

Good old time in Québec

Its capital is ideal for history buffs

BY MICHELE HERRMANN
 Special to amNewYork

Established as a French settlement in 1608, Québec City has a strong historic legacy. Much of it is centered in charming Old Québec.

Walking through the fortifications of this UNESCO World Heritage site feels like you're entering a European-style village setting. This area is divided into two sections — Upper Town and Lower Town — linked by nearly 30 sets of stairways, or

simply by riding on the Old Québec Funicular (C\$3; funiculaire-quebec.com).

Start off at the bakery chain Cafe-Boulangerie Paillard (1097 Rue Saint-Jean, paillard.ca), for something sweet. Then take in a guided tour of La Citadelle de Québec (admission C\$16/adults, C\$13/students and seniors, C\$6/ages 7-17; 1 Cote de la Citadelle, la citadelle.qc.ca). The star-shaped fortification — located on Cape Diamond, the area's highest point, overlooking the St.

Lawrence River (la citadelle.qc.ca) — was built as a defensive fortress by the British during the mid-1800s. Today it serves as both a museum and an active garrison of Canada's Royal 22e Regiment.

Don't miss another prime Québec City landmark in the Château Frontenac (1 Rue des Carrières, fairmont.com/frontenac-quebec). The striking luxury hotel was originally built in 1893, and its guest list has included celebrities and world lead-

ers alike. Admire the lobby inside; even taking a walk around the grounds is lovely.

For more picturesque locales, hop on the funicular, which has a route from Terrasse Dufferin, a terrace that wraps around the Château Frontenac, to the Petit-Champlain district (quartierpetitchamplain.com). The narrow streets are as charming as a postcard, lined with bistros, art galleries and boutiques.



Old Québec is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

MORE QUÉBEC CITY SIGHTS

Beyond Old Québec, here's where to go in the capital city of Québec.

Old Port

Browse antique shops, shop at the year-round farmers market Old Port Market (160 Quai St.-André, marcheviewport.com) and view exhibitions that explore the human experience at the Musée de la civilisation (closed Mondays, C\$16/adults, C\$15/seniors, C\$10/students, C\$5/ages 12-16, FREE ages 11 and under; 85 Rue Dalhousie, mcq.org).

Parliament Hill

Get spellbound in front of the Parliament Building, thanks to the local treasure Fontaine de Tourny. The fountain is decorated with distinctive masks



Plains of Abraham

LUC ANTONIO COUTURIER

and figures and puts on a water show with more than 40 jets.

Plains of Abraham

Have a picnic on this urban oasis, located within Battlefields Park (835 Avenue Wilfrid-Laurier, ccbn-nbc.gc.ca), which was once the site of a pivotal battle

between British and French troops in 1759. Nowadays, it caters to outdoor excursions, from snowshoeing to hiking. Art lovers, visit the park-adjacent Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (closed Mondays, C\$18/adults, C\$16/seniors, C\$10/ages 18-30, C\$5/ages

13-17; FREE 12 and under; 179 Grande Allée Ouest, mnbaq.org), renowned for its vast collection of Quebec art.

Grande Allée

Dining and nightlife options are plentiful on the thoroughfare. Highlights include L'Inox, (655 Grande Allée Est, brasserieinox.com), a brewpub with a nice assortment of menu bites, and discoteque Maurice Nightclub (575 Grande Allée Est, mauricenightclub.com).

Saint-Roch

This neighborhood is bustling with bars and boutiques, from artsy brewpub Korrigane (380 Rue Dorchester, korrigane.ca) to toy store Benjo (550 Boulevard Charest Est, benjo.ca). (MICHELE HERRMANN)

