

Québec Canada



Mont Saint Anne - Le Massif - Stoneham February 10 – 16, 2019

We started off on our journey with a top-notch bus driver – Peggy! Up to Québec City where we would be skiing three different mountains. Peggy navigating some tight spaces and has amazing driving skills, especially in the winter storm we had on Wednesday as we travelled around Québec City and then out to the Hotel de Glace (ice house tour) and for our fondue dinner on our day off of skiing.

After a lot of worrying about what food could be brought into Canada, we made it through the border check into Canada without any trouble. Canada Customs didn't confiscate our lunches. Driving up was sunny and roads clear. We stopped at a rest area and the trip leaders served a gourmet lunch of Tops Market Sub sandwiches.

After we arrived at the beautiful hotel Chateau Laurier in the heart of old town Québec we enjoyed mingling at the hotel reception with cocktails and appetizers that were served. It was a great start to our week in Canada.



Did we mention Québec celebrates winter? They do in a big way. Winter Carnival was in progress. Our trip included a pass, known as an Effigy, that allowed us to access the various Winter Carnival attractions. The main attraction Bonne Homme's ice castle was right across the street from our hotel.

On Monday we skied Mont Saint Anne, it was a bit icy on some of the trails but we knew they would be getting snow on Wednesday so the conditions would only improve! Tuesday, we skied at Le Massif, some heard that the conditions were icy, some chose to stay in Québec to scout out the city to see what treasures they would find. The ones that went to the mountain that day found conditions to be rather enjoyable and glad that they went.

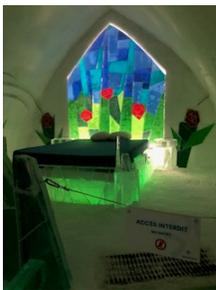
Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning a snow storm rolled in leaving around 12+ inches of new snow to deal with in the city of Québec. Our plans for the day needed to be altered to stay within the

city since a major highway was shut down. The city crews did an amazing job of handling all of the fresh new snow.

Our day off changed by doing a bus tour of the old City of Québec with our guide, Pierre. He did a great job and even arranged a place for us to stop for lunch (for all 48 people – last minute) down by the St. Lawrence river at a restaurant called Spag&tini. He told us some interesting facts, one is that the tide rises anywhere from 17 - 20 feet. Also, information about the Château Frontenac and the role it played in many historical events. Did you know that the WW2 Day invasion was formed at the Hotel Frontenac?



We weren't sure if we would be able to drive out to the tour of the ice hotel and fondue dinner that evening but Peggy checked and thought it would be possible. We needed a bit extra driving time for arrival and departure on this excursion. The ride out was uneventful except for the 12% downhill grade just before we got there. Peggy did a little genuflect before she started down the hill. It paid off. We arrived safely.



Everyone enjoyed the tour of the Ice Hotel. The fondue dinner was a huge success, and everyone had a great time and lots of laughter that evening. We hated for it to end! But back to the hotel we went.



Thursday morning, we were heading off to Stoneham mountain for a day of skiing in the fresh powder. We took a vote for the last day of skiing, Mont Saint Anne or Stonham. Mont Saint Anne won. On Friday we had so much white powder it was just amazing and a lot of work at times to get through it.

We can't forget our cross-country skiers. Our five cross country skiers were treated to some great trails. They skied at Mont Saint Anne, the largest cross-country ski area in Canada. They also skied at Le Massif, Sentiers du Mullin, the best terrain, and the Plains du Abraham, right across the street from our hotel.

We ended with a group dinner at Louis Herbert which was just around the corner from our hotel. We also celebrated our February birthdays with Marilyn McCabe, Donna Willis and Joe Falcone. – Birthday cake for everyone!