

Montréal | Tiohtià:ke

The survival guide to this bilingual city of “La Belle Province”



Compiled by Meghomita Das and Charles Lapointe

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this bilingual, quirky city of Montreal, or as it is traditionally known, Tiohtià:ke.

“We acknowledge that our work in Tiohtià:ke/Montréal takes place on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Kanien’kehá:ka/Mohawk Nation. Kanien’kehá:ka is known as a gathering place for many First Nations, and we recognize the Kanien’kehá:ka as custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today.”

Montreal has its own charms and nuances that can make you fall in love with this city or sometimes, it can put you at a loss for words. This document is made with the intention that you get to have a handy-dandy survival guide to what makes Montreal unique, and how you can survive this city (by using the sage wisdom of your peers who came before you).

Montreal’s weather system is moody. The coordinate system of this city is also wonky. There are unique traffic rules that apply only to the island of Montreal (no right turn on Red). And of course, you will find your beloved Colonel Sanders on a shop logo called PFK that will be a jarring visual for you (more on this later).

I am Meghomita Das (mostly go by Meg). I have been in this city for 2 years now and as a Bengali person who loves to eat (the Monty Society, our undergrad society, gave me an award for this), I walked around this place a lot. This guide is not an exhaustive list of things, and we will do our best to update it as we go along. Use this guide as your jump-off point to start your adventure in this city. This guide has been made by the collective knowledge of EPSers and we hope this helps you as you spend your time here.

Note from Charles: Hi, you can call me Charles or Sporky! I'm a francophone who grew up on the South Shore and I've lived in the city for 10 years now. I really really like squirrels!! I helped with some local perspective, trivia and highlights that were of course coloured by my own experiences and incomplete. But I hope this will be helpful and interesting to you!

Tiohtià:ke, the place where nations and rivers unite and divide.

— Kanien’kehá:ka



BOROUGHS OF MONTREAL

Montreal has several neighborhoods, each with its own vibe. Since the island is small (relatively) and it is well-connected by the transit systems, you will never be too far away from the campus. The entire population of EPS is distributed all over the island. So ask any of us for more information about the neighborhood.

Since there is a wide francophone and anglophone population in this city, some neighborhoods will be francophone-rich and others will be anglophone-rich. The general rule is that the further east you go on the island, the more francophone the population.

There are also several anglophone enclaves on this island: *Town of Mont-Royal (TMR)*, *Cote-Saint-Luc/Hampstead*, *Montreal West*, *West Island*, *Notre-Dame-de-Grace (NDG, bilingual)*, and *Westmount*.

The following websites will provide you with more information about each borough. The website monitored by the municipality of Montreal provides even more information, such as recycling days, garbage collection days, libraries, and recreational centers within each neighborhood.

Some general neighborhoods that are more immigrant-rich are *Cote-St-Catherine*, *Snowdon*, *Parc Extension*, *Acadie*, *Little Maghreb*, *Little Italy*, *Villeray/Jean-Talon*, *Plamondon*, *Guy-Concordia*, *Chinatown*. These neighborhoods also contain shops and services that are more geared towards their communities' needs. For example, stores in Parc Ex sell Indian ethnic wear and even have several Indian beauty salons.

Montreal Municipality Website: <https://montreal.ca/en/>

The Good Neighbour Guide (Living & Renting in Montreal): https://www.mcgill.ca/students/housing/files/students.housing/good_neighbor_guide.pdf

Régie du Logement (now called the Tribunal administratif du logement, housing board of Montreal): <https://www.tal.gouv.qc.ca/>

Legal Information Clinic at McGill (provides information about cases related to landlord issues): <https://licm.ca/services/>

Rental listings are available on **Kijiji**, **Facebook Marketplace**, and several other Facebook groups. Join as many groups as you can to get the best deals.

