



Bonjour,
 Welcome to the brand-new version of the *Bonjour Québec* newsletter. We've changed the look to make it more fun to read. From now on you will receive this each season. In this issue we bring you the *Joys of Winter!*

Explore



Tourist regions



To do and see



Tailor-made holidays

Plan



Lodging

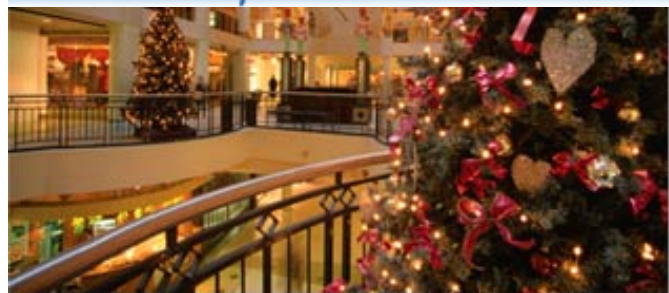


Road maps



Restaurants

What's up



Season's greetings from all around Québec
 Choose your favourites from our greetings cards featuring superb winter landscapes. It takes just a few clicks to send your holiday wishes and brighten someone's day! >>>



Lovely winterscapes on your screen
 Download our Winter screen saver, consisting of photos submitted by the finalists of our latest contest, and admire some winter wonderlands in white. >>>



Ready for the ski season?
 Discover new slopes to conquer, find out snow conditions in a jiffy... in our Ski section. >>>

Book

Winter Packages

Passion-Sweet Deal

Combine shopping, nightlife and comfort in the heart of downtown Montréal - 2 nights accommodation and many gifts from \$142 per person. >>>

Family Fun

Get a two days winter activities and live in a castle at the Château Montebello - 2 nights accommodation and admission to Omega Park, from \$790 for 2 adults & 2 children. >>>

Get an Eyeful

Embrace the view of Montréal and discover the exceptional Montréal's Nature Museum - one night accommodation, breakfast and gratuities from \$91 per person. >>>

Romantic

Share the pleasure of fine cuisine and great open space in the luxury Auberge du Lac-Taureau - 2 nights & a bottle of sparkling wine, from \$295 per person. >>>



[More packages >>>](#)

Events & Festivals



Christmas Extravaganza

Montréal, December 2, 2006 - January 1, 2007



A skating rink that's worth the trip

With its 9-km (6-mi.) track, the skating rink on the Rivière L'Assomption, in Joliette, is the longest in the world. This is one of the feature attractions of the Lanaudière area. >>>



Happy birthday, Québec City!

On July 3, 2008, Québec City will celebrate its 400th anniversary. Lots of shows, entertainment and other major gatherings are planned. Read all about it in our webzine. >>>

Year-end celebrations in Old Montréal, culminating with the Grand Ball on December 31 at Place Jacques-Cartier. >>>

Salon des artisans de Québec

Québec, December 7 - 17, 2006

This craft fair brings together many artisans as well as a few exhibitors from the agri food industry. >>>

Freestyle Grand Prix

Sainte-Adèle, January 5 - 7, 2007

The best freestyle athletes from around the world make their way to Mont-Gabriel for aerial and mogul World Cup competitions. >>>

Jonquière en neige

Jonquière, January 25 - February 4, 2007

Jonquière is transformed into "sculpture city" thanks to nearly 300 snow sculptors from Québec and abroad. >>>

Winterlude


Gatineau, February 2 - 18, 2007

Fun for the whole family: skating, ice sculptures and the largest snow playground on the continent. >>>



Snowmobiling safety

Snowmobiling is an exhilarating sport. Take our advice and enjoy this activity safely. >>>

Questions about Québec? Visit BonjourQuebec.com, write to us  or call us at : 1 877 BONJOUR.





