The Grand Tour Circuit
(6 days or more)

DAY 1  Cree Community of Oujé-Bougoumou – Chibougamau (59 km) ..............................................2
DAY 2  Chibougamau – Radisson (837 km) .................................................................................4
DAY 3  Radisson ..........................................................................................................................5
DAY 4  Radisson – Cree Community of Chisasibi (107 km) ...........................................................6
DAY 5  Cree Community of Chisasibi – Cree Community of Wemindji (254 km) .......................8
DAY 6  Cree Community of Wemindji – Matagami (604 km) .........................................................9
DAY 1    Cree Community of Oujé-Bougoumou – Chibougamau (59 km)

A.M.    Discover the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute

The Cree elders have long voiced the necessity of endowing the Crees with a central venue to protect their culture. After decades of work and discussions, their vision gave birth to the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute.

This museum is the main place of preservation of documents, media and objects of the Cree people to ensure the transfer of knowledge to the coming generations. But above all, the Institute is a living symbol of the James Bay Cree’s commitment to preserving and sharing their stories and legends, their music, their images and their artifacts, illustrating the unique interaction of First Nations with the world. This interaction is expressed by hunting, fishing and trapping, and it is evidenced by the deep respect that the Cree people have for the land they have been living off of for 7,000 years.

Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute
205, Opetiska Meskino (Oujé-Bougoumou)
418 745-2444.
[www.creeculturalinstitute.ca](http://www.creeculturalinstitute.ca)

*Check opening hours beforehand*

P.M.    Circuit canotable du lac Gilman (auto-guided canoe route)

Featuring the Gilman lake located directly in the town of Chibougamau, an interpretive canoe audio-tour entitled "Nature Speaks" is proposed.

Whether you are canoeing or kayaking, its thirteen stations, complete with interpretation panels will provide you information on diverse subjects such as the Obalski park’s biodiversity and history, Aboriginal cultural and traditional practices and much more!

Download the audio clips (in MP3 format) at [http://www.ville.chibougamau.qc.ca/loisirs/location-d-equipement](http://www.ville.chibougamau.qc.ca/loisirs/location-d-equipement).

Canoe or kayak rental – Lac Gilman Municipal Beach
Ville de Chibougamau
418 748-2688, ext. 2235 or ext. 2245
[www.ville.chibougamau.qc.ca](http://www.ville.chibougamau.qc.ca)

Suitable for all ages

**Overnight in Chibougamau**

or

if you’ve booked a room at the Mistissini Lodge, take the road towards this Cree community.
Discover more: Cultural Tour - Chibougamau, a city emerges on the 49th parallel

This self-guided tour, titled Chibougamau, a city emerges on the 49th parallel, is offered free of charge through the balado-découverte mobile app. The tour features a wealth of historical information enabling participants to travail in time over a distance of 2 km in Chibougamau’ city centre.

Tour starting point: crossroads of chemin Merrill and 3rd Rue

Download:

Other Possible Activities: Discover the Gilman lake beach

Discover the Gilman lake beach located in directly in the city of Chibougamau.

boulevard Gilman (Chibougamau)
418 748-2688 ext. 2235 or 2245
http://www.ville.chibougamau.qc.ca/loisirs/infrastructures-de-loisir/plage-municipale/

Beach open for swimming every day from end of June to mid-August from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

EVENING  Self-guided Historical Tour: Circuit histories le Chemin des mines à Chibougamau

This tour of approximately 10 km includes 7 interpretation panels that showcase the sites that marked the history of mining in the city of Chibougamau. A tour map is available at Chibougamau regional tourism information office and at the Société d'histoire régionale de Chibougamau.

Chibougamau regional tourism information office
512, route 167 Sud (Chibougamau)
418-748-7276, ext. 0
Open 7 days a week; 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
www.faunenord.org

Société d'histoire régionale de Chibougamau (Chibougamau Regional History Society)
418 748-3124
Open on weekdays; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.shrnq.com (French only)
DAY 2  Chibougamau – Radisson (837 km)

Travel day

KM 131: Broadback River
If you stop near the bridge; you can see a small road on the left which leads to the riverbank. The Broadback River is one of the major rivers which flows into James Bay.

KM 234: Cree Memorial Monument (9 km)
Designed by Cree artist Tim Whiskeychan, this sculpture stands on a hill overlooking the Rupert Dam and reservoir. In the words of local tallyman, Walter Jolly, “from here, you can see the whole story.”

