

# Quebec City Travel Guide

*Special thanks to Chris McGuire, Mauro Bongiovanni, Simon Cliche-Lamoureux, and Patricia Laliberte*

It's pronounced *kay-beck*. Any pronunciation guidelines will be in *italics*, due to the *frawn-sayz*. Quebec City is my favourite place in the world, and I'm going to do my best to update this page every week until the event. If you have any questions, please leave a comment and I'll get to it at soonest possible convenience.

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## Tournament Information

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## Tournament Venue

### [Centre des Congrès de Québec](#)

*sawn-truh day con-gray duh kay-beck*

1000 boul. René-Lévesque E

Québec, Qc, G1R 2B5

1 (888) 679-4000

This building is built into an escarpment, and is partially underneath the Delta hotel. There is an extended series of escalators that brings you north to the streets with all the food, but you have to leave the venue and cross next to the Hilton to get there.

## Points of Entry

### [Jean Lesage International Airport](#)

Jean Lesage was Premier of Quebec from 1960 until 1966. He was one of the fathers of the [Quiet Revolution](#), a pretty important cultural shift in Canadian history, so I've linked to the wikipedia page because they never really taught us about it in English schools. I am going to be honest: I have always taken road transportation to Quebec City, so we are going to be relying on *Google* for information here. [Transportation](#) is located further down the document.

### [Montreal Trudeau International Airport](#)

This is the primary airport in Montreal. It has a lot of international flights, and is the central hub for [Air Canada](#), the Star Alliance affiliate in Canada. There is a free shuttle from the airport to the [train station](#), and a public bus that goes downtown to the bus station (Gare D'autocars)

## Distance from Airport/ Travel Time

According to [google maps](#) the distance from Jean Lesage is 18.1 km.

The [Réseau de transport de la capitale \(RTC\)](#) is the bus system in town. There is a exact change only one-fare for 3.25 CAD, and a day-pass for 8.00 CAD. You can hop onto the 800 from Les Saules, dropping you downtown near the Train Station. I recommend taking a hike up the hill to the venue from there, but it can be steep. You may want to opt for a taxi, many of which are ready waiting at the station.

**N.B.** From Simon: “Bus 800 doesn't actually go through Les Saules. Bus 803 does, and allows you to get to the site by transferring with bus 801. But buses 86 (direct but infrequent) or 87 are actually the better route from Les Saules, from what I know. The latter will get you to Université Laval, Québec's university, and from there either 800 or 801 will get you downtown to the Centre des congrès. Les Saules is not actually right at the airport, you'll still need another bus (78 if I'm not mistaken, and it's not a frequent one) or a cab to get there from the airport.”

## Hotels

### Nearby Event Site

The two hotels next to the venue are the [Delta Quebec City](#) (\$216/night) and the [Hilton Quebec](#) (\$189/night). Gamekeeper has arranged for a super-discount rate of \$130/night at the Hilton, which I highly recommend if you're able to take it.

### Cheap Hotels, Hostels, and Alternatives

A ten minute walk south you can get rooms at the [Hotel Le Concorde](#) (\$135/night), and if you want to go upscale the [Fairmont Château Frontenac](#) (\$399/night) is only a walk off 15 minutes. You should check it out for the view even if you are not staying there.

For hostels you cannot go any better than the [Auberge internationale de Québec](#) (\$26/night) It's a [Hostelling International](#) member, so your discount card will work there.

## Tourist Spots

### Popular

#### Old Quebec (Vieux Québec)

Quebec City was founded in 1608 by Samuel de Champlain. I know this because it's basically one of the only facts about Canadian history we're supposed to remember from school. The

#### Fortifications of Quebec City

Often described as the only fortified city in North America (which for some reason excludes Mexico?), the battlements are a really nice walk, with a lot of grassy hills that you can roll down while fighting children trying to terrify their parents.

#### Château Frontenac

Built by railway barons and now run by Fairmont, this place is gorgeous, and it's worth having to drink Starbucks just to sit inside and watch all the tourists go by.

#### The Citadel

The other official residence of Canada's Head of State, there is a fantastic boardwalk connecting this place to the Château. There are excavations of the original fort

## Artist Alley (Rue du Trésor Outdoor Gallery)

This is where you find almost all the tourist trap paintings, but some of them are also fantastic.

## Old Port & Place Royal

Down the hill from Frontac is a really cool neighbourhood that will take you through the ages of European North America. It features the oldest stone church on the continent, an amazing square to lounge around in, and an infinite stock of antique shops.

## Off the Beaten Path

### [Plains of Abraham](#)

For those of you who are history buffs, in 1759 England managed to have a rare victory over France. There are a lot of neat tours and reenactments that happen around here.

### [L'Assemblée Nationale](#)

This is host to the National Assembly of Quebec, the seat of the provincial government and cause of the [best twitter hashtag in politics](#). It's an imposing building that most people seem to avoid, probably due to the heavy concentration of Frenchness the place gives off. There are a ton of amazing statues to look at, and you might be able to walk in and watch the debates!

### [Montmorency Falls \(Chute Montmorency\)](#)

If you want to see some nature, there are some great waterfalls about 12 km from the downtown core. If the leaves are still around, it would look fantastic.

### [Musée de la civilisation](#)

The Quebec Museum of Civilisation is where Simon works! It hosts a collection depicting the evolution of the people and culture in Quebec, as well as travelling exhibits. Currently, they are hosting one exploring [dance as a universal language](#).

## Public Transit

### Trains

[Via Rail](#) has frequent trains from Montreal. They have sales on Tuesdays, but the cheapest fares are often bookable a few weeks ahead of time. It is super comfortable, you don't need to check your bags, and there is no security screening. Wifi helps too.