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Geography

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History & Heritage

Québec now

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Our best shots

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Video clips

Wallpaper

Postcards



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- Nunavik
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- Québec City & Area
- Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean

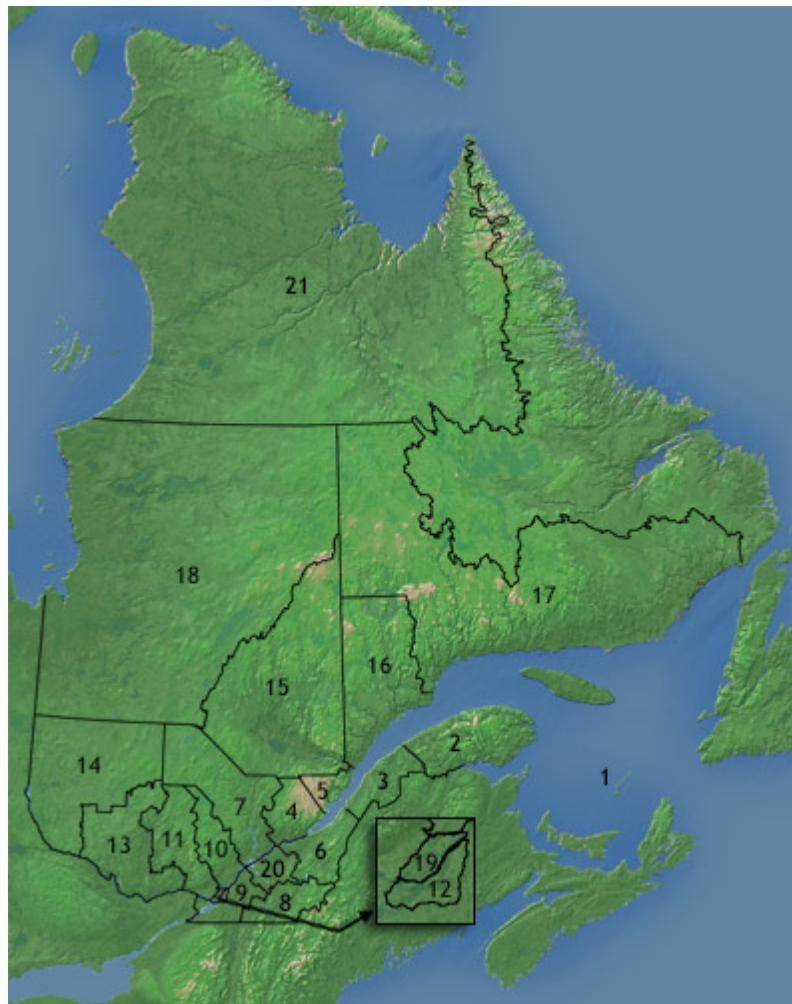
The tourist regions

21 ways to love Québec

Québec has 21 tourist regions, each of which presents a unique facet of the province from a geographical, historical and cultural perspective. New settlements or ancient fiefs, seaports or forest estates, these regions welcome you with open arms and unflagging heartiness and enthusiasm! No matter what regions you choose to visit, you can't go wrong!

Discovering Québec's regions

Slide your mouse over this clickable map to reveal a brief overview of each of Québec's regions (application does not support Mac). You can also access their respective sections using the menu on the left-hand side of this page.



Search

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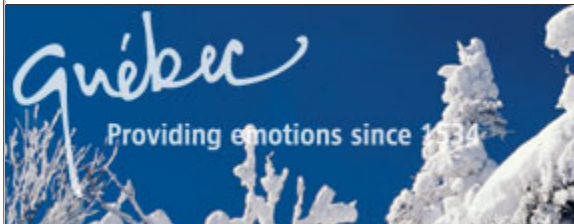
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Activities and attractions

What to see? What to do?

Québec has what it takes to satisfy those who enjoy outdoor action, sports and recreation, whether they wish to head out on the open road, visit the nicest cultural and natural sites or simply celebrate!

