



Conseil du
patrimoine
religieux
du Québec



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE DAYS

Hundreds of free activities at the heart of 175 different cities and municipalities

September 11 and 12, 2021

Montréal, August 23, 2021 — Today the Québec Religious Heritage Council (QRHC) and the Québec Religious and Spiritual Tourism Association (QRSTA) are proud to launch the programming for Religious Heritage Days 2021, the fourth edition of the event, which focuses on architecture and heritage.

On a voluntary basis, since the month of April, 276 organisers registered their activities to the event's programming on September 11 and 12, 2021, in the aim of offering Quebecers an opportunity to better know and appreciate the many artistic, historical, and architectural aspects of their religious heritage.

Emblematic sites, as well as little-known and more difficult to access sites answered the call, offering visitors a plethora of options to satisfy their curiosity. You can now consult all the guided and self-guided tours on offer, as well as cultural activities, including concerts and exhibitions. It's the perfect chance to prolong the summer season!

From the Magdalen Islands to Guérin, passing through Métabetchouan, Frelighsburg and the metropolitan regions, the possible itineraries are many. A map indicating the participating sites is available on the event's website: journeesdupatrimoine religieux.ca.

All activities are free of charge and donations contributing to the conservation of participating sites can be collected onsite. All activities will be offered in conformity with the public health guidelines in effect on September 11 and 12.

Visitors are encouraged to publish their photos and videos of their experiences on social media with the hashtag **#Journéesdupatrimoine religieux2021** and to follow the event's pages on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/journeesdupatrimoine religieux) et [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/journeesdupatrimoine religieux).

“We are happy to create an occasion for all citizens to be welcomed as visitors to the heritage sites participating in the Religious Heritage Days Programming. Québec's religious heritage is rich and abundant, and we are working to preserve it. Visit the sites to know them better and to appreciate their specificities: views of the landscape, steeples, woodwork, works of art, organs

and stained glass; they are teeming with works worthy of museums, they are our castles and are filled with history.” – **Josée Grandmont, President of the QRHC board of directors.**

“Spiritual and religious tourism is the oldest form of tourism, and the Religious Heritage Days offer you the chance to visit the religious sites located right here in our region. Before the pandemic, in Québec, religious and spiritual tourism generated 1.47 million nights spent in the province and \$60 million in tourist spending. Of these visitors, 33% came specifically to their destination for religious attractions and 73 % visited other attractions in proximity. Whether for the beauty of the sites or the panoramas they offer, culture or history, our religious sites are an extraordinary reason to plan a getaway to the different regions of Québec.” – **Michel Couturier, President of the QRSTA board of directors.**

[Watch the 2021 promotional video](#)

About the QRHC and the QRSTA

The **QRHC** is a non-profit organization which operates across Québec. Its mission is to support and encourage the conservation and promotion of Québec’s Religious Heritage. This year once again, the QRHC is collaborating with the **QRSTA**. This association’s mission is to ensure the development and vibrancy of religious and spiritual tourism in Québec. It contributes to the development of experiences and tourism products that capitalize on the richness and authenticity of the religious and spiritual tourism opportunities on offer in Québec.

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Possibilities for media:

- A first look at certain exceptional sites rarely accessible to the public is offered to media representatives upon request.
- The QRHC can orient the media towards restoration projects that have been primed.
- The QRHC can orient the media towards worksites of ongoing restoration projects, to allow them the witness different techniques and to learn the best practices for saving religious heritage.
- The QRHC has at its disposal a bank of images that it can make available to the media upon request.