

An aerial photograph of Montreal, Canada, showing Mount Royal Park in the foreground with trees in autumn colors. The city skyline is visible in the middle ground, and the St. Lawrence River and distant mountains are in the background under a blue sky with clouds.

ALL ABOUT MONTRÉAL

Facts and figures about the city

December 2024

**TOURISME /
MONTREAL**

Introduction

Tourisme Montréal has been producing an exhaustive compilation of interesting facts and figures about the city since 1998. Updated biannually by the content team, this document will help you get to know Montréal and assist you in creating documents about the city based on reliable information.

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Geography and physical characteristics

Geography¹

- Montréal is located at 73° west longitude and 45° north latitude, the same latitude as Venice, Geneva, Lyon and Milan.
- The island of Montréal has a total surface area of 500 km² (193 sq. mi).
- As the crow flies, the island of Montréal is 50 km (31 mi) long and 16 km (10mi) wide.
- Montréal's altitude is 17 m (55 ft) above sea level.
- The total length of the shoreline of the island of Montréal is 267 km (165 mi).
- The territory of the Montréal agglomeration has 75 islands, while the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is made up of more than 380 islands.

Climate²

- The average annual rainfall in Montréal is 764 mm (30 in).
- Snowfall in Montréal averages 216 cm (85 in) each year.
- Montréal's heaviest snowstorm occurred on March 4, 1971, when 43.2 cm (16 in) of snow fell on the city.
- A total of 383.3 cm (150 in) of snow, the heaviest snowfall ever recorded, blanketed Montréal during the winter of 1970-1971.
- With a mere 93.1 cm (36 in) of snow, the winter of 1979-1980 set the record for the least amount of snow to fall in an entire season.
- January 15, 1957, was the coldest day ever recorded in Montréal when the temperature dipped to -37.8°C (-36°F).
- With the mercury soaring to 37.6°C (100°F), August 1, 1975, was the hottest day ever recorded in Montréal.
- Between January 5 and 9, 1998, Montréal experienced the worst ice storm in its history when 100 mm (3.9 in) of freezing rain fell on the city. Nearly 3.5 million people, or half

the province of Québec, were left without electricity in some cases for up to 33 days. Over \$1.1B in insurance claims were filed following the storm.

- Average monthly temperatures are as follows³:

January	-10.2°C	13.6°F
February	-8.4°C	16.9°F
March	-2.3°C	27.9°F
April	5.7°C	42.3°F
May	13.4°C	56.1°F
June	18.2°C	64.8°F
July	20.9°C	79.6°F
August	19.6°C	67.3°F
September	14.6°C	58.3°F
October	8.1°C	46.6°F
November	1.6°C	34.9°F
December	-6.3°C	20.7°F

Neighbourhoods and boroughs

- The City of Montréal is comprised of 19 boroughs⁴:
 - Ahuntsic-Cartierville
 - Anjou
 - Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
 - Lachine
 - LaSalle
 - Le Plateau Mont-Royal
 - Le Sud-Ouest
 - L'Île-Bizard–Sainte-Geneviève
 - Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve
 - Montréal-Nord
 - Outremont
 - Pierrefonds-Roxboro
 - Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles
 - Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie
 - Saint-Laurent
 - Saint-Léonard
 - Verdun

- Ville-Marie
 - Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension
- On June 20, 2004, a referendum was held on the mergers and demergers of the different cities that make up Montréal. On January 1, 2006, as prescribed by the Act respecting the consultation of citizens with respect to the territorial reorganization of certain municipalities (adopted by the National Assembly on December 18, 2003) and subsequent to the referendums of June 2004, 15 former suburbs on the island of Montréal were reconstituted⁵.
 - The island of Montréal (Montréal agglomeration) is made up of the city of Montréal and these 15 re-merged municipalities⁶:
 - Baie-D’Urfé
 - Beaconsfield
 - Côte-Saint-Luc
 - Dollard-des-Ormeaux
 - Dorval
 - Hampstead
 - Kirkland
 - L’Île-Dorval
 - Montréal-Est
 - Montréal-Ouest
 - Mont-Royal
 - Pointe-Claire
 - Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
 - Senneville
 - Westmount
 - The main tourist districts of the island of Montréal are⁷:
 - Downtown
 - Old Montréal/Old Port
 - Parc Jean-Drapeau
 - Neighbourhoods near the canal
 - Mount Royal and Outremont
 - Plateau Mont-Royal and Mile-End
 - Hochelaga-Maisonneuve
 - Little Italy and Villeray
 - The Village
 - Pôle des Rapides
 - West Island
 - East and north of Montréal

- Montréal is home to many culturally diverse neighbourhoods, including:
 - Chinatown (between Saint-Urbain and Saint-Laurent Streets, near the Place-d'Armes metro)
 - Little Italy (between Saint-Laurent and Saint-Denis Streets near the Beaubien metro)
 - Petit Maghreb (located on Jean-Talon Street, near the Saint-Michel metro)
 - Quartier Latin (on Saint-Denis near the Berri UQAM metro)
 - Little Portugal (between Saint-Urbain Street and Saint-Laurent Boulevard, near Parc Jeanne-Mance)
- Time Out named Wellington Street in Verdun as the world's coolest street in 2022. A pedestrian-only strip (in summer), outdoor patios, plentiful eateries, bars, bike paths, family-friendly fun and metro access numbered among its many cool factors⁸.

City icons and architecture

- Montréal's architecture is a juxtaposition of old and new. The legacy of events such as the 1967 World Exhibition and the 1976 Summer Olympics are integral to its urban landscape. Thanks to its role as Canada's industrial and financial centre in the 19th century, the city boasts an impressive architectural heritage today.
- The most common building materials used for Montréal houses are grey stone and red brick, which were formed thousands of years ago when the entire region lay beneath the Champlain Sea. At the time, red clay and grey limestone made up this ancient seabed⁹.
- The outer staircases that grace many Montréal homes are one of the city's distinctive features. During the mid-19th century, people began migrating from the country to the city, which heralded the construction of two- and three-storey dwellings. Fearful that the changing demographics were also changing the face of the city, municipal councillors introduced regulations that forced homeowners to conserve a small green space in front of their homes. This, in turn, sparked the idea to build outdoor staircases; that way, homeowners did not have to heat common indoor spaces. Staircases designed like this first appeared in the city's more well-to-do neighbourhoods, where homes were set back from the street. The trend caught on and soon duplexes and triplexes with outer staircases of all different shapes and sizes—L- and S-shaped, straight, single and double—started popping up. In the 1940s, outdoor staircases were banned due to pressure from the city's elite, who were upset by this appalling fad. The ban was lifted in 1994 when, in the interests of preserving architectural harmony, outer staircases were allowed to be built on streets where the structures already existed¹⁰.
- An architectural element unique to Montréal is the wide use of grey limestone that was once quarried on the island. The stone, which is now known as "Montréal greystone" lends the city its architectural identity. Today, the only place where this stone can be

found in its natural state is in the Jean-Talon metro station, underground. Interestingly, many Montréal parks, including Laurier, Père-Marquette and Maisonneuve were once quarries where grey limestone was excavated¹¹.

- There are more than 80 skyscrapers over 100 m (328 ft) tall in the city¹².
- The highest building in Montréal is the 1000 De la Gauchetière. Constructed in 1992, it is 205 m (672 ft) tall and has 51 floors¹³.
- Montréal is home to the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), founded in 1979 by Phyllis Lambert. Its mission is to promote public awareness about the role architecture plays in society, as well as to encourage scholarly architectural research and foster innovative design practices¹⁴.
- In 2022, Montréal inaugurated The Ring, a 23,000-kg (50,706 lbs), 30-m-wide (98 ft) steel circle suspended above the staircase to the Esplanade Place Ville-Marie at the heart of downtown. This stunning symbolic structure represents the connection between Montréal's residents and visitors as well as its past, present and future, while its illumination mirrors that of the Mount Royal Cross. It was designed by award-winning landscape artists Claude Cormier + Associés, the team behind *18 Shades of Gay* in the Village, the Clock Tower Beach in the Old Port and the *Lipstick Forest* at the Palais des congrès¹⁵.
- In 2024, The Ring has been recognized as the winner of the National Urban Design Awards (NUDA), in the Urban Fragments category¹⁶. The Jury emphasized that "The Ring is an iconic work of urban art that strikes a balance between audacity, elegance, efficiency, and control while magnifying the experience of the city."
- Another world-class iconic landmark, Habitat 67, an avant-garde architectural complex designed by Moshe Safdie for Expo 67 was designated a historical landmark, the first modern building to be recognized as such by the Québec government¹⁷. A pioneer of its time for using the technology of prefabricated construction, this "jumble" of 158 apartment blocks has since become an integral part of the Montréal skyline¹⁸.
- Building skyscrapers taller than Mount Royal on the island of Montréal is prohibited. The law is part of the city's heritage conservation strategy¹⁹.

Access and transportation

A. Access

- Montréal is 63 km (39 mi) from the U.S. border²⁰.
- The closest border crossings to the states of New York and Vermont are a one-hour drive from downtown Montréal²¹.

- Covey Hill / Cannon's Corner, NY
 - Hemmingford / Mooers, NY
 - St-Bernard-de-Lacolle / Champlain, NY
 - Lacolle Rte 221 / Overton Corners, NY
 - Lacolle Rte 223 / Rouses Point, NY
 - Noyan / Alburgh, VT
- The cities of Toronto, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington are less than two hours away by plane²².
 - By car, Montréal is two hours from Ottawa, two and a half hours from Québec City and five hours from Toronto²³.

B. Air transportation

- Montréal is served by two airports:
 - The Montréal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL), just 25 minutes from downtown Montréal, handles all regular flights.
 - The Montréal–Mirabel International Airport is 55 km northwest of Montréal and handles cargo carriers. As of November 2004, passenger flights no longer fly into Montréal–Mirabel International Airport. All flights have been transferred to YUL Montréal–Trudeau. Mirabel remains open to cargo traffic and aircraft construction activity.
- In 2023, the YUL Montréal-Trudeau Airport welcomed 21.2 million passengers²⁴.
- Destinations served as of 2024: out of a total of 157 direct destinations, there were 38 domestic destinations, 32 U.S. destinations and 87 international destinations²⁵.
- 6 new destinations have been added in 2024: Seoul, Marrakech, Stockholm, Austin, St. Louis, and Tulum²⁶.
- Aéroports de Montréal has 36 regular passenger carriers²⁷.
- After expansion work, the Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) will provide fast and direct service between YUL Montréal-Trudeau Airport and downtown Montréal. From Central Station, the trip should take less than 30 minutes²⁸.
- Since 2000, Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) has been certified by ISO 14001 for its environmental management system (EMS). In 2016, the ADM was one of the very first companies to have its EMS reaccredited to meet the new ISO 14001 standard (2015)²⁹.

- YUL Montréal-Trudeau was the first Canadian airport certified under the Airport Carbon Accreditation in 2014, demonstrating its commitment to reducing its GHG emissions. In 2016, the ADM achieved the Optimization level, becoming the 4th airport in North America to reach this level. In 2022, it met all requirements to renew the Optimization level of the Airport Carbon Accreditation³⁰.
- The Aéroports de Montréal renewed its BOMA BEST Gold certification (2021-2024) for the YUL Montréal-Trudeau terminal, attesting to the good energy and environmental performance of the building³¹.
- The Montréal-Trudeau Airport is ranked among the top 5 airports in North America, according to Skytrax's *World's top 100 airports 2023*³². It is also among the cleanest airports in North America³³ and was recognized as the airport with the best staff in North America³⁴, according to the 2023 Skytrax rankings.

C. Marine transportation

- The Port of Montréal is 1,600 km (994 mi) from the Atlantic Ocean and has been open year-round since January 4, 1964³⁵.
- Each year, the Port of Montréal welcomes tens of thousands of cruise ship passengers at its Iberville marine terminal.
- In 2023, Montréal welcomed more than 67,000 passengers and crew members travelling on 23 ships from 15 different cruise companies.³⁶ The occupancy rate of the ships was 90%³⁷.
- In 2017, for Montréal's 375th and Canada's 150th anniversaries, construction began to modernize the cruise terminal. The Alexandra Pier and the Iberville Cruise Terminals were revamped and now feature new facilities and modern infrastructures to meet the operational needs of cruise lines and improve the cruise passenger experience. A green rooftop terrace, public spaces as well as a port interpretation centre were among the many changes³⁸.
- The Port of Montréal is the second largest container port in Canada. Each year, nearly 34 million metric tonnes of goods are handled Montréal's port, which translates into more than \$2.6B of added value for the Canadian economy³⁹.
- The Port of Montréal in numbers⁴⁰:
 - Over 2,000 ships per year
 - Up to 2,500 trucks a day loading or unloading cargo

- More than 60 to 80 trains a week
- The Port of Montréal infrastructures include⁴¹:
 - 4 container terminals
 - 3 dry bulk terminals
 - 5 non-containerized cargo terminals
 - 6 liquid cargo terminals
 - 1 grain terminal
 - 1 grain containerization facility
 - 3 cruise terminals: the Iberville Cruise Terminal
 - 1 railway connecting it to CN and CP
- Every year, a Gold-Headed Cane is presented to the captain of the first ocean liner of the year to reach port without a stopover. The tradition dates back to sometime around 1840. Until approximately 1880, the prize offered was a top hat⁴².

D. Urban transportation

- An overview of public transit⁴³:
 - Public transit has changed a great deal since the first tram cars were pulled by horses along Notre-Dame Street. Metro construction began in 1962 and, four years later, in 1967, the first metro car rolled along the tracks. Since then, lines have been added and extended, with the most recent addition being three new stations on the orange line in 2007 : Cartier, De La Concorde and Montmorency.
 - A project to extend the Blue Line is underway and includes the addition of 5 new stations to the east of the city, from the Saint-Michel station to the Anjou borough⁴⁴.
 - The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) services the island of Montréal. The city's public transportation system consists of five commuter train lines, four metro lines with 68 stations and 2,006 buses running on 224 routes, including 739 hybrid and 41 electric buses.
 - In June 2017, when the Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT) was abolished, the Réseau de transport métropolitain (RTM)—renamed “exo” one year later—took over the reins. The agency looks after regular bus transit and specialized transit as well as train operations for the north and south rings. It covers a territory that includes 82 municipalities of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM), the Kahnawake First Nations reserve and the city of Saint-Jérôme. Exo operates⁴⁵:

- 232 bus lines, 74 shared taxi lines and 7 terminals
- 5 train lines, 52 train stations, 225 km (140 mi) of railway and 206 cars
- 61 park-and-ride lots that include 173 carsharing spots 38 electric charging stations
- 3,047 places for bikes and 4 bike shelters
- The commuter train lines link the municipalities located at the west, northwest and southwest of the island of Montréal to the city's downtown. They are: Deux-Montagnes, Vaudreuil-Hudson, Blainville-St-Jérôme, Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Candiac and Mascouche. They are completely integrated with Société de transport de Montréal (STM)'s metro and bus network.