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Attractions

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Country routes

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Seasonal getaways

- [Summer](#)
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Festivals & Events

Each year, Québec hosts a stream of festivals, with nearly 400 events: colourful carnivals, huge cultural celebrations, international sports competitions ... Sample our legendary joie de vivre and party on!

[Find out more ...](#)

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- Ecotourism
- Family holiday
- First Nations
- Disabled travellers
- Spas
- Gay-friendly Québec

Tailor-made holidays

Québec: something for everyone

Québec may be a singular tourist destination, but there are at least a thousand and one ways to visit it! Whether you're travelling alone, as a couple or with your family, whether you're interested in nature, local food and drink, Native cultures or your own wellness and well-being, you'll enjoy warm and genuine hospitality and countless discoveries.

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Agrotourism

Wander through the fertile valley of the St. Lawrence River and sample the many products and specialty items produced by the land. Several regions offer gourmet tours in the country that let you discover, from the producers themselves, fine cheeses and maple syrup treats, as well as local ciders, wines and beer. Produced with pride, these products will delight even the most sophisticated pallets.



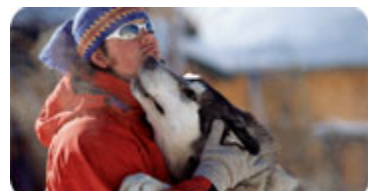
Ecotourism

Québec's vast natural heritage comprises 27 national parks, numerous wildlife reserves and three biosphere reserves recognized by UNESCO. Several companies specializing in ecotourism and adventure tours provide opportunities to discover the most beautiful sites in Québec on foot, by canoe and even sea kayak.



Family holiday

Québec has plenty to offer the young and the young at heart: adventure, an incredible variety of activities, and lots of space. You and your children can discover vibrant cities and a culture that is unique on the North American continent, providing a harmonious blend of the old and new worlds. History is always just around the corner and nature, never far away. A family vacation in Québec is your ticket to a rewarding travel experience filled with pleasant surprises!



First Nations

In Québec, there are 11 aboriginal nations, each linguistically and culturally distinct, living in some 50 villages spread across the province. Come and get acquainted with members of these culturally rich communities where sharing and hospitality are a way of life. Discover some of the forgotten aspects of a culture and heritage that were shaped over thousands of years on North American soil.



Disabled travellers

Québec is making considerable efforts to ensure that its tourist sites are even more accessible to persons with disabilities. With the help of Kéroul, the organization tasked with promoting tourism among this clientele, the Bonjour Québec.com site lists the accessibility features of various hotels, inns and other establishments, as well as numerous tourist sites.



Spas

Québec is taking rest and relaxation holidays to a whole new level thanks to Spas Relais santé, a network of spas that includes some 20 establishments. The attentive and qualified staff at each of these locations will provide you with a wide range of body care services tailored to your fitness level. And since these spas are invariably located close to nature, you're a winner right across the board!



Gay-friendly Québec

Québec has long been a favourite vacation spot for gays and lesbians the world over. And no wonder. The charms of Québec City and Montréal, which has a sizeable gay community of its own, are hard to resist. There's the great food and the abundant nightlife, not to mention the numerous festivals and other cultural events. Come and share the joie de vivre for which Québécois are famous ... and enjoy their very cosmopolitan outlook on life!

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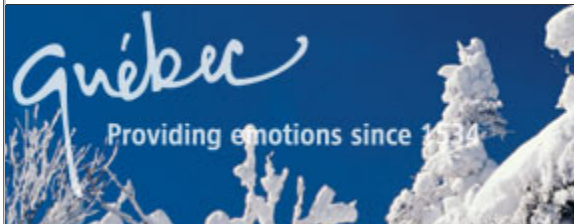
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Lodging

A handy guide for planning your stay

Québec boasts a comprehensive and varied range of accommodation formats. In all cases, the utmost attention is paid to comfort and hospitality. All establishments are classified according to strict criteria so as to guarantee visitors quality services and to help them choose their accommodations.

