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home abroad.

## Relocation Guide to Montreal, Canada

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*IOR makes every effort to ensure the information contained in this guide is as current as possible. If you notice errors, or information which is no longer accurate, please contact us immediately so we may correct the issue.*

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## MONTREAL OVERVIEW



Photo courtesy of [DMI](#)

Montreal, Quebec is situated on Montreal Island and is Canada's second largest city. The province is unique due to its French-Canadian history and culture. French Canadians are an ethnic group who can trace their ancestry back to French colonists who settled in Canada during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They make up about 22% of the Canadian population. French was established as Quebec's official language in 1974, thus the primary language in Montreal is French. Quebec is distinguished as bilingual on constitutional and federal levels; however, French is the primary and official language in provincial institutions. Of course, English is still utilized in public spaces and while French is the city's official language, not all citizens of Montreal speak French.

Up until the 1970's Montreal was the center of commercialism in Canada. Since Montreal is situated along the St Lawrence River which drains the Great Lakes and opens to the Atlantic Ocean, the river made Montreal a hub for fur trade between First Nation tribes and the French, allowing its economy to boom. While it was surpassed by Toronto as the commercial capital of Canada, Montreal is still a crucial city for commerce, aerospace, transport, finance, design, education art and world affairs.

Montreal's architecture is juxtaposed between old Montreal (Vieux- Montreal) and its vibrant, innovative modern buildings. Adding to this contrast is the European vs North American style present in the city. The downtown area has a North American flavor regarding style, while the rest of the city has been described as having strong European overtones. In 2006, UNESCO named Montreal as a city of design. Montreal is considered a major cultural center home to many art museums, jazz and film festivals, theatres and music halls. While Montreal isn't Canada's largest city, Montreal holds its own and stands as one of Canada's most impressive and multicultural cities.

Bienvenue à Montreal, nous espérons que vous passerez un merveilleux séjour !

### **City of Montreal Overview**

- [City of Montreal Website](#)
- Land Area: 431.5 km<sup>2</sup> (166.6 sq mi)
- Currency: Canadian Dollar
- [Montreal History](#)
- [Bank of Canada Exchange Rate Information](#)

### **Tourist Information**

- [Montreal Tourist Information](#)
- [Information on attractions](#)
- [Montreal Tours and Day Trips](#)

### **Government organizations**

- [Canadian Departments and Agencies](#)
- [Montreal Public Health](#)
- [Important Information on Immigration in Montreal](#)
- [Process of obtaining a Canadian driver's license](#)

### **Useful Local Links**

- [US Embassy and Consulate - Montreal](#)
- [Canadian International Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Immigration Contact info](#)
- [Yellow Pages Montreal](#)
- [Locals Guide to Montreal](#)

### **Libraries**

The public library is free for anyone who lives, works, goes to school or owns land in the city of Montreal. At the library you can borrow books, movies, CDs and much more for fun, study or self-interest. The library also has many free programs and services for everyone. There are [over 40 libraries](#) in Montreal alone. Montrealers also have access to the online archives of all 67 public libraries in Quebec.

### **Newspapers**

The main local newspapers are [Montreal Gazette](#) , [The Globe and Mail](#), [The National Post](#) in English and [Le Journal de Montreal](#), [La Presse](#) in French. The [Montreal Times](#) is a weekly newspaper published in the city.

### **Post Office**

Montreal has post offices run by Canada Post throughout the city. Their office hours and services differ depending on the location. Find your office through the [post office finder](#). Through the website you can also find rates and track your mail.

**Time Zone**

Montreal is in the Eastern Time Zone. Daylight savings time is in effect from the second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in November. You can see Montreal's time in relation to most cities on the globe by visiting [www.TimeAndDate.com](http://www.TimeAndDate.com), which also can provide a Canadian calendar.

**Metric System**

The metric system is used in Canada.

**Dates**

Dates are written in the order of day/month/year.

