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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



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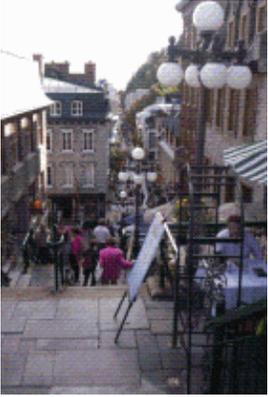
Day trip Quebec

Quebec City, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Do you have only one day to visit Quebec? Well, this is the trip for you! It has the best of Quebec condensed into a 24-hour period of whirlwind sightseeing, gastronomic delights and culture. All major sights are included and they are ordered in the most efficient manner possible that has you going from one sight to another without having you zig-zag around town or backtrack.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Quebec City

DAY NOTE: This is the perfect trip, if you only have one day to spare in Québec City. It'll take you through all the major sites in a whirlwind of sight-seeing and gastronomical pleasures. It might seem like a lot, but if you follow the itinerary, you'll be sure to make the most of your time in Québec City. Most sights are in walking distance of each other and the itinerary follows a logical and natural course through the city. So no need to rush, take your time! Maybe as you're walking through the narrow, winding streets of Old Québec, you'll discover some hidden treasures of your own.

 **Grande-Allée (La)**
The Happening Street

 **Plains of Abraham**
A park rich in history

 **Parliament Building**
Seat of Quebec Government

 **Fortifications of Quebec National Historic Site**
Unique in North America

 **Anciens Canadiens (Aux)**
Outstanding Quebec Cuisine

 **Escalier Casse-Cou**
Flight Upwards

 **Dufferin Terrace**
Panoramic Boardwalk

 **Promenade des Gouverneurs**
Spectacular Boardwalk

 **Quartier Petit Champlain**
Beautifully-preserved area

 **Place Royale**
Birthplace of French America

 **Place Royale Interpretation Centre**
Information on Major Sites

 **Royal Battery**
Ten Cannons on Display

 **Quebec Funicular**
Unique in Canada

 **Museum of French America**
French Community in America

 **Crémaillère (La)**
Italian Savories

 **Pub Saint-Alexandre**
Wide selection of imported beers

Day 1 - Quebec City

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: This is the perfect trip, if you only have one day to spare in Québec City. It'll take you through all the major sites in a whirlwind of sight-seeing and gastronomical pleasures. It might seem like a lot, but if you follow the itinerary, you'll be sure to make the most of your time in Québec City. Most sights are in walking distance of each other and the itinerary follows a logical and natural course through the city. So no need to rush, take your time! Maybe as you're walking through the narrow, winding streets of Old Québec, you'll discover some hidden treasures of your own.

contact:

tel: +1 418 641 6290 (Tourist Information)

location:

Grande-Allée Street
Quebec City QC G1R 2K4

hours:

24 hrs

1 Grande-Allée (La)

DESCRIPTION: The Grande-Allée runs parallel to the Plains of Abraham and is lined with the best that Quebec City has to offer. Nicknamed the "Champs Élysées" of Quebec City, you can rub elbows with politicians grabbing lunch from the nearby Parliament building or the numerous tourists strolling about. Depending on what you want, there is no wrong time to visit Grande-Allée. Days are filled with people bustling or strolling up and down the street, and the nights are filled with exuberant party goers. There is something for everyone. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +1 418 648 4071
fax: +1 418 648 3809
http://www.ccbn-nbc.gc.ca/_en/beauparc.php

location:

835 Wilfrid-Laurier Avenue
Quebec City QC G1K 7R3

hours:

Jun 24-Sep 4: daily
8:30a-5:30p, Sep 5-Jun 23:
M-F 8:30a-5p, Sa 9a-5p, Su
10a-5p

2 Plains of Abraham

DESCRIPTION: The Plains of Abraham, officially known as Battlefields Park, was the site of one of the most important battles in Canadian history. Today, it's where festivals are held, and people come to ski in the winter and picnic in the summer. This park in the city is also the location of the Musée Nationale des Beaux-Arts du Québec and is steps away from Grande-Allée. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Plains of Abraham.

contact:

tel: +1 418 643 7239 / +1 866 337 8837 (Toll Free)
fax: +1 418 646 4271
http://www.bonjourquebec.com/qc-en/attractions-directory/museum-interpretation-centre-historic-site/hotel-du-parlement_1171353.html, <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/visiteurs/index.html>

3 Parliament Building

DESCRIPTION: The Parliament Building is a striking building, located near Grande-Allée, and Old Quebec, is the center of all political life in Quebec. This is where the National Assembly meets and is open to the public. Guided tours are available from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Weekdays are the best time to take advantage of the action, and eat at the famous Parliament restaurant open to the public. © NileGuide



location:

1045 Rue des Parlementaires
Quebec City QC G1A 1A3

hours:

Sep 4-Jun 23: M-F 9a-4:30p,
Jun 24-Sep 3: M-F 9a-4:30p,
Sa-Su & holidays 10a-4:30p

contact:

tel: +1 418 641 6654(Tourist
Information)
fax: +1 418 641 6578(Tourist
Information)

location:

1 Côte de la Citadelle
Quebec City QC G1R 3R2

hours:

Interpretation Centre: Oct
11-May 9: by reservation;
May 10-Oct 10: Daily 10a-5p;
Guided tours: Jun 1-Jun 24,
Aug 30-Oct 10: 1p (English),
3p (French); Jun 25-Aug
29: 10a & 1:30p (English &
French), 3p (English)

