

MONTREAL GUIDE



Trip planning you'll love

Money	3
Communication	4
Holidays	5
Transportation	6
Food	8
Events During The Year	9
Things to do	10
DOs and DO NOTs	11
Activities	15

Emergency Contacts

- General emergency number: 911
- Police: +1 514 280 2222

Essential Information

The largest French-speaking city in North America can be truly proud of its unusual historical roots, contemporary cultural richness and diversity. It's a charming metropolis where there are so many things to see, do and enjoy every day.

Not many people know that Montréal was named UNESCO City of Design – yet it shows! Even the urban marathoners will be taken aback by this city's unique blend of outstanding architecture, design and everyday life.

When you grow tired of its busy streets, you can easily reach the quite impressive outdoors – the combination of mountains, national parks and water has something to offer for everyone, be it extreme sports, hiking or just enjoying the beauty of the nature.

Time Zone

UTC/GMT -5 hours, daylight saving time from March to November.

Contacts

Tourist Contacts

- Montreal tourist office: +1 514 873 2015

Currency: Canadian dollars (CAD), \$1 = 100 cents.

Canada is currently moving on to using plastic notes instead of paper ones. These tend to stick together when they're brand new, so double-check what amount of money are you giving away. The plastic notes are also thinner than the paper ones.

The most common and convenient way to exchange money is to visit the exchange bureaus that are all over the city center. Banks exchange money as well but might have problems handling less common currencies. They have more restricted opening hours, too.

ATMs are a good alternative if you want to exchange money without hassle. Some banks also offer fee-free withdrawals under certain circumstances, namely Scotiabank and TD Canada Trust. The majority of shops, restaurants and other venues also accept Visa and Mastercard; American Express is slightly less popular.

Tax Refunds

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 5% is applied to almost everything except books and certain categories of food. There is a sort of partial refund program running. You are eligible for a refund if not a resident of Canada and if you bought a packaged tour from a tour operator (that includes transport and accommodation). To claim the money back, you need the original receipts and forms that can be downloaded from the Canada Revenue Agency (www.cra-arc.gc.ca)

Prices

- Meal, inexpensive restaurant – \$12

- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, three-course – \$70
- Combo Meal at McDonalds – \$8
- Bottle of water (1.5 liter) at supermarket – \$1.50
- Domestic beer (0.5 liter, draught) – \$5
- Souvenir t-shirt – \$25
- Gasoline (1 liter) – \$1.35
- Hostels (average price/night) – \$20
- 4* hotel (average price/night) – \$170
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) – \$70

Tipping

Tipping is customary, usually around 15% and up to 20% for exceptionally good service. Before tipping in restaurants, check that gratuity hasn't been already included in the bill. A minimum 10% tip for other services including taxis is expected.

Electricity

The standard electricity supply in Quebec is 110-120V with North American NEMA 5-15 standard sockets – two flat and one round pin. Check your electronic devices to see if you need a power converter or just a plug adapter.

Languages

The official language in Quebec is French. Expect signs and the majority of information to be in this language. Note that French is spoken with quite a distinctive accent and the usage of some words is different. Luckily, the majority of locals speak English as well, and English signs can be found in tourist areas. The English spoken locally is similar to American English.

Mobile Phones

There are two major providers in Canada. Bell uses the CDMA network, but recently also introduced the GSM network. Rogers uses the GSM standard. However, the North American GSM runs on the 850/1900 MHz frequency, which is different from the rest of the world. Double-check with your provider at home to be sure which frequencies your phone can operate on.

If you'd like to stay in touch while visiting Montreal, you might consider getting yourself a local SIM card for much better rates.

The country code is +1, the area code 514 or 450.

Internet

It is very easy to stay connected in Montreal. The central parts of the city are well covered. Free Wi-Fi hotspots are operated by Île Sans Fil (www.ilesansfil.org)

No prior registration is needed. There are still several internet cafés left, too.