**Currency**

Canadian one-dollar coin ("loonie"). Canadian two-dollar coin ("toonie"). Notes, or bills, come in denominations of \$5 (blue), \$10 (purple), \$20 (green), \$50 (pink) and \$100 (brown). Coins are in denominations of \$2, \$1, \$0.25, \$0.10, \$0.05 (frequently used) and \$0.50, \$0.01 (rarely used).

**Money Matters**

Sales Tax: The sales tax in Quebec is divided by the federal goods and services tax (GST) and the provincial sales tax (PST). For information on the Business lifecycle and taxes that apply to citizens and businesses please click [here](#).

**Tipping**

Tipping is expected in Montreal. Bar and restaurant staff have a lower minimum wage than most Canadians. Tipping 15-20% at restaurants is standard, and hotel cleaning staff and bellhops customarily receive 2- 20 dollars. For more information, it may be useful to peruse this [tipping guide](#).

**Electricity**

Just like the United States, Canada uses 110-volt electric power with two- or three-pin plugs. Visitors from the UK and Europe will need adaptors, available at most hotels and department stores, to use their appliances from home.

**Smoking**

Smoking regulations are strict in Quebec. It is banned in public spaces and workplaces (including restaurants, bars, and casinos) this includes e-cigarettes. Smoking is generally tolerated in public parks as long as it is away from play areas, pools and skate parks. However, some municipalities do not allow smoking anywhere in parks, so it is important to know the rules of each location. Smoking is also banned in vehicles and you must be over 18 to legally purchase and use cigarettes.



AREA MAP



Source: [Joho Maps](#)

## HOUSING

Various housing options are available for those living in Montreal. Nearly half of Montreal's housing market consists of renters. The city proper has many different housing options that include high rise buildings, studio/lofts, condominiums and the classic Montreal duplex and triplex, which is a two or three-story apartment with winding stairs. Houses in Montreal are limited, but still available.

Montreal is divided into 19 "boroughs" each with its separate mayor, city council, cost of living and character. Some boroughs are more bilingual (French/English) than others, so it is important to do some research based on your French speaking abilities. If you want to be in the city Le Plateau is a great area for young families, as is NDG and Montreal West. If you prefer the suburbs, the area known as The West Island is a great place to be.

[This website](#) breaks down some of Montreal's most popular boroughs.

Sizing of apartments in Montreal can be a little confusing so here is a general breakdown of what the sizes mean:

- 1 1/2: a single-room studio apartment. One room (with kitchenette) and a separate bathroom, with the latter represented by the "1/2."
- 2 1/2: Includes a bedroom and a living room, plus a kitchenette and bathroom. Note that the two rooms may not be physically separated by a wall, but will be larger than a 1 1/2.
- 3 1/2: Includes a distinct living room, bedroom, and kitchen.
- +4 1/2: Every subsequent increase indicates an added room in the apartment, usually a bedroom. Thus a 5 1/2 will have three bedrooms along with a living room, bedroom, and kitchen.

### **Renting a Property**

Some apartments can be rented by the month, but to rent a house you usually need to sign a rental agreement (or lease) for a year. This is a legally binding contract between you and the landlord. Make sure you understand exactly what you must pay for and what is included in your rent before you sign a lease. If you are unsure about anything, ask questions and make sure you understand and are satisfied with the answers you get before you sign any lease.

The cost of renting a place depends on:

- **Location.**
- **Size and condition** of the place.
- **Amenities.** Condominiums with full facilities may command a higher price. Rent also depends on whether the place is furnished, partially furnished or unfurnished.

### These are the steps in renting a home:

- Sign a lease with the owner, the terms of which are agreed between the two parties. Most landlords and housing agents ask to see a copy of your passport, a copy of your visa, passport sized photographs and an employment letter confirming your position. Sign an inventory listing of all the items provided by the owner, including their condition.
- In Quebec, it is not legal to ask for a security deposit. Upon signing the lease, the landlord typically asks for the amount of the first month's rent (which is then applied to the rent on the first month). Renters are very strongly protected in Quebec and have a lot of rights. We also use a standard lease in Quebec when renting. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Rental usually excludes utility bills but includes maintenance fees.

