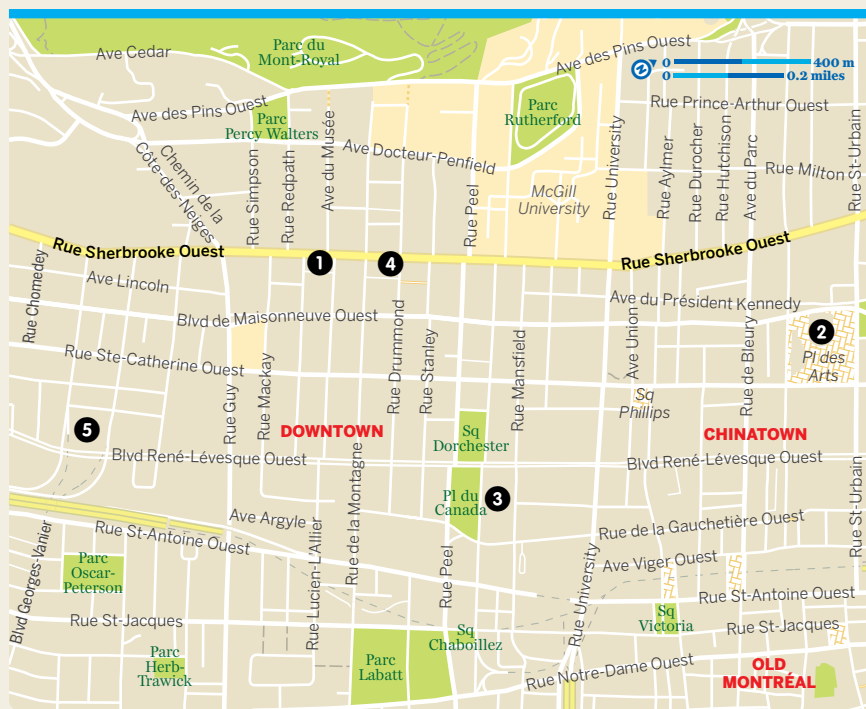


Downtown

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Spending a few hours exploring a treasure trove of traditional and contemporary art at the **Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal** (p73).
- 2 Getting your festival freak on with thousands of others when the jazz festival hits town at **Place des Arts** (p74).
- 3 Enjoying quiet time inside one of downtown's beautiful historic churches, such as the **Cathédrale Marie-Reine-du-Monde** (p77).
- 4 Browsing the eye-catching boutiques and heritage buildings along **Rue Sherbrooke Ouest** (p76).
- 5 Learning all about cutting-edge building designers at the excellent **Centre Canadien d'Architecture** (p79).



For more detail of this area see Maps p272 and p276 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

While there's much to see during the day, downtown is also a major nighttime draw for the performing arts. It's worth planning an evening around a performance happening in one of the top theaters. If hockey or Canadian football is more your speed, catch a game at the Bell Centre (p88) or Molson Stadium (p88).

Best Places to Eat

- Joe Beef (p81)
- Jatoba (p81)
- Foodlab (p80)
- Café Parvis (p80)
- Satay Brothers (p79)
- Imadake (p79)

For reviews, see p79. ➡

Best Places to Drink

- Bleury Bar à Vinye (p82)
- Pub Ste-Élisabeth (p83)
- Dominion Square Tavern (p82)
- Burgundy Lion (p82)
- Benelux (p82)
- Le Vin Papillon (p80)

For reviews, see p82. ➡

Best Entertainment

- Place des Arts (p83)
- Foufounes Électriques (p87)
- Upstairs (p83)
- Monument National (p84)
- Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal (p84)

For reviews, see p83. ➡

Explore Downtown

Downtown Montréal's wide boulevards, glass skyscrapers and shopping galleries give the area a decidedly North American flavor; while numerous green spaces, eye-catching heritage buildings and 19th-century churches add a more European character to the bustling city streets. You can explore the area easily in the better part of a day with a pause for lunch.

Begin your tour at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, spending the morning taking in its vast collection of Old Masters and modern Canadian art, before grabbing a snack or lunch at nearby spots like the cafe in Cafe Aunja. Make your way along Rue Sherbrooke Ouest, passing the heritage houses and tiny businesses en route, before reaching McGill University, a bustling haven of green with its own museums.

From the university, you can climb toward Parc du Mont-Royal if you really want to stretch your legs, or turn down Ave McGill College to reach Rue Ste-Catherine Ouest, downtown's main shopping drag. To the west, there's Rue Crescent and Rue Bishop, the traditional anglophone centers of nightlife with an array of bars and restaurants. More shopping centers and the festival-oriented Quartier des Spectacles – including Place des Arts, the performing-arts complex and hub of the jazz festival – are within a short walk to the east along Rue Ste-Catherine Ouest. From Place des Arts, it's easy to walk to Chinatown, and even Old Montréal, for dinner.

Local Life

- **Pedaling** Rent a Bixi bike and pedal up and down Blvd de Maisonneuve to the leafy suburb of Westmount.
- **Hiking** Hoof it up hills such as Rue Peel to reach one of the entrances to Parc du Mont-Royal.
- **Drinks, Theater** Have a drink and a bite at Foodlab, then catch a play or a dance performance across the street at the Monument National (p84).

Getting There & Away

- **Metro** Peel and McGill are both central and convenient.
- **Bus** Bus 15 runs on Rue Ste-Catherine and Blvd de Maisonneuve, bus 24 on Rue Sherbrooke and bus 150 on Blvd René-Lévesque.
- **Bike** Bixi bikes have numerous stations in the area. If you're cycling, head to Blvd de Maisonneuve, which has separate protected bike lanes.