PUBLIC MARKETS OF MONTREAL

Montreal has several public markets distributed all over the island. Some of these markets are open throughout the year whereas others operate between April-November each year. These markets host vendors that bring in their local produce, meat, and other edible goods. Some of these markets are also great places to try the local Quebec specialty ingredients and dishes. For more information about the public markets of Montreal, please visit <https://www.marchespublics-mtl.com/>. Markets that are open throughout the year are:

1. Jean-Talon Market (Google Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/TTgeZmMWDgAsjhXC7>)
2. Atwater Market (Google Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/Xi5X8ECQim4WyNAR9>)
3. Maisonneuve market (Google Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/a6UaHzjmcpsdshMAT9>)

BONJOUR/HI

This is something you will encounter quite often, as you navigate your way around the city. Whether you are entering a coffee shop or a corner store, this will be your standard greeting. This greeting is also restricted to Montreal, specifically. Here are some quirks of the language that you will encounter in this province.

1. Québec mandates that street-facing store displays not be exclusively in English. Some stores are called by a different name in order to adhere to the law. Many simply tack on an extra French word, but here is a list of some of the Quebec specific store names (non-exhaustive list):
 - a. Pharmaprix in Quebec is Shoppers Drug Mart elsewhere
 - b. Poulet Frit Kentucky (PFK) is Kentucky Fried Chicken elsewhere
 - c. Staples is called Bureau en Gros here
 - d. Corner stores are called Dépanneur
 - e. Loblaws also exists, but some of their other chains include Maxi (instead of No Frills) and Provigo
 - f. In reverse, Couche-Tard is called Mac's outside of Québec
2. Bonjour/Hi is a greeting for most places and depending upon how you reply, the person decides on the language for the rest of the conversation.
3. Metro and Metro can mean two different things in the city. There is Épicerie Metro ([the Metro grocery stores](#)) and there is the transit Metro (refer to the next section).
4. As mentioned above, Montreal has pockets/neighborhoods that might be either



anglophone or francophone. However, the overall population of the city is generally bilingual.

5. If you want to enroll in French language classes, here are some options:
 - a. UQAM French Language Class
 - b. [PGSS French Class](#)
 - c. [Quebec Immersion Program French Class](#)

TRANSIT & WONKY COORDINATE SYSTEM

Montreal has a wonky coordinate system. Everything is tilted 45° off-kilter. The south, north, east, west road directions do NOT match with the actual geographic directions. St Lawrence River is taken as flowing west to east (even though geographically it flows to the northeast), so directions along streets parallel to the river are referred to as ‘west/ouest’ or ‘east/est’. The streets perpendicular to the river are ‘north/nord’ or ‘south/sud’. These directions become important when you are trying to figure out which bus to get on. In general, the north in Montreal is actually northwest and in places like Verdun, due west. This wonky system is the reason why Montreal has been called the

“only city where the sun sets in the north”. But when you’re walking around, you can often orient yourself based on the gentle slope toward Mt. Royal.

[Here](#) is a cool blog post explaining the uniqueness of Montreal’s coordinate system.

Up the street would mean going towards Mount Royal and down the street would mean going towards the river. Streets are named “Est” or “Ouest” when they cross Saint-Laurent Boulevard.

As an ardent user of the city’s transit system, I would say that **STM (Société de transport de**

Montreal) is one of the main reasons why I like this city. The STM operates the most



heavily used urban mass transit system in Canada. It operates the buses (night buses) and metros/subways in this city. There are 4 subway lines (orange, green, blue, yellow) with a total of 68 stations as well as over 186 bus routes and 23 night routes that take you to different parts of this island but as of now, the yellow line is not wheelchair accessible. By the way, the metro here is special in that it runs on rubber tires, not metal wheels! Cool. By the way, the metro here is special in that it runs on rubber tires! [Here](#) is the link to the maps of the STM system.

The STM also connects to EXO and other neighboring transit services seamlessly (refer to STM link above, mainly STL in Laval and RTL in Longueuil). As of November 2020, there are 16 stations with elevators installed, with plans of expansion in the near future.

The STM also opens onto Montreal's prized attraction: [The Underground City](#) or *RESO* or *La ville souterraine*. Insiders will know that it's mostly a giant sprawling mall but also extensively used to get around when it's -20°C in the winter.

