



GENERAL INFORMATION First explored in 1534 by the French navigator Jacques Cartier and shortly after by Samuel de Champlain, Québec enjoys a long and fascinating history. For centuries, Québec has been the heart and center of French Canada. Although many citizens are bilingual, the majority are French-speaking and 94% have French ancestors. As Québec is a major tourist city, English is spoken around the major attractions and stores. Due to the city's strategic location at the juncture of the Saint Charles and St Lawrence Rivers, Québec's history is closely intertwined with the sea. As a gateway to the continent, the town assumed a dominant position as the port of entry and exit for ocean-bound vessels carrying goods, travelers, and immigrants to North America.

While modern Québec has grown to a city of over a half million residents, the city's past is well preserved in its Old Town. Since part of the city sits on top of the cliffs of Cap Diamant and part lies below, Québec is divided into the Upper Town and Lower Town. The combination of the Upper and Lower Towns, form the famous historic district known as the Old City. Just 10 square kilometers, the Old City is the only walled city in North America and was designated a UN World Heritage Site in 1985. Essentially a living museum, the narrow cobblestone streets and walled fortifications create an old world charm that gives Québec its unique character and European flavor. The sites of the surrounding area offer a nice contrast to the hustle and bustle of the city. The beautiful scenery of the Beaupré Coast, and the Isle of Orléans offer a glimpse into the traditional rural life of the many picturesque villages that surround the city. The Laurentian Mountain Range, and the Jacques-Cartier Park, offer spectacular scenery and wilderness environments. HISTORY Long before the first European explorers visited the shores of the St. Lawrence River, the Ouébec area was home to the Iroquois Natives who lived in peaceful hunting and fishing communities. It was from the Algonquian people that Québec (Kebec) received its name, meaning, "where the river narrows". In 1534, the French explorer Jacques Cartier landed on the shores of this Native village and named the promontory "Cap Diamant" for the precious stones he hoped to find there. Samuel de Champlain made another exploratory voyage in 1603 and returned to France in 1608 to establish a fur-trading post at kebec. The first settlers arrived in the 17th century, primarily craftsmen and merchants connected to the fur trade. The Lower Town became the main residential and commercial center while the Upper Town, protected by the fortifications, became home to the colonial government and numerous religious institutions. The English attacked the settlement in 1629, but it was returned to France shortly after and became the political, administrative, and military center of New France. A century of unrest between the French and the British culminated in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759. Following the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Quebec City became the capital of the British dominion. In 1791, the division of Upper and Lower Canada was created. In the 1800's, Lower Canada became known as Québec, and Québec City was chosen as the provincial capital. During the 18th and 19th century, Québec assumed a dominant position as the port of entry and exit for



PORT EXPLORER

Quebec City QUEBEC, CANADA



ocean-bound vessels. A major shipbuilding industry grew and the economy flourished as the Old Port became the transit point for trade of raw materials needed by Britain. With the decline in the importance of lumber, the growth of the railroad companies, and the technological development of ocean going vessels, Montreal soon became the center of trade, finance, and industry. Today, most jobs in Québec are related to public administration, defense and the service sector.

QUEBEC CITY PLACES OF INTEREST

Vieux Port (Old Port) contains a market and an interpretation center that displays an exhibit on the shipbuilding and lumber industries of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Place Royale is the site of the first permanent settlement of A New France. Its narrow streets, buildings and architecture testify to four centuries of history. There is an interpretation center and information center in the square.

Quartier du Petit-Champlain dating back to 1608, was 3 once a small port village and busy trading post with a number of elegant residences. The Quartier has been beautifully restored and is enjoyed today as a pedestrian – only shopping street lined with boutiques, art galleries, and cafes.

Musée de la Civilisation displays 2 permanent exhibits in-4 cluding "Memoirs, a history of Québec", and "Objects of Civilization", which features the 250 year old longboat. Found

on the site of the museum, the longboat is the oldest vessel of its kind found on the American continent The museum also contains seven temporary and international exhibits reflecting human adventures and experiences.