### Lease Tips

- When you go to see Montreal apartments and meet landlords, make sure you are well-dressed. Treat it like a job interview. If the apartment is good many people may be after it and the landlord will have their pick of several potential tenants.
- Take note of general appearance and upkeep. Are the carpets or flooring worn? Are the walls cracked or in need of painting? Is there staining on the roof or walls (an indication of a water leak)?
- Is an ensuite bathroom important? Is on-site laundry important or do you mind going to a Laundromat? Does the building feature security features such as security patrols or video cameras? Do you want the convenience of a dishwasher, an on-site gym or pool, a balcony etc.? Think about these when deciding on the home you want to rent.

### Waste Management Recycling

Waste disposal services are offered to all residents of Montreal as well as recycling services. Montreal is a very recycle friendly city with programs for composting as well as [Ecocentres](#), where residents can drop off unconventional items like refrigerators, air conditioners, batteries, any reusable items, ferrous metals, hazardous waste, green waste and much more.



### Telecommunications

Montreal is well served by a competitive telecom industry which provides comprehensive television, telephone, wireless and broadband services. Some of the major service providers operating in the city can be contacted on their websites.

- [Bell Canada](#) is one of the leading telecommunications companies in the city, offering mobile, internet, satellite, television, high speed data and home phone services.
- [Rogers Cable](#) is one of the largest cable television service providers, along with Video-On-Demand, digital television, high-speed Internet access, interactive and enhanced television services.
- [Primus Telecommunications](#) is another popular telecom provider in Montreal and has acquired Win-Tel, to offer broadband, home phone and wireless.
- [Telus](#): Largest telecommunications provider in Western Canada; home phone, internet, wireless, TV.



## EMERGENCY & IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY  
DIAL 911  
DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL THE CALL TAKER TELLS YOU TO DO SO**

Language line: If the person calling 911 is unable to speak English, they can tell the operator what language they speak. The 911 Operator will have an interpreter on the line within one minute to assist with the translation.

Remain calm and speak clearly. Identify which emergency service you require (police, fire, or ambulance).

They will ask for the following information so keep this page close to your phone:

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

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Other Important Numbers:

[CLOSEST CONSULATE OFFICE](#)

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

WORK PHONE NUMBER

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**Area Health Care Centers:**

- [Hospitals in Montreal](#)
- [Veterinary Clinics in Montreal](#)
- [Pharmacies in Montreal](#)

[Dial 311](#) for non-emergency municipal services (such as replacing a broken street lamp or removing an abandoned vehicle). Site also provides in person contact solutions

Dial 811 for Info-Santé: 24-hour service for urgent health questions. A nurse can provide information on the best course of action and/or where to go

[Click here](#) for other important emergency numbers

## HEALTH FACILITIES

Canada has a good standard of general healthcare with a wide range of facilities. It is a system that has been in place for many years and is one that is publicly funded. The standards for healthcare are established by the national government, but it is overseen by each provincial government in the form of the Medicare system. In order to access the free Medicare system operated by the government you must be in possession of a healthcare card, which is issued by the health department in your province. The Medicare system is not completely free, though, and it should be noted that some treatments and medications will incur costs.

For many expats, this Medicare does not apply as expats do not have the permanent residency status. Those who don't have permanent residency status will need to obtain private healthcare insurance while you are in the country. There are many companies which provide this type of insurance at a reasonable price. Some operate on a nationwide basis and others solely in one or two provinces. It is possible with some companies to arrange healthcare insurance before you arrive in the country. In some provinces, private healthcare is essential for at least the first three months as they do not allow new arrivals to claim on Medicare for that time.

Healthcare for foreign visitors is provided regardless of status and there is a special scheme known as the [Interim Federal Health Program](#) which is designed for those who have come to the country as refugees or with another special status. It will give temporary cover until residency status can be established.

