

Plateau Mont-Royal

PARC DU MONT-ROYAL AREA

Neighborhood Top Five

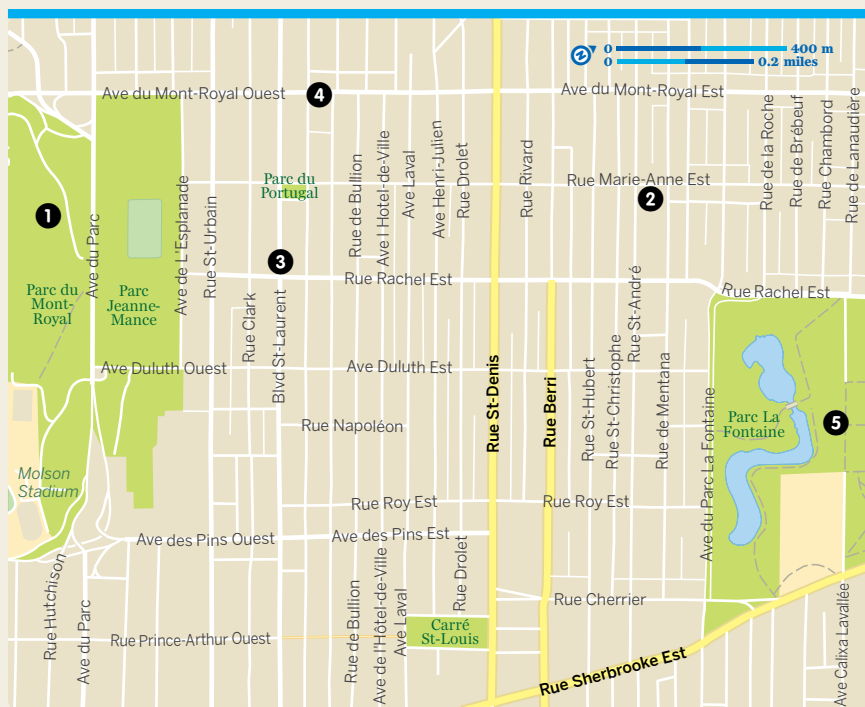
1 Enjoying the fresh air, sweeping vistas and feathered friends of **Parc du Mont-Royal**, the beloved heart of Montréal.

2 Join locals at the sun-drenched cafe **Moineau Masqué** (p109), then wander the Plateau's leafy backstreets.

3 Exploring the old-world groceries that rub shoulders with stylish drinking dens along **Boulevard St-Laurent** (p103).

4 Trolling the quirky shops, from old records to single-origin chocolate, along bohemian **Avenue du Mont-Royal** (p103).

5 Chilling out in summer and ice-skating in winter in the broad expanse of local favorite **Parc La Fontaine** (p103).



For more detail of this area see Map p280 ➔

**Best Places to Eat**

- ➔ L'Gros Luxe (p110)
- ➔ L'Express (p110)
- ➔ Hà (p110)
- ➔ Le Filet (p111)
- ➔ Au Pied de Cochon (p111)
- ➔ Schwartz's (p107)

For reviews, see p107. ➔

**Best Places to Drink**

- ➔ Le Lab (p111)
- ➔ La Distillerie (p111)
- ➔ Apt 200 (p111)
- ➔ Majestique (p112)
- ➔ SuWu (p112)
- ➔ Big in Japan (p111)

For reviews, see p111. ➔

**Best Entertainment**

- ➔ Casa del Popolo (p113)
- ➔ Dièse Onze (p113)
- ➔ Agora de la Danse (p113)
- ➔ La Tulipe (p113)

For reviews, see p113. ➔

Explore Plateau Mont-Royal

This is a large area, but a good chunk can be explored in a day. Begin at leafy Carré St-Louis, where old-slate Victorian mansions and duplexes house bohemian souls and B&Bs. Originally a working-class neighborhood, in the 1960s and '70s the Plateau became the place where writers, singers and all manner of artists lived.

Make your way along Rue Prince-Arthur Ouest to Blvd St-Laurent, the legendary divide between anglophone and francophone Montréal once known as 'the Main.' Today the Main is a mix of hip cafes and nightspots, old-world delis and grocery stores, and funky hipster shops. The stretch to Ave Duluth, known for its BYOB restos, attracts hordes of 20-somethings on weekend nights. For lunch or a relaxing coffee, take a break at Café Santropol (p108), an old standby on Rue St-Urbain.

Continuing northwest up Blvd St-Laurent, you'll enter Montréal's Portuguese community, passing Parc du Portugal. Another block to the northwest lies Ave du Mont-Royal. It's worth turning right here and wandering down several blocks, lined with eclectic boutiques, record shops and bookstores.

When you're in the mood for fresh air, hop on bus 11 on the northwest side of Ave du Mont-Royal and ride up to 'the Mountain,' the Parc du Mont-Royal. Hop off at the parking lot near Maison Smith, a visitors center where you can have a drink and learn about the park's history before spending the rest of the day exploring it.

Local Life

➔ **Bar-hopping** Coasting up and down Blvd St-Laurent is the quintessential bar-hopping experience for younger Montréalers.

➔ **Mountainsides** It doesn't get much more Montréal than picnicking, sunbathing and tobogganning (in winter) on the Mountain.

➔ **Foodie faves** You can't go wrong with a bagel, some smoked meat and poutine (see p30) in your quest to be an authentic Montréaler.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Metro access is via the orange line, at the stations of Sherbrooke, Mont-Royal and Laurier.

➔ **Bus** The 55 runs along Blvd St-Laurent; bus 30 coasts along Rue St-Denis; bus 80 travels Ave du Parc; bus 11 climbs up to Parc du Mont-Royal from Ave du Mont-Royal.

➔ **Bike** You can rent a Bixi bike to reach much of Plateau Mont-Royal; pedaling up the mountain itself is a tough slog.