

**QUEBEC CITY
WINTER CARNIVAL**

SCHOOL GUIDE



How to Plan the Perfect Student Trip to Quebec City’s Winter Carnival Brought to you by Evolve Tours

Welcome! Evolve Tours has designed this guide as a helpful resource for those interested in organizing a trip for their students to Quebec City’s Winter Carnival. In the following pages, you’ll discover how to decide on the type of trip for you, the right destination, some of the activities your students can enjoy, where to sleep, where to eat, an explanation of travel insurance, travel tips and more! Our goal is to make the trip planning process as seamless and as stress free for you and your colleagues as possible.

Why should my student group visit Quebec City during the Winter Carnival?

A trip to Quebec City can be a fascinating educational and cultural experience for students. Considering the various destinations of potential trips can seem overwhelming at first. The first is to determine the intended focus of the educational trip, after which you can then decide which type of trip best suit what you and your group are looking to experience. For example:

As Quebec City during Winter Carnival has so much to offer, the best first step is to determine the intended focus of the trip. For example:

Educational Student Trip- Curriculum-related activities that bring to life the subjects of the classroom.

Language - Are you a French language teacher who would love for your students to improve their skills? By Interacting, Quebec City will have them speaking like the locals in no time.

Outdoor – Focus on outdoor, physical activities both inside and outside city limits by visiting the famous Quebec City Winter Carnival

Mixed Focus – A balance of educational activities, outdoor activities, and entertainment.



Quebec City is a fantastic destination for students of the following subjects: History, French Language, Art, General Geography, Social Studies, World Religion and more! Whatever subject your student group is interested in, Quebec City is sure to be a great destination for your students.

What time of the year is Quebec’s Winter Carnival?

The Quebec Winter Carnival takes place every year from the end of January to mid-February, and has been celebrated annually since 1955. It can be a busy time of year as hundreds of thousands travel to Quebec City for this festival. Many schools consider this type of trip as an alternative to the yearend

graduation trip for their middle school students. Most Carnival trips are 3-5 days long, though trip length varies depending on distance from the school and activities planned.

Weather and Climate

Quebec City is a destination that can be enjoyed almost year-round. However, during the winter season there is an extra sense of bliss in the air. With an average natural snowfall of over 400 cm each year, the region is the perfect winter playground. In fact, the white stuff is the guest of honor at all our winter festivals. Thousands of people brave the temperatures, which often sink to -10°C (15° F) or below. This is a fun four-season destination, but be sure to check area weather reports before you go so you can bring the proper clothing.

Click here for some more information on Quebec City weather:

<https://weatherspark.com/y/26469/Average-Weather-in-Qu%C3%A9bec-Canada-Year-Round>

What are The Best Student-Friendly Activities in Quebec City during Winter Carnival?

Check out this list of Evolve Tour’s favourite and most popular activities for school groups:



Quebec Winter Carnival- Come experience one of the world's largest winter carnivals. Every year, thousands of visitors flock to the Québec Winter Carnival to enjoy a host of activities for all ages, including snow bath, night parades, snow slides, snow sculptures, shows, and skating. Bonhomme Carnaval is the ambassador of this winter celebration. The Carnival is a unique winter experience you won't want to miss!

Explore Old Quebec- Strolling the streets of Old Québec is like journeying back in time. The

walkable walled city has a unique European feel and is extraordinarily well preserved after 400 years. Whether you have a few hours or a few days, you'll love the look and charm of Québec City's lovely historic neighborhoods.

Visit a Sugar Shack- Indulge your sweet tooth with delicious maple products! Faithful to their traditions, Quebecers flock with family and friends to feast and celebrate the sugars. You'll enjoy traditional Quebec cuisine with maple syrup, but also dance, music and most importantly enjoy taffy!



Skiing- Mont-Sainte-Anne – Want to hit the slopes while in Quebec City? Take the 40 minute drive up the Beaupré coast for a day of skiing and snowboarded. Enjoy a full day on the trails, and even participate in a half day lesson led by onsite professionals to improve your skills!

