

Montréal: A Perfect Summer Escape

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A packed resort at a tropical beach or visiting the island of Montréal in Québec, Canada? This summer, I chose the latter, and I'm glad I did because Montréal is the perfect summer getaway.

During my trip, I was pleasantly surprised to find that most of the time it was not only sunny but a little hot, which gave me every opportunity to check out tourist attractions and local hotspots.

With any trip I go on, the local cuisine is always the biggest attraction for me. Of course, I had to sample a Québécois concoction for my first stop. My cousin served as my tour guide, and she took me to experience poutine, french fries mixed with cheese curds and gravy. Her favorite poutine place, Ma Poule Mouillée, makes Portugese-style poutine, which included piri piri sauce, chicken and chorizo.

We walked down to Parc la Fontaine, where we sat on a bench in front of metropolitan sunbathers and enjoyed our Québécois dish. After devouring it, we walked around the nearby neighborhood, passed by a Harry Potter themed

bar called Lockhart, saw the classic winding staircases that Montréal is known for and spotted creative street art.

Then, we took the metro to Downtown Montréal. I walked down Rue Sainte-Catherine, a long street that's great for shopping until I reached Place des Arts, where the Just for Laughs festival was going on and a fiesta latina, where I enjoyed music performed by Rommel Ribeiro.

During the summer, terrasses (outdoor restaurant terraces) are extremely popular in Montréal. So the next day, we decided to go to la terrasse in Les Enfants Terribles, a restaurant that's said is the highest in Montréal. At the top, there's an observatory with glass windows where visitors can glimpse views of the whole city. One floor below at lunch, I had a duck confit and goat cheese salad and finished the meal with beignets topped with blueberry and mint with a side of vanilla ice cream.

One attraction we visited was Mont-Royal, the city's small mountain. We passed by Beaver Lake, where people were renting rowboats, and hiked up to Chalet du Mont-Royal, another area where we caught more scenic views of

the city. Afterwards, we drove to Old Port and appreciated its European-style charm while munching on a Beaver Tail pastry.

While there, locals insisted that I try a Montréal bagel before going back to the States, revealing a feud I was unaware of: the Montréal bagel versus New York bagel. In order for me to comprehend the logistics of this feud, I went with my cousin, her boyfriend, and my sister to St-Viateur Bagel & Cafe, only in Québec. There, I ordered the 'Cream Cheese Sampler' platter. It came out on an artist palette with a placeholder for three bagels and four kinds of cream cheese, sun-dried tomato and feta mixed with spinach to name a couple, and made me want to participate in the bagel feud. So next stop: New York!

If you want to visit Montréal, I suggest staying at Hôtel Place d'Armes near Old Port. It's across the street from Montréal's own Notre-Dame Basilica, next to a lovely plaza surrounded by gorgeous architecture and a short walking distance from the river and shops.

Oui, Montréal est magnifique!