

Full of amazing contrasts, the province of Québec boasts a combination of cosmopolitan cities and stunning scenery – with vast lakes, boreal forest, mountains and wilderness. With a history and culture unique to North America, the province is a fascinating blend of the best of British and French, and this is nowhere more evident than in its premier cities Montréal and Québec City, where the historic meets the contemporary.

Marvellous Montréal

Designated a UNESCO City of Design, Montréal is fast establishing a reputation as an exciting destination, with bustling nightlife, great restaurants, and fantastic shopping opportunities.

If the latter is your thing, head to Avenue Laurier for cutting-edge original designer boutiques, while Rue Sherbrooke and Rue Sainte-Catherine are the home of the smartest top-end fashion outlets. Montréal also offers climate-controlled shopping all year round in its famous Underground City.

There are a wealth of activities and attractions in the city too. As well as a multitude of museums and the beautiful Botanical Garden, a visit to the Olympic Park's landmark tower offers spectacular views of the city. The arts scene is also thriving in Montréal, and as the original home of Cirque du Soleil, it's the place to see new shows premiered too.

For a novel way to see the city, pick up a BIXI rental bike (between May and November only) or take a local guided jogging, cycling or rollerblading tour. For the less energetic, join a food-tasting tour led by a local food expert.

Quintessentially Québec

The only walled city in North America, Québec City is bursting with boutiques, galleries, bistros and historic sights. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city's 400-year history still thrives within its narrow cobbled streets. The oldest part of the city is Le Petit Champlain, a bustling hub offering the best of local artisan goods.

On the shore of St Lawrence River, The Plains of Abraham, where the Battle of Sainte-Foy was fought exactly 250 years ago, offers stunning views of the city. You can discover more about the battle at the

Discover Québec

The province's premier cities, Montréal and Québec promise more than the average city break, with vibrant culture and magnificent natural landscapes

Museum of Civilization, or head to the centrally located Place Royale to get a feel for Old Québec City. Or, if you're feeling romantic, a *calèche* (horse-drawn carriage) ride is a relaxing way to see the sights.

Culture and lifestyle

Both cities have vibrant communities and evenings are usually lively, with locals gathering on café terraces. Food is of the highest importance to the Québécois – no surprise given their Gallic heritage. The province prides itself on producing exciting, modern cuisine made with locally sourced produce.

A myriad of free outdoor festivals bring Québec and Montréal to life throughout the year. Summer plays host to both the world-famous Montréal Jazz Festival and the Just for Laughs festival, where the world's finest comedians showcase their art. Québec City's Summer Festival is a fun-filled 11 days of live music and shows. For more information, simply visit bonjourquebec.co.uk.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Canada's waters; Québec City; Montréal; Montréal Old Port.

YVES TESSIER/TESSIER/OLD PORT OF MONTRÉAL CORPORATION INC

See Québec in style

Win a 5-star luxury holiday for two to Québec – Canada's most exhilarating province



John Lewis Edition has teamed up with Destination Québec UK, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, Air Canada, and VIA Rail Canada to offer readers the chance to win a six-night dream holiday for two, worth £10,000, staying in two of Fairmont's most famous hotels in the province of Québec.

Montréal and Québec City form the gateway to Québec's great outdoors – a magical blend of stunning scenery, exhilarating activities, and cultural heritage.

Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montréal

First stop, Montréal. This buzzing metropolis offers stylish shopping and designer boutiques, plus an eclectic mix of museums and bars. You will fly direct from Heathrow to Montréal with Air Canada and spend three nights in a Gold Club room in the Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth Hotel, where John and Yoko famously staged their bed-in and recorded 'Give Peace a Chance'.

Feeling adventurous? Montréal's got it all. In summer you can go jet-boating on the Lachine Rapids or take a float-plane ride from the St Lawrence over the Old Port.

Included in the prize are passes for attractions such as the ecosystems of the Biodôme and the Olympic Tower (for a bird's-eye view of the island of Montréal).



Fairmont Le Château Frontenac Hotel, Québec City

The winners will then travel with VIA Rail Canada on their VIA 1 Service, to Québec City for three nights at the landmark city hotel. The 400-hundred-year-old city is the only walled city in North America and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It offers great galleries and boutiques, plus numerous places to eat and drink. There's even a local carriage ride, enabling you to soak up the romantic atmosphere of Québec City.

Air Canada has more flights to Canada than any other airline, including daily direct flights year round to Montréal from Heathrow. Six and a half hours flying time takes you to the province of Québec.

Travelling between Québec's two largest cities could not be easier – travel in comfort with VIA RAIL (viarail.ca) aboard the Montréal-Québec City train, simply the most convenient way to travel.

Fairmont is a leader in the global hospitality industry, with a distinctive collection of hotels (including historic icons, such as Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, elegant resorts and modern city centre properties) and a worldwide reputation for excellence.

For information on the province of Québec, visit bonjourquebec.co.uk.

HOW TO ENTER

Q1. What is the average flying time from London to Montréal?

Q2. Which Fairmont Hotel witnessed a famous 'bed-in' for peace?

Send your answers plus your name and address, phone and email on a postcard marked Québec/ Edition Competition to Destination Québec, 8 Port House, Plantation Wharf, London SW11 3TY, or you can enter online by sending your answers and details (see above) to messages@destinationquebec.co.uk. Closing date for entries is 5 March 2010.

For full terms and conditions, see page 4. Prize valid for 2010 only. Prizes are non-transferable, no cash alternative. Not eligible for Aeroplan points or denied boarding compensation. Flight/ date changes permitted but no change to origin or destination

of flight. Not valid for travel between 12 June – 31 August 2010, and 15 December – 10 January 2011. By entering this competition, you are giving the promoter (Destination Québec) permission to contact you for marketing purposes.



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE: Luxurious accommodation at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth; the hotel by night; elegant dining at Fairmont Le Château Frontenac; fireworks over the city.