

Montreal

Let's get
together
and talk!



1 ORGANISATION • 7 LANGUAGES • 30 DESTINATIONS • COUNTLESS MEMORIES...

WELCOME TO SPRACHCAFFE

You are obviously committed not just to having a holiday, but at the same time, also learning a new language or improving your skills in a language you already know. This is why we would like to send you our warmest congratulations! It is great when people want to make the world a bit smaller for themselves.

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language that goes to his heart.” Nelson Mandela

It pleases us even more that you have chosen Sprachcaffe GEOS for your language trip. Lively teaching methods, a relaxed and stress-free atmosphere, learning through interaction and chatting (which helps you bond with others) - we have become experts with our 35 year experience in language teaching and with our 30 destinations worldwide.

In the enclosed documents you will find everything you need to know for your trip. **Please do not travel without this information sheet.** If you have any additional questions, we are glad to answer them: Please send us an email: info@sprachcaffe.com

We wish you a great holiday and lots of success

Your Sprachcaffe Team



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Before your trip

EU Citizens

You are required to have a (temporary) passport valid for the period of the trip in Canada.

Since March 2016 citizens of the European Union have to apply for the **Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)**. For the application a valid passport, a credit card and an e-mail address is required and a small fee will be charged.

The eTA can be requested under the following link: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-facts-en.asp>

An instruction on how to fill out the form for the eTA you can find under the following link:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/eta/english.pdf>

Non EU Citizens

If you are not a citizen of the European Union, we kindly advise you to comply with the visa regulations for Canada. For the entry requirements please check with your local consulate.

Flight to Montreal

Montreal is served by two major Airports: Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and Mirabel International Airport. Almost all major airlines now use the Trudeau Airport.

When travelling to Canada, be careful not to bring plants, fruits or live animals as these items are either prohibited and / or subject quarantine. Trudeau international Airport is located about 25 minutes west of the city centre. There are taxis, shuttle buses, and a public buses that operate regularly from the airport to various neighbourhoods. Currency exchange facilities and Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) are available in all of the terminals.

Bus 747 express bus: \$10 (airport-downtown) (Exact change in the bus, coins only)

Taxis: \$42 + tips (airport – downtown)

Montreal has a good public transportation system (metro and bus) that is fast, safe and convenient. The cost is \$3,25 per trip anywhere in the island of Montreal. At night, the metro closes at around 1am. After 1am, students can take night buses, which are available all night. Students can buy an Opus Card (\$8) on which they can charge various transit fares. For example, students can load their Opus with a monthly pass (\$79,50), a weekly pass (\$25,75) or 10 one-way trips (\$27). Please feel free to discuss various options depending on your stay with any STM Officer at any Metro/Bus Station. It is also easy to walk or bike in Montreal.

For those students who have not booked a transfer, we suggest you take a taxi from the airport to your accommodation. Once you pass through the immigration check point, you will collect your luggage and then pass through customs. Once you leave the customs area with your bags, look for the signs that say "Taxi". There will be an airport staff member there and a line of taxis. Tell the taxi driver where you want to go.

If you have booked a transfer with us, your host family/GEOS Driver will pick you up at the airport. If you arrive on an international flight, your host family/GEOS Driver will meet you at the flower shop (FLEURISTE – FLORIST) which is located across the international arrivals area next to the Information Desk. If you arrive on a domestic flight, your host family/GEOS Driver will meet you at the coffee shop (Tim Horton's) which is located to your right in the domestic arrival area.

Please inform your agent or Sprachcaffe about your arrival time **at least two weeks** prior to your departure to Canada. If you arrive at an inappropriate time you need to confirm your arrival with your agent and / or Sprachcaffe key account. All students are encouraged to email their host family to let them know at what time they will reach Montreal so that the family knows at what time they have to pick you up at the airport if

you have booked a transfer or if you have not booked a transfer at what time they have to expect you at their home. Students are also encouraged not to reach/leave their host family's place too late at night or too early in the morning.

Please understand that we cannot guarantee a smooth check-in if we are not informed of arrival dates and times or delays in advance.