Counseling services are sometimes available through the Medicare system although this depends upon the province that you are in. In addition to this there are large numbers of organizations that offer counseling for specific problems such as alcoholism or bereavement and many of these work on a charitable basis, so treatment is free. You can also choose to see a private therapist and lists of registered therapists are available from the health department of your local provincial government.

As with the UK and the US, it is the usual practice to register with a local doctor. However, in some urban areas of Canada some practices have no room for more patients. Those who have difficulty in finding a doctor who is accepting new patients can contact the local colleges of physicians and surgeons. You can also simply contact all the practices that are listed in the yellow pages, but this can be time consuming if you are living in a well populated area, as you may find that more than half of all practices are not taking on new patients. The same applies for dentists. You may come across several practices which are not taking on new patients and will need to do a little searching. It is also worth contacting the health department of your provincial government as some provinces have a program that can match up patients to available practices.

[List](#) of hospitals with 24 hour emergency rooms in Montreal.

### Childcare

[Childcare directory](#)

### Education in Public Schools

Canada is one of the few countries in the world that has a high public education standard making it possible to enroll your child into a public school. Primary education covers grades 1 – 6 and children will attend from the age of 4 to the age of 11. In secondary school, the education covers grades 7 – 12 in the majority of provinces. Children are obliged to attend school until the age of 16. Those who graduate with a high school diploma in Canada will find that many countries worldwide will accept this as a qualification. Quebec has publicly funded French and English schools. According to the Charter of the French Language, all students must attend French language public schools; however, these rules DO NOT apply to temporary residents of Quebec.

The school year begins in September and runs until June, with breaks for Christmas and Easter. The school day usually starts between 8 am and 8.30 am and finishes between 2.30 pm and 3 pm. The schools have a wide variety of extra-curricular activities such as sports and crafts. Most schools offer programs to educate children in native studies, combat racism and involve aboriginal members of the community in educating the children about their history and culture.

The vast majority of schools have programs which offer support to international students, teaching French or English as a foreign language as required. The country has a program of offering education in both English and French and some schools will have lessons taught in both languages. There are several public schools in Canada which offer day programs and home stay programs.

Registration for school in Montréal is unique in that students can register for French language school and English language school. [Click here](#) to learn about how to register for English language schooling and what it requires to be eligible.

### Public School Boards

- [English Montreal School Board](#)
- [Lester B Pearson School Board \(English\)](#)
- [French school board based on where you live list 1](#)
- [French school board based on where you live list 2](#)

**Private schools** are also common in Montreal and these can be single sex or co-educational. Quebec has the highest proportion of children going to private schools in North America. Private school is often a popular choice for expat families due to the ability to choose schooling primary language. These are usually funded independently. The advantage to private school education is the smaller class sizes. Pupils can be boarders or a day student.

This [link](#) is a great website that lists all of the English private schools in and around Montreal.

### **International Schools of Montreal**

Montreal has a few International Schools offering French education or IB education. Some International Schools impose minimum requirements for admission, such as language proficiency or nationality. The criteria vary with each school.



School fees per year vary for lower and upper grades from school to school. Academic calendars for each school also differ.

Information on some of the international schools in Montreal can be found [here](#).

Banks and other financial institutions, such as credit unions, offer a variety of services. These services include:

- checking and saving accounts
- credit and debit cards
- online bill pay
- loans
- insurance
- financial planning

### Banking

Both Canadian and International Banks can be found throughout the city of Montreal. The most common banks are the following:

- [Bank of Montreal](#)
- [CIBC](#)
- [Royal Bank](#)
- [Scotia Bank](#)
- [TD Canada Trust](#)
- [More banks in Montreal](#)

Credit cards are accepted in most of the larger shops, hotels, and restaurants. ATMs (also called ABMs in Canada) can be found all over the city.