Internet Resources

- Official Montréal Tourist Website (www.tourismemontreal.org)
- Official Quebec Tourist Website (www.bonjourquebec.com)
- Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org)

- January 1 – New Year's Day
- Good Friday (Friday before Easter Day)
- Easter Monday
- Victoria Day (Monday on or before May 24)
- National Patriots Day (Monday before May 25)
- June 24 – Québec National Holiday
- July 1 – Canada Day
- Labour Day (First Monday in September)
- Thanksgiving (Second Monday in October)
- December 25 – Christmas Day

In addition, banks are closed on Remembrance Day (November 11) and Boxing Day (December 26).

Opening Hours

The typical opening hours for banks are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., while post offices stay open until 5 p.m. Shops usually open at 9 a.m. and close sometime between 6 and 9 p.m. Restaurants usually serve meals from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Museums are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and completely closed on Mondays. The opening times on holidays must be checked individually.

Public Transportation

Run by STM (www.stm.info) the local public transportation is convenient, quick and the tickets are valid on all forms of transportation.

One route ticket is \$3, a two-trip ticket \$5 and ten trips cost \$24. Consider purchasing an OPUS pay-as-you-go card for \$6 and then top it up when needed – it is more convenient than buying single tickets and you don't need exact change in the buses. There are also two types of tourist passes: a one-day pass costs \$8 and a three-day pass \$16. These passes are also valid for the 747 Express Bus connecting the downtown with the airport.

Metro: Four lines covering downtown and adjacent neighbourhoods. Last trains depart around midnight, you will need to check the particular times at the respective stations.

Buses: There are five distinct networks. The express buses with numbers 400+ connect the main transportation hubs whereas the local buses numbered 10 to 299 cover even the less-frequented places. The night buses run under numbers 300+ from midnight to 5 a.m. at least once per hour.

Taxis

Taxis can be hailed on the street or at a designated stand. They are usually easy to find so it's not necessary to reserve in advance through a taxi company. The use of meters is compulsory, with price starting at \$3.45 and \$1.70 for each additional kilometer. Trips from the airport have fixed rates. It is customary to tip the driver at least 10%.

- +1 514 2731725; Taxi Diamond (www.taxidiamond.com)

- +1 514 622 1831; Taxi Melly
- +1 514 840 9595; Air Taxi 2000 Inc
- +1 514 485 8585; Taxi Atlas (www.atlastaxi.qc.ca)

Regional Transportation

Buses – a dense network, usually cheaper than trains. Routes operated by many companies: Greyhound, Intercar, Transdev and others. If you plan to travel extensively, consider purchasing a RoutPass that entitles you to use buses in Quebec-Ontario area regardless of the bus company for a fixed price.

- Greyhound (www.greyhound.com)
- Orléans Express (www.orleansexpress.com)
- Intercar (www.intercar.qc.ca)
- Transdev (www.transdev.ca)
- Routpass (www.routpass.com)

VIA Rail (www.viarail.ca) – intercity trains connecting the major cities in Canada. If you book the ticket on website well in advance / last minute, you are likely to get a discounted ticket.

Amtrak (www.amtrak.com) – operates train routes running to Canada from the US

Driving

Driving in Montréal and Quebec in general is quite easy and intuitive. There is a convenient system of highways connecting the major cities. When driving in the city, watch out for one way streets – there are many of them and they are not that well signposted. It is also quite difficult to find parking as the lots are scarce. Drivers also tend to evade the traffic rules – going on red or turning where not allowed is considered normal. Be careful.

- The traffic operates on the right side of the road.

- An international driving licence can be used for 6 months. After this period, you will need to obtain a Quebec driving licence.
- Maximum speed on highways – 100 km/h
- Maximum speed outside built-up areas – 80 km/h
- Maximum speed in residential areas – 50 km/h
- Seatbelts are compulsory. Children who measure less than 63 cm in seated position need a child seat.
- Mobile phones can be used only with a hands-free device.

Walkability

Montréal is one the most walkable cities in Canada and this applies not only to the downtown. The scale is human, the sidewalks wide and well laid-out. Walking in combination with public transport is the best way to really experience the city. Cycling is also a very popular way to get around – you need to watch out for the drivers but once you get used to the local driving style, it will become very enjoyable. Bikes can be rented easily and for almost nothing through Bixi (montreal.bixi.com) the public bike sharing system.