Québec has over 5,800 accommodation establishments that hold official classification certificates issued by the Corporation de l'industrie touristique du Québec, as well as 800 campgrounds classified by the Conseil du développement du camping au Québec.

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[Accommodations search](#)

 [Hotels](#)



A hotel offers lodging in one or several adjacent buildings that make up a single establishment (0 to 5 stars).

 [Bed & Breakfast](#)



A private home operated as an accommodation establishment. It may have up to five rooms, and the price includes breakfast served on site (0 to 5 stars).

 [Tourist home](#)



This term covers furnished cottages, houses or apartments equipped with a kitchenette and one or more bedrooms (0 to 4 stars).

 [Wilderness lodge](#)



An outfitter establishment offering accommodations, dining, activities and services in a forest setting (0 to 5 stars).

 [Resort](#)



An establishment offering lodging, meals or cooking facilities, as well as recreational activities and equipment (0 to 4 stars).

 [Youth hostel](#)



An establishment offering accommodations in dormitories or private rooms, as well as meals or cooking facilities (0 to 3 stars).

 [Educational institution](#)



An establishment offering visitors the use of rooms, from May to September, in residences normally occupied by students (0 to 3 stars).

 [Hospitality village](#)



An establishment where families offer lodging in their homes for up to six guests, along with breakfast, lunch or dinner and group activities (0 to 4 stars).

 [Campground](#)



Campgrounds welcome day campers who spend the night in a tent, a trailer, a tent-trailer or a motor home. (0 to 5 stars).

 [Outfitting operation](#)



Outfitting operations rent cabins or rooms and offer outdoor activities, such as hunting and fishing, as well as meals or cooking facilities (0 to 5 stars).

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By car



Certain information will be useful to help you better plan your car trips within Québec.

For information on road conditions and roadworks, you can call Inforoutière (1 888 355-0511) or visit the [Transports Québec](#) Web site.

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Road maps

Use Québec's official road map to plan your driving itineraries. You can select a region by clicking directly on the map below or by selecting it from the drop-down menu.

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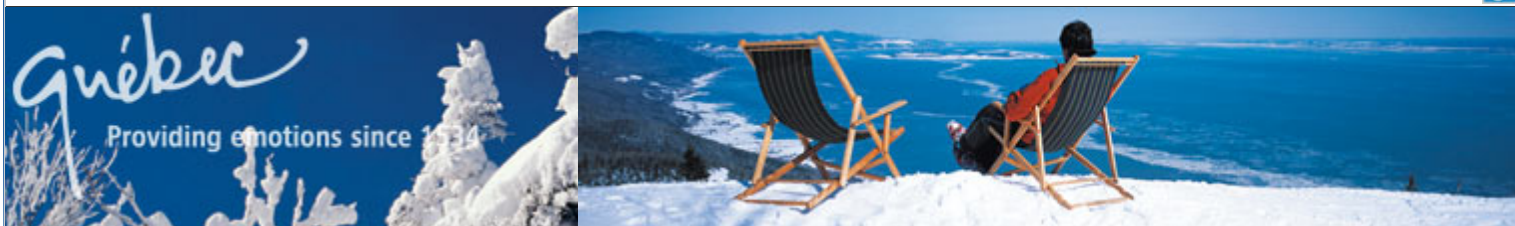
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Restaurants

Culinary arts and pleasures



Québecers are wild about culinary pleasures and take great delight in enjoying a good restaurant meal among family or friends. The choice and type of cuisine is vast: local or ethnic, self-serve health food or gourmet establishment, fast food or family restaurant ... there's something for every taste and every budget. But one thing all Québec eateries have in common is the warmth of their welcome!

Québec restaurants

Québec has thousands of food service establishments that hold permits and are subject to sanitary controls under the law. The range of cuisine is particularly broad in large urban areas that are home to sizeable cultural communities. In the regions, menus tend to feature local specialties, promising tasty surprises to curious palates!

Professional hotel and cooking schools are training a new breed of chef, one that skilfully adapts the secrets of Québec's culinary tradition and blends with it foods that reflect the major trends in today's fine cuisine.



