

**VOYAGES *Chris'* TOURS****OTTAWA ~ THOUSAND ISLANDS ~ & NIAGARA FALLS****May 11 – 17, 2019 – 7 days!**

	<u>1/room</u>	<u>2/room</u>	<u>3/room</u>	<u>4/room</u>
<b><i>From Moncton</i></b>	\$1,7500. pp	\$1,280. pp	\$1,160. pp	\$1090. pp

**MAY 11-SATURDAY:** today, we will depart for an exciting 6-day tour to experience some of Canada's most famous landmarks. While most of us will be strangers when we board the bus, it will not be long before we're having a good time, like a big happy family!. We will stop for lunch (included) at **Maple Leaf Buffet** in Edmundston on our way to our overnite stay at **Holiday Inn, Vaudreuil (Mtl)**

**May 12-SUNDAY:** today, we arrive **Ottawa** approximately 9:30am, giving us time to have a very knowledgeable local tour guide join us on our bus for a get-acquainted tour of the city before we enjoy an awesome cruise aboard **the Empress of Ottawa** on the Ottawa River, leisurely enjoying an **on-board lunch** while allowing us to view our Capital City from a different perspective! During the afternoon, we will visit **Parliament Hill** and the **Tulip Garden Experience** at **Commissioners Park** at Dow's Lake. Overnite stay at **Cartier Place Suite Hotel** in Gatineau.

**MAY13-MONDAY:** today, we will visit the **Diefenbunker, the ByWard Market, the RCMP Ride Stables & Museum.**

**MAY 14-TUESDAY:** today we travel to **Thousand Islands** to enjoy a boat cruise to view the inexplicable beauty that Thousand Islands is famous for, followed by a group lunch at their dockside restaurant. Then on to our hotel, the **Holiday Inn** in **Niagara Falls** for the next 2 nights. Our hotel is close to the mighty "**Falls**", the **Fallsview Casino, Skylon Tower** and **Imax Theatre** as well as **Queen Victoria Park.**

**MAY 15-WEDNESDAY:** today, we will visit the the **Floral Clock, the Butterfly Conservatory** and the **Floral Showhouse** before enjoying a group dinner at the **Skylon Revolving Restaurant.** After our dining experience, for those not too tired out of our day's activities, we will also enjoy a boat trip aboard the **Hornblower** to the very base of the Falls. Don't forget your camera!

**MAY 16-THURSDAY:** – depart for our overnite stay at **Holiday Inn, Ste-Hyacinthe** (between Drummondville and Québec City).

**MAY17-FRIDAY;** after breakfast at our hotel, we will stop to visit the unbelievable wooden sculptures at the **Musée des Anciens Canadiens** in **St.-Jean-Port-Joli.** arriving Moncton approximately 8:00pm, with some terrific memories.

**INCLUDED**

- \* Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- \* All hotel rooms & breakfasts
- \* Lunch at *Maple Leaf Buffet* in Edmundston
- \* Lunch aboard the *Empress of Ottawa*
- \* Visit to *Butterfly Conservatory*
- \* Boat tour on the *Empress of Ottawa* on the Ottawa River
- \* Boat tour to the view Niagara Falls
- \* Boat tour at *Thousand Islands*
- \* Group dinner at the *Skylon Restaurant*
- \* Visit to *Musée des Anciens Canadiens*

A \$200. refundable deposit will guarantee your reservation. Balance due April 01, 2019. Formal wear is not required for any of our planned activities. While traveling, we will do daily seat rotation and have a rest stop approximately every 2 hrs. Above dates & prices are firm; destinations & activities may be revised with ample notice to you.