Public transport is quite well adapted to wheelchair use: there are elevators at the majority of metro stations and there are continuous efforts to improve the situation. There is also an increasing number of taxis for the disabled – the cars need to be booked in advance. The accessibility of the sights vary, check respective websites individually.

There are not that many meals with any special tradition. The most typical is the use of maple syrup on almost anything sweet. Baked beans are served with maple syrup as well.

- Shepherd's pie – most likely a British legacy, meat with pea and potatoes.
- Montreal-style bagel – sweeter than American bagels with various fillings
- Poutine – french fries with cheese and brown gravy.
- Smoked beef
- Pealmeal bacon
- Butter tart
- Nanaimo bar – dough made of biscuits, topped with vanilla icing and chocolate
- Sugar pie

Typical alcoholic drinks include rye whiskey, Yukon Jack (liquor made of Canadian rye whiskey and honey), Newfoundland Screech (rum). Montreal has also many small craft breweries that produce great variety of distinctive beers – venture into the local pubs and try them! Winemaking is increasingly popular in Quebec. There are currently six wine regions with Centre-du-Québec being the most popular one.

Legal Age

The legal drinking age is 18. Smoking is forbidden in public buildings.

January

- Igloofest (igloofest.ca)
- Montreal Auto Show (www.montrealautoshow.com)

February

- Montreal High Lights Festival (www.montrealenlumiere.com)
- Festival Voix d'Ameriques (www.electriques.ca)
- Les Rendez-Vous du Cinema Quebecois (www.rvcq.com)

March

- Festivalissimo (www.festivalissimo.ca)
- Under the Snow (www.underthesnow.ca)
- FIFA: Festival International of Films on Art (www.artfifa.com)
- St. Patrick's Day

April

- Blue Metropolis (bluemetropolis.org)

June

- FIMA – Festival International Montreal en Arts (www.festivaldesarts.org)
- Montreal International Jazz Festival (www.montrealjazzfest.com)

July

- Fantasia Film Festival (www.fantasiafest.com)
- Montreal International Fireworks Competition (www.internationaldesfeuxloto-quebec.com)

August

- World Film Festival (www.ffm-montreal.org)
- Censored Festival (www.myspace.com)

September

- Elektra International Digital Arts Festival (www.elektrafestival.ca)
- National Hockey League (canadiens.nhl.com)
- La Biennale de Montreal (www.biennalemontreal.org)
- Montreal Burlesque Festival (www.montrealburlesquefestival.ca)

- Les Journees de la Culture (www.journeesdelaculture.qc.ca)

October

- Black and Blue Festival (www.bbcm.org)
- L'Off Festival de Jazz (www.lofffestivaldejazz.com)

November

- Cinemania French Film Festival (www.festivalcinema.com)
- Coup de Coeur Francophone (www.coupdecoeur.ca)
- Rencontres Internationales du Documentaire de Montreal (www.ridm.qc.ca)
- Festival du Monde Arabe de Montreal (www.facebook.com)

December

- Old Montreal's Extravaganza Festival (oldmontreal.info)

Free Things To Do

- Redpath Museum
- Mount Royal
- Notre-Dame Basilica
- Smith House
- Place des Arts – free events
- La Fontaine Park
- Canadian Centre For Architecture – free entrance on Thursdays, 5:30 to 9 p.m.
- The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
- Espace Création – exhibitions by Quebec artists
- McCord Museum – free entrance on Wednesdays, 5 to 9 p.m.
- DHC/Art
- Montreal City Hall – free guided tours during the tourist season

Shopping

Maple syrup is a must. Other good food souvenirs are smoked beef, Quebec cheddar, chocolate-covered blueberries, local wine and iced cider. Native American crafts are also a good choice.

- DO see a hockey game – a national pastime and subject of a great passion.
- DO walk – the city is best explored on foot.
- DO plan your trip to see a festival – Montreal is full of them.
- DO NOT visit Quebec in winter – the weather can be truly unpleasant and affect your experience strongly.
- DO NOT expect the local French dialect to be the same one as in France.