- If you have booked transfer and you have trouble finding your host family/ driver at the airport please wait at the meeting point (Flower shop)
- If you cannot reach them after a couple of times, call our Emergency number at +1 514-994-0841

Accommodation

It is our aim to provide the best service possible. However, if you have any issues during you stay please talk to the school staff directly.

Your first contact address you find in your voucher.

Host Family

Canadian host families are very open-minded, helpful and welcoming to their guests. Host families are from different cultural backgrounds (for example Italian, Irish, Asian, Indian, Haitian, Middle Eastern etc. and very representative of multicultural Montreal. There are many types e.g. single-parent families, nuclear families, cross-generational families, extended families, same sex families, adoptive/foster families etc. However, all of them are well experienced host families who have undergone thorough screening and whom we trust. They also speak the language that you are learning at school so that they could help you practice the language.

You will be able to practice what you have learned during the course and you will shed your fear while communicating with the family. The host family will certainly appreciate a little present, but by this we mean a **little** present.

In general, the families will introduce you to their habits on the day of your arrival, such as the handing over of the key, times for meals and use of the washing machine. You normally share the bathroom with other members of the family. Please make sure that you always leave your room and bathroom clean and tidy and that you do not damage the furniture.

Please take the family into consideration and avoid unnecessary noise, especially late in the evening and at night.

Please inform your host family beforehand if you will not be home for a meal, if you plan to go on a trip for a few days or if you are not staying at home overnight. Otherwise, your family will be worried unnecessarily! In general, families do not mind when you invite new friends from the course back home. However, you should talk to your host family about it first if you plan to bring home some friends!

Please discuss with your family about any specific rules of the household. Students may be expected to help in small household chores. Please ask permission before using the phone, and the family phone should be used for local calls only, unless you are using a calling card. Please also note that most of our Canadian families do not allow students to smoke in their rooms or in the rest of the house. When staying with a host family, bed sheets and towels will be provided. It is the responsibility of the student to keep these clean. Please feel free to speak with your host family as to how to clean the bed-linen or whether they will do it for you when the bed-linen has to be changed.

According to Sprachcaffe homestay rules we do not place two students with the same native language in the same home. If there is another student in the home who speaks the same native language, please let the school know right away. All families have been visited by members of our school's staff and live in safe, comfortable neighborhoods close to the school (between 30-45 minutes by public transportation).

If you would like to move out of homestay, there is normally a 2-week notification required, and if you leave early, you will be responsible for these fees.

If you go on vacation while in homestay, you are still responsible for the accommodations fees.

Most families have wireless internet at home. Whether or not students have their own computers, they should still ask their host family about the rules for using the internet at home

Alcohol: Please make sure you know the legal drinking age in the city in which you are studying. In terms of drinking alcohol at home, please make sure to check the rules with your host family, as different families have different rules about alcohol consumption at home.



The host family does the basic cleaning but students are encouraged to clean their rooms. Bed-linen is provided.

Please make sure to let Sprachcaffe know in advance of any food allergies, pet allergies, or special food requirements that you may have.

The School

Montreal is a great city to learn English, French, or even both languages at the same time. The city is famous for its European culture, its architecture, natural beauty and international festivals. Canada's second largest city, Montreal is devoted to fun and pleasure, and its central location in North America, close to many other North American centers, makes it an ideal place for a "language, culture, adventure" experience. Montreal offers more than 100 festivals per year, all kinds of events and many music shows.

All students must arrive at 08:45am on the first day of school for Orientation and Testing. You should bring your passport and insurance information, also a notebook and pen.