### Opening an Account

To open an account, you must present various pieces of identification, for example a Canadian driver's license, passport, certificate of citizenship, permanent resident card, birth certificate, social insurance number, old age security card, health insurance card, document issued by provincial governments, employee identity card, a credit card, a foreign passport, etc. For more information go to [the Canadians Bankers Association](#). Your IOR Destination Services Consultant will also be able to provide you with more detailed information.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & DRIVING

### Driving

When driving in [Quebec](#) between December 15th and March 15th it is required to have winter tires on your car. It is important to note that on the island of Montreal right turns on red lights are not permitted.

### Public Transportation

Montreal has a city transit system, [La Société de transport de Montreal](#), that provides bus and metro services. Taking public transportation is especially great for families because during the summer months kids ages 6-11 ride for free! Montreal has 5 commuter rail lines with 52 stations, and 4 metro lines that make up 68 stations. The metro system is very accessible. The trains generally open at 5:30am to 6:00 am and close at 12:30 or 1:30 am. There are also many [night buses](#) that run after the metro system shuts down for the evening. The public transportation in Montreal makes it easy to travel without a car. While public parking in the city is inexpensive, gas in Montreal is pricey.

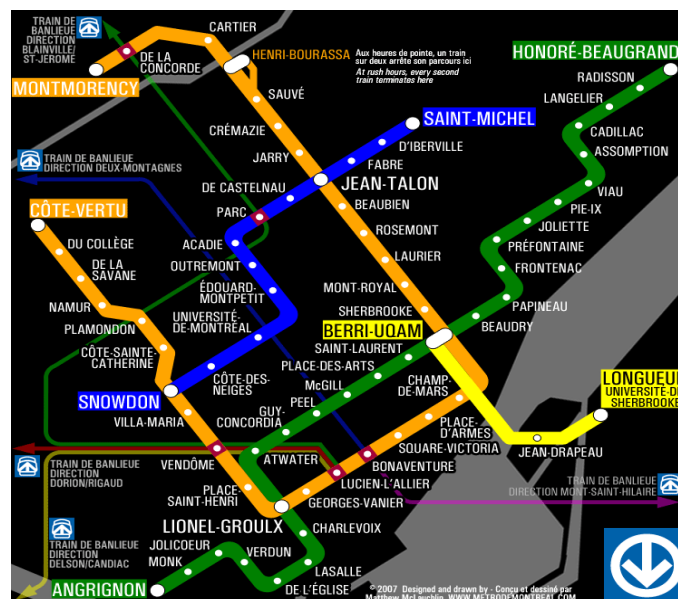
### Trains

There are 4 metro lines a 5 commuter train lines in Montreal. If you are unfamiliar with the city, [online](#) there is a website function that allows you to plug in your starting point and destination to receive the most efficient route. The metro system is a very efficient way to get around the city. Metro stations are marked clearly above ground by blue and white signs and are easily navigable.

### Bus

Above ground, public busses fill out the areas that the metro doesn't cover. The bus feature makes the public transportation very useful and all encompassing. The fare is measured by ride and not by distance and the fare is the same as the metro.

### Metro and Bus map



**Taxis**

Taxi services are available as is [Uber](#).

**Bicycles**

Montreal is very bike friendly with plenty of bike lanes and bike paths in and around the city. Public bikes are available to rent, and the bikes are permitted on public transportation. [BIXI](#) is Montreal's bike sharing program and it is quite easy to use. To get a bike you pay for a one-way ride or a one to three-day pass, ride the bike to your location and drop it off to the nearest stations. If you love being eco-friendly, this is a great option!

**Airport**

[The Montreal-Trudeau airport \(YUL\)](#) is the biggest airport in the Quebec province. It is a 20-minute drive from downtown Montreal. YUL has 40 different airlines and more than 140 domestic and international destinations. This airport has it all from tourist information, car rentals, taxis and airport shuttles. There is an express bus to the downtown area, as well as taxis ready to zip you to the city.

[Montreal Saint-Hubert Longueuil Airport \(YHU\)](#) is a regional airport that primarily services destinations in Quebec. It also has some flights around Canada to other provinces and major cities.