The monument commemorates those buried under the reservoir. It also honours the Eeyou-Eenou people who have inhabited this land for millennia, the animals who helped them flourish and the river which was their home and highway.

KM 238: Rupert river rest area
The Rupert river is fed by Mistassini and Albanel lakes and their tributaries. Scenic lookout with picnic tables and restrooms.

KM 290: poste Nemiscau (fuel and restaurant)
Check business hours before taking the road.

KM 298: Access Road to the Cree community of Nemaska (10 km; gas and restaurant)
Check business hours before driving to this Cree community.

KM 407: End of Route du Nord / km 274 of the Route de la Baie-James

KM 381 (Route de la Baie-James): Rest stop
Gas station: open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (gas and diesel)
Restaurant: open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
General mechanics: service offered from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Other services: lodging, satellite TV, vending machines, convenience store and showers.

Overnight in Radisson
A.M.  Boutique Arts et Trésors Inouïs

The boutique offers an experience in Aboriginal culture through traditional crafts. An opportunity to appreciate and enjoy Native and Inuit art.

66, avenue Des Groseilliers (Radisson)
819 638-6969
www.artinunat.com

Open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Mondays.

P.M.  Robert-Bourassa Generating Station (LG-2)

Come and admire the internationally renowned power-generating facilities! Hydro-Québec offers free guided tours of the Robert-Bourassa Generating Station, which is located 140 metres underground. Since the facility is under repair, you may get to see a huge generating unit up close.

Take the coach tour and see some impressive sights, including the spillway, known as “the Giant’s Staircase”, and the dam, which is as tall as a 53-storey building.

By car take the time to take pictures at the dam LG-2, at sunset.

Complexe Pierre-Radisson (Departure)
66 rue Des Groseilliers (Radisson)
819 638-8486 / 800 291-8486
http://www.hydroquebec.com/visit

Schedule
June 11th to August 31st, 2018: every day at 1 p.m. (visitor registration at 12:30 PM).
September 2018 to June 2019: Monday 1 p.m., Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m.
- Reservations required 48 hours in advance
- Visitors must present photo ID
- Visitor registration 30 minutes before departure

Length of the tour: 4 hours
DAY 4  Radisson – Cree Community of Chisasibi (107 km)

A.M.  La Grande-1 Generating Station (LG-1)

Following your tour of the Robert-Bourassa Generating Station, get back on the road with Hydro-Québec to see the last of the facilities to harness the power of la Grande river. La Grande-1 is a masterpiece of Québec's engineering and is sure to impress you with its new lookout, developed as part of an ongoing partnership with the Crees of Chisasibi.

Complexe Pierre-Radisson
66 rue Des Groseilliers (Radisson)
819 638-8486 / 800 291-8486
http://www.destinationradisson.com/

Schedule
June 11 to August 31st, 2018; every day at 8 a.m. (visitor registration at 7:30 a.m.)
- Reserve required 48 hours in advance
- Visitors must present photo ID
- Visitor registration 30 minutes before departure

Length of the tour: 4 hours
http://www.destinationradisson.com/

Take the road towards the Cree Community of Chisasibi (1.5 hrs).

(Paved road access) Located on the south shore of La Grande river is located the modern Cree Community of Chisasibi, whose name means "Great River" in Cree. Here, the boreal forest merges with the taiga and the waters of James Bay mix with those of Hudson Bay.

Originally, the community was located on nearby Fort George Island, where every summer, a week-long cultural festival known as "Mamoweedow" takes place. A short ferry ride from the mainland will make you discover an area rich in history and culture.

Adventurers looking to spend a couple of nights in a traditional bush camp will be delighted to know that locals are available to guide you and share their incredible legends.

Chisasibi is the last Cree community of Eeyou Istchee Baie-James accessible by road.
P.M. The Chisasibi Heritage & Cultural Centre

The Chisasibi Heritage and Cultural Centre is a place of cultural renewal, honouring ancestral values through Aayaanischaa representing cycles of reciprocal learning, knowledge, and connecting generations-past, present and future. We Crees celebrate our living culture, share our heritage through exhibitions, storytelling, song, language, and traditional activities. Enjoy the artistic craftsmanship at our gift shop and hear “our story” as the People of the Great River!