For students, reduced fare monthly transit cards are available for \$54 (aka OPUS). You can get this card via Minerva or you can get one at the Berri UQAM subway station. It needs to be renewed every year (\$15 charge). The monthly reduced fare option gives you unlimited travel options within the STM network. Other fares that you can load the OPUS card with are 10 trips (\$30), a day pass, a weekend pass, one fare, etc. Always remember to register your OPUS card (automatic if you have a reduced fare card with photo, otherwise you can do it at major stations). This will allow you to transfer your balance in case you lose your card. If you don't have the transit pass and want to take a ride, each fare is \$3.50 (remember to have exact change for the bus machines).

Montreal is also a bike-friendly city with dedicated bike lanes connecting all the different boroughs. You can also get **BIXI** bike passes if you want to use a rental city bike to explore the city. BIXI works via timed trips and uses a barcoded tag or your phone app to unlock bikes. BIXI has a fare option that allows you to get an OPUS and a BIXI pass as a bundle price (more info [here](#)). [Here](#) is the bike map of Montreal.

Transit app is a good app that allows you to track bus times and crowdedness. It's integrated with STM and other services and also uses crowdsourcing for real-time tracking. They also provide lists of stops that are currently unavailable due to construction. You can also follow STM lines on Twitter to get updates on the functioning of the metro line.

Communauto is a rental car-sharing app that allows you to book a rental car for the day to roam around the city. They have different subscription plans for this service. If you



are a student and hold a driving license from your country, then you can upload your documents and passport onto their website and get your account verified for free.

HYDRO, BANKS, AND CELL PHONE PROVIDERS:

Hydro-Québec is the sole provider of electricity (and electric heating is quite prevalent) in the province since electricity was nationalized in the 1940s. The source of electricity in Québec is overwhelmingly hydro dams, resulting in comparatively inexpensive and sustainable electricity (keyword comparatively). Some areas are also serviced by **Energir** (formerly Gaz Métropolitain) for gas heating. Hydro bills can vary between the seasons due to different consumption patterns during winter and summer, and window/door insulation. Hydro-Québec allows you to equalize your monthly payments if you want to pay a fixed estimate every month; this estimate is based on the previous 12 months at that residence and is adjusted every year. You can also get special contracts if you're unable to pay at the regular rate. If you're really in a bad spot, the law prevents them from cutting off the electricity in the winter months.

There are several banks in the city and due to the prime downtown location of our campus, most of the banks are within walking distance from our building. The major banks are **Bank of Montreal (BMO), Desjardins (technically a cooperative), CIBC, Scotiabank, RBC, and Toronto Dominion (TD)**. There is also **Tangerine** (an online banking service). When you make your account in any of these banks, make sure to apply for a Student Banking account. Student Banking accounts come with special benefits like you don't have to pay for each transaction you make and you don't have to pay any annual fees for your account. Consider applying for a credit card with your account (again, go for the Student one) since a credit card is beneficial when you make fieldwork expenses or if you want to rent a car. Whichever banks you apply to, make sure that your account and your cards come with Interac on them. **Interac** e-transfers is the VENMO of Canada and allows you to easily transfer money between people. Some landlords even prefer rental payments via Interac e-transfer. Remember to use the ATM of your bank for cash withdrawal, since most banks have a \$2-3 charge on cash transactions if you use a different ATM.

Canada's large cell phone providers have terrible mobile data plans. They can get very expensive. Some affordable options are **Public Mobile (PM), Koodo, Fido, and Fizz**. Also, when you choose a budget carrier, you might want to think about which larger carrier they belong to. For example, PM and Koodo are both Telus, and Fido is Rogers. In large cities, this won't necessarily matter, but if you do remote fieldwork, there's a huge difference. Telus has the most remote coverage, while Bell & Rogers follow the



St-Lawrence but don't go inland as much, and Videotron is nonexistent beyond Rimouski. Here is a good map comparing the major networks: <https://www.comparecellular.ca/coverage-maps/>

Most cell plans come with unlimited texts and Canada calls but different data plans. There are also referral coupons available for all cellular networks. So if you want a plan at a discounted price, ask any one of us and we will share the referral code with you (if we have one). Cellular companies also sell contract-based phones and international call and data packages. Fido does special days in the week where it offers you a data boost for the day. Fizz allows for rollover data plans, so if you have not used a certain amount of data for a month, it can get rolled over to the next month. Fizz also allows you to adjust your cell plans every month.

