

12 DAYS IN EEYOU ISCHEE BAIE-JAMES



12 days – Total immersion

Full itinerary, which means you can enjoy the full range of experiences the region has to offer.



DAY 1
CHIBOUGAMAU
 Population: 7,310
 Spoken language: French

Chibougamau

PUB ROYAL

Where to stay

- Chibougamau Aventure (out of the ordinary)
- Chalets Pomerleau (rustic),
- Éco-Camping (budget-friendly)

Eating out

Services

- Tourism information office
- Restaurants
- Fuel
- Pharmacy
- Medical clinic
- Bank / ATM
- Grocery / Convenience store
- Garage (vehicle repair)
- Accommodations / Hotel
- Veterinary / Pet shop
- Shop

Welcome to Chibougamau! This is a town that lives up to its name, which means “meeting place” in the Cree language. This energetic and energizing destination, easy to get to thanks to Route 167 or its regional airport, will surprise you with its perfectly balanced blend of boreal adventure and urban comfort.

Kick off your day with a leisurely breakfast at Le Borée, then head off to Lac Gilman, a wonderful urban beach and gateway to Obalski Park. Whether you choose a water ride, a forest trail or a mountain-bike tour, there are plenty of options for embracing the outdoors.

In the afternoon, explore Chemin des mines, where industrial remnants rub shoulders with a reborn forest in a bucolic setting that reflects the history of the area. Since it features both heritage and natural sights along the way, this path delivers many pleasant surprises.

In the evening, indulge in boreal beers and fine wines at Maître Renard or the festive ambience of the legendary Pub Royal. In Chibougamau, the magic is in the effortless flow between city and nature and heritage and gourmet pleasures.

When it comes to accommodations, there’s no shortage of options : from camping to unique or rustic stays to convenient hotels. In short, there’s something for everyone!

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL



CHEMIN DES MINES



MAÎTRE RENARD



OBLASKI PARK

DAY 2

OUJÉ-BOUGOUMOU

Population: 797

Spoken languages: English and Cree

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Oujé-Bougoumou

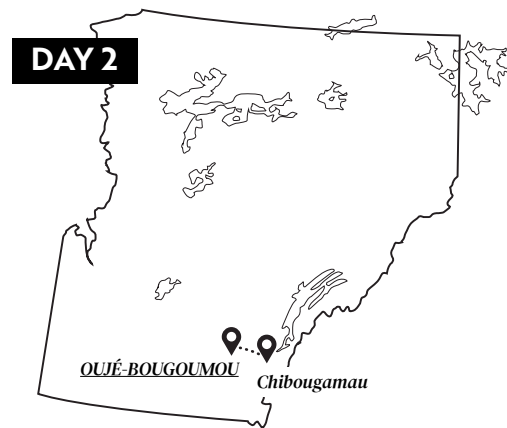


CAPISSIT LODGE

Chibougamau → *Oujé-Bougoumou*

61 km

On Routes 167 and 113



Where to stay

Eating out

Services

- Restaurant
- Fuel
- Grocery / Convenience store
- Garage (vehicle repair)
- Accommodations / Hotel



OUJÉ-BOUGOUMOU CENTER

Bordering Lac Opémiska, Oujé-Bougoumou is much more than a village: it's a vibrant mix of Cree culture and contemporary life. This small and forward-looking community is renowned for its hospitality and a deep-rooted attachment to tradition.

Start your visit at the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, whose Sabtuan-inspired architectural design houses exhibitions, archives, and interactive presentations on Cree history. Next to it, you'll find the cultural village, where you'll be whisked away to traditional daily life, with its handicrafts and ancestral tales. This isn't folklore: it's the real thing, a true opportunity to learn and gain insight.

In the afternoon, relax on the beach with a view of Mont Opémiska or go on a fishing expedition at Broadback Outfitters, just a few kilometres from the village.

In the evening, settle in at Capissit Lodge. It offers cosy lodgings and comforting meals, perfect after your cultural immersion.

AANISCHAAUKAMIKW CREE CULTURAL INSTITUTE



AANISCHAAUKAMIKW CREE CULTURAL INSTITUTE



Matagami

DAYS 3 & 4
MATAGAMI
 Population: 1,367
 Spoken language: French



MONT LAURIER

GÎTE DE LA BELLE RIVIÈRE

Where to stay

Services

- Restaurant
- Fuel
- Pharmacy
- Grocery / Convenience store
- Garage (vehicle repair)
- Accommodations / Hotel
- Shop

Located where Route Billy-Diamond begins, Matagami marks the symbolic crossing of the 50th parallel. Its Cree name, meaning “meeting of the waters,” refers to the nine lakes that sparkle around Mont Laurier. Founded in the mining heyday, the town has evolved into a quiet crossroads where nature reigns supreme.