A selection of fine restaurants



Several restaurants retrieved by the search engine belong to one of the following three categories:

Winners of the *Grands Prix du tourisme québécois*

Award-winning restaurants from the past two years at the regional and national *Grands Prix du tourisme québécois* competitions.

Four and Five Diamond restaurants

Restaurants that have earned a *Four Diamond* or *Five Diamond* rating from the CAA (Canada) and AAA (United States) automobile associations.

Relais gourmands

Restaurants classified as *Relais gourmands* by the international *Relais et Châteaux* chain.

Sugar shacks—family dining establishments that serve maple products and meals made from these products in the spring, and sometimes year-round—can also be queried via the search engine.

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Quick search :

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Wallpaper & Screen Savers

Québec... before your eyes!

Keep sight of Québec by choosing one of the following images as your screen wallpaper based on the desired resolution: 800, 1024 or 1280 pixels. This selection also includes two screen savers (for PC only).

All of these photos were submitted during a recent contest. Don't hesitate to make Québec your travel or leisure companion!

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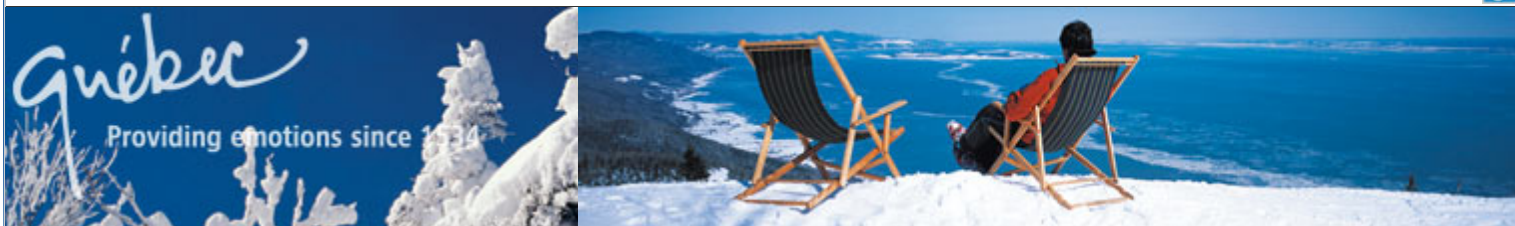
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Skiing in Québec

Full speed ahead this winter!



Fans of every kind of skiing, come take advantage of the exceptional conditions available in Québec! With an average annual snowfall of 3 m (10 ft.) from November to April, it's pure bliss!

Every winter in Québec, a million people enjoy themselves to the fullest on the ski slopes or snowboarding trails. Some 90 hills await you, most of them near Québec City or Montréal (in the Laurentian mountains and the Eastern Townships). In the resorts nestled directly at the foot of the hills, you can take pleasure in both skiing and après-ski activities!

Are you a fan of cross country skiing? You can choose from numerous excursion possibilities with 4,000 km (2,500 mi.) of trails in the heart of nature. Breathe deep... and enjoy the scenery!

Downhill skiing | Cross-country skiing | Snowboarding

Downhill skiing in Québec...

Exceptional conditions!

With an average of 3 metres (10 ft.) of snow every season, almost 90 stations, night skiing unlike anywhere else in North America and the feeling of a never-ending celebration... it's no wonder that a million skiers hit Québec's slopes each winter! From late November to late April (and sometimes even into May), the sensational conditions at Québec's ski stations guarantee a good time!



The best skiing in eastern North America



Québec's ski stations, visited by international athletes and rookies alike, have a total of some 800 trails for skiers of all levels. Spread out over two major mountain ranges, the Laurentian Mountains and the Appalachians, most of these ski stations are conveniently located near the major cities. The province of Québec has three major ski areas: the [Laurentides](#), the [Québec City area](#) (and [Charlevoix](#))

and the [Eastern Townships](#).

The best après-ski around!



