In searching the publicly accessible web, we found a webpage of interest and provide a snapshot of it below. Please be advised that this page, and any images or links in it, may have changed since we created this snapshot. For your convenience, we provide a hyperlink to the current webpage as part of our service.

Valcartier Winter Playground and Tubing Park, Quebec

Valcartier Winter Playground, Quebec

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Winter hits hard in Quebec City. Temperatures dip and the snow keeps coming but so do out-of-town visitors looking to tap into sub-zero frolic. Though much of this tourist traffic is thanks to the Quebec Winter Carnival, a lesser known attraction 20 minutes away may be the best way to pack in unsullied winter fun.

Valcartier Village Vacancies Winter Playground is just what it sounds like: acres and acres of hills, ponds, play structures, all constructed and groomed with slip sliding in mind, whether by tube, raft, skates, cart or burn.

The park has been operating since 1983, when it opened with just a couple of slides. Today, the park is a year-round, multi-million operation that in summertime is transformed into a waterpark.

Just What's So Fun?

When we got to Valcartier Village Vacancies, I was in mother-mode, trying to tamp down everyone's fun by pointing out the high potential for concussions and broken bones. Fast-forward to the end of the day and I am hauling my kids up and down Everest (the pinnacle of height and speed) multiple times.

Valcartier is good, old-fashioned fun: snow-covered slopes and tubes and rafts to slide them.

Even getting up the hill on the tube tow is fun, if not slightly humiliating for first-timers or the uncoordinated.

Highlights include:

- Go tearing down 35 snow slides either alone or holding on to other the ropes attached to the tubes of other riders.
- Get some serious speed on the Snow Raft that holds a dozen riders at once.
- Skate the frozen 1 km long path with music and lights (skate rental available).
- Spin and whirl on Tornado.
- Reach speeds up to 80 km/h on the highest accelerating slide in North America: Everest.

For kids that don't reach height requirements, a children's playground is available.
Getting To Valcartier Village Vacancies

Address:
1860 Boulevard Valcartier, Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier, QC G0A 4S0

Valcartier Vacation Village is about 30 minutes north of Quebec City or three hours east of Montreal.

The easiest way to get to Valcartier is by car. No shuttle leaves from Quebec in the winter and public transportation is complicated, taking more than three times that of a car.

Tips for Visiting

Don't fool around when it comes to getting dressed for the elements, especially if you plan to be out all day. Wear snow pants, heavy, waterproof jacket and boots, hat, gloves and a scarf or balaclava to protect your face.

No matter what the weather, layers are your friend, but especially in December or March when running up and down those hills all day may make you want to lose a layer.

Bring goggles if you have them.

When you finish your run, pick up your tube and get out of the way. Accidents are not common at Village Vacancies, but when they happen it is usually because someone has lingered at the end of the run.

The potential for injury - especially for adults - is probably highest getting on and off the tow, which can have you cocking your body in some strange positions. Take care.

You can bring your own food (lockers are available) but the food options are pretty decent. We had a surprisingly good lunch at Lily Marlene and stopped to enjoy an afternoon beer high in the hills at the Refuge.

How Much Does it Cost?

The pricing is convoluted, but basically runs around CAN$35 per adult for a full day of sliding (as of 2015). The cost is slightly less or more depending on which package you choose - some include or exclude the skating rink and/or the Tornado and rafting options.

Children under 12 and seniors are left. Children 3 are free.

Half day discounts are available from 4 pm to 9:30 pm.
How Long To Spend

My husband and two children (ages 10 and 12) easily spent five hours at the park. Four hours sliding and one having lunch.

Anything under three hours would probably be disappointing.

While You’re in the Area

The most direct route from Quebec City is by highway, but if you have time, do stop in Wendake. A visit here won’t take you far off the path to Valcartier and offers a compelling glimpse into the heritage of the Huron-Wendat First Nation people that live here. Wendake is also home to the unique Hotel Musée Premières Nations, a 4-star boutique hotel inspired by Longhouse architecture, and restaurant La Traite, which showcases indigenous Canadian cuisine.

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