

Quebec City: Canada's Charming Nouvelle France



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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Tour Summary

The “Cradle of French Civilization in North America” is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Located on the banks of the Saint Lawrence River, this is the only remaining fortified city in North America.

The Laurentian Mountains, perfect for outdoor recreation, rise to the north. Among the nearby attractions are Montmorency Falls, Orleans Island, whitewater rafting on the Jacques-Cartier River, and a famous pilgrimage route to Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré.

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Quebec City Delights!





Quebec City's skyline is dominated by the massive Château Frontenac Hotel, perched on top of Cap Diamant. The hotel is located alongside the Terrasse Dufferin, a walkway paralleling the Cap Diamant cliff, offering beautiful views across the Saint Lawrence River.



Quebec City is known for its religious heritage. Near the Château Frontenac is Notre-Dame de Québec Cathedral, the mother church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Quebec. It is the oldest

parish in North America, and the first church in North America to be elevated to the rank of minor basilica by Pope Pius IX in 1874.



Quebec was founded by the French explorer Champlain in the early 17th century. It is the only North American city to have preserved its ramparts, together with the numerous bastions, gates

and defensive towers, all which still surround Old Quebec. The well-preserved walls contributed to Quebec's recognition by UNESCO as a World Heritage City. The Fortifications Museum of Quebec National Historic Site explains the history of over three centuries of Quebec's military past.



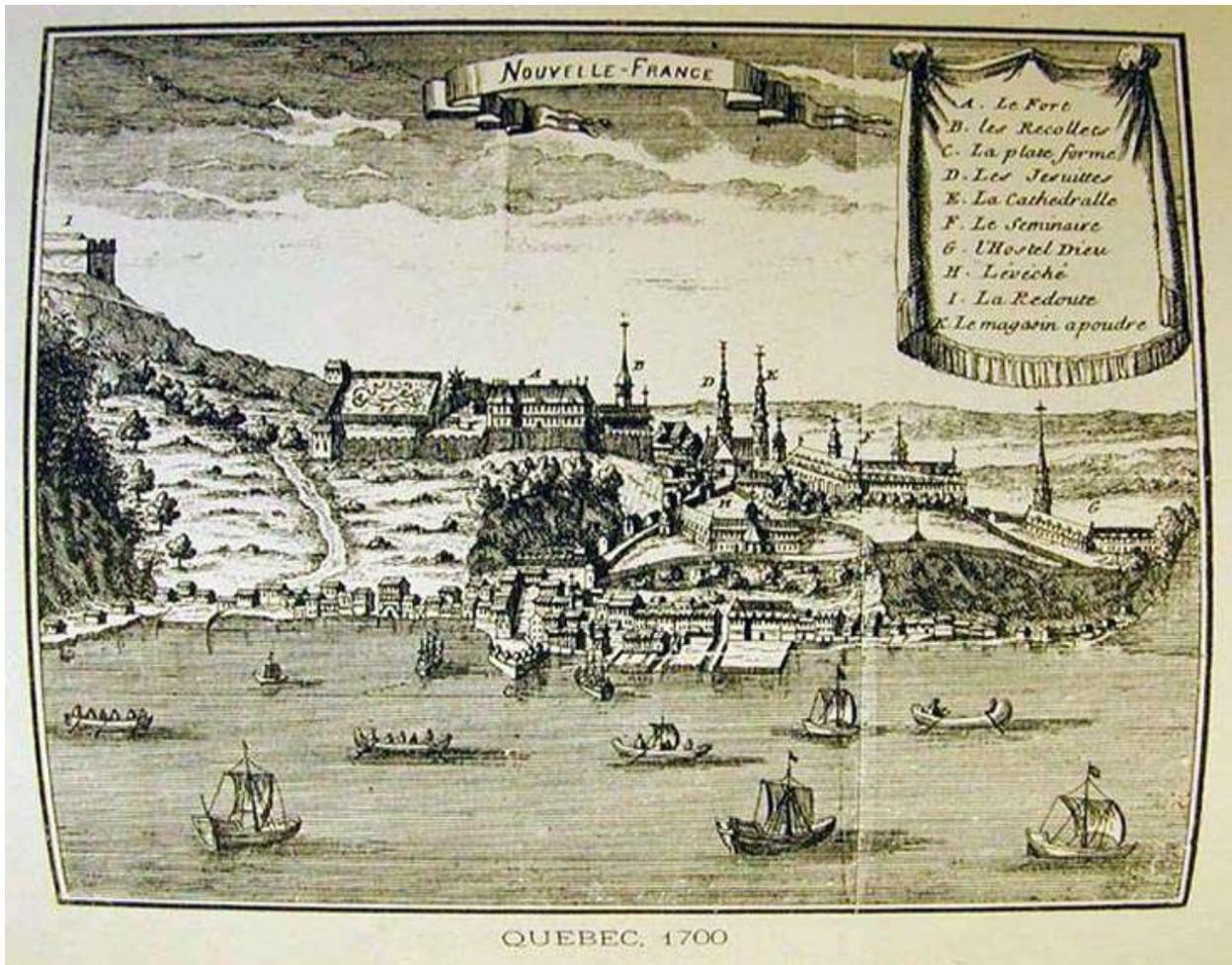
The Upper Town, built on the cliff, has remained the religious and administrative center, with churches, convents, and other monuments like the Dauphine Redoubt, the Citadel, and Château Frontenac. Together with the Lower Town and some older

districts, it forms an urban assembly which is one of the best examples of a preserved fortified colonial city.



The Terrasse Dufferin leads toward the nearby Plains of Abraham, the site of the famous battle in which the British took Quebec from France. It is also the location of the Citadelle of Quebec, a Canadian Forces installation and the federal vice-regal secondary residence. The Parliament Building, the meeting place of the

Parliament of Quebec, is also near the Citadelle. Reenactments of Quebec's military past are performed here on important anniversary dates.



Throughout its 400 years of existence, Quebec City has served as the provincial capital. First it was the government seat for French Canada and all of New France, and then, from the time the British took over until today, it has been the capital of the Province of Quebec.



Although the city itself has grown into a modern metropolis of some 600,000 people, the historic district (about five percent of the city total, covering 135 hectares) remains among the most coherent of such areas in North America. It also has the benefit of a convenient seaport for boating enthusiasts.



Moreover, Quebec is unique among cities on the continent because it has retained almost all of its fortifications. *La vieille capitale* may claim for itself the honor of being the only completely walled city in North America. Walking trails alongside the ramparts offer breathtaking views around every corner.



Those familiar with French culture know the tradition of *haute cuisine*, referring to the cooking of the grand restaurants and hotels of the Western world. The Quebec inhabitants certainly share the French passion for fine dining, as the city is host to many five-star restaurants, both large and small.



Quebec City inhabitants are also known for being sports enthusiasts. Each season brings its own sporting options. There are hundreds of kilometers of maintained cross-country ski trails in Quebec Province.



Although there is no mention of her in the Bible, the Virgin Mary's mother has long been regarded as a Jewish woman named Anne. In Canada, devotion to Saint Anne

goes back to the beginning of New France, starting with the first settlers and early missionaries.



The original parish of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré on the present site dates from the year 1650 and achieved legendary status when several shipwrecked sailors on the Saint Lawrence River attributed their deliverance to Saint Anne. A tradition of pilgrimage from Quebec City began shortly after, and continues to this day.

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