

A Walking Weekend

Get to know Montréal by exploring it on foot

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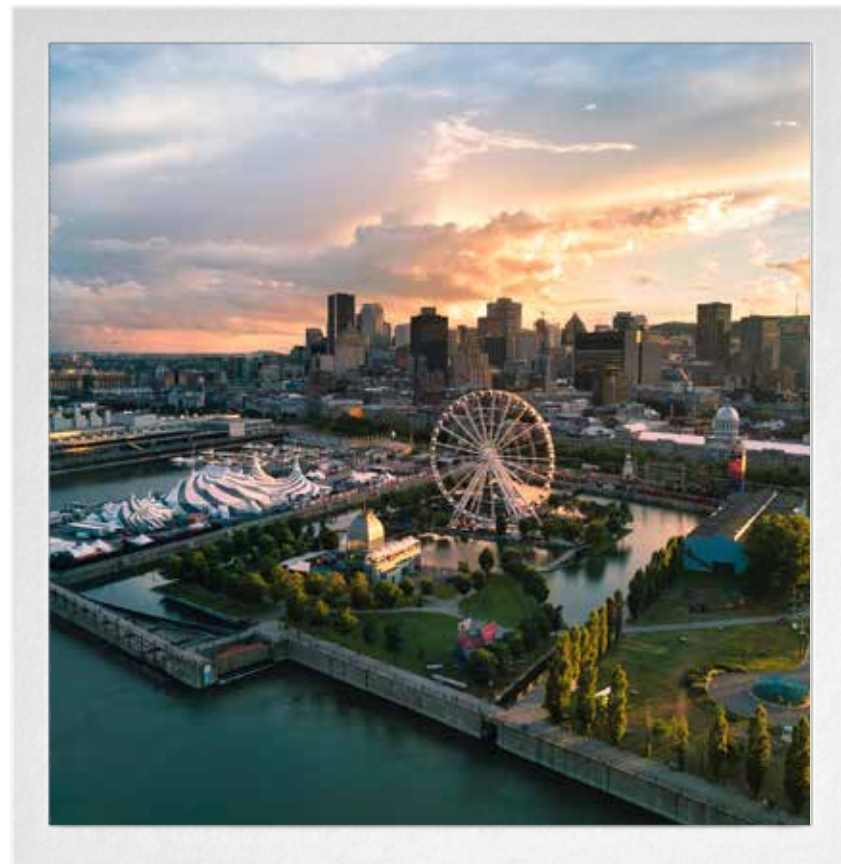
SOAR

The first order of business: getting to Montréal there. Porter Airlines, which now has daily direct flights between Vancouver and YUL, is known for having no middle seats and offering free, fast Wi-Fi, premium snacks, wine and beer. For an even comfier experience choose Porter-Reserve, which includes front-of-cabin seating with extra legroom, two checked bags, meals and cocktails. The alcohol is served in glassware, a throwback to a more genteel era of flying, and the flight attendants wear chic uniforms with pillbox hats. Flyporter.com/en-ca



STAY

Humaniti Hotel Montréal, Autograph Collection is the ideal home base for a weekend of wandering. The luxury hotel features bold décor and large guest rooms flooded with natural light. Work up a sweat in the 24-7 fitness centre, then cool off in the outdoor rooftop pool (summertime only). Enjoy local cuisine and creative cocktails at H3 Restaurant and Lounge, and treat yourself to a massage, facial, manicure and more at Spa Humaniti. Humanitihotel.com



SEE & DO

Spade & Palacio's "non-touristy tours" includes a three-hour Beyond the Basilica walking tour to explore the ornate Notre-Dame Basilica; amble through some of the underground city, including the huge Lipstick Forest art installation, and visit Chinatown, Esplanade Tranquille, Saint-Laurent Boulevard and the former red-light district. To see the basilica in a different way, the Aura Experience blends orchestral music with a dynamic light show on the interior architecture of the church.

Inside Palais des congrès de Montréal, Root for Nature, a collab between Oasis Immersive Studios and National Geographic, spotlights nature's grandeur in wall-sized videos of bumblebees, lions, whales and everything in-between. It's just one of many attractions included in Passeport MTL, which helps visitors save money while exploring.