**4 Fortifications of Quebec National
Historic Site**

DESCRIPTION: There's something fascinating about walking the length of this wall surrounding the city. Perhaps it's the wonderful view that it offers of passersby on top of St. John's Gate or the panoramic views of Lower Town, but the sense of history as the only remaining fortified city in North America certainly doesn't hurt either. Whether you take a guided tour or walk it alone, the Fortifications of Quebec is a must see! © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 418 692 1627
fax: +1 418 692 5419
<http://www.auxancienscanadiens.qc.ca/>

location:

34 Saint-Louis
Quebec City QC G1R 4P3

hours:

Daily noon-9:30p

5 Anciens Canadiens (Aux)

DESCRIPTION: This well-known restaurant is located in the beautiful Maison Jacquet, a 1675 building that was once home to novelist Philippe-Aubert de Gaspé— his novel gives its name to the restaurant. The table d'hôte offers an entrée, soup, choice of main course, desert and coffee or tea starting at very reasonable prices. Traditional Canadian offerings include Duck Cutlet braised in maple syrup sauce. The wine list includes a Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais Village and, appropriately, a fine selection of Canadian vintages. © wcities.com



Anciens Canadiens (Aux)

contact:

tel: +1 418 641 6290(Tourist Information)
fax: +1 418 522 0830(Tourist Information)

location:

Rue Dalhousie
Quebec City QC G1K 4E3

6 Escalier Casse-Cou

DESCRIPTION: While the Escalier Casse-Cou or the breakneck stairs has been around since the 17th century, there has never been a known incident of anyone actually breaking their neck on these stairs. However Escalier Casse-Cou got its name, it attracts as many visitors for the same reason that Lombard Street, the most crooked street in America, attracts so many people: curiosity. The best time to visit is in the morning when there are fewer people "breaking their necks" trying to go up the stairs. Taking the Quebec Funicular to get to and from between the Château Frontenac and the Quartier Petit Champlain is strongly recommended for anyone suffering from vertigo. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 418 641 6654(Tourist Information)
fax: +1 418 641 6578(Tourist Information)

location:

Rue de la Terrasse Dufferin
Quebec City QC G1R 4A7

hours:

Dawn-dusk daily

7 Dufferin Terrace

DESCRIPTION: Facing the Château Frontenac, this pleasantly landscaped promenade and boardwalk, Dufferin Terrace, offers the city's best view of the Saint Lawrence River and Old Quebec. Full of vendors, street performers and scores of visitors in the summer, the boardwalk is also an excellent starting point for touring the rest of the city. Those in search of some exercise can descend the staircase to the Lower Town, others ride the precipitous funicular railway. The spectacular Promenade des Gouverneurs leaves the Terrace to the south, runs beneath the Citadel, and emerges at the Plains of Abraham. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 418 641 6290(Tourist Information)
fax: +1 418 522 0830(Tourist Information)

location:

Off Avenue Saint Denis
Quebec City QC G1R 4P5

hours:

Dawn-dusk M-Su

8 Promenade des Gouverneurs

DESCRIPTION: The Promenade des Gouverneurs is a pleasant boardwalk that starts at Château Frontenac and follows the St-Lawrence River, ending up at the Plains of Abraham. It's also where you can see some of the best views of the river and the city. Early mornings are best for serious hikes, and evenings can't be beat for a view of Quebec City at night! © NileGuide

contact:

tel: +1 418 692 2613 / +1 877 692 2613 (Toll free)
fax: +1 418 692 5085
<http://www.quartierpetitchampain.com>

location:

61, rue du Petit-Champlain
Quebec City QC G1K 4H5

9 Quartier Petit Champlain

DESCRIPTION: The Quartier Petit Champlain, located under the Chateau Frontenac, is one of those magical places that makes you feel like you're in a different world. Blocked off by the St-Lawrence River, a large cliff, and a large hill, its insular quality adds to that otherworldly feeling. It can be accessed by the Escalier Casse-Cou or the Quebec Funicular. Quaint, historical, and touristy, all at the same time, it's what all tourist spots should aspire to be! © NileGuide



hours:

Office: M-F 8:30a-noon, 1p-5p

contact:

tel: +1 418 641 6290(Tourist Information)

fax: +1 418 522 0830(Tourist Information)

http://www.quebecregion.com/en/quebec_city_and_area/old-port_place-royale

location:

Rue Notre Dame
Quebec City QC G1K 4E9

hours:

24 hrs



Place Royale

DESCRIPTION: Place Royale is a collection of buildings and narrow streets born in 1608, when explorer Samuel de Champlain established a secure fur trading post. It changed hands between the British and French, surviving fires and battles and eventually became Quebec City's version of "downtown." After a complete restoration, Place Royale is now the city's most picturesque place, sporting restaurants and cafes, as well as many tourist attractions. Be sure to visit the Maison Chevalier, the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Church and the Interpretive center. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 418 646 3167

<http://www.mcq.org/>

location:

27 rue Notre-Dame
Quebec City QC G1K 4E9

hours:

Until June23rd: 10a-5p Tu-Su, June 24th-4th Sep: 9:30a-6:30p M-Su



Place Royale Interpretation Centre

DESCRIPTION: This brand new interpretation centre opened on Place Royale itself, and provides information on all area attractions while mounting its own exhibits. The centre is a good place to stop before exploring Place Royale, the Royal Battery, the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Church and Maison Chevalier. Armed with historical information, you can then make the most of your visit to this especially historic area of Quebec City. Exhibits include a history of the Interpretation Centre's own buildings, a multimedia history of Place Royale, a history of Quebec commerce, and a Discovery Space in which you can re-enact life in Quebec City in 1800. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 418 641 6290(Tourist Information)

fax: +1 418 522 0830(Tourist Information)

<http://www.quebecheritage.com/en/militaire.html>

location:

37 Sous-le-Fort Street
Quebec City QC G1K 4E9

hours:

