

# Walking Montreal

By Maffy Malaver



Montreal is a charming city. Simply going for a walk or riding a bicycle through the city is enough to nourish the mind and spirit with its beauty. Its streets are full of architectural and cultural diversity - from old homes with facades reminiscent of previous centuries to modern buildings with murals and graffiti in the style of newer generations.

The people are kind and respectful. As you walk and greet passersby, you in turn receive a smile and “*bonjour*” in the typical accent that characterizes Canadian French.

Only a five hour drive from the Hudson Valley of New York, you can discover an entirely different world in the city of Montreal. This is due not only to its Francophone population; its mix of local city life, euphoric tourism, and the calm of a mountain where you can walk amongst nature; but also in the streets shared by cars, pedestrians and bicycles with such special dynamism that it seems everyone had agreed the night before to move quietly in the morning.

Montreal is nevertheless a city and like all cities, it is in constant development. As you walk its streets you will encounter constant construction and remodeling, but this does not obscure its magic; on the contrary, you discover that within the swing of the city - the sound of a drill, the brush of a painter, the hullabaloo of a carnival, and the click of a tourist's camera - they are all part of its charm.



In this city there are activities for everyone: restaurants of all kinds, different forms of transportation, cafes, shops, the Montreal Botanical Garden and planetarium, climbing and hiking, beaches and parks, bars and music for all tastes, and of course many Latinos! While walking through old Montreal I came across a sign that said “Empanadas!” and immediately knew I had to enter. In this cafe I found delicious Argentinian empanadas made by a Mexican native, Ramón. He has been living in Canada for 10 years, and in the half hour I spent talking with him he told me his story. While in the cafe I saw a Latino family come in for empanadas and as he assisted them, I witnessed the natural instinct characteristic of Latinos: wanting always to help others.

*(see video to know Ramón)*

If you are going to visit Montreal, add to your list of activities: hike the Mount-Royal mountain, walk the streets of old Montreal, have a 'cafesito' or a Piña Colada in one of its cafes, ride a bicycle downtown, eat and dance in 'Le Plateau' area, have lunch at the Atwater market, visit the Basilica of Notre Dame, walk the Parc du Grande Rapides, and of course - practice some French words!

