Come celebrate Canada! Montreal and Quebec City offer a touch of the Old World in North America. Experience the contrast of Canada’s vibrant cities: the more modern, multicultural Montreal, while Quebec City remains the heart and soul of French-speaking Canada. The Charlevoix region is known for its exquisite beauty.

Our journey will highlight the natural and historic wonders of our neighbors to the north, while presenting the opportunity to experience the magnificent gardens that surround and enhance the history and culture of each city, not to mention the French food!

Please join Peter Olin in the Gardens of French Canada on this 7-night/8-day personally-escorted tour.
Monday, June 18

Upon evening arrival at Montreal’s Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport in Montreal, we will meet our local guide and proceed to our hotel for check in. Tonight, we’ll celebrate the spirit of Canada and of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum by joining together for a Welcome Reception to toast Bonjour to the second largest French-speaking city in the world!

Tuesday, June 19

This morning we will begin our exploration of Montreal with a guided bus and walking tour, tapping the city’s most famous highlights. Our guide will transport us back in time as we explore the streets of old Montreal on foot, strolling through historic squares and by impressive architecture, hearing stories of days gone by. The morning tour concludes with a stop high atop Mount Royal, ascended by Jacques Cartier in 1535 and the jewel of Mount Royal Park, to soak in the spectacular view.

After lunch, we’ll visit Montreal’s most prestigious fine arts museum, which has been building its collection of fine arts for more than a century. Feast your eyes on an impressive assortment of pieces by such renowned artists as Rembrandt, El Greco, Renoir, Cézanne and Picasso.

Wednesday, June 20

We’re off to visit the Pointe-à-Callière Archaeology Museum in the heart of Old Montreal this morning, learning about how the city of Montreal was founded. Pointe-à-Callière is a site museum built on authentic historic sites. When exploring the permanent Where Montréal Was Born exhibition, the tour will feature archaeological remains dating back several centuries.

This afternoon, we’re off to the Montreal Biodome and Botanical Gardens, a perfect place to enjoy natural beauty. Recognized as one of the world’s greatest botanical gardens, it features a collection of 22,000 plant species and cultivars, 10 exhibition greenhouses, and more than 20 thematic gardens spread out over 75 hectares. Our tour of the botanical gardens also includes a visit to the greenhouses.

We’ll continue to Jardins Michel Corbeil, created by one of Quebec’s primary wholesale growers of perennials. This garden features a woodland garden, a low-maintenance garden and much more. We will tour the garden as well as the greenhouses with over 3,000 varieties of perennials and small shrubs.
**Quebec City**

**Thursday, June 21**

Today we journey to Quebec City, a city with a romantic ambiance reminiscent of Paris. The 3.5 hour drive via motorcoach awards us the fantastic opportunity to visit the **Jardin Joly de Lotbiniere**. The Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière, founded in 1828, was the home of Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbiniere, Premier of the Province of Quebec from 1878 to 1879. A passionate horticulturist, he turned his vast estate into a trial garden for new and exotic plants. Our guided tour offers a historical and anecdotal approach in the company of a passionate interpreter where we will experience a pleasant encounter with history and nature. Enjoy a stroll under the centenary trees, discover the vibrant colors and perfumes in the gardens. Domaine Joly-de Lotbiniere continues to experiment with new plants and you'll be able to visit not only its trial gardens of 2,300 of the latest varieties of perennials, annuals and vegetables, but its duck ponds, woodland garden, vegetable and rare plant nursery.

We'll plan a late afternoon arrival at our Old Town Quebec hotel, then spend the evening on a walking tour discovering the **historic Old Quebec** area. Clustered around the city's harbor on the banks of the St. Lawrence River are the quaint stone buildings and narrow, winding streets of Old Québec. This historic neighborhood (and UNESCO World Heritage site) houses some of the city's most notable attractions, including the **Citadel**, the **Quartier Petit-Champlain** and the **Notre-Dame Basilica**. It's hard to resist popping into one of Old Québec's artisan shops or stopping at one of the many charming cafes.

**Friday, June 22**

This morning we visit the **Plains of Abraham**, one of the main sites located within National Battlefields Park, Canada's first national historic park. The site of many clashes for supremacy between the French and British Empires, the park is the scene of the 1759 Conquest, which changed the fate of North America. Apart from its historical past, the Plains of Abraham feature 240 acres of meadow and grassy knolls, decked with flowers, for all to enjoy.

Another exquisite highlight of the National Battlefields Park is the **Joan of Arc Garden**. Designed in 1938 by landscape architect Louis Perron, the garden blends the French classical style with its geometric plan with the British-style flowerbeds containing some 350 varieties of perennials, annuals and shrubs. A statue of Joan of Arc is the centerpiece of a sunken garden.
This morning we’ll start our day with a visit to the **National Museum of Fine Arts of Quebec**. Founded in 1933, today the museum displays approximately 25,000 works of art that were created within the province of Quebec or by artists from the area.

Our next stop is **Domain Cataraqui**. This 24-acre estate is one of a handful of historical gardens in the area, in addition to being one of the rare sites to bear witness to the English presence in Quebec City during the 19th century. The Cataraqui estate became a museum-garden in 1995. The following year, the estate was designated the official home of the Government of Quebec. Great artists from Quebec showcase their works, including Jean-Paul Riopelle, Marcelle Ferron and Marcel Barbeau. The estate comprises a picturesque villa and nine outbuildings, which were completely revitalized in 2010.

This afternoon we visit the **Bois de Coulonge** and its gardens. With its location overlooking the Saint Lawrence River, the beauty of its landscapes as well as its long and prestigious history make Bois-de-Coulonge one of the city’s most remarkable parks. The estate dates back to 1653 and the garden was made after 1833 by Henry Atkinson and Peter Lowe (as garden designer). Today it has extensive display gardens in the riverside area.

