

Day 1 - Mon, Feb. 3 - Welcome to Canada! D (meal)

You'll arrive to Ottawa on your own and make your way to our fabulous hotel, HILTON GARDEN INN OTTAWA DOWNTOWN

Located on the bustling Parliament Hill, we are right in the heart of the city. You'll have free time in the afternoon to explore this stunning and vibrant city. Our tour manager will direct us on where to go. We will head to the nearby Byward Market, one of Canada's oldest and largest public markets Chockfull of shopping, restaurants and activities, the massive historic Marché (remember Canada has is dual language) stretches for blocks. Talk about sensory overload! There is craft stalls, artisan food stands, hip shops, farmers market, cool rustic taverns, even a spa. Sample the maple taffy and chocolates, Canadian cheeses and ice wines. This is Ottawa's #1 tourist attraction for 193 years.

Overnight: HILTON GARDEN INN OTTAWA DOWNTOWN. 361 Queen Street, Ottawa, ON, K1R 0C7, Canada

Day 2 - Tues, Feb. 4 - Ottawa Tour B

We get to know this Canadian Capital with a city tour. Founded in 1826 when the Rideau Canal was inaugurated, Ottawa has been the political epicenter of the country since 1857. Visit Parliament hill, the Prime Minister's residence, the residence of the Governor General of Canada, the Ottawa locks and much more! The beautiful Rideau Canal is a true highlight and this time of year it is even more so because it is frozen over, making it the largest skateway in the world! Almost 5 miles of length, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll have some free time for lunch on our own downtown before heading to the Canadian Museum of History. It is self-guided so take your time to stroll through this modern museum devoted to the history of Canada from the prehistoric times on the continent to the modern era.

Your evening is free to enjoy Ottawa on your own. From comedy clubs to microbreweries to jazz clubs, there is plenty to do. Lace up your rental skates and lets join the locals for ice skating on the famous Canal Rideau.

In the evening, we'll celebrate with a Welcome Dinner at Tucker's Marketplace. A Canadian institution, Tucker's is known for its all-you-can-eat buffet with specialties from all around the world.

Overnight: HILTON GARDEN INN OTTAWA DOWNTOWN

Day 3 - Wed, Feb. 5 - All Aboard to Montreal! B

If you are a fan of architecture, gastronomy and history – this is your place! Our VIA train adventure begins in the morning as we head to Montreal. Arrive in Montreal midday and we'll have time to grab some lunch on our own at the Montreal Central Station before we begin our City Tour.

Montreal is the second most populated French-speaking city in the world after Paris and is the financial capital of the province of Quebec. The original French architecture is very much evident, especially in the historic neighborhoods. We visit Mount Royal, the ancient volcano at the heart of the city and then explore the shrine which is the Saint-Joseph Oratory. Have your mind blown at the famed shopping Mecca that is the underground city and visit the Olympic Stadium built for the Summer Olympics of 1976!

The best part is we are staying in charming Old Montreal at the Place d'Armes Hotel. It's so close to everything, including the massive gothic Notre-Dame-de-Montreal Basilica where we will take a self-guided tour. The hotel is also near Montreal's Old Port on the St. Lawrence Seaway. It's a perfect location for you to spend your free evening and discover just how magical Montreal is by night. Remember, too, that Montreal is home to the celebrated "Just for Laughs" festival in the summer so comedy reigns king here and comedy clubs are a fun evening option.

Overnight: Le Westin

Day 4 - Thurs, Feb. 6 - Foodie Tour of Old Montreal B L

You'll be given a 1-day unlimited pass for public transport at the beginning of the day and be prepared to make the most of it! Montreal is an island and the modern mass transit system is the perfect way to explore. We'll use it to head to the Plateau Mont-Royal for a guided tour. Once on the Plateau, we begin a Culinary Walking Tour in the area known as the Mile-End, considered Canada's most creative neighborhood. Here you find two completely different worlds living in parallel - the traditional Jewish culture and a growing presence of young hipsters drawn to the trendy, artsy vibe and multicultural roots. Our tour will take us to a half a dozen stops with food from almost any ethnicity imaginable. The eclectic Mile End neighborhood is just one of the reasons know why Montreal is a foodie's paradise.

In the afternoon, take advantage of your transport pass to explore Montreal on your own. The Jardin Botanique de Montreal (Botanical Garden) is spectacular at any time of year. There are countless museums including specialties such as the Greven Wax Museum or a museum dedicated to Barbie! Or you can make your way to Rue de Saint Denis, lined by an array of bars and restaurants

Overnight: Le Westin

Day 5 - Fri, Feb. 7 - Train to Quebec City, Capital of Quebec B D

All aboard in the morning for spectacular Quebec City, Canada's only walled city, arriving at midday. Historic Quebec City is enchanting and becomes even more so as the whole city comes alive with *Carnaval de Québec*. We'll be right in the middle of the celebration! Lunch is on your own in the picturesque Old Port along historic St. Paul Street. St. Paul is home to art galleries, historical monuments and countless restaurants offering various types of cuisine and now all decorated for the festivities. Old Quebec is a UNESCO World Heritage site and we'll be staying at its heart at the Delta Hotel. Nearby are the National Assembly of Quebec, the Tourny Fountain and the famous Frontenac Castle, the most photographed hotel in the world. Free time to shop. Old Town is bursting with unique shops and specialty products.

In late afternoon we take a guided tour of the Hilton Garden Inn Ottawa Downtown. Each year, a new ice hotel is built with a new design. It is only open in the winter and every year it has a different design with as many as 50 rooms as well as a chapel for weddings. Admire the ice sculptures and sip a cocktail in the iconic ice glasses.

We wrap the day with a Quebecois tradition - dinner in a local Sugar Shack complete with music, dance and a sweet menu featuring traditional maple ham and sausages, chicken, and yummy maple syrup crepes for dessert.

Overnight: [Le Westin Resort & Spa, Tremblant](#) – Quebec (2 nights)

Day 6 - SAT, Feb. 8 - Quebec Winter Carnival B

Today is a free day to take in all that is available with the Quebec Winter Carnival. A yearly celebration in Quebec City since 1894, the Winter Carnival is the biggest and oldest winter carnival in the world! The city is filled with winter enthusiasts ready to celebrate the snowy season. Go sledding, snowshoeing, or zorbing. Take in the amazing ice carving competition and the Ice Palace. And of course sample the foods and drinks that have become winter carnival staples, like poutine, a Beavertail Pastry, maple taffy or the liquor drink Caribou. Take advantage of our optional dogsledding excursion...mush! Celebrate winter behind a team of huskies that whisk you across the gorgeous landscape, you'll get great pictures of this Nordic pleasure (\$90).

At the end of the day is the not-to-be-missed parade!!! The streets of the Old City come alive the last night of our tour with the Carnival's celebrated parade. The energy hits a crescendo as musicians, cirquesters and many more perform along the route through these sparkling historic streets. We'll be dancing in the streets right along with them in this colorful celebration.

Overnight: [Le Westin Resort & Spa, Tremblant, Quebec](#) – Quebec

Day 7 - SUN, Feb. 9 - Back to US B

After breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to this charming northern city and winter wonderland. We head to the airport with memories of a trip well never forget.