



SuperTour 2003

Quebec—La Belle Province

Announcing—

SuperTour 2003: 14 Days, 2300 km, 714 km by rail. August 3–16, 2003.

Quebec—La Belle Province. First settled by Europeans in 1608 by Samuel de Champlain, this vast territory of forests, farms, ice age lakes and mighty rivers is steeped in history and tradition. Marked forever by Montcalm's defeat on the Plains of Abraham in 1759 and the subsequent loss of New France to Great Britain, Quebecers are fiercely proud of their language and culture and work tirelessly to maintain a distinctly French-speaking society amidst a continent of anglophones. Come join us for a most memorable adventure in this most European of Canadian provinces, travelling by bike and train to among other places Montreal, Quebec City, the Eastern Townships, and the Gaspé Peninsula.

What is SuperTour?

SuperTour is a multi-day cycling adventure. In a modest departure from previous tours, SuperTour Quebec will concentrate more on touring and exploration rather than long daily rides. Since each day's ride is generally less than 80 miles long, cyclists should have plenty of time to explore their surroundings during and after the riding day. Overnight accommodations are at motels, hotels, or university dormitories. SuperTour provides vehicles to carry luggage, allowing riders to traverse each day's route carrying only the equipment required to complete an unsupported all day ride. In addition SuperTour provides a light breakfast and drinks and snacks at the end of each day's ride.

The first SuperTour was held in 1975 and organized by the now-defunct Diablo Wheelmen of Concord, CA. The ride was so popular it easily survived the collapse of its sponsoring organization and is now run each year by a volunteer from a previous trip. Route, campgrounds and schedule are all selected by the organizer. The tour has traveled to many locales and regions, including Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Idaho, Washington State, Wyoming, Montana, British Columbia, Alberta, and even France. SuperTour's most popular destination is California's Sierra Nevada, the site of nine previous tours. Quebec, however, is Terra Incognita—be prepared for an unusually interesting experience, as the adventure will be the first trip to the region for many of this year's participants.

How Should I Prepare For SuperTour?

While the reduced distances of SuperTour Quebec should allow riders to spend more of each day in camp, you still must be prepared to ride all day every day, and alone if necessary. Be self reliant; bring money for food during the day and tools to make minor repairs to your bicycle. Mount a bag to carry warm-ups, gloves, and rain gear—while August brings Quebec's best weather, the countryside is green for a reason—be prepared for downpours. Consider bringing something to read—sometimes the best thunderstorm strategy is to simply wait it out under cover. Study French, and bring a French-English dictionary with you—the locals always appreciate honest attempts to communicate in the *Lingua Franca*. Have the means to carry a full day's supply of food and water with you—parts of Quebec can be exceptionally lonely, with long stretches between service stops. Consider mounting a rack, and a larger bag than usual. Carry good maps and know how to read them. Mount low gears—while the magnitude of the worst gradients are unknown at this time, the probability of steep gradients somewhere

along the route are high. Above all ride, ride, ride—SuperTour is a significant physical challenge that is much more enjoyable when you are fit and trained.

Where Are We Going, Exactly?

The itinerary for SuperTour 2003 is shown in the table on the right. All riding is within the province of Quebec. The exact itinerary will almost certainly change as sufficient rooms may not be available in every candidate destination. The atlas says all roads selected to date are paved; there may be suggested side trips on unpaved roads. Day-to-day climbing is unknown at this time and will be computed in the near future.

Elevations generally run from sea level along the St. Lawrence to perhaps 3,000 feet in the interior of the Gaspé Peninsula; the river itself is noted for its substantial escarpment. Train Day is Wednesday, August 6. We will board *Le Chaleur* at 10 PM in Charny, then detrain in Grand Riviere at 10:42 AM, after which we will ride to

| Location | Riding Day | Day & Date | km |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Montréal | 0 | Sat, Aug 2 | (start) |
| Magog | 1 | Sun, Aug 3 | 141 |
| Victoriaville | 2 | Mon, Aug 4 | 122 |
| Québec City | 3 | Tues, Aug 5 | 115 |
| Charny | 4 | Wed, Aug 6 | 77 |
| Gaspé | 5 | Thur, Aug 7 | 93 |
| Gaspé | 6 | Fri, Aug 8 | 94 |
| L'Anse-Pleureuse | 7 | Sat, Aug 9 | 141 |
| Cap-Chat | 8 | Sun, Aug 10 | 84 |
| Mont Joli | 9 | Mon, Aug 11 | 134 |
| Les Escoumins | 10 | Tues, Aug 12 | 88 |
| La Malbaie | 11 | Wed, Aug 13 | 116 |
| Québec City | 12 | Thur, Aug 14 | 142 |
| Trois Rivières | 13 | Fri, Aug 15 | 131 |
| Montréal | 14 | Sat, Aug 16 | 135 |

Gaspé. Destinations and daily mileage are subject to change. Actual mileage ridden tends to increase, sometimes significantly depending on personal map reading and navigational skills.

How Much Does it Cost?

The fee for SuperTour 2003 is \$800 with standard overnight train service on *Le Chaleur*, \$875 with sleeper service. Make checks payable to Perry Stout, and mail with your completed application to 5025 Deerpark Circle; Fair Oaks, CA 95628. You may withdraw from SuperTour any time up to June 15, 2003 and receive a refund, less \$100 for processing costs and any nonrefundable rail transport costs. Refunds are not available after June 15.

Your check covers all housing, daily maps and route sheets, equipment haulage, overnight transportation on *Le Chaleur*, pre-ride breakfasts, and post-ride snacks. It does NOT include transportation to the start or from the finish of SuperTour 2003, food consumed during the riding day or in the evening, ferry costs, or National Park Entrance fees.

How Many Riders Can Participate?

SuperTour is limited to 40 riders and is available on a first come, first served basis. The trip almost always fills up, so it pays to send in your entry as soon as possible.

Whom May I Contact For More Information?

This year's *Directeur Sportif* is Perry Stout, organizer of 2001's *Oregon's High Desert* event and a veteran of 16 previous SuperTours. He may be reached by telephone at (916) 966-0236 on weekends and (650) 852-5941 during the work day. His email addresses are pwstout@pacbell.net (evenings and weekends) and stout.perry@ssd.loral.com (workdays).