

L'Autre Montréal
an urban research and discovery group

3680 Jeanne-Mance, suite 331 Montreal, Quebec H2X 1K5
Telephone: (514) 521-7802 Fax: (514) 521-5246
info@autremontreal.com <http://www.autremontreal.com>

L'Autre Montréal is a group of people who through training and research in areas such as history, architecture, urban planning and sociology, and through their involvement in grass-roots organizations in Montreal's low-income neighbourhoods, have acquired extensive first-hand knowledge of Montreal realities.

Urban discovery tours are L'Autre Montréal's chief activity. Through its guided tours, the group shares its love for Montreal's unique heritage and common culture, encourages citizens to participate in decisions affecting the city today, and provides visitors from Quebec and elsewhere with an introduction to Montreal's intense community and cultural life.

Members of community organisations and unions, employees of the health and social services system, college and university students and foreign visitors have acquired a deeper knowledge of the city through L'Autre Montréal tours.

Special Requests

On request, L'Autre Montréal can offer tours that are specifically tailored to the needs and interests of a particular group. L'Autre Montréal will either adapt an existing tour or create a new tour focusing on a specific theme or area of the city.

Group Reservations

Guided tours are organized on request, seven days a week, twelve months a year.

Groups interested in experiencing an urban discovery tour should book, if possible, several weeks in advance.

Tours are offered either in French or in English.

Tours for the General Public

From May to October, L'Autre Montréal also offers urban discovery activities for the general public. Almost all of these activities are carried out in French. If you would like

to receive information (in French) about our activities, let us know by calling (514) 521-7802, extension 226, or writing to us at info@autremontreal.com.

Catalogue

The following is a description of some of our tours. For more information about these and other tours, call (514) 521-7802, extension 226.

L'Autre Montréal's guided bus tours provide a dynamic introduction to the major urban and social issues of today. The tours bring people into the heart of Montreal's neighbourhoods, revealing and explaining Montrealers' concrete experiences with far more immediacy than a course or lecture.

L'Autre Montréal tours are both voyages of discovery and occasions for lively exchanges as participants share their responses to what they have seen.

With this approach, both subtle and direct, seeing is worth a thousand words.

Architecture, popular art and culture, working and living conditions, social movements, migrations and urban development are vividly described, along with forces that have played a key (and sometimes unacknowledged) part in shaping our history: massive waves of immigration, labour organizations, grass-roots movements, women's groups, etc.

Thematic Tours

Between River and Mountain: A First Encounter with the City

An alternative introduction to the city's history, culture and architecture. From the heights of Mount-Royal to the industrial south-west and the riverfront in Old Montreal, this unusual tour, which is especially designed for visitors from Quebec or elsewhere, explores the basic patterns of Montreal's social reality.

From Villages to Metropolis: Three Hundred Years of Montreal History

This visit explores three centuries of urban development on the island of Montreal. Industrial working-class neighbourhoods and wealthy residences on the slopes of Mount Royal illustrate the spatial patterns of a city profoundly marked by physical, social and economic contrasts.

The Multicultural Quilt:

From Early Immigrants to the Cultural Communities of Today

For centuries, Montreal has been a meeting-place for people of different cultures. Some (the original inhabitants) have been here for thousands of years; some came as missionaries, settlers, or conquerors, others as slaves; some came as immigrants. L'Autre Montréal's bus tour explores the history of the city as a home shared by many groups: French and English, Scottish and Irish, Jewish and Chinese, Afro-Canadian and Afro-Caribbean, Lebanese and Greek, Italian and Portuguese, Vietnamese and Indo-Pakistani. From Griffintown to Park Extension, discover the neighbourhoods that have witnessed Montreal's cultural diversity since the nineteenth century.

Grey or Green: Environmental Issues in Montreal

In the 19th century, progressive Montrealers fought for clean drinking water and modern sewage systems; today, environmentally-conscious Montrealers are worried about issues such as expanding expressways and underfunded public transit, contaminated industrial soils, waste management, and lack of green spaces. Beyond the city's central neighbourhoods, urban sprawl continues to increase energy consumption and make people more dependent on cars... L'Autre Montréal takes a look at these issues and reminds us that citizens have been fighting for a long time to make the city a livable place.

Women in Montreal: A History of Women's Presence in the City

Grey Nuns and domestic servants, mothers and factory workers, journalists and urban planners are among the many women who have actively shaped Montreal society from colonial times to the present. A tour focusing on women's contribution to urban history.

Solidarity in Action: Montreal's Grass Roots Organisations

Discover social movements and alternative community organisations that are working to make urban life more democratic and repair the city's social fabric torn by poverty and exclusion.

Neighbourhood Alleys: The Hidden Side of Montreal

Childhood games, the peddlers of bygone days and destructive fires originating in sheds are some of the memories associated with Montreal's alleys. Today, residents' efforts at rejuvenation are creating new spaces of urban sociability. A tour of Montreal's most unexpected side.

Utopias in the City: The Struggle for Democracy and Social Justice

Throughout Montreal's history, people and groups have fought for ideals that still inspire us today. Early feminists and socialists, democrats fighting for accountable government, urban reformers, physicians struggling against infant mortality, labour organizers and people who fought for public libraries are among the characters you will meet throughout the course of this lively three-hour tour. L'Autre Montreal's urban discovery activity relates the history of sometimes forgotten visionaries who helped make the city a more human and livable place, and explores the neighbourhoods that were the settings for their action. A surprising and inspiring journey through urban history.

