

MATANE'S HERITAGE ROUTE THEMATIC TOUR



Are you interested in learning more about our town's past? Matane's heritage route was thought up with you in mind! This route takes you through the town centre and is full of discoveries. Come and discover the jewels of our past and historical architecture on display throughout the town.

To download the tour on your phone, scan the QR code or go on our website tourismematane.com/en/circuitpatrimonialedematane.html. You'll be also able to listen to French audio tracks about each sites of Matane'Heritage Route. Ask one of our welcome agent for a paper copy.



For parking (if needed), go to the Promenade des Capitaines public parking, near McDonald restaurant, the one parallel to Saint-Jérôme Avenue, longing the Matane River.

1. Place des Rochelais

Located near Les Galeries du Vieux-Port shopping center and Cap-des-Pilotes bridge, at the end of the Promenade des Capitaines boardwalk, Place des Rochelais is a tribute to Matane's pioneers who landed at the beginning of the sixteenth century, coming from La Rochelle in France. The site also commemorates the city of Matane's maritime tradition. Observe a stylized schooner replica, filled with Canadian pebbles, a reminder of Rochelais's tradition: loading their boats before sailing back to their country.

2. Auberge de la Seigneurie (B&B) | 621, Saint-Jérôme Avenue
First called the Lebel house, it was later named la Seigneurie, inspired by its location, the mansion's land of the last Lord of Matane, Dougald Fraser. The house was built in a Fourquare style. It was built under the supervision of the architect Honorius Morin and destined to be inhabited by Joseph-Octave Lebel and his family in 1930. Mr. Lebel was the first manager-secretary of the Caisse populaire de Matane, from 1911 to 1946. Moreover, the fist local of the fund was located in this home.

3. Promenade des Capitaines

Inaugurated by the City of Matane in 1992, this boardwalk connects the mouth of Matane river to Marie-Marsolet bridge, located in the heart of the city. It highlights our maritime tradition through the history of its famous captains.

4. Saint-Jérôme Church

Heritage site of exceptional value recognized by the "Conseil du patrimoine religieux", the Saint-Jérôme Church is the 5th to rise on this location since 1858. With a traditional outdoor appearance, you'll be surprised to discover its Dom Bellot styled indoor. Conceived by the architects Paul Rousseau and Philippe Côté, it was the first demonstration of this new modern esthetic in the Quebec province. Since the summer of 2012, it's wearing a new spire to avoid water infiltration.

5. Saint-Jérôme Presbytery

The Saint-Jérôme Presbytery is in the Québec's repertoire of cultural heritage and was also named Historic monument by the city of Matane in 2004. It's the second priest house that rose almost in the same spot. The original structure was a log construction. In 1916, a clerestory-style expansion is built in the back, doubling the square footage. This building is a perfect representation of the Second Empire architecture.

6. The Piuze's house of Mr. Roger Gauthier

495, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

Captain Théodore Piuze arrives in Matane and moves in this Second Empire house in 1913, built thirteen years before. He steers different boats from 1902 to 1934. One of his sons, Henri, becomes a captain as well. He's one of the founders of the first permanent crossover service between the two shores of St. Laurent River via Matane-Godbout Ltd.'s navigation company in 1959. In 1962, he's the first captain to helm the N.A. Comeau ferry. This permanent crossover service between Matane and the North Coast marks the beginning of an essential service to the economic development of both shores. Since the 60s, the house belongs to Mr. Roger Gauthier and part of the main floor is rented to a hair salon.

7. The Paradis' house | 452, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

Built in 1876, it's probably the oldest house of the street. It's the first demonstration of the Second Empire architectural style that we recognize mainly by its four-sided mansard roof. Even if the ox-eye windows are gone and the front wall openings have been modified, the house still has its original allure. The home now belongs to a family descendant, Mrs. Raymonde Forbes.

8. The Gagnon's house | 426, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

Arthur Bouchard built this big Foursquare house in 1920. It becomes, five years later, the house of the father of today's owner, Mrs Carmen Gagnon, daughter of Hector Gagnon. First, let's acknowledge the efforts the Gagnon family to preserve the heritage value of the house. The family kept the original aspect of the house meticulously. In 2002, the house received an Heritage award from the "Conseil de la culture du Bas-St-Laurent" regarding the conservation and restoration of the property.

9. The Courthouse | 382, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

Since the establishment of the 1870's courthouse, this land always had a justice vocation. A fire levelled the first courthouse in 1920, but the town council rapidly ordered its reconstruction in 1921, as you can see just above the building's sign, on top of its neoclassical tower. The architect Paul Rousseau, its creator, took the liberty of adding a less popular type of brick in the front the building.