Start with a tour of Galerie d’art AU, before savouring a local pastry at La mie boréale. Stéfanie Thompson’s outdoor work, located nearby, adds a contemporary touch to the setting. Then head for the great outdoors: Lac Matagami beach, Bell-Nature trails, and Mont Laurier ascent await you. The trails reveal peaceful spots, with lookouts and vistas that are well worth the effort.

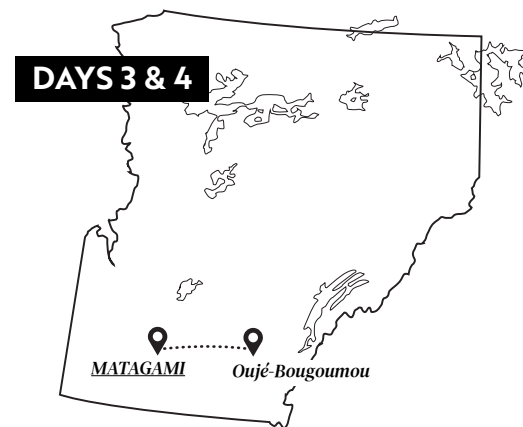
As for accommodations, enjoy the comfort of Écogîtes du Lac Matagami or the warm welcome of Gîte de la belle rivière. If you’re on a tight budget, Camping du Lac Matagami is the perfect choice. Here, in mere steps, you can go from art to boreal silence.

