
101 PLACES SAMPLE ENTRY

Entries should be 900 words total broken into the following sections:

- 1) Guide section: Location, Season/Event, Ideal Conditions, Lodging, “Ingestibles” (Approx 600-700 words)
- 2) First person narrative: (Approx 200-300 words)
- 3) Pull quote from local party king/queen
- 4) 101 Places “Verdict”

****Please note that you DON'T HAVE TO PROVIDE FORMATTING, but just label each different section****

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

NAME: Montreal, Quebec

SEASON: May to September. Especially June and July.

IDEAL CONDITIONS: Heat that isn't suffocating. Doesn't happen a lot.

LODGING RECOMMENDATIONS: Hotel Quartier Latin for budget, Hostel Alexandrie-Montreal for hostel.

INGESTIBLES: Wine, microbrews, marijuana, sangria, poutine with squeaky cheese curds (La Banquise), a smoked meat sandwich (Schwartz's), and a Montreal bagel (St. Viateur).

I've partied in my share of Canadian cities. I would argue that Montreal is the greatest party city in the country. Maybe in all of North America. Maybe the universe.

If you're a tourist, you'll go to **Crescent Street** where women in 9-inch hot pink heels spill out onto the streets and plainclothes firemen drive by on their trucks seemingly just to check out the high-heeled ladies. If it's *terasse* season, watch the scene unfold from **Winston Churchill**. Go to **Brutopia** for cheap

\$5 pints on a weekday, or **Hurley's** for Irish music.

Montrealers know that the best parties are on **St-Denis** and **St-Laurent**. St-Laurent has more posh clubs, like **Cafe Melies** where the sangria comes garnished with a slice of orange. **Tokyo** has the best outdoor *terasse*, but you wouldn't know it until you make it past the disco. **Big in Japan** is a Japanese-themed whisky bar where you're lead through a weird hallway covered in fabric to the back where food and drink are served cafeteria style. Just outside is **Patati Patata** with \$5 burgers and \$3 beers.

St-Denis is the pub hub. **La Distillerie** for when you want mason jars filled with alcohol that will make you blind. **Le Saint Bock** for microbrews and the best nachos you've never had. **Mâche** also has moderately priced beers and kickass \$6 poutine (\$8 with wieners).

In the Old Port, go to a rooftop bar. **Suite 701** is filled with sexy business men catching a drink after work. If those views don't excite you, you'll have a panoramic look at the citie's oldest buildings, including the Notre Dame Basilica.

If you're here in the summer, go to the TamTams drum circle at **Parc du Mont-Royal**. Yesterday, I was assaulted by zombies. When I first came here, I thought there was nothing but weirdo hippies and losers banging on drums and getting high as fuck. Somehow, I missed the thousands of Montrealers sprawled out across the field on blankets or tossing Frisbees in the grass. Everyone gets high and drinks alcohol, and there's no admission. A DJ booth is set up at the **Mordechai Richler Gazebo** for impromptu dance parties, and there's a larping area further into the woods if you want to sign over your virginity.

Check for festivals. Grand Prix, Osheaga, Jazz Fest, etc.

NOTES FROM A LOCAL:

*You haven't really "done" Montreal until you've had pints at **Peel Pub** (watch your wallet), lost your poutine money in the rooftop pool at **Sky Club**, and staggered home after dancing at **Parking**.*

Montreal is a festival city.

Come to Piknic Electronik at **Parc Jean-Drapeaux**. Live DJs spin for hipsters and party people from 3 PM to 9 PM. If you pack a picnic, you're allowed to bring wine and beer. \$14 admission. Bring condoms.

Finally, remember these general rules about Montreal:

- Booze is ridic cheap compared to the rest of Canada — you can buy a 24 of beer for \$15.
- You can purchase alcohol at the dépanneur (convenience store).
- Bars don't shut down until 3am, or later (most provinces other than Newfoundland shut down at 2).
- As soon as spring hits, it becomes terasse season...meaning almost every restaurant, pub, and club has a patio, deck, or rooftop area.
- You can smoke cigarettes on most terrasses.
- Thursday is a big party night out, with lots of Happy Hour specials. Plan accordingly.
- "Apportez votre vin" means "Bring your own wine." You can do this at many restaurants.

VERDICT: Montreal has massive options; you can pretty much do anything here: just make sure when you visit the sex shops along Saint-Catherine, your read the signs carefully. "Poussez" on the door just means "push."

F*CKED UP FIRSTHAND

When *Hey Rosetta!* performed, I stood up gripping the cheap chair in front of me, drunk on good music and art.

I was enamoured with the lead singer of Matt Hornell and the Diamond Minds. I tweeted at him to ask if he was single. He didn't respond.

I was the youngest person at the festival by at least 20 years, an outsider at home. On the final night we gathered at the Legion for a dance. I sat by myself at a table for two hours waiting for the tourism people to show up so I would have someone to talk to. No one talked to me.

I felt happy.

When they did show up, we stood outside on the balcony mingling with CBC journalists and drinking red wine. I found some people my own age. We went to an after party at an art gallery, a handful of people sitting around playing guitar and smoking cigarettes. I didn't know any of them. The long-legged brunette girl was the daughter of the gallery owner. The lead singer of the band that had played at the Legion told me he liked my laid-back style. Someone picked up an Ugly Stick decorated with beer caps, a mop's handle with a rubber boot attached to the end of it. Stomping it against the floor, it made an offensive rattling noise that somehow complemented the guitar.

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