

# **MAGIC** The Gathering **GRAND PRIX MONTREAL**

**July 3-5, 2015**

## **Judge's Travel Guide**

**Author: Robert Hinrichsen, L2**



Source: <http://dionysosphotography.blogspot.ca/>

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# 1. Welcome to Montreal

## 1.1 General Information

Welcome judges to Montreal! The following guide should help to make life easier for you as you navigate our beautiful city during the Grand Prix weekend. First, some general information and tips:

Montreal is the major metropolis in the province of Quebec, with a population of 1.6 million people. Located on an island in the middle of the St Lawrence River, it is the second largest city in Canada by population, after Toronto. Although the larger metropolitan area is quite expansive, this guide will focus primarily on the downtown core, as that is where the Grand Prix is being held, and where many of the interesting places to see can be found.

Downtown Montreal is located to the south of the mountain for which the city is named (Mont Royal). As a consequence, there is a simple and good rule of thumb to get your bearings when in the downtown core: North is uphill. At any given intersection, you will usually be able to determine North by looking for the direction which leads up the mountain.

As with most Canadian cities, if you ever find yourself lost you can always rely on our handy network of Tim Hortons coffee shops, dotted throughout the downtown core. All Tim Hortons now offer free Wi-Fi access, so if you've not got a data plan on your smartphone (or if your plan doesn't work in Canada), you can always find your bearings by connecting to their internet. This is also true for many Starbucks and Second Cup coffee shops.



Source: Google street view

## 1.2 Public transit (STM)

The STM, Montreal's public transit system, is relatively easy to use. Much like other metropolitan cities (London, Paris, etc.), the most reliable way to purchase transit fares is through use of a card. There are two types of card you can buy: a permanent, rechargeable opus card (pictured left), or a temporary non-rechargeable "Occasionnelle" (pictured right):



Either card can be purchased from ticket booth attendants in the metro and bus stations themselves, but to buy one you must purchase at least one transit fare as well. The rechargeable opus card costs \$6, in addition to the transit fare, and can be used to hold either individual fares or period-validity passes. The non-rechargeable card comes free with the purchase of the fare or pass, and for that reason it is the option I recommend unless you intend to stay for longer than three days.

Regarding the fares themselves, the best options are either a consecutive 3-day pass for \$18, or an unlimited weekend pass for \$13 (which runs from 18:00 on Friday to 05:00 on Monday). These will allow you the flexibility of making an unlimited number of trips over the validity period (including the 747 bus to and from the airport, see 4.2 below). If you prefer, you can purchase individual fares in groups of one (\$3.25), two (\$6.00), or ten (\$26.50). In that case, you will need to recharge your opus card when you run out of fares. The opus card can be recharged at machines like these:



Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OPUS\\_card](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OPUS_card)



The backbone of the transit system is the underground metro. In fact, you will likely not need to use busses at all (other than the 747 airport bus), provided you stay within the downtown core, as the majority of the places in this guide are within easy walking distance of a metro station. Here is a map of the metro system:



Source: <http://www.stm.info/en/info/networks/metro>

Downtown Montreal is essentially located between the Lionel-Groulx and Berri-UQAM stations. You will therefore not need to worry about using anything other than the Green and Orange lines to get around. As you would expect, when you board a metro train the direction of travel is indicated by the name of the terminal station in that direction. Therefore, when travelling East you will be going in the direction of Montmorency (Orange line) or Honoré-Beaugrand (Green line), whereas when travelling West you will be going in the direction of Côte-Vertu (Orange line) or Angrignon (Green line).

If you have a smartphone, there is a very useful app available both on Android and iOS which will help you navigate the STM system: <http://www.stm.info/en/info/advice/5-ways-view-bus-schedules/mobile-tools>

### 1.3 A note on surviving in Quebec as a non-francophone

One thing you will immediately notice upon your arrival in Montreal is the predominance of the French language. French is used in all public signage as a matter of law, and you may find that some Quebecers take the exclusive use of French VERY seriously. Although most public servants are usually very accommodating of anglophone tourists, you should not be surprised to find that at least a few may be standoffish, and some may (rarely) go so far as to refuse to serve you in English.

If this happens there is unfortunately little you can do. As French is the only official language of Quebec, public servants are not required to serve you in any language other than French. Your best bet is of course to be polite and try to communicate that you are a visitor and that you can't speak French. It may help if you make some attempt to greet them in French using the following basic phrases (to learn pronunciation, the google translate voice feature works pretty well):

- Bonjour! Parlez-vous Anglais? (Hello! Do you speak English?)
- Désolé! Je ne parle pas Français! (Sorry! I can't speak French!)
- Pouvez-vous me diriger vers [location]? (Could you please direct me to [location]?)