Oujé-Bougoumou → Matagami

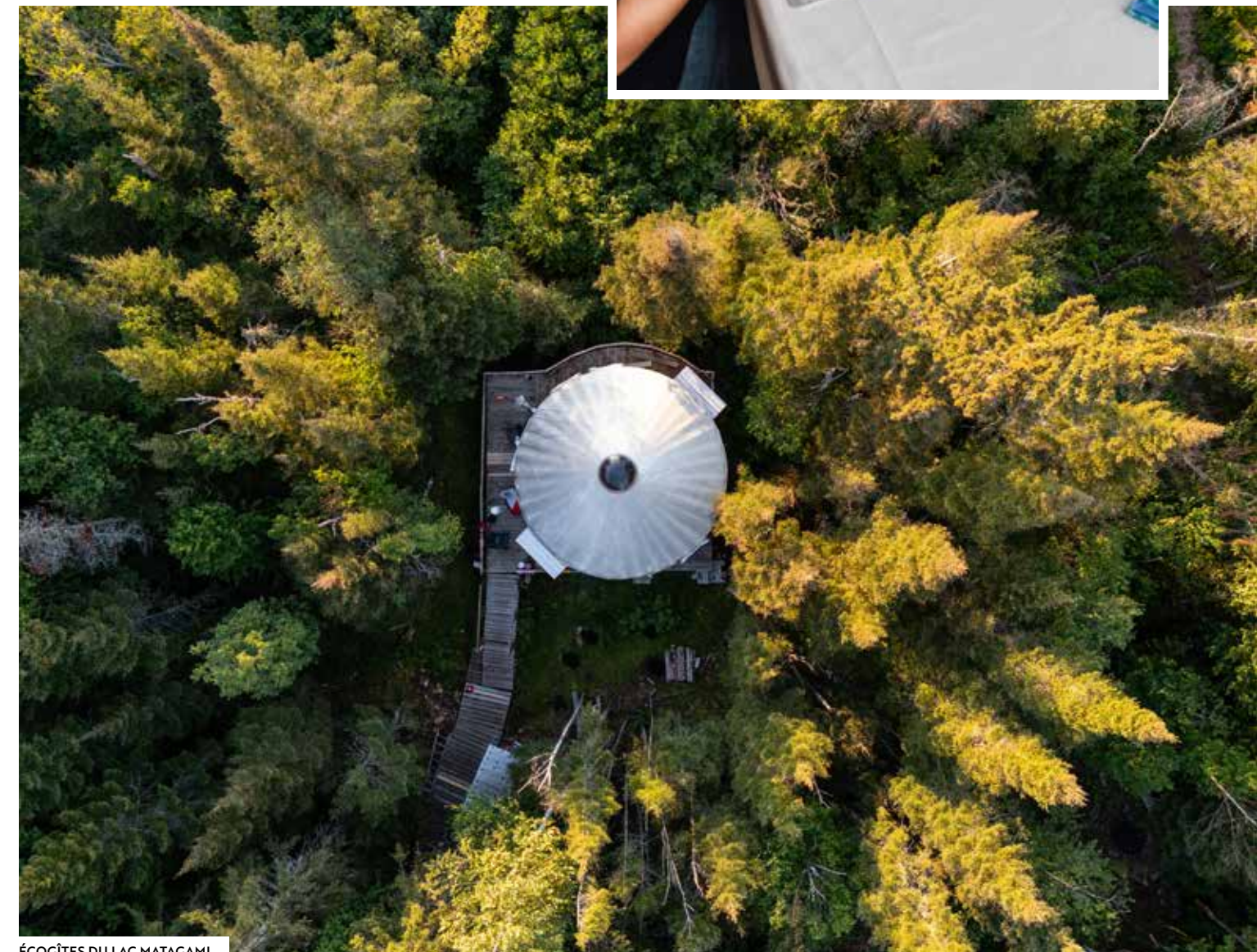
365 km

On Routes 113 and R-1000

Unpaved section to be expected - [see our map](#)



GALERIE D'ART AU



ÉCOGÎTES DU LAC MATAGAMI

DAY 6

CHISASIBI
Population: 5,000
Spoken languages: English and Cree



MAMOWEEDOW



MAMOWEEDOW

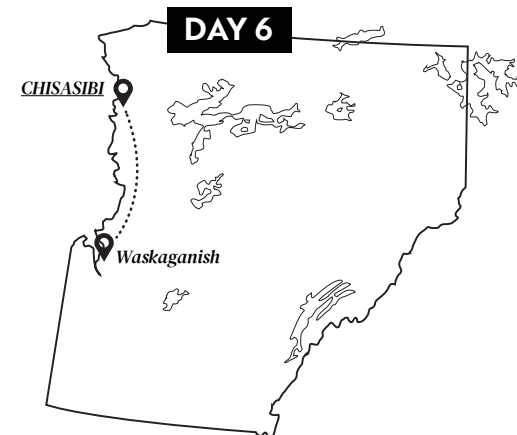


BAKECREE

Waskaganish → Chisasibi

552 km

On Route Billy-Diamond



ᑭᑭᑭ Chisasibi

FORT GEORGE ISLAND

Located where the boreal forest meets the taiga, Chisasibi lies on the south bank of Rivière La Grande in close proximity to James Bay. Its name, which is Cree for "great river," reflects the grandeur of the landscape.

Take the ferry to Fort George Island, where you can explore the remains of the old trading post and admire the area's breathtaking scenery. In July, be sure to attend the Mamoweedow Cultural Gathering, a great opportunity to share unforgettable moments unlike anything you've experienced before.

In the evening, head to the shores of James Bay for a breathtaking sunset. If you're feeling adventurous, you can even dive into these Nordic waters. This is the kind of experience that will make you want to come back.

For great food, drop in at Wiichiwaap Restaurant or BakeCree. As for accommodations, the Maanitaaukimikw Inn and Waastooskuun Inn offer a warm welcome a short distance from the town's attractions. Here, there's no need to look for authenticity, it's everywhere you look.

Where to stay

Eating out

Services

- Restaurant
- Fuel
- Grocery / Convenience store
- Garage (vehicle repair)
- Accommodations / Hotel
- Shop

UNFORGETTABLE SUNSET



REMNANT OF THE OLD TRADING POST



QUICK DIP IN COLD WATER





Radisson

DAYS 7 & 8

RADISSON
 Population: 200
 Spoken language: French

Located at the end of Route Billy-Diamond, Radisson emerges like an unlikely settlement, tucked away between the taiga and the turbines. Founded in the 1970s to house the workers who built the Hydro-Québec power plants, it is the only non-Indigenous community north of the 53rd parallel.

Immerse yourself in this epic story with a guided tour of the Robert-Bourassa power station, with its giant staircase, interpretation centre, and anecdotes about the “project of the century.” Enough to impress even the most jaded of visitors. Complete the experience with a short historical tour of the town, perfect for discovering local secrets.

For outdoor activities, go hiking and explore the trails of the linear park, or visit the innovative 53rd Taiga Gardens project. And for a unique souvenir, stop by the Arts et Trésors Inouïs boutique.

