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## THE TOP 5 ATTRACTIONS AROUND MONTREAL

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Montreal is a popular destination for many reasons. First off, Montreal is located in Canada which to others, it means we're nice people. Secondly, the drinking age is 18 years old which attracts the younger crowd to come party.

Montreal is also one of the provinces to experience the four seasons to the fullest. We have something for everybody no matter the weather forecast or age. In the following pages, I have listed the must-see attractions in the city.



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## Mount-Royal

This location is perfect all year round. During the warmer months, visitors are able to go for a run, walk, or bike along the path that leads to the lookout. In the winter, you can go cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skating at Beaver Lake, tobogganing, and much more.

I've gone to Mount-Royal throughout the year and it's a different vibe every time. During the summer, it's a good place to go for a run. In the fall, it's a beautiful walk because you see the leaves change colours. In the winter, skating on Beaver Lake is a lot of fun and you could end the night with hot chocolate. During the spring, it's a nice walk because you get to see everything start blooming and the snow melting.

## Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal

Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal is a must see when you're visiting. They offer tours with a guide every day, so you get the full experience. In addition, they have a daily mass that's open to anyone that would like to join.

Check out their website to see the dates for the Aura Light show, you won't regret it! Before the show starts, they give you a little preview of what's to come by incorporating lights and music onto the artwork and statues already there. Once the show starts, I can assure you that the show is amazing!

## Old Montreal

There is no perfect time to go visit Old Montreal. This attraction has so much to do, you can spend your entire day there. It's walking distance between shops, restaurants, street performances, and the Old Port.

When I go to Old Montreal, I usually start off in Chinatown and then walk to Old Montreal. I check out the shops and restaurants before I make my way to the Old Port to check out any live shows or events going on. At Old Montreal and the Old Port, there are a bunch of shops, restaurants, live music, and markets to see.

## Place des Arts

Home of entertainment. Place des Arts is where you will find all the live shows, theatre, music, and much more. They are a bunch of restaurants and live music nearby that you can go to for a quick bite with friends and family.

In the summer, the Jazz Festival takes place here. There are stages set up throughout the site and activities for everyone to watch and enjoy. During the winter, Montreal en Lumière sets up a carnival that is for everyone of all ages. They have activities, food stands, live music, entertainment, and much more.



## Botanical Garden

Perfect attraction for all ages! Its outdoor path accompanied by beautiful greenery will amaze you. They also have an interactive museum for the kids to play games and learn at the same time. Check out the calendar on the website to discover the theme during your visit.

During the fall, they have an event called "Garden of Lights" where they display different light structures and shows to tell the story of the chosen theme.

I had the pleasure of getting the chance to do a quick interview with Massimo Gianulli about the Botanical Garden and getting his thoughts on the "Garden of Lights" exhibition.

Massimo loves to travel, play sports, and explore what life has to offer him. He plays tennis, bikes, and goes skiing. He's been living in Montreal for a while and is constantly trying to find new and interesting things to do and see in the city.

### **Have you gone to the Botanical Garden "Garden of Lights" exhibition? If so, what were your thoughts?**

M.G: "Yes, I have been to the Botanical Gardens "garden of lights" exhibition. It is one of the most beautiful exhibits that they offer.

I have been going to these light shows ever since I was 3 or 4 years old. And lately, I've been going every year they show it.

*“The exhibit is not too extravagant which allows for a peaceful walk through the garden”*

*~M. Gianulli*

In my opinion, the exhibit is not too extravagant which allows for a peaceful walk through the garden. It is honestly very calming and tranquil. The lights are changed every year and every time it is so very intricate the placements and mesmerizing. The fascinating part about the exhibit is how the path builds up to the main center of the exhibit the biggest piece.

Another feature of the exhibit is that it incorporates an old and amazing culture. The lights are beautiful, calming, impressive a truly amazing sight to see.

I would recommend this to anyone visiting Montreal around that time of year. The Botanical Garden would also make a unique and fun date for your significant other, or even as a first date because it's laid back yet fun for everyone.”

**What makes you want to come back every year?**

M.G: “I want to come back every year because I never get tired of it. Every time I go, the exhibit changes in terms of the theme and the lighting displays. I enjoy seeing not only how each theme is different, but how they use the lights and surrounding nature to depict the chosen theme.

In addition, the way it's incorporated with the nature surrounding, it creates perfect harmony because you're enjoying the exhibit in the great outdoors.”

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In conclusion, Montreal is a city that offers something that will please everyone of all ages. It's one of those destinations that it's not enough to just watch videos or hear someone else talk about it. You need to come yourself to get the full experience in order to understand why everyone loves visiting Montreal.