The Réseau express métropolitain⁴⁶

- The Réseau express métropolitain (REM) is a new automated light rail network that spans the greater Montréal area. In numbers, the REM is:
 - 26 universally accessible stations
 - 67 km (41 mi) of tracks across the greater Montreal area (by comparison, the current metro network has 71 km (44 mi) of tracks)
 - 20-hour-a-day services
 - 3 connections to the metro (Bonaventure, McGill and Édouard-Montpetit)
 - a 20-minute ride from downtown to the airport
 - a 100% electric and automated light rail system
 - 34,000 jobs created in Québec during its construction
- On July 31, 2023, the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) opened five stations and welcomed its first passengers on board⁴⁷.

The Montréal taxi industry⁴⁸

- Number of taxi license owners in Montréal as of October 9, 2020: 6,985. More than 1,000 of the taxis in Montréal are easily identified by the BONJOUR brand image.
- Cost of a taxi ride in 2024⁴⁹:
 - Cost at the start of a ride: \$4.10 (day), \$4.70 (night – between 11pm and 5 am)

- Taximeter rate: \$2.05/kilometre (day), \$2.35/kilometre (night – between 11pm and 5 am)
- Cost for waiting: \$0.77/minute (day), \$0.89/minute (night – between 11pm and 5 am)
- Minimum charge: \$21.65 (day), \$24.75 (night – between 11pm and 5 am)
- For a trip between the airport and downtown Montréal, fares are fixed and depend on the time of day⁵⁰ :
 - Between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m.: \$49.45
 - Between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.: \$56.70

E. Active transportation

Walking

- According to Walk Score, Montréal is Canada's 2nd most walkable city, with a score of 65/100. Walk Score also rated Outremont, the Plateau Mont-Royal and Ville-Marie the best Montréal neighbourhoods to explore on foot⁵¹.
- Montréal has one permanent pedestrian street: Prince Arthur Street. In summer, several streets are also pedestrian only, including⁵²:

- Mont-Royal Avenue – from Saint Laurent Boulevard to Fullum Street
- Wellington Street – from 6e Avenue to Régina Street
- Sainte-Catherine Street East – from Saint Hubert Street to Papineau Avenue
- Ontario Street East – from Pie-IX Boulevard to Darling Street
- Duluth Avenue East – from Saint Laurent Boulevard to Saint-Hubert Street
- Saint-Denis Street – from Sherbooke Street to De Maisonneuve Boulevard as well as Emery Street
- Sainte-Catherine Street West – from Saint-Laurent Boulevard to de Bleury Street – as well as Clark Street – from de Montigny Street to the loading dock of the Maison du développement durable (Centre for Sustainable Development)
- Places du Marché-du-Nord (Jean Talon Market) – from Casgrain Avenue to Henri-Julien Avenue
- Bernard Avenue – from Wiseman Avenue to Bloomfield Avenue
- De Castelnau Street East – from Saint-Denis Street to De Gaspé Avenue

Biking

- The total length of Montréal's cycling network is 1 065 km (661 mi). The city continues to introduce design initiatives to improve urban cycling: some streets now have priority signals to allow cyclists to get around more quickly⁵³.

- In 2022, Montréal was named best city in North America for cyclists by Luko. This ranking was achieved because of the city's accessibility to cyclists, including access to jobs and schools, essential services, neighbourhoods, and shopping centres.⁵⁴
- In 2023, CNN Travel also named Montréal one of the top cities to explore while riding a bike.⁵⁵
- The Go Bike Festival is a week-long celebration of biking that includes the Défi métropolitain, the Tour la Nuit, the Tour de l'Île and Bike to Work Day. About 20,000 cyclists hit the streets of Montréal for the 2024 Tour de l'Île⁵⁶.

BIXI⁵⁷

- Since May 2009, Montréal has offered a self-serve bike rental service called BIXI. This service allows users to borrow a bike from one station, ride where they choose and then drop it off at any other station in the network. In 2024, Montréal had more than 900 stations and 11,000 bikes (including 2,600 electric BIXIs) in operation.
- BIXI is a hybrid word, a contraction of the words bicycle and taxi.
- Each BIXI station is equipped with docking points to lock the bikes and a transactional meter. To access a bike, users simply insert a subscription key (BIXI-key), an access code or a credit or debit card into the meter. BIXI stations run on solar energy and include information and advertising panels.
- BIXI has expanded to more than 10 cities around the world, including New York, London, Melbourne, Boston and Toronto.
- BIXI has received multiple awards and distinctions. It was ranked 19th in Time magazine's list of top inventions for 2008. In addition, the system was awarded the Gold prize for the best product of 2009 in the "Sustainable Energy and Development" category of the prestigious Edison Best New Products Awards. The bicycle also received the 2010 Good Design® Awards in the Environment Category⁵⁸.
- A pilot project, rolled out for winter 2023-2024, offers users year-round self-service bicycles in 7 of the city's boroughs.⁵⁹ For the 2024-2025 season, the project has been renewed and expanded with an increase in the number of stations, bicycles, and an extension of the service area⁶⁰.

Montréal's Underground Pedestrian Network (RESO)

- Montréal's Underground Pedestrian Network also goes by the name RESO, which is a homophone for "réseau", the word for "network" in French. People also call it the "underground city".

- Montréal's "underground city" first started taking shape when corridors were built under the Place Ville-Marie skyscraper in 1962. An even more spectacular development followed with the construction of the Montréal metro for Expo 67⁶¹.
- It consists of over 33 km (20 mi) of underground passageways in downtown Montréal that allow people to access boutiques, office towers and a wide range of services⁶².
- Today, it is home to over 2,000 businesses and 200 restaurants and connects to 10 hotels and 18 skyscrapers here. And each day, nearly 500,000 people use it!
- Montréal's underground pedestrian network connects⁶³:
 - 63 buildings
 - 43 indoor parking areas
 - 4,385 rooms in 10 hotels
 - 8 metro stations
 - 5 train stations and termini
 - 10 university buildings
 - 33 km (20 mi) of underground corridors
 - 2,000 businesses
 - movie theatres and entertainment venues
 - the Musée d'art contemporain
 - the Bell Centre
 - conference centres and exhibition halls
- The underground pedestrian network can be accessed through 190 different entrances.

Historical facts

Moments in history⁶⁴

Pre-European period

The oldest trace of Indigenous occupation in the area of Old Montréal dates back at least 4,000 years.

Between 1000 and 1535

Several First Nations inhabit the territory.

1535

While exploring the St. Lawrence River, Jacques Cartier discovers an island where cornfields

border a village called Hochelaga. Members of the First Nations lead Cartier to the summit of a mountain that he names “Mont Royal”, the origin of name “Montréal.”

1611

On the island, Champlain clears a tract of land that he names “Place Royale,” site of the present-day Pointe-à-Callière Archaeology and History Complex. It is here that Montréal is founded in 1642.

1642

Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, and Jeanne Mance found Ville-Marie. However, the settlement gradually becomes known as Montréal and nearly 25 years after its founding, the colony begins to prosper as a military and trading centre.

1701

At Pointe-à-Callière, more than 30 Indigenous nations sign a peace treaty — The Great Peace of Montréal — with the governor of New France, putting an end to the conflicts between the French and the Indigenous Peoples.

1760

War rages on the continent and Montréal falls into the hands of the British. New France, with 60,000 colonists, is officially ceded to Great Britain.

1840 to 1930

Canada’s anglophone upper class, representing 70% of the country’s wealth at the time, moves into downtown’s Golden Square Mile, establishing cultural institutions, elegant stores, mansions and monuments that stretch from McGill University to west of the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts.

1867

Canada becomes a nation with the Dominion of Canada, uniting the British North American colonies and the Province of Canada (Ontario and Québec) through the Confederation Declaration in Charlottetown on July 1, 1867, what is now celebrated as Canada Day.

1930s

During the Great Depression, manufacturing output is halved and over a quarter of workers lose their jobs. Re-elected in 1930, Mayor Camillien Houde offers financial assistance to the unemployed and launches major public works, including the Montréal Botanical Garden, chalets in Mount Royal Park and Parc La Fontaine, viaducts and other infrastructure projects.

1945

The French-speaking community of Montréal starts to make its mark in the arts, sciences and business in a movement that will culminate in the Quiet Revolution, a transformation of Québec society throughout the 1960s. Montréal opens to the world.

1967

From April 27 to October 29, the world came to Montréal for Expo 67, the Universal and International Exhibition, which was the highlight of Canada’s centennial celebrations in 1967. Expo 67 was considered the most successful World’s Fair of the 20th Century, with over 50 million attendees and 62 countries participating.

1976

Montréal hosts the XXI Olympiad from July 17 to August 1, with over 6,000 athletes from 92 nations. Montréal was the first, and remains the only, Canadian city to have ever hosted the Summer Olympics.

1980s

Montréal's festival scene sees explosive growth with the founding of the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, Just For Laughs and Les FrancoFolies.

1992

Montréal celebrates the 350th anniversary of its founding with festivities that run from May until October, leaving legacies such as the Pointe-à-Callière Archaeology and History Complex and the Montréal Biodôme.

2006

Montréal is officially designated a UNESCO City of Design, joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

2017 and beyond

In 2017, Montréal celebrates its 375th anniversary, leaving legacies like a new flag for the city, and the illuminated Jacques Cartier Bridge. In the following years, projects like the redesign of Parc Jean-Drapeau and the makeover of Sainte-Catherine Street come to fruition. In 2022, after the uncertain times caused by the pandemic, tourism makes a big comeback in Montréal. The city is thrilled to regain its usual liveliness and offer visitors from everywhere a chance to discover its festivals and events, as well as its new sustainable initiatives.

Founding peoples⁶⁵**The French**

Montréal was founded in 1642 by the French. In the 19th century, French Canadians in search of work poured into the city from rural areas. By 1865, Francophones made up most of the city's population.

The English

Montréal surrendered to British forces in 1760 during the Seven Years' War. Residents of British origin were the majority in the city around 1831, due to large-scale immigration.

The Scottish

Street names in the city's Golden Square Mile are a veritable who's-who of Scottish families responsible for the city's boom years, from 1840 to 1930.

The Irish

Montréal's St. Patrick's Day parade is the oldest in Canada and — technically — the oldest continuously held in North America (every March since 1824).

The origin of the name “Montreal”

The name "Montreal" originates from Mount Royal, a symbolic hill overlooking the city. In 1535, the French explorer Jacques Cartier, while exploring the St. Lawrence River, discovered a village called Hochelaga on an island. The inhabitants of Hochelaga guided Cartier to the summit of a mountain which he named "mont Royal" in honor of King Francis I of France. Over time, this name evolved to become "Montreal," first designating the mountain, then the island, and finally the city as we know it today.

Coat of arms and motto

The coat of arms of the City of Montréal was designed by Jacques Viger, the city's first mayor, and adopted in 1833⁶⁶.

This first version incorporated Montréal's motto "Concordia Salus" ("salvation through harmony", in reference to the good relationship between the various founding peoples of Montréal) as well as the symbols of these peoples⁶⁷:

- a beaver, representing the French people (later replaced by the fleur-de-lis)
- the red rose of Lancaster, representing the English (and Welsh) people
- the purple thistle, representing the Scottish people
- the green shamrock, representing the Irish people

In 1938, the fleur-de-lys replaced the beaver as the symbol of the French people⁶⁸.

The official flag of the City of Montréal was created in 1939. It incorporates the symbols of the four founding peoples, as well as a red cross in reference to the city's Christian origins⁶⁹.

In 2017, the flag was modified with the addition of a new coat of arms: the white pine, which illustrates the historical presence of Indigenous peoples in Montréal and recognizes them as one of the city's five founding peoples⁷⁰.

Demographics

Population⁷¹

- In 2021, the population of the city of Montréal was 1,762,949, a 3.4% increase over the 2016 census⁷².

- The population of the Montréal agglomeration (island) in 2021 was 2,004,265 inhabitants, an increase of 3.2% over the 2016 census⁷³.
- There were 20,719 births recorded for the Montréal agglomeration in 2019⁷⁴.
- According to the 2021 census, women make up 51% and men make up 49% of Montréal's population⁷⁵.
- 25- to 44-year-olds represent 30% of Montréal's population, while 45- to 64-year-olds represent 24.5% of the city's population⁷⁶.

Language⁷⁷

- Montréal is the only francophone metropolis in North America.
- Montréal is one of the rare bilingual cities in the world. Its two official languages are French and English.
- Montréal has the largest bilingual and trilingual workforce in Canada.
- According to the 2021 census, 59% of Montréal's CMA population spoke French and English, 24% spoke only French and 13% named English as their mother tongue.
- In all, close to 80 languages are spoken in the Montréal region. According to the 2021 census, the most common languages were, in order (after French and English): Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Chinese and Creole.

Cultural diversity⁷⁸

- The 2021 census data revealed that 60% of Montrealers were non-immigrants, 33% were immigrants and 7% were non-permanent residents. In other words, just over one in three Montrealers is an immigrant, a true testament to the city's cosmopolitan character⁷⁹.
- The five main countries of birth of recent immigrants in the Montréal agglomeration are Haiti, Algeria, France, Morocco and China⁸⁰.
- Catholicism, Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism, in that order, are the most commonly practiced religions in the Montréal area. Christians represent 57%, Muslims represent 8% and Jewish people represent 2% of the population in Montréal's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)⁸¹.

- Visible minorities make up 27% of the population of the island of Montréal. Blacks are the largest visible minority at 28%, with Arabs second at 21%⁸².
- Over 120 ethnic groups are represented in the Metropolitan Montréal area.
- Over 46,000 people in the Montréal agglomeration identify themselves as Indigenous. Of this number, 55% are First Nations, over 35% are Métis and over 2% are Inuit⁸³.
- To better represent our Indigenous communities, the Centre d'histoire de Montréal has published a guide entitled, "*Exploring First Nations and Inuit Cultures*", which invites people to discover places where they can explore Indigenous cultural heritage through thematic museum routes⁸⁴.
- The official flag of the City of Montréal was created in 1939. It incorporates the symbols of the four founding peoples⁸⁵:
 - the blue fleur-de-lis, representing the French
 - the red rose of Lancaster, representing the English (and Welsh)
 - the purple thistle, representing the Scots
 - the green shamrock, representing the Irish
- In 2017, the flag was modified with the addition of a new coat of arms: the white pine, which illustrates the historical presence of Indigenous peoples in Montréal and recognizes them as one of the city's five founding peoples.⁸⁶
- Montréal's very first Saint Patrick's Day Parade was held in 1824. The Montréal St. Patrick's Parade was the longest-running of its kind in Canada – uninterrupted from 1824 until 2019! – until it was forced to cancel during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.⁸⁷
- According to the 2021 census, an estimated 215,000 Montrealers in the city's CMA are of Irish descent⁸⁸.
- Montréal is made up of many culturally diverse neighbourhoods, including:
 - Chinatown (between Saint-Urbain Street and Saint-Laurent Boulevard, near the Place d'Armes metro)
 - Little Italy (between Saint-Laurent Boulevard and Saint-Denis Street, near the Beaubien metro)
 - Petit Maghreb (stretching along Jean-Talon Street, between Saint-Michel and Pie-IX boulevards, near the Saint-Michel metro)
 - Little Portugal (between Saint-Urbain Street and Saint-Laurent Boulevard, close to Parc Jeanne-Mance).

Montréal's neighbourhoods⁸⁹

Old Montréal and the Old Port

Old Montréal and the Old Port comprise a unique juxtaposition of past, present and future.

