

Montréal is among the five largest French-speaking cities in the world.



# Smithsonian

## STUDENT TRAVEL



# BONJOUR, QUÉBEC

## DAY 1: WELCOME TO THE PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC

**Arrive in Montréal** • Touch down in Montréal, if flying, and meet your Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director, who will accompany you throughout your stay.

**Walking tour of Old Montréal** • On a tour of the Old City, learn about Montréal's 350-year, French-influenced history, which began with the founding of a Christian mission. Glance at the clock on the nearby Sulpician Seminary—it's the oldest public timepiece in North America. Stroll through Ville-Marie, site of Montréal's original European settlement, and into the Old Port of Montréal Harbor. Then find yourself amid the festive bustle of Place Jacques Cartier. Named after the French navigator who first sailed down the St. Lawrence River into Canada, it is the site of the city's oldest market. You will also see Montréal's Underground City. Based on a 500-year-old model designed by Leonardo da Vinci, the Underground City boasts miles of underground corridors connecting shops, restaurants, offices and hotels, and provides a convenient haven from cold weather during the winter.

## DAY 2: MONTRÉAL SIGHTSEEING

**Guided sightseeing of Montréal** • With your expert local guide, discover the cultural and historical highlights of Montréal. Ascend Mont Royal to the expansive green park at its summit, designed by American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, mastermind of New York City's Central Park. The 98-foot cross at its peak commemorates the 1643 climb by de Maisonneuve, founder of Montréal. See also the British-influenced quads and buildings of McGill University, founded in 1821. Then visit the Basilica of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, a magnificent example of French-Canadian architecture that once hosted national separatist rallies.

**Visit to the Museum of Archaeology and History** • Walk through the history of Montréal at this museum built on the very site on which the colony was first established, Pointe-à-Callière, where the St. Pierre River merges with the St. Lawrence. Marvel at ancient ruins from the original city, view artifacts in burial grounds within the subterranean complex and explore the exhibits of the former Custom House.

**Optional Montréal-on-Wheels (April-November)** • Zoom through historic Montréal on bikes, exploring a network of trails that begin in the heart of Old Montréal. Take a bike tour of Jean Drapeau Park or Lachine Canal and find breathtaking views of the city along the way. Both offer beautiful, relaxing settings next to the St. Lawrence River.

**Evening activity** • Spend the evening playing Laser Quest, an action laser tag game that will get your heart pounding with excitement. This fast-paced game is a combination of tag and hide and seek. Laser Quest uses the world's most advanced laser tag equipment, and you'll play in a large, multi-level arena. Specialty lighting,

fog and music add to the fun. Try to use your laser to tag your opponents' sensors and score as many points as you can! (Alternatively, your group may choose to see an IMAX movie.)

## DAY 3: MONTRÉAL • QUÉBEC

**Biodome** • Spend the afternoon exploring the Biodome. This intriguing environmental museum scientifically replicates four ecosystems: a Laurentian forest with a functioning beaver lake, the St. Lawrence marine environment, a polar region housing a penguin community, and a tropical forest inhabited by more than 1,000 fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

**Olympic Stadium Observation Deck** • Zoom 617 feet into the air in just 95 seconds aboard a funicular to the observation deck of Montréal's Olympic Stadium for incredible views of the city and its surroundings. The tower leans at a 45-degree angle and offers visibility that stretches 35 miles on a clear day. The stadium itself was built for the 1976 Olympic Games — it was the home of the Montréal Expos baseball team until 2005 — and features six swimming pools, including one with an adjustable bottom.

**Transfer to Québec City** • Travel to Québec City, the capital of the Canadian province of Québec. Founded in 1608, Québec City is one of the oldest cities in North America. The city was first established as a fortress and port on the St. Lawrence River by French explorer Samuel de Champlain.

**Walking tour of Québec City** • Our walking tour introduces you to Québec's charming Old City, the 17th-century heart of this French-influenced province. As you stroll down rue Petit-Champlain, the oldest street in North America, note that Québec is the only walled city north of Mexico.

## DAY 4: BONJOUR, QUÉBEC

**Guided sightseeing of Québec City** • An expert local guide leads today's exploration of Québec City. View the regal Château Frontenac (which you will visit later today); here, President Roosevelt met with Churchill and other leaders of the Allied Nations during World War II. Continue into the Basse Ville to the well-preserved Place Royale, site of Samuel de Champlain's original French colony. Cross the Plains of Abraham, where General James Wolfe's British army defeated the Marquis de Montcalm's troops in 1759, thereby ending French rule in Québec. Then stop at the Citadel. Perched above the St. Lawrence River, this magnificent fortress is still used by Canadian troops. Near the Citadel, see Porte St-Louis, a wide medieval gate in the city walls.

## Options

- Round-trip transportation
- Air-conditioned motorcoach on tour
- 5 nights hotel accommodations
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director
- Sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides
- Visits to special attractions per itinerary
- Evening activity
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Downtown hotel (private groups only)
- Lunches
- Gratuities
- Opportunity to earn credit for group leaders and students

**Visit to Le Château Frontenac** • A costumed character straight out of the late 19th century—such as a bellboy, chambermaid, businessman or wealthy client—gives you an insider’s tour of the world’s most photographed hotel! Learn the history behind Le Château Frontenac, which was formerly Château Haldimand and Château Saint-Louis.

**Musée de la Civilisation** • Explore the diverse exhibitions on display at this modern museum. As you stroll through the museum’s stunning glass and steel buildings, learn about Québec’s rich history. Interactive exhibits focus on milestones in human and civil development, as well as natural and cultural phenomena.

**Observatoire de la Capitale** • Ascend to the Observatoire de la Capitale on the 31st floor of the Edifice Marie-Guyart. From this ideal vantage point, you’ll have sweeping views of the city below.

**Evening activity** • Depending on the time of year, you may enjoy a Ghost Tour, an IMAX movie or a ferry ride across the St. Lawrence River. In colder months, participate in winter activities during Carnaval de Québec, the largest winter carnival in the world. You may also enjoy the Québec experience, a 3-D multimedia show highlighting Québec’s history.

## DAY 5: AROUND QUÉBEC CITY

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**Montmorency Falls** • Pass through the picturesque terrain surrounding Québec City to towering Montmorency Falls, which cascade from a height of 270 feet (100 feet higher than Niagara Falls) where the Montmorency and St. Lawrence rivers meet.

**Copper Museum** • Create your own souvenir to take home! On our visit to the Copper Museum, you will make your own piece of copper. Also, find out what it takes to be “malleable” and “ductile” as you learn about one of Canada’s most valuable minerals.

**Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica** • Continue on to Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré and visit the town’s majestic double-spired basilica, which has been rebuilt on this spot many times. Although the present basilica was consecrated only 30 years ago, worshippers here have credited the shrine with miraculous cures since it was first built in 1658, and 17th-century sailors believed that St. Anne protected them from shipwrecks.

**Included dinner at the Sugar Shack** • Join a festive visit to the Sugar Shack, where you’ll dine in the hearty manner of early French-Canadian loggers. Set deep in the pine forests of rural Canada, the Sugar Shack offers a memorable evening of traditional feasting, songs, games and dancing. You’ll even have the chance to try “playing the spoons.”

## DAY 6: DEPARTURE

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**Return home** • Transfer to Montréal airport. Your tour director assists with your departure by flight or motorcoach.

**Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.**



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