

city profile

Montreal, Quebec

The city of Montreal, Quebec is experiencing deep spiritual need as it slides towards cultural secularization. Christ must be preached and a standard of truth lifted up.

Montreal, the second largest city in Canada, is located on an island in the middle of the Saint Lawrence River in the province of Quebec.

Exploring the City

Steeped in over 400 years of European flavored history, Montreal provides many highlights for anyone wanting to explore the city on foot, bicycle, or horse-drawn carriage. Old Town Montreal with its cobblestoned streets and many cafés are a step back in time. Many buildings date back to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Along the riverfront, the Old Port area of the city is maintained beautifully in remembrance of its early days as a French fur trading post.

Notre-Dame
Basilica,
Montreal,
Quebec



Another more unusual area to explore in Montreal is the Underground City or, as it is said in French, the La Ville Souterraine. This is a modern part of Montreal which consists of many interconnected buildings both above and below ground. With apartment buildings, museums, malls, several metro stations, and even a regional bus terminal, this indoor city covers over five square miles and is connected by more than 20 miles of tunnels. It is the largest underground complex in the world.

Ethnic Diversity

As a result of being a main entry point for immigrants, there are many ethnicities represented in Montreal. The language spoken by about three-fourths of Montrealers, as they are called, is French, making Montreal the second largest natively French-speaking city in the world after Paris, France. This city is also a trend setter for French-Canadian culture. In addition to the many European backgrounds, large populations of Jewish, Haitian, Chinese, and Lebanese people exist here. One of the lesser-known people groups who have immigrated to Montreal in recent years are the Berbers who come mostly from the North African countries of Morocco and Algeria. They number in excess of 50,000 and have left their native nomadic lifestyle for better opportunities in Canada.

Needs of the City

The spiritual needs of Montreal are great. The Roman Catholic religion is predominant; its historical existence visible in the many



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seminaries, cathedrals, statues, and Saint-named streets seen throughout the city. Most people in Montreal, like the majority of Quebecers, are nominally Catholic, meaning they don't practice Catholicism very fervently, frequenting church only for important holidays and life events such as weddings and funerals. Since the 1960's, Montreal has joined the rest of Quebec in the most rapid cultural secularization in

North America. Evangelical Christians make up about eight-tenths of one percent of French Canadians causing this people group to be viewed as one of the most un-evangelized in North America.

Other religions such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism are also represented in this city, reflecting its great multi-cultural diversity. Many people are searching for spirituality making it fertile soil for cults, the New Age movement, and Eastern religions.

Did You Know? Montreal...

- was the capital of Canada for five years.
- derives its name from Mount Royal, a three-peaked mountain rising just north of city center.
- has a giant cross illuminated by 2,844 LED's (lights) and containing 26 tons of steel mounted on the peak of Mount Royal.
- is home to Jewish and Muslim communities numbering approximately 100,000 each.

—Joshua Champagne

North America in what is termed the Quiet Revolution. This shift of values is reflected in Quebec having the highest divorce, child poverty, abortion, and out-of-wedlock birth