The **Roger Van den Hende Botanical Garden** is Quebec City’s only official botanical garden. It began in 1966 as a teaching garden for the students of the Faculty of Agriculture of Laval University, Canada’s oldest university. Named for its founder, Professor Roger Van den Hende, the garden covers 6 hectares on a wind-blown plateau and displays over 4,000 species of hardy and tender plants. The heart of the garden is the Herbacetum, a systematic garden in the European style where plants are laid out according to their family. But there is also an Arboretum, a water garden, a rose garden, an ericacetum, a climbing plant collection, annual trial gardens, and a compost demonstration.

The evening is yours to continue exploring the city independently or choose dinner at a charming Quebec restaurant.

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**Day 6**

**Saturday, June 23**

Just outside the gates that lead to Old Quebec, this morning we’ll visit the **Parliament Building**. The quadrilateral building that surrounds an inner courtyard is home to Quebec’s elected government representatives. Eugene Etienne Tache took his inspiration from the Louvre in Paris in designing the Parliament Building. The surrounding gardens are delightful.

Next stop is the **Parliamentary Food Garden**. This is a fascinating project by a group called the Urbainculteurs. Their aim is to encourage organic, urban agricultural projects and put food plants on public view. The Parliamentary Food Gardens consist of “in-ground and raised garden beds of edible plants.” Some of the city’s indigenous plants are grown on the grounds. Crop selection includes blueberries, grape vines and greens.

Next we’re off to the countryside to experience **Montmorency Falls** and the **Island of Orleans**. Sitting about 9 miles northeast of Old Quebec along the St. Lawrence River, Montmorency Falls Park attracts nature lovers and sightseers alike with its 272-foot waterfall, one-and-a-half times taller than Niagara Falls. Stand in awe and admire the stunning views.

Located where the St. Lawrence River splits, the **Island of Orleans** is just 22 miles long and 6 miles wide. Driving across the only bridge, visitors are quick to fall under the spell of an island where farming and all forms of agriculture thrive year round. The island still evokes the pioneering spirit in its people and culture since it was colonized in the 17th century.
Orleans Island has six tiny delightful villages. **Sainte-Petronille** offers scenic views of Montmorency Falls, Beauport Bay, and Cap Diamant. In **Saint-Laurent**, admire the farm stands and strawberry fields for which the island is renowned and learn about the region’s maritime history. **St-Jean** is filled with homes of creamy yellow “Scottish brick” facades, which came from the ballast of boats owned by St. Lawrence River pilots and navigators dating back from 1825 to 1860. At the far end of the island, the **Saint-Francois** observation tower affords spectacular views of the archipelago and the St. Lawrence Estuary stretching eastward. **Saint-Familie** is the island’s oldest parish. It stunning views of the Beaufre shoreline and Mont-Sainte-Anne open up to expansive orchards. **Saint-Pierre** village is the most populated part of the island because of its proximity to the bridge. **Saint-Pierre** has the islands’ oldest church and the orchard Bilodeau, which produces fine regular and ice ciders, which make for a perfect stop before heading back to Quebec City.

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**Charlevoix**

**Sunday, June 24**

Set off this morning for the breathtaking Charlevoix Region, just 90 miles from Quebec City. On the way, we’ll visit the magnificent **St. Anne de Beaupre Basilica**. Explore the rich history and magnificent architecture of one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in North America. Like the churches of medieval Europe, this great basilica is filled with images, expressed in stone, mosaic tile and stained glass. Driving back along the old Royal Road, we will discover the evolution in architecture and way of life throughout the French period.

You may wonder, why **Charlevoix**? A region long known for its hospitality and a landscape that has inspired painters, poets and writers from Quebec and all of Canada, Charlevoix is the perfect marriage of nature and culture. Tourist appreciation of Charlevoix dates back as far as 1761, when groups of sportsmen visited the region to fish salmon or simply relax in the invigorating natural surroundings.

Foodies will delight to learn that Central Charlevoix is also known for its Flavour Trail, whose renown was built on its ciders, traditionally-made beers, fine cheeses, chocolates, organic meats, duck and farm products.

We will arrive at the **Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu**. Built in 1899, the grand hotel is majestically nestled between the sea and the mountains in the heart of Charlevoix. As a result of its excellent location and noble ambience, the hotel became a noted destination for visitors from Canada and the U.S. It promises to be an unforgettable stay at the conclusion of our tour.

Tonight say “au revoir” to your fellow Arb Trippers at a special farewell dinner.
Monday, June 25

Our journey ends. Morning drive to Quebec City for flight departure.

*Please note: tour inclusions and available options may vary.*

**TOUR INCLUSIONS AND PRICING**

Custom tour designed for The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum escorted by Peter Olin

- 3 nights Montreal First-Class accommodations in central location
- 3 nights Quebec City First-Class accommodations in central location
- 1 night Charlevoix region in First-Class accommodations in central location

Meals: Welcome reception, Daily Continental Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Sightseeing with local experts

Private transportation

Taxes and service charges while on tour

A $200 tax-deductible donation to The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

$ 2995 per person based on double occupancy

$ 995 per person single supplement

Deposit:  $500 per person

Final Due:  March 16, 2018

Non-members of The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, add $100 to tour cost.

For membership information, please call 612-301-1257

**DISTINGUISHED HOST**

Peter Olin

Director and Professor Emeritus

University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Please join our 7-night/8-day personally-escorted tour by Peter Olin, combining garden exploration with history, art, culture in each of the charming cities we experience.

Travel arrangements provided by

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