Basilique-cathedrale Notre-Dame-de-Québec is the old-J est basilica on the North American Continent. The interior is richly decorated with stained-glass windows, assorted works of art, and a majestic organ. Buried in the crypt are a number of Québec's bishops and governors of New France.

Cháteau Frontenac is a world-renowned hotel and landmark of Québec. Named after the Count of Frontenac, the building was inaugurated in 1893 and completed in 1925 with the addition of the central tower.

Dufferin Terrace is a beautiful promenade, which offers magnificent views of the St. Lawrence River and the surrounding area.

• The Citadel was built from 1820 to 1850 and contains over • 25 buildings including the governor-general's residence, the officer's mess, a military prison, and five heavily fortified bastions. Military tradition is maintained by the "Beating of Retreat" and the "Changing of the Guard".

Parc des Champs-de-Bataille (Plains of Abraham) is the site of the battle between the French and British armies which eventually sealed the fate of the French colony. The area



has been converted into a beautiful 250-acre park with hills, gartrian only artisan street where local artists display their work. dens, monuments, and an excellent panoramic view from the Stores are generally open from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Other streets cliff overlooking the Old City and Lower Town. In the center of with a number of shops include Saint Louis Street, Cartier Street, the park is the National Battlefields Park Interpretation Center and Saint Jean. Place Laurier, located on the outskirts of the city, which ishoused in the Museé du Québec. is the largest shopping mall in Eastern Canada.

Hotel du Parlement houses Québec's legislature, **IU** known as the National Assembly. The imposing structure was inspired by 16th century French classicism.

Beyond Québec

Île d'Orléans, located just 15 minutes from Québec is a small island positioned in the center of the St Lawrence River. It is most noted for its picturesque villages and pastoral farmlands. which offer a glimpse into the traditional rural life of Québec.

St-Anne-de-Beaupré is the site of the famous basilica built in There are a few public telephones available near the port that honor of the patron saint of Québec, St Anne. Legend has it accept local coins. Dial the following access numbers to use a that St. Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, saved shipwrecked personal calling card: sailors off Cap Tourmente after they prayed to her. The original AT&T: 1.800.225.5288 wooden chapel dedicated to the saint was built in 1658. With MCI: 1.800.888.8000 over a million and a half visitors a year, the site remains an important religious pilgrimage center. TOURIST INFORMATION There is a Tourist Information Of-

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Que-Frontenac in Place d'Armes. bec City and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour TRANSPORTATION Local taxis will be available on the pier. It is recommended that a price is agreed upon with the taxi drivcontent and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, please er before leaving the pier. be advised to take only necessary items and to secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Most shops have set prices. Bargaining is not a practice in Québec.

Tipping: A 15% tip in restaurants and taxis is customary.

Local Cuisine: Québec City has more gourmet restaurants per capita than any other city on the continent. Québecois cuisine is served in 18th century residences, French gourmet specialties are found in elegant dining rooms, and European bistros are found throughout the cobblestone streets of the Old City. The local cuisine is often determined by the season. Springtime produces a number of maple products. Lobster season and the hunting season bring local delicacies of exceptional quality.

Drink Specialties: With the influence of the French cuisine, you will find a variety of excellent wines at most restaurants.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Quartier Petit Champlain, the oldest commercial street in North America, is a pedestrian-only shopping street which offers a variety of local craft stores, boutiques, and art galleries. There is an antique shopping district located on Rue Saint Paul, northwest of the Place Royale. A Farmers'Market is located along the waterfront on Rue Saint André near the Gare du Palais train and bus station.Open hours are from early morning until mid day. Treasure street is a pedes-

- LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in Canada is the Canadian dollar. While most retail centers and site seeing venues accept U.S. dollars, the exchange rate will be high and your change will be given in Canadian dollars. It is advisable to exchange currency at banks or exchange bureaus which are located throughout the city.
- POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The Post Office is located at 3 Buade Street near Place d'Armes.

fice is located at 12 Ste. Anne Street, across from the Chateau