## DRIVER'S LICENSE

As a foreign national you are able to use the license that was issued in your own country but for a limited period of time. Quebec allows you to hold a foreign license for 6 months. After 6 months if you are settling in the province, you must hold a Quebec driver's license. Some nations hold [reciprocity](#) with the Quebec province. Thus, some of the rules regarding licensing may be different depending on where your initial license was issued. For more information, click [here](#).

When you exchange your drivers license you will need to do so at the provincial offices. You will need to show that you are a current resident of the area and should show visa documentation to support this. Quebec's regulations will expect you to have an eye test, show that your current license is valid (and if this is not already in French or English then it will need to be translated), show proof of ID, proof of address, pay the relevant fee, and if you have been driving for less than a couple of years then you may need to take a knowledge test. Each province deals with their own documentation so enquiries should be made to the ministry of transportation. For more information on guidelines and requirements for obtaining a license, please click [here](#).

If you need to take a Canadian driving test then you should make yourself aware of the [regulations in your particular province](#), as these vary across the country. Drivers will find that most states have a graduated licensing program which encourages drivers to slowly build on their driving skills. You will be asked to take an eye test and a theory test on road signs, driving regulations and safe driving. Some provinces will expect a driver to take more than one practical test before a full license is issued.

Additional information:

- When driving in [Quebec](#) between December 15th and March 15th it is required to have winter tires on your car.
- It is important to note that on the island of Montreal right turns on red lights are not permitted

**Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with this process.**

## SHOPPING

As one of the largest cities in Canada, Montreal has ample opportunities for shopping, and nearly any section of the city has unique places to shop. The city has maintained a lively fashion industry ranging from couture to ready to wear, everyday pieces. With a history that reaches back to the earliest fur and leather trade in North America, Montreal's fashion scene does not disappoint. Emerging as a major style destination, [Les Cours Mont-Royal](#) is home to some of the city's most cutting-edge boutiques and is the city's most prestigious shopping center. The most high-end designers operate out of rue Sherbrooke shopping district with high end local and luxury designers and art galleries. Downtown, rue Ste-Catherine is home to the city's top department stores with a combination of luxury and mid-prices affordable wear and essential everyday shopping. [Underground city](#), also known as the underground pedestrian network, is a maze of passageways connecting shopping malls and some 1,700 stores. Most of the malls have levels both at street level and below ground. The network also connects to most subway stations downtown. Typical of the malls is the [Complexe Desjardins](#) with entrances at street level and underground, and is bounded by rues Ste-Catherine, St-Urbain, and Jeanne-Mance, and boulevard René-Lévesque. It has fountains, trees and hanging vines, shops in every direction, and a fast-food court.

### Groceries

- [L'intermarche](#) – one of the best urban grocery stores in Montreal with several locations throughout the city.
- [Metro](#) – Open late and for 24 hours in some locations.
- [Provigo](#) – general grocery store
- [Super C](#) – popular outside of the city, in the suburbs, for affordable shopping. Great for feeding a larger family.
- [Supermarche PA](#) – Online shopping available.

### Farmers Markets

There are many Farmers and Public Markets open in the city of Montreal. If you love farm to table food Montreal is definitely the city for you. Many farmers markets are paired with flea markets, which can be the best place to get little knickknacks and other unique items to make your new home in Montreal really special.

[Jean Talon Market](#) - This market in Little Italy is open year-round. During the peak summer period the open-air spaces of Jean-Talon Market are occupied by about 300 vendors, mostly farmers from the countryside around Montreal.

[Atwater Market](#) - Located in the Saint-Henri area, this market has been standing for over 80 years. This farmer's market, housed in a long Art Deco building, is home to quality butchers and the Première Moisson bakery and restaurant. Cheese and wine stores are also located nearby. Consider it a one stop shop!