School Address: **Sprachcaffe Montreal / GEOS Languages Plus**
 630 Sherbrooke Street West, suite 610,
 Montreal, QC, H3A1E4
 Phone: 514 847 0841
 Fax: 514 847 8305

Emergency number +1 514-994-0841

Contact person:
 School Manager: Amr Hassan

The first day of school

You will take a speaking and written test so we can place you in the correct level class. You will also get a tour of the school and in the summer, you might get a tour of the city (conditions apply). The schedule on your first day will be more or less as follows:

Placement Test	09:00 to 10:30
Orientation, Books and Levels	10:35 to 12:15
Lunch	12:15 to 13:00
Walking Tour (in the summer, conditions apply) Your First Class (depending on your program) Short Break	13:00 to 14:30
Short Break	14:30-14:45
Your Second Class (depending on your program)	14:45-16:15

Opening hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday

Languages spoken by the staff at the school: English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu

Student card: We can provide a student letter, upon request, that students will be able to use to get student discounts for tourist activities

Bistro, Snacks and Drinks: We have drink vending machines and snack vending machines. As the school is located right downtown, students are close to many different fast food stores and restaurants and can use the kitchen.

Internet room: With computers, and free wireless internet throughout the school.

Study Room: A study room where students can work on/revise their homework is available.

Please note that you need to pay for the course books. The prices are:

\$50 for Part-Time Course – 10 lessons per week
 \$100 for Standard Course – 20 lessons per week
 \$150 for Intensive Course – 30 lessons per week
 \$200 for Super Intensive Course – 40 lessons per week
 (changes during the year are possible)

Students will be charged per class and will be given their own book to use, write in and keep. If you are enrolled for 4 weeks or less, you have the option to rent the books instead of buying them. You will still be required to make the full deposit of \$50 at the beginning of your course. At the end of your program you will be refunded the \$50 minus a \$10 rental fee. Please note that if you decide to rent the books, you cannot write in them.

Class types:

Part-time course	2 lessons per day; 10 lessons per week; 5 days a week (Monday to Friday); 1 lesson = 45 minutes That is, 1 class of 1.5hrs per day
Standard course	4 lessons per day; 20 lessons per week; 5 days a week (Monday to Friday); 1 lesson = 45 minutes That is 2 classes of 1.5hrs each per day
Intensive course	6 lessons per day; 30 lessons per week; 5 days a week (Monday to Friday); 1 lesson = 45 minutes That is 3 classes of 1.5hrs each per day (A Student Visa is needed for this type of course if students study for more than 6 months)
Super-intensive course	8 lessons per day; 40 lessons per week; 5 days a week (Monday to Friday); 1 lesson = 45 minutes That is 4 classes of 1.5hrs each per day (A Student Visa is needed for this type of course if students study for more than 6 months!)

Time	English Class	French Class
9:00 – 10:30	Integrated Skills	<i>Prononciation française</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Break	Break
10:45 – 12:15	Active Listening	<i>Communication française</i>
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch	Lunch
13:00 – 14:30	Writing Elective Or IELTS Or TOEFL	Integrated Skills
14:30 – 14:45	Break	Break
14:45 – 16:15	Writing Elective Or Listening & Pronunciation	Active Listening

Students may be able to change into a lower or higher level class after consulting the course academic coordinator or following his/her recommendation. The maximum number of students in one group is 14.

Our employees and teachers have a lot of experience with short-term and long-term programs and especially with examination preparation courses. However, please also take into consideration that the

teachers, despite their years of experience, cannot be held fully responsible for the examination results. Only if you actively participate in the lessons, will you be best prepared for the examination.

Lessons are not held on the following public holidays in 2018: 01.01., 30.03., 21.05., 02.07., and 01.01.2019. Please note that lessons lost due to public holidays, late arrival or early departure will not be made up.

It is our aim to provide the best service possible. However, if you have any issues during your stay, please talk to the school staff directly. We cannot fix a problem if you wait for the last day to tell us about it.

Levels

Based on your speaking and written test scores, you will be placed in one of six levels: Level 1-Beginner, Level 2-High Beginner, Level 3-Intermediate, Level 4-High Intermediate, Level 5-Pre Advanced, Level 6-Advanced. Each level can usually be completed in 12 weeks.

Advancement Policy

After 12 weeks in one level, you will be eligible for advancement if:

- 80% attendance
- 80% average on the weekly assessments
- the recommendation of your teachers

Conditional advancement is sometimes offered to students who have met the following:

- 8 weeks in one level
- 80% attendance
- 80% average on the weekly assessments
- the recommendation of his/her teachers
- a passing score on the written test

If you have any questions or concerns about your level placement or advancement, please talk to the Academic Coordinator.