THE WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY IS..... EVERYTHING!

Montreal weather is notorious for being super unpredictable. You can experience a whole range of weather conditions within a matter of hours. Always check your Weather App to make sure you are not caught outside in a thunderstorm. Generally, the city is at the junction of humid continental and subarctic climate regions, with hot humid summers but frigid winters with lots of snow.

As someone who showed up from a tropical country, here are some winter tips that might help you out.

- a. Always layer up. For the days when the temperature might be -35°C , here is the layer division: layer 1 (thermal base layers), layer 2 (normal clothes and wool sweater), layer 3 (insulating down jacket), layer 4 (waterproof jacket; most jackets combine layer 3 and 4).
- b. Buy your winter boots a size bigger than your normal size to account for thick wool socks.
- c. Get Mittens
- d. For winter shoes, get a boot with a heat rating.
- e. Be careful on frozen sidewalks, especially when there's a bit of snow on top of the ice!

Some places to get winter clothes: **Sports Experts (sale in September)**, [Point Zero liquidation store](#) near Plamondon station, **Arcteryx**, **MEC**, **La Cordée**, or websites like: www.thelasthunt.com / www.altitudesports.com for discounted winter clothes.



Winter in Montreal is super temperamental. It can swing from -20°C on Monday to 2°C on Tuesday. Montreal experiences several freeze-thaw cycles every winter season, so prepare your boots for the muddy slush fest. The first snow is usually at the beginning of November, and the last one is sometime in April. Montreal also happens to be really good at preparing for snow and you will see several tiny snow bulldozing cars clearing roads all over the city. Beware of these tiny cars, they can bump you or destroy your bike on the sidewalk. The snow removal process is a Montreal orchestra and truly very fascinating. Also, keep in mind that the extreme cold in winter results in very low moisture content in the air, and consequently very low relative humidity indoors once that air is heated up. It can be a good idea to get a cheap humidifier for your room.

GROCERIES & DEPS

There are several grocery stores all across the city. Some of the places are even open for 24X7 so you can make that 4 am grocery run if you want. Épicerie means grocery in French and Supermarché refers to supermarkets. The Office of Scholarships and Student Aid created [this handy cheap sheet](#) where they list out places to get groceries at a cheap price.

Some of the major chain grocery stores in Montreal are:

1. Metro Épicerie* (THIS IS NOT THE METRO transit system)
2. Provigo*
3. IGA
4. Maxi and Cie (budget-friendly)
5. Walmart (budget-friendly)
6. Super C (budget-friendly)
7. Costco (for bulk purchases, needs memberships)
8. Bulk Barn*

*Offers student discounts on certain days of the week.

There are also some local stores in Montreal that offer fresh produce at good prices. They are:

1. Supermarché PA (multiple locations): If I could pick a favorite grocery store, it would be this. They have a nice produce section and a hefty ethnic food aisle.
2. Supermarché Adonis (multiple locations)



3. Marché Lobo (for all the McGill Ghetto folks)
4. Segal's (the grocery store to be if you are a Plateau resident)

Dépanneurs (aka Deps) are corner stores that are dotted all across the city. Most of them have your everyday needs and some of them are greengrocers selling cheap but fresh fruits/vegetables. They also carry a general selection of beers and sub-par wines. There is also Couche-Tard, a late-night convenience store that sells coffee, cokes, and some baked goods.

