

Québec City Cruise Port Guide

North America's Most European Cruise Destination



Few cruise ports are as breathtaking as **Québec City**. As your ship sails up the majestic **St. Lawrence River** and docks just steps from the historic Old Town, you'll quickly understand why so many travelers consider this one of the highlights of any New England & Canada cruise.

Founded in **1608**, Québec City is one of the oldest European settlements in North America and the only fortified city north of Mexico with its original walls still intact. With its cobblestone streets, centuries-old architecture, French cafés, lively squares, and magnificent views over the St. Lawrence River, the city feels more like Europe than North America.

Whether you're visiting for a day or extending your stay before or after your cruise, Québec City is a destination you'll never forget.

Cruise Port Information



Cruise ships dock at the **Ross Gaudreault Cruise Terminal** in the heart of the city's historic waterfront.

From the terminal you can easily walk to:

- Old Québec
- Petit-Champlain District

- Dufferin Terrace
- Château Frontenac
- Restaurants
- Shopping
- Museums

One of the biggest advantages of Québec City is that many of its top attractions are within walking distance of the ship.



Château Frontenac



The city's most famous landmark is the magnificent **Fairmont Le Château Frontenac**.

Perched high above the St. Lawrence River, it is:

- One of the world's most photographed hotels
- The symbol of Québec City
- A National Historic Site of Canada
- A must-see for every visitor

Even if you're not staying there, walk through the lobby or enjoy the spectacular views from outside.



Explore Old Québec



The heart of the city is **Old Québec**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Highlights include:

- Cobblestone streets
- Historic churches
- French cafés
- Boutique shopping
- Street musicians
- Public squares
- Stone buildings dating back centuries

This is one of the most walkable and photogenic cities in North America.



Dufferin Terrace & The Funicular



Stretching alongside Château Frontenac is **Dufferin Terrace**.

Visitors enjoy:

- Incredible river views

- Street performers
- Historic cannons
- Scenic photography

To travel between Upper Town and Lower Town, ride the famous **Funicular Railway**, or take the historic stairways if you're feeling energetic.



Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral



One of Canada's oldest churches, this magnificent basilica features:

- Beautiful stained glass
- Historic artwork
- Ornate architecture
- Quiet spaces for reflection

It's a wonderful stop while exploring Old Québec.



Taste French Canada



Local favorites include:

- 🧀 Poutine
- 🥧 Tourtière
- 🍁 Maple syrup desserts
- 🥐 Fresh pastries
- 🍞 Artisan breads
- 🧀 Québec cheeses

The city's restaurants range from casual cafés to fine French dining.

Shopping



Popular souvenirs include:

- Maple syrup
- Handmade crafts
- Local artwork
- French chocolates
- Christmas ornaments
- Wool products
- Québec-made foods

The charming boutiques of **Petit-Champlain** are among the best shopping spots in Canada.

Plains of Abraham



Just a short walk from Old Québec is the historic **Plains of Abraham**.

This beautiful park is famous for:

- The 1759 Battle of Québec
- Scenic walking paths
- Gardens
- Panoramic city views
- Seasonal festivals

Today it's one of the city's favorite green spaces.

Best Photo Spots



Favorite photography locations include:

- Château Frontenac
- Dufferin Terrace
- Petit-Champlain
- City Walls
- Place Royale

- Funicular overlook
- St. Lawrence River waterfront

You'll fill your camera with postcard-worthy images.



Cruise Day Tips

- Wear comfortable walking shoes—the cobblestone streets and hills can be challenging.
 - Start exploring early to enjoy quieter streets before they become busy.
 - Bring a light jacket, even in summer, as river breezes can be cool.
 - Consider riding the Funicular to save time and energy.
 - If your cruise overnights in Québec City, take advantage of the opportunity to experience the city after dark.
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Premium Travel Group Tip

If your itinerary includes an overnight stay in Québec City, don't spend the entire evening onboard. The city takes on a magical atmosphere after sunset when the streets are illuminated, musicians perform in the squares, and Château Frontenac glows above the river. It's one of the most memorable evenings you'll experience on any cruise.



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Fun Facts

- Québec City was founded in **1608**, making it one of North America's oldest European settlements.

- It is the **only fortified city north of Mexico** with its original defensive walls still standing.
 - **Château Frontenac** is often considered the **most photographed hotel in the world**.
 - **Petit-Champlain** is one of the oldest commercial shopping streets in North America.
 - The city's historic district has been recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 1985.
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Why You'll Love Québec City

Québec City offers an experience unlike any other cruise port in North America. Its centuries-old streets, European architecture, French culture, incredible dining, and breathtaking river views create an atmosphere that's both romantic and unforgettable. Whether you're exploring historic landmarks, shopping in charming boutiques, or simply enjoying coffee at a sidewalk café, Québec City feels like stepping into another world.



Joe's Logbook

If I had to choose just one port that surprises people the most on a New England & Canada cruise, it would probably be Québec City.

The moment you walk through the old gates and onto the cobblestone streets, it's easy to forget you're still in North America. Between the French language, sidewalk cafés, historic buildings, and the incredible Château Frontenac overlooking the river, the city has a character that's completely unique.

My biggest piece of advice is simple—slow down. Don't worry about trying to see everything. Wander through Petit-Champlain without a schedule, stop for a pastry or a coffee, listen to the street musicians, and take in the atmosphere. Those quiet moments often become the memories you'll treasure most.

If your cruise begins or ends here—or if you're fortunate enough to have an overnight stay—take advantage of it. Québec City is one of those rare destinations that's just as beautiful after the sun goes down as it is during the day. It's not only one of my favorite ports in Canada; it's one of my favorite cruise destinations anywhere.