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# Quebec City Travel Guide

By [Maya Kachroo-Levine](#) | August 16, 2021

For travelers keen on a European getaway without a flight across the Atlantic, Quebec City offers the charms of a French or Swiss destination. What's more, you'll hear enough French in Quebec City to get a taste of that European language barrier. A much smaller city than Montreal—which has four million residents—Quebec City's intimate, old town-chic atmosphere is extremely appealing to travelers. It's a metropolis that's more akin to Geneva, Switzerland or Nice, France than to London or New York City. Known for its history and architecture, Quebec City is beyond picturesque and feels authentically *Québécois*. Here, everything you need to know about the capital of Canada's French-speaking province, from the culinary scene and points of interest to the best events in this idyllic city.



## Best Time to Go

From a weather perspective, you're going to be chilly in Quebec City in the winter (with temperatures firmly in the 20s or below). Nonetheless, it's a picturesque time to visit. The summer and fall months are much more temperate. Spring is still cold with a fair amount of precipitation.

Quebec City's annual *Carnaval de Quebec* is held in February. The festival dates back to the late 1800s and is one of Quebec City's biggest attractions.

In January, the *Hôtel de Glace* opens, which is not only a spectacle but the perfect time to spend a night at the Ice Hotel.

In April, Quebec City hosts a charming book fair, which is locally referred to as *Salon International du Livre de Québec*.

Quebec is known for hosting both food and comedy festivals—with both Montreal and Quebec City offering events for *gourmands* and comedy enthusiasts. Quebec's gourmet festivals are in May (Festival Québec Exquis!) and November (Québec Gourmet Table) and their ComediHa! Fest-Québec is in August.

## Things to Know

When we say Quebec City is known for their architecture, we mean it. It's the only walled city (on this continent) north of Mexico.

Just like many classic European destinations, Quebec City has an important river that runs through the metropolis: the St. Lawrence River.

They speak both French and English in Quebec, though keep in mind that French dominates some parts of the city. The French spoken in Quebec City and Montreal—often referred to as *Québécois* French—is slightly different from French spoken in France.

Old Quebec is actually a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Quebec City is known for its charming, European-esque cobblestone streets and the renowned Château Frontenac, which is now a Fairmont hotel.

**Currency:** Canadian Dollar

(Check the [current exchange rate](#))

**Calling Code:** +1



## How to Get Around

**Buses:** The local bus transportation network in Quebec City is called the Réseau de Transport de la Capitale (RTC). This is the main form of public transportation in Quebec City and is well-run. One ride costs \$3.50 (cash) or \$3.20 (with ticket) and a one-day pass is \$8.85.

**Taxis:** You can find taxis at the airport and major hotels in Quebec City. You can also call a local taxi company like [Taxi Laurier](#).

**Car service:** Uber is available in Quebec City.



## Best Hotels



Credit: Courtesy of Auberge Saint-Antoine

### Auberge Saint-Antoine

Address: 8 Rue Saint-Antoine,  
Québec, QC G1K 4C9, Canada  
Phone: 418-692-2211

[Website](#)

In the heart of Quebec City, you'll find the historic Auberge Saint-Antoine, which offers guests easy access to city activities and beautiful views of the St. Lawrence River. The Auberge Saint-Antoine extends through three buildings from the 17th and 18th century and was built on an archaeological site. Guests can find a selection of artifacts throughout the rooms and must stop into Bar Artefact for an imaginative cocktail.