If you are looking for ethnic food stores, here is a non-exhaustive list:

1. Tharshini near Cote-St-Catherine metro: Indian
2. Marché Victoria near Plamondon metro: Indian
3. Marché Newon near Guy Concordia metro: pan-Asian
4. Marché Adonis near Atwater metro: Mediterranean
5. Dhillon grocery store near Parc Ex/Acadie metro: Indian
6. Marché Ghanacan at Parc Ex: Ghanian store
7. Marché Kim-Phat (On Chemin Cote des Neiges) and Fu-Tai (Plaza Cote Des Neiges): pan-Asian store
8. Marché Akhavan (NDG): Middle-Eastern
9. Marché Lobo (McGill Ghetto): Middle-Eastern
10. Marché Eden (McGill Ghetto/Parc): Asian (mostly Korean)
11. Marché Mizan (Downtown, near Guy Concordia): Middle-Eastern
12. Marché Medina (Ontario St/St Laurent intersection): Bangladeshi
13. Marché Branche d'Olivier (near De L'Église métro): Middle-Eastern and bulk store
14. Anatol Spices (near Jean-Talon metro): For all the spice needs
15. La Vieille Europe (on St Laurent Boulevard): European
16. Sabor Latino Foods (near Jean-Talon metro): Latin
17. L'Española (St Laurent Boulevard): Spanish

For specialty wines and beer, as well as hard liquor, there is the SAQ (Société des Alcools du Québec). The law in the province is that deps/grocery stores can sell drinks containing up to 20% alcohol per volume, from 7 am-11 pm; anything stronger has to go through the SAQ. For international students, they ask for a government-approved ID during purchase. They carry pretty much all alcoholic beverages under the sun. There are also several microbreweries around Montreal like **Oshlag**, **Brasseurs de Montréal**, **St Ambroise**, **Dieu du Ciel**, etc. [Maltehops](#) is a specialized beer store in Verdun that hosts a lot of Montreal/Quebec-produced beers in their selection.



Cannabis has been legal in Canada since 2018, with public consumption restrictions similar to alcohol. In Québec, all related products must be purchased from the SQDC (Société Québécoise du Cannabis).

BUDGET-EATS

Montreal has a good selection of restaurants offering diverse cuisines. Eating outside in Montreal can get pricey at times but there are plenty of budget-friendly places to tide you over. The Office of Scholarship and Student Aid created this [handy cheap sheet](#) to help you out when you are hungry. [Here](#) is a guide to food places while you are on campus. Eater Montreal also curates budget-friendly restaurants for the city and is a good website to refer to.

No matter what you do and where you go to eat, there is a rule that you must remember. Always have food with your alcohol if you are drinking in the park! It is technically legal to drink in a park if it is part of a picnic and the park has eating areas in it (like a picnic table).

Montreal offers cuisines and food options from around the world. Most of these places are run by small BIPOC families or business owners. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of these restaurants took a hit due to closures and restrictions. However, as we move out of this pandemic, these places are back in action and offering the best, most authentic cuisine from far away lands. If you can't travel internationally, at least you can enjoy the international food bounty in Montreal. [Here is a guide to BIPOC owned restaurants in Montreal.](#)

*BIPOC: Umbrella term for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Montreal also boasts uber-cool independent cafes that can also double up as a barbershop or even a grocery store. This city truly celebrates the third wave coffee movement where the coffee comes from small-scale farmers who practice sustainable coffee agriculture and produce superior quality beans. There are several coffee roasters across the city that sell freshly roasted coffee beans from around the world. These cafes also double as working space. [Here is a website](#) that walks you through all the local coffee roasting companies and third-wave cafes in Montreal.

If you're looking for Montreal classics, check out some of the wood oven bagels or intricate wild poutine specialty places around town. (Try La Banquise)



SHOPPING & THRIFTING

Montreal has several shopping malls and stand-alone stores to satisfy the shopaholic inside you. Ste Catherine and St Laurent street are the main shopping streets. During summer, these streets are pedestrian-only so you can waddle down the street without bumping into the cars. **Alexis Nihon** is a shopping mall, near Atwater station, that has all the stores under one roof. The big stores like IKEA, Walmart Supercenter, and Costco are off-island but you can take a bus or a car to get there. If you want to navigate the underground terrain of Montreal while shopping, there is the great **Eaton Center** too. It has all the shops connected all together by a system of tunnels and passages and links between metro stations. For a wide array of student discounts in Canada, there is the SPC card (Student Price Card, membership required but sometimes has free trials, www.spccard.com) and Student Beans (free) at www.studentbeans.com/ca, which has discounts for Altitude-Sports, Samsung, sometimes Arcteryx, and other large brands.