Course Retention Guidelines

Students who are assessed for advancement but have failed to meet all the requirements stated above will be placed on academic probation and retained in the current level. Students will be notified that they have been placed on academic probation by letter from the Academic Coordinator. If after 24 weeks in the same level a student cannot demonstrate the proficiency needed to advance to the next level, he/she will face dismissal from the program.

Assessments

You will be given weekly assessments in each class, and you may not make up missed assessments. If you miss an assessment, the first missed assessments of the session will be excused and not counted negatively towards your overall skill averages. However, if you have a second or more absences on an assessment, a 0 will be recorded on your SPR and it will count negatively toward your overall skill averages. This can affect your eligibility for advancement, so it is important that you are not absent on the day of an assessment.

Exit Evaluation

For US destinations, any student with an enrolment of eight weeks or longer will be required to take an exit evaluation during his/her last week. The assessment used for this is the placement test so that scores and progress can be easily compared. The test will be scheduled outside of class hours, and the AC will meet with you once the test is corrected so that you can receive feedback.

In Canada, this test can be arranged upon request.

Student Progress Policy

All students are expected to maintain good attendance and adhere to their scheduled completion date. Students must work diligently to acquire the many learning objectives needed for successful completion of each class.

GEOS tracks both current and overall attendance. Current attendance is the rate of attendance from the first day of the enrolment until the current date. This number can fluctuate up and down. Overall attendance is the rate of attendance from the first day of enrolment until the last day of enrolment, assuming that the student attends every class until the end of the enrolment. This number can only go down and will never improve. Therefore, GEOS looks at the current attendance rate when determining eligibility for attendance probation since there is room for improvement.

Full-time students must maintain a current attendance of 80% or higher. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the student being placed on attendance probation. The student will receive an attendance probation warning letter outlining the terms of the probation, and a signed copy will be kept in the student's file. The student must immediately attend class and participate fully in classroom activities for the next 4-week session, and students are off probation if their attendance is at least 80% at the end of the following 4-week session. Students placed on attendance probation are not eligible for class advancement or a Leave of Absence. Additionally, students whose overall attendance falls below 80% will not receive an end-of course certificate.

If a student's overall attendance falls below 70%, they will be automatically expelled from the school unless the student can provide documentation to prove extenuating circumstances exist. In the case of a full time student in the US, their I-20 will also be terminated; in the case of a student studying with a study permit in Canada, the CIC will be notified and the student may lose their ability to study, at the discretion of the CIC. All evidence will be reviewed and adjudicated by the School Manager. Furthermore, students cannot make up or defer any missed classes unless the absence is part of an approved Leave Of Absence.

In addition to monitoring attendance, students' weekly test scores are monitored as well. Students enrolled in general English classes must achieve an average of 75% on their weekly assessments after they have completed the first four weeks of their enrolment. If a student does not have an average of 75% or higher on the weekly assessments at the end of the second session, he/she will be placed on academic probation. The student will receive an academic probation warning letter outlining the terms of the probation, and a signed copy will be kept in the student's file. Students are off probation if their average skill scores reach 75% at the end of the following 4-week session.

Students enrolled in test-prep classes will take full length practice tests at six week intervals. Students must achieve an increase of 5% from their previous full length practice test score, otherwise he/she will be placed on academic probation. The student will receive an academic probation warning letter outlining the terms of the probation, and a signed copy will be kept in the student's file. Students are off probation if they achieve a 5% increase on the following assessment.

If the student has not reached an average of 80% or higher on the weekly assessments after 12 weeks in one level, he/she will be retained in the current level. If after 24 weeks in the same level a student cannot demonstrate the proficiency needed to advance to the next level, he/she will face dismissal from the program. Students can enroll in classes for a maximum of 36 months.