Call for details



Royal Battery

DESCRIPTION: Constructed in 1690 to fend off British attacks, this fortification at the Place Royale still displays original cannons. The Royal Battery saw most of its action during the siege of Quebec in 1759. In the summertime, staff explain the history of the cannons and the battery, including how the cannons were loaded and fired, and a description of the many perils that awaited the soldier in charge of these huge pieces of artillery. Children, in particular, are often fascinated by this well-preserved piece of Quebec's military history. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 418 692 1132
fax: +1 418 692 4415
<http://www.funiculaire-quebec.com>

location:

16 Petit-Champlain
Quebec City QC G1K 4H4

hours:

Oct 5-Apr 5: 7:30a-11p M-Su,
Apr 6-Jun 19, Labor Day-Oct
24: 7:30a-11:30p M-Su, Jun
20-Labor Day: 7:30a-midnight
M-Su

D **Quebec Funicular**

DESCRIPTION: Saving tired legs since 1879, the Québec Funicular is still the best way to get from Château Frontenac to Quartier Petit Champlain. This double-track railway cable car, built against Quebec's 210-foot cliff, offers pedestrians a quick way get between Lower and Upper Town. Whether you are going up or down, you will appreciate the splendid panoramic views of the Quartier Petit Champlain that much more while protected from the chilly winds blowing off the Saint Laurence River. Make sure to visit the Funicular gift shop housed in a colonial-style house at the foot of the cliff. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: +1 418 692 2843
fax: +1 418 646 0119
<http://www.mcq.org/fr/maf/index.html>

location:

2 Côte de la Fabrique
Quebec City QC G1R 3V6

hours:

Until Jun 23, 2006: 10a-5p
Tu-Su, closed M and Dec 25,
From Jun 24, 2006: 9:30a-5p
M-Su

E **Museum of French America**

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful museum offers many multidisciplinary insights into the history of North America's French communities. There are two permanent exhibits: The Settling of French America is a multimedia trip from France to the colonies, while The History of the Collections Séminaire de Québec boasts an unmatched assortment of religious art and scientific instruments. Guided tours are available in both French and English. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 418 692 2216
fax: +1 418 692 5202
<http://www.cremaillere.qc.ca/>

location:

73, Sainte-Anne street
Quebec City QC G1R 3X4

F **Crémaillère (La)**

DESCRIPTION: Boasting one of Quebec City's most attractive exteriors, this venerable restaurant is ensconced in a 19th-century stone building on the Rue St-Stanislas. Its extensive menu of haute cuisine favourites includes salmon carpaccio and smoked duck and Bresaola appetizers, a small selection of pastas, milk-fed veal dishes, and steak and seafood from the grill. House specialties include steak tartare and Chateaubriand bouquetière for two. Desserts range from the extravagant—crepes flambéed at your table—to an outstanding but more modest selection of cakes and tarts. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 418 694 0015
fax: 418 694 0178
<http://www.pubstalexandre.com/>

location:

1087 Rue St-Jean

G **Pub Saint-Alexandre**

DESCRIPTION: This pub allows beer connoisseurs to quench their thirst with an impressive selection of fine imported ales in the summer, or with some warm cider by the fireplace in the winter. The pub offers 200 beers. In addition to its tasteful mahogany bar, the St-Alexandre has a stage where local bands perform on weekends. The kitchen is open from 11am to 3pm



Day 1 - continued...

Quebec City QC G1R 1S3

and from 5pm to 9:30pm, serving traditional pub cuisine. ©
wcities.com

hours:

Daily 11a-3p, 5p-9:30p

Quebec City Snapshot

Local Info

Overlooking the lovely Saint Lawrence River, the charming old city of Quebec is a North American enclave with the sophistication of a city in France. Not surprising, since it was once a French colony and still clings to its French culture: you'll read and hear more French here than English. It also has a romantic French flair, more than 400 years of history, lush old stone architecture and trendy boutiques, vibrant pubs, and high-end restaurants and shops, all with a convivial Continental ambience.

Sights

Whether you're staying at the fantastic Chateau Frontenac, a massive historical building turned posh hotel, or to the west in the downtown area, you should make your way to Vieux-Quebec (Old Quebec), which still has its original fortress walls, to tour Basse-Ville (Lower Town) and Haute-Ville (Upper Town). The Old Quebec Funicular railway, a vertical lift, links the two neighborhoods. The best way to experience them is on walk through their intimate winding streets. Basse-Ville has its original street layout and the lanes are lined with old houses that now are home to many cafes, galleries and boutiques. The landmark Notre Dame des Victoires church and cobblestoned Place Royale square are two must-sees in Basse-Ville.

Quebec is the site of festivals year-round and the events fill the city with activities and fun things to do from winter through fall. One of the most popular is the Winter Carnival, which has attractions from a snow-sculpture competition to the winter-defying canoe race. The summer festival season starts with the Saint-Jean Baptiste Celebration, followed by the Festival d'Ete (Summer Festival) and its bonfires, fireworks, free music concerts and many other shows.

Shopping and Dining

The narrow streets of Old Quebec provide endless opportunities for surprising discoveries. You'll find shops selling everything from windblown glass figures to vintage wines to leather goods and crafts by local artisans. Near Basse-Ville is the Marche du Vieux-Port farmers market, where you can buy fresh produce and enjoy homemade fare at a variety of food stalls.

For sit-down dining, there are cafes and bistros scattered all over Quebec. Most feature French specialties, of course, from crepes, curds and local cheese at informal cafes to four-course meals at the trendy restaurants strung around the Chateau Frontenac. Though generally a quiet city, Quebec also has its fair share of night revels, with a lively entertainment district focused on Rue St. Jean and Grande Allee in the old town. A stroll around will turn up numerous clubs and bars offering a wide variety of music and other performances.
© NileGuide

History

Quebec (keh-BEHK) is Canada's oldest city, founded by Samuel de Champlain in 1608. Its name was an adaptation of the Algonquian word meaning "the river narrows here"—Champlain chose this spot for the settlement because the high cliffs and narrowing of the St. Lawrence River offered excellent natural and strategic defenses.

