

# A Waterfall Taller Than Niagara, Bagels in the Mile End — A 3-Day Quebec City & Montreal Road Trip

Québec City's fortified Old Town and Montréal's converted 19th-century warehouse district sit less than three hours apart along the St. Lawrence River, making them one of eastern Canada's easiest road-trip pairings. This three-day loop starts inside Old Québec's stone ramparts, detours to a waterfall taller than Niagara, and ends in Montréal's Mile End eating bagels pulled straight from a wood-fired oven that's been running since 1957.

## DURATION

**3 Days**

## BEST TIME TO GO

**June – October**

warm days around 65–75°F, with September and October adding fall color along the Old Québec ramparts

## FROM

**\$390 USD / person**

for 2 people — lodging, rental car & attraction tickets below; flights not included

## Day 1

### Into the Walled City — Old Québec

*Pick up a rental car at the airport and settle into the walls of Old Québec, the only fortified city north of Mexico, before an evening stroll along the river.*

#### Car Rental Pick-Up — Québec City Jean Lesage Airport (YQB)

*~15 min from downtown · compact car from CAD \$65/day (\$48); 3-day rental around CAD \$195 (\$145)*

A rental car is the easiest way to cover both cities and the Montmorency Falls stop in between — counters for the major agencies sit just past baggage claim, with unlimited mileage on most weekly and multi-day rates.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, YQB · [enterprise.com](https://enterprise.com)

#### Check-In — Hôtel Champlain

*Check-in 3pm · rooms from CAD \$230/night (\$170)*

A boutique hotel built into the city's stone walls at 115 Rue Sainte-Anne, inside Old Québec — a short walk from the Château Frontenac, the Citadelle and most of the restaurants below.

Hôtel Champlain · [bonjourquebec.com/hotel-champlain](https://bonjourquebec.com/hotel-champlain)

#### Dufferin Terrace & the Château Frontenac

*~1 hr · free to walk*

A wide wooden boardwalk runs along the clifftop below the castle-like Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, with sweeping views over the St. Lawrence and, in summer, buskers and ice-cream carts working the crowd until dusk.

#### Dinner — Archibald Microbrasserie, Petit-Champlain

*Dinner · CAD \$25–40 (\$18–30) per person*

A Québec-based brewpub chain with a location on the cobblestones of the Petit-Champlain quarter, pouring local beer alongside poutine, tourtière and other Québécois comfort food.

Archibald Petit-Champlain · [quebec-cite.com/archibald](https://quebec-cite.com/archibald)

## Day 2

## A Waterfall Taller Than Niagara, Then On to Montréal

*Start with a cable car up a waterfall higher than Niagara Falls, then drive southwest along the St. Lawrence to Montréal for an evening inside a Gothic Revival basilica turned light show.*

### Montmorency Falls & Cable Car

*~1.5 hrs · cable car around CAD \$18.50 (\$14) round-trip per adult*

At 83 meters (272 ft), Montmorency Falls stands about 30 meters taller than Niagara — a cable car climbs alongside it to a suspension bridge strung directly over the churning top of the drop, with staircases down for a closer, mistier view from below.

Parc de la Chute-Montmorency (Sépaq) · [sepaq.com/montmorency](http://sepaq.com/montmorency)

### Self-Drive — Québec City to Montréal

*~2 hrs 45 min · ~255 km (160 mi) via Autoroute 40*

A straightforward highway run along the St. Lawrence lowlands, with service stops roughly every 40 minutes — leave by early afternoon to reach Montréal in time to check in before dinner.

### Check-In — Hôtel Nelligan

*Check-in 3pm · rooms from CAD \$320/night (\$235)*

A boutique hotel built from a row of converted 19th-century warehouses at 106 Rue Saint-Paul Ouest, in the heart of Old Montréal, with a rooftop terrace and exposed stone-and-beam rooms.

Hôtel Nelligan · [hotelnelligan.com](http://hotelnelligan.com)

### AURA at Notre-Dame Basilica

*~45 min show · tickets from CAD \$35 (\$26) per person*

A Moment Factory sound-and-light show projected across the basilica's Gothic Revival interior — deep blues and gold climb the vaulted ceiling and stained glass in a three-act sequence, seated in the pews where Montréal has worshipped since 1829.

Basilique Notre-Dame de Montréal · [basiliquenotredame.ca/aura](http://basiliquenotredame.ca/aura)

## Day 3

## Mount Royal, Mile End Bagels & Jean-Talon Market

*Spend the last morning on Montréal's hilltop park and in its best-known food neighborhoods before the drive to the airport.*

### Kondiaronk Belvedere, Mount Royal Park

*~1.5 hrs · free*

Frederick Law Olmsted — the designer of New York's Central Park — laid out Mount Royal Park in the 1870s; its main lookout faces straight down over downtown's skyline and the St. Lawrence beyond, an easy walk or short drive from Old Montréal.

### **St-Viateur Bagel, Mile End**

*~30 min stop · bagels around CAD \$2 (\$1.50) each*

Montréal's best-known bagel bakery has run out of 263 St-Viateur Ouest since 1957, hand-rolling and boiling bagels before baking them in a wood-fired oven — sesame and poppy seed are the classics, and the shop runs 24 hours a day.

St-Viateur Bagel · [stviateurbagel.com](http://stviateurbagel.com)

### **Jean-Talon Market, Little Italy**

*~1 hr · free to browse*

One of North America's largest open-air markets, with Québec produce stalls, maple products, cheesemongers and butchers packed under open-sided sheds — a good spot to pick up a last picnic lunch before heading to the airport.

Marché Jean-Talon · [marchespublics-mtl.com/jean-talon](http://marchespublics-mtl.com/jean-talon)

### **Drop-Off & Departure — Montréal–Trudeau Airport (YUL)**

*~25 min drive from downtown · return the rental 2 hrs before an international flight*

The airport sits southwest of downtown off Autoroute 20 — build in extra time for the rental return and shuttle to the terminal before checking in.