



Top: Dining on Crescent Street.

# PEACE, LOVE & ROCK 'N' ROLL IN MONTRÉAL

*“Let Toronto become Milan. Montréal will always be Rome” —  
Jean Drapeau, Mayor of Montréal from 1954 to 1957*

BY TIFFANY THORNTON

Montréal has always been a sexy city infused with a European flare. This dynamic city is filled with an infectious energy and the “joie de vivre” lifestyle. Montréal happens to be the second-largest French speaking city in the world after Paris, which is evident at every turn. Whether you are indulging in delectable pastries or dining on French cuisine and fine wine at one of the many bistros surrounded by old cobblestone streets, the Francophone influence is everywhere.

Montréal is an entertainment lover’s playground and cultural hub. Every day a plethora of events take place. Top music venues throughout the city host live music all nights of the week. This is the city where even the late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau displayed his trademark swagger, famously dating iconic American singer and actress Barbara Streisand back in the seventies.

## STAY

Montréal is vibrant and exudes a confident liberal outlook, so much so that it attracted John Lennon and Yoko Ono to bring the notion of world peace with them to the city in 1969, during the Vietnam War. For their second “Bed-In,”—which took place in room 1742 at Montréal’s Queen Elizabeth Hotel—they spent eight days in bed, generating massive media attention to promote peace. It’s also the place where Lennon gave his magical performance of *Give Peace a Chance*, his first hit song not attached to The Beatles.

Staying at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel is a must when visiting the city. If you book in advance, you may have a shot at scoring 1742, the “Lennon Suite.” The spacious suite walls are lined with original photos from the Bed-In. The intimate photos transport you to a time and place that made history. If you can’t get



that suite, then make sure to stop by room 1742 and get a photo of the gold plaque outside emblazoned with the names John Lennon and Yoko Ono. When checking out, pop inside the hotel gift shop where you can take home the "Give Peace a Chance" book for \$24.95.

### DINE

Montréal is a culinary smorgasbord, with food from every part of the world. If you crave it, it's there! Dining in the old city is the quintessential Montréal experience, and the Vieux-Port steakhouse is the chic place to be for lunch or dinner. A local favourite, the steakhouse boasts a lovely refined ambiance and large terrace filled with flora and fauna that is open all summer long. The lunch special is the hidden secret. Enjoy the soup of the day, sirloin steak or lobster linguine and a desert for only \$15.50.

### A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

Where does one begin when taking in the nightlife scene in Montréal? At any time of the year, Montréal has something fabulous going on. From major events like the world famous Montréal Jazz Festival, which is held at the end of June, to taking in a performance of the world-renowned Cirque du Soleil, the choices are endless. Top concert and live performance venues include the Metropolis Theatre in St-Denis and the House of Jazz.

### GETTING THERE

Porter Airlines leaves daily from Halifax to Montréal. A glass or two of sparkly is included on each flight. Air Canada provides a direct daily flight from St. John's.

Via Rail's overnight Ocean Train leaves from Halifax to Montréal three times a week. This scenic historic route is now in its 111th year, and is North America's oldest operating passenger train, making it a true Canadian experience. 🇨🇦

**Top:** Queen Elizabeth Hotel 's Lennon Suite.  
**Center:** Montréal nightlife.  
**Bottom:** Montréal Jazz Festival.

