





# Montréal

## City for Kids

For Emma Lopez Herrero, 9, Montréal means "going to the Biodôme to see the animals." For Tuyêt-Mai Vu, 10, it's "time with my family in La Fontaine Park." For Charles Chung, 9, Montréal is a city of "peace, culture, and play." And kids visiting the city find it as much fun as those who live there.

"Five minutes from downtown we have a great beach for summer fun at Jean-Drapeau Park. It's got top-quality water and is safe for kids, very shallow. There's a racetrack in the park where they can zoom on bikes or rollerblades.

There's also a bug museum—



FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE JAZZ DE MONTRÉAL / MCGRESS / ALAMY

## Kids artwork



## A Creative Metropolis

Montréal ties to France shape the city's sophisticated tastes. They also give it early notice of European trends in arts and business, which helps explain Montréal's creative edge in 21st-century industries from designing video games to manufacturing jet aircraft and high speed trains.

"This exceptional city—where French sensibilities effervesce with Anglo practicalities—is the perfect model for a world in continuous creative flux. Here, halfway between Europe and America, the future is re-fashioned every single day, from bits of daring and inspiration woven into a solid fabric

## Urban Landscape

You can easily spot Montréal's role in grand architectural traditions by the colonial French landmarks, Victorian-era mansions, and late 20th-century skyscrapers that would be at home in Manhattan or Singapore. But look further to find Montréal's unique contribution to urban design along many tree-lined residential streets laid out in the late 1800s for newcomers from the Québec countryside.

"Stroll through the neighbourhoods of Plateau Mont-Royal, and you'll find block after block of handsome two- and three-story dwellings, each with its own wrought-iron staircase and cantilevered wooden balcony. What you see is British-style

## Geotraveler Tips

**Go green without even trying:** This is one city where you can see almost everything without setting foot in a car. Montréal is a delightful place to walk, boasts one of the best urban bike networks in North America, and provides a clean and convenient subway. There are even miles of pedestrian tunnels running beneath the center city to shield you from the coldest days. All this keeps your carbon footprint to a minimum while maximizing enjoyment.

**Walk till you drop:** Montréal reminds you of Europe in one obvious way beyond language: it is supremely walkable. Most city streets are architecturally attractive, and the superb Métro system ensures less traffic and fewer drab parking lots to spoil the aesthetics of your stroll. It's safe to walk too, even at night. And when your legs grow weary, there's always a Métro stop nearby to whisk you back to your starting point.

**The ticket for curious travelers:** The best bargain in town is the 3-day Museum Pass, which for \$50 (Canadian) lets you into 33 different museums with no admission fee. You could start at the famed Montréal Botanical Gardens and Museum of Fine Arts, then immerse yourself in history, cinema, and the solar system. You could end your visit by seeing the internationally known Canadian Center for Architecture. [www.museesmontreal.org/en](http://www.museesmontreal.org/en)

of respect for tradition. Food is one good place to experience the city's sense of innovation, especially in the restaurants of Old Montréal and Rue St-Denis. Start with the Local and Pied de Cochon. A lot of the great young chefs work very closely with interior designers to do something very creative. A lot of the best designer studios and shops can be found in the Plateau neighborhood and Boulevard Saint-Laurent. And don't miss two spectacular buildings, the Canadian Center for Architecture and La TOHU."

—Jean-Claude Poitras, fashion designer



OUTDOOR STAIRCASES / TOURISME MONTRÉAL / GETTY IMAGES

## Downtown Montréal

**Map Key**

- Food
- Entertainment
- Historic site
- Lodging
- Market
- Museum
- Scenic viewing spot
- Other point of interest
- Underground city
- Pedestrian area
- Métro

SCALE 1:115,000

National Geographic and the people of Montréal present this Geotourism MapGuide of the Island of Montréal.

This project is the result of the signature of the Geotourism Charter, by which Montréal became the First City in the World to Sign in 2007. The Charter was signed by: The World Center of Excellence for Destination, Heritage Montréal, and Tourisme Montréal.

