

# Christmas in Québec & Montréal

Tour #1: December 2 - 7, 2024 • 6 Days • \$2375

Tour #2: December 9 - 14, 2024 • 6 Days • \$2375

There's something special about exploring a city delightfully decked out for the holidays. At the beginning of a North American winter, it would be hard to find a more perfect pair of Christmas towns to visit Montréal and Québec City.

Steeped in French-Canadian ambiance with charming historic centers harkening back to an Old World era, both cities go all out during the Christmas season and are often featured on must-visit Yuletide travel lists.

**Tour Type:** Classic Curated

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Montréal Ethnic Food Tour** - an optional activity for early arrivals features a Christmas-themed "foodie" tour and walk starting in the historic district and continuing by coach through dozens of ethnic neighborhoods inviting us to sample an astonishing diversity of delicious fare
- **Train trip to Québec City** - a business class ride, including lunch, takes us across the province of Québec to what is widely considered the most "European" city in North America
- **Historic Québec Walk** - an all-day guided event explores charming Québec City, founded in the early 17th century by Samuel de Champlain and retaining, in areas such as Petit-Champlain and Château Frontenac, the ambiance of an Old-World French town
- **Québec City free day** - time for shopping, or window-shopping, at Christmas markets, or consider joining us for an optional snowshoe hike outside town in Jacques Cartier National Park



## **INCLUDING**

- All land travel as outlined
- Train travel in business class between Montréal & Québec City

- Superior tourist-class hotel accommodations in Montréal and Québec City
- 7 meals: all breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner as denoted (BLD)
- 3 walk routes as listed
- Walking fees for 2 walks for those collecting walk credit (if CVF approved)
- Cultural and historical expertise of local guides
- Two WAI tour leaders throughout
- All tipping for local guides, coach drivers, and group meals
- Pricing is based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available during the hotel portion of tour for a supplement of \$475. We also provide a roommate matching service for those interested.

## VISITS TO/ADMISSION FEES

- Montréal's best Christmas scenes
- Guided Historical Montréal Walk including Lachine Canal
- Notre-Dame Basilica in Montréal
- Mount Royal Park in Montréal
- Québec City's best Christmas scenes
- Guided Historical Québec City Walk
- German Christmas Market in Québec City
- Hotel Chateau Frontenac for a Farewell Dinner
- More fun stops than we can list!

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

- Christmas-themed Montréal Food Tour (Day 1)
- Snowshoe Excursion in Jacques Cartier National Park (Day 5)

- [Book Now](#)
- [360.260.9393](tel:360.260.9393)
- [Email Us](#)

# Itinerary

*Click on each day for more details. (BLD) refers to meals included - Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.*

## [DAY 1~December 2 & 9: Arrive Montréal, Québec](#)

Montréal serves as starting point for our Christmas in Québec & Montréal Adventure. Our first official activity is a Welcome Orientation this evening at our hotel at 7:30 pm. Those arriving early, however, may wish to join us this afternoon on an optional food tour.

### ***Montréal Walk & Christmas-themed Cultural Food Tour***

*Montréal is one of Canada's major immigration hubs, and its food scene reflects a delightful and harmonious blend of cultures from around the world. Our Christmas-themed "foodie" tour starts with a walk in the historic district and continues by motorcoach along a major thoroughfare lined with dozens of ethnic neighborhoods inviting us to sample an astonishing*

*diversity of delicious fare. ~ Estimated price: \$95 per person*

### [DAY 2~December 3 & 10: Activities in Montréal \(B\)](#)

*Walk #1: Montréal Lachine Canal & Old Town Walk ~ 6 km, rated 1B*

*Walk #2: Mount Royal Park Walk ~ 4 km, rated 2A*

A guided winter morning walk begins at Montréal's colorful Atwater Market, along historic Lachine Canal. Dating back to the 1850s, the canal was instrumental in opening up North America's interior to trans-Atlantic shipping. Though New York's Erie Canal ultimately won the battle of canals, Lachine Canal allowed Montréal to become, for a time, the second-busiest port in North America.

This pleasant route wanders past architectural remnants of the canal's glory days as our guides share not only the history but also the Christmas traditions in French-speaking Canada. We finish in Montréal's lively historic district with a tour of Notre-Dame Basilica and free time for lunch.

Bundle up this afternoon for outstanding panoramas and pleasant park trails awaiting us at Mount Royal Park, designed by Frederick Olmsted, the prolific landscape architect who also planned New York's Central Park.

