

WELCOME TO QUÉBEC CITY



The architectural beauty on every European style street compliments the rich history and culture in Québec City. There is a very strong old-world charm about the city and unlike French Quarters in many cities around the world; the picture is complete in Québec City with complete French saturation. Québec (pronounced 'KebEck') is unlike anywhere else in North America. The culture, architecture, music, religion and way of life are truly unique.

Ville de Québec or simply Québec is the capital of the Canadian province of Québec. It is the second largest city in the province, after Montréal. Québec's Old Town (Vieux-Québec), the only North American fortified city north of Mexico whose walls still exist, was declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1985 as the "Historic District of Old Québec". It is also one of the oldest cities in North America. The city has a population of 528,595, and the metropolitan area has a population of 717,600 (2005).

Québec City is known for its Winter Carnival and the Château Frontenac, a historic hotel which dominates the city skyline. The *Assemblée nationale du Québec* (provincial parliament), the *Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec* (National Museum of Fine Arts) and the Museum of Civilization are found within or near Vieux-Québec.

THE VENUE

The venue for HomeSense Skate Canada International is the **Colisée Pepsi** located at the crossroads of rue Soumande, boulevard Wilfred-Hamel and avenue du Colisée, only a few minutes from downtown Québec City.

For more information visit:

http://www.expocite.com/index_e.shtml.



250, boulevard Wilfrid-Hamel, Québec City, Québec

VISITOR INFORMATION

Language

French is the predominant language of Québec City, although both French and English are official languages; most government services are available in either language. Canada is a multi-cultural nation however, and many other languages are spoken within individual families and cultural communities. In Québec City visitors should only expect French or English to be spoken at most accommodations, restaurants, attractions and other tourist services.

Money - Currency & banking

The currency system in Canada uses **dollars and cents** similar to the U.S. system, but in CAD dollars. Canada has one and two-dollar coins, called the "loonie" and the "toonie", in addition to 1 cent, 5 cent, and 25 cent coins. Paper money comes in different colors and designs. The most common are \$5 bills (blue), \$10 bills (purple), \$20 bills (green), \$50 bills (red), and \$100 bills (brown).

If you have \$100 bills, it is best to have them exchanged at a bank for lower denominations. Many stores in Canada do not accept \$100 bills.

U.S. currency is readily accepted at all places of business. The US dollar is exchanged at a higher rate. Financial institutions are usually the best place to exchange currency because storeowners are not always up to date on the exchange rates.

For more information on currency: www.currencyguide.com/exchange.html

Visitors will receive the best rate of exchange at:

- Chartered banks
- Trust companies
- Credit unions
- Caisse populaire
- Airport and border crossing exchange booths

All prices are in Canadian Funds. To get the best exchange rate, either change your currency at a bank or use your Visa or MasterCard, some places also take American Express. Almost all services or products are subject to PST (Provincial Sales Tax is 6.5%) and GST (Goods & services tax 6%).

Some banks charge a fee to cash travellers' cheques. Normal banking hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with extended hours including weekends at many locations. Automated teller machines marked with a Plus or Interac symbol will accept automated banking cards from outside Canada. Banks charge a fee of \$2 for international transactions. The visitors' bank sets the exchange rate. Most venues will accept major national or international credit cards and travellers cheques for payment.

Taxes & tipping

The hotel room tax rate is 8%. An additional amount up to 2% may be added as a municipal and regional district tax. The total tax charged cannot exceed 10%. The federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) applies to most goods and services. Foreign visitors may claim a full rebate of the GST on non-consumable goods (items purchased in Canada that they take out of the country within 60 days of purchase), and on short-term accommodation. There is no rebate on consumable items such as meals, liquor, tobacco, transportation costs and gasoline.

You are expected to leave a tip on service received in restaurants and bars and from taxi drivers and hairdressers. The amount, which is not included in the bill, generally represents 10 to 15% of the total bill (before taxes). Here in Québec, for a restaurant bill, we usually add the amounts of the two taxes (QST and GST) together, the sum of which equals approximately 13%. Tipping bellhops or porters is at your discretion (in general, \$1 per bag carried).

Liquor Laws

Legal minimum age to purchase liquor in Québec is 18. You have to be at least 18 years old to enter bars and casinos and to purchase or consume alcohol (you could be asked to show ID). Wines and spirits are sold at outlets of the Société des alcools du Québec, the province's liquor board. You can buy beer at grocery and convenience stores, which also stock a limited selection of wines.

Smoking By-Law

There is a smoking by-law in the Québec region. It is illegal to smoke inside a closed public building such as a business or restaurant.

Business Hours

Stores, shopping centres and most businesses are generally open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Some establishments open earlier and close later in the evenings, such as pharmacies and grocery stores. A few shopping centres are open every weeknight until 9:00 p.m. Business hours for banks are much more restricted.

Health

Foreign travelers must cover their own medical expenses. Consequently, it is important that you take out an insurance policy prior to your departure. Travelers bringing their own medications with them are responsible for inquiring about customs formalities with the Canada Border Services Agency. Pharmacies can fill prescriptions only if they've been written by a member of the Collège des médecins du Québec (Québec's professional corporation of physicians). In the event of a medical emergency, **dial 911** from any telephone.