Tardiness Policy

Students are not allowed into any class more than 15 minutes after the start of class and will be counted absent. Students that miss a class will be allowed into subsequent classes, as long as they are on time for them. Students who leave class early, more than 15 minutes before the scheduled end of class, will be marked absent. Students who arrive late but within the first 15 minutes of class more than twice in any week, on the third and subsequent incidences, will not be allowed into class and will be counted absent. Students who leave class within the last 15 minutes more than twice in any week, on the third and subsequent incidences, will be counted absent. Instructors should mark students arriving within the first 15 minutes or leaving within the last 15 minutes with an "L" so that the Academic Coordinator can track multiple lateness.

Leave of Absence

The Leave of Absence (LOA) policy is outlined below:

- ~ Students must give two week's written notice to the Administrative staff.
- ~ No LOAs will be granted in the first eight weeks. Exceptions will be made for breaks indicated at the time of booking.
- ~ LOAs must be in one-week blocks only, beginning on a Monday and ending on a Friday.
- ~ LOAs must be a minimum of one week and a maximum of four weeks. Exceptions will be made for breaks indicated at the time of booking.
- ~ If the LOA extends the study term past the expiry date of the student's visa, the student is responsible for applying to extend their visa.
- ~ If the LOA extends the study term past the expiry date of the student's visa, and if the student is unable or unwilling to extend the visa, no refunds will be given on remaining study time.
- ~ The total length of time permitted is 20% of a contract, or two weeks for every 12 weeks of enrolment. Exceptions will be made for breaks indicated at time of booking.
- ~ LOAs are to be taken for legitimate reasons, which must be approved by administration.
- ~ Time off for illness is permitted but requires a written note from a medical doctor. Such time off must be approved by the school administration.
- ~ We will try to place the LOA student in his/her original class but this cannot be guaranteed.
- ~ In the case that space is not available in the student's appropriate level, GEOS may ask the student to delay his/her return date.
- ~ Students who take an LOA accept that they may return at a point in the curriculum that they have previously studied. This does not mean that they will be automatically advanced to the next level.
- ~ This policy is separate from and independent of any accommodation agreement. In the case where the LOA policy and accommodation agreement are in conflict, the terms of the accommodation agreement shall take precedence.

Cancellations and Schedule Changes

In the event of extraordinary situations such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, political unrest, blizzards, etc., the school will generally follow the example of the area's public school system regarding school closure. If public schools are on break at the time of the extraordinary situation, the school management will decide whether or not to close the school and will leave a voice message by 8am on the school phone to inform students if the school is closed for the day. Therefore, it is important that you phone the school if an extraordinary event is taking place before attempting to travel to school. Group lessons missed because of school closure due to extraordinary situations are not counted towards a student's attendance record, are not recuperated and are not refunded. Private lessons missed because of school closure due to extraordinary situations will be rescheduled with the agreement of the student, instructor and the school management.

English Only

English is the only language spoken at our school, as it is the only language that all staff and students speak. If you are found speaking any language other than English, you will be given a warning on the first instance. On the second instance, you will be asked to leave school for the day. Failure to comply will take you to the next level which is that for a third offence, you will be barred from attending one class and will be counted absent for it. On the fourth and subsequent instances, you will be barred from class for an entire day and counted absent. These absences will count negatively towards your overall attendance.

Pathway Program

GEOS North America has over 70 pathway partners to facilitate your entrance into a Canadian or US college or university. If you are interested in learning more about the Pathway Program, please talk to the Academic Coordinator.

Certificates

Certificates will be awarded to students who have successfully completed their enrolment during a graduation ceremony on the student's last day.

Contact Information

If your address or phone number changes during your enrolment at GEOS, please inform any staff member as soon as possible so that we have your updated contact information. A GEOS staff member will also confirm that the information we have on file is accurate every 12 weeks.

Problem Resolution

GEOS Languages Plus will try to resolve disagreements informally. If this policy is unable to provide a resolution, a formal procedure will be applied to ensure a fair outcome. If such is the case, GEOS Languages Plus has established a set of procedures based upon a flexible set of actions aimed at ensuring that ultimate intervention will be undertaken by appropriate persons.

