

CANADA IS

WINTER

📍 Old Québec



There's nowhere quite like Canada's eastern provinces in wintertime.

Scale frozen cliffs, sleep in an igloo and watch the night sky transform into a kaleidoscope of colour – this cool landscape, with its warm and welcoming locals, is the ultimate playground.

📍 Jean-Larose Fall, Mont-Sainte-Anne



ONTARIO



Top stays in Ottawa

Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market
Sip Canadian wine on the rooftop of this boutique stay as you take in the heritage charm of the ByWard Market neighbourhood below.
hyatt.com/andaz

Fairmont Château Laurier
Have a dip in this castle hotel's Art Deco pool or admire the Parliament Buildings from grand guestrooms steeped in century-old elegance.
chateaulaurier.com



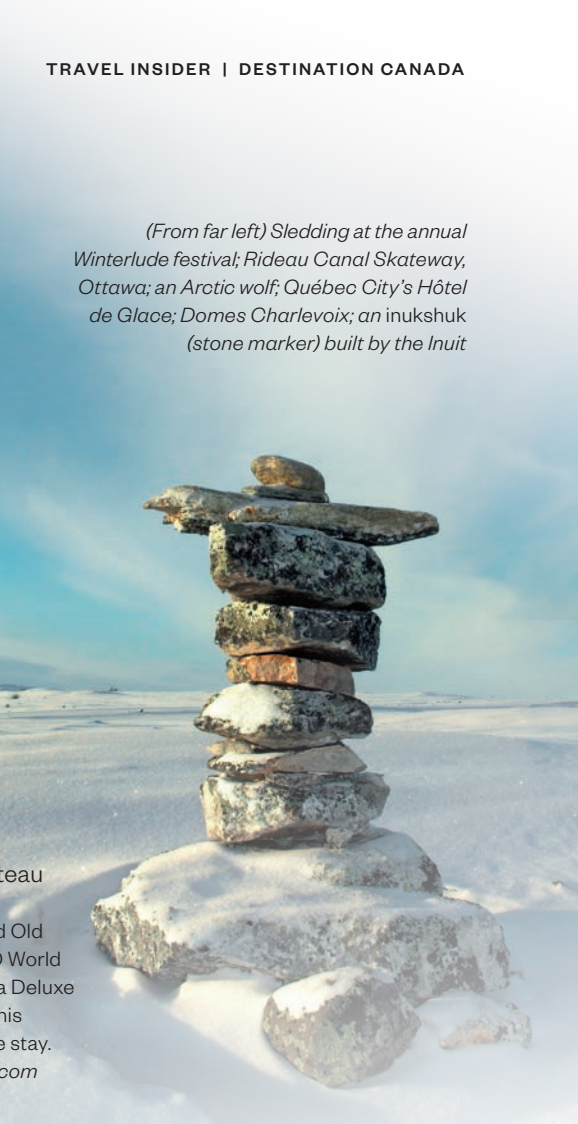
QUÉBEC



Top stays in Québec

Le Germain Hotel Montreal
This former office block turned designer hotel features chic '60s-inspired décor and a vivid mural by Canadian artist Michelle Hoogveld splashed across its exterior.
germainhotels.com

Fairmont Le Château Frontenac
For vistas of fortified Old Québec, a UNESCO World Heritage site, book a Deluxe City View Room in this Châteauesque-style stay.
chateau-frontenac.com



(From far left) Sledding at the annual Winterlude festival; Rideau Canal Skateway, Ottawa; an Arctic wolf; Québec City's Hôtel de Glace; Domes Charlevoix; an inukshuk (stone marker) built by the Inuit

✈️ **Fly Qantas direct from Sydney to Vancouver, with connecting flights to Ottawa.**

Beneath a canopy of snow-cloaked roofs, Ottawa is home to Canada's most significant museums and offers a packed calendar of events in winter. Start your journey here, in the nation's capital.

Glide past icons

The historic Fairmont Château Laurier hotel and the Gothic Revival-style buildings of Ottawa's Parliament sit on opposite sides of the Rideau Canal, which transforms into

the world's largest natural ice rink (rideaucanalskateway.com) when the temperature drops. Skate between iconic landmarks, stopping at one of the canal-side vendors for a cup of hot chocolate.

Chill out at the fest

Each year during the first three weekends of February, Winterlude takes over the city with elaborate ice sculptures, live music and frosty fun in the form of snow mazes and ice slides. Enter a snowman-building competition or cheer on the racers at the festival's BeaverTails Ice Dragon Boat event (icedragonboat.ca).

Explore a food hotspot

ByWard Market (byward-market.com) is a gastronomic hub, just a short stroll from

Rideau Canal. On a tour with C'est Bon (cestbonottawa.ca), a friendly guide will share stories as you weave through the vibrant precinct, sampling maple-infused treats or the famous BeaverTail fried pastries. You'll also encounter striking Indigenous artefacts such as the Totem Pole of Canada and *Dancing Bear*, a bronze sculpture by the late Inuit artist Pauta Saila.

Take a stroll through the ages

Ottawa is home to seven of Canada's nine national museums and galleries. Dive into the country's diverse cultural heritage at the National Gallery of Canada (gallery.ca), which is a 10-minute walk from ByWard Market.

