



Come to the party

A cosmopolitan destination, a giant birthday celebration and the festive beat of summer. Are you thinking what we're thinking? That's right: this summer and autumn in Montréal are going to be hotter than ever!

Photos: Maxime Juneau and Jimmy Hamelin, courtesy of Montreal 375 and iStockphoto.com / rmnunes

➔ In addition to sharing its perennial exuberant color, excitement and energy, this year the city is cranking up the fun, 375 times over. That's because, for 2017, Montréal is throwing an exceptional 375th "birthday" that spans the whole year, highlighting a rich history that stretches back thousands of years to Montréal's origins as a First Nations settlement, French colony, then British stronghold. Fast forward to the present, and today Montréal shines big and bright as one of the most energetic, innovative, cultural and creative metropolises in the world. Here's a peek at everything going on around town.

EXPO 67

Fifty years ago, Montréal hosted Expo67, the "Universal and International World Exhibition" and solidly established a reputation as a city of the future. It was a blockbuster event for its time, and no one could have predicted the huge impact Expo67

would have on Montréal or Québec.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of this truly historic extravaganza, the official Expo 67 programming welcomes visitors to relive the energy of the times through immersive exhibitions that shine the spotlight on music, film, fashion, art, photographs, architecture and more. Experience the buzz of excitement, learn how this colossal event came to life and discover the extraordinary impression it left on both residents and visitors; 14 dynamic exhibitions highlight specific aspects of Expo 67 in Montréal's museums and streets for you to enjoy until October.

LA GRANDE TOURNÉE

Everyone knows Montréal is a fun and fast-paced urban center that offers oodles of thrills and excitement. But what visitors love most about this tight-knit island city is its warmth, openness and charm. And where does that come from?... Right from its welcoming and friendly



citizens throughout its vibrant and vivacious neighborhoods! Giving everyone an inside peek at the city's deep sense of community and joie de vivre is La Grande Tournée, presented by the renowned Cirque Éloize. For 19 weeks from May to September, each of Montréal's 19 boroughs will be celebrating its unique history, places, merchants and artists with a huge outdoor party. Every weekend, a neighborhood park will be host to an array of activities, from street festivals to film screenings, music performances to treasure hunts, art exhibitions to picnics and much more. It's a superb opportunity to get an authentic taste and up-close look at city life through local and lively celebrations with real Montrealers.

LA BALADE POUR LA PAIX

From June to October, Montréal again pays homage to Expo67 with La Balade pour la Paix (The Stroll for Peace), an open-air museum at the heart of downtown. This major

art exhibition and walk for peace was created and organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the McCord Museum, and with the support of Concordia University and McGill University. It showcases 67 works of art from world-class Canadian and international artists reflecting the universal values of humanism, tolerance and openness that inspired the world fair. Through artwork and words of peace, it reminds us of our need to live in harmony together—greatly desired in today's times. In addition to commemorating the 50th anniversary of Expo67 and Montréal's 375th, this open-air exhibition marks Canada's 150th anniversary, and will run until October.

MONTRÉAL SYMPHONIQUE

Later in August, the hill—Mount Royal, that is—will be alive with the sound of music. Our iconic mountain will be setting the stage for Montréal Symphonique, a spectacular symphony concert featuring the city's three major orchestras—the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, the Orchestre Métropolitain and the McGill Symphony Orchestra—in a two-hour, joyous celebration of our city and its seasons. This celebration of music, song and visuals will feature hundreds of musicians, our favorite pop artists and choir singers who promise to dazzle our eyes and ears, plus a unique ambiance created through beautiful tableaux and projections. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime concert!

NOMADFEST

If country runs in your blood (yes, we've also got that too!), you'll want to check out NomadFest in late August. An urban rodeo, featuring three distinct components of rodeo, food and music, this happening hoedown has plenty in store for cowboys and cowgirls. Some 150 professional riders from cities across North America will be thrilling spectators with dressage and skills competitions, saddle and bareback bronc riding, bull riding, barrel races, rescue racing and exchange rider events. Onstage, you can listen to an exciting line-up of country, new country, bluegrass and folk bands. Leading local chefs

have developed a mouth-watering southwestern culinary theme for the festival, and local food artisans and producers will also be sharing their specialties with the public. A high-energy, toe-tapping, tasty event that takes place in the Old Port!

ÉLECTRO PARADE

Did we mention that Montréal likes taking the party outside? In September, for the very first time in North America, Électro Parade will flood the city with a convoy of floats carrying a cutting-edge sounds system as local and international DJs lay awesome electronic beats and thousands of people dance in the streets to the good times. Inspired by a European craze, this kilometers-long street party turns the asphalt into a dance floor, as limbs loosen and people groove across the urban landscape. So, if you've got hip swayers and dance demons in your midst, bring them here for what promises to be an exuberant dance party of music-driven bliss.

SUPER MÉGA CONTINENTAL

Mid-September, another kind of dance will dominate the streets with the Super Méga Continental, a massive line dance with contemporary undercurrents, led by renowned choreographer Sylvain Émard in collaboration with Le Festival TransAmériques. The concept, which has already toured the world in previous versions, is back in town with a special creation for the city's 375th, starring 375 amateur dancers of all ages and backgrounds, under the open sky at downtown's Place des festivals. Watch in wonder as Montrealers celebrate their beloved city in dance.

JOIN THE PARTY

Innovative, creative, vibrant, daring, dynamic, fearless and fascinating: the list of qualities showcased by the line-up of events for Montréal's 375th anniversary is long! But to really appreciate all of the fun going on, you have to experience it for yourself. A great way to learn all about everything that's happening, and find the one's you'll enjoy most, head on over to 375mtl.com for all the activities and more, plus it's where the 375MTL app. can be downloaded. Get on the go and enjoy all of Montréal! ❖



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