This exciting tour combines two amazing natural events that occur in eastern Canada – the Great Whales that have arrived to the St. Lawrence River to feed, and the passage of millions of shorebirds on the Bay of Fundy, home of the largest tides in the world.

We start in beautiful, historic Quebec City and make our way east towards Tadoussac, where the Saguenay River empties into the St. Lawrence. Here, we will keep an eye out for the most famous
residents of the St. Lawrence – Beluga Whales. While the small population that lives here is declining, they are easy to observe from shore, and often with their tiny grey calves accompanying them.

We will search for bigger quarry by zodiac, which we will take into the deep centre of the St. Lawrence where we have great chances at observing Minke, Fin and Humpback Whales, along with the largest animal to ever live – the magnificent Blue Whale. A handful of these titans visit the St. Lawrence each year. Birding around Tadoussac is excellent, and we will be at the bluff each morning to view what can sometimes be enormous morning flights of warblers, many of them sticking around for close-up studies of their sometime confusing fall plumages. We will take our time and sift through them to find any goodies. Along the river, we will watch for seabirds such as Black-legged Kittiwake, Northern Gannet, Black Guillemot and any migrant shorebirds.

We will then make the drive to New Brunswick, taking in the scenery along the St. Lawrence and searching for lingering Nelson’s Sparrows before turning inland. Our first birding will be at Kouchibougnac Park, where many migrant warblers will be augmented by boreal specialties such as Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse, Grey Jay and Black-backed Woodpecker as well as a variety of finches including Pine and Evening Grosbeaks. We will also be keeping an eye out for Moose, which can be very common in some areas of New Brunswick.

Then we will head to the Bay of Fundy, which is world-famous for two reasons – having the largest tides in the world, and two to three million shorebirds (mostly Semipalmented Sandpipers) that pass through at this time of year. We will be able to observe massive flocks being harried by birds of prey as they swirl through the air in their hundreds of thousands. It is a spectacle unlike any other! We will also make sure to watch the famous “tidal bore”.

Our final stop will be Grand Manan Island, where we will take a pelagic to view a variety of seabirds, including Sooty, Great and Manx Shearwaters, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, Leach’s and Wilson’s Storm Petrels, all three jaeger species and possibly even Great Skua! We will also take advantage of the world-class whale-watching, getting great views of Humpbacks and, if we’re lucky, North Atlantic Right Whales.
### THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

#### THE ITINERARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arrival in Montreal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Tadoussac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tadoussac to Edmundston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Edmundston to Miramichi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kouchibouguac and Fundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tantramar Marshes and Johnson’s Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Grand Manan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Grand Manan to Saint John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Final departures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TOUR ROUTE MAP...

![Map of the tour route](image)
THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

Day 1: Arrival in Montreal. Today is set aside as an arrival day in Montreal. This evening we shall meet for a welcome dinner to discuss our plans for the forthcoming days.

Days 2 & 3: Tadoussac. Today we head east out of Montreal towards the historic city of Quebec. We stop by Cap-Tourmente, an excellent birding area very close to Quebec City with varied habitats. We are likely to encounter our first mixed flocks of warblers, and we shall be careful to pick through for goodies such as Canada, Black-throated Blue and Mourning Warblers amongst others. Some great local breeders are still around, such as Peregrine Falcon, American Cliff Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and others. Cap-Tourmente is a famous migrant trap and anything is possible here, and we will be sure to keep an eye on the local bird alert.

We will cross the Saguenay Fjord en route to Tadoussac and onwards to Les Escoumins, a quiet town on the St. Lawrence River where we will be based for the next two nights. En route we will likely see our first whales – the incredible Belugas. These whales can easily be seen from land, and we will make a point to get the best views we can in our days here!

We will be up early to watch the passage of songbirds along the famous sand dunes. On good days, hundreds of warblers of over 20 different species can be seen, alongside vireos, flycatchers, thrushes and other early migrants. Though August is not the greatest month for migration further south, it is very close to the peak movement for many species this far north.

After our mornings birding, we will board zodiacs to access deeper water of the river to search for our biggest quarry. In fact, our quarry is the biggest in the entire world - the magnificent Blue Whale, several of which spend their summers feeding in the St. Lawrence. Besides the Blue Whales, other species commonly seen here include Humpback, Fin and Minke Whales as well as Harbour Porpoises. We’ll be keeping an eye on the Northern Gannets and Razorbills in case something less common tries to sneak by. Birding activity after lunch will depend on the
prevailing conditions, with either some introductory forest birding or further seabirding along the river bank.

**Day 4: Tadoussac to Edmundston.** We will be up early to try our luck on the dunes for further warblers. After lunch we embarking on a ferry ride to Riviere-du-Loup, on the south side of the St. Lawrence. From here we will head south into New Brunswick, but not before checking a few sites for specialties such as Nelson’s Sparrow, which sing very late into the season.