Chez Mika and Chez George serve up simple but scrumptious food, while Auberge Radisson and Motel Baie-James provide all the comfort you could wish for. If you prefer the great outdoors, you can opt for camping. A warm welcome and local pride make Radisson a destination like no other, where you immediately feel at home, no matter how far from home.



ROUTE BILLY-DIAMOND



Chisasibi → Radisson
108 km
 On Route Billy-Diamond



GIANT STAIRCASE

Where to stay

Eating out

Services

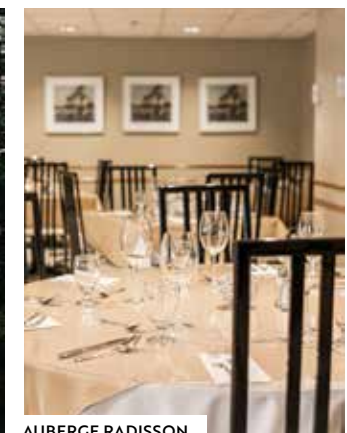
- Restaurant
- Fuel
- Grocery / Convenience store
- Accommodations / Hotel
- Shop



LES JARDINS DU 53^E TAÏGA

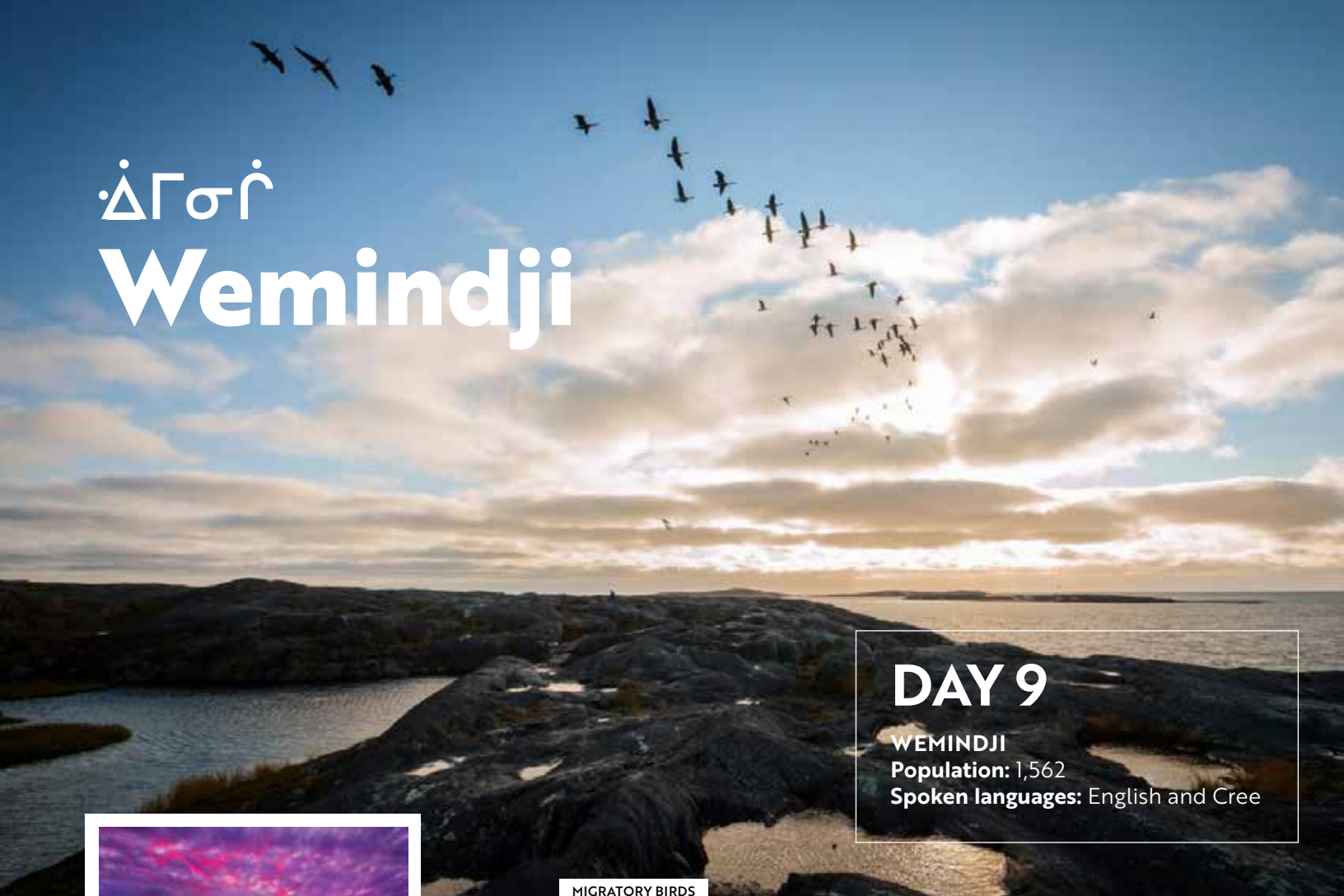


CAMPING



AUBERGE RADISSON

ᐃᑦᓂᑦ Wemindji



DAY 9

WEMINDJI
Population: 1,562
Spoken languages: English and Cree

MIGRATORY BIRDS



KAYAK

L Wemindji, Cree for “painted hills,” is located where the ochre mountains border James Bay – a spectacular setting sculpted by time. Since relocating from Old Bay Factory in 1959, the community has flourished between flowing water and solid rock.

The landscapes surrounding Wemindji appeal to outdoor enthusiasts and geology buffs alike. In season, the calm bays and coastal areas attract migratory birds, seals, and other species typical of the northern shoreline, which can be observed during an expedition with Wiinipaakw Tours. It’s the perfect place to observe, go kayaking, and soak up the scenery. There’s something truly special about the silence in this place.