Safety

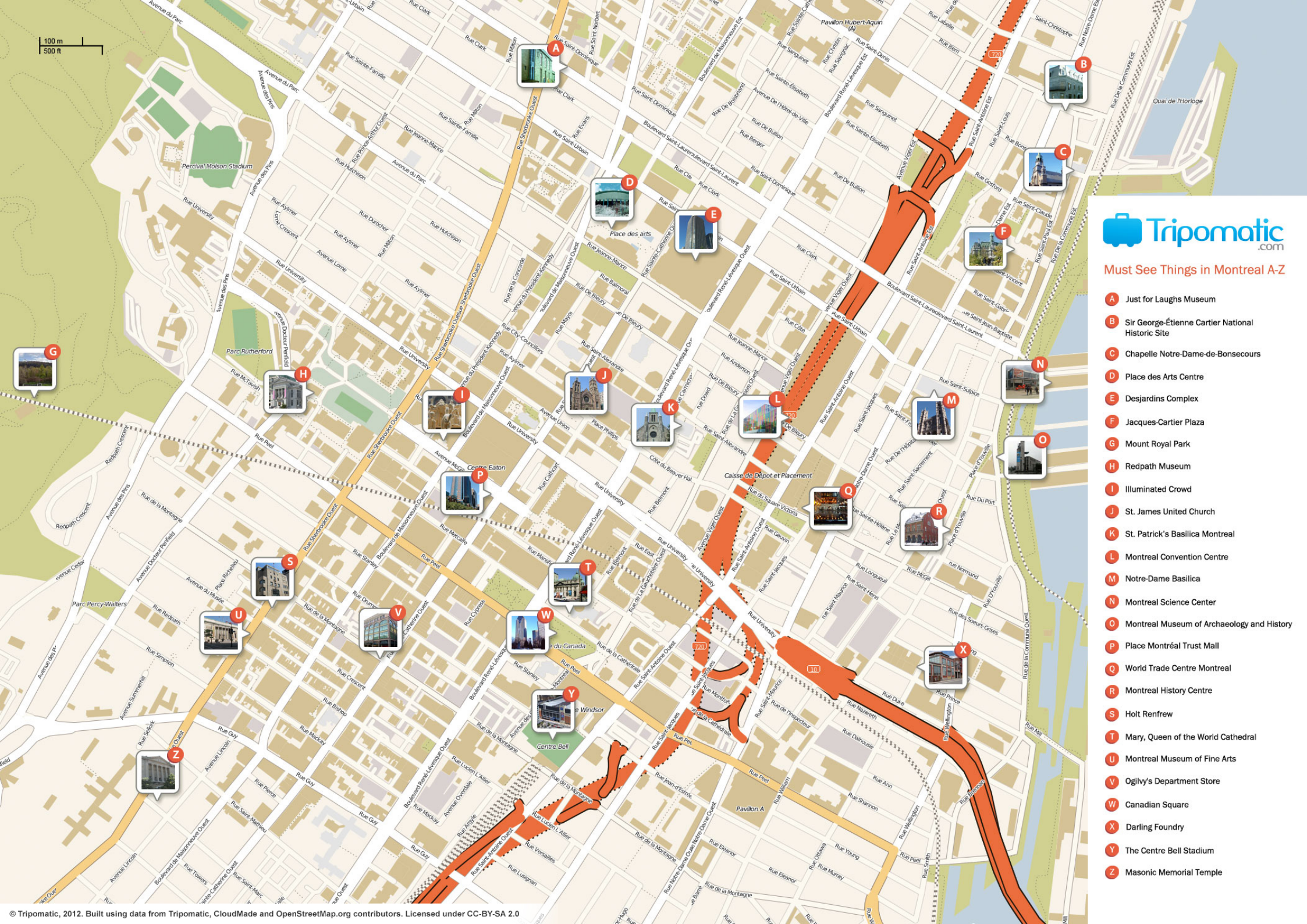
Montreal is considered to be quite a safe city – violent crime rates are low and property crimes are still below average. Even solo women travellers will feel at ease.

You shouldn't forget about the usual general precautions, though: don't flash your expensive belongings and always keep an eye on your belongings. Always use your common sense, avoid badly lit and abandoned areas at night.