**Day 5: Edmundston to Miramichi.** We will leave Edmundston early to get to Kouchibouguac National Park, and surrounding areas where we have several targets. We will be searching for for shorebirds, including Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, and most notably Piping Plover which breed here in good numbers. Since it will be the peak of shorebird passage, we will spend time sifting through the flocks to find rarities. If we missed Nelson’s Sparrow in Quebec City, then we will try again for it here. Time permitting, we will do some forest birding this afternoon for some of the region’s trickier boreal species.

**Day 6: Kouchibouguac and Fundy.** We’ll head back into Kouchibouguac this morning to search for some of the more difficult boreal species that can be surprisingly common here, including Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse, Canada Jay and Black-backed Woodpecker. We will look for flocks of both Red and White-winged Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins as well as migrants.
We will spend the balance of the day at Fundy National Park, world-famous as a stopover site for Semipalmated Sandpipers. Here we will lay witness to one of the most spectacular gatherings of birds in the world, as hundreds of thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers fatten up on their journey southward. Both Peregrine Falcon and Merlin are here in good numbers to take advantage of this gathering, and we are sure to see some spectacular acrobatics performed by both falcon and sandpiper as they struggle for their own survival. The birding in the interior of the park is equally good, and if we missed any of the boreal birds at Kouchibouguac, we can try for them here.

**Day 7: Tantramar Marshes and Johnson’s Mills.**
This morning, we will once again be privy to amazing numbers of shorebirds at the famous Johnson’s Mills, where close studies of a variety of species is the norm, and photographic opportunities can be excellent. Every day, and even every hour - the numbers and diversity of species changes.

Later in the day we continue into the Tantramar Marshes, where we will seek more secretive marsh dwellers such as Sora, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen and Short-eared Owl, as well as a variety of waterfowl species.

**Days 8 & 9: Grand Manan.**
We may spend some more time at Johnson’s Mills in the morning before heading over to Grand Manan island via ferry. While we will have seen some seabirds earlier in the trip, this is where the seabirding gets very interesting - with even on the ferry ride producing possible sightings of Atlantic Puffin, Common Murre, and various jaegers as we cross over to the island.

Land birding on the island produces some of the best migration birding in Canada, and many vagrants are found on an annual basis. We will likely connect with a few rarities, but even if we don’t, we will enjoy sifting through the likes of Cape May, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Tennessee, Canada, Mourning and other warblers to try and find one! It can be overwhelming, especially with the birds now in their drab fall costumes, but we will take our time to study each one in a relaxed manner –
we are in Canada, after all! Depending on what the birds are doing, we may check some coastal locations as well.

Today is another particularly exciting one, as we depart into the deep Bay of Fundy in search of whales and seabirds. Here, we shall see some truly oceanic wanderers – Northern Fulmar, Leach’s and Wilson’s Storm Petrels, Red and Red-necked Phalarope, Manx, Sooty and Great Shearwaters, Atlantic Puffin, Common Murre, some (or all!) of the three jaegers species and, if we’re very lucky – a Great Skua. Not to be outdone by the birds, the whale-watching on these trips is phenomenal. We are sure to get great views of Humpback and Fin Whales, and if we’re really lucky, a North Atlantic Right Whale, one of the most imperiled mammals of North America.

In the afternoon, we will visit some coastal locations such as Long Eddy Point, excellent for seabirds coming close to shore if we’d missed any on the pelagic, as well as Castalia Marsh, another excellent location for shorebird diversity. There are lots of little migrant traps and hotspots on the island, and we will stop by as many as we can to sweep up anything we’ve missed to date.

**Day 10: Grand Manan to Saint John.** Today is our last full day and we will make full use of it by starting early and looking for passerine migrants at Whistle and Long Eddy Point. We will check all of the migrant traps one last time to see if anybody new has dropped in before boarding the ferry back to the mainland. We will once again be watching for seabirds and mammals from the ferry, and will arrive in Saint John with a bit of time to relax before our final, celebratory dinner together.

**Day 11: Final departures.** This morning our tours comes to an end at Saint John’s Airport.
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:
Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on 11;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Extra activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services.)

The tour fee does not include:
- Visa fees;
- ANY flights (see above);
- Any additional beverages;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.
b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient participants, a small party supplement will have to be charged.
c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.
d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/she have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

Special notes:
- August is generally very pleasant, with warm days and cooler nights. Fog is possible.
- The pelagic can be cool to cold, do bring layered clothing, gloves and a beanie.
ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:
This tour does not include ANY airfares. The tour will depart from Montréal–Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, Montreal (IATA: YUL). As day 1 has been set aside as an arrival day, you are free to arrive at any time. The tour will conclude at Saint John Airport (IATA: YSJ) on day 10 after breakfast.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:
Montréal–Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, Montreal (IATA: YUL) is the main port of entry into Canada for this tour, while Saint John Airport (IATA: YSJ) is the main port of departure. Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.

Rockjumper Birding Ltd
Vanilla Village, Royal Road
Black River
Mauritius
Tel (USA & Canada) toll free: 1-888-990-5552
Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com
Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com