



## DISCOVER ROMANTIC MONTRÉAL ITINERARY

FROM CUDDLING WITH YOUR FAVOURITE SOMEONE IN A COZY BOUTIQUE HOTEL TO SHARING GOURMET CHOCOLATE BIJOUX ON THE STREET TO APPRECIATING WATERFRONT VIEWS OF THE MAJESTIC ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, MONTRÉAL IS THE PERFECT SETTING FOR A ROMANTIC SOJOURN. A CLEAN, SAFE, AND UNIQUE CITY WITH A EUROPEAN CACHET, MONTRÉAL BOASTS A WEALTH OF ATTRACTIONS FOR COUPLES, INCLUDING FINE RESTAURANTS, TRENDY BOUTIQUES, WELL-PRESERVED HISTORICAL BUILDINGS, MUSEUMS, GALLERIES, THEATRES, AND MUCH MORE.



### DAY 1 – A TALE OF TWO IN THE OLD CITY

Amidst the historical architecture and cobblestone streets of Old Montréal and the Old Port of Montréal are sites, scents, and savours that have long enticed Montrealers and visitors alike to continue returning to this picturesque quarter. Here, **boutique hotels** represent a diversity of romantic inclinations, and you are sure to find accommodations that satisfy your every need.

For your first breakfast in the city, take a stroll over to **Le Cartet**, where high ceilings and wooden tables help to create an appealing backdrop to a finely detailed morning menu. Bon appétit!

Next, head towards the waterfront to **Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History**, an interesting site that rises above the actual remains of the city's birthplace. The museum offers you the chance to peruse a variety of cultural artefacts through an authentic archaeological tour that takes you from the 14th century, when Natives occupied the site, to the present day. At lunchtime, head upstairs to L'Arrivage, the restaurant located on the second floor of the museum, which serves a fine lunch and provides exceptional panoramas of the Old Port.

Now, head to the **Notre-Dame Basilica**, the architectural marvel in which numerous celebrities, including Céline Dion, have wed. Just in front of the boutique, you will find **Guidatour**, which offers Old

Montréal guided walking tours (at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) that reveal much about the area's deepest secrets.

After the tour, take the time to check out some of the businesses in the area. For unique shopping finds, try **Baldaquin Montréal**, on de la Commune Street West, which has an impressive collection of accessories by international designers, like Martha Sturdy and Michael Aram. Meanwhile, on Saint-Paul Street, Montréal's main thoroughfare of yesteryear, renovated 19th and 20th century buildings are home to boutiques, artist studios, apartments, and condominiums.

If you are in the mood for an afternoon cocktail, make your way to **Place Jacques-Cartier**, a major gathering place where you can watch street performers, face painters, and caricaturists, as you sip on your favourite libation.

Keep in mind, you can also visit the area on a **horse-drawn carriage** and discover more of the district's side streets and buildings, whose facades, when illuminated at night, further imbue an air of nostalgia and pleasant mystery into the quarter.

With suppertime approaching, consider walking just a few steps to the Old Port where the **Bateau-Mouche**, with its glass-covered frame

and an outdoor terrace, offers a dinner cruise featuring live entertainment and menus created by the famed Alain Pignard, chef of the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel. The cruise is a fantastic way to see Montréal's remarkable skyline from a nautical point of view and to partake in a scrumptious meal under the sparkle of the city lights and the stars.

As the night draws to a close, head to [Le Sarah B.](#), a charming absinthe bar (named after the divine Sarah Bernhardt) in the InterContinental hotel that invites guests to rediscover the rituals and legends surrounding the mysterious elixir. Absinthe, an herb-based

spirit containing 55-75% alcohol, is renowned for enhancing the creative energies of the great 19th century European writers and artists. Ooh la la!

For a final sensation before heading back to your hotel, be sure to check out [Place Jean-Paul-Riopelle](#), just across the street from the north side of the InterContinental, where the dramatic effects of water, mist and lighting bring to life the vision of the artist after whom this public square is named.

Sweet dreams!

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## DAY 2 – WALKABLE WANDERINGS

The Plateau Mont-Royal, a.k.a. the "Plateau," is a fantastic Montréal neighbourhood with an urban fabric that features exterior wrought-iron staircases and stone masonry dwellings and shops. Here, diversity reigns, with something of interest for everyone, be it designer boutiques, vintage stores, nightspots, restaurants, or cafés. This district provides for many photo opportunities, so bring a camera along on this winsome promenade.

Begin the day at [St-Viateur Bagel & Café](#), a family-run Montréal business that has been making oven-baked bagels since 1957. The intoxicating aroma of coffee and warm bagels greets you as you enter the premises!

Next, wander around and explore the Plateau's mix of people, places, and things. For treats, [Suite 88 Chocolatier](#), on Saint-Denis Street, makes little jewels of delicious chocolates in a variety of shapes and textures. You can walk off some of the calories by heading south along Saint-Denis until you reach the impressive 19th century residential buildings of [Square Saint-Louis](#). Cross through the square, and you will end up at [Prince-Arthur Street](#), a partially pedestrian zone strewn with cafés and restaurants, all with their own outdoor terraces.

