



# NEW DISCOVERIES IN AND AROUND OLD QUÉBEC CITY

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QUÉBEC CITY NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE US. ONE OF THE OLDEST CITIES IN CANADA, FOUNDED IN 1608 BY CHAMPLAIN, IT OOZES FRENCH CULTURE, OLD WORLD CHARM AND HISTORY.

## Old city charms

We are enchanted by the stone walls and gateways that still “protect” parts of the Old City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the only walled city in Canada and the U.S.A.

What a fantastic and beautiful walking city it is! Ambling through the narrow cobblestone streets we are simply awed by the incredible old buildings, impressed by the quaint shops that display unusual crafts and wares, and tempted by the inviting cafés and restaurants. A great variety of fascinating museums abound to further bring the past alive, but the out-

door “museum” holds our sway. We enjoy the picturesque setting of the Old Port on the St. Lawrence River and stroll through the Lower Town’s old square, Place Royale, the site of the first permanent settlement in New France. Today musicians entertain here; we admire the historically rich architecture, the old stone church and the magnificent *trompe l’oeil*, “Mural of Quebecers,” created more recently (1999), by the artists of Lyon, France, along with Québec artists.

To reach the Upper Town you can climb the stairs but we opt for the funicular ride that brings us to the Dufferin Terrace.

Usually we walk along the terrace, which extends for miles along the edge of the cliffs offering breathtaking views, below, of the Old Port, Lower Town and the St. Lawrence River. Then we continue on to Battlefields National Park and the Plains of Abraham; a stroll through this vast urban park always stirs imaginings and thoughts about the decisive battle between the French and English once waged here and its subsequent, great impact on Canadian history.

This particular time the Dufferin Terrace is partially closed as archaeological excavations of the fortifications