For buying outdoor or sporting gear, the main stores are **Sports Experts/Atmosphere, MEC (Mountain Equipment Co-op), Decathlon, La Cordée, Sail and Altitude-Sports (online)**. You can also rent gear from the **McGill Outdoors Club** for a really affordable rental fee. For hardware, the main stores are **Home Depot, Home Hardware, Canadian Tire, and RONA**.

Since Montreal has a huge student population who are constantly coming into the city or leaving it, you will get plenty of options to thrift. The main thrift stores are **Renaissance, Village des Valeurs, and Salvation Army**. They carry everything and some of them also give you store credit when you donate to them. There is also **Le Magasin du Chaînon** on St Laurent Street that sends its proceeds to women's shelters in the city. Facebook Marketplace is always a good place to look for second-hand furniture, bikes, apartments, plant cuttings, etc. **Bunz trading** is another Facebook group where you can trade your stuff for something that you need. The last two options are both budget-friendly and you can get good deals on things pretty easily. There are also groups called '**As-tu ça toi?**' (**do you have that?**) and '**Veux-tu ça toi?**' (**do you want this?**) where money transactions are forbidden. There are several other stores that sell second-hand books, vinyl, knick-knacks dotted across the city. Two of my favorite second-hand bookstores are the **Word (Milton Street), and SW Welch (on St Viateur)**. The city also has several indie bookstores and public libraries. If you are a Montreal resident, then you can get a Montreal public library card and get access to all the libraries on the island.



Also, remember that Spotify and Amazon Prime do NOT offer free trials in the province of Québec, and Spotify Student doesn't exist here either. YouTube Premium Student works in Québec, and you can get Amazon Prime Student status with your McGill email which will last 4 years.

FUN STUFF TO DO

The long winter means a very dense summer activity schedule with a great festival season. If you stay in the city, you might enjoy, among many many others: *the Formula One Grand Prix*; *the International Jazz Festival*; *Montréal Complètement Cirque*; *Osheaga*; *Fantasia Film Festival*; *the Loto-Québec international fireworks competition* (this takes place at La Ronde/Six Flags amusement park, but tens of thousands gather along the river and on Jacques-Cartier bridge for excellent free seats to the show).

The area around the Olympic stadium has a grouping of great museums called 'Space for Life'. These are the Insectarium (renovated, re-opening for Fall 2021 - check Google Maps, the building is shaped like an insect!), Planetarium (recently built), Biôdome (just re-opened after massive renovations) and Botanical Gardens. The Gardens are quite enormous and varied and host an international flower sculpture competition, and fantastic Japanese & Chinese gardens, among many other great ones! In fact, the Chinese garden is the largest outside of China. Montreal's relationships with Hiroshima and Shanghai as 'sister cities' made this possible. This area is also where Stade Saputo is, which is home to the Montreal FC soccer team.

-The Quartier des Spectacles is a collection of theatres/venues centered around Place-des-Arts. The Montreal Symphony Orchestra plays in the 'Maison Symphonique,' the modern-looking wooden building. You can get great student discounts for concerts. There are also free organ performances at Oratoire St-Joseph. And don't forget McGill Opera and McGill's orchestras which give truly great performances in Strathcona Music Building on Sherbrooke, at little-to-no cost for students. The Contemporary Art museum has free/discounted days and the Fine Arts museum is right next door from McGill. You can also get immersed in Montreal's history at Pointe-a-Calliere archeological museum in the old port.

