal**, a historical district that is a key part of the city’s cultural and economic life. Walk along the cobblestone streets past the some of the oldest buildings in Montreal. Visit the galleries and boutiques and witness the street performers. Sip a beverage or sample a delicious French pastry served at a sidewalk café.

We return to the hotel to refresh before our Farewell to Canada dinner. A visit to Montreal would not be complete without dinner in a French restaurant. Tonight’s dinner is served at a creperie, where you will savor the flavors of this traditional flat pancake rolled and filled with delicious ingredients. *(B, D)*

**Wed, June 19th – Thousand Islands and a Castle**

After breakfast at the hotel, bid a fond “au revoir” to Canada as you travel back
into the USA and stop in **Alexandria Bay, NY**, a village located in the Thousand Islands region. Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the shoreside restaurants before we set out on a 2 hour narrated **Heart of the Thousand Islands Scenic Cruise.** Cruise through the narrow channels, over historic sunken wrecks and by the magnificent summer homes of the rich and famous. As we cruise the waters of the mighty Saint Lawrence River, our guide will share historical facts and folklore as well as information about the area’s geology, environment and native wildlife.

Our cruise docks at **Boldt Castle** where we explore this magnificent home. Located on its own heart shaped island, this 129 room replica of a Rhineland castle was built by entrepreneur George C. Boldt for his wife as a summer home. Construction took place over the course of four years at the turn of the 19th century.

By this time, we will be ready for some refreshment, and the ideal stop is at the **1000 Island Winery**, the largest farm winery in northern New York State. Located along the Saint Lawrence River on a historic 40 acre farmstead established in 1836 where the primary grape varieties being planted in the Thousand Islands Region were developed by the University of Minnesota. Our visit includes a tour where you will learn about the wine making process and the history of the property. A tasting of 6 wines is served in the original 1923 Sears & Roebuck Barn! After our tasting, visit their onsite store where you may purchase cheese, crackers, snacks and of course, wine. We end our visit with a souvenir wine glass!

Our hotel this evening is located right on the Saint Lawrence River, providing amazing views surpassed only by the outstanding customer service. There will be time to relax and refresh at the hotel, and even to enjoy a beverage served in the lounge! Tonight we walk down the street to our waterfront dining destination. (B, D)

**Thurs, June 20th – Homeward Bound**

After breakfast this morning, we depart the hotel and head towards the airport. Along the way, we visit the **Antique Boat Museum**. This museum has over 300 unusual and beautifully preserved boats along with thousands of recreational boating artifacts. See the 106 foot houseboat, **La Duchesse**, that brings the gracious river lifestyle of 100 years ago to life. Built in 1903 for hotelier George Boldt, manager of New York City’s famed Waldorf-Astoria hotel, the houseboat has been in continuous use as an elegant summer residence ever since. Explore her luxurious interior and original furnishings, while hearing the story of this unique summer home. We next arrive in Sackets Harbor, where we visit the United Presbyterian Church with its beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows, pipe organ and ringing carillon! After our visit, have lunch on your own in historic Sackets Harbor before heading to the airport. Thank you for traveling with us! (B)

**Price includes:**
- Round trip transportation on Southwest Airlines, where bags fly free!
- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation throughout Canada and New York State
- Admission to the Royal Ontario Museum, the CN Tower and guided tour of Casa Loma
- Guided tour of the Parliament and Rideau Hall
- Admission to the Canadian Museum of History and the Funicular
- Tour of the La Citadelle, Huron Reservation, Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac, & St. Augustinian Monastery
- Afternoon tea at the Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac
- Admission to Montreal Botanical Garden and the Observation Wheel
- City Tour of Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec, and Montreal
- Narrated Cruise on the Ottawa River and the St. Lawrence River
- Admission to Boldt Castle and the Antique Boat Museum
- Tour and Taste at the 1000 Island Winery
- 17 Meals: (8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunches, 8 Dinner)
- Baggage handling at hotel
- 2 Professional Tour Directors with you from start to finish
- All gratuities including local guides, drivers and directors

Price: $4,494 pp, dbl occ credit

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(Note: Triple and Quad room rates include two beds per room, either double or queen sized beds)

Trip cancellation insurance available at an additional charge. Please see the Travel Insured brochure available from our office. Note that you are required to have a passport or passport card for this tour – Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance will not cover cancelation due to not having a passport.

Make your reservations today with a $500 deposit, including Travel Insured trip cancellation and interruption insurance if desired. By purchasing Travel Insured at time of deposit, you will be covered for all pre-existing conditions as well as protected if something happens on the tour.

Balance on tour is due March 10th, 2019 and no refunds will be given after that time except via Travel Insured Insurance. Space will be limited to 30 air tickets. After that price will be based on live air. There still may be a price increase before final payment if airline incurs a fuel surcharge. Following this a wait list will be formed. Please send a check along with your name, address, phone number and all roommates’ names if you are sharing a room.

* Ask about our special hotel rates at St. Louis airport hotel prior to and/or after the tour. *