

## SHOPPING

### top picks

- Scarpa (p113)
- Surface Jalouse (p105)
- Holt Renfrew (p107)
- Andy The-Anh (p108)
- Face London (p108)
- Nadya Toto (p108)
- Schreter (p112)
- Lola & Emily (p111)
- Jet-Setter (p114)
- Scandale (p111)

# SHOPPING

Style is synonymous with Montréal living. The city itself is beautiful and locals live up to the standard it sets. Maybe it's that much-touted European influence, but most Montrealers seem to instinctively lead stylish lives regardless of income level, enjoying aesthetic pleasures like food, art and, of course, fashion.

Montréal is Canada's unofficial fashion capital and many of the country's most talented and internationally successful designers have roots here. Gorgeous locally based lines to look for include Denis Gagnon, Nadya Toto, Marie Saint-Pierre, YSO and up-and-comer Travis Taddeo. For more information, check out Québec fashion magazines like *Clin d'Oeil*, *Lou Lou* and *Elle Québec*. Or visit during **Montreal Fashion Week** ([www.montreal-fashion-week.ca](http://www.montreal-fashion-week.ca)), which takes place every March and October to showcase new collections. With hot local artisans dressing locals, it's no wonder Montréal is known for its beautiful citizens. Of course, hunting in vintage bins can produce looks just as cool, and locals are adept at putting together killer ensembles that combine the best of both worlds.

Even beyond fashion, Montréal is an ideal shopping city, full of goods you'll want to take home. You'll find the cream of the crop in this shopping paradise – from big international department stores to high fashion designers, vintage clothing boutiques to weird one-of-a-kind antique shops, used music- and booksellers, chic home decor and more. American visitors in particular tend to appreciate the reasonable prices, made even more affordable by the US-Canada money exchange rate. As well, many international megastore chains (including Urban Outfitters, H&M, Zara and American Apparel – which, incidentally, was started by a Montrealer) have set up shop here, but with a local or European flair.

Since Montréal is also a walking city, strolling down any of its prime outdoor shopping strips is a perfect way to spend a sunny afternoon. Upscale Rue St-Paul in Old Montréal ([below](#)) is full of art galleries, designer furnishings and clothing shops. The district's touristy streets also house souvenir shops that sell maple syrup T-shirts and random Canadiana. Busy Rue Ste-Catherine in the heart of Downtown ([p106](#)) has all the big names, department stores, and some specialty shops and local fashion boutiques. For antiques, head southwest to Rue Notre-Dame Ouest. The trendy Plateau ([p111](#)) and artsy Mile End ([p113](#)) are full of hip clothing and home-decor boutiques, many located on Blvd St-Laurent and Rue St-Denis. Rue Mont-Royal has lots of vintage shops. Little Italy ([p113](#)) is terrific for grocery shopping and cooking items. Prices and style quotient soar on Rue Laurier and Ave Bernard in Outremont ([p113](#)), as well as on elegant Ave Greene in the wealthy Westmount neighborhood (see the boxed text, [p110](#)).

Most stores open 9:30am or 10am to 6pm Monday to Wednesday; clothing boutiques usually open their doors at 11am. Thursday and Friday are late opening days, usually until 9pm; Saturday hours are 10am to 5pm. Opening hours on Sunday afternoon (noon to 5pm) are standard along Rue Ste-Catherine and Blvd St-Laurent as well as in the large malls. Some convenience stores such as the chain *Couche Tard* stay open 24 hours. In summer you may find extended weekday hours at many stores.

## OLD MONTRÉAL & CHINATOWN

**GALERIE 2000** [Map p48](#) [Art Gallery](#)  
☎ 514-844-1812; 45 Rue St-Paul Ouest; 🕒 10am-9pm; 📍 Champ-de-Mars

Always fresh and entertaining, this eclectic gallery has large, flashy, tasteful displays from classic landscapes to neocubist portraits, with the occasional well-charted flight into the alternative.

**GALERIE LE CHARIOT** [Map p48](#) [Art Gallery](#)  
☎ 514-875-4994; 446 Pl Jacques-Cartier; 📍 Champ-de-Mars

This arts emporium claims to have the largest Inuit collection in Canada. Choose from First Nations art carved mainly from soapstone, as well as walrus tusks, fur hats, mountain-goat rugs and fleecy moccasins.

**GALERIE ORANGE** [Map p48](#) [Art Gallery](#)  
☎ 514-396-6670; 81 Rue St-Paul Est; 📍 Champ-de-Mars