***Bon Voyage!***

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## Daily Itinerary

### May 11, Saturday:

- 6:30 am – our bus will depart from the Best Western, 300 Lewisville Rd., Moncton
- noon – lunch at Maple Leaf Buffet, Edmundston (included)
- 5:00 pm – supper at St. Hubert BBQ or Tim Horton (on your own)
- 6:30 pm - check-in at Holiday Inn, Vaudreuil (Montreal)

### May 12, Sunday :

- breakfast at hotel, depart @ 7am
- 9:30 am – arrive Ottawa; we will be greeted by a very knowledgeable local guide who will board our bus and take us on a 1-hour city tour. We will then board the Empress of Ottawa for a 1-hour cruise on the Ottawa River which will include lunch.
- 1:30 pm – visit to Parliament Hill
- 3:30 pm - visit the floral gardens at Commissioners Park
- 5:00 pm - check in at our hotel for 2 nights, the Cartier Place Suites

### May 13, Monday:

- 9:30 am – visit the RCMP Musical Ride Stables
- 11:30 pm – visit ByWard Market
- 2:30 pm – visit the Diefenbunker

### May 14, Tuesday:

- 9:30 am – arrive Rockport, ON to explore the magnificent scenery of the St. Lawrence as we enjoy a one-hour boat cruise through the heart of the Thousand Islands followed by a delicious Buffet Lunch, served at their dockside restaurant
- 5:30 pm – check-in at Holiday Inn, Niagara Falls for the next 2 nights.

### May 15, Wednesday::

Today, we will visit some of Niagara Falls spectacular landmarks ...the Floral Clock, Butterfly Conservatory, Floral Showhouse and more if time permits before we get ready for our 5:00 pm reservation at the Skylon Revolving Restaurant. Tonight, we'll enjoy a spectacular boat ride to the bottom of the Falls upon the Hornblower (formerly Maid of the Mist)).

### May 16, Thursday:

- 8:30 - depart for Holiday Inn, St-Hyacinthe (between Montreal & Drummondville), with rest and lunch stops along the way, arriving approximately 6pm.

### May 17, Friday:

- group breakfast at hotel, depart at 7:00am
- 10-11am – visit Musée des Anciens Canadiens (named the most prestigious wood carving museum in North America) on way home, arriving Moncton approximately 8:00pm.

## NOTES

**The Canadian Tulip Festival** runs from May 10-20. It started in 1953, as the result of a gift of 100,000 tulip bulbs from Princess Juliana from the Netherlands as a show of gratitude for her stay in exile in Canada during WWII and the liberation of the Netherlands by Canadian troops. It now features over 300,000 tulips throughout Ottawa. Time permitting, we will visit **Commissioner's Park at Dow's Lake - The Garden Tulip Experience** where you can tour the 1 km stretch of show-stopping commemorative tulip beds and learn their history or stroll the tulip boardwalk and **ByWard Market, The Urban Tulip Experience** - tiptoe through a garden of urban tulip art, promotions and activities created and curated by artist Monique Martin.

We will enjoy a 1-hour **lunch cruise** on the Ottawa River upon Capital Cruise Line's triple-decker **Empress of Ottawa**, which has two covered decks with ample seating, open air top deck with washrooms on the two lower levels. It offers an inspiring, educational, and panoramic cruise of the historic Ottawa River. We'll see Ottawa from a different perspective! View the Parliament Buildings, the Prime Minister's residence, the Museum of Civilization, the American Ambassador's residence and much more.

**Parliament of Canada:** Centre Block is closed for renovations but tours of the **Senate** and **House of Commons** are available. As of today, they are not yet accepting reservations for 2019 but it is our intent to provide such a visit. If not successful, we will stroll the grounds of **Parliament Hill**. You may opt out to do your own self-guided tour of Parliament Hill at your own leisure. I will provide you with the **Outdoor Self-guiding Booklet** upon request.

**Cartier Place Suite Hotel** offers a full kitchen, combined dining/living area, a pullout sofa bed with a separate bedroom with double bed and private balcony and on-site restaurant "**Big Daddy's Bourbon Street Bistro**". It is perfectly located in the Ottawa downtown in the boutique area of Elgin Street, within walking distance of all major tourist sites, attractions and shopping. (*I'm not suggesting it but you could even forsake staying with the group and spend the day exploring on your own because it is so conveniently located!.*)

The **Diefenbunker** was commissioned by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker in 1959, as part of his government's reaction to escalating tensions in the Cold War. The purpose of the bunker was to house key members of the government and military in the event of a nuclear attack on Canada. The entire construction process took less than 18 months. The bunker is 100,000 square feet over four levels. It is made of 32,000 cubic yards of hand-poured concrete and 5,000 tons of steel. It is an extraordinary marvel of engineering, and built to withstand a 5 megaton nuclear blast from 1.8 kilometers away. The site was completed and began operation in 1961, and remained in continuous operation until it was decommissioned in 1994. It was the site of some of Canada's most top-secret communications throughout the Cold War. At all times during its operation, the cupboards and pantries were stocked with enough fresh food and rations to feed 535 people for 30 days and the building was prepared to go into lockdown at any moment.

