

LONELY PLANET'S

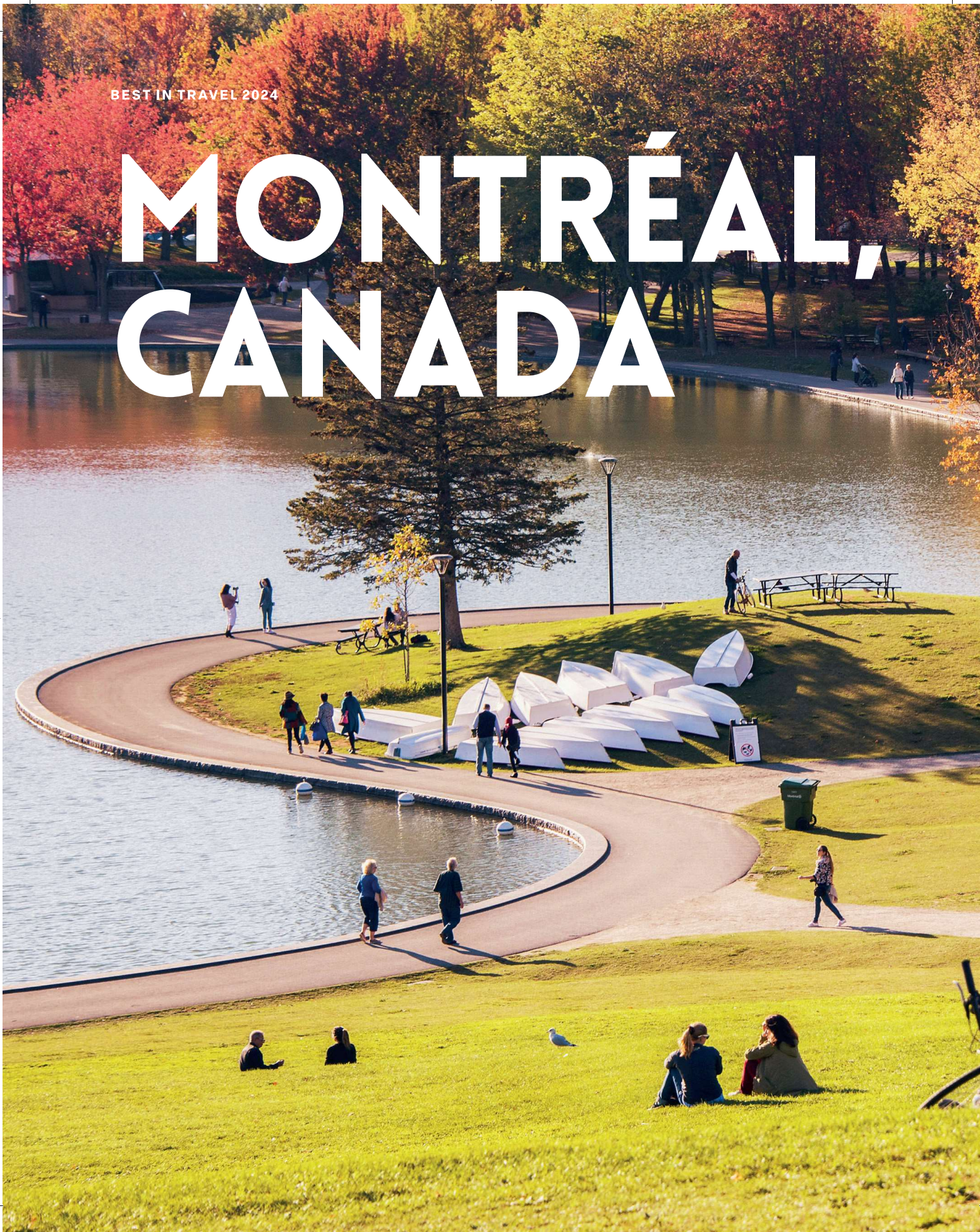
BEST IN TRAVEL 2024  
**TOP 10  
CITIES**

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Hercegovina / Philadelphia, Pennsylvania / Manaus, Brazil / Jakarta,  
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BEST IN TRAVEL 2024

