



LIVE THE ADVENTURE

# explore

## CANADA'S 150 MOST AMAZING OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

PRESENTED BY EXPLORE MAGAZINE

WRITTEN BY DAVID WEBB





LE MASSIF DE CHARLEVOIX/B.GAGNON

## 88. SLED IN CHARLEVOIX

DIFFICULTY: \*\*

START HERE

Rest assured, there is quality ski touring in Eastern Canada too. Head into the Chic Chocs, home to the namesake Mountain Lodge, for Quebec's best backcountry skiing. Located 615 metres above sea level, the lodge is accessed by a track-equipped van and offers guests luxury in the wilderness—gourmet meals, comfy accommodations and views galore. Days are spent carving deep powder, skiing steep chutes and weaving through glades. There's even a spa to relax your muscles post-ski.

You remember the simple joy of sledding, right? Well, relive your childhood delights with an adult take on a classic winter activity. La Luge awaits at Le Massif de Charlevoix. Far from a kiddie-hill, this is a 7.5-kilometre-long sled track with steep drops and tight turns throughout. It's an exhilarating way to see the mountain and a surefire method to get your heart racing fast. But it's also mellow enough for all—there is even a midway break with a chalet to warm up in. Then, it's back to the slide...



GÉGORY CLOUTIER

## 89. SKI THE CHIC CHOCS

DIFFICULTY: \*\*\*

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TLDG

## 90. TRAVERSE THE GASPE

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Forgo the usual Caribbean beach-week and spend your vacation with Traversee de la Gaspésie—an all-inclusive six-day trek across the winter environs of Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula. Open to skiers and snowshoers as young as seven, you'll embark on a self-propelled journey along the Gaspé Peninsula, marveling at the icy Gulf of St. Lawrence and Chaleur Bay on one side and the 1,000-metre peaks of the Chic-Chocs on the other. This trip includes organized activities, regional-fare meals, lodging, luggage transport and daily routes ranging from 20 to 40 kilometres (ski) and 10 to 15 kilometres (snowshoe).



ANDRÉ QUENNEVILLE

### 91. CYCLE TOUR THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE

DIFFICULTY: \*\*

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Set remotely on Quebec’s Lower North Shore, Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve is a feast for the eyes and a less-visited outdoor recreation hot spot. For starters, this chain of more than 1,000 rocky islets rims the Gulf of St. Lawrence and features Dr. Seuss-like wave sculpted granite and limestone formations galore. Walk the beaches—it’s a selfie mecca. Above, the sky is rife with seabirds. In the distance, whales breach. Perhaps later you’ll paddle a kayak through the biodiverse waters, finishing with a night in a comfy oTENTik.

Located in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, rimmed by white-sand beaches and red cliffs, the archipelago of Îles de la Madeleine exerts a magnetic attraction on visitors. Cycling circuits weave through the islands—try the 58-kilometre route on the Eastern Islands (Pointe aux Loups, Grosse Île and Grande Entrée). This paved route follows the shoreline so closely you’ll feel the ocean spray on your face as you ride.



PARC CANADA DE LA JEUNESSE

### 92. ROCK ON AT MINGAN ARCHIPELAGO

DIFFICULTY: \*

START HERE



BOREAL RAFTING

### 93. RAFT THE MAGPIE

DIFFICULTY: \*\*\*

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The Magpie River tumbles for dozens of kilometres through virtually untouched boreal forests and Canadian Shield rocks. Moose and caribou wander the shoreline. Trout stack up in pools, waiting to be tempted with a cast. Exhilarating whitewater awaits. This is one of Canada’s best rafting trips. Adventurous folks must first make the trek to Sept-Îles, on Quebec’s North Shore, before flying into the wilderness. Watch the plane leave—the only way back to town is by river.