Highlights include Indigenous artist Shuvinaï Ashoona's drawings that depict Inuit life in literal and sometimes fantastical ways (such as a polar bear sketching humans) and works by the "French Rembrandt", Jean-Jacques de Boissieu.

At the Canadian Museum of Nature (nature.ca), you can see everything from life-size dinosaur skeletons to photos capturing Arctic life.

Snowshoe along scenic trails

Nature is never far away in or around Ottawa, where forests, rivers and farmland intertwine. A 20-minute drive from Downtown, Indigenous-owned Mādahōki Farm (madahoki.ca) welcomes visitors to join a celebration

of the land and customs at a powwow – an Indigenous gathering with dancing, singing and feasting on traditional food, such as fried bannock bread. You can also hire snowshoes and trek the trails around the 66-hectare property.

Follow the Ottawa River to Québec, which ups the ante on winter fun – from lively celebrations in charming Frenchified cities and towns to breathtaking Arctic tundra adventures.

🚗 **Ottawa to Montebello 80 minutes by car**

Commune with wolves

Come face to face with bison, elk, bears and wolves along

drive-through wildlife sanctuary Parc Omega (parcomega.ca). Spend the night in a Wolf Lodge, where floor-to-ceiling windows – and lupine howls – will make you feel like you're sleeping with the pack.

🚗 **Montebello to Montréal 2 hours by car**

Marvel at bright lights

Québec's largest city glows in winter. Mount Royal (lemontroyal.qc.ca), the mountain at Montréal's heart, offers plenty of outdoor activities, such as cross-country skiing, tobogganing and ice skating amid twinkling string lights. From late November until early March, the Luminothérapie festival illuminates the Quartier des Spectacles (quartiersdespectacles.com), the city's major cultural district, with interactive art installations and immersive displays.

During the multimedia Aura Experience at the Notre-Dame Basilica of Montréal (basiliquenotredame.ca), you can watch, wide-eyed, as the walls, vaulted ceilings and ornate altar of the church are transformed by a mesmerising display of light and sound.

🚗 **Montréal to Mont-Tremblant 90 minutes by car**

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Hit the slopes

Destination resort Tremblant (tremblant.ca), situated in the Laurentians region north-west of Montréal, provides an icy escape that can be as exhilarating or relaxing as

you choose. Ski 305 hectares of terrain spread across four distinct slopes, strap on a pair of snowshoes and hike through a coniferous forest or scale a frozen cliff face on an adrenaline-pumping ice climb. Then head to Scandinave Spa Mont-Tremblant (scandinave.com) to soak off the day in a thermal bath surrounded by serene woodland.

🚆 **Montréal to Québec City 3.5 hours by train**

Step into a storybook

Come winter, Québec City becomes a living postcard with scenes of shimmering snow-white cobblestones and old-world architecture. For those seeking adventure, ice canoeing along the Saint

Lawrence River (canotaglaceexperience.ca), with the cityscape as your backdrop, delivers a special thrill. You'll break for hot chocolate and pastries on an ice floe then, once the workout is complete, unwind in a Nordic sauna.

The Québec Winter Carnival (carnaval.qc.ca), held annually in February, brings even more excitement – think glittering parades, festive night-time music and massive, museum-worthy ice sculptures. Complete the fantasy with a stay at the Hôtel de Glace (Ice Hotel; valcartier.com), which is sculpted entirely from snow and ice.

Learn the Wendat way of life

The Wendat people have inhabited Québec City and its surroundings for thousands of

years and the Huron-Wendat Museum (museehuronwendat.ca), just a 25-minute drive north-west of the city centre, celebrates this nation's traditions in multiple ways. Explore the extensive collection of exhibits – including intricately crafted clothing, centuries-old tools and dioramas of historic villages – or participate in a talking-stick or necklace-making workshop.

After your visit, check in to the onsite boutique hotel (hotelpremieresnations.ca) – rooms overlooking the Akiawenrahk River feature Indigenous-inspired décor.

The in-house restaurant, La Traite (restaurantlatraite.ca), offers seasonally driven dishes that highlight local ingredients and cooking techniques, such as walleye carpaccio

(a freshwater fish native to the region) served with a blueberry and truffle reduction.

🚗 **Québec City to Petite-Rivière-Sainte-Françoise 65 minutes by car**

Sleep under the stars

North-east of Québec City along the Saint Lawrence River, Charlevoix is an arboreal paradise with more than 550 kilometres of hiking trails, many of which are accessible in the colder months. If you'd prefer to enjoy the unparalleled natural beauty at a slower pace, Domes Charlevoix (domescharlevoix.com) invites you to unwind inside an eco-luxe geodesic dome tucked away in a forest of frosted trees. Enjoy the celestial show through panoramic

windows as you lie in bed next to a crackling fire or through the rising steam of your private outdoor hot tub.

✈️ **Québec City to Kuujuaq 2-hour flight**

Journey to the Arctic

While Québec is synonymous with French Canada, nearly one-third of the province is a sublime Arctic wilderness known as Nunavik, with a population of more than 13,000 Inuit. This area is remote but Inuit Adventures (aventuresinuit.ca) can customise your perfect itinerary. Supported by an experienced guide, you'll cross vast stretches of tundra by snowmobile or dog sled, sleep in an igloo, listen to rhythmic throat singing and behold the aurora dancing across the starry sky.