Go there for:

- its history and architecture;
- its delightful winding streets;
- its shops and art galleries;
- the daily light show on certain buildings.

In summary:

Old World Europe meets New World North America in this lively, historic, and incredibly romantic neighbourhood.

Must-see sights:

- Notre-Dame de Montréal Basilica
- Place d'Armes
- Place Jacques-Cartier
- Marché Bonsecours market
- Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History
- La Grande Roue de Montréal Ferris Wheel
- Plage de l'Horloge urban beach
- Grand Quay of the Port of Montréal

Downtown

Downtown Montréal is a nexus of energy and daring nestled between river and mountain.

Go there to:

- do business or window shop;
- enjoy a meal or go out for drinks;
- take in one of the many major events for which Montréal is renowned;
- admire the architectural contrasts.

In summary:

It's a bustling and lively area thriving with culture, gastronomy, business and academia; sometimes chic, sometimes casual, and always fun.

Downtown neighbourhoods:

- Quartier international business district
- Chinatown
- Quartier des spectacles entertainment district
- Golden Square Mile
- Latin Quartier

Must-see sights:

- Montréal Museum of Fine Arts
- McCord Stewart Museum
- McGill University
- Place Ville Marie
- The Ring art installation
- Esplanade Tranquille public space

The Village

The Village is one of North America's largest LGBTQ+ neighbourhoods.

Go there for:

- its art installations;
- its clubs, bars and nightclubs;
- its indelible *joie de vivre*.

In summary:

It's an inclusive, open, diverse, festive and cultural neighbourhood where the LGBTQ+ community comes to meet.

Must-see sights:

- Jacques-Cartier Bridge
- Village au Pied-du-Courant Park
- Cabaret Mado drag bar
- Écomusée du fier monde History and Community Museum

Plateau Mont-Royal and Mile End

When we think of Montréal, we think of the Plateau Mont-Royal and Mile End neighbourhoods.

Go there for:

- its lovely residential streets and colourful houses with outdoor spiral staircases;
- its cosmopolitan feel;
- its laid-back vibe;
- its second-hand stores, cafés, nooks and parks.

In summary:

It's a colourful, original, creative, friendly and eco-friendly neighbourhood at the heart of Montréal's artistic scene.

Must-see sights:

- Parc La Fontaine Park
- Square Saint-Louis
- Mont-Royal Avenue, Saint-Denis Street and Saint-Laurent Boulevard
- Bagels and Schwartz's smoked meat shop

Little Italy and Villeray

Little Italy and Villeray make up a neighbourhood where people heartily embrace the typically Montréal attitude of enjoying good food and life to the fullest.

Go there to:

- pick up groceries at the Jean-Talon Market, at Milano's, or in one of the many zero-waste stores;
- experience the festive ambiance that permeates its terrasses and parks;
- jump head-first into the Montréal lifestyle.

In summary:

It's a family-friendly, typical, eco-friendly Montréal neighbourhood, home to a host of gourmet addresses.

Must-see sights:

- Jean-Talon Market
- Parc Jarry
- Parc Frédéric-Back
- Italfest
- Plaza St-Hubert shopping district

Outremont

At the foot of the mountain lies chic Outremont, with its opulent mansions.

Go there for:

- its sumptuous residential architecture;
- chic boutiques and fine dining.

In summary:

Outremont is a stylish, exclusive and upscale neighbourhood.

Must-see sights:

- Saint-Joseph's Oratory
- Mount-Royal Cemetery and Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery
- Université de Montréal university
- Laurier Avenue West

Hochelaga-Maisonneuve and Rosemont

Once a working-class area, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (HoMa to those in the know) and Rosemont are now a vibrant neighbourhood.

Go there to:

- go shopping at the Maisonneuve Market and along the Promenades Masson and Ontario;
- take advantage of the facilities in the Olympic Park;
- explore the Ancienne-Cité-de-Maisonneuve heritage site;
- admire its churches.

In summary:

It's a welcoming, unpretentious, family-friendly and dynamic neighbourhood, where an industrial past meets a resolutely forward-looking present.

Must-see sights:

- Olympic Park
- Botanical Garden
- Planetarium, Biodome and Insectarium
- Promenade Ontario and Promenade Masson streets
- Maisonneuve Park
- Maisonneuve Market

Quartiers du Canal

The Quartiers du Canal (Griffintown, Little Burgundy and Saint-Henri) offer a dynamic feel all their own.

Go there to:

- admire the canal, brick chimneys and restored warehouses that pay tribute to the neighbourhood's industrial past;
- have fun in any number of outdoor pursuits;
- enjoy a drink in one of its many stylish restaurants or bars.

In summary:

It's a vibrant, urban, and cultural neighbourhood steeped in industrial heritage.

Must-see sights:

- Atwater Market
- Canal-de-Lachine National Historic Site
- Arsenal contemporary art gallery
- New City Gas

West Island

Thanks to its rural landscapes, West Island and around the airport is a real paradise for outdoor enthusiasts.

Go there to:

- relax on the beach at Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park;

- discover its ecological farms and outdoor zoo;
- grab a bite to eat at a sidewalk café or restaurant on the shores of Saint-Louis Lake;
- enjoy the fresh air in one of the area's many nature parks and golf courses.

In summary:

It's a four-season natural playground.

Must-see sights:

- Canal-de-Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Boardwalk
- Ecomuseum Zoo
- Cap-Saint-Jacques Nature Park
- Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard Nature Park
- Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park
- Montréal Aviation Museum

East End and Montréal North

Away from the cobblestone streets of Old Montréal and the hustle and bustle of downtown lie the east and north of the island.

Go there to:

- veer off the beaten path;
- take advantage of the two rivers around the island;
- observe nature, flora and fauna;
- discover numerous heritage sites.

In summary:

It's a charming, peaceful, historic district where you can take full advantage of Montréal's natural island character.

Must-see sights:

- Île-de-la-Visitation Nature Park
- Plage de l'Est beach
- Club de Golf de l'île de Montréal golf club
- Lufa Farms

Culture and entertainment

Festivals

- Montréal is home to over 120 festivals annually, many of which are world-class. Here is an overview of the city's major festivals per season⁹⁰:

Spring	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival▪ Festival TransAmériques▪ Mondial de la Bière▪ Festival Vues d'Afrique▪ Festival of Films on Art (FIFA)▪ Festival Accès Asie▪ Montréal Baroque Festival▪ Piknic Electronik▪ Festival MURAL▪ Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada▪ Festival Go Vélo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Festival International de Jazz de Montréal▪ Francos de Montréal▪ L'International des Feux Loto-Québec (fireworks)▪ The Montreal First Peoples' Festival▪ MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE▪ Festival International Nuits d'Afrique▪ Festival Fantasia▪ Carifesta▪ îleSoniq▪ Osheaga▪ Montréal Highland Games▪ Montréal Pride▪ MUTEK▪ Jackalope▪ M.A.D. Festival (formerly Montréal Fashion + Design Festival)

Fall	Winter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Festival international de la littérature ▪ POP Montréal International Music Festival ▪ Gardens of Light ▪ Festival du Nouveau Cinéma ▪ Black & Blue Festival ▪ MTL Connecte ▪ Arab World Festival of Montréal ▪ Bach Festival ▪ MTLàTABLE ▪ Image + nation ▪ Salon du livre ▪ Montréal International Documentary Festival (RIDM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE ▪ Nuit blanche à Montréal ▪ Igloofest ▪ Luminothérapie ▪ Merry Montréal ▪ Montréal's Christmas Village ▪ Art souterrain

- In 2022, Everfest ranked the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, the Just For Laughs festival and Osheaga among the 300 best festivals on the earth⁹¹.
- In 2024, Igloofest was named among the best outdoor winter festivals in the world by Thrillist⁹².
- Montréal is home to the world-acclaimed Festival international de jazz de Montréal, which was launched 1980, with the opening act none other than the legendary Ray Charles. Every July, it welcomes more than 3,000 musicians from over 30 countries around the world who offer close to 1,000 performances, most of which are free.⁹³
- Montréal's "jazz fest" holds the "largest jazz festival" Guinness World Record for hosting more than 1.9 million jazz fans during its 25th-anniversary celebration in 2004⁹⁴.

Sports and leisure

- Montréal is not only home to the most celebrated hockey team in history (Go Habs Go!), but the city has hosted the Summer Olympics in 1976, and continues to welcome major events in tennis, car racing, running, cycling, swimming and more⁹⁵.
- The major professional sports teams in Montréal are:
 - Hockey—The Canadiens de Montréal
 - Football—Montréal Alouettes

- Soccer—CF Montréal
 - Ultimate Frisbee—Montréal Royal
 - Basketball—Montréal Alliance
- Montréal's major sports events are :
 - Formula One Grand Prix du Canada
 - The National Bank Open presented by Rogers (formerly the Rogers Cup)
 - Go Bike Montréal Festival
 - Marathon Beneva de Montréal
 - Grand Prix Cycliste UCI de Montréal

Hockey⁹⁶

- According to the International Ice Hockey Federation, hockey was born in Montréal when on March 3, 1875, the very first hockey game in the world was played at the Victoria rink in Montréal. The game apparently ended in a fight.
- The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association was founded in 1886 in Montréal.
- The Montréal Canadiens Hockey Club has won the Stanley Cup 24 times, making it the second most successful championship sports team in the world after the New York Yankees baseball team, which has won 27 World Series.
- The Montréal Canadiens Hockey Club is also the oldest professional hockey team in the world and the oldest continually operating team in the National Hockey League (NHL). Founded in 1909, it is the only existing NHL franchise to have formed prior to the league's inception in 1917. In 2024, it celebrated its 115th anniversary.
- The National Hockey League (NHL) was founded on November 26, 1917 at a meeting at Montréal's Windsor Hotel.⁹⁷
- In 2010, following the Canadiens victory over the Penguins for the Eastern conference semi-final, 50,000 enthusiastic Habs fans took over downtown Montréal.

Soccer

- Montréal's Saputo stadium features a natural grass field, prime location at the heart of the Olympic Park and easy access by métro or car. It can accommodate nearly 21,000 soccer fans⁹⁸.
- The Montréal soccer association was created in 1877 under the name Dominion Football Association. Above all, it organized play-off games between college teams from

southern Ontario⁹⁹.

- In 2012, the Montréal Impact became a Major League Soccer franchise. It rebranded in 2020 to become the CF Montréal¹⁰⁰.

Motor sports

- Run since 1978 on the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve on Montréal's Île Notre-Dame, the Grand Prix of Canada is one of the favourite races of the season for Formula One fans. Since then, approximately 300,000 spectators each year have attended this Grand Prix of Canada event. In 2022, it drew a record crowd of 338,000 fans¹⁰¹.
- The Formula 1 drivers cover the 4.361 km (2.710 mi) of the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in under 1 minute and 15 seconds, sometimes reaching speeds of over 300 km/hr (186 mph) on the straightaways. Its tight 14 turns are demanding on the brakes, making the track prone to a lot of driving errors and overtaking. For fans, it's a thrilling and spectacular race¹⁰²!

Golf

- Golfers can enjoy 15 excellent public golf courses on the island of Montréal and surrounding areas¹⁰³.
- Montréal is home to the oldest golf club in North America—the Royal Montréal. Founded in 1873 on Mount Royal, the club is now located on Île Bizard in Montréal¹⁰⁴.

Surfing

- The Habitat 67 wave is a standing wave that can reach 1.82 m (6 ft) in height. Corran Addison, an Olympic kayaker, was the first to ever surf this wave in 2001¹⁰⁵.
- Near Lasalle, on the Lachine Rapids, beginners can try their hand at the "Vague à Guy"¹⁰⁶.
- Several Montréal companies, including KSF, offer courses ranging from surf initiation (on Guy's Wave) to more advanced (on the Habitat 67 wave) to master the basics of river surfing¹⁰⁷.

Basketball

- In 2022, the Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL), the country's professional basketball league, added the Montréal Alliance as its ninth franchise. The Alliance plays at the Verdun Auditorium¹⁰⁸.
- A celebration of art and urban sports, Montréal's Distrix Festival features 3x3 basketball, the largest urban team sport in the world and an Olympic sport. Montréal is an international FIBA 3x3 World Tour host city¹⁰⁹.

Other sports

- The Royal Montréal Curling Club, created in 1807, was one of the first sports clubs in Canada. It also holds the distinction of being the oldest active sports club in North America¹¹⁰.
- Every year, Montréal's IGA Stadium at Jarry Park hosts the National Bank Open (formerly the Rogers Cup), the third oldest tennis tournament, after Wimbledon and the US Open. Alternating with Toronto, Montreal presents the men's and women's tournament¹¹¹.
- Established in 1863, the Lachine Rowing Club is the oldest operating rowing club in North America¹¹².
- Since 2013, Montréal has been hosting a competition of the Circuit Québécois de Canot à Glace (Québec Ice Canoe Circuit). In Québec City, the icy St. Lawrence River has been crossed by canoe since the beginning of the colony in the 17th century. In Montréal, ice canoe river crossings date back to the late 19th century¹¹³.
- Montréal has over 200 km (124 mi) of groomed and marked cross-country skiing trails¹¹⁴.
- Montréal is an island surrounded by the St. Lawrence River and a paradise for water sports enthusiasts who can enjoy some 325 islands. La Route Bleue de Montréal showcases different navigable routes around the island. It covers a total distance of over 250 km (155 mi) and features 6 identified rental sites and 94 observation sites¹¹⁵.
- Montréal has over 100 pools, which include 64 outdoor pools and 42 indoor pools. The city also has 6 beaches¹¹⁶:
 - Jean-Doré beach
 - Parc-nature du Cap-Saint-Jacques beach
 - Verdun beach
 - Parc-nature du Bois-de-L'Île-Bizard beach
 - Clock Tower beach
 - Plage de l'Est

Museums and public art

- There are 64 museums in Montréal that attract over 5 million visitors annually¹¹⁷.
- Montréal Museums represents over 50 museums across the city. Every year in May, it organizes Montréal Museums Month, during which participating museums open their doors to the public for free¹¹⁸.
- Montréal is home to the Space for Life, the largest natural sciences museum complex in Canada. Its five museums are the Biodome, the Biosphere, the Botanical Garden, the Insectarium and the Planetarium¹¹⁹.
- The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, which was founded in 1860, is the oldest museum in Canada and a leading North American museum¹²⁰.
- Montréal today boasts over 1,000 public artworks across the island that have been created by close to 500 local, national and international artists¹²¹.
- The city's oldest public artwork is *The statue of Amphitrite, wife of Poseidon*. The sculpture was created by Dieudonné-Barthélémy Guibal in 1750 and is located inside the Montréal World Trade Centre¹²².
- Murals are an important part of Montréal's public artwork. Today, there are 306 outdoor murals in the city, which are overseen by an outdoor art program¹²³. One of the most renowned is *Tower of Songs*, an homage to Leonard Cohen, painted on a 21-story building on Crescent Street¹²⁴.
- Each June, Montréal's Festival MURAL attracts artists worldwide to Saint-Laurent Boulevard, one of Montréal's main arteries. To date, the artists have created over 80 murals and installations¹²⁵.
- Montréal's Under Pressure graffiti festival celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2021, making it the longest-running event of its kind in North America¹²⁶.
- The mission of non-profit organization MU is to beautify Montréal by creating murals that are anchored in local communities. Since painting its first mural in the neighbourhood of Saint-Michel in 2007, the organization has paved the way for over 130 major murals and more than 300 community projects in 17 of the city's boroughs¹²⁷.
- Lumino (formerly known as Luminothérapie until the 15th edition in 2024-2025) is Quebec's largest competition for temporary public art installations. Each winter,

Luminothérapie treats visitors to captivating and luminous experiences and installations in Montréal's Place des Festivals and Quartier des spectacles¹²⁸.

