



Ice Hotel



Bonhomme

ICE HOTEL & QUÉBEC WINTER CARNIVAL

February 10, 2023 – 6 Days

Celebrate winter in Québec City

The tradition of celebrating winter from late January until mid-February has been around for a long time! In Québec City, the world’s snow capital, the first major winter carnival made its debut in 1894. A population often faced with harsh winters decided to put on a snow festival to warm their hearts. Interrupted by two world wars and the depression years, the Carnival was revived in 1955 with Bonhomme as its mascot. Carnival became a must-attend event for the people of Québec City and the impetus behind the city’s winter tourist activities. Today, the Carnival is undeniably a major winter event and continues to be a driving force in Québec’s winter life. We stay 4 nights at the Delta Hotel, enjoying the many activities of Carnival, then drive 40 minutes north to Valcartier for a unique experience staying a night at the famous Hôtel de Glace (Ice Hotel).

Activity Level: 2



9 Meals Included:

5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

Ice Hotel 1 bed – \$3,540 double; \$4,195 single

Ice Hotel 2 beds – \$3,615 twin; \$3,385 triple

Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

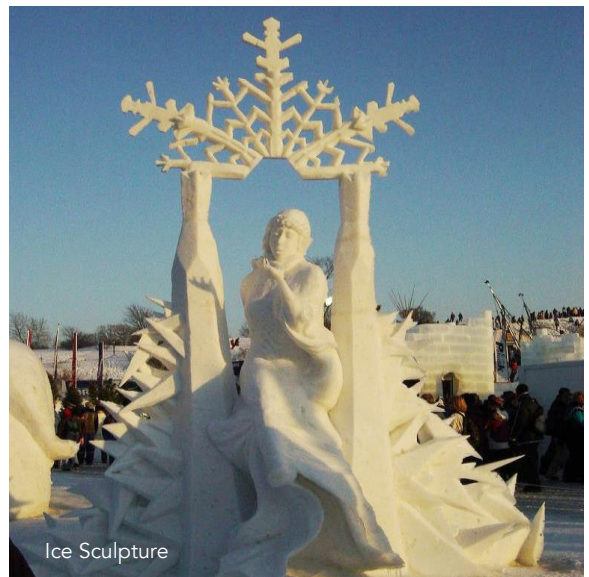
\$200 discount on first 12 seats; \$100 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 80 points on this tour.

Redeem 80 points if you book by November 9, 2022.

Departure from: Victoria & Nanaimo



Ice Sculpture

ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday, February 10

A transfer is provided to Victoria Airport and we fly to Québec City. We stay four nights at the Delta Hotel which has a great location near the National Assembly and the walls of Old Québec.

Note: Nanaimo customers can fly from there (no transfer provided); Comox area customers have a poor flight connection, so it is not recommended.

Accommodation: Delta Hotel Québec City

Day 2: Saturday, February 11

Follow your local guide off the beaten paths and be charmed by **Old Québec**, the only walled city in North America. In this UNESCO World Heritage site, fine old buildings and proud monuments line winding streets and picturesque places such as the National Assembly and Parliament Hill, the Battlefields Park, the Citadel, the Château Frontenac, Notre-Dame-de-Québec Basilica, and Place d'Armes. We stroll through **Place Royale**, the cradle of French civilization in North America, in the midst of the old Lower Town along the St. Lawrence riverfront. The afternoon is leisure time to take in the many activities of the **Québec Winter Carnival**. Tonight, we have VIP seats to watch the extravagant and colourful Ice Parade.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Delta Hotel Québec City

Day 3: Sunday, February 12

Château Frontenac is the landmark of Québec City, perched on the bluff overlooking the St. Lawrence River. This Canadian icon was built in 1893 by the Canadian Pacific Railway and its architect included styles of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the British and French powers that have occupied Québec. A guided tour of this iconic hotel features history, famous visitors, and architecture. The Winter Carnival closes tonight, so you probably want to spend time today with some other activities or visiting the spectacular Ice Palace in front of the National Assembly.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Delta Hotel Québec City

Day 4: Monday, February 13

First, we go to the **Observatoire de la Capitale**, the highest building in the city to admire a panoramic view. Our lunch is at **Le Parlementaire Restaurant**, located at the National Assembly. During the afternoon, you can choose to visit either the Fine Arts Museum of Québec or the Civilization Museum. Tonight is a special treat with dinner and entertainment at the **Sugar Shack** l'Érablière du Lac-Beauport in the Laurentian Mountains. The traditional sugar bush meal is served (pea soup, omelet, maple ham, meat pie, and pancakes with maple syrup), accompanied by folk music and dancing, and finishing with maple taffy served on snow.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Delta Hotel Québec City

