



QUÉBEC HOLIDAY

It's time to celebrate Christmas in Québec, Canada! Tonight the city glows with the townsfolk's high spirits, shining as bright as the candles illuminating the streets. Join in the fun as you explore the Christmas Village, German Christmas Market, and even guided tours –Cicérone Tours– with costumed characters from the early days of New France. You can even meet Santa Claus in the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac (*Petit Champlain District*). Don't forget to sing carols, play in the snow, and even learn some French phrase in this festive folk art painting of Québec Holiday with and family and friends!

1. The holly leaf is a holy symbol to most Christians—The prickly leaves represent the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified and the berries are the drops of blood Jesus shed.
2. The Poinsettias are nicknamed "Flowers of the Holy Night" because their star-shaped leaves are thought to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem.
3. French is considered the most Romantic language and is the preferred one of Québec city. Around 95% of city residents are native French speakers.
4. The modern Christmas tree was developed in early modern Germany, and its origins are associated with Protestant Christian reformer Martin Luther who added lighted candles to an evergreen tree.
5. The French explorer and navigator Samuel de Champlain founded Québec City in 1608, creating a region that he called "le Canada."
6. The city's motto "*Don de Dieu feray valoir*" (*I shall put God's gift to good use*) is a reference to Champlain's ship the *Don de Dieu*, or "Gift of God." This motto sits under the Quebec coat of arms.
7. Québec City is the capital of Québec, Canada. Québec come from the an Algonquian word "kebec"—meaning "where the river narrows."
8. A shepherd going to Bethlehem to worship the King of Kings.
9. "Le cadeau idéal" is French for "the perfect gift."
10. In Christianity, the Christmas wreath is used to symbolize Christ, with the circular shape representing eternity, no beginning or ending.
11. The names Joseph Mohr and Franz Xaver Gruber have largely vanished but their greatest creation, "Silent Night" lives on. Mohr wrote the lyrics in German in 1816, and Gruber composed the music two years later.
12. Did you know the word "carol" actually means "dance" or "a song of praise and joy?"
13. Jesus is also sometimes called "the Light of the World" by many Christians, which may have started the custom of the Advent Crown and Advent Candles.
14. French bistros—or cafes—in Québec City are a must see and do while here.
15. You can't go to Québec city without trying their most famous dish—poutine—a Canadian dish, originating in the province of Québec, made with French fries and cheese curds topped with light brown gravy.
16. The flag of Québec City was officially adopted on January 12, 1987.
17. "Vive le vent"—the French version of "Jingle Bells." It is sung to the same tune, but the words are completely different.
18. Candy cane—according to folklore, candy canes were first used in 1670 in Germany to keep children quiet in church on Christmas Eve. The crook was added to remind the children of the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus.
19. "Confiserie" (*Con-fée-ser-ee*) is a French word for sweet shop, one of Eric's favorite places.
20. The Québec Winter Carnival –Carnaval de Québec– is a festival that has been held every year in Québec City since 1955.
21. The dove is a Christmas symbol of peace.
22. Old Québec Funicular—is a funicular railway in the Old Québec neighborhood of the city. It links the Haute-Ville (*Upper Town*) to the Basse-Ville (*Lower Town*)
23. Québec City is the only walled city north of Mexico, with almost three miles of man made walls, and sections separating the lower and upper town.
24. The Château Frontenac is a grand hotel built in 1893.
25. The Canadian flag, Québec Providence flag, and the city flag. The province of Québec was one of the original provinces when the Dominion of Canada was formed in 1867.