

# Fallscape through the city: Step into Québec's charm

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 [bbc.com/storyworks/bonjour-quebec/fallscape-through-the-city](https://www.bbc.com/storyworks/bonjour-quebec/fallscape-through-the-city)



**Région de Québec © GouvQc / H. Le Reste**

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**Wander cobblestone streets, savour delicious meals, browse harvest markets, and experience the neighbourhoods and villages that make Québec one of North America's most captivating fall destinations.**

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The first hint is the aroma. Fresh bread drifts from a neighbourhood bakery. Coffee steams behind café windows while market vendors arrange baskets of apples, artisan cheeses, preserves, and bottles of cider beneath canopies glowing with autumn colour. Around the corner, centuries-old stone buildings stand beside contemporary galleries and lively restaurants celebrating the season's harvest. Every town feels as though it's preparing to welcome you.



© Tourisme Outaouais / On the Go

**City energy and natural beauty exist side by side in the Outaouais – from Gatineau, the region's cultural heartbeat, to the quieter rhythm of Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, a short drive away at Village Majopial.**

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Set along the shores of Thirty-One Mile Lake, Village Majopial brings together lakeside accommodations, seasonal dining, hiking trails, and time on the water in one easygoing destination. Stay in a chalet or the inn at [Auberge Minitik](#), where mornings begin with light spreading across the lake before giving way to forest walks and afternoons exploring the shoreline. Meals celebrate the region's seasonal bounty, from Québec cheese curds and farm-fresh produce to maple-inspired flavours rooted in Outaouais' agricultural heritage.

One of the village's most distinctive experiences awaits beneath the restaurant at L'Huile d'Olive. Guests descend into a cool stone cellar to choose a bottle by hand, its dusty label hinting at evenings still to come. It's a small ritual that transforms an ordinary purchase into part of the journey.

**Beyond the village, scenic river viewpoints, cycling routes, spa retreats, and Gatineau's thriving arts and cultural scene add another layer to the region's character.**



© Ziptreck Écotours Tremblant

**As the road climbs into the Laurentians, forests thicken and mountain villages emerge among hillsides painted in brilliant autumn colours.**

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Between the bustle of summer and the arrival of ski season, village life becomes the region's greatest attraction. Mornings begin with neighbourhood boulangeries, lively café terraces, and independent boutiques that invite visitors to linger without any particular destination in mind.

For a completely different perspective, Jump Zone at [Ziptrek Ecotours Tremblant](#) offers exhilarating ways to experience the mountain from above. Whether soaring through the canopy on Québec's longest zipline course or taking the 65-foot drop from one of the signature viewing decks at the Jump Zone, visitors are rewarded with sweeping panoramas of the pedestrian village below, shimmering Lac Tremblant, and the rolling Laurentian Mountains stretching toward the horizon.

The roughly one-hour detour is just a short hike up from the village. Afterward, the pace slows again. A leisurely lunch on a sunny terrace, an afternoon browsing local shops, or an evening festival framed by mountain scenery reminds visitors that sometimes the most memorable moments happen between the headline attractions.



© Sekoya

**In Québec, fall is more than a change in season. It's a celebration of culture, creativity, and community, where historic streets, vibrant neighbourhoods, and welcoming villages invite exploration at every turn.**

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Leaving the mountains behind, the road opens into Laval, a city that rewards travelers who choose to stop rather than simply pass through.

Its galleries, seasonal events, and growing culinary scene make it an ideal pause before Montréal. At the heart of that experience is [Restaurant Sekoya](#), where the menu reads like a journey through Québec's landscapes. Updated with each new season, it celebrates the province's freshest ingredients at their peak, drawing on Quebecois seafood, regional meats, and harvests from Québec's fields and forests to create a thoughtful expression of seasonal cuisine.

It's the kind of meal people find themselves describing long after they've returned home, not only because it's elaborate and memorable, but because every detail feels considered.

Beyond the restaurant, public art, walkable neighbourhoods, and cultural programming reveal another side of Québec's urban character, **one that rewards curiosity more than careful planning.**



Région de Montréal © GouvQc / Stéphan Poulin

## **From Laval, the journey flows naturally into Montréal, where history and contemporary creativity share the same streets.**

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The cobblestone lanes of Old Montréal wind between heritage buildings housing cafés, independent boutiques, galleries, and restaurants celebrating Québec's seasonal harvest. Just beyond them, contemporary art installations, intimate music venues, vintage shops, and innovative creative spaces reveal a city that is constantly reinventing itself.

**The best way to experience the city isn't by checking landmarks off a list; it's by wandering.** One neighbourhood gives way to the next almost without notice, where an inviting café becomes the perfect place to pause before stumbling across a gallery opening, a tucked-away courtyard, or a restaurant serving an inventive take on Québec's seasonal cuisine.

The city balances historic European architecture and cobblestone streets with the creativity and energy of a thriving urban centre, revealing something new with every turn.



© Tourisme Cantons-de-l'Est / Vincent Fortin, Agence Cure, Mathieu Dupuis

## **East of Montréal, the pace softens as rolling hills, vineyards, and quiet lakes usher visitors into the Eastern Townships.**

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Wrapped around beautiful Brome Lake, [Knowlton](#) seems to settle naturally into autumn. Beautifully preserved Victorian buildings line inviting streets filled with bookstores, boutiques, cafés, and restaurants whose quality belies the village's modest size. History is woven into everyday life, creating a destination that's as rewarding to stroll as it is to discover.

Beyond the village, gentle hills roll toward open skies, vineyards glow beneath colourful trees, and Brome Lake mirrors the changing leaves as the pace of the day slows.

**Whether browsing local shops, lingering over lunch beside the water, or simply strolling beneath trees dressed in autumn colour, [Knowlton](#) captures Québec at its charming best.**



© Tourisme Centre-du-Québec / Arianne Samson Producteurs

The journey concludes in [Centre-du-Québec](#), where the season comes together around one of the province's signature harvest celebrations.

Each October (this year, October 3–4 and 10–11, 2026), Balade Gourmande invites visitors along scenic country roads connecting eight markets and more than 125 local producers and artisans. Complimentary tastings showcase regional cheeses, fresh bread, cider, preserves, maple products, and countless other seasonal specialties.

More than a food festival, it's an invitation into the lives of the people behind Québec's harvest. Farmers, cheesemakers, orchard owners, bakers, and winemakers eagerly share the stories behind what they create, making every stop feel personal.

The aroma of warm cider drifts through the air as apples are pressed only steps from the orchards where they were picked. Producers welcome visitors with stories as readily as samples, and conversations unfold as naturally as the roads connecting one community to the next.

### **Fall is best savoured together**

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Long after the drive home begins, it's the small moments that remain: the warmth of a just-baked loaf carried through a village square, the cool stone cellar beneath L'Huile d'Olive, a

lingering dinner at Restaurant Sekoya, golden leaves scattered across Old Montréal's cobblestones, and conversations shared with the people behind Québec's harvest.

**Together, they reveal a side of Québec that's best experienced slowly, one neighbourhood, one village, and one shared meal at a time. A few days are more than enough to fall in love with Québec, but nowhere near enough to experience everything still waiting to be discovered.**

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## Explore Québec

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Experience the people, places, and seasonal flavours that make Québec unforgettable. Start planning your Fallscape Through the City adventure at [Québec Getaways](#).

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