As hunger starts to occupy your consciousness, follow Prince-Arthur Street westward to [Saint-Laurent Boulevard](#). Cross, turn left, and walk for nearly one block until you reach your lunchtime destination, [Café Méliès](#). Named after the famed French director, Georges Méliès, this bistro/wine bar combines sleek looks with an easy-breezy ambiance. The French fare is impeccable, and your dining

soundtrack comes from the renowned [Café Méliès](#) CD compilations, culled from the catalogues of local and international musical acts.

Now, with renewed energies, stroll north up Saint-Laurent Boulevard and witness the hipster vibe of this busy Plateau artery. When you get to Duluth Street, hang a left and make your way to [Mount Royal Park](#) for some commingling with nature, in this, the city's favourite playground. Lovingly referred to as "The Mountain" by locals, this splendid site was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted of New York City's Central Park fame. Walk along the path that brings you to Lac aux Castors (Beaver Lake), and, from there, head on to La Maison Smith (Smith House), where you can download audio and video clips about Mount Royal on your phone or mp4 player. Also, don't miss the [Kondiaronk Belvedere](#), about a five minute walk away, for a beautiful vantage point from which to take in the entire city.

Once you are done exploring all of Mount Royal's prized assets, you might want to proceed downtown for a late-afternoon snack or refreshing beverage at [Alexandre et Fils](#), a brasserie that treats guests to sauerkraut, cassoulet, confit, foie gras, broiled meat, and fresh fish from the market, all served in a convivial Parisian atmosphere. A British pub upstairs offers a choice of 12 tap imported beers. Mmm.

For supper, try some classic French or Québec gastronomy at [Les Filles du Roy \(Maison Pierre du Calvet\)](#) or [L'Auberge Saint-Gabriel](#). Both are located in Old Montréal inns that emanate romance with period pieces and an idyllic atmosphere.

After dinner, snuggle time.

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## DAY 3 – EARTHLY DELIGHTS AND A SPA TREATMENT

Your third day in Montréal begins at a little venue near the Old Port called [Terrasse Chez Catherine](#), where you can have breakfast in a delightful atmosphere enhanced by Québec music, a pastoral décor, and a cute outdoor terrace.

After your morning meal, take the subway to the [Montréal Botanical Garden](#) (Pie-IX Station). This popular refuge in the heart of the city is recognized as one of the largest and finest collections of plants in the world, with approximately 22,000 species and cultivars, 10 exhibition greenhouses, a Tree House centre, and some 30 thematic gardens.

Continue to the nearby [Montréal Biodôme](#), for a close encounter of the ecosystem kind, where over 4,800 animals from 230 different species and 750 plant types coexist under the same roof.

Experienced nature interpreters accompany you on a voyage, this time through four ecological communities (Tropical Rainforest, Laurentian Maple Forest, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Sub-Antarctic Islands). Lynx, beavers, penguins, and auks, to name a few, are all in attendance at this one-of-a-kind attraction.

For an outstanding bird's-eye view of Montréal, head to the top of the nearby [Montréal Tower](#), the tallest inclined tower in the world, attached to the 1976 Summer Olympic Stadium. From here, you can see well beyond the city limits and get a grand perspective of the topography of the surrounding region.

It's lunchtime now, so head downtown to the chic [Birks Café par Europea](#), which makes its mark in gourmet cuisine with menus that

are as delicious as they are healthy. Located on the mezzanine floor of the legendary Birks jewellery store, this eatery offers meals in an elegant, relaxing setting. Afterwards, have a look at the shop's inventory of fine Canadian diamonds.

For the rest of the afternoon, spend some time at the [Montreal Museum of Fine Arts](#), where you can see its unique permanent collection and latest exhibition, and perhaps pick up some souvenirs at its [Boutique and Bookstore](#). Just around the corner from the museum is [Crescent Street](#), with its luxury boutiques, haute couture showrooms, art galleries, restaurants, and bars, most of which are housed in sumptuous Victorian-era buildings.

Now for some relaxation, reward yourself for a trip well-travelled with a spa treatment, either at [Scandinave Les Bains Vieux-Montréal](#), a

veritable Eden offering a multi-sensorial experience of hydrotherapeutic renewal, or at [Bota Bota](#), an urban hideaway magnificently fashioned in an old ferryboat and hosting some of the most sublime views of the St. Lawrence River and the city. Both offer comfort, joy, and a soothing of the senses.

For your final supper in Montréal, treat yourself with some of the best cuisine in North America at [Europea](#). Part of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux association, the exclusive register of the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants in 55 countries, this 4-diamond CAA/AAA restaurant serves inventive and modern cuisine prepared from the best products in Québec. Sit back, unwind, and reflect upon all you have achieved on this sentimental journey to Montréal.

Au revoir!