While regarded as the center of New France, the growing North American empire of the French, the colony struggled. The harsh climate combined with the rough terrain failed to attract great numbers of French families to the New World. Further, many of the colony's few settlers were migrants—Couriers de bois—who would come in from the wilderness with furs they had gotten in barter with Native Americans. These men had no interest in taking up permanent residence in Quebec, and often ended up marrying Iroquois or Huron women.

At one point, King Louis XIV had French women sent to New France as wives for the men who inhabited the fledgling settlement. These filles de roi exemplified

the state of the colony in its early days. In 1666, 58 years after its founding, the population was only 547. Only with increased incentives and persuasion was France able to increase the number of permanent residents to 1,500 by the end of 1690, and to 34,000 by 1730—120 years after the creation of New France.

In the 18th century, the city of Quebec finally began to grow. With a larger population, industry and trade flourished. Couriers de bois continued to bring pelts and furs into the marketplace to trade for other goods, which they could take back into the wilderness. Stores and workshops were built on the river's edge in the Lower Town.

This market area was Place Royale, still one of the Lower Town's most popular landmarks, along with the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Church. The latter is noted for having its altar shaped as a fort. It was completed in 1688 and stands on the site of Champlain's very first settlement. Meanwhile, the Upper Town gradually began to take its current shape. Houses and schools sprang up within the city's walls as French citizens began to put down roots in Canada. Today, the Upper Town is full of gourmet restaurants, fine hotels like the Château Frontenac, and numerous shops and boutiques. You will also find the Quebec National Assembly here.

As the city grew in size, so did its economic and military importance. The French knew they needed to create a strong system of defenses to protect the capital of New France from the enemy British, ensconced to the south in the American colonies. What they constructed was the Citadel. Perhaps the most famous of Quebec City's landmarks, it stands 106 metres above the city on Cap Diamant. It was assumed that an attack would come from the river, the city's most vulnerable point, and that is where the cannons were aimed.

Unfortunately for the French, the British surprised the French. General James Wolfe and 4,500 British soldiers scaled the steep cliffs leading to the Plains of Abraham, under cover of darkness from September 12-13, 1759. The French commander, Lieutenant-General Louis de Montcalm, ordered his "army" (a combination of French regulars and poorly-trained militiamen) to meet the enemy. In a battle that lasted 15

Quebec City Snapshot continued

minutes, the British routed the defenders. They battered the city with cannon fire until the French army retreated to Montreal, where they would be defeated a year later and New France would fall to the British.

The surrender of Quebec was followed by a period of military occupation and martial law until 1763, when a peace treaty was signed in Paris. With New France now secured as British North America, immigrants arrived to occupy existing cities and to build new ones. The large influx of British, Scottish and Irish immigrants into Quebec City created considerable tension, but it also fostered the international flavor the city still retains. A mingling of cultures over time has resulted in a unique lifestyle and atmosphere.

With the British came order and wealth, and the city grew in leaps and bounds. New sectors of the city were built with their own architecture and character. Agriculture flourished and trade routes extended deeper into the heart of the continent and into the American colonies. But beneath all the British influence remained the "French identity." Citizens refused to give up their language or their culture to the English speaking authorities.

This patriotic fervor has only increased over time. In 1774, the British passed the Quebec Act, which allowed the French citizens to practice Roman Catholicism and to use French civil law. Still, French-speaking citizens struggled to preserve their culture. During the debates on Confederation in 1867, Quebec representatives refused to join unless guarantees were made to protect the identity of French-speaking people in the newly formed Dominion of Canada.

Quebec City has continued as a hotbed of political activity for those who feel that the French influence in Canada is not strong enough, or that the French are poorly represented and inadequately supported by their government. But despite its strong French identity, Quebec remains a city rich in diverse cultural flavors, styles and history. It is a city of passion. Its residents are not only passionate about their politics, but about their desire to enjoy life to its fullest.

©

Hotel Insights

Few North American cities combine the old and the new as effectively and attractively as Quebec. Because of this mixture, the city offers many different kinds of accommodation—from modern luxury high-rises to stately historic hotels, tiny inns and bed and breakfasts. In fact, many visitors choose to mix and match, perhaps splurging for a night at the Château Frontenac, before retreating to more reasonably priced options in or around the city.

Old Quebec Still, for those looking for the ne plus ultra of Quebec hotels, it begins and ends with the Château Frontenac—the grande dame of Canadian Pacific's many stately properties across Canada. One of the world's most famous hotels, the Château dominates Quebec's skyline and is the city's most famous building. Its labyrinthine interior conceals hundreds of different-shaped (and sized) rooms, lavish decor and the world-class Le Champlain restaurant.

On the upper end of the price spectrum you will also find the stylish Hôtel Dominion 1912, a boutique hotel with cutting edge interior design. Those familiar with the Hôtel le Germain in Montreal will appreciate similar attention to design detail amid a historic rather than postmodern setting. This is fast becoming one of Quebec's most sought after addresses. Along the same fashionable lines is the Capitol, which looks out over Place d'Youville and houses a theatre as well as the wonderful Il Teatro restaurant.

That said, you needn't pay through the nose to stay in one of the continent's landmark hotels. As long as you are willing to forego morning-till-night pampering, any number of moderately-priced hotels in Old Quebec will provide a romantic, historic experience. The Auberge du Trésor, on the wonderful Rue du Trésor, with its famous outdoor art market, claims to be North America's oldest—the building dates from 1679! Other reasonable options include the Château Bellevue, the Hôtel de Vieux-Quebec and the Hôtel Marie-Rollet. All offer comfortable accommodation in ancient, cozy surroundings.