# MONTRÉAL, CANADA





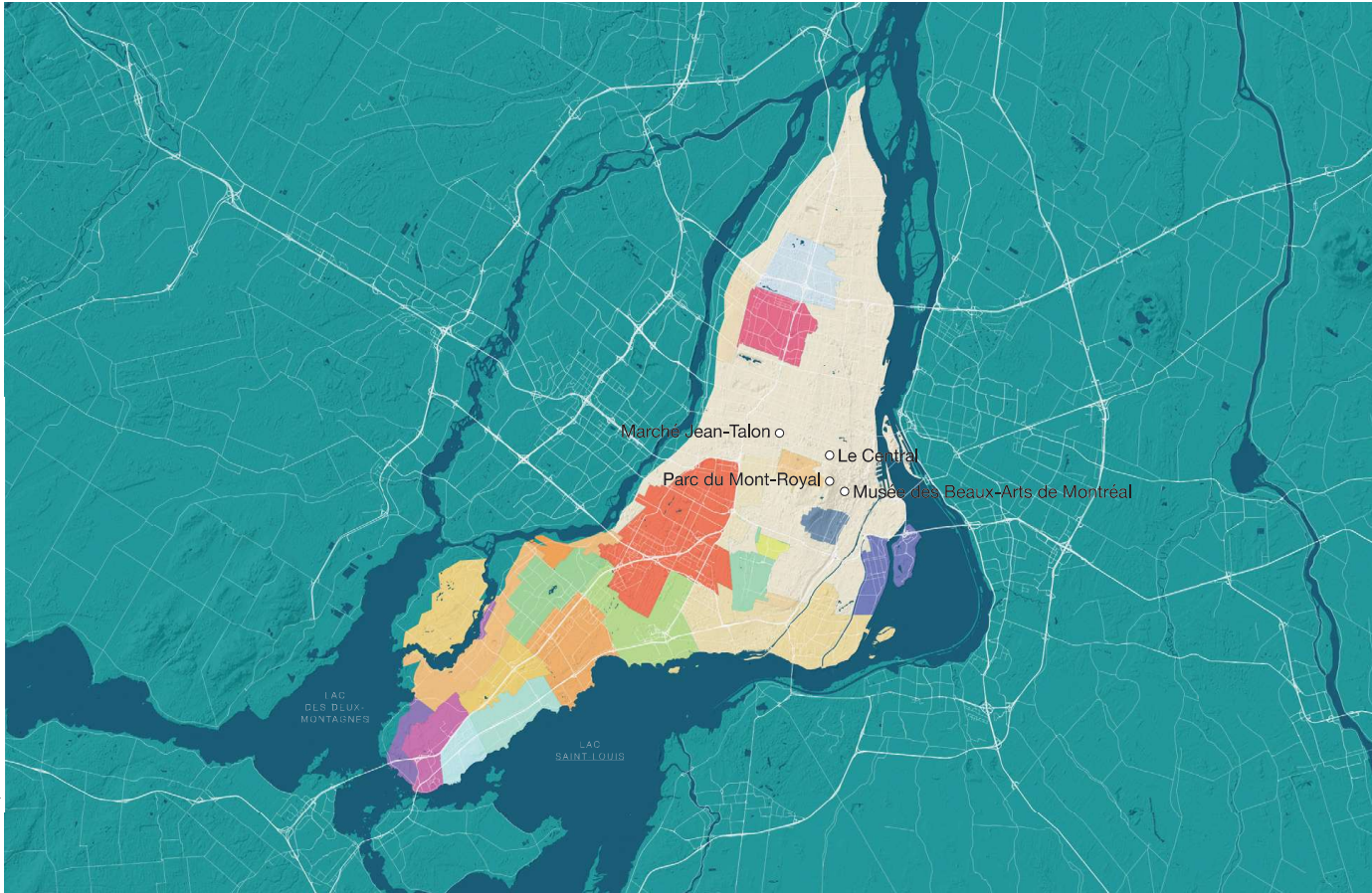


TOP 10 CITIES

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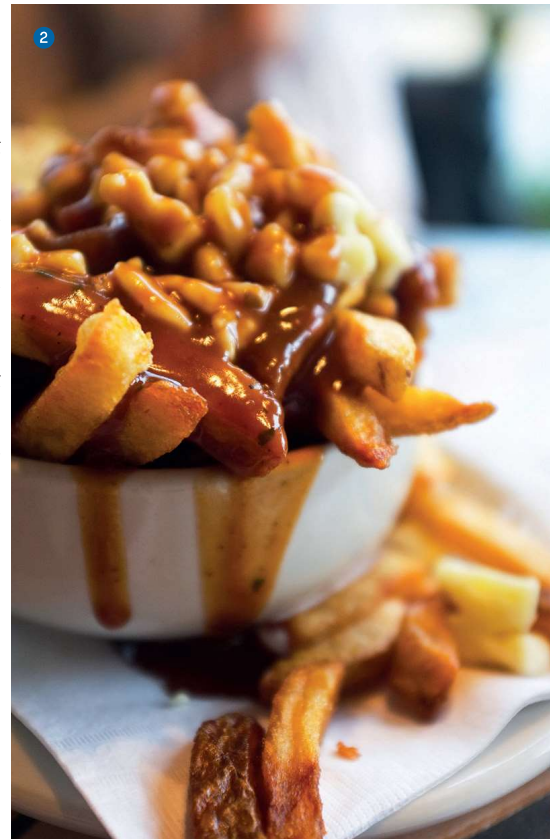


**F**rom an all-season calendar of festivals and arts events to revitalising neighbourhoods packed with diverse restaurants, *au courant* galleries and quirky shops, Montréal has long been one of Canada's coolest destinations. But this year, with new museums, revamped attractions, an ever-vibrant restaurant scene and added transport options making it even easier to reach, this metropolitan region of more than four million people, with its urban core set on an island where the St Lawrence and Ottawa rivers meet, is gearing up for far more fun.

### New looks for local icons

Located on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka peoples, Montréal today is

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home to a multicultural mix of populations that influence the arts scene of Canada's second-largest city, and Québec's biggest. The city's first Indigenous-artist-run centre, daphne, has reopened in a new gallery space showcasing works by the region's Indigenous artists. The 2024 edition of the Contemporary Native Art Biennial, known as BACA, will come to the city in May and June. To learn more about Québec's Indigenous communities, spend time in the carefully curated permanent exhibition, 'Indigenous Voices of Today: Knowledge, Trauma, Resilience', at the Musée McCord Stewart, devoted to Canadian history.

Le MEM, Centre des Mémoires Montréalaises, is the city's museum of stories. Formerly known as Centre d'histoire de Montréal, it's opening