Some of our ski stations can be found in the heart of resort towns known all over the world. Excellent accommodations are situated at the foot of the slopes, with packages that include meals, lessons and lift tickets. Québec is known for its joie de vivre and

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Downhill skiing

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its numerous winter [carnivals and festivals](#), each one more exciting than the next. Here, the après-ski is a tradition, the nightlife is wild, and the [dining](#) is

simply divine!

For a cozy winter... put on your skis and head to Québec!

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Festivals and festivities

Party on!

Québecers are known for their festive spirit. Major sports and cultural events, lively urban festivals and quaint village fairs—simply put, anything is an excuse to celebrate and share good times!



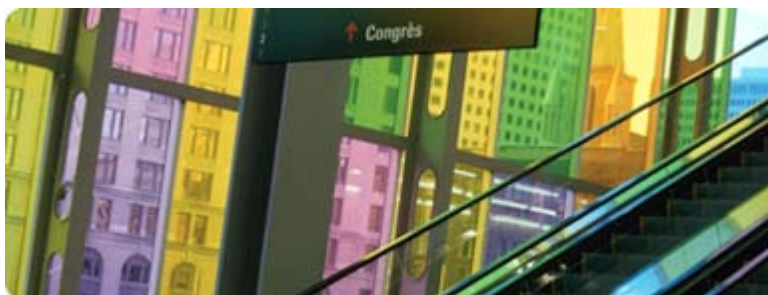
Festivals

From jazz to cinema, from comedy to fireworks—not to mention folklore and hot air balloons—Québecers have plenty of opportunities to party. What's more, they express their love of celebrating most enthusiastically through words, music and art. [Find a festival](#)



Sports events

Every year, in every season, high-level international sports events take place in Québec. The most popular include car races, skiing and mountain biking world cups, tennis championships... On your marks! [Discover our sports events](#)



Shows and fairs

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In cities and outlying areas alike, numerous shows held in large exhibition halls attract people eager to see something new. Fairs are also colourful and entertaining events, featuring all sorts of surprises.

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Lanaudière

Green spaces alive with music



Come breathe the fresh air right at Montréal's doorstep-in the Lanaudière region! Adventures abound in this rural area along the St. Lawrence River (in the southern region), on its country roads, and in its wilderness (further to the north). Almost everywhere, you can find trails for hikers, cyclists, skiers, in-line skaters, ATV enthusiasts and snowmobilers. Nestled in the rural countryside, the towns vibrate to the rhythm of cultural and sporting events, including the [Festival international de Lanaudière](#), the most prestigious classical music festival in Canada. Gourmets and gourmands can indulge in the regional specialties of the Lanaudière, one of the oldest agricultural regions in Québec.

Enchanting outings

Green spaces abound in the Lanaudière! The 103 islands of the [Lac Saint-Pierre archipelago](#) make up the UNESCO Lac Saint-Pierre Biosphere Reserve which, in addition to being the largest waterfowl staging area in North America, provides sanctuary to 288 species of birds every year. The [Parc régional des Chutes-Monte-à-Peine-et-des-Dalles](#), the [Parc des Cascades](#), [Parc des Chutes-Dorwin](#), and the [Parc national du Mont-Tremblant](#), the largest protected area in Québec, offer spectacular settings for strolls, picnics and a range of other activities. To discover a northern landscape and flora not usually found at this latitude, visit the [Réserve écologique des Tourbières-de-Lanoraie!](#)



A land of art and history



Numerous historic sites and museums bear witness to the rich history of the Lanaudière region. The [file-des-Moulins historic site](#), in Terrebonne, features five restored historic buildings, including three mills, a seigneurial office and a bakery dating from the 19th century. At the [Sir Wilfrid Laurier National Historic Site](#), you can explore the birthplace of the man who served as Canada's prime minister in the early 20th century. At the [Musée d'art in Joliette](#), you can take in an impressive collection of artwork from the 13th century to present day, including an exhibition on Canadian painters from the 19th and 20th centuries. At the [Musée Gilles-Villeneuve](#), you will learn the secrets of Formula 1 racing and Québec drivers, while at the [Musée Halte Louis-Cyr](#), in Saint-Jean-de-Matha, you will be awed by the exploits of Louis Cyr, at one time the world's strongest man!