The evening is free to explore Montréal's Christmas lights and enjoy the great dining scene in Old Town.

### [DAY 3~December 4 & 11: Montréal to Québec City, Québec \(BL\)](#)

After a relaxed morning in Old Town Montréal, we board a comfortable train and enjoy a relaxing ride to Québec City in business class that includes a tasty lunch.

The Adventure continues up north in Québec City, considered by many the most "European" city in North America. Old Québec earned a place on UNESCO's World Heritage List due largely to the fact that it is the only city on the continent to have preserved its colonial fortifications.

Our hotel is situated conveniently on the edge of the historic district.

We offer a chance this evening to explore some of Québec's most beautiful Christmas scenes lit up at night.

### [DAY 4~December 5 & 12: Activities in Québec City \(B\)](#)

*Walk #3: Historic Québec Walk ~ 10 km, rated 2B*

Today is devoted entirely to exploring historic and charming Québec City, starting with a guided winter walk from our hotel.

Québec was founded by French explorer Samuel de Champlain in the early 17th century and became capital of New France until the history-changing British victory at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759. Our route wanders through lovely Battlefields Park and along Dufferin Terrace past Le Château Frontenac, said to be the world's most photographed hotel.

Petit-Champlain is a delightfully decked out pedestrian area in Lower Town, Nearby Place Royale, with its romantic cobblestone square and outdoor cafés, contains the city's oldest buildings.

Opportunities for food, photography, people watching, and window shopping are endless on this walk, and at Québec's German-themed Christmas Market, which we will explore this evening.

### [DAY 5~December 6 & 13: Activities in Québec City \(BD\)](#)

Enjoy a free day to explore the countless Christmas delights of Québec City from our well-situated hotel. There's no shortage of colorful, holiday-themed activities in Québec City, but a half-day snowshoe excursion is also available today in Jacques Cartier National Park. This excursion allows you to get out into the Québec countryside and savor a winter wonderland walk suitable for experienced and beginning snowshoers alike.

#### ***Jacques Cartier National Park snowshoe hike***

*Following an hour-long bus ride from our hotel, a 3-hour snowshoe hike explores the most beautiful trails in Jacques Cartier National Park, including the valley of Belleau Creek, the splendor of the Laurentian Mountains, and a walk along the Sautauriski River.*

*Discover these magnificent winter landscapes on a one-of-a-kind excursion that includes roundtrip transportation, a professional local guide, snowshoes and poles, hot chocolate, lunch, and all park fees. ~ Estimated price: \$110*

This evening, we cap off our Canadian Christmas celebration with a wonderful dinner at Le Chateau Frontenac, one of the world's iconic hotels!

### [DAY 6~December 7 & 14: Depart from Québec City \(B\)](#)

Our Christmas Adventure concludes in Québec City as we say farewell to friends old and new. We return home full of holiday spirit and with a new appreciation for the breadth of history, culture, yuletide charm and scenery offered by these two beacons of French-speaking Canada!

## **Before You Book**

*Click on each heading for more details.*

[How Do I Lock in My Place on This Adventure?](#)

To register, a non-refundable \$300 deposit is required to hold your spot.

A final payment is due 90 days before departure and is non-refundable after the due date. You will receive a prompt email from us 2 to 3 weeks in advance.

Once a tour has a viable number of participants, an “Adventure Advice” email will be sent with critical information on flight arrangements as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. Please do not buy your airline tickets until you review this Adventure Advice email.

Please follow this link to read our full [General Tour Conditions](#).

### [What is a Classic Curated Tour?](#)

With help from local experts and walking guides, these itineraries are crafted with extensive on-site planning by WAI tour planners.

When designing Classic Curated Tours, our objective is to capture the essence of a destination—the history, culture, and natural wonders unique to that part of the world. We then build activities and walks that take us *inside* these characteristics.

Yes, these tours are educational, but they are also interactive and immersive; walking gets us off the bus and penetrates local cultures to not only see, but also touch, smell, and feel these special spaces.

Along the way, interactions with locals amplify the experience by sharing insights into the magic of that particular location.

In the case of *Christmas in Québec & Montréal*, both cities have been included in past WAI itineraries through eastern Canada, going back to the mid-90s. These experiences in itinerary planning and leading walking groups have been adapted to Christmas themes prevalent in both cities to produce a the perfect Yuletide-themed Adventure.

