

Clear Lake Area Ski Club (CLASC) Quebec Jan 31 - Feb7, 2016

Texas Ski Council Winter Expedition

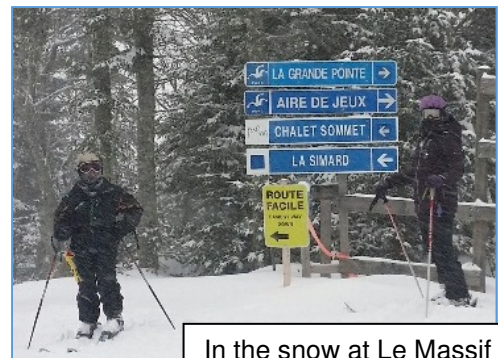


Chateau Frontenac

The Quebec City trip participants are back home after a week of immersion into the rich historical heritage of French Canadian culture, fine dining and skiing. We stayed at the Fairmont Chateau Frontenac, referred as the Castle by locals, along the St. Lawrence Seaway in the old city in the midst of many fine restaurants and historical attractions. The rich history and architecture of the area was always evident including a small restaurant across the street from the hotel that first starting serving meals in the year 1640.

For those who wanted to ski three resorts were available: Sainte Anne, Le Massif and Stoneham. An interesting aspect of Le Massif, which was new to most skiers, is that you arrive at the top of the resort and ski down toward the St. Lawrence Seaway amid a spectacular view of the river.

Snow conditions were very acceptable especially after a midweek storm that provided about a foot of new powder. We had five skiers in our group of nine that skied all three resorts.



In the snow at Le Massif



Montmorency Falls

For those who did not ski (or took a day off from skiing) many interesting activities were available. One favorite tour that all of our members participated in consisted of a half day bus tour of surrounding points of interest, including Montmorency Falls (higher than Niagara Falls), Sainte Anne Cathedral, and several historical settlements dating back to the 1600's when the French first occupied the area.

Another favorite activity was a visit to the Ice Hotel.



Ice Hotel entrance



Bedroom



Free breakfast at the Carnival!
and workout facility every day.

Others participated in walking tours of the old city, local museums and the Winter Carnival.

Another favorite activity was the hotel spa. Most of our members took advantage of the free use of the steam room, hot tub, pool



Carnival parade

Dining out was consistently rewarding activity. We visited a new restaurant every day and were always pleased with the high quality of the food and reasonable prices. Our midweek club dinner at Le Continental was the high point. We were provided our own private room with dedicated wait staff, fine French food and exquisite service. And after ordering the cheapest bottles of wine on their list we were happily surprised at how the quality greatly exceeded our expectations. Having spent less money than we expected we had another club dinner on Saturday night at a small cafe near the hotel.



Dinner at Café de la Paix

The farewell dinner party provided by the Texas Ski Council was in the hotel and again provided very high quality of food and service. In retrospect we may have been better representing this trip as a tour for foodies!

Ours was a somewhat small trip with 9 CLASC members and 50 total from the Texas Ski Council. The small size had its advantages, however, in that our group dined together every night and shared our days experiences. While some of us were friends before the trip, we were all friends by the end of the trip after sharing the many worthwhile and interesting experiences offered by Quebec City.