## Buses

The Quebec public transportation system can be paid for using an Opus card. You can pick one up at any major terminal, load money on it, and tap on as necessary. They also work in Montreal!

## Taxis and Uber

There is a standard fare from the airport to downtown - \$34.25 CAD.

Taxi Coop Québec

418-525-5191

[admin@taxicoop-quebec.com](mailto:admin@taxicoop-quebec.com)

Taxi Coop Sainte-Foy – Sillery

418-653-7777

[info@taxicoopstefoysillery.com](mailto:info@taxicoopstefoysillery.com)

Taxi Laurier

418-651-2727

[contact@taxilaurier.com](mailto:contact@taxilaurier.com)

Taxi Québec

418-525-8123

[taxi-quebec@oricom.ca](mailto:taxi-quebec@oricom.ca)

## Food and Drink

### Eating during your break near the venue

Rue Saint-Jean has a bunch of stuff that you can pick-up and go, or sit down and eat. Sushi at [Yuzu](#), burgers and poutine at [Snack Bar](#), or just pickup some awesome local cheese and bread at [Inter Marché](#).

### Dinner After the Venue

If you're looking for the best of the best, try this list of [Tripadvisor Recommendations](#).

On my side of things:

- [La Ninkasi](#), 811 Rue Saint-Jean, Québec, QC G1R 1R2; This is the place you wanted your college bar to be like. Craft beer, pool tables, good food, and occasionally a poker table setup on Thursday nights.
- [Restaurant Hobbit Bistro](#), 700 Rue Saint-Jean, Québec, QC G1R 1R1; aside from the obvious reasons, this place has a great wine selection and real

- [Le Drague](#), 815, rue St-Augustin, QC G1R 3N4 ; the beating heart of the Quebec City gay scene, hosting drag queens on Friday and Saturday, along with DJs and dance parties
- [Le Sacrilege](#), 447 rue St-Jean, Québec, QC G1R 1P5; A bit farther down the road, Simon's favourite watering hole. There's a [folk-rock band from Montreal on Thursday night](#), and a dance party on Friday and Saturday!

## Breakfast and Coffee

- [Les Bruleries](#), 881 Rue Saint-Jean, Quebec, QC G1R1R1; Simon recommends dropping by here
- My friend Nick is working to setup a new Micro-roastery with [Saint Henri](#) next to the Ashtons. It should be open just before the GP, so I'll be there drinking all the espresso.
- [Nektar Caféologue](#) has the best lineup of roasters in town, featuring Intelligentsia from the US and 49th Parallel from Vancouver. It's a bit of a hike, but worth it!
- They recently broke off from their old name, but I've heard good things about [Cantook Micro-Roasters](#).

## Local Specialties

- Sugar shacks are where you make maple syrup. The closest one seems to be [Cabane à sucre l'En-Tailleur](#), and you can probably play some wooden spoons if they're hosting a shindig.
- Sugar Pie is basically the best part of pecan pie, but made by francophones. Rumours say that [Aux Anciens Canadiens](#) has the best one in Quebec.

## Travel & Safety Tips

Most people in Quebec City have lived under English rule their entire life. If you speak clearly and carefully, you'll be fine. If you want to try your *franglais*, here are some handy sentences that could be helpful or get you out of trouble.

"Bonjour" *bon-jew-er* or "Salut" *sah-loo*: Hello

"Parlez-vous anglais?" *parlay voo on-glay?*: Do you speak English?

"Je ne parle pas français" *je na parrl pah fron-say*: I do not speak French

"Ça va?" *sah-vah* : How are you?

"Au revoir" *oh-ray-vevar*: Goodbye

"Où est la salle de bain?": *ooh-eh? la sal de ban* Where is the bathroom?

"Combien ça coûte?" or "Ça coûte combien?" *comb bee-yen sah coot-*: How much does it cost?

"Où est l'hôtel?" *oo eh? low-tell* Where is the hotel?

"Où est l'auberge de jeunesse?" *oo eh? low bearjjj de june ess*: Where is the hostel?

"Oui" *like west minus the t*: Yes

"Non" *the second n is silent*: No

"Quoi?" *kewah*: What

“Comment?": *like* “Come on!” without the *n*. How  
“Aujourd’hui”: *owe-jewer-dooee* Today  
“Demain” *duman*: Tomorrow

The following was included to help you deal with the vibrant Quebec nightlife. - Patricia

“Décrisse” or “Sacre ton camp” : Get the hell out  
“Une bière s’il-vous-plaît”: A beer please  
“Quel est ton nom?": What’s your name?  
“Chez toi ou chez moi?": Your place or mine?  
“Tricheur!": Cheater  
“Trou-de-cul": Asshole  
“Dans ta face”: In your face  
“Je m’en vais me coucher”: I’m going to bed.

## Game Stores

### [Librairie Donjon](#)

320 ST-JOSEPH EST, STE 14  
Quebec City, QC G1K 8G5  
418-523-1511

You probably will think that you’ve been given the wrong directions to this place. It’s located underneath the public library in this sweet subterranean mall right next to the Best Western. It’s also home to international man of Tarmogoyf Pascal Maynard. He accepts donations of Burst Lightnings at any time.

### [L'imaginaire](#)

2740 boul Centre d'achats  
Laurier, QC G1V 4P7  
418-658-5639

This shop is located on the second floor of the building, so don’t forget to look up! It’s a bit out of the way, but has a pretty extensive collection of other games as well.

## Visas and Money

You probably [will not need one](#), but you definitely need a passport to come across the border (or an enhanced US Driver’s License).

Also, remind yourself that you have [more money than you thought](#). The current exchange rate is hovering around 3 USD: 4 CAD.