A School for All: Education in Montreal, Past and Present

History shows that Montreal's school system in the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth was designed to exclude the majority of the population, providing the greatest access to male Protestant boys from middle or upper-class backgrounds while placing systemic obstacles in the way of girls, working-class children, and children of other religious faiths. Discover the history of Montreal's school system and some of the efforts made to change it.

Racism in Montreal: Struggles and Victories

1740: Marguerite Duplessis, a slave in Montreal, challenges the legal basis of slavery before the courts of New France. 1885: Chinese Montrealers protest the government's racist policy of requiring a special tax from Chinese immigrants. Early 20th century: Jews organise to fight attempts to exclude them from the public school system. 1980s: Protests from Montreal's black taxi drivers lead to a public inquiry and new laws governing the taxi industry. Over several centuries, Montrealers have fought for equal rights and justice for all. This tour tells some of their stories throughout the city.

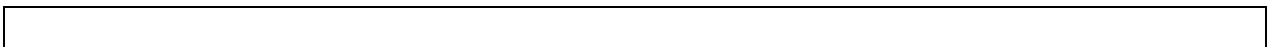
Montreal: An Open Book

Montreal was UNESCO's world book capital for 2005-2006, and Quebec's new public library, the Grande Bibliothèque, opened in the city in April 2005. Books and reading are part of daily life for most Montrealers, but this has not always been the case. Through an exploration of Montreal's printers, publishers, bookstores, libraries and schools, L'Autre Montréal's urban discovery tour provides an approach to the history of books and reading in the city. Participants will also enjoy glimpses of sites and neighbourhoods associated with writers whose words describe Montreal – a city real or imaginary, existing or lost.

Where People Work: Montreal Workplaces and Their Impact on Montreal Neighbourhoods

Do you leave your house to go to work? A whole social organization is implied in that simple fact. Factories, appearing in the nineteenth century, changed the way we work, gave rise to Montreal's working-class neighbourhoods, and altered the urban landscape forever before moving to industrial parks in the suburbs. A cotton mill built in 1882, the Canadian Car and Foundry facilities in operation from 1905 to 1962, and today's garment manufactures are sites illustrating Montreal's industrial history. But factories are not the only workplaces. L'Autre Montréal's fascinating bus tour also includes women's work as paid domestics since the nineteenth century and women's massive entry into the labour force as office workers in the early twentieth century.

For information on these and other thematic tours, call (514) 521-7802, extension 226.



Neighbourhood Tours

Around the Lachine Canal: Work and Solidarity

The neighbourhoods along the Lachine Canal were the heart of Montreal's industrial economy in the nineteenth century. As factories began to close in the 1960s, the area went through a process of economic decline. The canal itself was closed from 1970 to 2002. Today the canal is open to pleasure craft, developers are creating luxurious housing units along the waterfront, and working-class residents are seeing profound changes in their immediate environment. L'Autre Montréal looks at some of these changes.

Cities Built by Developers: The Industrial Boom in the East

Explore the old village of Hochelaga and discover how developers once dreamed of making Maisonneuve into a city that would rival Montreal. Factories and monumental architecture, a public market and today's grass-roots organizations embody the past and present of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve.

Côte-des-Neiges: Crossroads of the World

A neighbourhood of extraordinary contrasts, with roots in the rural past of the French regime and a major stake in the future of Montreal as a multicultural society. Côte-des-Neiges, resort area of the bourgeoisie and site of Montreal's great cemeteries in the 19th century, was transformed in the 20th with the advent of hospitals, educational institutions and urban development. Today, a tenacious struggle against poverty is one of its most distinctive features, and multiple forms of housing provide a survey of urban living conditions.

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG), the neighbourhood surrounding Concordia's Loyola campus, is a culturally distinct area of Montreal with one of the earliest community councils in North America (1942), a pioneering awareness of environmental issues, and a long tradition of community activism. The district became an urban neighbourhood in the 20th century; in earlier times, it was known for its orchards and farms. The tour presents a history of this lively neighbourhood with an emphasis on community action.

Parc Extension: Immigration and Cultural Communities in Montreal Today

What is an immigrant neighbourhood like today? Parc Extension, one of Montreal's smallest neighbourhoods, has a population of 30,000 and is home to people from 75 different cultural communities: Greeks and Haitians, Pakistanis and Algerians, Salvadorians and Vietnamese. The CLSC provides services in 15 languages, and kindergarten teachers handle groups in which children speak 50 different languages. Explore this fascinating neighbourhood with L'Autre Montréal and discover how Parc Ex reflects the realities of immigration in Montreal today.

Along the Main: Discovering St. Lawrence Street

One of the oldest roads on Montreal island, St. Lawrence Street has been at the heart of the city's development for many decades. As the city grew to the north beyond its original boundaries, crowded districts appeared around the Main's taverns, theatres, shops and garment manufactures. At the crossroads of Montreal's immigrant cultures, the street was home to Yiddish theatres, Chinese grocery stores, burlesque, vaudeville and early movies, waxworks museums, and the illicit brothels and gambling dens of the city's notorious Red Light district. L'Autre Montreal's tour highlights the history of the street where marginality and modernity emerged in Montreal.

L'Autre Montréal also offers tours of Montreal North, Saint-Michel, Villeray, La-chine, Verdun, the Plateau Mont-Royal, Centre-Sud, and Griffintown. For information on these and other neighbourhood tours, call (514) 521-7802, extension 226.