[Lachine Market](#) - The recently renovated Public Market of Lachine is not in walking distance to a metro station however it falls right along the highway and a bike path. It is the oldest public market in Montreal. You will find a butcher, a fish shop, a fine product store, and a cafe. Lachine Market is open year-round.

[Maisonneuve Market](#) - Exterior stalls and 10 indoor food stalls are open year-round at this market in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve neighborhood. Here you can find things like flowers, fruits, vegetables, meats, cheese, fish, and baked goods.

### **Housewares and Furniture**

- [Ikea](#), located in North York, is a great option for those on a budget. It sells everything necessary in a home: from beds to ice cube makers.
- [Sleep Country Canada](#) is a Canadian company specializing in mattresses, pillows and bed linen and is best known for its radio jingle, "Why buy a mattress anywhere else?"
- [The Brick](#) is a retailer of furniture, mattresses, appliances, electronics, soft furnishings and home accents.
- More [furniture stores](#) in Montreal



## RECREATION

There is so much to see and do in Montreal with Montreal's beautiful skyline, interesting history, European style, lively art scene and so much more. Don't miss seeing [Old Montreal](#), the district that is characterized as a Parisian-style quarter with buildings that date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It has many historic sights and landmarks best seen on an afternoon stroll. Here you can find the Parisian twin of [Notre-Dame Basilica](#) and the historic quays of the [Old Port](#).



*Old Montreal, Island located in Old Port*

If you need a great place to see a sunrise or a sunset, or just love to run and be outdoors, the [Mont-Royal](#) is the best place to start your journey. A free and public green space overlooking the city will give you the warmest welcome to your new home.

If you want to immerse your palate into some of Montreal's culinary classics, you should definitely try a smoked meat sandwich on St. Laurent Blvd, Montreal's sweet variety of the New York classic bagel, and absolutely try a classic Canadian poutine. Montreal is a city for foodies. Make your debut as a foodie on one of the city's classic, [walking food tour](#). Once you feel like a pro, go out and explore some of the great, and diverse cuisine, ranging from upscale restaurants to classic mom and pop shops. Montreal has a ton of fun walking tours, festivals and museums. You'll never be bored in this city!

### Festivals

Montreal always has something going on in the summer time. Every summer [fun festivals](#) pop up for music lovers, food lovers and more. Below are just a few of many.

- [MEG Montreal Festival](#): For over 20 years MEG Montreal has showcased contemporary music buzzing through Europe and North America. This event serves an international hub for numerous players of the indie rock, hip hop and electronic scene.
- [Just For Laughs Festival](#): This annual festival is fun for the entire family. Every summer the festival sends the city into a laughing frenzy with galas, street art, theatre productions and standup comedy performances. It hosts nearly 2000 artists from over 19 countries and 2 million festival goers. Go on a date night or with the whole family. You are sure to have a hilarious time.
- [Festival Internationale De Jazz De Montreal](#): Jazz lovers unite! One of the world's largest jazz festivals takes place in the heart of Montreal. Usually around 1000 concerts take place over 11 days, with 15 indoor venues and about 10 outdoor ones.

- [Taste of the Caribbean](#): A vibrant food festival where you can try food from 20 different Caribbean nations for five full days.
- [Food, Food, Food!!](#) There are so many different food related festivals and weekend events that it would be impossible to list them all. Some include, pizza week, oyster fest, Asian street food festival, a croissant celebration, even a poutine week. Everything and anything that you can imagine. Check it out!



[Montreal during a Jamaican food festival](#)

### Music

Montreal has a great music scene for music lovers of all Genres. Jazz lovers love this city. Not only is there a jazz festival every summer, many local jazz bars and clubs have smooth tunes and great food. Check out [House of Jazz](#), [Upstairs Jazz Bar and Grill](#) and [Le Blacon](#) for live jazz music almost every night!

[Casa Del Popolo](#) and [La Salsa Rossa](#) showcases internationally touring bands and local artist before they get big. If you love discovering new music, check out these hip spots.