Maquatua Inn, which boasts its own restaurant, offers all the comforts you need to relax after a day’s exploring.

Wemindji is a stop of great beauty, where every turn reveals a piece of Cree territory and invites you to slow down and truly take it in.

Where to stay

Services

- Fuel
- Grocery / Convenience store
- Accommodations / Hotel



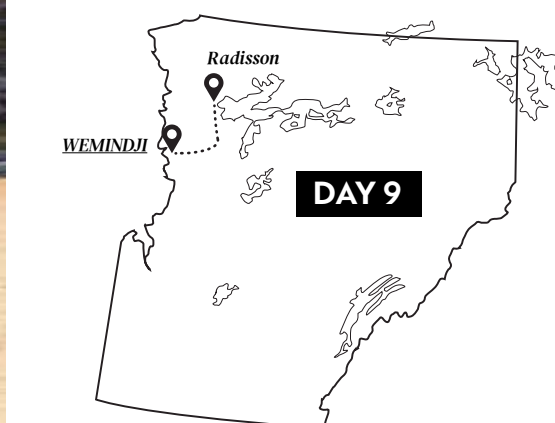
MAQUATUA INN



WEMINDJI



WHITE BEAR



Radisson → **Wemindji**
365 km

On **Route Billy-Diamond**
Unpaved section to be expected - [see our map](#)



SEAL



OLD BAY FACTORY

DAY 10

NEMASKA
Population: 832
Spoken languages: English and Cree

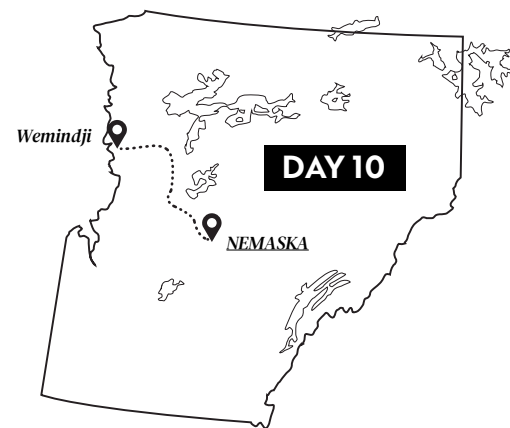
ᓂᓄᓂ Nemaska



Located on Route du Nord, Nemaska, "where fish is plentiful," welcomes you with open arms and heart-warming hospitality. This community is the capital of the Cree Nation and brings together living traditions and true cordiality.

Settle down on the banks of Lac Champion, an ancestral gathering place, perfect for a contemplative break. If your visit coincides with the Cree Trapper Festival, be prepared to see some amazing demonstrations of Cree trapping and skills. Your experience is sure to rekindle your faith in people and the passing down of knowledge.

For a bite to eat and an overnight stay, Nemaska Motel and Restaurant offers simple comforts and comfort food, ideal after a day of exploring on gravel roads.