-If you want a bit of a beach/outdoor swimming experience, try Verdun beach or Parc Jean-Drapeau; both are right next to metro stations.

-There are of course the city's three professional sports teams; the Montreal Canadiens (greatest team ever, 24 Stanley Cup wins) NHL team play at the Bell Centre, the



Impact/Montreal FC MLS team at Stade Saputo, and the Alouettes CFL team play at McGill's Percival-Molson stadium.

If you always dreamed of being a racecar driver but couldn't make it, you can still race on the F1 circuit, which is open to cyclists!

ARCHITECTURE/TRIVIA

The modern landscape of Montreal was profoundly marked by the Expo '67 (World Fair, on the occasion of Canada's centennial) and the 1976 Summer Olympics.

Construction on the metro actually started ahead of the 1967 World Fair and was expanded for the 1976 Summer Olympics and gradually since. The huge amounts of rock dug out for the metro were used in creating Notre-Dame island and expanding Ste-Hélène island. These were used to host the many pavilions of the fair; some of the most recognizable landmarks along the St-Lawrence are former pavilions. For example, the casino was the French pavilion (in white) and the Quebec pavilion (in gold), and the Biosphere environment museum (the geodesic dome) was the pavilion of the USA. 'Habitat 67' is another unique relic of the fair. Most of the pavilions were demolished to make room for the organization of the Olympic Games and the construction of the Olympic basin. Today, Notre-Dame island is famously home to the Formula One Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve.

The Olympic Stadium itself has always been a controversial issue, going far over budget and over schedule. But there is no denying that it is an architectural wonder. Its tower (unfinished at the time of the games) is the tallest leaning tower in the world! (It's possible to go to the top if you fancy it) The suspended roof was designed to be retractable into the tower, though the present roof no longer supports this. Many other Olympics installations remain; perhaps the one you are most likely to visit is the Biodôme, owing to its architectural style (shared with the stadium) to its origins as the velodrome for the Games.

The modern linked metro trains are gradually replacing all of the old cars. About time, because the other cars you see date from Expo 67 (white seats) and the early 70s (orange walls and blue seats)!

You may at some point wonder what the fancy-looking towers in Jacques-Cartier bridge are. They were built to be lavish reception halls/ballrooms - in 1925. But the increase in large motor vehicles and traffic overhead rendered them unusable. They served to stock war supplies during World War II, and are mostly abandoned.



The domed ceiling of the Oratoire St-Joseph of Mont-Royal is the second tallest such structure in the world after St Peter's, in the Vatican!

The rotating lighthouse beam of light in the Montreal night sky sits atop Place Ville-Marie, the cross-shaped skyscraper (tallest in the city when built in 1962).

City regulations mandate that skyscrapers cannot exceed Mt. Royal in elevation; this might explain why there are no crazy tall buildings. The 1000 de la Gauchetière is the tallest permitted, and its position downslope from the mountain means that it is taller than would be allowed elsewhere.

Montreal is the largest predominantly francophone city outside of France.

The Lachine Canal, from the Old Port to Lac St-Pierre, was dug to allow ships to bypass the treacherous Lachine Rapids and contains 7 locks to compensate for a 14m elevation difference at both ends. It is no longer used since the St-Lawrence Seaway was built, but in its time, it was also an important economic motor in Montreal's Southwest, as industrial districts sprung up with factories that utilized hydraulic power from the canal. These districts (like Lachine, Lasalle, Ville-Émard, St-Henri) were traditionally extremely poor, but in recent decades have seen much revitalization.

Lastly and very importantly, people use both imperial and metric systems seemingly randomly but there is (some) logic behind it! (link below).

LINKS AND RESOURCES

- Crisis Resources: In development
- [Parks and Nature \(Montreal\):](#)
- [Tourisme Montreal](#)
- [International Student Services](#)
- [Post Graduate Student's Society](#)
- [Student's Society of McGill University \(for undergraduate affairs\)](#)
- [Montreal Biodome, Botanical Gardens, Planetarium, Insectarium](#)
- [Flowchart for using imperial/metric systems](#)