Finally, every Barbie fan needs to make a pilgrimage to the free Barbie Expo in Les Cours Mont-Royal, where more than 1,000 dolls are on display. The most glam are dressed in outfits by big names—Oscar de la Renta, Vera Wang, Christian Dior, Giorgio Armani, Christian Louboutin—while others are based on celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, Lucille Ball, Farrah Fawcett and Audrey Hepburn. The Elvis and Priscilla dolls are kitted out in their wedding finery, as are the William and Kate ones. Pose for a snapshot in the human-sized Barbie box before you leave. Mtl.org/en/passeport-mtl

Keep Summer From "Sipping" Away



Don't let go of Euro girl summer just yet: these inspired cocktails will help keep the trans-Atlantic vibes going through September

Mediterranean Mojito

10 MINT LEAVES
1/2 LEMON
2 TSP HONEY
1/2 CUP SODA WATER
1 1/2 OZ FLOR DE CAÑA
12 YEAR OLD CENTENARIO
1 SPRIG ROSEMARY
ICE CUBES

Muddle mint and lemon, add honey, muddle again until mixed. Fill glass with ice. Pour rum over ice, top with soda water and stir. Garnish with mint, lemon and rosemary for an extra Mediterranean flair.

Spanish Spritz

3 OZ MIONETTO PRO-SECCO TREVISO BRUT
2 OZ SPANISH VERMOUTH
1 OZ SODA WATER
ICE CUBES
ORANGE SLICE
GREEN OLIVES

Fill wine glass with ice, pour in vermouth, prosecco and soda water and stir. Garnish with orange and two olives on a cocktail pick for a Spanish touch.

Turkish Espresso Martini

1 OZ WHITE CLAW PREMIUM VODKA
1 OZ COFFEE LIQUEUR
1 OZ BREWED, COOLED TURKISH COFFEE
1/2 OZ SIMPLE SYRUP
PINCH CARDAMOM
ICE CUBES
COFFEE BEANS

Fill cocktail shaker with ice. Add vodka, liqueur, coffee, simple syrup. Add ground cardamom and shake vigorously for 15-20 seconds. Strain into chilled martini glass, garnish with coffee beans.

Italian Negroni

1 OZ GIN
1 OZ CAMPARI
1 OZ AMARO MONTENEGRO
ICE CUBES
ORANGE TWIST

Fill mixing glass or cocktail shaker with ice. Pour in gin, Campari and Amaro Montenegro. Stir for 20-30 seconds, strain into chilled rocks glass filled with ice. Garnish with an orange twist.

British Gin Martini

2 1/2 OZ DILLON'S GIN DRY 7
1/2 OZ DRY VERMOUTH
ICE CUBES
LEMON TWIST OR GREEN OLIVE

Chill a martini glass by filling it with ice water. Fill a separate glass or cocktail shaker with ice. Pour in gin and vermouth, stir for 30 seconds. Discard ice water from the martini glass and strain gin and vermouth mixture in. Garnish and cheers!



SAVOUR & SIP

It's futile trying to resist the trifecta of Montréal cuisine—bagels, poutine, smoked meat—that pops up on menus throughout the city. Locals like to argue over which bagels are better, Fairmount or St-Viateur, and where to find the perfect combo of French fries, gravy and cheese curds, but the truth is it's hard to go wrong in this foodie paradise. For smoked meat sandwiches, Schwartz's Deli has been a fave for almost a century. Order a signature sando on rye with yellow mustard, and when offered the choice of lean, medium or fat smoked meat, always choose medium (trust us). Wash it all down with a black cherry cola (again, trust us). In 2012 Céline Dion became part-owner of

Schwartz's, and even makes occasional appearances in the deli.

Paparmene takes the stuffiness out of high tea with its sassy décor and unfussy service. Crew Collective & Café serves hot drinks, sandwiches and pastries in a stately old building that was once the Royal Bank of Canada. The pastries at cosy Café Nocturne tend to sell out quickly. Steaks are the stars at Le Butterfly, a modern French bistro where it's crucial (but difficult) to save room for dessert. Find lobster done every way you can imagine—grilled, in ravioli, on risotto and (of course) in a roll—at Pincette Lobster Bar. Hanging from the ceiling are assorted lobster traps transformed into light fixtures.

SPA

Try to resist singing "I'm on a Boat" while aboard Bota Bota, spa-sur-l'eau, especially since this unique floating spa demands silence. Moored at the Old Port, it offers a circuit of heat (saunas, steam baths, hot tubs), cold (showers, plunge baths) and relaxation (deck chairs, hammocks, guided meditations). Massages, wraps, and facials are also available. Botabota.ca/en

SHOP

A few places worth browsing: Boutique Eva B may look like a condemned building, but inside two crowded floors of thrift-store treasures await and the items hanging from the ceiling are wonderfully bizarre. Kemmi sells handcrafted jewelry designed in Montréal and L'empreinte coopérative has gifts handmade by Quebec designers. Marché Bonsecours is touristy, but has a few quirky gems, like MTL Décor, along with every maple syrup souvenir you could possibly dream of.