



A walking tour through the Old Quebec History, architecture and heritage

Organizer

Étienne Berthold
Université Laval

Place or route

Historic district of Québec City

Duration

Half-day

Capacity

To be determined

Cost

To be determined

This excursion proposes a walking tour of the Old City of Quebec (or Vieux-Québec). This historically-designated district comprises 1.5 km² stretching from Champlain Street to St. Vallier St. East in the Lower Town, and the walled city as well as Côte d'Abraham in the Upper Town. Over the past half-century, the Old City has undergone profound transformations due to several factors. These include a repositioning of the district as the heart of the city and region of metropolitan Quebec; secondly, important population changes as well as socio-economic shifts in the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires and du Palais neighbourhoods of the Lower Town, and the expansion of tourism itineraries since the listing by UNESCO of Quebec as a world heritage site. At the intersection of all these disturbances is “heritage”. It is the “beauty” and “ambiance” of the historic city that first motivated residents to move into the district and remain there, and it is ironically the same beauty and ambiance which are at the root of a sustained increase in visitors to the Old City—more than four million in 2008 according to estimates.

Our walking tour will explore the history and architecture of the Old City of Quebec, while shedding light on the processes of “patrimonialization” over the last half-century which have solidified the reputation of Old Quebec as the “birthplace of French America”.



PHOTO : Gilbert Bochenek