Upper Town Staying in "New Quebec" means easy access to the restaurants and nightclubs of the Grande-Allée, the

historic Plains of Abraham and the Musée de Québec—but you're still just minutes from Old Quebec. You'll find newer hotels here, with the modern Loews Le Concorde in place of the Château Frontenac at the head of the pack. The Hilton Quebec is another high-rise, convention-oriented hotel that appeals to business travellers and to those who appreciate modern luxury.

Smaller hotels on or near the Grande-Allée include the Manoir Lafayette, the Auberge du Quartier and the Château Grande-Allée. Dozens more B&B's and moderately-priced hotels are in the area. Each offers its own blend of old and new world charms, and many are less touristy than similar establishments in Old Quebec.

Out of town Many visitors choose to spend some or all of their visit outside of Quebec proper. Day trips to Île d'Orléans, the Charlevoix region, the Laurentian Mountains, Beauport and Montmorency Falls can be combined with stays at country inns, lavish resorts, rustic cabins or even a hotel made entirely of ice! The lack of urban sprawl and proximity of true wilderness to Quebec makes staying outside the city even more attractive—skiers, for instance, can nip into town for a world-class dinner and drinks and be back at Mont Ste-Anne in less than half an hour!

Indeed, those in search of luxury will find it in the vicinity of this world-famous ski resort, at the Château Mont Ste-Anne, or in Pointe-au-Pic at the stunning Manoir Richelieu resort. The aforementioned Ice Hotel, located adjacent to the Montmorency Falls, is based on a Swedish model and provides one of the world's truly unique accommodation experiences. Despite some curmudgeonly press (surprise: it's cold!), this stylish and fascinating spot continues to draw thousands.

Île d'Orléans is the place for intimate B&B's and small country inns. Le Canard Huppé and the Auberge la Goéliche are typical of several beautiful country inns that combine rustic accommodations with outstanding French and Quebec cuisine. Romantically inclined visitors especially should consider at least a night on this picturesque island in the St Lawrence River.

Families and anyone out for a wilderness adventure can spend a night or two at one of dozens of cabins for rent in the Laurentides Wildlife Preserve and the Jacques-Cartier Park within it. You can

Quebec City Snapshot continued

spend your days cross-country skiing or snowshoeing in winter, canoing or hiking in the summer and end up just minutes from your door.

From big-name chains to inexpensive nights in 300-year-old homes, Quebec offers accommodation options for every budget and taste.

©

Restaurants Insights

No visit to Quebec City would be complete without sampling its famous culinary institutions and its renowned, even notorious nightlife. For a metropolitan area of fewer than 700,000 inhabitants, Quebec boasts an uncommon number of superb restaurants, charming cafés, seething dance clubs and quiet little hideaways.

Most visitors will naturally gravitate towards the city's sensational French bistros and restaurants. Indeed, most of Quebec's truly world-class eateries serve some kind of French cuisine; at the forefront are the traditional (and expensive) opulence of Guido Le Gourmet, Laurie Raphaël, Initiale and the incomparable Le Champlain, all in Vieux-Québec, with all setting diners back up to CAD100 for dinner for two.

The Grande-Allée hosts its own restaurant scene, which includes the hectic bistro action at Paris-Brest, La Closerie and other brisker, more casual spots. Haute cuisine finds a home, too, in the newer part of Quebec City, in such landmarks as the revolving L'Astral, and in the Loews Le Concorde hotel, where locally-influenced haute cuisine goes miles beyond the typical revolving fare.

This blending of traditional French cuisine with local ingredients and techniques such as game meats, local cheeses, cranberries, maple syrup products, and so on, is characteristic of many restaurants in the area. Few kitchens in Quebec City entirely escape the hearty, stick-to-your-ribs influence of Quebecois fare. Those that revel in it include the landmark Maison Serge Bruyère, perhaps the city's best-known restaurant, and the spectacular Manoir Montmorency (where, after dinner in the winter, you can stop in for a unique nightcap at the Ice Hotel's Absolut Bar!).

The countryside surrounding the city, and especially the tiny townships of Île

d'Orléans, contains numerous other French/Quebecois institutions. La Mairie, in Loretteville's beautiful town hall, and the renowned Le Canard Huppé in St-Laurent on Île d'Orléans, are just two examples. Many of these ages-old restaurants are associated with charming inns or B&B's, and can form part of a delightful day trip away from Quebec City. Each exudes its own sense of quiet civility, especially in winter for the ideal romantic getaway.

Area restaurants also benefit from Quebec's proximity to the sea, which results in such restaurants as Le Marie-Clarisse in the historic Quartier Petit Champlain, and also in a seemingly incongruous concentration of Belgian restaurants. Witness Vieux-Québec's Mõss and the charming B&B hideaway Douceurs Belges, just west of the city proper. Moules frites (mussels and fries) are a very popular choice for pub grub or a light evening meal in a city that tends to eschew McDonald's and its ilk.

Though anyone with a strong distaste for French food will find his choices limited in Quebec City, he will not go hungry. Two outstanding Italian restaurants also highlight the local scene: the famous Café d'Europe is in Vieux-Québec, while Graffiti's French-Italian fusion cuisine and indomitable wine list can be found on the Grande-Allée. Other options await the intrepid, of course, especially outside of heavily touristed areas. As in France, eating out is considered not just a means to an end but a way of life; substandard food is simply not tolerated and should by no means be expected, even in a neighborhood Chinese or Vietnamese place.