Lead project partners include the National Geographic Center for Sustainable Destinations, National Geographic Maps, the Montréal Geotourism Council, with local coordination provided by Marie-Claude Joly and André Jean Lauson.

Financial support is provided through the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec, Ville de Montréal, and Tourisme Montréal under the Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal.

Text and map notes by David Thomas; Jay Walljasper editor. Special thanks to Cheryl Hargrove, Project coordinator for the Center for Sustainable Destinations. Visit [www.geotourism.com](http://www.geotourism.com) to learn more about the Montréal region. Copyright © 2009 National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

**Mount Royal Park**  
Highest point of the city, the Mount Royal is where Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, planted his wooden cross to ask the Virgin Mary to protect the colony. The mountain and its 190-hectare Mount Royal Park, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, keeps city dwellers in touch with natural rhythms allowing them to enjoy hiking and cross-country ski trails.

**Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery**  
An urban village of Victorian townhouses popular with writers and artists with the picturesque Carré Saint-Louis at its center. The square flows into pedestrian Rue Prince-Arthur, ideal for an evening amble and then dinner at one of its many restaurants.

**Belvédère Camilien-Houde**  
Lookout and Chalet  
From the curving Belvédère near the top of Mount-Royal, you are treated to a sweeping view of the city and the St-Lawrence plain beyond.

**Robinson des Bois, le resto bienfaiteur**  
A merry restaurant where proceeds from your feast will be redistributed to community causes, according to a business model adopted from Robin Hood. 4653, boul. Saint-Laurent

**Casa Del Popolo**  
4873, boul. St-Laurent

**La Binerie Mont Royal**  
Country cooking, from soups aux pois (pea soup) to pouéou châteauneuf (poor man's pudding). 367, av. du Mont-Royal Est

**La Cantine**  
Fanciful interpretations of traditional local food. 321, av. du Mont-Royal Est

**Le Divan Orange**  
4234, boul. St-Laurent

**Le Plateau**  
Attractive townhouses, walkable shopping, and pleasing public spaces make this neighbourhood a favourite for Montréal's young professionals—and an inspiration for New Urbanist city planners everywhere. The exterior wrought-iron staircases give Montréal its unique architectural signature.

**Avenue Mont-Royal / Paysages Éphémères**  
Le Plateau's appeal as a neighbourhood is explained by this lively street brimming with casual bistros and plentiful entertainment options. In summer, the Avenue itself joins the party, dressed up with temporary art installations collectively known as Paysages Éphémères.

**Taverne Normand**  
An old-fashioned tavern that is agreeably rowdy on hockey nights. 1550, av. du Mont-Royal Est

**Restaurant Au Pied de Cochon**  
Cuisine québécoise 20/0. 536, av. Dulac Est

**McCordeur Museum of Canadian History**  
Experience Montréal history through the lens of master photographer William Notman, who captured city scenes between 1858 and 1891, as well as other vivid exhibits.

**Musée d'art urbain**  
Offers outdoor exhibitions located in various areas.

**Théâtre du Nouveau Monde**  
Since 1951, Montréal's leading theatre company has staged French-language productions that nourished French Québec's emergence as a self-confident culture.

**Quartier Latin**  
Students and singles enliven this district of sidewalk cafes and night-spots centered on rue St-Denis and the campus of Université du Québec.

**Auberge Le Pomerol**  
This charming inn specializes in tailoring tour itineraries for guests, and securing tickets for special attractions and events. 819, boul. de Maisonneuve Est

**Alexandre Logan**  
An award-winning B&B occupies an 1870 mansion, right in the heart of the city. 1631, rue Alexandre-De-Sève

**Le Village**  
One of the largest gay and lesbian neighbourhoods in North America, the Village is a symbol of Montréal's openness and joie de vivre. Located just east of downtown, it sports fashion and specialty boutiques, trendy restaurants, and cozy B&Bs housed in century-old houses.