Wemindji → Nemaska

454 km

On **Route Billy-Diamond** (gravel road) and **Route du Nord** (paved road)

ON THE WAY TO NEMASKA



Where to stay

Services

- Fuel
- Grocery / Convenience store
- Accommodations / Hotel



LAC CHAMPION



LA ROUTE DU NORD



ᓂᓯᓴᓂᓯᓂᓯ Mistissini

DAYS 11 & 12

MISTISSINI
Population: 4,543
Spoken languages: English and Cree

LOCAL OUTFITTERS



Nemaska → **Mistissini**
376 km

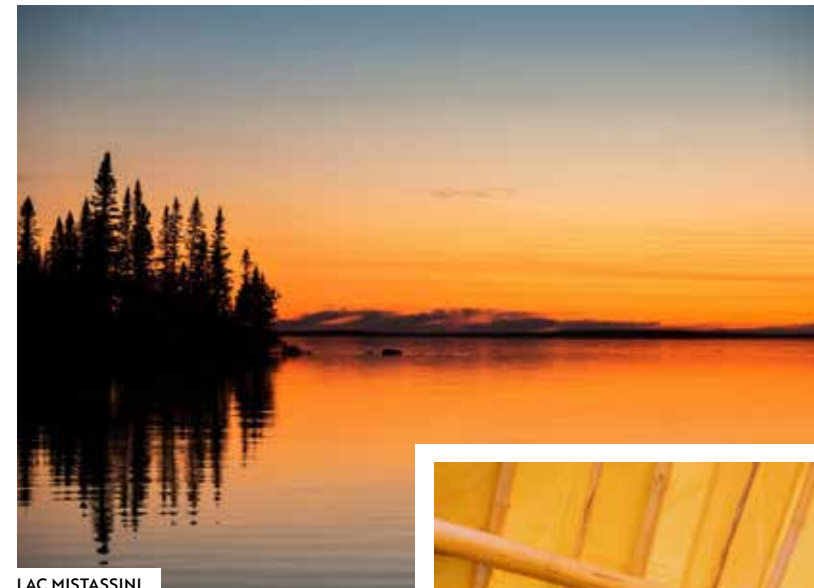
On **Route du Nord** (gravel road) and **167 nord** (paved road)

In the place where Lac Mistassini, Québec's largest freshwater body, unfurls its immense blue surface, the town of Mistissini has been standing guard for centuries. Its Cree name refers to the "great rock" that once guided travellers. Now, Mistissini watches over legendary bodies of water where tradition and adventure now define the present day.

In the heart of the village, Auberge Mistissini offers modern comforts and a breathtaking view of the water. Fishing enthusiasts are sure to be thrilled with local outfitters that provide guided excursions on these fabled waters. Here, the fish really are of legendary proportions.

If your visit coincides with the Niimuhiikan Pow Wow, it's the perfect opportunity to experience Cree traditions at their proudest, with drums, dances, and smiles galore! Nearby, the Nibiischii Corporation, "Land of Waters," continues to offer a variety of accommodations and activities in its accessible areas, even though some parts of its territory are now part of the new Nibiischii National Park. It's the perfect place for those who wish to experience a diverse outdoor adventure, guided by Cree culture.

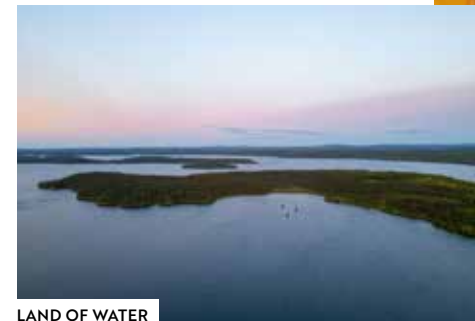
In Mistissini, everything takes on extraordinary proportions: a majestic lake, legendary fish, and, above all, an unforgettable welcome. The "great rock" is the beating heart of a magnificent natural setting and the perfect place to end your journey on a high note!



LAC MISTASSINI



MISTISSINI LODGE



LAND OF WATER



NIBIISCHII CORPORATION



NIBIISCHII CORPORATION



LEGENDARY FISH

Where to stay

Services

- Restaurant
- Fuel
- Grocery / Convenience store
- Accommodations / Hotel
- Shop



NIIMUHIIKAN POW WOW



NIBIISCHII CORPORATION



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



NIBIISCHII CORPORATION

This itinerary has been carefully prepared, but some information may have changed since its publication. If you have any questions or would like the most up-to-date information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Have a great trip to Eeyou Istchee Baie-James!

Eeyou Istchee Baie-James - Tourist Destination

info@eeyouistcheebaiejames.com

1 888-748-8140

eeyouistcheebaiejames.com

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