There are several neighbourhoods that are not deemed to be safe. No places of tourist interest are located there, so you're very unlikely to end up there.

The tap water is safe to drink.

100 m
500 ft

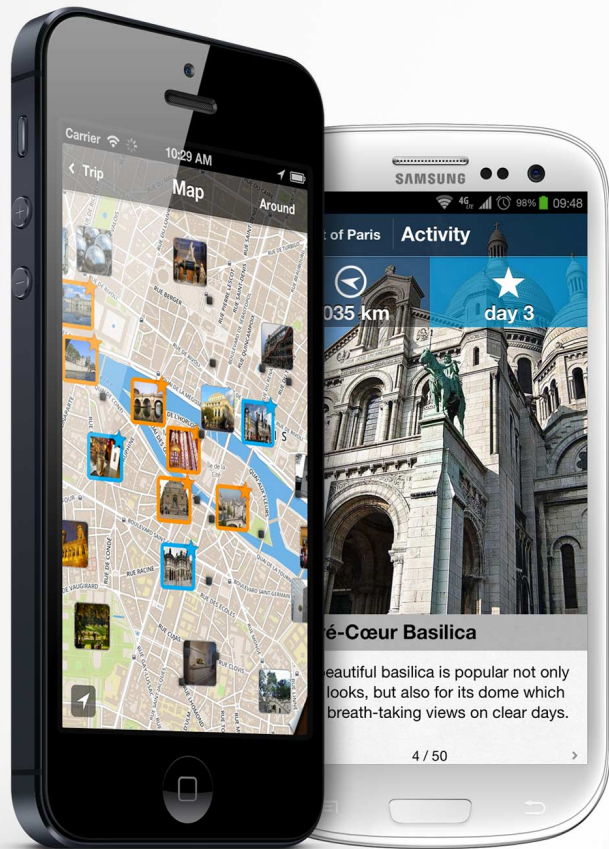


Must See Things in Montreal A-Z

- A** Just for Laughs Museum
- B** Sir George-Étienne Cartier National Historic Site
- C** Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours
- D** Place des Arts Centre
- E** Desjardins Complex
- F** Jacques-Cartier Plaza
- G** Mount Royal Park
- H** Redpath Museum
- I** Illuminated Crowd
- J** St. James United Church
- K** St. Patrick's Basilica Montreal
- L** Montreal Convention Centre
- M** Notre-Dame Basilica
- N** Montreal Science Center
- O** Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History
- P** Place Montréal Trust Mall
- Q** World Trade Centre Montreal
- R** Montreal History Centre
- S** Holt Renfrew
- T** Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral
- U** Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
- V** Ogliv's Department Store
- W** Canadian Square
- X** Darling Foundry
- Y** The Centre Bell Stadium
- Z** Masonic Memorial Temple

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- ▶ Discover more with on-the-go visual trip guide.
- ▶ Find nearby sights and attractions, wherever you are.
- ▶ Sync your trip plans to your device.



Just for Laughs Museum / Musée Juste Pour Rire

This museum is dedicated to humour. It focuses mainly on stand-up comedy, but exposition offers also other kind of humour.

2111 boul. Saint-Laurent, H2X 2T5, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.51227, W73.56880

A



Sir George-Étienne Cartier NHS / Lieu Historique de Sir

George-Étienne-Cartier

This museum depicts the life of Sir George-Étienne Cartier, who was one of the founders of Canadian Confederation and shows a reconstruction of the Victorian era house.

458 Notre-Dame Street East, H2Y 1C8, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.51117, W73.55160

Phone:

+1514 283 2282

B



Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours

It is one of the oldest churches in the Montreal. It was built in 1771. Its nickname is Sailors' Church.

395 rue Bonsecours, H2Y 1H4, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50978, W73.55124

Opening hours:

Open on Tue – Sun.

May 1 to Oct 13: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Oct 15 to mid-Jan: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mid-Jan to Feb 28: Closed (open for groups upon reservation)

Mar 1 to Apr 30: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Admission:

Adults: CAD 10

Students, seniors: CAD 7

Children: CAD 5

C



Place des Arts Centre / Place des Arts

This complex of building offers lots of entertainment. There are 5 theatres hosting various performances such as ballet and opera.

