

Traveller's Guide: For an enjoyable and eco-responsible trip

There are many ways to visit your favourite tourist destinations while practising [sustainable tourism](#). Here are a few tips to help you plan a more environmentally responsible visit to the Outaouais.

Plan how you'll get around

Public transit

Public transit is an easy and efficient way to get around Gatineau and some parts of the Outaouais. Here are two options:

- [Société de transport de l'Outaouais](#) (Gatineau and Ottawa sectors)
- [Transcollines](#) (La Pêche, Cantley, Chelsea, Val-des-Monts and Pontiac sectors)

Biking

Did you know that [the City of Gatineau's cycling network](#) covers nearly 300 kilometres? Whether you're planning a ride around town or a cycling tour along the Outaouais trails, such as the [Véloroute des Draveurs](#) or the [Cyclopark PPJ](#), there are several resources available to help you plan your trip:

- [Bike or electric bike rental](#)
- [Outaouais Official cycling map](#)
- [List of accommodations certified *Bienvenue cyclistes!*](#) ("Welcome cyclists!")



Walking

Besides being an option to get around, walking or [hiking](#) is a great way to discover a destination in an environmentally friendly way. Stay on the marked trails to help protect the ecosystem of the places you visit.

Electric vehicles

If you're travelling in an electric vehicle, check the [availability of charging stations](#) along your route.

#OutaouaisFun suggestion: Travel by water from Gatineau to Ottawa with [Water Taxi Eh](#), an eco-friendly, 100% electric shuttle. The boat is accessible to all, and you can bring your bicycle on board!

Plan your activities

Several local businesses are taking actions to support sustainable development and environmental protection. These initiatives can be economic, social or environmental.

Discover some of these businesses: [Sustainable Tourism: Concrete Actions in the Outaouais](#).

#OutaouaisFun suggestion: Travelling in [fall](#), [winter](#) and [spring](#) is also a responsible and interesting way to discover a region. With its national museums, outdoor activities and fine restaurants, the Outaouais is definitely a year-round destination!



During your stay

Once you've planned your itinerary, here are some practical tips for your stay:

- When you leave your accommodation, turn off the lights and turn down the heating or air conditioning.
- Taste the local flavours! As well as being at the heart of a region's tourist experience, eating locally also helps you travel in a more environmentally friendly way.
- We often produce more waste when travelling than we do at home. Remember to bring your essentials (reusable water bottles, straws, bags and utensils) and respect the environmental policies of the establishments and sites you visit.
- If you're buying products or souvenirs, support [local businesses](#) that promote ethical practices and contribute to their communities. Talk to the artisans and producers: you can learn more about the positive impact of your purchase as you chat with local residents.

#OutaouaisFun suggestion: The social-cultural aspect is also an important part of sustainable tourism. Make an effort to get to know the people of the region you're visiting, and respect their way of life. Soak up the local culture by participating in [activities and events](#) taking place during your stay!



What about after you get home?

The resources [Carbone boréal](#) and [Carbon Neutrality](#) can help you assess and calculate your greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint, and suggest ways to offset or reduce them. (Note: Some materials are available in French only.)

To learn more about sustainable tourism, visit the [Tourisme durable Québec](#) website (content in French only).

Enjoy your stay in the Outaouais!