

Montreal 2010 . . . "An International Experience"



Montréal - A City of Diversity

Montréal is home to 3.5 million people and 1,000 parks, with almost one tree for every two people. It is situated on the same latitude as Venice, Italy. The average temperature in late June is about 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Montréal is the second-largest "francophone" city (French speaking) in the world, and the fashion capital of Canada.

Montréal is an eclectic city that engages the senses and inspires a spirit of *joie de vivre*. You don't visit Montréal so much as you experience Montréal.

Culture

Over 80 ethnic groups are represented in metropolitan Montréal, including large Chinese, Greek, Haitian, Irish and Italian communities. Within the city are many "quarters" (Chinatown, Latin Quarter, Italian Quarter, French Quarter, etc.) where you will find a concentration of shops, restaurants and hotels. All of these ethnic quarters are located in the downtown area and are within easy walking distance from all downtown hotels.

Known as the City of Festivals, Montréal can boast more festivals than weeks in the year, including dozens of ethnic celebrations. Annual summer events include the Festival des Films du Monde and the Festival International de Jazz.

Nightlife

Montréal's active nightlife ranges from quiet microbreweries to happening music clubs. Clubs are typically open until 3 in the morning, but many never close. Nightlife hotspots include the lively rue Crescent in the center of downtown, the hip rue St. Denis in the Latin Quarter and the chic Bohemian section of Plateau Mont-Royal.

Restaurants

There are more than 5,000 restaurants in Montréal, serving an impressive variety of French, Quebec, and ethnic cuisines. Nearly every city block has something new and exciting to dish up. Sidewalk cafes abound while the Main, as locals call Boulevard St. Laurent, teems with trendy bistros.

Chinatown

Flanked by ceremonial gates, Chinatown offers a delightful mix of sights and scents. The district features a pedestrian mall along rue de la Gauchetière Ouest to guide you through the many restaurants, shops, knickknack stalls, and tea parlors.

Île Ste-Hélène

Near the waterfront of the Old Port, this small island is home to the Biosphère, which is dedicated to environmental education and housed in a spherical geometric dome designed by Buckminster Fuller. Nearby are LaRonde amusement park and the Casino de Montréal.

The Underground City

A veritable Labyrinth with 20 miles of pedestrian walkways, Montréal's underground city offers 1,700 shops to explore along with some 200 restaurants and 40 movie theaters. Accessible from the Palais des congrès, (the primary convention venue) it also links 10 metro stations in central Montréal.

Vieux-Montréal

The Old City is home to impressive neoclassical architecture, historic churches, and a plethora of art galleries along charming cobblestone streets. Best explored on foot, the area features Basilique Notre-Dame and the café-lined Place Jacques-Cartier. In the evenings, you can even go on a guided ghost walk.

This is just a brief overview of the many aspects of Montréal. To experience all of it you will need to come to Montréal in June 20-23 for the 101st Rotary International Convention. Remember to register early for the best discount and get your hotel reserved as soon as possible. Here are the links for registration and housing on the RI web site and for the Host Organizing Committee web site where you can purchase event tickets. In order to register for the Convention, you'll need to use Member Access on the RI site. If you're not yet signed up for that, you can take care of it before you register. .

Register: <http://www.rotary.org>

Host Events: <http://www.rotary2010.com>

Next Month: A Family Friendly Convention