The **ByWard Market** is Ottawa's earliest settlement and is located in an area roughly four blocks square, You'll find sellers' booths, museums, cafés, specialty food shops, boutiques, galleries, restaurants, pubs and more! This is where you'll find the Urban Tulip Experience, part of the Tulip Festival.

We'll visit the home of the world famous **RCMP Musical Ride**. We'll meet the horses and riders, walk through the stables and experience their museum and visitor centre.

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We'll board a boat at Rockport to explore the magnificent scenery of the **Thousand Islands** on a one-hour cruise on the St. Lawrence river through the Heart of the 1000 Islands. Upon our return to the dock, we'll have a group lunch at their Islandview Waterfront Restaurant.

**Niagara Falls:** actually there is not one fall which is called Niagara Falls. What we commonly refer to as Niagara Falls is made up of three separate falls..... The American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls on the American side and the Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian Falls. There is the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario and the City of Niagara Falls, New York.

We will no longer have to do the long walk down the gorge to board the boat to visit the Falls. Our group will board the funicular which will take us down in 1.5 minutes, offering amazing views of the Falls. We will then board the **Hornblower** for an evening Fireworks or Illumination cruise to view and experience the thunder of the Falls. As of today, they have not yet provided their 2019 schedule..... We'll let you know as soon as we know. The Hornblower operates on the Canadian side, replacing the Maid of the Mist which is American-owned and operates from the American side only.

The **Floral Clock**, built in 1950, is one of the world's largest at 40 feet in diameter, with over 16,000 plants covering the clock.

We will visit the **Butterfly Conservatory** where we will be transported to a tropical paradise full of lush vegetation, trickling waterfalls and thousands of vibrantly colored butterflies. Over 2,000 butterflies, made up of 45 different species, call this beautiful space home.

The **Floral Showhouse** is a oasis paradise, featuring collections of orchids, succulents, and other tropical plant species on display throughout the year, along with floral shows that reflect the changing seasons.

The **Skylon Revolving Dining Room** offers award-winning cuisine, atop the Skylon Tower, with a legendary view of the Falls. Their signature Yellow Bug elevator will take us to the top of the 775' tower in 52 seconds!

The **Musée des Anciens Canadiens** in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, Quebec, is the most prestigious wood-carving museum in North America. You will marvel at the magnificent works of renowned artists, among which is my favorite, the *La Naissance Virginale*, carved out of a 8'x15' wood panel. I'm sure you can stay in front that this panel (or they'll even provide you with a chair!) and be amazed by the intricate details in this work-of-art!

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View from *Empress of Ottawa*



The *Empress of Ottawa*



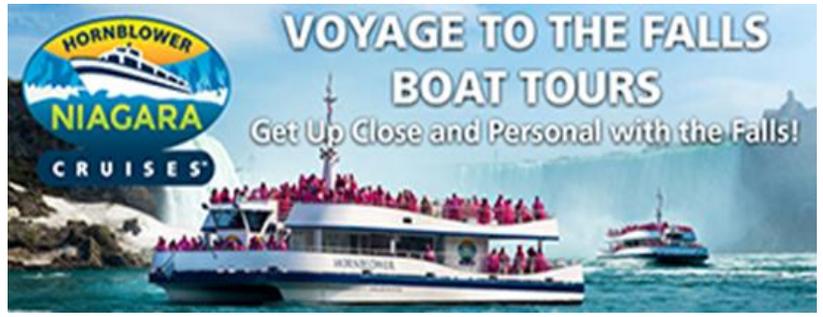
View from *Empress of Ottawa*



Thousand Islands Boat Cruise



Butterfly Conservatory



Journey to the bottom of the Falls



The Floral Clock



Skylon Revolving Dining Room



Queen Victoria Park



Musée des Anciens Canadiens Wood Carving Museum



The Flora Showhouse