

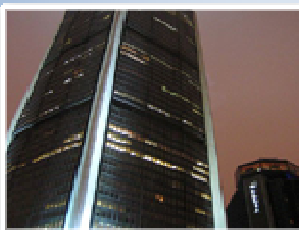
## MONTREAL

**Montreal** is the largest city in the Canadian province of **Quebec** and the second-largest city in Canada. Montreal was the largest city in Canada up until 1976 when it was surpassed in size by Toronto. Originally called Ville-Marie, the city takes its present name from Mount Royal, the three-headed hill at the heart of the city, whose name was also initially given to the island on which the city is located.

Montreal is located in the southwest of the province of Quebec, approximately 275 kilometres (168 miles) southwest of Quebec City, the provincial capital, and 167 kilometres (104 mi) east of Ottawa, the federal capital. The city is located on the central and eastern portions of the Island of Montreal at the confluence of the **Saint Lawrence** and **Ottawa Rivers**. The port of Montreal lies at one end of the Saint Lawrence Seaway, which is the river gateway that stretches from the Great Lakes into the Atlantic Ocean. Montreal is defined by its location in between the St. Lawrence river on its south, and by the **Rivière des Prairies** on its north. The city is named after the most prominent geographical feature on the island, a three-head hill called Mount Royal, topped at 232 m above sea level.



**Notre-Dame Basilica** is a basilica in the historic district of **Old Montreal**. The church is located at 110 Notre-Dame Street West, at the corner of Saint Sulpice Street. It is located next to the Saint-Sulpice Seminary and faces the **Place d'Armes square**. The church's Gothic Revival architecture is among the most dramatic in the world; its interior is very colourful, its ceiling is coloured deep blue and decorated with golden stars, and the rest of the sanctuary is a polychrome of blues, azures, reds, purples, silver, and gold. It is filled with hundreds of intricate wooden carvings and several religious statues.



**La Tour de la Bourse** (Stock Exchange Tower) is Montreal's third-tallest building, an International Style skyscraper by Luigi Moretti and Pier Luigi Nervi, built in 1964. It is located at **800 Victoria Square** and is connected by the underground city to **Square-Victoria Metro Station**. The tower itself is considered by many to be a masterpiece of the International style of skyscraper design. Its façade, fully renovated in 1995, features a bronze-tinted anodized aluminium curtain wall, forming a strong contrast with the slightly slanted pre-cast concrete columns at the four corners, giving the whole a subtly convex aspect. It is divided into three roughly equal blocks by mechanical floors whose corners are recessed in an octagonal shape, creating small open-air interstices behind the columns at these levels.

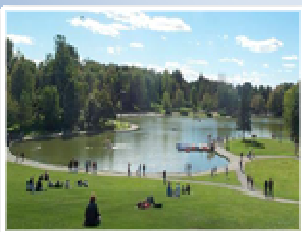


**The Biosphere of Environment** is a museum in **Montreal** dedicated to water and the environment. It is located at **Parc Jean-Drapeau**, on **Saint Helen's Island** in the building of the United States pavilion for the 1967 World Exhibition. Photos of the Biosphère are frequently included in science textbooks to explain the shape of fullerene molecules, which resemble geodesic domes and were so named in honor of Buckminster Fuller. The building originally formed an enclosed structure of steel and acrylic cells, 76 meters (250 ft) in diameter and 62 meters (200 ft) high. A complex system of shades was used to control the internal temperature. Visitors had access to four large theme platforms divided into seven levels.

**Montreal/Old City.** Vieux Montréal, or **Old Montreal**, is what many visitors come to Montreal for: old cobblestoned streets lined with buildings dating from the 17th through 19th centuries, grand old French restaurants, history museums, and the riverfront **Old Port**. That's not to say that Old Montreal is completely removed from the rest of Montreal — back a few blocks from the mimes and steakhouses, you'll find warehouses converted to boutique shops and loft apartments.

During the summer, **Place Jacques-Cartier** is packed with street performers and restaurant terraces overflowing with tourists. Winter presents a much more subdued scene, with bundled figures hurrying from gallery to restaurant to hotel in the cold and snow.

**Place des Arts** is a major performing arts centre in Montreal. Located in the eastern part of the city's downtown, between Ste-Catherine and de Maisonneuve Streets, and St-Urbain and Jeanne-Mance streets, in an area now known as the Quartier des Spectacles, the complex is home to the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and the Opéra de Montréal.



**Mount Royal Park.** The mountain is the site of Mount Royal Park, one of Montreal's largest greenspaces. The park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed New York's Central Park, and inaugurated in 1876, although not completed to his design. The park contains two belvederes, the more prominent of which is the **Kondiaronk Belvedere**, a semicircular plaza with a chalet, overlooking downtown Montreal. Built in 1906, it is named for the Huron chief Kondiaronk, who signed a major peace accord with the French regime in 1701.

**Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal** is a Roman Catholic basilica on the northern slope of Mount Royal in **Montreal**. In 1904, André Bessette began the construction of a small chapel on the side of the mountain near Notre Dame College. Soon the growing number of visitors made it too small. Even though it was enlarged, a larger church was needed and in 1917 one was completed - it is called the Crypt, and has a seating capacity of 1,000. In 1924, the construction of the basilica was inaugurated. The Oratory's dome is the third-largest of its kind in the world after the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace of Yamoussoukro and **Saint Peter's Basilica** in Rome, and the church is the largest in **Canada**.

### EVENTS

- Montreal International Jazz Festival
- Montreal Francofolies
- Just for Laughs comedy festival

### INFORMATION

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