

TOURISME / MONTREAL

USEFUL TIPS ABOUT MONTREAL

What Language is spoken in Montréal

French is Québec's official language but English is widely spoken in Montréal. The city has more than 120 cultural groups and over 20% of the population speaks three languages.

Banks and Currency Exchange

Canadian currency is the dollar, which is divided into 100 cents. There are 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 dollar bills. One and two dollar bills have been replaced by coins, sometimes referred to as "Loonies" (the bird on the \$1 is a loon) and "Toonies" (\$2).

There are numerous currency exchange offices for visitors to exchange money into Canadian currency. Most exchange offices are open during regular business hours (9am-6pm) and Saturday from 10am-5pm.

Credit cards are also widely accepted in restaurants, stores, taxis, etc.

Electricity

The electric current is 110V and the plugs are the same as what is found in the US. If you come from a country that uses 220V electricity, you will need a converter for any appliances you bring that require power (computers, charges, etc.).

What is the rule for tipping in Montréal

Service is not included in restaurants, so it is customary to add a 15% tip to the total before taxes (if you're with a group, 15% for service may be automatically added to your bill). Taxi drivers, hairdressers, etc. are also normally tipped 15%. Bellhops, porters, doormen, etc. generally receive at least \$1 per suitcase or per service rendered.

Time Zones

Montréal switches to Eastern Daylight Time (summer time zone) on the second Sunday of March and returns to Eastern Standard Time (winter time zone) on the first Sunday of November. The time difference between Montréal time and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is less than 5 hours in the winter.

Shopping in Montréal

Most shops are open Monday to Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are usually closed on legal holidays – and on January 2 in the majority of cases – but some establishments (supermarkets, SAQ outlets, etc.) may still be open. For more information, consult the Tourisme Montréal website at: [Shopping in Montréal](#)

Dining Out

Montréal has the highest concentration of eateries on the continent with 92 restaurants per square kilometer, in touristic neighborhoods and representing various types of cuisine inspired by 120 countries and regions. There is something for every palate and budget. Browse the Tourisme Montréal website for more information: [Montréal Restaurants](#)

Using your mobile phone

There are many wifi connections available in the city. If you do not turn off your roaming or 3g connection charges to your mobile phone bill can climb high depending on whether or not you have a package that includes Canada.

You can also find out more information and wifi locations by clicking on the following link: <http://www.ilesansfil.org/welcome/>

Getting Around – From the airport in around the city

...By Metro and bus

Montréal is a very walkable and safe city. However, if you require to travel further distances, the public transportation system is very fast and convenient. The Metro (underground subway) typically operates between 5:30am to 1:00am. The bus route is also very extensive and could also be an option. There is also an express bus that services the airport (747 Express Bus). A one-way fare card, which is valid for 24 hours costs \$10.00CDN. For more information on the public transportation system, please visit www.stm.com

...by taxi

Taxis are readily available outside hotels, but it is also to simply flag one down on the street. A trip from the airport to downtown Montréal will cost you a flat rate of \$40.00.

...by bike

Montrealers are avid cyclists, and proud of it. The city has 350 kilometres of bike paths criss-crossing its territory, including natural parks and suburbs.

Use a Bixi bike to get around. This public bike sharing system can be a great way to get around the city. The cost of 24 hours is \$5.00. Users must be careful not to use the bike for more than 30 minutes at a time to avoid being charged extra time. For more information visit their website at www.bixi.com

What to do in Montréal

There is never a shortage of activities and events taking place in the city. To find out what is happening while you are in town, visit the Tourisme Website and their calendar of events: [What to do in Montréal](#)