Get your fill of culture and fresh air in the Lanaudière!

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Road Map 

DID YOU KNOW?

With its 9-km (6-mi.) track, the skating rink on the Rivière l'Assomption, in Joliette, is the longest in the world. During [Festi-glace](#), the rink becomes a lively hub featuring shows and activities, and plays host to a big ice skating marathon as well!

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Wednesday December 13, 2006

2008: 400 years of French presence in North America

Happy birthday, Québec!



Samuel de Champlain, © Société du 400e anniversaire de Québec

On July 3, 1608, when Samuel de Champlain first dropped anchor at “Kébec”—an Algonquin word meaning “where the river narrows”—he couldn’t have imagined that his gesture would mark the start of the French adventure on American soil. Nor was he likely to have foreseen that, in 2008, we would be celebrating four centuries of the city’s establishment!

Historical overview

At the time, the European superpowers, impelled by the desire to conquer new territory, sent their troops overseas. Dispatched by Henri IV, Samuel de Champlain set foot on North American soil and in so doing, sparked an encounter that would change history. Québec City was born and has evolved through the legacy of many more encounters: first between the First Nations peoples and the Europeans, then between the French and the British, and today, between a worldly population and travellers from all around the globe.

Francophone North Americans

If you’re a French-speaking North American, Québec City is where it all began! At one time, the city was the key to the continent. New France then covered all of Eastern Canada and nearly half the existing territory of the United States, extending from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Great Lakes, Hudson’s Bay, and all the way down to Florida. As such, Québec City was the starting point for every great explorer who discovered America, and the gateway for immigration and development. At the time, whoever controlled the “Gibraltar of America” virtually controlled the New World.



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A continent in celebration

Today, North America is getting set to honour several important historic events. While Québec City celebrates 400 years of French presence in 2008, Jamestown, Virginia, will mark 400 years of British presence in 2007; and Santa Fe, New Mexico, will observe 400 years of Spanish presence in 2009.

The 2008 festivities will highlight 400 years of history, contact and exchange. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Québec City enchants visitors with its remarkable architecture, its breathtaking vistas of the St. Lawrence River and the surrounding hills, its charming and safe streets, and the legendary hospitality of its people. Visitors from every walk of life are warmly invited to join in what promises to be a tremendous party in 2008. This great celebration is yours as well!



OÙ SÈREZ-VOUS EN 2008?
AU 400^e ANNIVERSAIRE DE QUÉBEC!
quebec400.qc.ca Québec Québec 2008 Canada

Where will you be in 2008? I will be at Québec City's 400th anniversary.



NOT TO BE MISSED!

A number of major events have already been announced as part of the festivities commemorating the founding of Québec City. Featured will be new works from internationally renowned artists who call the Old Capital their place of birth.

Robert Lepage

The Bassin Louise will play host to the *Moulin à images*, a multimedia extravaganza created by **Robert Lepage** and **Ex Machina**. A robust team of designers has taken up the challenge of telling the story of Québec City, its people and its technological development through multiple projections on an immense 600-m (2,000-ft.) wide screen, otherwise known as the La Bunge silos, located on the eastern side of the Bassin Louise. Based on the number four—four centuries, four seasons, four roads, four cardinal points—this original work of son et lumière (sound and light), approximately 40 minutes in length, can be viewed not only from Espace 400e, but also from the whole Bassin Louise area and around the Rue des Remparts. Showings of the *Moulin à images* will take place after sunset from June 21 right through August.

Publication date: 2006-07-04

Author: André Quenneville

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Snowmobiling

Safety first



For your own safety and that of others, you must obey the law and travel on trails that are marked and maintained by snowmobiling federations. Ensuring snowmobilers that they can enjoy this activity safely will make it possible for the sport to grow in the future.