Thankfully, this is far less likely to be an issue in private businesses, where customer service is the name of the game. Still, even then you should expect that you will first be addressed in French, and it is up to you to initiate communication in English.

## 2. Tournament Venue

### 2.1 Location

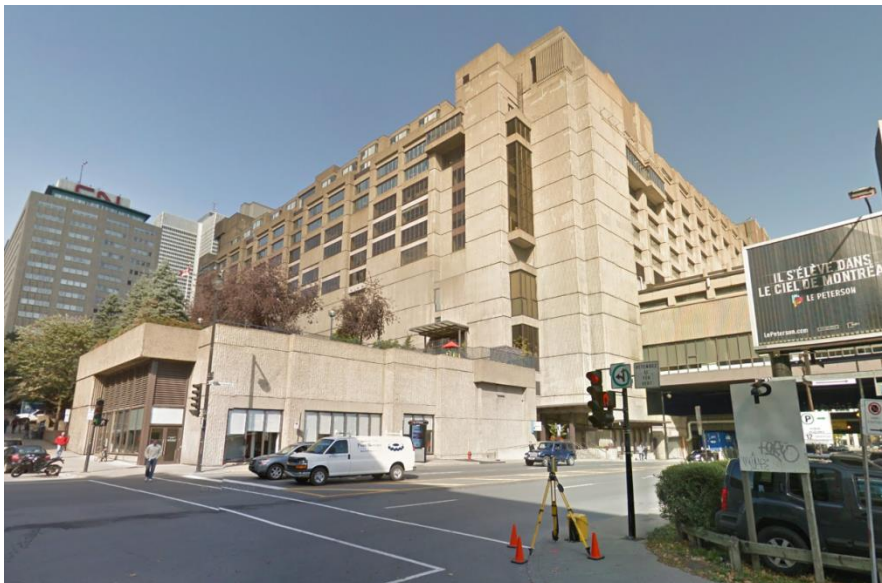
The venue for the Grand Prix is Place Bonaventure, a major convention centre located in downtown Montreal.

#### **Place Bonaventure**

800 Rue de la Gauchetière Ouest  
Montréal, QC  
H5A 1K6



Source : <http://www.bonjourquebec.com/>



Source: Google Street View, from the intersection of Mansfield and Saint Antoine West

## 2.2 How to get there from the airport (YUL)

Immediately as you leave the airport on the “Arrivals” level you will see a line of taxis and limos available for hire. Place Bonaventure is a well-known location, so any taxi driver should be able to get you there without further directions. All the major taxi companies offer a \$40.00 flat rate from the airport to the downtown core, so it is best if you can arrange to split the fare with others.

Also available is the 747 bus service from the airport to the downtown core. As this bus is part of the general STM public transit system, the fare is included within the 3-day and all-weekend passes mentioned in section 3.2 above. If you do not opt for one of these passes, the fare is \$10.00, though once purchased the ticket is good on any STM service for 24 hours, not just the 747 bus. Tickets can be purchased from machines on the “Arrivals” level of the airport. The bus makes several stops, but the closest one to the venue is stop C (René-Lévesque / Mansfield) on the following map:



For more details about the 747 bus, see this website:

<http://www.admtl.com/en/access/transports/buses-747-express>

Or this PDF:

