



Route 3889

SAFETY

FIRST

Québec 

A FEW TIPS

You are about to enter route 389. While the splendour of the scenery and the outsized hydroelectric facilities along the route may take your breath away, you should still take some precautions before stepping on the gas. Note that there are sometimes hundreds of kilometres between service stations. Follow these tips to stack all the odds in your favour in case of problems:

- Before you set out, fill the gas tank and make a list of places where you can fill up along the way.
- Drive at a speed that is appropriate for your skill level, the road conditions and your vehicle, while remaining within the speed limit.
- If you have to pull over, do so in a safe place and make sure you can be easily seen.
- Before setting out, check the condition of your battery and tires (including the spare tire) as well as oil and antifreeze levels.
- Check the weather and road conditions.
- Make sure you have on hand any equipment you might need if your car breaks down (see the next page).

Be prepared for unforeseen events and do not rely on your cell phone. You will not have service for a significant stretch of the road between Baie-Comeau and Fermont.

In the event of particularly poor road conditions, certain stretches of the road might be closed to traffic (closed completely or to heavy vehicles only). Variable message signs and flashing road signs are installed along the road to notify you of such closures. Be sure to follow the instructions they provide. The signs are installed at the intersection of route 138 and 389, in Manic-2, Manic-3 and Manic-5 as well as in Fermont.

Caution should be used on route 389 as many users must share the road. Whether they are employees of Hydro-Québec operating the Manic-Outardes facilities, truckers transporting materials, machinery or wood to be processed in the region's sawmills, vacationers traveling to their chalets or tourists visiting Fermont, Manic-5 or any of the numerous attractions or service points along this route, everyone must be vigilant and attentive. The steep slopes and sharp curves along the route require full attention at all times.



Photo : Transports Québec

Route 389 is a national highway maintained by the ministère des Transports du Québec. It links Baie-Comeau on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River to Fermont and on to the border of Labrador. It provides access to a vast territory of unspoiled wilderness.

ESSENTIALS

- flashlight
- first aid kit
- non-perishable food
- matches or lighter
- candles
- blanket
- water

Photo : Jean-Yves Forest

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Photo : Transports Québec

IF YOU ARE TRAVELING IN THE WINTER

- warm clothing
- winter boots
- lock defroster
- methanol (wood alcohol to keep gas from freezing)

Photo : Artiom Kusci

HELPFUL TOOLS

- duct tape
- portable compressor
- set of wrenches, pliers
- screwdriver, hammer
- shovel, axe
- rope

IN CASE OF A BREAKDOWN, FLAT TIRE OR LOSS OF CONTROL

- jumper cables
- pulley clamps
- fuel transfer hose

Photo : Nasa

Route 389

DETAILS

BAIE-COMEAU TO MANIC-2

- Distance: 22 km
- Road surface: asphalt; sharp curves and steep slopes, narrow road
- Approximate driving time: 30 min

RELAIS-GABRIEL TO FIRE LAKE

- Distance: 164 km
- Road surface: asphalt, in good condition
- Approximate driving time: 2 hours

MONT-WRIGHT TO FERMONT

- Distance: 19 km
- Road surface: asphalt, in good condition
- Approximate driving time: 20 min
- Population of Fermont: 2,747 inhabitants

MANIC-2 TO MANIC-5

- Distance: 192 km
- Road surface: asphalt; sharp curves and steep slopes, narrow road
- Approximate driving time: 2 hours 30 min

FIRE LAKE TO MONT-WRIGHT

- Distance: 67 km
- Road surface: gravel, narrow road, sharp curves
- Approximate driving time: 1 hour 30 min

FERMONT TO LABRADOR CITY

- Distance: 35 km
- Road surface: asphalt, in good condition
- Approximate driving time: 30 min

Note: Multiple sections of this stretch of road cross over railroad tracks.

MANIC-5 TO RELAIS-GABRIEL

- Distance: 101 km
- Road surface: gravel, in good condition
- Approximate driving time: 1 hour 30 min



Photo : Marc Blaquière



Relais-Gabriel

km 354 5.0h
km 316 6.0h
km 187



Photo : Marc Loisele

5.0h

km 272



Manic-Cinq km 312

5.0h km 202

5.0h

km 165.4

4.5h

km 135

4.5h

km 117

Manic-3

km 96

4.0h

km 72

km 52

3.5h

3.5h

Manic-2

km 32

Baie-Comeau



Photo : Hydro-Québec

Photos : Artiom Kusch

THE ROLE OF **Route 389**

HYDROELECTRIC POWER

Route 389 is also known as “Manic road.” The hydroelectric stations operated by Hydro-Québec along the road (Manic-2, Manic-3, Manic-5, Manic-5 PA, Outardes-3, Outardes-4 and Hart-Jaune) generate 20% of the government corporation’s total production capacity.



Photos : Hydro-Québec

THE MINING INDUSTRY

The three mines currently in operation, ArcelorMittal Mines Canada, Rio Tinto IOC and Cliffs Natural Resources, as well as the Alderon Iron Ore Corp. mining project, have increased economic activity in the northern stretch of route 389. These open-pit mines are among the largest in Canada with an annual production capacity that could reach around 65 million metric tons by 2014. Iron ore concentrate and pellets are transported to the south by railway. From there, the ore is transported by ship to various countries around the world.

**Access to natural resources is vital to the Côte-Nord economy.
To this end, route 389 plays a crucial role both in industry and tourism
as it is the only road linking the coast to the resources of the inland region.**

THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

Each year, several forestry companies such as Resolute Forest Products, Almassa and Boisaco source raw materials in the forests along route 389.

Total annual volume of wood harvested and transported along route 389 by these forestry companies varies between 250,000 and 1.5 million cubic metres.

Photo : Jean Murray

THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

Now northbound toward Manicouagan! Along this extraordinary route, you will discover rows of impressive hydroelectric plants and the majestic Monts Groulx. Route 389 leads the way to choice sites for hunting, fishing and leisure activities. Whether at an outfitter's or deep in the wilderness, nature lovers and admirers of Québec engineering will be enchanted.

Route 389 is also part of the Trans-Québec–Labrador route, the only road linking Québec and Labrador. At the end of the route, Goose Bay offers a coastal paradise where travelers can finish their trip in Newfoundland, access the other maritime provinces or return by the waters of the Basse-Côte-Nord.

A map of Monts Groulx and the Trans-Québec–Labrador route is available from the Tourisme Côte-Nord–Manicouagan office by calling 1 888 463-5319. The office also offers detailed maps, route guides and other important information.



Photo : Michael Jones



Photo : Refuge du Prospecteur



Photo : Marc Loiselle

QUESTIONS

MINISTÈRE DES TRANSPORTS DU QUÉBEC

Direction de la Côte-Nord

625, boulevard Laffèche, bureau 110

Baie-Comeau G5C 1C5

Telephone : 418 295-4765

Fax : 418 295-4766

Email: cotenord@mtq.gouv.qc.ca

www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/portal/page/portal/accueil en

Centre de services de Baie-Comeau

975, rue Nouvel

Baie-Comeau G5C 2C9

Telephone : 418 295-4500

Fax : 418 295-4501



COMITÉ DE SÉCURITÉ
ROUTE 389

For more information
www.route389.com/en/home

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (24/7)

Sûreté du Québec

District de la Côte-Nord

Telephone: 310-4141 or

*4141 (cell phone)

Satellite phone: 418 296-2324



FOR TRAVEL PLANNING

Québec 511 Info Transports

Telephone: 511

www.quebec511.gouv.qc.ca/en/index.asp

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Québec 