



MONTREAL BEFORE YOU GO

GENERAL INFORMATION

Montreal, city, Quebec province, southeastern Canada. Montreal is the second most-populous city in Canada and the principal metropolis of the province of Quebec. The city of Montreal occupies about three-fourths of Montreal Island (Île de Montréal), the largest of the 234 islands of the Hochelaga Archipelago, one of three archipelagoes near the confluence of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers.

Montréal is famous for its rich French-Canadian culture, stunning historic architecture, world-class summer festivals, and iconic foods like poutine and wood-fired bagels. As the largest French-speaking city in North America, it blends European charm with a vibrant metropolitan lifestyle.

Just walking the streets of Montreal is an experience, especially the historic centre known as Old Montreal (Vieux-Montréal), which provides a window into the city's rich history with its cobblestone streets and architectural styles ranging from the 16th century to the present.



Where do I fly into?

Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport

Address: 975 Romeo Vachon Blvd N, Dorval, Quebec H4Y 1H1, Canada

Telephone: +1 800-465-1213

Web: <https://www.admtl.com/en-CA/>

Montreal Weather

Montreal has a continental climate, but its proximity to the Great Lakes, in combination with prevailing westerly winds, modifies temperatures for both winter and summer.

Highs start around 14°C to 16°C early in the month and cool down toward 8°C by late October. Nighttime: Lows regularly dip near or below freezing late in the month. Rain and Weather: Expect crisp autumn days with intermittent rain showers (averaging around 70mm to 145mm total depending on the year).



Passport and Visa Information

Canada Visa and Passport Requirements

	Passport required	Return ticket required	Visa required
Australian	Yes	Yes	No
British	Yes	Yes	No
Canadian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other EU	Yes/1	Yes	3
USA	2	No	No

Passports:

To enter Canada, a valid passport is required by all nationals referred to in the chart above, except the following:

1. Citizens of France who are residents of, and entering from, the French overseas territory Saint Pierre and Miquelon; and persons entering from Saint Pierre and Miquelon.
2. Citizens of the USA holding a birth certificate, certificate of citizenship or naturalization, US permanent resident card, or certificate of Indian status along with photo ID. However, it is recommended that you carry a valid passport. US citizens re-entering the USA from Canada via air, land or sea require a valid passport or passport card.

Passport note:

The following are unsuitable for travel to Canada: any passport claiming to have been issued by Somalia non-machine readable passports issued by the Czech Republic; temporary passports issued by the Republic of South Africa and provisional passports issued by Venezuela.

Visas:

Visas are not required by nationals referred to in the chart above for stays of up to six months, except the following:

- Nationals of (3) Bulgaria and Romania.

However, all visa-exempt nationals (other than US citizens) are required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) if travelling to or through Canada by air.

Note that Bulgarians and Romanians who hold a valid US non-immigration visa or have held a Canadian visa within the past 10 years can apply for an eTA. Most eTAs are authorized within minutes.

Nationals not referred to in the chart are advised to contact the high commission or embassy to check visa requirements for Canada.



Health and Safety

You can access public health services in Montreal by calling 811 to reach Info-Santé or by visiting the official Santé Montréal Portal to find local clinics, hospitals, and CLSCs

Montreal is very safe to travel to right now. Standard safety precautions apply as you would practice in any major metropolitan city, such as guarding against occasional petty theft or pickpocketing in crowded tourist areas

Canada Currency Exchange

Canadian Dollar (CAD; symbol C\$) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of C\$100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of C\$2 and 1, and 25, 10, 5 cents. Although the 1c coin (or penny) remains legal tender, as of 2013 it is being phased out of circulation.

Credit cards:

Major credit cards are widely accepted. Use of debit cards is widespread, although many stores impose a C\$5 to C\$20 minimum per debit card purchase, and service charges may apply.



Banks and taxes

Generally, Mon-Fri 09:30-17:00 with extended hours in some locations, particularly on Thursday and Friday evenings. Some branches open as early as 08:00 and many now open on Saturdays and Sundays too, usually until 16:00.