Time Zone

Quebec City is normally on Eastern Time Zone of North America and switches from standard time to daylight savings time and back again each year.

NOTE RE EASTERN STANDARD TIME:

Turn back the clock 1 hour before going to bed Saturday, November 3, 2007 as Quebec will go from daylight savings back to Eastern Standard Time at midnight on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

Climate

Quebec City climate through the month of October and November

	Minimum	Maximum
October	2°C (36°F)	11°C (51°F)
November	-4°C (25°F)	3°C (37°F)

Québec City Weather and Climate

June, July, August, September and October are the only months of the year when the city is free of snow, with the annual average snowfall measuring 14ft (4m). It has been known to snow right up to early May. Temperatures drop well below freezing from late November to early April, sometimes colder by a strong wind chill.

Latitude: 46.48N
Longitude: 071.23W
Altitude: 70m

For more weather forecasts and climate information visit:
<http://www.wordtravels.com/Cities/Quebec/Quebec+City/Climate>

Electricity

Electrical outlets and voltage are the same as they are in the United States (110 or 220 volts). For countries that use different voltages, an adapter is necessary to use small electrical appliances such as hair dryers and curling irons.

Embassies & Consulates

Citizens or permanent residents of the US do not currently need passports or visas to enter Canada, but proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, voter's registration or baptismal certificate must be carried. Proof of residence, such as a driver's licence, should be carried. At least one ID card with a photo must be carried. US permanent residents should carry their Resident Alien Cards (Green Card). Temporary residents of the US need a passport for travel to Canada and may also require a visitor's visa.

All other persons entering Canada as visitors must be in possession of a valid national passport or other recognized travel document. Citizens of some countries also need visas to enter Canada. Visa applications and enquiries must be made at a Canadian embassy, consulate or mission outside of Canada and prior to travelling to Canada. Visas are not available at the border or airport. Visitors from more than 130 countries need a visa to enter Canada. Visitors from 60 countries are exempt from this requirement. For a complete list of these countries, please visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.html>.

Getting Around Québec City

Once you're within or near the walls of the Haute-Ville, virtually no place of interest, hotel, or restaurant is beyond walking distance. In bad weather, or when you're traversing between opposite ends of Lower and Upper Towns, a taxi might be necessary, but in general, walking is the best way to explore the city.

Local buses run quite often and charge C\$2.50 (US\$2) in exact change. One-day passes cost C\$5.45 (US\$4.35), and discounts are available for seniors and students. Bus no. 7 travels up and down rue St-Jean; no. 11 shuttles along Grande-Allée/rue St-Louis and, along with nos. 7 and 8, also goes well into suburban Ste-Foy, for those who want to visit the shopping centers there.

Most of the shopping in the Old Town is souvenir- and gift-based, with some expensive but exciting clothes shops around the Basilica de Québec area, and some down market boutiques on Rue St -Jean. The original 19th century *La Maison Simons'* headquarters is the exception, with exclusive clothing and accessories.

The major stores are towards the suburbs. The *Place Laurier* (350 stores) mall is a 20 minute bus ride away from the Old Town, Buses leave from beside the Hilton, among other places, and there is a flat fare of 2.50CAD\$, payable to the driver (exact fare required). You may buy tickets for a cheaper price in convenience stores. A *calèche* (horse-drawn carriage) tour costs 75CAD\$.

Taxi is the only way in from the airport. 30CAD\$ flat rate.

By Funicular

Although there are streets and stairs between the Château Frontenac on the top of the cliff and Place Royale in the Lower Town, there is also a funicular, which has long operated along an inclined 63m (207-ft.) track between the Terrasse Dufferin and the Quartier du Petit-Champlain. The upper station is near the front of the Château Frontenac and Place d'Armes, while the lower station is actually inside the Maison Louis-Jolliet, on rue du Petit-Champlain. It runs year-round daily from early morning until 11:30pm. Wheelchairs are accommodated. The one-way fare is 1.50CAD\$.

By Taxi

Taxis are everywhere, cruising and parked in front of the big hotels and in some of the larger squares of the Upper Town. In theory, they can be hailed, but they are best obtained by locating one of their stands, as in the Place d'Armes or in front of the Hôtel-de-Ville (City Hall). Restaurant managers and hotel bell captains will also summon them if you ask. Fares are somewhat expensive given the short distances of most rides. The starting rate is 2.75CAD\$, and each kilometer costs 1.30CAD\$. Tip 10% to 15%. A taxi from the train station to one of the big hotels is about 6.00CAD\$ to 8.00CAD\$ plus tip.

To call a cab, try Taxi Coop (tel. 418/525-5191) or Taxi Québec (tel. 418/525-8123).

By Car

Drivers are permitted to turn right at red traffic lights, but only after coming to a full stop and yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Parking

On-street parking is very difficult in the cramped quarters of old Québec City. When you find a rare space on the street, be sure to check the signs for the hours when parking is permissible. When meters are in place, the charge is C25¢) per 15 minutes up to 120 minutes. Metered spots are free on Sundays, before 9am and after 6pm Monday through Wednesday and on Saturday, and before 9am and after 9pm Thursday and Friday.

Tourist Office

418-649-2608

12 Rue Sainte Anne

►[Québec City Official Web Site](#)