

**72
HOURS**

FEAST FOR THE EYES

Delight in dramatic scenery, idyllic towns and a surprising art scene in the **Charlevoix** region, a short drive east from Quebec City

DAY 1

Drop your bags at **Baie-St-Paul's** farmhouse-chic **Le Germain Charlevoix Hotel & Spa (2)** before ambling into town for a bistro lunch and local brew at **Le Mouton noir (1)**. If the weather's pleasant, ask for a table on the cozy riverside terrace.

When satisfied, explore the boutiques—like fruit-wine purveyor **Cidrerie et vergers Pedneault (7)**



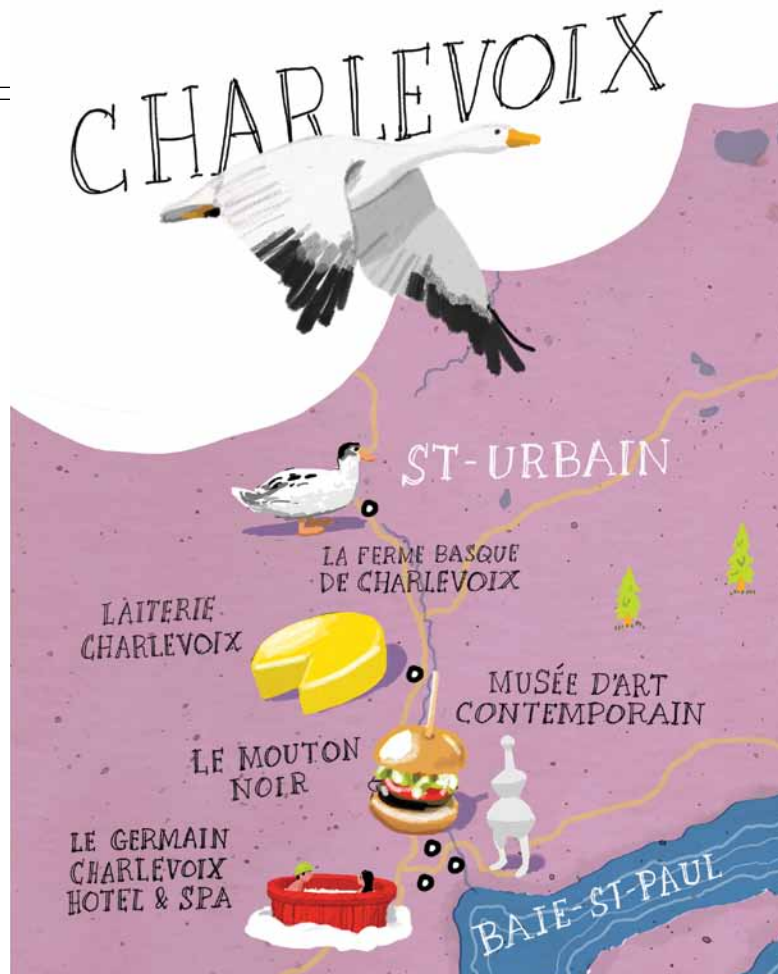
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—and art galleries lining **St-Jean Baptiste Street (8)**. Baie-St-Paul has one of the highest concentrations of galleries in Canada, not to mention a sizable **contemporary art museum**, which boasts a broad collection of modern works.

All that walking calls for some time in the thermal pools at Le Germain's **Nordic spa**, where the *au naturel* ambience comes complete with grazing cattle and mountain scenery.

DAY 2

It may be a bit early for the bonbons at **Fraîcheurs et saveurs (3)**, but adjoining café **Arômes et saveurs** is a perfect spot for a morning latte and a made-fresh waffle. Grab a few pastries to go; you'll appreciate the extra fuel while hiking in



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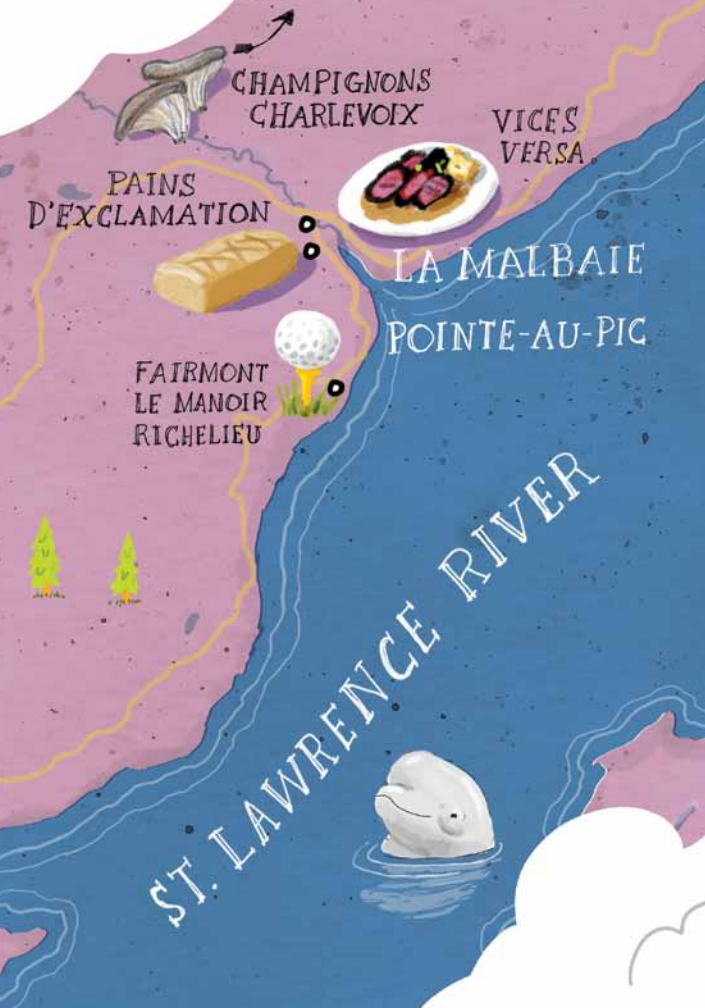


SWEETEN THE DEAL WITH CHOCOLATES, FUDGE AND MUCH MORE

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WHEN TO GO Outdoor adventures are abundant through the end of September. Post-Thanksgiving, the region is quieter, though still very welcoming.
WHERE TO STAY Say *oui* to a pampering stay in an estate-like setting at Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu.



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TASTE THE
TERROIR
IN CHEESES
MADE WITH
LOCAL MILK

Grands-Jardins National

Park (4), a distinctively rugged landscape formed in part by a meteorite impact 360 million years ago.

From there, hit the road to discover Charlevoix's terroir at its many farms and food producers, including sustainable cheesemaker **Laiterie Charlevoix (5)**, foie-gras specialist **La Ferme Basque** and mushroom grower **Champignons Charlevoix**. Checking out the latter brings you close to the town of **La Malbaie**. Book a table here at **Vices versa** for contemporary Québécois fare, then settle in for the night at the château-esque **Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu**.

DAY 3

Tee off your day at one of Le Manoir Richelieu's three nine-hole **golf courses**. They're perched 300 metres above the St. Lawrence; no matter where your ball lies, the mighty river is almost always in view. Keep your eyes peeled for beluga whales, which have been known to frolic offshore. After the last hole, head into town for the **Pains d'exclamation** bakery's eggy quiche before visiting the **Charlevoix Museum (6)**, a modest but edifying institution where you'll gain an even greater appreciation for the region's history and people. ■



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