- In 2022, Montréal inaugurated The Ring, a 23,000-kg (50,706 lbs), 30-m-wide (98 ft) steel circle suspended above the staircase to the Esplanade Place Ville-Marie at the heart of downtown. This stunning symbolic structure represents the connection between Montréal's residents and visitors as well as its past, present and future, while its illumination mirrors that of the Mount Royal Cross¹²⁹.

Media

- Montréal has four daily newspapers: three in French—*La Presse*, *Le Devoir* and *Le Journal de Montréal*—and one in English—*The Gazette*, one of the oldest English-language newspapers in North America¹³⁰ (the oldest in Québec), which was originally bilingual¹³¹.
- There are also two free dailies, distributed from Monday to Friday, in Montréal: *Métro*, which is available in close to 20 countries and its competitor, *24 Heures*.
- 28 radio stations, including 9 in English and 4 in other languages, broadcast from the greater Montréal area¹³².
- Several news agencies, including Agence France-Presse (AFP), and The Canadian Press, have offices in Montréal¹³³.

Music and film

Music

- Montréal's Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM), directed by Rafael Payare, has garnered international recognition during its numerous prestigious tours and recordings¹³⁴.
- The OSM's Maison symphonique (symphony hall) in the Quartier des spectacles can host an audience of 2,100 visitors, a choir of 200 singers, and an orchestra of 120 musicians. It also has a 6500-pipe organ, the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, named after the OSM's founder¹³⁵.
- Founded in 1981, the Orchestre métropolitain de Montréal, led by artistic director and conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, enjoys an enviable reputation worldwide, and is one of Québec's major cultural ambassadors¹³⁶.

- One of the most anticipated events of the summer is the free concert *L'OM au pied du mont Royal*, which gathers more than 50,000 people at each edition¹³⁷.
- The Opéra de Montréal, founded in 1980, is North America's largest francophone opera company and among the 15 most important opera houses on the continent. The OdM has staged over 1000 performances featuring singers of national and international renown, including 63 new productions and 4 world premieres, and welcomed over 20 million opera fans to Place des Arts¹³⁸.
- Montréal is home to 178 performance venues, 8 schools of art and 2 conservatories¹³⁹.

Film

- Montréal makes it very attractive for producers to choose the city as a filming location. Some of the many reasons include¹⁴⁰:
 - Advantageous tax credits for foreign productions
 - The largest number of cutting-edge technology studios in Canada
 - Access to a vast pool of artisans able to create decors and costumes
 - Talented actors and extras representing a vast pool of over 120 cultural origins
- Montréal has already been used as a "double" for the cities of Paris, London, New York, Washington and Boston during shootings¹⁴¹.
- Montréal filmmaker Xavier Dolan has eight full-length feature films to his credit, six of which have premiered at the Festival de Cannes, one at the Venice International Film Festival and one at the Toronto International Film Festival. He has directed the videos for Adele's singles "Hello" (2015) and "Easy on Me" (2021), nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Music Video¹⁴².

Circus arts

- Montréal is home to the École Nationale du Cirque (National Circus School), one of the most important circus schools worldwide. It is recognized as an international research centre in the circus arts and welcomes 150 students from around the globe annually¹⁴³.
- Created in 2010, MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE is the first North American international festival dedicated to circus arts. Over 10 days in July, the festival presents circus shows and events in venues and parks, on streets and sidewalks throughout the city¹⁴⁴.

- Since its inception in 1993, Cirque Éloize has ranked among the world's leading contemporary circuses. Its head office and creative studio are in the historic Gare Dalhousie, the former Old Montréal railway station. More than 5 million people have watched Cirque Éloize's some 6,000 shows in over 600 cities worldwide¹⁴⁵.
- TOHU, which is situated at the heart of the Cité des Arts du Cirque in Montréal, is home to a unique performance hall in North America: a circular, 360-degree room that can hold up to 1,200 people¹⁴⁶.
- Headquartered in Montréal, the Cirque du Soleil is one of the world's largest live entertainment companies specializing in contemporary circus arts. It employs over 1,300 from nearly 50 countries. More than 180 million spectators in over 400 cities in some 60 countries across six continents have enjoyed the Cirque's shows¹⁴⁷.
- Founded in 2002, The 7 Fingers – also known by its French name “Les 7 doigts de la main”, an artist collective that redefines the circus experience by mixing genres, acrobatics and theatricality, has shows on tour around the world¹⁴⁸.
- Cavalia is a Montréal entertainment company that reimagines the equestrian and theatrical arts with shows that pay homage to the age-old bond between human and horse, featuring horses as well as riders, acrobats, dancers and musicians. The company was created in 2003 by Normand Latourelle, a pioneer of Cirque du Soleil¹⁴⁹.
- The Montréal Clown Festival celebrated its seventh edition in 2024 with acts from across North America¹⁵⁰.

Fashion and design¹⁵¹

- Montréal's fashion industry ranks third in North America for clothing manufacturing (after New York and Los Angeles) and is a major player in the Canadian economy¹⁵².
- The city's fashion industry represents \$8 billion total sales for manufactured goods and wholesale distribution in Québec, excluding retail sales.
- There are 1,846 establishments in the fashion sector across Québec.
- 48% of all Canadian production in the fashion industry is in Québec.
- There are 82,540 jobs in Québec's fashion sector, of which 58% are in the Greater Montréal Area.

- Around 50,000 workers and close to 10,000 students work in Montréal's fashion and design industry¹⁵³.
- The Montréal Fashion and Design Festival is the most important outdoor fashion event in North America, bringing together many celebrated Canadian designers, retailers, up-and-coming creators and international fashion icons each August. It celebrated its 22nd anniversary in 2022¹⁵⁴.
- The fashion industry in Québec is united by Montréal's internationally-active mmode cluster group, an initiative of over 220 companies working together to bring home-grown fashion to the world¹⁵⁵.

Innovation and digital ecosystem

- Montréal is the top city in Canada and a world leader in digital creativity, which is comprised of three sub-sectors: visual effects (VFX) and animation, video games and digital experiences¹⁵⁶.
- Greater Montréal is Québec's centre of digital creativity. It is home to 17,200 jobs in digital creativity or 91% of the province's workforce and 250 digital creativity studios or 72% of the total studios in Québec.
- The very first tourism incubator was launched in 2017 under the name MTLab. Co-founded by Tourisme Montréal, UQAM and the City of Montréal, it is primarily an innovation hub that promotes entrepreneurship and innovation in culture, entertainment and tourism¹⁵⁷.
- The Innovation Cities Index 2022-2023 lists Montréal among the 10 most innovative cities in North America—second in Canada, after Toronto. Compiled from 162 indicators, the criteria included food diversity, nightlife, citizen rights, local shopping, as well as the size and health of the domestic market¹⁵⁸.
- Montréal places 17th among the cities of its size worldwide in the Cities of the Future Index 2021, a study that ranks metropolises using technology to create a sustainable tomorrow. Among the criteria rated (categorized as digital life, mobility innovation, business tech infrastructure and environmental sustainability), it ranked fourth worldwide for green energy and second worldwide for green buildings¹⁵⁹.
- Each year since 2012, Montréal has hosted C2-MTL, an immersive three-day conference uniting local and international business leaders with the goal of exploring innovative solutions to contemporary challenges¹⁶⁰.

- Founded in 2001, Montréal-based multimedia studio Moment Factory produces multimedia entertainment specializing in the design of immersive environments. Their productions span the globe and include such clients as Billie Eilish, the Los Angeles Airport, Nine Inch Nails, Microsoft, the NFL, Sony, Toyota, the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Madonna and Royal Caribbean. Here in Montréal, you can see their work in the illuminations Jacques Cartier Bridge and the AURA show at the Notre-Dame Basilica¹⁶¹.
- Montréal has introduced a vast network of free public Wi-Fi access areas implemented. The network's 825 access points are located across the island of Montréal. MTLWiFi is one of the world's largest free WiFi networks¹⁶².

UNESCO City of Design

- In May 2006, the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity designated Montréal, the first North American city, a "UNESCO City of Design" within the Creative Cities Network, joining other cities recognized by UNESCO for excellence in crafts and folk art, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music. UNESCO renewed Montréal's status as a City of Design in 2021¹⁶³.
- As of 2022, UNESCO's Creative Cities Network included more than 350 cities, including 43 design cities¹⁶⁴.
- In 1991, Montréal was the first North American city to create the position of a Design Commissioner, who is responsible for the development and promotion of design as well as raising awareness among private- and public-sector stakeholders of the benefits of good design¹⁶⁵.

Nighlife

- Montréal's nightlife is always buzzing. From microbreweries to discotheques, and cigar lounges to electronic music clubs, not to mention the city's traditional terraces, the city has something for everyone.
- Bars are open till 3 o'clock in the morning, but several after-hour clubs (without alcohol) stay open all night long so partygoers can dance the night away!

Reputation and ranking

Montréal's has a long-standing and well-recognized reputation as a nightlife city. Thrillist included Montréal in its list of the top 20 best nightlife cities in the world¹⁶⁶, and Nightlife Party Guide considers the city to be one of the best in the world in which to party¹⁶⁷.

History and public policy^{168 169 170}

- Montréal's reputation as a nightlife city was fully established in the 1920s during the Prohibition era in North America.
- While the Prohibition Act was passed in the United States in 1920, in Québec the Taschereau government chose to create the Commission des liqueurs du Québec in 1921, which allowed legal access to alcoholic beverages.
- Many artists from New York and other American cities fled to Montréal because their professional activity was compromised in the United States.
- Montréal became a haven for tourists and investors from the rest of the continent who wanted to escape prohibitionist measures.
- Montréal's cabarets, jazz clubs and betting parlours enjoyed their golden age from the 1930s onwards.
- The heart of the city's nightlife was centred around the Latin Quarter and Chinatown (mainly around the Sainte-Catherine Street/ Saint-Laurent Boulevard axis), with iconic establishments such as Boulevard, Commodore, Hollywood, Blue Sky, Cabaret Chinese Paradise and Cabaret Frolics.
- As the 1960s drew to a close with Montréal hosting the World's Fair, nightlife developed along Crescent Street with the advent of many bars and restaurants.
- Today, the hottest nightlife spots - for tourists, in particular – can be found along Crescent Street, Saint-Laurent Boulevard, McGill Avenue as well as in the Latin Quarter, the Village, Old Montréal, and the Plateau-Mont-Royal/Mile End district.
- Many of the city's other districts also stand out for their range of bars, microbreweries and restaurants, popular with the locals.
- Since 2016, the city of Montréal has authorised the extension of liquor licence operating hours until 6 a.m. during the Nuit Blanche (Montréal All-Nighter).
- The non-profit organization MTL 24/24 has launched the Night Council, an independent consultative body comprised of nightlife representatives who engage in public debate

and political processes with the aim to democratize and legitimize the city's nightlife¹⁷¹.

- MTL 24/24 is also behind the "NON STOP" pilot project. As part of this project, several continuous night-time events (lasting 24 or 36 hours) have been organised since 2022.¹⁷²

Nuit Blanche/ Montréal All-Nighter¹⁷³

- The Nuit Blanche (Montréal All-Nighter) is a not-to-be-missed event in Montréal's nightlife calendar, held every winter (February or March) as part of the MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE Festival. For an entire night, Montréal buzzes with festivities across the island, both indoor and outdoor.
- The event was inspired by the Nuit Blanche in France, which began in Paris.
- The first Nuit Blanche in Montréal was held in 2003 during the 6th edition of the MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE Festival.
- During this event dedicated to culture and nightlife, most indoor and outdoor activities are free (shows, museum exhibitions, immersive experiences, etc).
- Public transport (bus and metro) run all night long to ensure safe and easy travel.

Statistics¹⁷⁴

- 22% of all tourists who visited Montréal in 2019 came for its nightlife, representing 2.4 million visitors who spent \$909 million.
- The night-time socio-cultural trade represents 33,559 jobs in Montréal, equivalent to salary expenditures of \$994 million.
- The economic impact of Montréal's socio-cultural nightlife amounts to \$2.26 billion in direct spending, including \$121 million in tax spin-offs for governments.
- Most of the revenue comes from restaurants and bars. Theatres and concert halls generate just over \$100 million, while clubs and discotheques generate \$56 million.

Restaurants and gastronomy

Overview and stats

- Each year, Montréal hosts an array of events and festivals celebrating Montréal's dynamic restaurant and culinary scene. Foodies from around the world can choose from¹⁷⁵:
 - MTLàTABLE
 - Poutine Week
 - MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE
 - Old Montréal's Happening Gourmand
 - Montréal centre-ville brassicole culturel gourmand
 - Salon des vins Le printemps déziPpé
 - Cabane Panache
 - Un Chef à l'érable
 - Pizza Week
 - Festival Mondial de la Bière (Montréal Beer Fest)
 - Yatai
 - SudBest
 - First Fridays
 - La Guinguette
 - Soif de cidre
 - Festival StreetFood
 - Le Grand Poutine Fest
 - Asian Night Market
 - Peel MTL Foodies
 - A Taste of the Caribbean Festival
 - ItalfestMTL
 - Montréal Ribfest
 - Pocha MTL
 - Le Burger Week
 - Invasion Cocktail
 - Martinique Gourmande
 - FermentFest Montréal
 - Festival végane de Montréal
 - La grande dégustation de Montréal
- Street food is an integral part of the city's culinary landscape. Montréal is home to First Fridays, the biggest food truck and street food event in Canada. In 2022, it celebrated its 10th anniversary edition at the Olympic Stadium, with over 40 restaurants and food vendors participating¹⁷⁶.