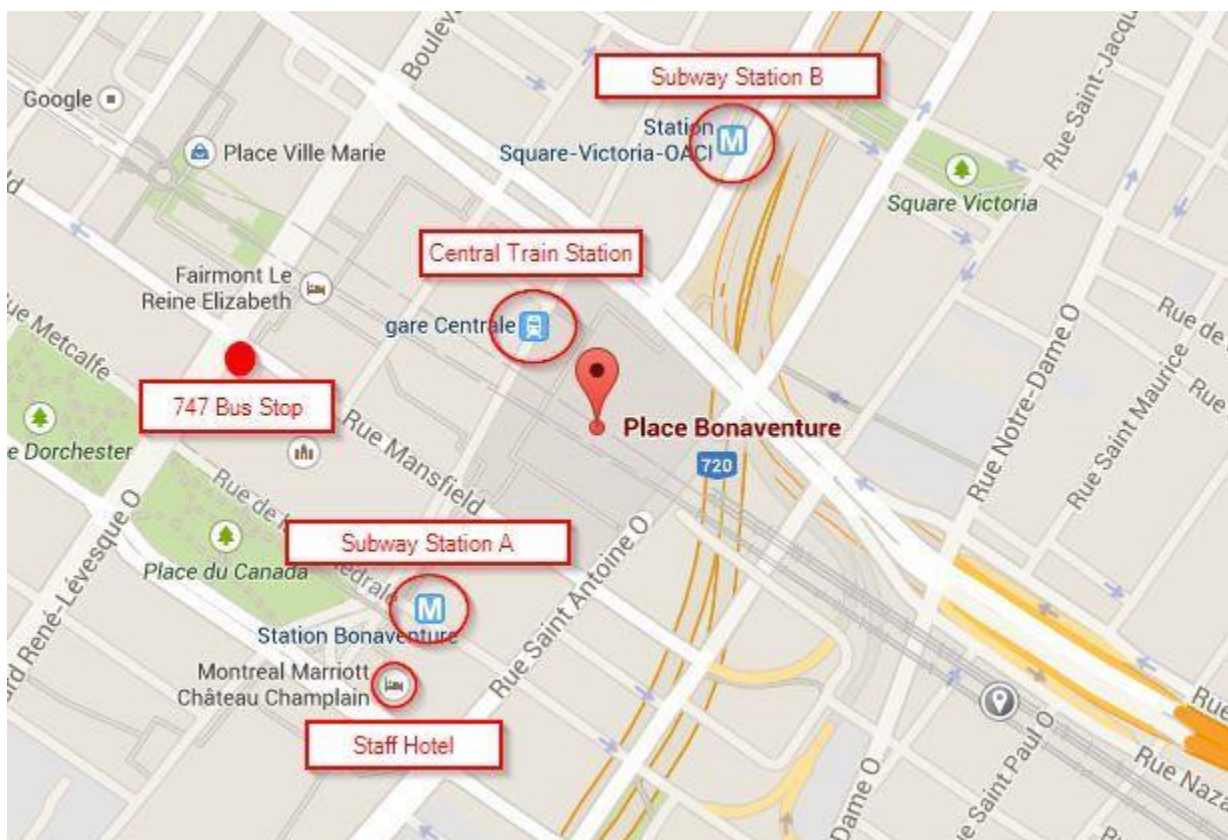
<http://www.stm.info/sites/default/files/planibus/en/747.pdf>



## 2.3 How to get there by public transit

Place Bonaventure is rather conveniently situated directly above the Bonaventure metro station on the Orange Line (Subway Station A on the map below). Getting to the convention hall from the metro station is a simple matter of following the signs—you should not even need to go outside.

Alternatively, the venue is directly across from the central train station, and is within easy walking distance of the Square-Victoria metro station on the orange line (Subway Station B on the map).



Source: Google maps

Finally, note that the convention center is directly connected to Montreal's underground city, allowing for easy access to many sources of food, entertainment, and shopping. On the map below, the area shaded in pink is all underground and connected.



Source: <http://placebonaventure.com/en/getting-there/underground/>

### 3. Accommodation

#### 3.1 Staff Hotel

Spellkeeper has arranged for a room block to be available for judges to book at the Marriott Chateau Champlain, directly across from the venue. In order to take advantage of this, you should be in touch with Mauro directly at [magic2magic@sympatico.ca](mailto:magic2magic@sympatico.ca) with the dates you wish to book.

**Marriott Château Champlain**

1050 Rue de la Guichetière, Montréal, QC H3B 4C9  
(514) 878-9000

*5 min walk from venue*

~\$149 per night, plus \$10 per person after two people



Source: Google Street View

#### 3.2 Other Hotels near the venue

There are a number of other hotels near the venue if you wish to make independent arrangements. Here are the details for a couple of them:

**Montreal Y Hotel**

1355 René-Levesque Ouest, Montréal, QC H3G 1T3  
(514) 866-9942

*10-15 min walk from venue*

~\$75 per night

**Auberge Montreal Espace Confort**

2050 Saint Denis Street  
Montreal, QC H2X 3K7  
(514) 849-0505

*5 min walk from Sherbrooke metro station, which is five stops away from the venue on the Orange line.*

~\$100 per night

**Montreal Central Hostel**

1586 Saint-Hubert  
Montreal, QC H2L 3Z3  
(514) 843-5739

*5 min walk from Berri-QUAM metro station, which is four stops away from the venue on the Orange line.*

~\$30 per night for dorm-style room with 8 people; ~\$65 per night for private room (ensuite)

## 4. Food and drink

### 4.1 Places near the venue

Within the Place Bonaventure itself there is a food court complete with several cafés and fast food options. These will, of course, be popular choices for many players, so if you have time you may want to explore some alternative options.