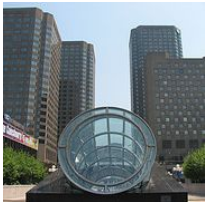
260, blvd. de Maisonneuve West, H2X 1Y, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50832, W73.56727

Phone:

+1514 285 4200

D



Desjardins Complex / Complexe Desjardins

This is a complex of office buildings, shopping mall and public plaza. There are wide shopping opportunities in over 100 stores.

150 Sainte-Catherine Street West, H5B 1E9, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50751, W73.56439

Phone:

+1514 281 1870

E



Jacques-Cartier Plaza / Place Jacques-Cartier

This street is named after Jacques Cartier, one of the discoverers of Canada. Public artists often perform here.

GPS: N45.50788, W73.55335

F



Mount Royal Park / Parc du Mont Royal

This mountain park offers wonderful view of the city of Montreal. The park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York's Central Park.

GPS: N45.50418, W73.58728

Phone:

+1514 843 8240

G



Redpath Museum / Musée Redpath

This museum is home to ethnology, geology, paleontology and mineralogy collections. It belongs to McGill's University.

859 Sherbrooke Street West, H3A 2K6, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50437, W73.57757

Phone:

+1514 398 4086

H



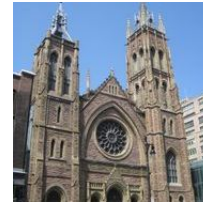
Illuminated Crowd

This large public art sculpture made of polyester is really remarkable. It caused a lot of controversy among Montrealers.

1981 avenue McGill College, H3A 3C1, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50317, W73.57307

I



St James United Church / Église Unie St-James

This protestant church, built in the Gothic Revival style is really worth seeing. Its designer was Alexander Francis Dunlop.

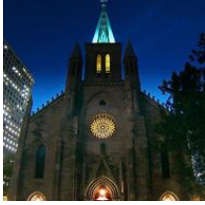
463 Ste-Catherine Street West, H3B 1B1, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50512, W73.56820

Phone:

+1514 288 9245

J



St Patrick's Basilica Montreal / Basilique Saint-Patrick de Montréal

K

This Roman Catholic basilica is dedicated to St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It was built by Irish immigrants.

454 René Lévesque Blvd. West, H2Z 1A7, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50355, W73.56482

Opening hours:

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Masses:

Sep – Jun:

Mon to Frid: 12:10 p.m.. and 5:15 p.m.

July – Aug:

Mon: 12:10 p.m.

Tue: 12:10 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Wed – Fri: 12:10 p.m.

Admission:

Admission to the basilica is free.



Montreal Convention Center / Palais des Congrès de Montréal

L

This convention centre was built in 1983 and it is unique piece of architecture. Montreal International Auto Show takes place here annually.

159 rue Saint Antoine Ouest, H2Z 1X8, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50376, W73.56113

Phone:

+1514 871 8122



Notre-Dame Basilica / Basilique Notre-Dame

M

This Gothic Revival basilica is one of the Montreal's most remarkable sights. It is decorated with beautiful wood carvings.

110 rue Notre-Dame Ouest, H2Y 2V5, Montreal, QC, Canada

GPS: N45.50449, W73.55612

Phone:

+1514 842 2925

Opening hours:

Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sat: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sun: 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Guided tours are available every half an hour.

Admission:

Adults: CAD 5

Children (7 – 17): CAD 4

Children under 6: Free

Guided tours are available for CAD 15 per adult.



Montreal Science Centre / Centre des Sciences de Montréal
 This science center offers a wide range of interactive exhibitions. There is also an IMAX cinema in the center.



333 de la Commune St. West, H2Y 2E2, Montreal, QC, Canada
 GPS: N45.50461, W73.55205

Phone:

+1514 496 4724

Opening hours:

Ticket office and reception:

Mon – Fri: from 8:30 a.m.

Sat and Sun: from 9:30 a.m.