**Old Montréal**  
This quarter of colonial buildings, bright young people, posh shops, and nonstop street life evokes the feel of grand European cities.

**Place Jean-Paul Riopelle**  
Fog billows and a ring of fire erupts from the fountain surrounding Jean-Paul Riopelle's highly abstract bronze sculpture "La Joute" each evening mid-May to mid-October. It's all part of a surreal happening that features cutting-edge animation and light shows.

**Chinatown**  
Montréal's small Chinatown is the place to go for Asian groceries, herbal remedies, and cuisine crafted by chefs all the way from China. Pass through the landmark gate to a lively oriental street market on rue de la Gauchetière.

**Bonscours Market**  
From 1847 to 1963, this domed building housed Montréal's farmers' market. Today, its glamorous fashion shops, design studios, and restaurants cater to the beau monde—but anyone can look around for free.

**Winter Bar**  
An outdoor bar next to the Old Port skating rink is open only in winter.

**Tour de l'Horloge**  
The artist-owners of this elegant boutique hotel in Old Montréal honours beloved 19th-century poet Emile Nelligan. 106, rue Saint-Paul Ouest

**Le Petit Navire**  
Cruise the river and explore Montréal's maritime heritage aboard an environmentally friendly, electrically propelled boat.

**Habitat 67**  
A famous experiment in urban housing, Habitat 67 was conceived by a young McGill University student. He's now one of the world's leading architects, Moshe Safdie, and the apartment complex has been classified as a historical monument by the Québec government.

**Quays of the Old Port**  
A meeting place for Montréalers seeking a breath of fresh St. Lawrence air or a job of Montréal vitality. The Quays of the Old Port has become a cultural focal point, featuring large-scale events, terraces, cruise ships, and many other expressions of Montréal's cultural and artistic diversity. The Cirque du Soleil presents a show under the tent every other year.

**Le Carlet**  
Break bread at communal tables with real-life Montréalers. 106, rue McGill

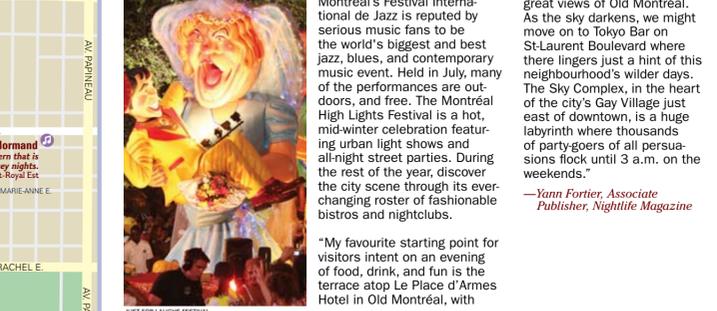
**Centre d'histoire de Montréal**  
An architectural oddity for Montréal, this Dutch-Renaissance firehouse is now a history museum featuring multimedia slices of city life.

**Darling Foundry**  
Centre that supports the creation, production, and dissemination of contemporary art in order to extend visual arts into the urban landscape. Its unusual industrial spaces can house ambitious installations and give artists scope for poetic intervention.

**Atwater Market and Rue Notre-Dame**  
Explore this once-gritty neighbourhood where rows of tenement housing have been transformed into fashionable condos convenient to antique shops and a popular art deco public market, unchanged since it opened in 1933. In late summer, farmers' stalls abound with bushels of sweet corn and baskets of wild blueberries. 138, av. Atwater

**Pointe St-Charles**  
One of the oldest preserved neighbourhoods in Montréal, Pointe-St-Charles is eloquent witness of the city's history as an industrial center. It can be easily toured by bike on the new path following the Lachine Canal.

**Espace VERRE**  
The fine art of glassmaking endures in an old factory district, where artisans show you how to blow glass.



JUST FOR LAZARUS FESTIVAL / JUST FOR LAZARUS FESTIVAL

**Place d'Armes**  
From the Sulpician Seminary's 1701 clock to a 1931 art deco skyscraper, this square treats you to an architectural panorama of Montréal history.