- Montréal is home to some 20 public markets. Three of them—the Jean-Talon Market, the Atwater Market and the Maisonneuve Market—are open year-round. You can also find smaller markets in many of Montréal’s neighbourhoods¹⁷⁷.
- Each year, Montréal is host to the MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE festival, which features three components: culture, gourmet food and outdoor activities. The fine dining program of the festival has positioned itself as one of North America’s most prestigious gourmet events, reinforcing Montréal’s reputation as a culinary destination as well as the enviable reputation of its chefs¹⁷⁸.
- In November 2012, Tourisme Montréal launched the first edition of MTLàTABLE. For its 11th edition in 2023, 145 restaurants took part in the event, which attracted 175,000 participants and generated \$12 million for the restaurants¹⁷⁹.
- Following in Lyon’s footsteps, Montréal joined the Network of Good Food Cities of the World in September 2007. Today, the network brings together 31 cities in over three continents, but Montréal is still the only Canadian city in the network.¹⁸⁰
- In 2021, there were close to 4,500 restaurants in the Montréal agglomeration¹⁸¹.
- In 2021, there were 1,000 outdoor patios in Montréal¹⁸².
- A total of 41 breweries operate on the island of Montréal¹⁸³.
- Montréal is host to over 40 events related to gourmet food and alcohol¹⁸⁴.
- 27 Montréal restaurants made Canada’s 100 Best Restaurants list in 2023, with Mon Lapin topping the list.¹⁸⁵
- In May 2022, CNN Travel voted Montréal’s smoked meat sandwich one of the best in the world¹⁸⁶.
- In 2020, Pier-Alexis Soulière, a Montrealer won the Best Sommelier in Canada competition¹⁸⁷.
- Montréal has been the only Canadian city featured in the popular Netflix culinary show "Somebody Feed Phil"¹⁸⁸

Iconic food in Montreal

- On a visit to Montréal, you can sample many traditional Québécois specialties that are influenced by Montréal's myriad cultural communities. Some of a few iconic dishes are bagels, poutine, smoked meat, pâté chinois (shepherd's pie) or *queues de castor* (beaver tails). Some even integrate Tonkinese soups (*Phô*) or tacos into typical local fare¹⁸⁹.
- Montréal bagels are different from New York and Toronto bagels in that they are made by hand and then poached in honey water before being baked in a wood-fire burning oven. In comparison, New York bagels are made with water and are spongy, while Toronto bagels are usually baked in gas ovens¹⁹⁰.
- Montréal's celebrated culinary scene includes restaurants that have enjoyed enduring success. Here are some of Montréal's oldest eateries¹⁹¹:
 - Auberge Saint-Gabriel (1754) – North America's oldest inn serves market-fresh French and Québec cuisine.
 - Montréal Pool Room (1912) – An iconic diner where you can order a beloved "steamie" (hotdog).
 - Schwartz's (1928) – The smoked meat sandwiches here are world-renowned!
 - Wilensky's (1932) – Step back in time with their grilled salami/bologna sandwich, served just as it was 90 years ago.
 - Orange Julep (1932) – An iconic drive-in that features classic fare, vintage car meets and that amazing giant orange.
 - La Binerie (1938) – A tiny diner that serves up pâté chinois, homemade creton and tourtière.
 - Fairmount Bagel Bakery (1949) – still hand-rolled and baked in a wood oven, folks line up for these melt-in-your-mouth bagels.
 - St-Viateur Bagel (1957) – Go here for yummy, chewy, sesame-sprinkled, piping-hot bagels.
- Fairmount bagels were the first Montréal bagel to travel to space with astronaut Gregory Chamitoff, all the way to the International Space Station¹⁹².
- Céline Dion is a part owner of Schwartz's smoked meat restaurant¹⁹³.
- For many Québécois, spring is synonymous with sugar shacking. The warm weather during the day and cold at night create the ideal conditions for maple tapping so delicious sap can be transformed into all sorts of sweet treats. It's the perfect time to try special seasonal menus in the city's restaurants.¹⁹⁴

Wellness and outdoors

Quality of life

- According to Walk Score, Montréal is Canada's 2nd most walkable city, with a score of 65/100 and a bike score of 73/100. Walk Score also rated Outremont, the Plateau Mont-Royal and Ville-Marie as the best Montréal neighbourhoods to explore on foot¹⁹⁵.
- Montréal's quality of life is recognized around the globe. In 2019, Montréal was ranked 21st out of 231 world cities and 4th in North America in a quality-of-life survey conducted by Mercer. The results of the survey take into account 39 quality of life determinants, specifically political, economic and sociocultural factors, the environment, public services, transportation and entertainment¹⁹⁶.
- The annual Smart City Index assesses urban settings that apply technology to enhance the benefits and diminish the shortcomings of urbanization for its citizens, and on the 2024 index Montréal ranks 12th among the top smart cities in North America. The index examines part economic and technological progress, part quality of life, environment and inclusiveness¹⁹⁷.
- In 2024, QS Best Student Cities ranked Montréal 1st Best Student City in North America, based on the quality of its universities as well as the city's overall quality of life. The key indicators were affordability, desirability and the opinions of current students¹⁹⁸.
- In 2022, the UN ranked Canada 15th in the world on the Human Development Index (HDI). The index is based on three main indicators: life expectancy, access to education and standard of living¹⁹⁹.
- Montréal is home to numerous spas offering thermal circuits, massages and other pamperings. The city's oases of relaxation include Scandinave Spa Vieux-Montréal, Bota Bota (a repurposed river ferry) in the Old Port, the Avie Spa at the Springhill Suites by Marriott, the Moment Spa at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth, the Spa St. James at the Ritz-Carlton, the Strom spa nordique and the MBIOSPA at the Delta Montréal²⁰⁰.

Green spaces, parks and nature

- The city of Montréal is home to a network of 19 large parks with a combined surface area of 2,000 hectares (4,900 acres). These greenspaces are ideal for relaxing, enjoying recreational, educational, cultural, sports or outdoor activities as well as community celebrations²⁰¹.
- The borough of Ville-Marie alone has and is responsible for the maintenance of 154 parks, mini parks and green spaces which contribute to the quality of life of its citizens. There are some 141,000 trees growing in these green spaces, of which 104,000 are located in Mount Royal Park.

- Montréal boasts some spectacular gardens, including the Botanical Garden, the Floralties Gardens at Parc Jean-Drapeau, the Chateau Ramezay's authentic 18th-century garden, the Quiet Garden at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul and the garden at the Musée des Hospitalières, one of the city's best-preserved convents²⁰².
- There are some 450 green alleyways in Montréal. A lot of them are found in the borough of Rosemont-Petite-Patrie. These greened back alleys provide social interaction, safe places to play for children, improve air quality and reduce heat island effects and traffic²⁰³.
- The city of Montréal plans to plant 500,000 trees by 2030 as part of its mission to protect, enhance and rehabilitate natural environments²⁰⁴.
- According to 2019 Statistics Canada data, 95% of Montrealers can take advantage of a park or greenspace less than 10 minutes from where they live²⁰⁵.
- Montréal is home to Lufa Farms, the world's first commercial rooftop greenhouse. Lufa Farms also partners with local farmers to create a food system that is smart, sustainable and a commercially viable way to feed cities²⁰⁶.
- Lufa's fourth rooftop greenhouse is the largest urban farm in the world, measuring 163,800 square feet.²⁰⁷
- Mount Royal, the city's 10-km² green centrepiece, is home to an array of flora and fauna, including 700 different species of vascular plants, 90 species of trees, more than 180 species of birds, close to 20 species of mammals, plus amphibians, reptiles and thousands of different insects²⁰⁸.
- There are nearly 1,500 parks in Montréal's boroughs covering an area of over 6,000 hectares²⁰⁹.
- If you're a birdwatcher, you can spot close to 200 species of birds at Parc Jean-Drapeau²¹⁰.

Biking and walking

Walking/Hiking

- Walkers and hikers can enjoy many kilometres of trails in Montréal's parks²¹¹:
 - Parc Jean-Drapeau : 25 km (15 mi)

- Parc-nature du Cap-Saint-Jacques : 15 km (9 mi)
- Parc-nature du Bois-de-Liesse : 12 km (7 mi)
- Mount Royal Park : 10 km (6 mi)
- Parc Maisonneuve : 10 km (6 mi)
- Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation : 8 km (5 mi)
- Botanical Garden : 7 km (4 mi)

Biking

- Montréal's cycling network includes 1 065 km (661 mi) of bike paths; 729 km (453 mi) of these are accessible year-round²¹².
- The Réseau express vélo or "REV" is a 184-km (114-mi) bicycle path network that connects various points of interest on the island of Montréal, consisting mostly of protected lanes to ensure cyclists can get around safely, comfortably and efficiently. Once completed, it will have 17 axes accessible year-round. The City of Montréal's goal is to have 15% of utility trips by bike in the city by 2027²¹³.
- The Tour de l'Île, a 36-km (22-mi) car-free route through the streets Montréal's many boroughs, is one of the highlights of Montréal's summer biking season. In 2024, some 20,000 cyclists participated in the event²¹⁴.

Aquatic sports

- The Habitat 67 wave is a standing wave that can reach 6 feet (1.82 metres) in height. Corran Addison, an Olympic kayaker, was the first to ever surf this wave in 2001²¹⁵.
- Near Lasalle, on the Lachine Rapids, beginners can try their hand at the "Vague à Guy". The Lachine Rapids, for their part, are reserved for experienced surfers as they are quite dangerous²¹⁶.
- Montréal is surrounded by the St. Lawrence River and is a paradise for water sports enthusiasts who can enjoy some 325 islands. La Route Bleue de Montréal showcases different navigable routes around the island. It covers a total distance of over 250 km (155 mi) and features 6 identified rental sites and 94 observation sites²¹⁷.
- Montréal has over 100 pools, which include 64 outdoor pools and 42 indoor pools. The city also has 4 beaches²¹⁸.
- The Lachine Rowing Club, which was established in 1863, is the oldest operating rowing club in North America²¹⁹.

Urban sports²²⁰

- Over the past decade, Montréal has become a hotspot for urban sports. In addition to hosting some of the world's major urban sports events, it is home to top-notch venues.
- Jackalope, held annually in August at the Olympic Stadium, is Canada's largest action sports festival featuring BMX, base jumping, fixed gear riding and bouldering. It is also the only Canadian stop on the World Cup skateboard circuit.
- Montréal's Dime Glory Challenge brings skateboarding to the unique topography of the Olympic Stadium, where skateboarders tackle all manner of railings, ledges, banks, walls and staircases as amazed crowds look on.
- A celebration of art and urban sports, the Distrix Festival features 3x3 basketball, the largest urban team sport in the world and an Olympic sport. Montréal is an international FIBA 3x3 World Tour host city.
- At Parc Jean-Drapeau, during the extreme free-climbing competition of Psicobloc two competitors race to the top of a 55-foot wall overhanging a deep-water pool. It is performed without a rope or net.
- The Vans Skatepark is the first permanent skateboard facility to be installed at an existing Olympic site.
- Montréal's Allez-Up climbing center is an architectural icon and the largest climbing gym in Canada.
- The clothing brand Dime—born right here in Montréal—is one of the most prominent urban sports brands and consolidates fashion and skate brilliantly.

Sustainable development and sustainable tourism

Sustainable development initiatives

- Montréal is a member of several sustainable development networks across the world, including C40 Cities and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.
- Locally, the Maison du développement durable aims to inspire the actions of decision-makers and the general public in matters of sustainable development. It is the first LEED

Platinum NC building in Québec, located in the heart of downtown in the Quartier des spectacles²²¹.

- In 2016, the Palais des congrès de Montréal became a showcase for the experimentation and promotion of technologies and techniques in urban agriculture by deploying the Urban Agriculture Laboratory. Their “Culti-VERT” program is located on the Palais rooftop and includes container-based food production without irrigation.²²²
- Montréal has a variety of initiatives that are reshaping the concept of sustainable development:
 - Montréal is home to Lufa Farms, the world’s first commercial rooftop greenhouse.²²³
 - Retournzy is working to build a cooperative and circular network of returnable containers in Québec.²²⁴
 - La Vague has created a reusable cup (La Tasse), for a small \$5, refundable in a network of great businesses.²²⁵
 - Ville en vert raises awareness around sustainability by planting trees, promoting urban agriculture, advocating bike usage, and more.²²⁶
 - In La Petite-Patrie, La Cale is Montréal’s first “zero waste” pub, promoting local and seasonal products.²²⁷
 - In Hochelaga, Le Jardin de la Pépinière offers a vegetable garden, educational workshops, a cultural program, and more.²²⁸

Sustainable Destination Policy

- In 2022, Tourisme Montréal created a Sustainable Destination Policy, with a goal of making the city a leader in sustainable tourism by 2030. The policy, which was inspired by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, aims to²²⁹:
 - have a positive impact on the local community and the environment;
 - ensure the harmonious co-existence of residents and tourists;
 - promote responsible tourism within the city;
 - encourage the organization of environmentally friendly business and sports events;
 - promote sustainable business practices.
- Montréal ranked first in North America and third in the “metropolis” category, ahead of Paris, Berlin and Sydney, on the Global Destination Sustainability (GDS) Index 2022, a world reference for sustainable tourism²³⁰. In 2023, Montreal maintained its position for a 2nd year in a row.²³¹

- The Arcadis Sustainable Cities Index, which ranks global cities on pillars of sustainability, ranked Montréal as one of the most sustainable North American cities in the world. It was singled out for its embrace of nature, sustainable transportation, use of renewable energy and more²³².

Diversity, inclusion, human rights

Overview of ethnocultural and immigrant communities

- The 2021 census data revealed that 60% of Montrealers were non-immigrants, 33% were immigrants and 7% were non-permanent residents. Just over one in three Montrealers is an immigrant, a true testament to the city's cosmopolitan character²³³.
- The five main countries of birth of recent immigrants in the Montréal agglomeration are Haiti, Algeria, France, Morocco and China²³⁴.
- Catholicism, Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism, in that order, are the most commonly practiced religions in the Montréal area. Christians represent 57%, Muslims represent 8% and Jewish people represent 2% of the population in Montréal's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)²³⁵.
- Visible minorities make up 27% of the population of the island of Montréal. Blacks are the largest visible minority at 28%, with Arabs second at 21%²³⁶.
- Over 120 ethnic groups are represented in the Metropolitan Montréal area²³⁷.
- According to the 2021 census, 59% of Montréal's CMA population spoke French and English, 24% spoke only French and 13% named English as their mother tongue²³⁸.
- Over 46,000 people in the Montréal agglomeration identify themselves as Indigenous. Of this number, 55% are First Nations, over 35% are Métis and over 2% are Inuit²³⁹.
- In 2017, a new coat of arms was added to the Montréal flag. A white pine was added to reflect the historical presence of Indigenous peoples in Montréal²⁴⁰.
- In 2022, Montréal launched the very first Montréal Multicultural Festival in the Quartier des spectacles to showcase the city's many cultural communities as well as celebrate diversity and inclusion²⁴¹.
- Founded in 2003, the Conseil interculturel de Montréal (CiM) is a 15-member council of volunteers who represent Montréal's cultural diversity. It plays an active role in advising

Montréal's city council and executive committee on all issues of interest to the city's cultural communities and matters relating to intercultural relationships²⁴².

- Montréal is made up of many culturally diverse neighbourhoods, including:
 - Chinatown (between Saint-Urbain Street and Saint-Laurent Boulevard, near the Place d'Armes metro)
 - Little Italy (between Saint-Laurent Boulevard and Saint-Denis Street, near the Beaubien metro)
 - Petit Maghreb (stretching along Jean-Talon Street, between Saint-Michel and Pie-IX boulevards, near the Saint-Michel metro)
 - Little Portugal (between Saint-Urbain Street and Saint-Laurent Boulevard, close to Parc Jeanne-Mance).