a new facility in the Quartier des Spectacles just north of downtown, where it will share multimedia histories of the region's residents.

Parc Jean-Drapeau welcomed the world more than 50 years ago for Expo 67, with its now-landmark geodesic dome designed by architect Richard Buckminster Fuller. Set on Île Sainte-Hélène in the St Lawrence River, the park is in the midst of a multi-year redevelopment slated to run until 2030, with ongoing improvements ranging from 15km (9 miles) of riverfront walkways to restored gardens and beaches.

Another urban icon scheduled to reopen in 2024 after a major renovation is the Montréal Tower, the tallest inclined tower in the world, where the vistas from its Olympic Park observatory extend across the city. Want



## Highlights

**01** There's always something new at Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, whether you're into classical or contemporary art.

**02** For views across the city, wander the green oasis of Parc du Mont-Royal on Montreal's 'mountain'.

**03** Go beyond poutine at dining spots including French-Moroccan Nili, modern Korean 9 Tail Fox, and forager-favourite Anemone.

**04** Other culinary highlights are the city's markets, from classics like Marché Jean-Talon to newer options like gourmet Le Central.





## Getting there

Montréal-Trudeau (aka Dorval) is currently the city's only airport served by international flights, including many from Europe.

## When to go

Montréal's busy events calendar keeps up through hottest and coldest months alike.