Exhibition rooms:

Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sat and Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m

Admission:

Regular Exhibitions:

Adult: \$14.50

Teen & Senior: \$13.00

Child: \$8.50

Family: \$39.50

1 IMAX® Movie:

Adult: \$11.50

Teen & Senior: \$10.50

Child: \$8.50

Family: \$36.50

Regular Exhibitions + 1 IMAX® Movie:

Adult: \$21.50

Teen & Senior: \$19.50

Child: \$14.50

Family: \$63.00



Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History / Musée d'archéologie et d'histoire de Montréal
 This museum exhibits Montreal's historical and archaeological heritage. Its collections show First Nations relics.



350 Place Royale, H2Y 3Y5, Montreal, QC, Canada
 GPS: N45.50279, W73.55403

Phone:

+1514 872 9150



Place Montréal Trust Mall / Place Montréal Trust

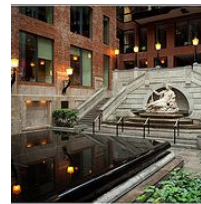
This mall is over 29,000 sq. meters large. It offers lots of various boutiques and stores. There is magnificent water fountain inside.



1500 McGill College avenue, H3A 3J5, Montreal, QC, Canada
 GPS: N45.50188, W73.57140

Phone:

+1514 843 8000



World Trade Centre Montreal / Centre de Commerce Mondial de Montréal

It is architecturally very interesting building. There are lot of boutiques and stores. There is fragment of Berlin wall in the building too.



715 rue du Square-Victoria, H2Y 1S1, Montreal, QC, Canada
 GPS: N45.50156, W73.56072

Phone:

+1514 982 9888



Montreal History Center / Centre d'Histoire de Montréal

This museum is focused on Montreal's history. You can admire artifacts from history of the city here.



335 Place d'Youville, H2Y 3T1, Montreal, QC, Canada
 GPS: N45.50103, W73.55553

Phone:

+1514 872 0311



Holt Renfrew

A fashion boutique with over 170 years tradition. Fashion fans can spend hours and hours of shopping here.

1300 Sherbrooke Street West, H3G 1H9, Montreal, QC, Canada
GPS: N45.49913, W73.57905

Phone:

+1514 842 5111



Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral / Cathédrale Marie-Reine-T

This cathedral is smaller copy St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican. It is the seat of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Montreal.

1071-1111 rue de la Cathédrale, H3B 2V3, Montreal, QC, Canada
GPS: N45.49897, W73.56875

Phone:

+1514 866 1661



Montreal Museum of Fine Arts / Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal U

This museum is the largest one in Montreal, it offers wide exhibitions focused on fine art. It has several buildings with collection which contains more than 30,000 pieces.

1380 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, H3G 1J5, Montreal, QC, Canada
GPS: N45.49857, W73.57971

Phone:

+1514 285 2000



Ogilvy's Department Store / Ogilvy V

This department store offers numerous world-known boutiques of famous fashion designers. Every shopaholic can find the right one here.

1307 Sainte-Catherine Street West, H3G 1P7, Montreal, QC, Canada
GPS: N45.49789, W73.57527

Phone:

+1514 842 7711



Canadian Square / Place du Canada W

It is both plaza and public park. There is a monument of Canada's first prime minister John Alexander Macdonald.

GPS: N45.49856, W73.56912



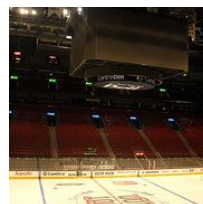
Darling Foundry / Fonderie Darling X

This industrial building is often place of avant-garde exhibitions by artists from all over the world.

745 Ottawa Street, H3C 1R8, Montreal, QC, Canada
GPS: N45.49770, W73.55670

Phone:

+1514 392 1554



The Centre Bell stadium / Le Centre Bell Y

This stadium, that is the home of Montreal Canadians hockey club, is a must-see place for all hockey fans.

1909 avenue des Canadiens-de-Montréal, H4B 5G0, Montreal, QC, Canada
GPS: N45.49600, W73.56937



Masonic Memorial Temple Z

This unique building is probably the most outstanding Masonic Temple in Canada. It was built in 1930 and it represents Beaux-Arts style.

2295 Saint-Marc Street, H3H, Montreal, QC, Canada
GPS: N45.49442, W73.58298