Contemporary indigenous communities

- Over 46,000 people in the Montréal agglomeration identify themselves as Indigenous. Of this number, 55% are First Nations, over 35% are Métis and over 2% are Inuit²⁴³.
- In 2017, Montréal's coat of arms and flag were updated. A white pine was added to reflect the historical presence of Indigenous peoples in Montréal²⁴⁴.
- The MEM – Centre des mémoires montréalaises has published a guide entitled, *"Exploring First Nations and Inuit Cultures"*, which invites people to discover places where they can explore Native cultural heritage through thematic museum routes²⁴⁵.
- Traces of human occupation dating back 5,000 years attest to the presence of Indigenous people in present-day Greater Montréal²⁴⁶.
- Between the years 1,500 and 1,000 BCE (before the common era), the St. Lawrence Iroquois lived on the island of Montréal. In 1535, Jacques Cartier visited one of their villages, Hochelaga. Around 1580, the Iroquois left the St. Lawrence Valley and when the first French settlers arrived in 1642, the village of Hochelaga no longer existed, but the area remained an encampment for many First Nations people²⁴⁷.
- Kawenote Teiontiakon is a documented Kanien'kéha name for the island of Montreal. The city of Montreal is known as *Tiohti:áke* in Kanien'kéha, and *Mooneyang* in Anishinaabemowin²⁴⁸.
- Historically, the southwest of Québec, including Montréal, was an important route for nomadic Indigenous people. Today, Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawks), the second-largest Indigenous nations in Québec, are the guardians and guides of this important part of

Indigenous history, honouring their identity with traditional celebrations, such as pow wows and land and water ceremonies. Visitors can discover the beauty and vitality of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) culture in villages such as Akwesasne, Kahnawake, and Kanesatake²⁴⁹.

- The McCord-Stewart Museum has a permanent exhibition entitled *Indigenous Voices of Today: Knowledge, Trauma, Resilience*. Featuring approximately 100 objects and testimonies from people of the 11 Indigenous nations in Québec, it seeks to recount history through a three-part journey while amplifying the voices of Indigenous and marginalized communities²⁵⁰.
- Every August, the city hosts the Montréal First Peoples Festival, a multidisciplinary artistic and cultural event that turns Montréal into a hub of Indigenous creativity from the three Americas²⁵¹.
- Every two years, Montréal is home to the Contemporary Native Art Biennial (BACA), which recognizes and supports contemporary Indigenous art and artists²⁵².
- June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada²⁵³.
- Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace is an Aboriginally determined research-creation network whose goal is to ensure Indigenous presence in the web pages, online environments, video games, and virtual worlds that comprise cyberspace. It is located at Concordia University²⁵⁴.
- The First Nations Garden at the Montréal Botanical Garden highlights the close bond that Indigenous people have always held with land and mother nature. The 2.5-hectare garden has over 300 different plant species²⁵⁵.
- One of Mount Royal's three summits was renamed *Tiohtià:ke Otsira'kéhne* (pronounced "djodjâgué otchira'guéné") in 2017 to honour Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) heritage and the peak's use as a First Nations fire beacon²⁵⁶.
- Mount Royal has several lookouts, the largest of which is called the Kondiaronk Belvedere. The belvedere was named in honour of the Huron-Wendat Great Chief Kondiaronk, who facilitated the Great Peace of Montréal in 1701.²⁵⁷
- Montreal's Amherst Street has also been renamed Atateken Street (pronounced "Aw-da-dey-gen"), which expresses the idea of equality among people in Kanien'kéha, the Mohawk language²⁵⁸.
- The Roundhouse Café is the only Indigenous café in Montréal; its goal is to promote social diversity and empower Indigenous people. In addition to offering a special blend of Indigenous coffee, its fare includes sweet bannock and Indigenous tacos²⁵⁹.

- Montréal Chef Chuck Hughes (Garde Manger) travelled across Québec and Ontario to meet and learn from Indigenous communities and their culinary traditions. He made a TV series out of it that airs on Canada's Indigenous television network APTN²⁶⁰.
- The word "Québec" comes from the Indigenous word "kepek" – to get off, to disembark. The word "Canada" comes from the Indigenous Haudenosaunee (Iroquoian) word "kanata", meaning town or village²⁶¹.

Black communities – historical and contemporary

- Montréal's black community has played a singular role in shaping and strengthening the social fabric of the city's many neighbourhoods, particularly the boroughs of Little-Burgundy, Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension and Rivière-des-Prairies-Pointe-aux-Trembles and Montréal-Nord.
- Visible minorities make up 27% of the population of the island of Montréal. Black people are the largest visible minority at 28%, with Arabs second at 21%²⁶².
- Historical records of 1629 show that Olivier Le Jeune was the first documented person of African descent known to be enslaved in New France. He was designated a national historic person by the Government of Canada in 2022²⁶³.
- When New France was conquered by the British in 1758–1760, records revealed that approximately 3,600 enslaved people had lived there since its beginnings. The majority of them were Indigenous (often called "Panis"). Black enslaved people were also present because of the transatlantic slave trade.²⁶⁴
- Slavery continued after the British formally took control of New France in 1763. The formal agreements that ended the war affirmed the continued enslavement of Black and Indigenous people. The era of British rule saw an increase in the number of Black enslaved people in Canada.
- McGill founder James McGill had slaves, as did the founder of the Order of the Grey Nuns, Marguerite d'Youville, who was canonized in 1990.
- In 1734, an escaped slave named Marie-Joseph Angélique was publicly tortured and hanged in Old Montréal for the crime of setting fire to her owner's house and causing much of Old Montréal to burn down – a crime she probably did not commit. It was alleged that she committed the act while attempting to flee her bondage. Her story has come to symbolize Black resistance and freedom.²⁶⁵

- In 1833, the Slavery Abolition Act passed, abolishing the practice of slavery throughout the British Empire, including British North America. This led to the first waves of Black immigrants to Canada from the United States.²⁶⁶
- Between 1850 and 1860 alone, 15,000 to 20,000 fugitives reached what was called at that time “the Province of Canada” (present-day Québec and Ontario) via the Underground Railroad, a secret network of abolitionists helping slaves to escape the U.S. to freedom in Canada.
- Starting in the late 1880s, Black railway porters emerged as leaders of Black communities in Montréal, playing a major role in the struggle for Black rights in Canada. They formed the Order of Sleeping Car Porters in 1917, the first Black labour union in North America²⁶⁷²⁶⁸.
- The 1920s Prohibition in the U.S. and the Underground Railroad both sparked waves of immigration of Black men and women to Canada and Montréal²⁶⁹.
- Decades prior and into the 20th century African Canadians, African Americans, Black West Indians and Haitians contributed to Montréal’s growing Black community.²⁷⁰
- From the 1970s to the mid-1980s, Black Africans, began to settle in Montréal. They came from the English-speaking countries, including South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Egypt. French-speaking Africans also arrived from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo and Zaire. In the 1990s, statistics showed that 23.8% of Africans who entered Canada settled in Québec.²⁷¹
- Montréal’s Black community has had an enormous influence on its jazz culture. Some of the world’s greatest jazz artists, including Oscar Peterson, Charlie Biddle and Oliver Jones, got their start in the city’s churches, communities and clubs.
- Rockhead’s Paradise, a jazz club in Little Burgundy founded by Rufus Rockhead, a Jamaican-born Montréal porter, was not only the first Black-owned club in Canada, but a mythic jazz spot, attracting American legends such as Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Lead Belly, Nina Simone, Fats Waller, Dizzy Gillespie and Sammy Davis Jr.²⁷²
- The Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir is one of North America’s most dynamic and popular choirs. It was created in when the Montreal Black Community Youth Choir (founded by Trevor W. Payne and Daisy Peterson Sweeney - Oscar Peterson’ sister - at the Union United Church along with its then minister, Frank B. Gabourel in 1974) joined forces with the Union United Church Senior Choir in 1982.²⁷³
- The Union United Church in downtown Montréal is home to the city’s oldest black congregation. It was founded in 1907 by several members of Montreal's black

community who experienced racial conflict and were banned from entering all-white churches²⁷⁴.

- Montréal established its Black History Month in 1991²⁷⁵. On November 23, 2006, the National Assembly adopted the bill to declare February Black History Month, in order to highlight the historical contribution of Black communities to Quebec society. This law came into effect on February 1, 2007²⁷⁶.
- Montréal's black film festivals include the Montréal International Black Film Festival, the Festival international de cinema Vues d'Afrique, the Fade to Black Festival and the Massimadi Montréal Afro LGBTQ+ Film and Art Festival.
- Founded in 1987, Montréal's 2-week Festival International Nuits d'Afrique celebrates the music and culture of 30 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America and features close to 700 artists²⁷⁷.
- Jackie Robinson made history by becoming the first black player to be drafted for a professional sports league, the Montréal Royals²⁷⁸. Robinson went on to the halls of baseball history, while winning the hearts of Montrealers. You can see a mural portrait of him on Le Plateau, on the south corner of Napoleon Street.²⁷⁹
- Yolande James, Deputy for the Liberal Party of Québec, became the first black woman to be elected to the National Assembly of Québec in 2004²⁸⁰.
- The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean became the First Governor General of Canada of African descent, born in the Caribbean, and third woman to fill the position in 2005.²⁸¹
- World-class sprinter Bruny Surin has won numerous national and international titles, including an Olympic gold medal for the 4 X 100 at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996.²⁸²

LGBTQ communities – historical and contemporary

- Montréal is home to one of the most important gay communities in the world. The Village is bordered by Saint-Hubert Street to the west, De Lorimier Avenue to the east, Sherbrooke Street to the north and René Lévesque Boulevard to the south. It is served by the Berri-UQAM, Beaudry and Papineau metro stations.
- Bustling Sainte-Catherine Street is the Village's main drag, boasting fine eateries, cool boutiques, nightclubs and a multitude of B&B options housed in a uniquely Montréal architectural style.

- Before The Village was established east of downtown, the “gay neighbourhood” of Montréal was centred around Peel and Stanley streets. The current location of The Village east of downtown began to develop in the early 80s as rents began to rise downtown.²⁸³
- Mayor Jean Drapeau’s infamous “cleanup” of the city in preparation for the 1976 summer Olympics resulted in an intensification of police repression, which continued after the Games. One of the most notorious raids was on the Truxx and the Mystique on October 21, 1977, drawing outrage from the local LGBTQ+ community. After this raid, the Association pour les droits des gai(e)s du Québec (ADGQ), mobilized the community and the following day, about 2000 people filled the streets to protest police abuses.²⁸⁴
- In 1979, Montréal gay activist John Banks, who had been the personal secretary of Marlene Dietrich for many years, formed La Brigade Rose, which organized Montreal’s first Pride march, which drew 52 marchers in June 1979.²⁸⁵
- From 1980 to 1991, a Pride event was organized each year by various community groups. In 1993, DiversCité was co-founded by Puelo Deir and Suzanne Girard as the first annual Montreal Pride festival, in response to the 1990 Sex Garage raid.²⁸⁶
- In 2006, DiversCité announced that it would no longer organize a Pride parade, but their queer arts festival would continue until 2015. Célébrations LGBTQA (precursor name of Montréal Pride) became the official organization of LGBTQ+ Pride in Montreal responsible for organizing the annual Pride Parade, starting in 2007.²⁸⁷
- In 1983, Ross Higgins and Jacques Prince founded the non-profit Quebec Gay Archives in Montréal. Their permanent collection includes thousands of photos by famed Montréal physique photographer Alan B. Stone. In July 2013, the Archives moved from 4067 Saint-Laurent Boulevard to their current location at 1000 Atateken Street.²⁸⁸
- On May 16, 2019, Québec’s National Assembly recognized Montréal’s Gay Village – more commonly called “Le Village” by locals – as the largest LGBTQ district in North America after the Castro in San Francisco and as an official place of refuge and emancipation.²⁸⁹
- In 2006, Montréal hosted the 1st World Outgames, drawing more than 10,000 LGBTQ+ athletes from around the world. More than 40,000 people attended the opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium.²⁹⁰
- Founded in 1988, image+nation is Canada’s first and oldest LGBTQ+ film festival that takes place annually in November in Montréal.²⁹¹
- Montréal’s Black & Blue Festival held its first dance party in a former bank in 1991. In the years that followed, the Black & Blue Main Event became one of the most successful

all-night dance parties on the planet, raising \$1.4 million for AIDS support organizations and LGBTQ+ community groups in Montréal.²⁹²

Jewish communities

- Catholicism, Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism, in that order, are the most commonly practiced religions in the Montréal area. Christians represent 57%, Muslims represent 8% and Jewish people represent 2% of the population in Montréal's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).²⁹³
- There has been a continuous Jewish presence in Montreal since the 1760s. Today, Montreal's Jewish population is more than 90,000, making it the second largest in Canada and 15th largest in North America.²⁹⁴
- The first wave of Jewish migration to Montréal began in 1760, when the British army made its conquest of the city and brought with it merchants and traders who settled along today's Golden Square Mile. Another wave of Jewish migration to Montréal occurred in the 1880s to escape pogroms in Eastern Europe and antisemitism; this newer Yiddish-speaking community settled along Saint-Laurent Boulevard.²⁹⁵
- Montréal's Hasidic community began to form in the 1920s, with greater numbers arriving from Hungary and Lithuania, among other neighbouring countries, following the Second World War.²⁹⁶
- Throughout the 20th century, Jewish immigrants to Montréal came from countries that included Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Ethiopia and Argentina. The Moroccan community is particularly expansive in Montréal, a product of the country's French colonial history, and comprises more than a quarter of the city's Sephardim.²⁹⁷
- Bagels and smoked meat sandwiches are iconic Montréal foods that come from Jewish culture. Montréal's bagels are made by boiling dough in honey water and baking them in wood-fired ovens, making them denser and sweeter than other varieties. St-Viateur and Fairmount Bagels are the city's two most popular bagel shops.²⁹⁸
- The "godfather" of smoked meat is Schwartz's Deli, first opened by Reuben Schwartz in 1928, which popularized the Romanian-style smoked meat that Montréal is famous for. The cooking process involves curing the brisket cut in a spice mix for 10-12 days, smoking it for 8-9 hours, and then steaming it for another 3 hours.²⁹⁹
- The Museum of Jewish Montréal, located in the Plateau Mont-Royal neighbourhood, celebrates Montreal's unique Jewish culture and heritage. It is the only Jewish museum of its kind in Canada.³⁰⁰
- Famous Jewish Montrealers include singer-songwriter, poet and novelist Leonard Cohen, architect Moshe Safdie (Habitat 67), actor William Shatner, author Mordecai Richler and Nobel Prize-winning author Saul Bellow.³⁰¹

- Because Jewish immigrants had difficulty obtaining health care and finding employment in Montréal's leading hospitals in the early 20th century, medical and civic leaders and philanthropists in the Jewish community decided to build the Montréal Jewish General Hospital. It was inaugurated in 1934. Though built to meet the needs of the Jewish community, it welcomes patients and staff from all religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The JGH is one of the province's largest and busiest acute-care hospitals and is a McGill University teaching hospital.³⁰²
- The Segal Centre for Performing Arts is home to the award-winning Segal Theatre, the Academy of Performing Arts, CinemaSpace, Studio and the world-renowned Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre. Its programming celebrates popular classic and contemporary works, new Canadian musicals, concerts, dance, cinema and exploring the Jewish identity through the arts.³⁰³
- Montréal became home to proportionally the third largest community of Holocaust survivors in the world, after World War II. The Montréal Holocaust Museum tells the story of Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust.³⁰⁴
- The Jewish Public Library is a Montréal public library founded in 1914 that contains the largest circulating collection of Judaica in North America.³⁰⁵
- May is Jewish Heritage Month in Canada.³⁰⁶ In 2022, Montréal city council also passed a motion to make May Jewish Heritage Month.³⁰⁷
- Clothing companies founded in Montréal by Jewish families include Reitmans, Le Château, Canadelle, Peerless, Aldo, and clothing brands like Joseph Ribkoff and Parachute.³⁰⁸