Step One: Internal Procedure

A student must put his or her complaint into writing and submit it to the appropriate member of staff. In the case of *academic-related cases*, students should address their concerns, in writing, to the school's Academic Coordinator or to the Program Coordinator if the Academic Coordinator is not available. In the case of a disagreement with *money-related issues*, the student should write and talk to the School Manager.

The appropriate member of staff will conduct an investigation and a meeting with all the people involved will be held within 24 hours upon written notification.

The appropriate member of staff will provide all parties with his or her written decision within 48 hours.

If a student is still unsatisfied with the decision made, and still maintains an honest belief that the problem has not been resolved, an external procedure is available to try to provide a final opportunity for a solution:

Step Two: External Procedure

The Director of Operations of GEOS Languages Plus, Canada may be called in to resolve the problem.

Students also have the right to contact Languages Canada if the student feels a resolution is not possible. Students should visit the website: www.languagescanada.ca

Both internal and external procedures are intended to ensure that both parties to a dispute have every opportunity to state their own terms under relatively informal and confidential conditions. It is hoped that very few problems will carry onto the external procedure stage, but since GEOS Languages Plus' reputation is involved, our institution has a right to demonstrate the equity and fairness of our process, and students have every right to be assured that they will be heard.

This process is set to be non-threatening and helpful. However, the people involved in such a process should be reminded that the process does not rule out future legal action. Problems involving matters of transfers between institutions or related to the perceived value of courses would not be considered in this context.

The mediator in both internal and external disputes shall interview the people involved separately before and after making any resolutions. Once a decision has been settled, the mediator will provide all the people involved with a written summary of the conclusion of the dispute.

Student Conduct Policies

GEOS is strongly committed to educational programs that provide a foundation for intellectual, cultural and social growth. GEOS has standards of behaviour for all students, instructors and coordinators. They are expected to conduct themselves in an honourable and dignified manner. Any student may be dismissed from the school for inappropriate behaviour such as aggressive or threatening actions, theft, vandalism of any sort, illegal drug use, or the use of alcohol. Similarly, sexual harassment, racial discrimination,

behaviours that violate school rules, disobedient or disrespectful behaviour toward students, staff, or instructors will also not be tolerated and will result in students being placed in counselling sessions, probation, suspension or, at the School Manager's sole discretion, dismissal from the school. If dismissed from school, the student will be expelled.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in school buildings, including restrooms. Students are asked to step outside of the building if they wish to smoke.

Students must abide by all local, provincial and federal laws.

General information

Montreal Fun Facts

Population: 1,68 million

Hockey Team: Montreal Canadiens

Official Languages: French & English

Montreal is an island, and it's the second largest city in Canada.

Geography & Climate

Montreal is Canada's second largest city and is situated on an island in the St. Lawrence River. The Quebec province is in Eastern Canada. Montreal is just 190 km from the nation's capital, Ottawa; 275 km from Quebec's capital, Quebec City; 550 km from Canada's largest city, Toronto; and only 625 km from New York City.

Montreal's climate is what most people perceive to be typical for Canada. In the summer time, it is typically warm with average high temperatures of 26°C (79°F) and lows of 16°C (61°F). During the winter the weather turns to become very cold, snowy, icy, and windy. Average high temperatures are just -5°C (23°F) and the average seasonal low is -13°C (9°F). With extreme temperatures in summer and winter, spring and fall are usually mild, but there is always the risk of a sudden temperature change.

Montreal is a city that really allows you to enjoy the four seasons. For each season, there are a variety of activities to enjoy and something beautiful to admire.

Transportation

Montréal has an excellent transportation system. There are fast, safe and convenient buses and subways (but here it is called **METRO**). The cost is **\$3.25 per trip** anywhere in Montreal city. We recommend you get the **one-month pass for \$83** or a **weekly pass for \$25.75**. Ten one way tickets cost **\$27**. You can buy the **OPUS card for \$6** which is a rechargeable card. You put money on it weekly, monthly. If you don't have a pass, make sure you have change.