Day 5: Tuesday, February 14

We explore the Côte-de-Beaupré region from Québec City to Mont-Ste-Anne along the St. Lawrence River. This historic road known as Route de la Nouvelle-France has many treasures including ancestral homes with a rich heritage. We stop at the wonderful Albert Gilles Copper Museum, full of handmade crafts, and enjoy teatime. Next is **Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré Shrine**, the oldest pilgrimage site in North America, with its commemorative chapel, Stations of the Cross and renowned basilica. Then we go to **Montmorency Falls**, a dramatic 85-metre waterfall that is probably frozen from top to bottom. Afterwards, we drive to Valcartier for an overnight stay in what can likely be called the world's strangest hotel, built entirely from ice – the **Ice Hotel or Hôtel de Glace**. Take a tour "behind the scenes" to learn about this unique structure and how it is built and preserved. Afterwards, join your tour director for appetizers and drinks in the Ice Bar and marvel at this hotel that will be gone two months later.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hôtel de Glace

Day 6: Wednesday, February 15

We drive back into Québec City and fly to Victoria or Nanaimo.

Meals included: Breakfast

QUÉBEC WINTER CARNIVAL

The Carnival had grown since 1955 into the largest winter festival in the world, but is now the largest in the Western Hemisphere after being supplanted by the Harbin Festival in China. Throughout the 10 days, the most popular attractions are the nighttime and daytime parades led by mascot Bonhomme Carnaval. The parades wind through the upper city, decorated for the occasion with lights and ice sculptures. Bonhomme – short for bonhomme de neige ("snowman") is the official ambassador of the festivities, the castle lord of the Ice Palace. Bonhomme is described as a seven-foot-tall, 400-pound snowman sporting a red cap, black buttons, and a ceinture fléchée that gives acknowledgement to French-Canadian and Métis style clothing. Red clothing, carnival songs, the arrow sash, Bonhomme's Effigy, and the caribou are all time-honoured traditions dating back to the origins of the Carnival.


ICE HOTEL

The first Ice hotel opened in 2001 and was located in Montmorency Falls Park. Since 2017, it has been in Valcartier, about 40 minutes north of Québec City in the Laurentian Mountains. It was the first and still the only ice hotel in North America and is built each December for an opening date in early January. The hotel has a three-month lifespan each year before being brought down in April. It had only 11 double beds in 2001, but is now much larger with 51 double beds, all made of ice with a solid wood base and comfortable mattress. When bedtime comes, a cozy sleeping bag, an insulating bed sheet, and a pillow are delivered to your room. Only the bathrooms are heated and located in a separate insulated structure. The Ice Hotel takes about 1½ months to build with 50 workers. The hotel makes its own snow using a special mixture to adjust the humidity. It is built with metal frames, then allowed to harden for a few days when the frames are removed. The hotel is made of 30,000 tons of snow and 500 tons of ice and the walls are up to four feet thick. The hotel is usually made in arches of 16 feet (5 m) over rooms, with larger and higher spaces for a grand hall, a chapel, a bar, and a grand ice slide. All furniture is made of ice. A sauna and outdoor hot tubs are close by. The bar serves drinks and cocktails in ice glasses. Our reservation includes a regular hotel room at the adjacent Hotel Valcartier, so if you are uncomfortable during the night, you can go back to a "normal" hotel.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation to/from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Québec City & return
- 4 nights of hotel accommodation and taxes
- Transfer from Québec Airport to hotel
- Coach transportation for 3 days
- Local guide for 4 days in Québec City
- Sightseeing tour of Québec City
- 2 days admission to Winter Carnival
- VIP seating at the night parade
- Historic tour of Château Frontenac
- Observatoire de la Capitale
- Choice of Fine Arts Museum of Québec OR Civilization Museum
- Dinner and entertainment at Sugar Shack
- Albert Gilles Copper Museum
- Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré Shrine
- Montmorency Falls
- 1 night of Ice Hotel accommodation and taxes with backup regular hotel room at Valcartier
- "Behind the Scenes" tour of Ice Hotel
- Reception at the Ice Bar
- Transfer from Valcartier to Québec Airport
- Gratuities for local guides
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **9 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

 **Activity Level 2:** Moderate activity including walking in snow at times. City streets are historic and narrow, so the coach may not be able to take you right to the door of some places. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance or at check-in if this could be an issue for you. If Activity Level 2 could be challenging, you are urged to bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some tour days.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due November 9, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$200 discount on first 12 seats and \$100 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after November 9, 2022.

Cancellation Policy: Up to October 6, 2022, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From October 7 to November 9, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From November 10 to December 9, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From December 10 to January 9, 2023, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After January 9, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore, Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes until departure.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo Credits: Destination Québec City (Ice Hotel page 1), Wikimedia (Bonhomme, ice sculpture, Ice Palace), Ice Hotel

Experience Points: This tour earns 80 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until November 9, 2022.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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