

M is for Montréal

Montréal is definitely an "M" city, as in Many Marvelous Museums, from architecture to insects, and science to arts and crafts. The Montréal Museums Society (<http://museesmoutreal.org/en>) has developed the Museum Pass to help you visit their members at your own pace AND receive benefits.

by Judy Colbert
Photos: Montreal Museum Society, Wikimedia and iStockphoto.com

those who fancy science, the Montréal Science Center lets you explore the human body (you have as much hair as a chimp), 26 science stations (geared for visitors six and up), a special area for children under seven, and a cargo exhibit that describes how freight is transported through a large port like Montréal. A final permanent exhibit explores the "Windmills of Imaginations" with the world's first electricity-to-water transformer and the world's first water-to-wind transformer.

PASS PACKAGES

The first package is C\$75 and allows one free visit per museum during any three days within three weeks of your first visit (which is good for six months from the date of purchase). If your visit is just a few days long, the C\$80 package includes one free visit per museum during three consecutive days and within six months of the purchase. You also receive free public transportation on the bus, subway and airport shuttle (good for returning to the airport). A three-day transportation pass from the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) usually costs C\$18. For long-term or frequent visits, the third option, the Prestige pass, at C\$225, allows two admissions per person or one admission for two people for each member museum. It's good for one year from your first visit or from the 30th day after you buy it.

Examples of some regular admission prices are the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, \$20; Montréal Science Centre, \$15; Montréal Biodôme, \$19.25;



Photo: Hdecomart / iStockphoto



Montréal Museum of Fine Arts



At the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, you can see an encyclopedic collection of fine and decorative arts from antiquity to today.

YOU SHALL PASS!

Once you decide which package you want, it's time to decide which of the city's extraordinary museums and centers you want to visit in this thriving museum city. Selection can be made by interest, geography, popularity or there's always the option of visiting the most expensive ones, so you get more bang for your buck.

Lesley Peterson, a Toronto art and travel writer at www.CultureTripper.com, highly recommends the Fashion Museum, or Musée de la Mode because "Style and fashion are such a big part of life in Montréal." She recalls "strolling old Montréal at night on my last visit, and a line of limos pulled up in front of the historic Bonsecours Market (home of the MCTQ) with its illuminated facade; a stream of long-legged models were clambering out for a Fashion Week event. For me, that was the quintessential scene in this trendy city." Now, says Peterson, with the election of Justin Trudeau as the Prime Minister, and his wife Sophie, fashion awareness has risen to an even higher level.

ART, HISTORY AND SCIENCE

History lovers will be taken aback at the McCord Museum that displays a collection started by David Ross McCord. It shows the history and culture of Canada and offers a variety of fascinating films and lectures explaining the exhibits and the past. Meanwhile, at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, you can see an encyclopedic collection of fine and decorative arts from antiquity to today, its paintings, sculptures, graphics arts, photographs, and decorative art objects are housed in four pavilions. The Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion (covering the art of Québec and Canada) have a concert hall with an impressive collection of Tiffany stained-glass windows. For

and the Insectarium and Botanical Garden, \$19.25.

Among the benefits of any pass is a ten percent discount at many gift shops (some may require a minimum purchase), and a twenty-five percent discount on walking tours of Old Montréal East & West by Guidatour.

The first two passes (with or without transportation) can be purchased online ahead of time and it can be mailed to you at your home (for an extra fee which is almost paid for by using it for transportation from the airport to the city), or delivered to your hotel for your arrival. You can also pick it up at the Montréal Museums Society office or from a dozen of the member museums. The Prestige card is sold only by the Montréal Museums Society, online or on site (VISA or cash only). The Society office is open weekdays only. Note that many attractions are closed on Monday. ❖



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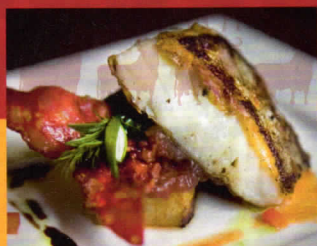


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- Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce
- Icelandic sea-trout with peppers-salsa
- Lobster tails baked in garlic
- Pan-fried line caught blue ling with lobster-sauce
- Grilled Icelandic lamb Samfaina
- Minke Whale with cranberry & malt-sauce
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7.990 kr.



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