**Notre-Dame Basilica of Montréal**  
The 1829 Basilica is Québec's de facto national cathedral.

**Librissime**  
A book lovers' dream: Rare editions and unique artefacts for home libraries.

**Les Deux Pierrots**  
104, rue Saint-Paul

**L'Empreinte coopérative, Gallery-boutique**  
The artist-owners of this elegant arts and crafts cooperative take turns helping customers choose just the right treasure to take home from among the many one-of-a-kind creations on display.

**Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Chapel**  
Pick a bright day to ascend the "Sailor's Church," portside observation tower. The bronze Mary statue has blessed passing ships since 1893.

**Château Ramezay**  
Museum / Garden  
This palatial residence built by the French Governor of Montréal is adorned with an inviting 18th-century style garden.

**Champ-de-Mars**  
See vestiges of the old French fortifications.

**Place St-Henri**  
Watch your shadow flutter across the limestone facades of this gas-lit street in Old Montréal.

**Pointe-à-Callière: Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History**  
A boldly designed museum of archaeology that reveals layers of Montréal's own settlement along with archaeological finds from other countries.

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**Explore the town on two wheels:** BIXI, an economical public bike sharing system modeled on Paris, makes it simple for visitors to enjoy Montréal's great cycling facilities. Grab a bike at one of the many stands with just a swipe of your credit card, and then ride away. BIXI is inexpensive for short trips. Montréal is criss-crossed with bike paths, which are filled with riders even in the winter.

**Think Québécois:** Experience the genuine spirit of Québec by seeking out locally owned lodging, restaurants, and shops. The proprietors will introduce you to regional specialties ranging from rich desserts to handmade crafts. Montréal is also a fashion capital, so the souvenir you bring home could be haute couture instead of a maple leaf sweatshirt.

**Don't be shy about talking to locals:** Montréalers are not offended at being asked questions, even if you don't know French. Almost everyone speaks serviceable English, but be appreciative of people's willingness to speak to you in what for them is a foreign tongue. A good opening approach is, "Bonjour, I am from Indiana and unfortunately do not speak French."

**Delve into Montréal's diversity:** The city boasts more than 80 ethnic groups—ranging from Haitian and Rwandan to Greek and Chinese. Indeed, more than 20% of the population speaks a third language besides French and English. You can travel the globe inside the city limits watching soccer matches in Little Italy cafes, donning a mask for the Caribbean carnival parade, or learning a Scottish or African dance.

**Enjoy the city for all seasons:** Montréal remains lively throughout the calendar. Average temperatures vary from 22°C (72°F) in the summer to minus 9°C (16°F) in January. But Montréalers don't hibernate. The streets are bustling, even on freezing days. Study fashion-conscious locals for tips on how to dress sensibly and comfortably for cold weather.

**Relax like a native:** Folks here admirably continue Old World traditions of public life, always taking time to relax in neighbourhood pubs, brasseries, bistros, and cafes. Enjoy a rare vacation from hustle-and-bustle by joining them for an hour or two.

**Make the scene:** Montréalers are understandably proud of their cultural accomplishments, so join the lively social scene. From art galleries to rock clubs, the opens to the circus, you'll find a wealth of entertainment to meet all tastes. Get the big picture about what's happening by going online at [www.info.lavie.com](http://www.info.lavie.com) or visiting La Vitrine, a one-stop information center at buy tickets at reduced prices and find out about free shows.

**Montreal**  
First City in the World to Sign The National Geographic Center for Sustainable Destinations's Geotourism Charter

[www.geotourism.com](http://www.geotourism.com)

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

**How This Mapguide Was Made**  
The people of Montréal helped build this Mapguide by nominating the places and telling the stories of this city. A diverse alliance, the Montréal Geotourism Council, has formed to engage visitors and residents' strategies that sustain and enhance the special qualities of this city.