Currency exchange:

You can easily exchange currency at any bank or bureau de change. Hotels sometimes change money too, but their exchange rate is likely to be less favorable. If you're travelling to smaller communities, ensure you have a good supply of Canadian Dollars in cash, as you may not be able to change foreign currency at all and might not have access to an ATM.

ATM:

ATMs are easy to find in populated areas but are less common in remote regions such as rural parts of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Labrador. Use a machine affiliated with a major bank to reduce service charges; independent machines in locations such as casinos and convenience stores may carry high charges and do not always accept international cards.

Visa, MasterCard and American Express cards are usually accepted at establishments throughout Canada. Most places will accept American money with change given in Canadian dollars.

Taxes:

Taxes on restaurants and hotels in Montreal total 14.975% for dining and 18.475% for overnight stays, plus an extra lodging tax

Clothing

Montreal is a stylish yet pragmatic city where the general dress code leans toward smart casual. Locals love fashion, balancing effortless everyday comfort with a polished look, meaning you rarely need formal black-tie attire unless attending a specific private event



Electricity

Canada's electrical supply and electrical outlets (sockets, wall plugs) are the same as those found in the United States.

The electrical supply is 120 Volts and 60 Hertz (cycles per second).

For visitors arriving from countries that use a different electrical supply, you will need adapters and transformers.

Tipping

Gratuities are seldom included in Canadian restaurants. It is customary to tip approximately 15-20% on the total bill before tax, less for poor service, more for truly exceptional service.

Many restaurants may charge an automatic 15-18% gratuity for larger groups

Cabs/Taxis: Anywhere between 10% - 20% of the fare. Probably tip \$2 on an \$8 fare (easy to round up to a 10 dollar bill) and maybe \$5 or \$6 on a \$40 fare.

Airport/Hotel Shuttle: Probably fewer people tip these drivers than not, but I tip \$2 if driver was friendly or helpful.

Doorman: \$2 if he hails a cab.

Bellman: \$2 to \$5 per bag

Chambermaid: \$2 to \$5 per day or lump sum at end of stay.

Room Service: Be sure to check whether a tip is included in the cost of room service. It is not necessary to tip on top of this. Otherwise, 15% is common or \$2 to \$5 if staff is delivering a no-cost item, like extra pillows.

Parking Valet: Typically, a \$5 - \$10 tip when picking up your car; some people, myself included, also tip when leaving it.

Concierge: Tipping the concierge is not usual, but if you are particularly pleased with your service, a tip at the end of your stay is no doubt welcome.



Water

Tap water is safe to drink. If camping in the backcountry, you should be aware of the risks of giardia, where water in streams or lakes has been contaminated by animal waste. This can cause diarrhea, vomiting and headaches. Ensure you boil, filter or purify water first; purification tablets are easy to buy in any outdoor equipment store

Also you can buy a bottle of water if you do not feel safe with tap water.

Language

French is the official and common language of Montreal, spoken by a large majority of the population. However, Montreal is also one of the most bilingual cities in Canada, with over 58% of residents able to speak both French and English, and many communities speaking other global languages



Transit system

Public transit in Montreal is run by the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) and includes an underground metro, a large bus network, and the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) light rail system

What to pack for a trip to Montreal

- Light jacket and sweater
- Toiletries
- Sun protection
- Pack a raincoat or umbrella
- Shorts and Tank Tops are fine in the summer
- T-shirts
- Long sleeve shirts

- Long pants
- Sandals
- Closed-toe shoes
- Some medicines are delivered only with a medical prescription. Bring your own medicine.
- Bring electrical outlet adapter and Voltage Converters

Things to carry on with you

- A copy of your passport and driver's license.
- Money If you are going to make a purchase or go out to dinner, take more and take a credit card as well. Use the card only if you don't have enough cash.
- Your emergency telephone list of phone numbers from back home.
- A business card showing the phone and address of your hotel.
- Credit cards only if you plan to go to the bank.