Chinatown and Chinese communities

- Chinatown or *Le quartier chinois* is situated in borough of Ville-Marie. Historically, many different immigrants also lived here, including the Scottish, Irish, French and Jewish communities³⁰⁹.
- Chinatown occupies roughly one square block: Saint Dominique Street to the east, René Lévesque Boulevard to the north, Viger Avenue to the south and Jeanne-Mance Street to the west, the four corners of which are marked by large ornate Paifang Gates (the most of any Chinatown in Canada).
- Montréal's Chinatown is the only one in Québec. Though small, it has been the hub of the community for over a century.³¹⁰
- The five main countries of birth of recent immigrants in the Montréal agglomeration are Haiti, Algeria, France, Morocco and China.³¹¹

- In all, close to 80 languages are spoken in the Montréal region. According to the 2021 census, the most common languages were, in order (after French and English): Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Chinese and Creole.³¹²
- In 2022, Montréal's Chinatown was designated the city's first historical site (Québec's highest level of heritage protection) by the Québec government in recognition of the Chinese community's important contribution to the city.³¹³
- Canada's first all-Chinese hospital, The Montréal Chinese Hospital, was built in 1999.³¹⁴
- The Wings Building is likely Chinatown's oldest building. Built in 1826, it was designed by James O'Donnell, the architect behind the Notre-Dame Basilica in Old Montréal.³¹⁵
- The Place Sun Yat Sen, a public square at the heart of Chinatown, is named after the ideological father of modern China. It was constructed by eight commissioned craftsmen from Shanghai using traditional methods and materials.³¹⁶
- Dim sum, fresh noodles, roasted duck and pork as well as dragon beard candy are just some of the delicious foods found in Chinatown. The area is populated by a dynamic mix of businesses, restaurants, grocery stores offering authentic Asian products, trinket shops and souvenir stands.³¹⁷
- Founded in 1995, Festival Accès Asie is a Montréal-based arts festival that promotes Asian arts, cultures and histories through various artistic disciplines. It is Canada's longest continuously running Asian heritage arts festival.³¹⁸
- Montréal's Asian Night Market is a three-day festival in August that inspired by the night markets of Asia and features the best of local street food, arts and crafts and culture.³¹⁹
- Montréal's Shaughnessy Village (or "Shoni" as locals affectionately call it) is unofficially considered Montréal's "Chinatown West". The neighbourhood gets its name from Canadian Pacific Railway president Thomas Shaughnessy's luxurious home, built in 1874.³²⁰
- Montréal's Botanical Garden is home to the beautiful Chinese Gardens, which feature native plants, stones and water as well as traditional Chinese architecture. The thousands of pieces of material needed to build the garden were shipped from Shanghai to Montréal in some 120 containers. It took 50 Chinese craftsmen to assemble them all in 1990. Each October, the Chinese Garden glows with hundreds of colourful silk lanterns during the exquisite Gardens of Light.³²¹
- May is Asian Heritage Month in Montréal. The month is marked by festivities celebrating Montrealers of Asian heritage who have greatly contributed to the city's cultural diversity, compassion and prosperity.³²²

Religious heritage

- Catholicism, Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism, in that order, are the most commonly practiced religions in the Montréal area. Christians represent 57%, Muslims represent 8% and Jewish people represent 2% of the population in Montréal's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).³²³
- Montréal is home to almost 470 places of worship built before 1975, often Roman Catholic, primarily Christian, but also Jewish, Islamic, and Buddhist, among others.³²⁴
- For the city's 375th anniversary celebrations, Ulysse published a guide on Montréal's religious heritage entitled: *Montréal – un patrimoine religieux à découvrir (Montréal – A Religious Heritage to Discover)*.³²⁵

Notre-Dame Basilica³²⁶:

- Montréal's first parish church was built in 1672.
- A new church was erected south of this first church between 1824 and 1829. In 1830, the original church was destroyed, making room for the Place d'Armes square.
- The church was raised to the rank of a minor basilica in 1982.
- More than a million people from around the world visit the basilica each year.
- The Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery is affiliated with the Notre-Dame Basilica. Located on Mount Royal, it is the largest in Canada and third largest in North America.

Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral-Basilica³²⁷:

- The seat of the Roman-Catholic archdiocese in Montréal.
- It is the third largest church in Québec.
- The basilica is a reduced-scale replica (one third the size) of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.
- A major difference between the two buildings lies in the statues that have been fixed to the top: while St. Peter's Basilica is surmounted by statues of the twelve apostles, the patron saints of thirteen Montréal parishes are represented on the Mary Queen of the World Cathedral.
- It was the first building in Montréal to cost more than \$1M.
- Its construction began in 1870. Several complications and work stoppages caused by a lack of funds delayed the project's completion and opening. The dome of the basilica was finished in 1886, 16 years after the work started.

Saint Joseph's Oratory³²⁸:

- Founded in 1904 by Brother André, it was originally a small chapel. After several additions and expansions, the basilica was inaugurated in 1967. It has a seating capacity of 2,028.
 - It is the tallest church in Canada and one of the largest domed structures in the world.
 - The oratory welcomed Pope Jean-Paul II in 1984.
 - It is the largest shrine dedicated to Saint Joseph.
 - The Oratory welcomes over two million pilgrims and visitors each year.
 - Its stairs, which lead from the street to the Crypt Church, have two parallel flights of 283 concrete steps separated by a central flight of 99 wooden steps reserved for pilgrims who want to climb on their knees.
 - Its museum is dedicated primarily to sacred art. It is renowned for its exceptional collection of international crèches, and also features works from the religious, historical and artistic heritage of Québec and elsewhere in the world.
 - Saint Joseph's Oratory carillon includes 56 bronze bells and has a total combined weight of 10,900 kg. The largest bell weighs 1,500 kilograms while the smallest weighs only 5 kilograms.³²⁹
- In 2019, Saint Joseph's Oratory began on a major development project that includes a new Welcome Centre, a pedestrian-friendly Holy Family Plaza, a new structure for the carillon (including five more bells), a grand garden, a refurbished dome with an observation centre as well as renovations to its museum.³³⁰
 - Brother André (André Bessette) was declared venerable in 1978, beatified in 1982, and formally canonized in October 2010³³¹. A glass vial containing fragments of his heart is preserved in a reliquary in the Oratory.
 - In 1973, Brother André's heart was stolen by thieves who demanded a \$50,000 ransom. The Oratory refused to give in to this blackmail and it was finally Claude Poirier, a journalist, who found and returned the heart 21 months later³³².
 - Kateri Tekakwitha, who lived the last three years of her life in Kahnawake near Montréal, was canonized in October 2012. She is the first Indigenous woman in North America to be declared a saint.³³³
 - St. George's Anglican Church was constructed in 1869-1870 to plans by well-known architect William Tutin Thomas in the heart of downtown Montréal. Designed in the High Victorian Gothic Revival style, it features a gable roof as well as an asymmetrically placed bell tower, transept and chancel. It was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1990.³³⁴

- Built between 1684 and 1687, the Saint-Sulpice Seminary is the oldest building in Montréal's borough of Ville-Marie. The Society of Priests of Saint-Sulpice has been the sole owner since its construction.³³⁵
- The historic St. James United Church is an architectural gem located in downtown Montréal's Quartier des spectacles. Designed by renowned architect Alexander Francis Dunlop and built between 1887 and 1889 in the Gothic Revival style, the exterior is a Victorian Neo-Gothic image of a medieval French cathedral.³³⁶
- Downtown Montréal's Christ Church Cathedral is a dramatic Neo-gothic structure, designed by architect and Gothic revivalist Frank Wills. The seat of the Anglican Diocese in Montréal, it was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1999.³³⁷
- Erected between 1843 and 1847 to serve the needs of Irish immigrants who came to Montréal, St. Patrick's Basilica is the oldest English-speaking Roman Catholic Church in Montréal. It has been designated a Historic Monument by the Government of Québec and National Historic Site of Canada.³³⁸
- The Marguerite-Bourgeoys Historic Site and Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel crowns an ancient promontory overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Constructed in 1771, it sits atop a former First Nations encampment, and was built on the foundations of the first stone chapel erected in Montréal in 1675. In its 18th-century crypt is the tomb of Marguerite Bourgeoys, Montréal's first teacher.³³⁹
- The Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery, on Mount Royal, is Canada's largest cemetery. The first burial there was on May 29, 1855³⁴⁰; a 35-year-old Irish woman named Jane Gilroy. Both the cemetery and the iconic Mount Royal have been classified historical monuments.³⁴¹
- During Québec's Religious Heritage Days, the doors to many Montréal places of worship, including buildings that have been transformed, welcome visitors to discover old traditions and contemporary religious diversity.³⁴²
- Céline Dion married René Angélil at the Notre-Dame Basilica of Montréal in 1994.³⁴³
- St. Patrick's Basilica's parishioners included Thomas D'Arcy McGee, a Father of Confederation and the great Québécois poet Émile Nelligan who was baptized in the church on Christmas.³⁴⁴
- The statue of the woman overlooking the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel is the "lady" Leonard Cohen sings about in his song *Suzanne* ("*And the sun pours down like honey of our Lady of the Harbour*").³⁴⁵

- Christ Church Cathedral sits atop downtown Montréal's underground Promenades Cathédrale shopping mall. When the mall was being built in the 1980s, the church was raised on stilts to allow for the accommodation of commercial spaces.³⁴⁶
- Known as the "Miracle Man of Montréal," Saint André is credited with thousands of miraculous healings at Saint Joseph's Oratory.³⁴⁷ You can see the discarded canes and crutches of the cured suspended between the pillars of the chapel.³⁴⁸
- When Mark Twain visited Montréal in 1888 he called it "the city of a hundred bell towers," saying, *"This is the first time I was ever in a city where you couldn't throw a brick without breaking a church window."*³⁴⁹

Economy

Overview and stats

- Montréal is home to more than 70 international governmental and non-governmental organizations.³⁵⁰
- Montréal is the only Canadian city in which an official United Nations agency is located. In 1946, Montréal was designated as the permanent headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), an international organization that reports to the UN. Only two other North American cities are home to UN institutions: New York (UN headquarters) and Washington (International Monetary Fund headquarters)³⁵¹.
- Montréal attracts more foreign students than any other Canadian city. In 2023, there were nearly 40,000 foreign students enrolled in the city's universities³⁵².
- Montréal ranked 36th among best startup ecosystems in the world³⁵³.
- In 2023, over 21,2 million international passengers landed at YUL Montréal-Trudeau Airport, (including transborder passengers). Montréal-Trudeau is Canada's 3rd busiest airport, after Toronto and Vancouver.³⁵⁴
- The Quartier international is an urban space that was created in 2004 through a partnership between the private and public sectors. The project represents an investment of over \$90M and accounts for over 80% of employees in international organizations. This area is home to Montréal's Convention Centre (Palais des congrès) and to the head office of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.³⁵⁵

- Montréal is the civil aviation capital of Canada. It is home to the head offices of three international organizations—the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Société internationale des télécommunications aéronautiques (SITA)—that consolidate its leadership position.³⁵⁶
- Founded by the World Tourism Organization (WTO), a United Nations agency, the World Centre of Excellence for Destinations opened in Montréal in 2007. Its mission is to research and create tools to promote sustainable tourism development for destinations around the world.³⁵⁷
- The City of Montréal is a member of many international groups including United Cities and Local Governments as well as the *Association internationale des maires francophones*.³⁵⁸
- As a financial hub, Montréal ranks 33rd in the world and 8th in North America according to the Global Financial Centres Index 2022. The report measures the international competitiveness of the world's leading financial centres.³⁵⁹
- Montréal is among the top five cities for attracting foreign direct investment (fDI) in the American Cities of the Future 2021/22 ranking by the prestigious fDi Magazine.³⁶⁰
- Some of Montréal's economic advantages include³⁶¹:
 - the lowest operating costs of the 20 largest metropolitan areas in North America
 - a strategic position in North America providing direct access to the NAFTA market
 - a vast pool of highly skilled and bilingual workers
- In 2020, there were 1,140,644 jobs and more than 64,073 businesses in the Montréal agglomeration. The city of Montréal has more than 60% of the jobs on the island of Montréal and 28% of jobs in Québec. The borough of Ville-Marie has the highest concentration: 26.3% of all jobs on the island³⁶².
- In Montreal, the downtown area represents 300,000 jobs, 11,000 businesses, and 24 corporate headquarters with revenues exceeding \$1 billion³⁶³.
- Montréal's FinTech sector has over 3,000 financial companies (banking, insurance, securities, pension funds, financial advice and fund management) that employ over 110,000 people. Montréal ranks 1st in Canada and 3rd in North America for green finance.³⁶⁴
- The Gross Domestic Product (GPI) for all sectors of activity in the Montréal agglomeration was evaluated at \$150.6 billion for 2019, or 35% of the GPI of Québec

and 63% of the GPI for Montréal's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) Between 2009 and 2019, the agglomeration's annual average economic growth was estimated at 3.9%.³⁶⁵

- In 2020, there were a total of 64,073 business establishments operating in all business sectors in the Montréal agglomeration. Most, or 33,348 business establishments, had less than five employees. There were 873 business establishments with 200 or more employees, representing 1.4% of all businesses listed.³⁶⁶

Key sectors

A. Artificial intelligence³⁶⁷

- Montréal's Mile-Ex district is a hub for artificial intelligence. Several major organizations have set up shop here, including the Montréal Institute of Learning Algorithms (MILA), the Institut de valorisation des données-IVADO (Data Valuation Institute) and artificial intelligence solution provider Element AI.
- The city has positioned itself as a world-class centre of excellence in artificial intelligence and megadata, and boasts 27,000 skilled worker and 14,000 university students in AI-related programs.
- The city enjoys a very strong academic base in artificial intelligence with McGill University's Centre for Intelligent Machines and Université de Montréal's Montréal Institute of Learning Algorithms (MILA), home to Professor Yoshua Bengio, a world leader in the field. These are complemented by other academic initiatives such as the Institut de valorisation des données (IVADO). Montréal has also attracted world digital leaders such as Google, Microsoft, IBM, Samsung, Thalès and Facebook, which have each decided to set up a new artificial intelligence research laboratory in the Québec metropolis.
- Several international conferences and congresses on artificial intelligence have chosen Montréal as their meeting place:
 - The World Summit AI for the Americas in Montréal in 2022 and 2023
 - The 30th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) in 2021 (virtual edition).
 - The 32nd Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) in December 2018.
- Some 30 companies, including tech giants such as META, Google, Microsoft, Ericsson and Samsung have set up AI research centres in Montréal.

- Canada ranks 4th on the Global AI Index, the first index to benchmark nations on their level of investment, innovation and implementation of artificial intelligence.
- With over 900 researchers, Mila, the Québec artificial intelligence institute, has the world's largest concentration of academic researchers in deep learning.