Of course, even if a meal should somehow fall short of your justifiably high expectations, plenty of distraction awaits at night to put your mind on other things. Though locals bemoan the death of Vieux-Québec's traditional café culture, a thoroughly civilized afternoon or evening awaits at the popular Pub Saint-Alexandre, the Café Krieghoff, or any number of lesser known coffee shops and cafés. It may seem in Vieux-Québec like there should be more of them, but you will never want for a steaming cup of coffee and good conversation.

Later in the night, things get considerably rowdier at any number of nightclubs in

Vieux-Québec and especially on the Grande-Allée. Some of the better-known nightspots include Chez Dagobert and Chez Maurice, the latter named ironically after despotic former Quebec Premier Maurice Duplessis—both are enormous, pulsating dance clubs that don't cool down until 3am at the earliest. Meanwhile, La Fourmi Atomik offers a downstairs dance floor and a more refined art gallery atmosphere upstairs. Quieter pints await at the aforementioned Pub Saint-Alexandre or the Thomas Dunn Pub, where you can also take a break from all the steak-frites and baked chèvre in favor of a bang-up plate of fish-n-chips!

All in all, the dining and nightlife in Quebec City exude a decidedly French charisma—much more so even than in Montreal. Though cosmopolitan in appearance and attitude, Quebec is less multicultural than many other Canadian cities, and English is rarely—if ever—heard outside of tourist areas. It is, literally and spiritually, the capital of French Canada. As such, this relatively small city manages to remain at the forefront of the North American restaurant scene, which only strengthens its uniquely European feel.

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Nightlife Insights

Quebec may be a small city but there's always plenty to do, even during the cold winter months. Its rich history and culture are effervescent, making residents and visitors want to enjoy their city even more.

Music and theater Culture is behind each and every stone wall in Quebec City. There are plenty of theaters, presenting a wide variety of shows. The Grand Théâtre is at the heart of the city's entertainment life. It's home to the Music Conservatory, the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, the Opéra de Québec and the Trident Theatre, which features plays throughout the year.

The Périscope and Bordée theatres, though of smaller stature, are also much appreciated and often present alternative plays. The Palais Montcalm is one of the most beautiful theatres in the city, standing atop Place d'Youville and featuring a wide range of events from classical music to humour. Le Capitole, also located near Place d'Youville, is a richly decorated theater offering musicals like "The Elvis

Quebec City Snapshot continued

Story." Le Capitole also has its own hotel and cabaret, for more intimate entertainment.

Quebec City's beautiful churches are well-known, in part for the wonderful concerts hosted. The Violons du Roy, a famous string orchestra, performs regularly in local churches. The Salle Albert-Rousseau, located in Sainte-Foy, is the choice of many artists who wish to perform in a smaller state-of-the-art theater. Pop artists who attract large crowds usually head for the Colisée de Québec, a large arena where the NHL Nordiques hockey team used to play. Finally, artists who wish to perform under the stars can do so at the Agora du Vieux-Port, a popular outdoor theatre.

Festivals and carnivals During the summer, Quebec City becomes one giant theater. Artists perform in the streets, in parks, and pretty much everywhere a crowd can gather. In June, hundreds of children from several countries come to the Montmorency Historic Site, near the famous Montmorency Falls, to share their cultures through dance and music. In July, the Summer Festival brings local and international artists to town. For 10 days, stages spring up everywhere in the city: Place d'Youville becomes its own performance space, a large stage is put together in front of the Parliament Buildings and most city parks are turned into small theaters where jazz, folk, pop, rock, opera and every other imaginable genre resonates. For less than CAD10, you can purchase a pin that gives access to all shows during the festival.

In August, Quebec City goes back in time with the Fêtes de la Nouvelle-France, which celebrates the 150 years of French Regime in the 17th and 18th centuries. Peasants and seigneurs gather at Place Royale for five days of celebration. During the last week of the summer, Quebec City has its annual fair with all the rides, animals, clowns and cotton candy one would expect.

During the winter, Québécois find a way to entertain themselves despite the cold with their famous Winter Carnival. For more than 47 years, they have enjoyed many sporting, artistic and cultural activities during this magical carnival, which allows them to rediscover each year the wonders of winter. An international ice sculpture contest, a parade, an ice castle and a canoe race on the icy St. Lawrence River are some of the

activities that take place during these 17 days and nights of sheer fun. Ice rinks also spring up everywhere—at Place d'Youville, for instance, people of all ages skate to classical music.

Museums and galleries Although Quebec City offers tons of outdoors activities, those who prefer to stay inside won't be disappointed. There are plenty of museums, malls and movie theaters. The Museum of Civilization is a must: it features many exhibitions on topics as varied as the beginnings of civilization, the history of clothes, naval history and humour. There are two permanent exhibitions: "Nous les Premières Nations," which presents the history and culture of the Native peoples of Canada, and "Mémoires," which relates the history of the first European settlers. The Musée du Québec, meanwhile, is a treasure of fine art. It has held exhibitions with some of Canada's most famous artists, including Kriehoff and Dallaire, as well as world-renowned artists like Rodin and Tissot.

Those interested in Quebec's history will enjoy the Musée des Augustines de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, which relates the history of the sisters who founded the first hospital in North America, as well as the Musée de l'Amérique française and the Musée du Fort, which focus more on military history. The Battlefields National Park has an interesting interpretation centre, with a multimedia show on the battle of the Plains of Abraham.

Malls The Old City is filled with shops and boutiques, but there are many great malls in the Greater Quebec City area. Les Galeries de la Capitale is often the favourite because of its indoor entertainment park with rides, an ice rink and movie and IMAX theatres. Place Laurier is the largest mall with 350 stores, while Place Sainte-Foy has many upscale stores and designer boutiques.