What the law says about safety

Faced with the growing number of serious accidents and fatalities, in 1996 the Ministère des Transports du Québec had the [Act respecting off-highway vehicles](#) passed. This act tightened the rules governing the use of OHVs, including snowmobiles. It was amended in 2006. Below are its main provisions.

- Wearing a **safety helmet** is mandatory, regardless of where you operate a snowmobile.
- The **minimum age** for operating a snowmobile is 16. A certificate, issued by the Québec Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (FCMQ), is mandatory for operators aged 16 or 17.
- Unless otherwise indicated, the **speed limit** for snowmobiles is 70 km/h (43 mph). Within 30 m (100 ft.) of a dwelling, the speed limit is reduced to 30 km/h (19 mph).
- Your snowmobile must be fitted with the **mandatory safety equipment**, and it is illegal to remove or modify this equipment.
- Except as provided in the [Act respecting off-highway vehicles](#), it is illegal to operate a snowmobile on **public roads**. Snowmobiles can cross or drive on public roads only at authorized locations that are identified by the appropriate traffic signs. Only the manager of the road network (the Ministère des Transports or the municipality) can authorize the use of a public road. To use a public road, under the conditions set out in the Act, a snowmobile operator must hold a valid driver's licence.
- In general, it is illegal to ride within 30 m (100 ft.) of a **dwelling**, a health establishment, or an area that is reserved for cultural, educational, or sports activities. Snowmobiles must slow down when approaching one of these locations. And be careful not to make too much noise, especially at night.
- Every owner of a snowmobile must hold a minimum of \$500,000 of third-party liability insurance. Pursuant to the [Automobile Insurance Act](#), the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) does not compensate snowmobilers for accidents unless a moving automobile is involved. It is recommended that snowmobile owners take out a personal insurance policy that provides coverage for bodily injury and property damage.

Network safety

The FCMQ's clubs are required to develop, maintain, and mark their trails in order to ensure utmost safety. These trails form an extensive and safe network.

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- Before operating a snowmobile on a **body of water**, make sure it is sufficiently frozen.
- Be prepared and carry a **basic survival kit**. There is no guarantee that a cell phone will be reliable outside of urban areas or far from major road corridors, so it is a good idea to carry a topographic map. It may also be useful to bring along a GPS receiver (satellite tracking system/global positioning system) to help you find your way in the woods.
- **Trail security officers** are volunteers who patrol the trails in order to increase awareness of the importance of obeying the law. Their work requires know-how and dedication, and they deserve your respect and your complete cooperation.
- There is a very simple **system of signals** that all snowmobilers should know and use when riding on the trails. These hand signals have been approved by the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, and they allow you to convey essential information to other snowmobilers who are following or approaching you.

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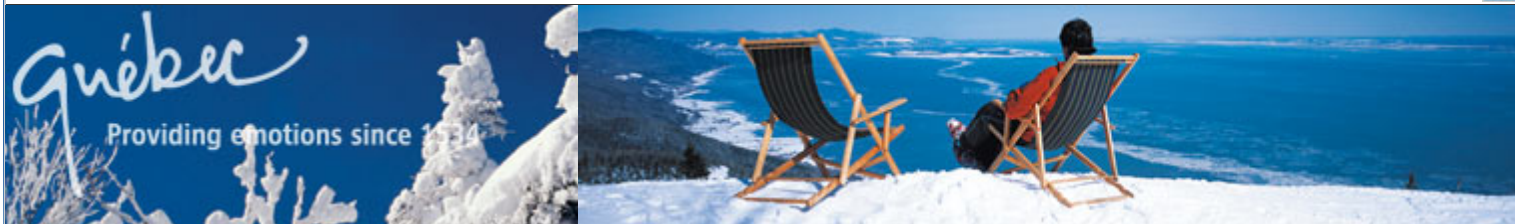
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