Village Valcartier Snow Park- Passport access to all activities at Valcartier Village! Snow tube down your choice of 42 different snow slides or raft downhill with a group a friends.

Should I work with a travel company?

Our next step is deciding whether you will plan the trip on your own, or use the help of a student travel provider. Some teachers are used to planning the trip themselves, but many enjoy the less stressful and time consuming route of hiring a travel company that will expertly take care of all the pre-trip planning. To make the decision easier, we’ve made some comparison charts, comparing the pros and cons of doing a trip on your own vs. with a tour provider.

ON YOUR OWN

Pros	Cons
✓ Cheaper	✗ A lot of stressful planning. Organizing the hotels, transportation, meals, activities and more.
✓ Plan exactly what you want, without sticking to a schedule	✗ Missing out on professional, time-tested itineraries.
	✗ No on-ground tour director with local knowledge who oversees the trip.

WITH A TOUR COMPANY

Pros	Cons
✓ Having a guide(s) with local knowledge. As with any form of travel, whether it be museum hopping or outdoor activities, you’re bound to learn more, gain a greater understanding of the local community, and just get more out of the whole experience when following a knowledgeable expert.	✗ Set itinerary: although some travel companies like Evolve Tours are flexible and dedicated to customizing their trips, many others offer no customization.

<p>✓ Safety and Security- A travel provider will ensure all supplier companies (restaurants, hotels, activities) are safe, reputable and provide quality services. As well, emergency protocols and first-aid trained tour staff.</p>	
<p>✓ No details to worry about! You're free to focus fully on the ride, and have someone else sweat over the small, yet paramount details.</p>	<p>✗ Generally, planning with a tour company is more expensive than doing it on your own.</p>
<p>✓ Allergy, food restrictions communicated to all the suppliers (hotels, restaurants and activities)</p>	
<p>✓ Group rates on transportation and accommodation since they work with suppliers year round with many student groups</p>	
<p>✓ Years of expertise</p>	

How to choose the perfect student travel company

(Adapted from "How to Choose a Reputable Adventure Travel Company or Guide" at <http://gadling.com/2011/08/05/a-guide-to-choosing-adventure-travel-companies-and-guides/>)

There are many student travel companies that run Quebec City trips; not all are created equal. There are some key things you should look for when choosing a company to plan and run your student trip. Here are tips on what to look for or avoid when choosing a company or guide.



Reputation and Safety

Even a brief online search will bring to light any serious breaches in safety or conduct. Safety doesn't just apply to those who plan to scale the Andes or kayak the Zambezi. Even the tamest "adventures" require guides who are knowledgeable about the area and activity. Make sure you have someone on hand that is currently certified in emergency first aid and rescue procedures. Ensure that the company has emergency protocols and risk management policies in place and that they truly value safety over all else.

Client Communication

How clear and accurate is the company's literature or website? How long does it take them to respond to your emails or phone calls? A few days is standard, but if you find yourself having to follow up repeatedly,



move on. A reputable travel company will detail exactly what is included and what is not for the price. All services should be clearly spelled out and agreed upon.

Customized Itineraries

A legitimate student travel provider will have trip itineraries that they have successfully run time and time again. They know what works and developed what they believe to be a flawless itinerary.

However, there is a big plus when finding a travel company who is flexible with their itineraries. Find someone who will work with you to create the best possible custom itinerary for your group's needs.

Guide qualifications

Are their guides knowledgeable about the region you are visiting? Do they have experience leading trips there? Ideal guides will have experience travelling in the cities you are visiting and will be energetic, informative, entertaining and organized.

Ask for referrals

We suggest asking a tour company for referrals of other schools who they have run Quebec City trips for before. You can also look at reviews on sites like TripAdvisor.com, or search travel blogs.

"In the end, sometimes it just comes down to how comfortable a person feels with the company and their interactions with them."

Where should my student group stay in Quebec City during the Winter Carnival?

When choosing where your group will stay, it's important to keep a few factors in mind. Depending on your group, some factors may be more important than others. For example: location and proximity to activities, price, room types and sizes or youth hostels vs. hotels.