Sports Many visitors take at least a day to swoop down the slopes or hit the links at Mont Saint-Anne or Stoneham, both just minutes east of the city. For those who prefer to watch their sports, the area's several hockey teams are not to be missed. The Remparts play in the Quebec junior league, while the Citadelles are the Montreal Canadiens' minor league affiliate in the American Hockey League.

Both offer outstanding value and fast-paced entertainment.

Nightlife At night, the Grande-Allée is the place to be. This is Quebec City's busiest street, filled with restaurants, cigar rooms, cafés, pubs and nightclubs. Chez Maurice is one of the most popular clubs in the city, along with Chez Dagobert, and Le Vogue. As a general rule there are no cover charges to get into nightclubs, which means that people can go from one to the other all night long.

In the end, a walk in the Old City, especially on the Dufferin Terrace, is for some the best entertainment available in Quebec City. The view is absolutely gorgeous. Wander through the streets, watch a clown draw a smile on people's faces, enjoy the afternoon in a nice café or dance the night away.

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Things to Do Insights

One of the beauties of a Quebec City vacation is that the city's compact nature allows you to stay in any number of architecturally and atmospherically distinct regions while remaining steps away from all major attractions and restaurants. As such, the best way to experience the old-world charm of the city is undoubtedly on foot.

A typical walking tour might begin and end at the Dufferin Terrace, overlooking Place Royale and the St. Lawrence River, with the Château Frontenac hotel looming in the background. From here you have easy access to the three main areas awaiting exploration in Quebec City: the lower town, comprising the Vieux-Port and Place Royale; Vieux-Québec, or the area inside the fortifications; and the Upper Town, especially the area stretching along the Grande-Allée.

Place Royale and Vieux-Port There are two ways down from the Dufferin Terrace—the stairs and the Funicular. Each has its obvious advantages and disadvantages, and the latter is understandably most popular for the return trip! Each brings you out in the heart of Place Royale, near the Batterie Royale and the charming Rue du Petit Champlain.

Wander through the charming shops and restaurants of the Quartier du Petit Champlain, along Notre-Dame, Champlain or Petit-Champlain Streets, towards Place

Quebec City Snapshot continued

Royale itself. This square, bounded by St-Pierre to the west, Dalhousie to the east and de la Barricade to the north, is where explorer Samuel de Champlain set up a fledgling settlement in 1608. Drop in at the Place Royale Information Center to find historic and practical details on attractions in the immediate area: the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires church and the Museum of Civilization, for instance.

If you wish to return to Vieux-Québec at this point, simply loop back around to the stairs or Funicular back to the Dufferin Terrace. Alternately, you can continue north and west into the Vieux-Port, stopping at the Old Port of Quebec Interpretation Centre, which documents the city's industrial and commercial history, while offering a pleasant environment for many summer activities.

From here you can continue west up St-Paul or de la Canoterie Streets, switching back up and through the fortifications into Vieux-Québec, in close proximity to many key attractions, including the Museum of French America and the Hôtel-Dieu Augustines Museum.

From the latter, you can wind your way along Côte-du-Palais, jog left on St-Jean Street and then right on Côte-de-la-Fabrique, which takes you past City Hall. Hang right on the famous Rue du Trésor and enjoy the diverse, high-quality artwork for sale along this intriguing, narrow alleyway. You will emerge on St-Louis Street, on the other side of the Château Frontenac from where you started on the Dufferin Terrace.

Alternately, from the Hôtel-Dieu Augustines Museum, you can walk west along the fortifications themselves. The Rue des Remparts will eventually take you to the Artillery Park National Historic Site, and then to Place d'Youville and the St-Jean Gate, which links the Upper Town to Vieux-Québec. Place d'Youville is a perfect spot to stop off and enjoy street musicians in the summer, or to make a couple of laps around the skating rink in the winter.

Continuing south along Rue d'Auteuil and then St-Denis Avenue, you will emerge at The Citadel, the linchpin of Quebec City's fortifications, which offers an incredible view over the river and various exhibits chronicling the city's history. From here it is an easy walk back to the Dufferin Terrace and the Château Frontenac.

Upper Town and the Grande-Allée The most spectacular and interesting route from the Dufferin Terrace to the Upper Town is undoubtedly along the Promenade des Gouverneurs, the precipitous boardwalk running under The Citadel and linking the Dufferin Terrace with the National Battlefields Park. Wander around this enormous park, have a picnic and visit the Quebec Museum and attached National Battlefields Park Interpretation Center. Plaques throughout the park detail its tumultuous and fascinating history.

Eventually you will make your way away from the cliffs and arrive at the decidedly urban action of the Grande-Allée. This magnificent boulevard is full of shops, restaurants and boutiques. In the summer, you could while away an entire afternoon over a cocktail at a sidewalk café, but there are many other sights to see in the Upper Town.

Head up Rue de la Chevrotière or any other side street towards the Rue St-Amable and the Marie-Guyart Building, located at the intersection of de la Chevrotière and René-Lévesque Boulevard. For a panoramic overview of your marathon walking tour, ride up 725 feet to the Observatoire de la Capitale. After descending, continue back towards Vieux-Québec along René-Lévesque or St-Amable and you will encounter the ornate Parliament Buildings—or National Assembly, in local parlance. Tours are available every day in French and English. Continue along the Grande-Allée, through the St-Louis Gate, and soon you will be once again faced with the grandeur of the Château Frontenac.

If you have somehow managed to complete this tour in one day, you now owe yourself dinner at one of dozens of area restaurants. In the summer, you could relax among buskers and concession stands as the sun goes down over the Dufferin Terrace; in the winter, you might choose to get your adrenaline going with an ice toboggan ride before warming up with a hot chocolate. Obviously, a day is precious little time to really savor what Quebec has to offer—no matter the duration of your stay. However, it is a pleasure to know that you can ditch the car and explore on foot.

