

# Parc Jean-Drapeau

ÎLE STE-HÉLÈNE | ÎLE NOTRE-DAME

## Neighborhood Top Five

- ➊ Taking a breather from the hustle of the city by soaking up some sunshine and fresh air on verdant **Île Ste-Hélène** (p68).
- ➋ Riding the world's tallest wooden roller coaster at **La Ronde** (p68). Or getting eye-popping views of the city from the Ferris wheel.
- ➌ Grabbing a picnic and joining music lovers on the grass, during the laid-back summer fest of **Piknic Électronik** (p68).
- ➍ Fighting the good fight, 18th-century style, with military parades at **Musée Stewart** (p68), housed in a British garrison.
- ➎ Getting active, by taking a **Stand-Up Paddleboard Yoga class** (p70), kayaking off the Plage des Îles or wakeboarding.



For more detail of this area see Map p286 ➔

## Explore Parc Jean-Drapeau

In the middle of the mighty St Lawrence, this alluring green space spreads across Île Ste-Hélène and Île Notre-Dame. Together, the two islands offer a fine choice of recreational activities, along with some worthwhile museums. The park is also home to a casino, a Formula 1 racetrack, an old-fashioned amusement park and summer festivals (see [www.parcjeandrapeau.com](http://www.parcjeandrapeau.com)).

You can easily spend the better part of a day exploring Parc Jean-Drapeau. From Jean-Drapeau station on the yellow line, walk north to the Biosphère (built for Expo '67) and take in its unique superstructure and environment-themed exhibits. Continue along Chemin du Tour de l'Île, which winds its way around the center of Île Ste-Hélène, toward Musée Stewart, where you might be able to catch retro military maneuvers in action. Take in the historical pageantry and exhibits before continuing north along the chemin to the amusement park La Ronde. While you're walking through the island, note the numerous outdoor sculptures, the most famous of which is Alexander Calder's *L'Homme*, as well as other buildings that are leftovers from Expo '67; the western side of the island offers great views of the city.

If you're looking for thrills of another kind, hop on bus 167 to the Casino de Montréal on Île Notre-Dame and try your luck at roulette, slots and other games of chance.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Festivals** Parc Jean-Drapeau comes into its own during excellent festivals and events such as the Osheaga Festival Musique et Arts (p68).
- ➔ **Beach bumming** The St Lawrence River doesn't make for good swimming, but there's the decent Plage des Îles (p70) artificial beach on Île Notre-Dame (p68).
- ➔ **Formula 1** The main event that brings most Montréalers to Parc Jean-Drapeau is the Grand Prix du Canada (p70).

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Jean-Drapeau on the yellow line brings you to the heart of the park.
- ➔ **Bus** No 767 travels from Jean-Drapeau station to La Ronde when it's open. In the summer, it also stops at the Plage des Îles. Bus 777 travels from Jean-Drapeau station to the Casino de Montréal.
- ➔ **Ferry** In summer, catch a ferry ([www.navettesmaritimes.com](http://www.navettesmaritimes.com); one-way adult \$7.50, child free) to the park from the Jacques-Cartier Pier at the Old Port.
- ➔ **Bicycle** The best way to get around the park is by bike – access is via the busy Pont Jacques-Cartier or the circuitous but more peaceful route via Cité du Havre.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Parc Jean-Drapeau has a few snack bars and vending machines, but almost no eating options in terms of restaurants. If you're visiting in early spring, late fall, or winter, you should consider packing a lunch or snacks. At a pinch, try the restaurants at the Casino de Montréal (p69).

### Best Places for Fun

- ➔ La Ronde (p68)
- ➔ Casino de Montréal (p69)
- ➔ Grand Prix du Canada (p70)
- ➔ Plage des Îles (p70)

For reviews, see p68. ➔

### Best Events

- ➔ L'International des Feux Loto Québec (p68)
- ➔ Fête des Neiges (p68)
- ➔ Grand Prix du Canada (p70)
- ➔ Osheaga Festival Musique et Arts (p68)
- ➔ Piknik Électronik (p68)

For reviews, see p68. ➔

### Best Outdoor Activities

- ➔ Stand-up Paddleboards (p70)
- ➔ Wakeboarding (p70)
- ➔ Swimming (p70)
- ➔ Kayaking (p70)

For reviews, see p70. ➔