Hotels – *Centrally located, with amenities and around the clock hotel staff*

Browse these and other Quebec City area hotels, here:

https://www.tripadvisor.ca/SmartDeals-g155033-Quebec_City_Quebec-Hotel-Deals.html

Hostels *Cheaper. Can request private rooms for the school group. Anywhere from 2-8 students in a room, often with a bunk bed setup. May have private bathrooms, or shared bathrooms on the floor. Youth hostels can range greatly, from very basic to high quality hotel type accommodations.*

Browse Quebec City hostels, here:

<http://www.hostelworld.com/findabed.php/ChosenCity.Quebec/ChosenCountry.Canada>

What are the best student-friendly restaurants in Quebec City?

The most important thing when deciding on a restaurant for your student group is making sure the venue can accommodate a large number of people. There should be plenty of options for students to choose from. Ensure the restaurant knows about any allergies or dietary restrictions your students may have. For large groups, it is best to reserve well in advance and not leave it until the night of. Breakfast is often included at hotels. This will vary, so ensure to check with your accommodation when booking. For lunch, we recommend giving students free time in a popular area with many options to choose from.



What kind of transportation should we take to Quebec City?

Bus

The most popular option for student groups is to rent a coach bus to travel to Quebec City. This is the most economical method for large groups, and you can rent the coach for the duration of the tour to use for transportation between activities within Quebec City. Standard coach buses have 56 passenger seats, A/C, TVs and DVD players, as well as an on-board washroom.

Some student-friendly bus companies Evolve Tours works with:

Denny's Bus Lines- <http://www.dennysbuslines.ca/>

Luxury Coach- <http://luxury.to/>

Coach Canada -

<http://www.coachcanada.com/info/coachcanada/chs.schools.asp>

Pacific Western - <http://www.pacificwesterntoronto.com/>

Cherrey Bus Lines - <http://www.cherreybuslines.com/>



Should we purchase Travel Insurance?

Purchasing the correct travel insurance can help in the event someone becomes sick or injured before, or during, a trip. Most travel insurance providers' coverage includes cancellation, trip interruption, and lost baggage. If families purchase travel insurance and the student falls ill before the trip, they may receive reimbursement for costs paid towards the trip. You can either order insurance for everyone in the group and include this in the trip cost, or provide it as an optional addition to families who would like to purchase.

Your Next Steps to Making this Dream Student Trip a Reality!

1. Deciding on working with a tour company, or commit to organizing the trip on your own
2. Promote the trip!
 - o Send letter home to parents, make announcements, tell you colleagues, put up posters (available from Evolve Tours) and think creatively to get the word out!
3. Hold a Parent information night
4. Distribute a Registration package to students- Waivers, Packing lists, other forms
5. Decide on a payment schedule
6. Collect deposits, registration package and payments
7. Complete rooming lists and other lists
8. Finally, board the bus or train and get the show on the road!



Additional resources for planning the perfect school trip to Quebec City:

<http://www.tripadvisor.ca/>- Helpful user based review site. Check here for honest reviews of attractions, museums, hotels and travel companies.

<http://www.yelp.ca/> - A great resource for checking out restaurants without having to have a meal there first. User based reviews.

<https://weatherspark.com/y/26469/Average-Weather-in-Qu%C3%A9bec-Canada-Year-Round-> Quebec City weather



Evolve Tours

At Evolve Tours, we've been running student trips around the world since 2006 and have been perfecting the trip planning process ever since. After deciding you want your students to experience educational travel, there's a lot involved in organizing a trip before hopping on that bus. There's the logistics of accommodations, transportation, meals, activities and more- when planned properly they come together to ensure an incredible and memorable student trip.

If you have any questions about any of the content in this guide, please email us at info@evolvetours.com, or call us at 1.888.222.5066 (Toll Free)

You can also check out sample itineraries of our trips online at www.evolvetours.com

We'd be happy to work together to plan your student trip, or just talk travel!

Happy Travels!

Evolve Tours

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