

# Quebec Carnival Tour



**VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS**

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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# Tour Summary

Quebec's Carnival in late January and early February celebrates winter and the cold. The party started in 1894, when bored settlers drank to forget their plight. It has since developed into more of a family event! For about \$12, you get 17 days of tobogganing, zip-lining, and rides in rafts down snowy slopes. Young children can learn to ski. You can soak in outdoor hot-tubs, watch parades and dogsled races, dance to popular bands, and cavort in your bathing suit outdoors in the snow. The canoe racing on the icy river will thrill you; it's a sport unique to Quebec. And for a little extra money, enjoy the horse-drawn carriages and dogsled rides. There's no cabin fever here!

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# Introduction







Your family will never forget Quebec's Winter Carnival, guaranteed. The cold is a challenge but calorie-burning activities and plenty of clothes can keep you warm. You might even lose some weight. There's much to experience during this annual 17-day party in late January and early February.



You conquer the cold when you ride screaming down snowy hills in rubber rafts. You've climbed up the hill first. Don't expect mechanical, fuel-burning rides, because it's all natural, basic and fun. It's as green as you can get and still function smoothly.



Adults can shun the cold in another way: Caribou is the traditional drink. It used to be made of caribou blood, but now it's a cocktail of brandy, vodka, sherry, port and anything else. You'll find people drinking it, and other such refreshments, from horns over a yard long.





You can watch - or take part in - one of the world's most dangerous and exciting races. Taking part involves much planning in advance. Teams of adventurers compete in big canoes, traveling across the ice-jammed St. Lawrence River. Both contestants and spectators have an adrenaline-boosting experience.





Perhaps you'll want to dance with these women at a palace made of 7,000 blocks of beautiful ice. This is home for a snowman named Bonhomme. He's been the guest of honor every year since 1954. There are other fun events here, too.



On each weekend, parades with magical floats, marching bands, and fire dancers will have you smiling. Bonhomme is always there, dancing to his own catchy theme song. He is the symbol, the ambassador, and the king of the carnival.





Try new foods like sweet, hot maple sap hardened in snow. There is poutine, and sugar tarts too. Have you ever wanted to taste French dishes like foie gras (goose liver) and raw steak tartare? Of course you can also find hamburgers, fried chicken, and spaghetti.





Your youngsters can get their first ski lessons for free. Most everything is covered by the incredibly low fee - about \$12 for the full 17 days. You don't even have to pay extra to rent ski equipment.



For serious skiers and snowboarders, international-class alpine ski resorts are less than an hour's drive away. Lessons and ski clothing rentals are available for all age groups.





You can visit a waterfall higher than Niagara, with a spray that forms an ice wall you can climb. None of that sissy indoor-climbing-wall stuff here! At nearby Mont-Sainte-Anne, you can also rappel into a deeply-carved canyon.





Also close to the city, you can visit - and even sleep in - a fancy hotel made of ice and snow. Spend your days ice fishing, or riding snowmobiles or dogsleds through pristine white countryside. Cross-country ski, or walk in snowshoes on top of snow so deep it could otherwise bury you.



If you live in a snow-belt city, Quebec's Carnival will show you how to roll with winter's punches and have a marvelous time. This is not just a posed picture: the snow bath really takes place. Someday, if global warming persists, cold weather may only be a fond memory...

Photo courtesy of CarnavalQuebec.

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