## Further reading

Prep for your trip with titles including Mordecai Richler's *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, set in the city's 20th-century Jewish community; *Ru*, by Saigon-born, Québec-raised Kim Thúy; *The Fat Woman Next Door Is Pregnant* by Michel Tremblay, based in the Plateau neighbourhood; and *Lullabies for Little Criminals* by Heather O'Neill.

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more sky-high views? Check out the recently completed, ultra-modern Tour du Port de Montréal at the waterfront Grand Quay.

## Festivals year-round

Montréal loves a party. No matter what time of year you visit Canada's second-largest city, you're sure to find a festival, street fair or special event. Winter warms up with the annual Montréal en Lumière art and light fest; La Poutine Week, where you can sample numerous variations on Québec's fried potato, cheese and gravy-laden classic; and Igloofest, nicknamed 'the coldest music festival in the world'.

In the warmer months, you'll find festivals celebrating beer, public art, comedy, the region's Indigenous peoples, the LGBTQI+ community and more. With thousands of murals, the

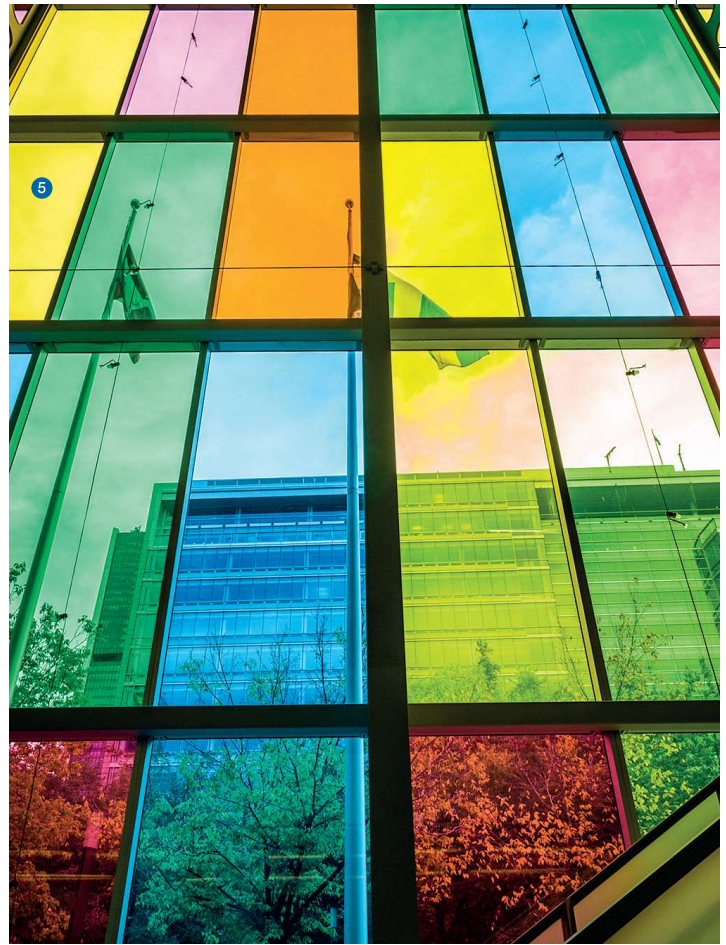


*Montréal is all about love, passion, and community. You can travel the world and sample the food of every continent via its vibrant cultural communities. Montréal took me in, fed me. Montréal made me who I am.*

Chef Paul Toussaint, Kamúy Restaurant

street-art scene remains active, especially along Saint-Laurent Blvd, with additional outdoor art created every year during the summer MURAL fest. Launched more than 40 years ago and now the world's largest jazz fest, the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal continues to draw music-lovers every summer. And with Porter Airlines slated to open a Canadian hub at the city's smaller Saint-Hubert Airport east of the centre, and Amtrak resuming its US-Canadian Adirondack train, linking Montréal with New York City, getting to the festivals will become that bit easier for everyone.

**1** Autumn in Parc du Mont-Royal **2** Poutine is most appreciated in Québec winters **3** A Tam-Tams drum circle at the George-Étienne Cartier Monument **4** Île Sainte-Hélène with the iconic Montréal Biosphere **5** The colourful Palais des Congrès **6** 'Gardens of Light' at the Montréal Botanical Garden



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