

OLD MONTRÉAL | OLD PORT | CHINATOWN

1 Soaking up the beautiful craftsmanship and soaring architecture of the **Basilique Notre-Dame** (p48), the city's spiritual jewel.

3 Getting your bearings amid the heritage architecture of **Place d'Armes** (p49) and its monument to Montréal's founder.

4 Journeying back to the Montréal's early foundation on a fascinating subterranean walk inside the **Musée d'Archéologie et d'Histoire Pointe-à-Callière** (p49).

5 Visiting the sailors' chapel in the charming **Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours** (p50), immortalized by Leonard Cohen.



For more detail of this area see Map p268 ➡

Explore Old Montréal

Begin your tour of Vieux-Montréal (Old Montréal) in its heart – historic Place d'Armes. Admire the recently renovated square, with its statue of city founder Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve, and then head inside the iconic Basilique Notre-Dame. Take your time viewing its finely crafted interior before crossing the square and visiting the Bank of Montreal's 1847 headquarters, with its neo-classical facade and vaulted marble interior.

Next head down Rue St-Sulpice past the basilica to Rue St-Paul Ouest and turn left. It's lined with art galleries, plush boutiques and eateries, but these give way to tacky souvenir shops before you reach Place Jacques-Cartier, a grand square dedicated to the French explorer that's full of artists and buskers. At one end is the photogenic Hôtel de Ville (City Hall) while one block to the north, along Rue St-Paul Est, is the equally pretty Marché Bonsecours with its silver dome. Just past it is the beautiful Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours, a humble sailors' church that is the perfect counterpoint to the basilica.

One block east is Rue de la Commune Est, a breezy waterfront street that gives you access to the Old Port and its museums, the Cirque du Soleil big top and river cruises. Proceed northwest up Blvd St-Laurent for 15 minutes to reach Montréal's small Chinatown. It's an excellent place to grab a cheap but satisfying plate of dumplings.

Local Life

- ➔ **Happy hour** In summer Montréalers love to enjoy *cinq à sept* (happy hour) on rooftop patios in Old Montréal.
- ➔ **Fine dining** Locals flock to the atmospheric stone-walled dining rooms in Old Montréal as well as the cheapie noodle eateries in Chinatown.
- ➔ **Biking** Rent a Bixi (p240) bike and ride from the Old Port to the Canal de Lachine bike path.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** To reach Old Montréal or Chinatown, take the metro to Square-Victoria, Place-d'Armes or Champ-de-Mars.
- ➔ **Bus** Bus 14 runs along Rue Notre-Dame in Old Montréal between Rue Berri and Blvd St-Laurent; bus 55 stops on Blvd St-Laurent.
- ➔ **On foot** While it is expansive, the area can be easily explored on foot, and accessed from downtown via streets such as Rue de Bleury.
- ➔ **Biking** The Old Port is an entry point to a bike path that leads to the Canal de Lachine, which connects to the fringes of downtown at Rue Charlevoix.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

As with many streets in the city, east and west (*est* and *ouest* in French) labels on street signs don't reflect true compass orientations. Remember that 'east–west' streets such as Rue Notre-Dame actually run closer to north–south, and this can be confusing if you like orienteering with maps.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Olive + Gourmando (p58)
- ➔ Tapas, 24 (p60)
- ➔ Orange Rouge (p61)
- ➔ Barroco (p59)
- ➔ Garde-Manger (p59)
- ➔ Toqué! (p60)

For reviews, see p57. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Le Confessionnal (p62)
- ➔ Le Mal Necessaire (p63)
- ➔ Philémon (p61)
- ➔ Terrasse Nelligan (p62)
- ➔ Les Soeurs Grises (p62)
- ➔ Terrasse Place d'Armes (p62)

For reviews, see p61. ➔

Best Activities

- ➔ Ça Roule Montréal (p64)
- ➔ Bota Bota (p65)
- ➔ Saute-Moutons (p65)

For reviews, see p64. ➔