[Corona Theatre](#): Built in 1912 as a part of Montreal's glory days, the theatre was revived in the 1990's. The Corona now hosts shows like film to theatre and bold burlesque performances.

[Centre Bell](#), [MTELUS](#), host big international names as they are big concert venues. Be sure to check out their websites to see when your favorite artists are in town.

If you like classical music be sure to see the [Montreal Symphony Orchestra](#).

### Museums

- [Montreal Museum of Fine Arts](#): Over 43,000 works from Antiquity to today are on display at the museum making it a unique hub of art and culture in Canada. The museum also includes a 460-seat concert hall – Bourgie Hall – featuring an important group of Tiffany stained glass windows.
- [The Montreal Biodome](#): In the heart of the city, the Biodome recreates some of the most beautiful ecosystems in the Americas. They have ecosystems like tropical rainforests, maple forests which change with the seasons, and even ecosystems that exist in sub Antarctic islands.
- [The McCord Museum](#) : Montreal's museum of social history is a mix of a national museum with some of the nation's most important objects and art pieces and a fashion museum.
- [Pointe-à-Callière](#): The Museum of Archeology and History was built on important archaeological sites adding to the history on display. The museum showcases work from the settlements of the region's indigenous people to the present day.
- [Château Ramezay](#): The oldest museum in Quebec is the [Château Ramezay](#), which was the former residence of the former governor of Montreal. The home has seen many historical events and has

hosted famous historical figures like Intendant Hocqart and Benjamin Franklin. The estate has been presenting historical exhibitions for over 120 years focusing on the history of Montreal.

- There are many more museums in Montreal, like the insectarium and the Montreal Holocaust museum. To search for more museums, [click here](#).

### Theatre and Visual Art

Montreal has a lively scene for theatre and visual arts. Many theaters are bilingual as well as specific to English language shows or French language shows. [This website](#) lists the verity of theatres available in Montreal along with nearby restaurants and a brief description of the type of shows they perform. If you're looking to spark an interest in theatre performance, Montreal is a great city to be in.

### Sports

Many sports teams call Montreal home including one professional hockey NHL team, [The Montreal Canadiens](#). Montreal has one major league soccer team named the [Montreal Impact](#). Montreal is also home to the Quebec Caribou, a team that plays for the Rugby Canadian Super league and a women's ice Hockey team the [Montreal Canadiennes](#). Montreal also hosts some wacky sports that you can only find in certain pockets of the world on a large scale. Montreal has an Australian Rules Football, or footy, ([the Quebec Saints](#)) which is most common in Australia and New Zealand. It is an incredibly fun sport to watch and fast paced. Montreal also hosts the [Montreal Shamrocks](#) which is a Gaelic Football team and the [Montreal Alouettes](#) which is a Canadian Football team, a game similar to American football.



### Restaurants

Thanks to the multicultural composition of this vast city, Montreal has many eateries offering a multitude of different cuisines. Good quality and great value restaurants abound in Montreal, with different cuisines featured in separate areas. Chinatown is always a hit with authentic food and some new age cocktail bars like [Le Mal Necessaire](#). Montreal's Mile End neighborhood has cultivated a "hipster" reputation for its restaurants where going is as much about the ambiance as it is the food. Some good affordable places are also located here if you're looking for a fun and cool night out with friends. Little Italy/Petite-Patrie of course has some incredible first class Italian food, but there's also so much more cuisine to explore here. Also Montreal offers Syrian and Vietnamese restaurants to try and plenty of vegetarian restaurants for those of you who prefer a dish with no meat!



[Café Olimpico in Mile End](#)

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

### Public holidays in Quebec

- New Years Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Fete National on June 24<sup>th</sup> - The official holiday of Quebec. The holiday marks the summer solstice and honors the patron saint of French Canadian (Jean Baptiste)
- Canada Day on July 1<sup>st</sup> - celebrates the anniversary of the Constitution Act, 1867 three separate colonies of Canada
- Labor Day on the first Monday of September
- Thanksgiving which is the second Monday in October, not the same day as American Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day



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