Guided Tours Check out Classic Journey's Quebec & Charlevoix Walking

Tour, a six-day exclusive guided trip throughout these breathtaking areas.
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Travel Tips

Getting There:

By Air:

Quebec City Jean Lesage International Airport(YQB)(+1 418 640 2700/ <http://www.aerportdequebec.com>) is located only 15 minutes west of downtown Quebec City and offers a range of services capable of meeting the needs of airports users. It hosts international flights from Mexico and Paris as well as various U.S. destinations. The airport houses these following airlines:

Air Canada(+1 800 776 3000/ <http://www.aircanada.ca>)

Air Inuit,(+1 800-361-2965/ <http://www.airinuit.com/>)

Air Labrador,(+1 800-563-3042/ <http://www.airlabrador.com/>)

Continental Express(+1 418-872-4298/ <http://www.continental.com/>)

Jetsgo(+1 866-440-0441/ <http://www.jetsgo.com/>)

Northwest Airlines(+1 800-225-2525/ <http://www.nwa.com/>)

Quebecair Express(+1 877-871-6500/ <http://www.quebecairexpress.com/>)

Zoom Airlines(+ 1 866-359-9666/ <http://www.getraveldirect.com/>)

Rental car companies include:

Avis(+1 418-872-2861/ <http://www.avis.com/>)

Enterprise(+1 418-861-8820/ <http://www.enterprise.com/>)

Hertz,(+1 418-871-1571/ <http://www.hertz.com/>)

National/Alamo(+1 418-877-9822/ <http://www.nationalcar.com/>)

Budget(+1 418-872-9885/ <http://www.budgetmtl.com/>)

Thrifty(+1 418-877-2870/ <http://www.thrifty.com/>)

Limousine companies include:

Groupe Limousine A-1(+1 418-523-5059/ <http://www.limousinequebec.com/>)

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Limousine Robert Boucher(+1 418-654-8884/ <http://www.quebecairlimo.com/>)

Service de limousine Aristo Car(+1 418-660-5055/ <http://www.aristo-car.com>)

Service de limousine Guy Samson(+1 418-652-7316/ <http://www.limousinesamson.com/>)

Taxi companies include:

Service fares are determined per trip and for 1 to 6 people. Minivans are also available for groups. All other destinations will be charged at by taximeter. Fixed rates have been established from Quebec Airport for two different locations: downtown Quebec:\$27, Airport surroundings:\$12.

Airport Taxi Aeroport(+1 418 564-0555)

Taxivan(+1 418 622-1887)

Transport Accessible du Quebec(+1 418 641 8294)

Taxi Coop(+1 418 525 5191)

By Train:

VIA Rail is Canada's Rail network.(+1 888 842-7245/ <http://www.viarail.ca/>) This railway operates transcontinental service from Montreal to Vancouver and Montreal to Halifax, as well as fast commuter, business and leisure service within the Quebec City-Windsor corridor. There is also service to remote locations in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia. In conjunction with major bus companies Via Rail offers bus connections from many centers that do not have rail service, to the nearest point on the Via network.

By Bus:

Autobus Fleur de Lys(+1 800 265-0188)

Inter-car Atlantique(+1 888 861-4562)

Orleans Coach Lines(+1 888 999-3977)

By Car:

From the United States:

Highways 89 and 5 in Vermont, Route 201 in Maine and Highways 30, 37, and 87 in New York State lead to the province of Quebec. A few miles from Montreal you may take Highway 30 which leads to Highway 20 towards Quebec City.

From Ontario:

Highways 401(from Toronto) and 407(from Ottawa) lead to the province of Quebec. Follow the directions to Montreal, and then to Quebec City(Highways 20 or 40). Highway 40 runs along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River from Montreal to Quebec City and is more enjoyable than Highway 20.

From the Maritimes:

Highway 2 in New Brunswick and Route 185 in the province of Quebec lead to Highway 20 towards Quebec City.

By Bus:

Autobus La Quebécoise Inc(+1 418-872-5525)

Autobus Meridien(+1 418-877-6177)

Autobus Inter-Rive Inc(+1 418-832-6982)

Autobus Societe De Transport De Levis(+1 418-837-2401)

By Taxi:

Taxi Coop Quebec(+1 418 525-5191)

TAXI Quebec(+1 418 522-2001)

By Ferries:

Societe des traversiers du Quebec(+1 418 643-2019)

By Train:

VIA Rail is Canada's Rail network.(+1 888 842-7245/ <http://www.viarail.ca/>)

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Fun Facts

Quebec City

Country: Canada

Quebec City by the Numbers:

Population: 671,000

Elevation: 575 feet

Average Annual Rainfall: 34 inches

Average Annual Snowfall: 130 inches

Average January Temperature: 18 degrees F

Average July Temperature: 77 degrees F

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Aerospace, timber, pulp and paper, metallurgy, and hydro power

Ethnic Mix: Canadian 41.8%, French 38.6%, combined origin 13.5%, other 4.7%, British 1.4%.

Electricity: 110 volts AC, 60 Hz; regular two-pin and grounded three-pin US-style plugs are standard.

Time Zone: GMT- 5(GMT- 4 from first Sunday in April to last Sunday in October).

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 418

Did You Know?

In the city of Quebec the people have a festival called Quebec City's Carnival each winter. The festival has been celebrated since 1880. Quebec is one of the most intriguing cities on the North American continent. As the major center of French Canada, Quebec has more than a touch of European charm, with most of the population being bilingual-- capable of speaking French and English.

Orientation:

Quebec lies partly on the Atlantic seaboard in the far east of the USA's northern neighbor. Quebec City, located in the south of the province near the border with the US state of Maine, is perched on top of and below the cliffs of Cape Diamond(Cap Diamant) at the confluence of the St Charles and St Lawrence rivers.

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