### [Walking in Winter](#)

Winter walking can be an oxymoron, but also a glorious combination! We plan for backup activities or routes in the event of weather surprises, but hope for the best—a dusting of picturesque snow that has fallen long enough before we arrived to have been cleared off of our paths!

Be aware that we offer fewer official walks on this tour than is our norm—just 3 official walks are featured on *Christmas in Québec & Montréal*. This is partly due to the risk of interfering weather, and partly because we use walking regularly throughout the program to enjoy the Christmas sights throughout these two iconic French-Canadian cities.

### [Walk Ratings](#)



We generally walk at a pace of 2 to 3 miles per hour. Several walks on this trip are oriented more towards education, and therefore take longer due to stops for guide commentary. Nature walks, on the other hand, generally continue at a steadier pace because we're stopping less to talk.

In most cases, we are not "strolling." We are walking at a relaxed but steady pace. Your experience will be significantly affected by your level of physical fitness. If not walking regularly at home, we strongly recommend that you make a priority of "training" beforehand in order to both enjoy the trip and avoid medical issues due to overexertion. If you have questions about your ability to participate, please call our office at 1.360.260.9393.

We have adopted a walk difficulty rating system which contains a numeric indicator for trail incline and an alpha indicator for trail terrain. The explanation for this system is presented on the table below:

## **INCLINE**

1. Minimal hills or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: <200 feet.
2. Some moderate hills and stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 200-1000 feet.
3. Some significant hill or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 1000-2000 feet.

## **TERRAIN**

- A. Almost entirely on pavement.
- B. A significant part of the route is on well-groomed trails with very few obstacles.
- C. A significant part of the route is on somewhat difficult terrain (rocky / rooted paths or soft sand).

## [How Is Airfare Arranged?](#)

The official starting point for this Adventure is our hotel in Montréal served by Montréal-Dorval International Airport (airport code YUL). The official finish point is our hotel in Québec City, served by Jean Lesage International Airport (airport code YQB).

More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided in an Adventure Advice PDF by email after you register for the Adventure. Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving these flight details from us!

Once you receive the Adventure Advice memo, we recommend that you contact Laura Pfahler, the travel agent we work with, to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment!

- Laura Pfahler: 503.434.6401 or [lp@wtpdx.com](mailto:lp@wtpdx.com)

## [Travel Insurance](#)

WAI recommends travel insurance for financial and medical protection from any number of

unforeseen circumstances that can arise before departure or during your Adventure. Many travel insurance providers are available for you to consider. Laura Pfahler and Sharon Mitchell of World Travel Inc. can provide travel insurance options for your WAI tour, as well as for your airfare. For those who purchase airfare through Laura, purchasing your travel insurance from her colleague, Sharon Mitchell, may be the simplest option.

Be aware that some travel insurance policies contain time-sensitive provisions (i.e. some benefits, such as coverage of pre-existing conditions, are available only if the policy is purchased within a certain number of days of the purchase of the travel package). In addition, remember that airfare is not covered by any travel insurance policy you may have purchased for the tour.

Check out [Insurance Tips](#) from World Travel for a short introduction to travel insurance.

To contact Sharon Mitchell:

Phone: 971.261.2091

Email: [smitchell@wtpdx.com](mailto:smitchell@wtpdx.com)

Other options include:

Allianz

Betins

Travel Guard

Travel Insured International

Using the [www.SquareMouth.com](http://www.SquareMouth.com) website can be a easy way to compare pricing.

We suggest purchasing from a reputable, well-established insurance company (avoid buying insurance from an unknown company found only online). Travelers interested in purchasing “cancel for any reason” insurance coverage should be careful to check pricing and terms BEFORE they register for a tour. Recent changes in the international travel landscape has caused changes in the policies of some insurance companies, and made the purchase of this particular type of policy even more time-sensitive.

NOTE: WAI receives no commission or financial remuneration from World Travel Inc. In addition, WAI bears no responsibility for travel insurance benefits advertised by various credit card companies. If you are relying on this type of benefit for insurance, we advise you to verify coverage types and limits and that your purchase does in fact qualify you for this insurance.

### [What if WAI Cancels the Tour](#)

Walking Adventures International reserves the right to cancel this tour departure with fewer than 15 participants, in which case registered participants will receive a 100% refund of payments received.