B. Knowledge and education

- Montréal is home to 11 institutions of higher learning, including six major universities:
 - Université de Montréal (French)
 - Université du Québec à Montréal (French)
 - McGill University (English)
 - Concordia University (English)
 - Université de Sherbrooke –Longueuil Campus
- Five management and public administration institutions:
 - HEC Montréal, a business school affiliated with the Université de Montréal
 - École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP), affiliated with the Université du Québec
 - The École des sciences de la gestion of the Université du Québec à Montréal
 - Desautels Faculty of Management, affiliated with McGill University
 - John Molson School of Business, affiliated with Concordia University
- Three engineering and scientific research establishments:
 - École de Technologie supérieure (ÉTS)
 - École Polytechnique de Montréal
 - Institut National de la recherche scientifique (INRS)
- There are 14 public colleges (CEGEPs) in the Montréal region: 11 French and three English.³⁶⁸
- Montréal ranks first in Canada for the number of university degrees awarded to all students. The city boasted over 46,000 graduates in 2020, which represents 20% of new graduates in Canada and the highest number of graduates of any city in the country.³⁶⁹
- In 2024, McGill University was ranked 30th by QS World Ranking Universities which assesses the top 400 universities worldwide.³⁷⁰
- Montréal was named best city to study in across the world by HelpfulProfessor, in 2023³⁷¹.
- In 2023, there were 187,000 full-time students enrolled in universities in Montréal.³⁷²

- In 2019, the HEC Montréal's intensive MBA program was listed as the 16th best MBA program in the world according to Forbes magazine. HEC Montréal is the only Canadian education institution included in the magazine's ranking.³⁷³
- In 2016, 83.1% of the population of Montréal's CMA had at least one diploma, representing over 1.3 million people³⁷⁴:
 - 20.4% of the population of Greater Montréal aged 15 and up had a high school diploma.
 - 26.4% of the population had a certificate from a college, CEGEP or another non-university institution
 - 19% of the population had a bachelor's degree
 - 13.5% of the population had an academic certificate, diploma or degree above bachelor level.

C. Video games³⁷⁵

- Greater Montréal is among the top 5 video game development hubs in the world³⁷⁶.
- Greater Montréal is also home to about 70% of Québec's development studios and service companies, which include 200 of the world's best studios, such as Ubisoft, EA, WB Games, Eidos, Epic Games, Gameloft, Take-Two, Behaviour Interactive and Rovio, as well as numerous thriving independent studios³⁷⁷.
- The following globally successful video games were developed here in Montréal³⁷⁸:
 - *Assassin's Creed Origins* (Ubisoft).
 - *Batman: Arkham Origins* (Warner Bros Games)
 - *Deux Ex* et *Rise of the Tomb Raider* (Eidos).
 - *Dead by Daylight* (Behaviour Interactive).
- Founded 30 years ago, Behaviour Interactive is a pioneer in the Québec video game industry and Canada's largest independent game developer and publisher. The company has 1,000 employees, based primarily in Montréal³⁷⁹.
- *Assassin's Creed*, one of the most profitable games ever made, was produced in Montréal. Montréal is indeed considered to be one of the world's biggest centres for video game production³⁸⁰.
- Each year, Montréal hosts the Montréal International Game Summit (MIGS), one of the most important video game events in the world.³⁸¹

- Montréal hosts the Six Invitational every year. Organized by Ubisoft, this tournament brings together the best players in the world to battle it out in Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege video game³⁸².
- There are more than 200 video game production studios and more than 19,000 skilled video game workers in Greater Montréal.³⁸³
- Montréal boasts Canada's only research chair on artificial intelligence for video games. Affiliated with the Université de Montréal, the NSERC-Ubisoft Industrial Chair on Learning Representations for Immersive Video Games was created in 2011.³⁸⁴
- Greater Montréal is home to more than 3,400 college students enrolled in technical programs specializing in video games, animation and visual effects.³⁸⁵
- Over the past 20 years, Ubisoft has created 3,600 jobs and invested over \$3.5B in Québec.³⁸⁶

D. Film, visual and special effects

- Montréal makes it very attractive for producers to choose the city as a filming location. Some of the many reasons include³⁸⁷:
 - Advantageous tax credits for foreign productions
 - The largest number of cutting-edge technology studios in Canada
 - Access to a vast pool of artisans able to create decors and costumes
 - Talented actors and extras representing a vast pool of over 120 cultural origins
- Luc Besson, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Wim Wenders, Roland Emmerich, and Steven Spielberg are just a few of the many filmmakers who have planted their director's chair in Montréal to take advantage of its natural landscapes, filming infrastructures, postproduction studios, cutting-edge visual effect techniques and financial incentives³⁸⁸.
- Montréal has already been used as a "double" for the cities of Paris, London, New York, Washington and Boston during shootings³⁸⁹.
- The following feature-length films were shot in Montréal³⁹⁰:
 - *The United States vs. Billie Holiday* (2021 - Starring Andra Day)
 - *X-Men: Dark Phoenix* (2018) - starring James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Jennifer Lawrence

- *X-Men: Apocalypse* (2016) - starring James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Jennifer Lawrence
 - *The Walk* (2015) - starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt
 - *Brooklyn* (2015) - starring Saoirse Ronan and Emory Cohen
 - *X-Men: Days of Future Past* (2014) - starring Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Hugh Jackman
 - *Life of Pi* (2012) - starring Suraj Sharma and Irrfan Khan
 - *Barney's Version* (2010) - starring Paul Giamatti, Rosamund Pike and Dustin Hoffman
 - *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (2008) - starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett
 - *Blades of Glory* (2007) - starring Will Ferrell and Jon Heder
 - *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004) - starring Dennis Quaid and Jake Gyllenhaal
 - *The Notebook* (2004) - starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams
 - *The Terminal* (2004) - starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones
 - *The Aviator* (2004) - starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett and Kate Beckinsale
 - *Catch Me if You Can* (2002) - starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks and Amy Adams
 - *The Whole Nine Yards* (2000) - starring Bruce Willis and Matthew Perry
- During the 2022-2023 period, the film and television industry in Quebec generated 57,000 jobs in Quebec, including 20,000 in Quebec television productions, 3,000 in Quebec film productions, and 30,000 in foreign productions. The industry is responsible for \$2.3 billion in direct spending in Quebec³⁹¹.
 - Quebec hosted 13 international productions in 2023. The economic impact of foreign shoots amounted to \$399 million in 2023³⁹².
 - Over 115 VFX and animation projects were completed in Quebec in 2023, totaling \$1.241 billion in direct spending³⁹³.
 - Over the past years, Montréal has welcomed the following animation and visual effects giants:
 - Atomic Fiction (Method Studios), known worldwide for its work on such productions as *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Transformers: Age of Extinction*, *Need for Speed*, and *Flight*. (2014)
 - BUF, a French company and European leader in the animation and visual effects industry, which has contributed to the artistic success of over 75 films, including *Fight Club* and *Avatar*. (2014)
 - Cinesite, a British company that designed the special effects for *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, directed by Guy Ritchie. (2014)

- Moving Picture Company, the company behind the effects in countless blockbusters such as *1917*, *The Lion King*, *Blade Runner 2049* and *Godzilla*. (2013)
 - Framestore, one of the three biggest animation and visual effects studios for the television and film industry, set up shop here to serve its primarily Hollywood and New York clientele. (2013)
- Montréal ranks first in Canada and is a world leader in the visual effects industry. There are 6,250 2D/3D animation and VFX workers as well as 35 animation and VFX studios in the city.³⁹⁴
- A glimpse at the global success of VFX made in Montréal.³⁹⁵
 - *1917* - 2020 Oscar winner for best visual effects
 - *Blade Runner 2049* - 2018 Oscar winner for best visual effects
 - *X-Men Apocalypse*
 - *Arrival*
 - *Star Wars – The Force Awakens*
 - *Game of Thrones*
- Montréal took home the Gaming and Visual Effects Specialism Award during the Financial Times' fDi Strategy Awards in 2019.³⁹⁶

E. Aerospace

- Québec's aerospace ecosystem represents more than 36,000 jobs and over 200 companies. Greater Montréal is a key Canadian player, accounting for 71% of Canadian aerospace R&D.³⁹⁷
- Each year, 4,000 new students graduate in the aerospace sector in Québec; 3,500 of these are in Greater Montréal.³⁹⁸
- 25 of the world's 100 largest aerospace companies are established in Greater Montréal.³⁹⁹
- Greater Montréal has direct access to 83% of the world aerospace market.⁴⁰⁰
- Montréal is recognized as a global aerospace industry hub. Numerous companies in the industry are located here, including Bombardier, Airbus, Bell Helicopter Textron, CAE, Pratt & Whitney as well as more than 200 specialized companies⁴⁰¹.

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) headquarters near Victoria Square have been located in Montréal since 1946⁴⁰².
- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is also based in Montréal⁴⁰³.
- Montréal is the only city in the world where it is possible to build an aircraft entirely from local materials⁴⁰⁴.
- Before American astronaut Neil Armstrong set foot on the Moon in 1969, the legs of the Apollo 11 lunar module, manufactured in Longueuil by the Quebec company Héroux-Devtek, had already touched the lunar surface⁴⁰⁵.

F. Life sciences and health technologies

- Québec's life sciences and health tech ecosystem is among the largest in North America; 80% of this ecosystem is based in Montréal.⁴⁰⁶
- There are over 46,000 jobs and more than 1,000 companies in life sciences and health tech in private companies in Québec.⁴⁰⁷
- Some 50,000 university and college students are enrolled in life sciences and health tech-related programs in Greater Montréal.⁴⁰⁸
- In 2021, research spending in Québec's hospitals totalled nearly \$805M in 2021.⁴⁰⁹
- Greater Montréal is the 1st in Canada for university research funding with \$2B allocated per year.⁴¹⁰

Tourism industry

Overview and stats

- In 2023, Montreal welcomed 11 million visitors⁴¹¹.
- Tourist spending totaled \$4.3 billion in 2023⁴¹².
- The hotel occupancy rate on the island of Montreal was 70.5%, with a peak occupancy rate of 78.9% from June to October⁴¹³.

- During the cruise season, the city welcomed over 51,000 passengers and 12,000 crew members traveling on 23 ships from 15 different cruise lines⁴¹⁴.
- Montréal was named the safest city to travel to in North America: in 2023, ranking both the most popular destinations for travelers and their various safety measures, plus extracting the safest city indexes, Berkshire Hathaway Travel Protection ranked Montréal as the safest city to travel to in North America⁴¹⁵.
- Montréal was also named safest destination and best destination for women travelling solo in 2022: Holidu ranked the safest destinations around the world for women travelling alone based on several factors, including street safety, crime rate, attitudes, culture and cost of solo travel. Montréal was named the best city for women travelling solo thanks to its brightness at night and low crime rate⁴¹⁶.
- In 2016, the Guide *le Routard* published a list of 50 destinations to visit at least once in a lifetime. In the section on North America, Montréal is the only Canadian city, sharing company with New York, San Francisco, Miami and Mexico City.⁴¹⁷
- Montréal's reputation as a winter destination started to grow as early as the 19th century. American tourists especially came here for winter activities such sliding, skiing and snowshoeing on Mount Royal, which can still be enjoyed to this day.⁴¹⁸
- Montréal was the first city to organize a winter carnival between 1883 and 1889.⁴¹⁹ Today, other events such as Igloofest, MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE and Nuit Blanche invite tourists and locals to take advantage of the snowy season.

Business meetings and Conventions

- In 2023, the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA)'s Country and City rankings listed Montréal as the top city in the Americas for hosting international association events, with 68 international events at the Palais des congrès de Montréal. The city also ranked first for estimated number of participants in the Americas, a first.⁴²⁰
- In 2023, Montréal ranked first in the Americas for hosting international conferences, with 65 international events, according to the newest edition of the Union of International Association's (UIA) International Meeting Statistics Report.⁴²¹
- The Palais des congrès de Montréal is at the crossroad of downtown and Old Montréal. It covers an area of 47,265 m² (508,756 sq. ft.) over 7 levels, offers 113 rooms that can accommodate a wide range of events, and has one of the largest column-free exhibition halls in Canada. More than 16,000 hotel rooms are located within a 10-minute walk from the Palais, including approximately 4,000 rooms that are directly accessible by RESO, Montréal's underground pedestrian network.⁴²²

- The events with the biggest attendance in Montréal in 2022 were⁴²³:
 - World Irish Dancing Championships – 7,500 delegates
 - International Studies Association – 5,400 delegates
 - CIM Conférence et Exposition Montréal 2023 – 5,305 participants

Sports Events

- In 1976, Montréal was the first Canadian city to host the Olympic Games.
- To this day it remains the only Canadian city to have hosted the Summer Olympics.
- The legacy stadium—featuring its iconic tower—is the largest closed-roof stadium in Canada. Also, at 165 m (541 ft), the Olympic Tower is the world's tallest inclined structure.⁴²⁴
- The city has numerous other major sports venues⁴²⁵:
 - **The Bell Centre**
Maximum capacity: 21 000
 - **IGA stadium**
16 indoor tennis courts + 10 outdoor tennis courts
Maximum capacity: 12 000
 - **Claude-Robillard Sports Complex**
Maximum capacity: 12 000
 - **Saputo Stadium**
Maximum capacity: 19 619
 - **Circuit Gilles Villeneuve**
Maximum capacity: 100 000
 - **The Percival-Molson Stadium**
Maximum capacity: 23 430

Urban development: ongoing projects

Royalmount⁴²⁶

- Royalmount is an innovative eco-community in the town of Mount Royal. A densified, mixed-used project, it will feature massive greening, public transit access and a focus on active mobility. Residential accommodations, offices, luxury boutiques, a piazza, restaurants, entertainment and a hotel are among its many assets. Its sustainable initiatives include:
 - complete carbon neutrality
 - green spaces that include a sprawling forest (including 450,000 trees and plants), green roofs and vertical vegetation
 - rainwater harvesting
- Once fully complete, Royalmount will offer 3,250 residential units, all surrounding a prolific green space and punctuated with a variety of commercial spaces. The project also includes an urban woodland, a 3-km linear pedestrian path (accessible year-round), community services, and a central piazza that can be used for gatherings. The pedestrian-oriented development (POD) project also features commercial spaces, entertainment and wellbeing spaces, hotel rooms, exercise facilities, community services, offices, and event spaces.
- Royalmount will also include the Montréal Aquarium, scheduled to open in 2025. The attraction aims to promote the importance of water preservation and protection of the marine environment⁴²⁷.
- Interestingly, the Royalmount site was once a melon farm and industrial park.

Lachine Canal 4.0⁴²⁸

The Lachine Canal 4.0 project aims to transform the canal area by leveraging its multiple strategic assets to promote its tremendous potential. Currently the area offers 1,000 businesses and some 18,000 jobs. It has numerous recreational and tourism infrastructures, a rich residential component, and 6.3 million sq. ft. to be developed.

Montréal-Est⁴²⁹

Montreal East wants to become Canada's Silicon Valley by 2050. The urban development targeted by the "Montréal-Est: vision 2050" project is assessed over an area of 23 million square feet. The industrial development will be accompanied by a major residential development

where public and active transportation will be the norm to encourage citizens to gradually diminish the use of cars.

Ruelles bleues-vertes⁴³⁰

The idea behind the Ruelles bleues-vertes is to rethink urban layout in order to redirect stormwater (which typically ends up in the municipal sewer network) towards green facilities accessible to the public.

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