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## Quebec City: The New France Festival



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Courtesy of Xavier Duchez

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For the past 15 years, [Quebec City](#) has been honoring its roots each summer with the [New France Festival](#). Previously started in 1997 as part of the city's 400th anniversary celebration, it was supposed to end in 2008. But, since the festival was so successful, they decided to continue the celebration which consists of 5 days of festivities in and around the fortified part of Old Quebec.

Here's a trip that Mr. Peabody, Sherman and the Wayback machine would have liked as they wander around a dozen sites in the historic district of Old Quebec to see parades, dances, shows, and more than 1,000 artistic events.

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Within these streets, you can find farmers, soldiers, merchants, and farm animals-- all co-mingling. Part of the fun of the festival is that residents or visitors can participate in the action by dressing up in costume. Here's where one can assume another identity as a commoner, member of the bourgeoisie or part of the nobility class.

Back then, your class pretty much determined what you wore. A commoner, for instance, would have clothing made from rough or fine woolen fabrics or cotton. Men wore waistcoats and long knitted stockings held up by garters. Sounds strange to us now but back then, it was the fashion.

### Quebec City History

Quebec City is the capital of the Canadian province of Quebec and it's the second most populous city after Montreal. More than 600,000 residents call this home, not to mention the millions of happy tourists who visit each year.

The city was founded in 1608 by Samuel de Champlain, who was, among other things, a cartographer and mariner. He is the father of New France for whom the New France Festival is named and Quebec is considered the cradle of French civilization in [North America](#).

The city itself is situated on the shores of the St. Lawrence River, and the word Quebec is derived from a word meaning where the river narrows. One can see this narrowing from