This refund policy contains one exclusion. Many suppliers require non-refundable deposits



as a condition of booking services. Though it is rare, unforeseen circumstances can force us to cancel a tour. In cases where supplier's non-refundable policies are imposed, WAI attempts to retrieve as much of these deposits as possible but cannot guarantee a 100% refund. In cases where full refunds cannot be obtained for a cancelled tour, we will do our best to transfer unrefunded money as traveler credits to be applied to a future tour to that destination.

### [Wellness Procedures for This Tour](#)

Our approach to wellness on tour has traditionally been to encourage travelers to:

- Focus on health before the tour so you start healthy.
- Pace yourself while on tour; travel is inherently stimulating and can produce adrenalin boosts that mask energy drain. Guard your energy reserves and consider the length of the trip and whether to opt out of some activities and/or walks.
- Be self-aware. If you feel yourself tiring or feel a bug coming on, take precautions to block it (e.g. extra rest, extra doses of vitamin C, etc).
- If you feel a bug coming on or if you take ill, distance yourself from others when possible.
- If you feel ill, isolate yourself towards the back of the bus and away from others

Click [WAI Wellness on Tour Policy](#) to view the WAI policy on Wellness on Tour.

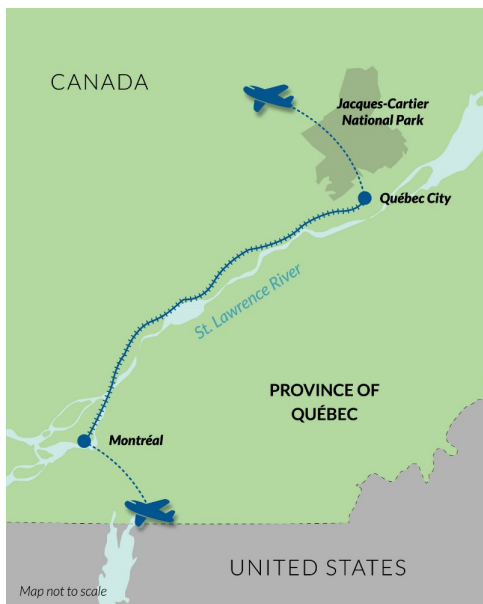
### [What Happens Next?](#)

Soon after registration, an "Adventure Advice" email will be sent with critical information on flight arrangements as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. Please do not buy your airline tickets until you review this Adventure Advice email.

A final payment is due 90 days before departure (September 3, 2023) and is non-refundable after the due date. You will receive a prompt email from us a week or two in advance. Please see our [General Tour Conditions](#) for the full terms and conditions for participation in this Adventure.

Around 2-3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final email packet with details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

We look forward to enjoying this festive corner of Canada together as we explore *Christmas in Québec & Montréal!*



## Adventure Pace

**Tour Pace:** 1 2 3 4 5

**Walk Challenge:** 1 2 3 4 5

[About Adventure Pace](#)

## Adventure Pace

How much Adventure do you want? Here are a few features to help gauge the following factors on each tour.

**Tour Pace:** On a scale of 1 (slowest pace) to 5 (fastest pace), we've rated the following factors: number of 1-night hotels; driving miles per day; fullness of schedule; mid-tour airline flights; high elevation setting; and average amount of walking per day.

**Walk Challenge:** This number represents an average walk difficulty rating for the tour using a scale of 1 (easiest) to 5 (hardest).

[Book Now Contact Us](#)

## Important Info



### Group Size

24 travelers maximum



### **Accommodations**

Strategically located Tourist Class accommodations or better



### **Meals**

Breakfasts included with 1 lunch and 1 dinner. Letters BD indicate which meals are included.



### **Airfare**

Not included. Montréal-Dorval International Airport (airport code YUL) serves our starting hotel in Montreal. Jean Lesage International Airport (airport code YQB) served our final hotel in Québec City.



### **Transportation**

Included. We use motorcoaches with a seating capacity of 40-55 seats. A train trip is also included.



### **Traveler Age**

Our travelers usually range from 50-75 years of age. All ages welcome!

## Your Guides



**Scott Isom** (left) has had a passion for the outdoors ever since his childhood days spent exploring the waterfalls and outstanding hiking trails of the Columbia River Gorge with his family.

Scott has led tours on all 7 continents and is one of WAI's busiest guides and on-site Adventure planners.

**Tim Friesen** has been guiding for Walking Adventures since 2003, most often leading summertime adventures in Europe due to his long career as a high school music teacher in Molalla, Oregon.

Tim recently retired from teaching music but is still occasionally known to burst into song on the trail!