

## DESTINATION: QUEBEC

■ **VIEUX QUEBEC – QUEBEC'S OLD TOWN:** Quebec's Old Town (Vieux Quebec), is spread over two locations: the Upper (Haute-Ville) and Lower (Basse-Ville) Town. This most historic part of the city was founded in 1608 by French explorer Samuel de Champlain. Highlights include the artsy Quartier Champlain, home to a cooperative of stores specializing in Quebec-designed fashion and jewelry. The Place Royal, the main square in the Basse-Ville, is the very spot where Quebec City was founded.

■ **MUSEE DE LA CIVILISATION:** This sprawling museum is spread over three sites. The main part, located in the Basse-Ville near the old port, showcases all things Quebecoise, while the Musee de Place Royale is home to exhibits

on New France, told through stories of its inhabitants, from founder Champlain through to present day dwellers, and is the smallest on offer. The Musee de L'Amerique Francophone Quebec, located in the Haute-Ville, brings the collections of the Seminary together and focuses on France's history and influence in North America.

■ **FESTIVALS:** Quebec hosts many famous festivals throughout the year, keeping its inhabitants cultured and entertained. Some of the most popular summer festivals include the Festival d'Ete ('festival of summer'), which showcases numerous musical genres; Fetes de la Nouvelle France, celebrating the lives of early settlers — as part of which many current residents dress up like their ancestors; the Just for

Laughs Comedy Festival; and the Festival International de Jazz de Montreal.

■ **DAYTRIP:** Montmorency Falls is one of the most spectacular natural sights in the area. It's located nine miles out of the city, and is a staggering 272ft tall (99ft higher than Niagara Falls). Explore the colossal cascades by walking the 487 steps to their peak, zip-lining across them, or taking the cable-car. The Isle de Orleans is easily reached by car, only nine miles from the city, crossing the Isle D'Orleans Bridge. Savor this peaceful, prosperous island by taking in its many adorable villages and churches, or stopping to buy fresh local produce sold roadside. Don't forget to try one of the many blackcurrant dishes at

Cassis Monna et Filles before you leave.

### ■ FORTIFICATIONS OF QUEBEC:

Quebec has seen many wars in its troubled history, having several civilisations fight over her. The scars of this can be learned about on visits to its various fortifications. The walls of Quebec are walkable in parts, with guided tours available. The Plains of Abraham (which hosts summer festivals like Fete de Jean Baptiste) was the site of a bloody battle in 1759, and is now the city centre's main green space, popular with picnickers. The Citadelle is a living fortress; part museum, part active garrison to the 22nd Regiment, while the Fort Museum's sound and light show tells the story of the region's various wars.

Old Quebec City