The venue is located not far from Montreal's Chinatown. Simply walk east along La Gauchetiere for 15 minutes or so until you get to Saint Urbain and you will find a variety of hole-in-the-wall restaurants on each side. A little further up St Urbain you can find **La Maison Kim Fung** on your right, which offers a Dim Sum lunch or an a la carte dinner:

**1111, Rue Saint-Urbain, #M05**  
**Montreal, QC H2Z 1Y6**  
**514.878.2888**  
<http://www.restaurantchinatownkimfung.com/>

Alternatively, you could walk north along Mansfield until you hit St Catherine's (10 min walk), at which point turning west leads you past **Reuben's** (high-end deli) and **Les 3 Brasseurs** (a brew pub).

**1116 Rue Ste-Catherine O,**  
**Montréal, QC H3B 1H5**  
**514.866.1029**  
<http://reubensdeli.com/>

**732 Rue Ste-Catherine O**  
**Montréal, QC H3B 2V5**  
**514.788.6333**  
<http://les3brasseurs.ca/eng/>



Source: Google Street View



## 4.2 Local specialties

Montreal is host to a wide variety of different cultures, but that does not mean it hasn't got a distinct culture of its own. For the more adventurous of you, I have provided below a selection of quintessentially "Montreal" foods. Please note that these places are not within easy walking distance of the venue, so you will need to make use of public transit.

### 4.2.1 Schwartz's Deli

This is the home of the famous Montreal-style smoked meat sandwich. Every day at lunchtime a crowd of people can be seen waiting outside—either for a spot in the deli, or to place an order for take-away. Popular with businessmen and tourists alike, I would certainly recommend this classic Montreal experience.

**3895 Boulevard Saint-Laurent,  
Montréal, QC H2W 1L2**

**514.842.4813**

<http://schwartzsdeli.com/ca/en/>

*Bus 55 North stops directly outside*



Source:

<http://www.whatquebecwants.com/whatquebecwants/foodservice/>



Source:

<https://blogs.mcgill.ca/gradlife/2010/10/06/what%E2%80%99s-montreal%E2%80%99s-b-k-s/>

### 4.2.2 Montreal style bagels

For those interested in learning what *real* bagels should taste like (none of that New York-style hogwash), head down to one of Montreal's two renowned bagel bakeries: **Fairmount Bagel** or **St Viateur Bagel**. Although these aren't places to sit down and eat, you can't go wrong taking out an order of a dozen fresh bagels with a side of smoked salmon or cream cheese. They make for a nice light lunch, and you should have plenty to spare for breakfast the next morning.

**Fairmount Bagel**

**74 Avenue Fairmount Ouest,  
Montréal, QC H2T 2M2**

<http://www.fairmountbagel.com/>



**St Viateur Bagel**  
 263 Rue Saint Viateur Ouest,  
 Montréal, QC H2V 1Y1  
<https://www.stviateurbagel.com/>

Source:  
<http://thedayeater.com/dev/2010/10/montreal-bagels.html>

#### 4.2.3 Poutine

Of course, nothing could be more quintessentially *Québécois* than poutine. Although you can find versions of this simple food all over the world (for instance, a variant can be found at kebab vans in the UK under the moniker “cheesy chips and gravy”), nothing beats the original. Wherever you look for fast food in Montreal, you are likely to find this item on the menu. Popular fast-food establishments include **La Belle Province**, **Lafleur**, and **St. Hubert**.

If you are interested in a more unique poutine experience, try visiting **La Banquise**, where they specialize in an entire menu dedicated to nothing but variations on the classic:

**994, rue Rachel Est**  
**Montréal, Québec**  
**Canada, H2J 2J3**  
**514.525.2415**  
<http://labanquise.com/en/>

*10 minute walk from Station Mont-Royal  
 on the Orange line*



Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La\\_Banquise](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Banquise)

For a similar experience closer to the downtown core, you can always try **Smoke's Poutinerie**:

**2019 rue Bishop Street**  
**Montreal, QC H3G 2E9**  
**514.419.4700**  
<https://smokespoutinerie.com/>

*5 minute walk from Station Guy-Concordia on the Green Line*



### 5.3 Carta Magica

<http://www.cartamagica.com/>

**6360 Rue Saint-Hubert,  
Montréal, QC H2S 2M2  
514.286.9099**

*Short walk from Station Beaubien on the  
Orange line*



Source: <http://cartamagica.com/boutique-carta-magica-montreal.html>

### 5.4 Randolph Pub Ludique

Unlike the previous stores, which are fairly traditional LGS businesses, this is actually a gaming pub! There is a \$5 cover charge, which allows you to sit and play any of their wide selection of available board games. They serve a good variety of Quebec-brewed beers and ales, as well as light finger food and cocktails.

<http://www.randolphpub.ca/>

**2041 St-Denis  
Montréal, H2X 3K8  
514 419-5001**

*10 minute walk from Station Sherbrooke on the  
Orange Line*



Source: <http://www.randolphpub.ca/#!/contact/c1erh>