

The Gatineau Loppet Experiencing the Immensity of Canada!

From the 14th through the 19th of February 2018

(both classic and skating / 27 or 51 km)

“Ô Canada, the True North strong and free”. These are the words from the first verse of Canada's national anthem and these words accurately reflect the Gatineau Loppet with the huge forest of Gatineau just outside Canada's capital, Ottawa. This forest is found in an immense and spectacular setting of pure nature. This race is part of the non-European Worldloppet series. Without a doubt, this is the principle racing event for Nordic skiing in Canada and promises to be an adventure like no other.

Saturday, it's classic Nordic skiing. Sunday, it's skating style. Each day there are two races—a shorter one and a longer one. As you ski across the Gatineau forest, you will be among dense pines and frozen lakes, even though you are only 15 minutes from the tumultuous center of Ottawa and the Canadian Parliament. It's Canada in all of its splendor! (You should attempt to go to town at least one time to visit Parliament.)

To repeat, you have two distances in either style of skiing—27 or 51 kilometers. There will be numerous supporters along either course to encourage you and at several strategic locations, there will be food and liquids to keep you going. The growing Canadians' enthusiasm for Nordic skiing has been due to the great success that Alex Harvey has had in the pro circuit. Today, Alex is regularly in the top five in World Cup Nordic races. In addition, the recent Tour of Canada at the end of the regular season helped increase Nordic skiing's popularity.



The City of Gatineau and Its Park:

Gatineau is the 4th largest city in Quebec. There are almost 300,000 inhabitants. The town is situated on the northern banks of the Outaouais River. It looks onto the capital of Canada—Ottawa.

The Gatineau Park has an vast set of groomed Nordic ski trails and some say it is the biggest in North America. You will find more than 200 km of such trails, going from the easiest to the hardest. All of these trails are accessible from Ottawa in less than 45 minutes.



Hotel Ramada Plaza at Gatineau:

The Hotel Ramada Plaza is situated only a few minutes from the bus service to Gatineau Park where all races will be held. All rooms are spacious (which is usually the case in hotels in America and Canada). Each one has an Internet connection. There is a restaurant for breakfast, a fitness room, an interior swimming pool that is well heated, and, of course, the welcoming cordiality of all Canadians.



The Itinerary for Your Trip:

Wednesday, February 14th: This is a flying/drive day

You fly in from the airport of your choice to Ottawa. You will be transferred from that airport to your hotel. Dinner together this night.

Thursday, February 15th:

Get ready for a copious breakfast at your hotel, plus a short bus transfer to the departure stadium where you will be able to undertake a reconnaissance of a part of the race course. Your afternoon is free, so plan on visiting the center of Ottawa.



Friday, February 16th:

First breakfast and then a second training session and reconnaissance of part of the race course. Of course you will be trying out your skis and wax for the race. Today, you will collect your race numbers and packages and everything else necessary for your race.

Saturday, February 17th:

Today, you will want a big breakfast. It is classic ski racing for either 27 or 51 kilometers. For those who are going to skate ski the next day, it is a free day and you can be preparing for your race on Sunday.

Sunday, February 18th:

A big breakfast for those who will be skate skiing today. For those who have classic skied on Saturday, you can rest. Or, if you are brave enough, do both races—Saturday and Sunday.

Monday, February 19th:

The last breakfast at your hotel and then your trip home.

Entering Canada:

You need a passport that is valid for at least six months *after* the date of your return to your home country. Then there is no problem traveling as a tourist in Canada.

Electronic trip authorization (AVE):

The latest exigencies to enter the country are utilized by the authorities. All foreign visitors must have a visa corresponding to a flight into Canada or transiting through Canada. You have to do this by using electronic trip authorization (AVE).



Your flight possibilities:

We will gladly arrange for a flight to Ottawa at the best price. There are three companies that we use: Swiss Air, Lufthansa, and Air Canada. There are usually connections in every major airport in Europe.

One possible set of flights from Zurich to Ottawa using Air Canada

This is a standard flight in economy class

14.02.2018	Zürich – Torono	09.25h – 12.30h (-6 Std)
14.02.2018	Torono – Ottawa	14.10h – 15.11h
19.02.2018	Ottawa – Toronto	14.00h – 15.03h
19.02.2018	Torono – Zürich	16.45h – 06.25h (+ 6 Std)

Price : CHF 1180.00 / (price as of June 2017)

Date: February 14 to February 19, 2018 (Wednesday to Monday)

Your organized tour will include:

- ✓ 5 nights in the Crowne Plaza in Gatineau-Ottawa
- ✓ 5 continental breakfasts
- ✓ Bus transfers to and from the airport (McDonald International)
- ✓ An experienced guide from Team Sandoz Concept
- ✓ All information materials about your trip

The guided tour does not include the following:

- ✓ Your international flight (which we can book for you upon request)

The minimum number of participants for this great trip is ten (10)

Price per person in a double room: Euro 850,-/CHF 950,-
Suppl. for individual room: Euro 360,-/CHF 400,-

The costs of registering for the Gatineau Loppet 2018 are :

17.02.2018	short distance classic	27 km	ca. Euro 90,-/CHF 100,-
17.02.2018	Long distance classic	51 km	ca. Euro 130,-/CHF 145,-
18.02.2018	short distance skating	27 km	ca. Euro 90,-/CHF 100,-
18.02.2018	Long distance skating	51 km	ca. Euro 110,-/CHF 125,-