2 Fort-George Road (Chisasibi)
819 855-3311

Schedule
Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

EVENING Venture on the shores of James Bay

In Chisasibi, make time to go explore the eastern shores of James Bay (10 km) from the Cree Community of Chisasibi. If you are lucky, you might get to see northern light.

To get there, exit the Cree Community of Chisasibi, take the Route de la Baie-James and continue until the end of this road.

Want to extend your stay? Observe the region’s wildlife with Animal Paquin

Book a custom tour with Animal Paquin to observe nature the wildlife in its natural habitat: wolves, caribou, birds and more. The exploration expedition on land or on water will have you discover Eeyou Istchee Baie-James in all its vastness.

Animal Paquin
27 rue Évain (Radisson)
514 891-4648
www.animalpaquin.info

Activities offered year-round according to the customers' needs and interests.
DAY 5  Cree Community of Chisasibi – Cree Community of Wemindji (254 km)

Half-day of travel.

**KM 518:** Turn-off for the Cree Community of Wemindji’s access road (96 km gravel road)

**P.M. Boat Tour on Eastern James Bay (Reservation required)**

Explore the shores and islands of James Bay. Observe its rich marine fauna and flora. You will also discover the traditional summer camp of the Crees of Wemindji and part of their history.

Different tours offered: 2 or 3-hour or full day.

**Reservation required**

Eeyou Istchee Baie-James Travel  
418 745 -3888 / 1 855 745-3888  
reservations@voyageseibj.com

Wemindji Tourism  
Charlene Wawatie  
819 978-3737

**EVENING Canoe or kayak excursion on the Maquatua River**

Rent a canoe or a kayak for a self-guided excursion on the Maquatua river which flows into James Bay. The Maquatua River is a beautiful peaceful river which will amaze both experts and novice paddlers.

**Reservation required**

Eeyou Istchee Baie-James Travel  
418 745 -3888 / 1 855 745-3888  
reservations@voyageseibj.com

Wemindji Tourism  
Charlene Wawatie  
819 978-3737

**Overnight in Wemindji**
DAY 6  Cree Community of Wemindji – Matagami (604 km)

Travel day

During your road trip, take the time to stop in one or many of the rest areas along the Route de la Baie-James.

KM 381: Rest Stop

Gas station: open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (gas and diesel)
Restaurant: open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
General mechanics: service offered from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Other services: lodging, satellite TV, vending machines, convenience store and showers.

KM 257: Rupert River

The powerful Rupert River, one of Québec’s, largest flows from east to west, from Mistassini lake to Rupert Bay in James Bay. It flows over nearly 600 kilometres.
Rustic site, boat-launching ramp, fishing picnic tables, restrooms.

Cascades Rupert (Interpretation panel)
Follow the trail on the north side of the Rupert River to head to the foot of the rapids.

KM 232: Rivière Broadback
Here, a long time ago, began the Tyrell Sea.
Scenic lookout and pathway, rustic sit, fishing, picnic tables and restrooms.

Overnight in Matagami

**EVENING  Hike the Bell Nature trails**

This beautiful park along the Bell River is located right inside the city of Matagami. 3 km of wooded hiking trails lead you to an observation tower, rapids and a terrace from which you can observe nature in all its splendour. Interpretation panels allow you to learn more about the diverse flora and fauna of the region. Pets are welcome.

Many entry points, including one on rue du Portage. For more information, feel free to visit the Centre de la vie active de Matagami.

Centre de la vie active de Matagami
819 739-4566
www.matagami.com
Want to extend your stay for a day or an overnight?  
Discover Les Écogîtes du lac Matagami (reservations required)

Get off the beaten track by reserving a stay at Les Égogîtes du Lac Matagami, nestled in a boreal-forest setting on the shores of a vast and enchanting lake with plenty of beaches. Here, three chalets and two yurts allow you to escape from the frenzy of urban life and enjoy the tranquil renewal and rejuvenation. On the agenda: relax in a northern bath and a sauna, bonfire on the beach, nature walks and hikes, canoe and kayak excursions and much more.

KM 27 of Route de la Baie-James - chemin de la baie Anita (3 km)  
819 739-8231  
www.ecogiteslacmatagami.ca

For more information, feel free to contact us at 1-888-748-8140, ext. 0 or at info@tourismebaiejames.com.

You can also order, free of charge, your copy of Eeyou Istchee Baie-James’ Official Tourist Guide:  