

Montréal Festivals

A festival is defined as an occasion for feasting or celebration, a regularly occurring program of cultural performances, exhibitions, or competitions. In other words, a time for fun. Montréal has that fun time in spades, with more than 100 festivals scheduled every year. They run the gamut from theater to music to art to fireworks and just about any other reason you can think of for a celebratory gathering.

by Judy Colbert

Photo: iStockphoto.com / Songquan Deng



➔ Most of Montréal's festivals are in the spring/summer and can make your visit, whether for pleasure or business, considerably more enjoyable. However, something is scheduled almost throughout the year, so don't fret if you're visiting another time.

AMONG THE SUMMER FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS ARE

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE JAZZ DE MONTRÉAL

From June 29 through July 9, the 37th edition of the Jazz festival features 1,000 concerts at 15 indoor and 10 outdoor venues. The outdoor shows run from noon to midnight and are free of charge. You can listen to musicians you don't know and will follow for the rest of your life and the well-known. In the latter category, there's Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra featuring Wynton Marsalis, Paulo Ramos, Chick Corea Trio with Christian McBride and Brian Blade, Taj Mahal, and other musicians of international fame.
www.montrealjazzfest.com

MONTREAL CIRQUE FESTIVAL

Before the jazz notes stop filling the air, the circus starts with the Montreal Cirque Festival from July 7 through 17. Again, in indoor and outdoor venues, for free and for fee, performers juggle, dance (and even ballet juggle), balance, jump, leap, revolve and rotate in a Cyr wheel, and twirl. They do things that make you wonder, "How do they do that?" and then, even more puzzling, "How did they think of doing that?" Flip FabriQue even has a preshow show where a specialized guide leads you through rare anecdotes and provides a peek behind the scenes and into circus history. Buy a ticket to more than one show and each show has a reduced price. Buy an Accro passport for C\$135 to see all the shows.
montrealcompletementcirque.com

JUST FOR LAUGHS

The circus tents haven't even been proverbially folded when it's time for comedy to reign supreme in the city. Beginning on July 13 and running through July 31, headliners for the Just For Laughs Comedy Festival 2016, David Cross (Arrested Development); Howie Mandel (Deal or No Deal); Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Tony Hale and Timothy Simons from Veep, tell-all. Lewis Black, Jimmy Carr, Gad Elmaleh, Kathleen Madigan, and Jeff Ross in his Jeff Ross Present Roast Battle are also on the roster. Among the free outdoor events are comedy, circus acts, street dancing and the ever-popular Twins Parade featuring twins, triplets, and other multiples. Are you one—or is that two or three? If so, then join in the fun. Even the Just For Laughs URL has to make you chuckle. www.hahaha.com

PIKNIC ÉLECTRONIK

On Sundays, from late May through early October, it's the 14th annual Piknic Électronik, an outdoor event with an unrivaled view of Montreal and electronic music, from classical to innovative. Appropriate for all ages and for those new to the genre and those who know

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it well. More than 100,000 people have enjoyed this entertainment each of the past two years. While the artists are from around the globe—from Ireland to Trinidad & Tobago—74 percent are from Canada and nine

out of ten of those are from Montreal. No two Sunday performances are the same, and that covers nearly 300 hours of music throughout the summer. Held at 2 and 9:30 p.m. (cancelled in case of rain), concerts are also held on Saturday, September 3 and Monday, September 5. The concerts are free for children 12 and under.
www.piknicelectronik.com/en ❖



As mentioned, there are more than 100 festivals throughout the year. If these don't suit your fancy, check the calendar to find something that will at "What to do" on www.tourisme-montreal.org.



It's easy having fun in Montréal and you can start the fun on one of WOW air's Airbus aircraft. Add even more WOW to your trip! On your way to or from Canada you can have a WOW Stopover in Iceland and check out an Icelandic festival or two.



WOW air now offers up to five flights a week from Europe to Montréal, Canada all year round. Find available connections to Montréal or Toronto from almost all WOW destinations in Europe at wowair.com.

TASTE THE BEST OF ICELAND...

...IN ONE AMAZING MEAL



ICELANDIC GOURMET FEAST

Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín

Followed by seven delicious tapas

- Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce
- Icelandic sea-trout with peppers-salsa
- Lobster tails baked in garlic
- Pan-fried line caught blue ling with lobster-sauce
- Grilled Icelandic lamb Samfaina
- Minke Whale with cranberry & malt-sauce
- White chocolate "Skr" mousse with passion fruit coulis

LATE NIGHT DINING

Our kitchen is open until 23:30 on weekdays and 01:00 on weekends

7.990 kr.



RESTAURANT- BAR

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