10. The Armoury | 374, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

Built in 1913 to host a post office, this federal building was conceived with the plans of the Public Works Department's head architects, under David Ewart's direction. You can see the year of the construction written on the frontage pediment. Since 1979, the building serves as an armoury. The architectural neo-roman styled details are numerous and they each add a value to this building, recognized as a Canadian heritage site since 1991. Many of the locals perceive the big clock of the old post office as an emblem.

11. Bon-Pasteur Building (CLSC de Matane)

349, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

Located on a land full of history, the journey begins with the construction of a convent in 1847. This pinkish brick cladding building has its main unit outback and two lateral wings approaching the street. It's a common form for this architectural type of religious or school-like building. The whole conception can be described as a Dom Bellot design. People say that during the construction of the school in 1896, the architect Mr. Courchesne, crossed the street a lot to admire the work in progress from the post office. Since the convent was pretty close to the school he was building, the architect decided to remove the bell tower, believing that it was altering the beauty and purity of his new construction. Only a few years later the convent was demolished.

12. Commercial buildings and apartments

334, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

Since its construction in 1919, this solid commercial building made of bricks still evoke the animation of Matane's main street. In 1920, it was hosting the Montreal Bank on the main floor. The space upstairs was dedicate to the rental of apartments or offices. It's even where the manager of the bank moves in. Today, the main floor is still dedicated to commercial activities, while the floors above are rented as apartments.

13. The Price's house | 257, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

This house was built by A.E Tweddell in 1900, specifically to accommodate the superintendent of the Price Brothers company and he's family. This house is therefore associated with Matane's most prosperous company and was the first house to have electricity. The Second Empire architectural styled house hosted the SEPAQ offices until summer of 2017. In summer 2012, the Reserve faunique de Matane was awarded the "Sauvegarde, restauration et conservation" prize for its efforts of conservation toward the Price's house.

14. Salmon observation centre (SOGERM) | \$

260, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

Expanded in 1994, the Atlantic salmon observation center is built lightly under the river's water level, giving the opportunity to the visitors to watch the fishes migrating through two big windows. The fishway presence at this location is not a new thing though. The migration being essential to the salmon's survival, a fish ladder was integrate to the dam in the 1940s to help the fishes through this huge obstacle. Salmon fishing is the oldest economic activity of the Matane's area. We practise it since the 17th century, so for almost 400 years.

15. Mathieu-D'Amours' Dam

Named after the first lord of Matane, since 1971 it keeps the Parc des îles' basin at the right level in the summer and most of all assures a control of the river's water flow with the opening of its valves. Having a maximal capacity of 1000 m cube/second, the dam of today is preceded by many others. In the 1840s, locks also hold the water, but mainly to facilitate the wood industry operations. The actual dam will have to be replaced in 2022.

16. Matane's City Hall | 230, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

From the air, the city hall looks like a bird with open wings and, from the ground, a big boat. These analogies between the building shape and aspects of everyday life is a common architectural style since the 60s. Inaugurated in 1968, the city hall is mostly made of poured concrete. Located near the Parc des îles' pond (formed by the held water of Mathieu-D'Amour's dam), the city hall occupies an industrial heritage site, left by the first industries of Matane. After 1840, the land was used for the first sawmills of the area. The most prosperous wood industry, the Price Brothers company, had its infrastructures located on the City Hall land.

17. Parc des Îles | 230, Saint-Jérôme Avenue

The Parc des Îles, located in the middle of the Matane river, is an ensemble of islets formed by the sediments left by the wood industry operations pursued by Price Bothers company. The bicycle path that goes through the park wears the same name as the founder, William Price, as a commemoration. Near Mathieu D'Amours' dam, there's a vestige of the Price Brothers company. It's actually the gear that used to operate the last mill of the company, saved from the junkyard in 1967. In the summer, the dam holds enough water to create a pond. Different nautical sports are practised there, like the pedalo, the kayak and the paddle board (available for rental) or to swim under surveillance. Playgrounds for the kids, water play area and work out machines for adults are available on site, all linked by little bridges. There's also a pavilion with commodities and a mini-golf court.

Off Tour

Maritime museum and lighthouse of Matane

968, Phare Ouest Avenue, Matane
418 562-1065 | www.lirelamer.com

Matane's fur trading post

655 Henri-Dunant Avenue, Matane
418 562-1065 | www.acprm.ca/poste-de-traite

Historical and genealogical society of Matane

320, Dion Boulevard, Matane
418 562-9766 | www.shgmatane.org

