



Montreal Gardens and Gastronomy June 16-18, 2017

Friday, June 16

11:00 Check into your Montreal hotel or B&B. We recommend staying in the **Plateau**, the city's most vibrant *quartier*, and can suggest accommodations that fit your budget and needs.

12:00 Meet your fellow gardening enthusiasts and learn how to get the most from the weekend over an artisanal lunch. Sandwiches, salads, pastries and more all come from quality purveyors in the neighborhood. We'll provide their addresses, in case you'd like to return for some of your favorite foods.

1:00 We'll take the city bus to **Parc Mont-Royal**, a 495-acre public space, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted (Central Park, the Emerald Necklace). You'll see open spaces, woods, trails, and wonderful views of the city, all through the eyes of a landscape designer.

5:00 Optional guided tour of some of our favorite streets in the Plateau, including boutiques, sidewalk cafés, gourmet food shops, and time to explore on your own.

7:00 Group dinner at **Le Nil Bleu**, Montreal's best Ethiopian restaurant. The generous tasting menu and singular ambiance will lead to discoveries of new spices and great conversation.

Saturday, June 17

9:00 We'll take the metro to Old Montreal, in search of both traditional and modern garden design. First, the **Governor's Garden**, a kitchen garden at the historic Château Ramezay, whose intricate design exemplifies French formality. Then to the **Promenade du Vieux Port**, a waterfront green space whose minimalist design supports human activity and flow. Then time to explore the neighborhood on your own, with a list of addresses to inspire you.

12:00 Lunch at **Boris Bistro**, where we'll enjoy French inspired market-fresh dishes, surrounded by greenery in a sun-flecked stone courtyard.

1:30 We'll venture to an outer Montreal borough, where we'll meet members of a **Montreal garden club** and visit one of their gardens.

5:00 Relax after a full day, and prepare for dinner.

7:00 Small bites, rich flavors, and the delightful culinary traditions of Basque culture are on the menu for tonight's dinner at **Pintxo**. Spanish wines will accompany these authentic flavors.



Sunday, June 18

9:00 Didi will guide us through selected areas of the **Montreal Botanical Gardens**, whose extensive collections and facilities make it one of the most important botanical gardens in the world. The 185-acre garden was founded in 1931 to educate both the general public and students of horticulture, and to conserve endangered plant species. We'll visit some of the park's themed gardens, followed by time to visit the gift shop and stroll a bit more on your own.

12:00 Lunch together at the charming café, surrounded by the gardens.

1:00 Our last adventure is **Jean Talon Market**, one of the largest public markets in North America, and a place where horticultural and food cultures meet. A guided tour will introduce you to a diverse selection of products—artisanal cheese, Moroccan pastries, spices, pâtés, mergez sausages, imported oils—as well as fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, flowers, and plants. You'll have time to taste, and to shop.

5:00 Return to the Plateau and bid *à bientôt* to your companions, knowing you'll savor the inspiration from this trip for a long time. If you'd like to stay on, there is a lot to see and do in Montreal, and we'll be happy to help you continue exploring on your own.