

QUEBEC: La Joie de Quebec en Hiver

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

DAY 1: Today depart for **Montreal**, Canada's bilingual multicultural city. It is chic and cosmopolitan with its grand boulevards, twisting alleys, Gothic Cathedrals, artists and haute couture. Upon arrival drive along **Ste Catherine's** Street and Crescent Street considered to be the heart and soul of Montreal and famous for its old Victorian homes that have been converted into lively restaurants and shops. And then it is on to St Josephs Oratory and Mount Royal Park which is on the summit of **Mont Real**, the extinct volcano. The park is the site of the lighted cross at the top which commemorates Maisonneuve's promise to erect a cross if the colony was spared during the flood of December 25, 1642. It offers scenic views and a wonderful spot to jog, ski or skate in winter.

DAY 2: Meet your guide for your **walking tour of historical old Montreal** dating back to New France, with the oldest of its buildings dating to the 1600s. See City Hall, Bonsecours Market, and Place Jacques Cartier. Jacques Cartier Square contains the Lord Horatio Nelson Memorial erected in 1809 to honor Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. The maritime facilities of the old town's riverbank, Old Port (Vieux-Port), is surrounded by recreational space with a variety of museums and attractions. Visit the **Basilica of Notre Dame**. The interior is grand and colorful and is filled with hundreds of intricate wooden carvings and several religious statues and the stained glass windows depicting scenes from the religious history of Montreal. Visit the perfectly preserved colonial mansion known as Chateau Ramezay built for Claude de Ramezay who was the French governor of Montreal from 1703 – 24. The museum traces the history of the area from before European settlement through the beginning of the 20th century.

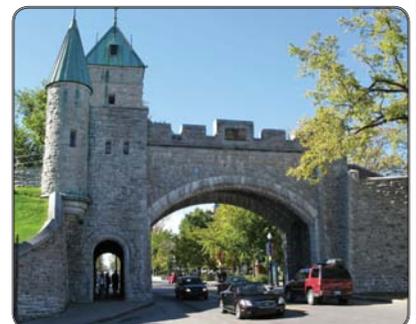


DAY 3: Guided visit of **Olympic Park**. The park is the site of the 1976 Summer Olympics. A major highlight of the park is the 175 meter high **Montreal Tower** with an observatory at the top offering 80 km (50 mile) views of the city. The **Biodome** is a museum of the environment designed to raise an awareness of the world and the interdependence of its inhabitants. Return to Centre Ville for souvenir shopping. This evening, if visiting in winter, enjoy skating in Bonsecours Park.



DAY 4: Depart for **Quebec City**. Enroute stop for a real Quebec experience – the quintessential Quebec **Sugar Shack. (La Cabane a Sucre)**. Small, authentic sugar shacks prepare the Quebec comfort food of old, in cozy, near-backwoods environs. Feast on unlimited amounts of thick pea soup, homemade baked beans, meat pies or tourtieres, maple-cured ham, oreilles de crisse (fried strips of salt pork fat), omelettes, and maple-sweetened desserts like sugar pie, crepes and “grands-peres” (yeast dumplings or doughnuts poached in maple syrup). The sumptuous feast ends outdoors with traditional maple taffy, where hot, super-concentrated syrup is poured on a bed of fresh snow and scooped up with wooden sticks. Continue to Quebec City.

DAY 5: Guided visit of **Old Quebec, one of the oldest cities in North America**. The ramparts surrounding Old Quebec (Vieux-Québec) are the only remaining fortified city walls that still exist in the Americas north of Mexico, and were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985 as the ‘Historic District of Old Québec’. You’ll find some great examples of 1690 through early 1800’s built heritage. Old Quebec is divided into 2 distinct sections, Upper Town lies on the top of Cap-Diamant (Cape Diamond) promontory Lower Town below Cap-Diamant. Lower Town is divided from Upper Town by both natural and manmade impediments. The skyline of Old Quebec is dominated by the impressive Chateau Frontenac, one of the most well known railroad hotels in Canada. Visit the Chateau and either Musee du Fort or the Museum of French America. Learn the history of this area or the French in North America.



DAY 6: Visit the **Ice Hotel**, the first ice hotel in North America built each January and taken down in April. The hotel is made of 15,000 tons of snow and 500,000 tons of ice and the walls are up to four-feet thick. See a majestic icy sheen chandelier that dominates the main lobby. The bedrooms and theme suites will amaze you with their beauty and realistic sculptures. Head to **Montmorency Falls**, the highest falls in the province of Quebec and 30 m (98 ft) higher than Niagara Falls. In winter, the freezing spray sent up by the falls builds a mountain of white ice at the base called the pain de sucre (sugarloaf), which sometimes grows as high as 98 feet! Later visit the **Citadel** constructed between 1820 – 52 by the United Kingdom as the result of a fear of an invasion from the United States and a refuge for the British garrison in the event of attack or rebellion. The Citadel is a military installation and one of the two official residences of the Governor General of Canada. Quebec is the site of famous battlefields. On the **Plains of Abraham**, the armies of General James Wolfe and the Marquis de Montcalm fought in 1759 and ended in the defeat of Montcalm's French forces and the death of both generals and the fall of Quebec. The battle proved to be a deciding moment in the conflict between France and Britain over the fate of New France, influencing the later creation of Canada. This evening join Quebecers on the **Dufferin Terrace** for an **evening of sliding**. The slide is over a century old, making its entrance in 1884. These 3 icy lanes offer entertainment and fun and move at 70 kilometers an hour for a distance of 250 meters.

DAY 7: Today bid au revoir to Montréal and la Belle Province de Québec.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Montreal return from Quebec City
- Coach transfers
 - o Airport transfer upon arrival in Montreal with sightseeing tour
 - o Full day coach transfer Montreal to Quebec City to include visit to Sugar Shack
 - o Coach tour to include Ice Hotel. Montmorency Falls
- 6 night hotel accommodation with private facilities
- Breakfast daily
- 1 Lunch at Sugar Shack
- 2 dinners as shown
- Entrances/visits
 - o Guided walking tours in Montreal
 - o Entrance to Basilica of Notre Dame
 - o Entrance to Chateau de Ramezay
 - o Guided visit of Olympic Stadium
 - o Evening skating in Montreal
 - o 1 day metro pass in Montreal
 - o Guided walking tour Quebec City
 - o Visit to Museum in Quebec City ie Museum of French America or Musee de Fort
 - o Guided visit to Ice Hotel
 - o Visit to Montmorency Falls
 - o Guided visit to Citadel
 - o Evening sliding on Dufferin slide in Old Quebec