You can stop a taxi by waving at it from the side of the street, or you can call one of the companies listed later in this packet. The cost depends on how far you want to go but the minimum amount is **\$3.55 plus \$0.66 per km plus \$1.75 per minute**.

To go to the airport, you can take the 747 express bus at the metro Station Berri Uqam for \$10.

Phones

For local calls, deposit 50¢ in a public phone and you can talk as long as you want. You don't have to pay more. For long distance calls, we recommend that you buy a phone card, which you can buy at the **Depanneur** (corner store). Instructions on the back of the phone card explain how to use it.

Mail

You can buy stamps anywhere you see the Canada Post Sign, usually at convenience stores and drug stores as well as the post office. An international stamp for a standard letter costs \$2.50, to the US it costs \$1.20, and in Canada it costs 85¢.

Banking

Banks are usually open from 9:00am to 5:00pm, but some are open until 8:00pm. The ATMs are open 24 hours a day and you can get cash anytime. If you decide to open an account, we will be happy to help you. The banking system is very convenient and easy to use, so if you are here long term with a Student Visa, it's a good idea to open an account. You can use your bankcard to pay for things at stores so most people don't carry cash!

In most banks, it is possible to open a bank account by showing your passport, your GEOS Letter of Acceptance, your Quebec Acceptance Certificate, and Study Permit. You will also be asked to show a copy of your apartment lease as proof of residency in Montreal.

Tourism in Montreal

Cool Places in Montreal

Downtown – Shopping district, outstanding museums, high-fashion boutiques, and **The Underground City**.

Old Montreal – 17th and 18th century European-style buildings, beautiful churches with stained glass, sidewalk cafés, street performers and artists, Notre-Dame Basilica.

Plateau Mont-Royal – Mont Royal metro station; excellent for restaurants, cafés, music, fashion, dancing and night clubs. Mount Royal park is near the mountain and very beautiful.

Island Park – 1967 World Fair, La Ronde amusement park, Montreal Casino, bicycle trails. Metro Jean-Drapeau.

Mile-End – Restaurants, cafés, sports bars and 2 very famous bagel stores. Near Mount Royal Park.

Our language school is situated downtown Montreal at the junction of Sherbrooke and Crescent Street. Sherbrooke Street near where the school is referred to by the locals as "The Golden Mile". The area hosts the majority of the city's upscale residences as well as old historic buildings. Directly next to our language school you'll find the Holt Renfrew Department Store, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

Montreal has something to offer for local natives and visitors all four seasons of the year. Some of the top sites and activities in Montreal include:

Crescent Street: The diverse variety of galleries, cafes, restaurants, and bars makes this street one of Montreal's top tourist attractions. Many festivals and events, such as the Formula 1 Weekend, are also held on this street throughout the year.

Old Montreal: The old architecture and original cobblestone streets of Montreal from many years ago have been restored and maintained in the historic district of Old Montreal. The best way to take in all of the beautiful historical sites is to take a nice, slow, long ride in a horse-drawn carriage through the magnificent district.

Montreal Bike Fest: Various cycling activities are offered at the week-long Mountain Bike Fest. The grand finale of this thrilling event consists of 11,000 cyclists taking the streets for Un tour la nuit (a night tour), and then the Tour de l'Île de Montréal. More than 30,000 participants show up each year for the largest cycling event in North America.

Culture in Montreal

Montreal has been referred to as "Canada's Cultural Capital". Most of Canada's French language television productions, radio, theater, film, multimedia and print publishing can be found in Montreal. Of course, since Montreal is Canada's French language headquarters, it has created a multicultural city.

The city is alive with jazz, visual arts, theater, music and dance. During the summer months, the downtown area of Montreal is constantly the host of festivals and parades, the largest of which being the Just for Laughs comedy festival.

Besides the cultural events and festivals, much of the culture found in Montreal comes from their world-renown abundance of churches. There are so many churches throughout the city that Montreal has earned the nickname la ville aux cent clochers (the city of a hundred bell towers). Mark Twain even wrote, "This is the first time I was ever in a city where you couldn't throw a brick without breaking a church window."

Shopping in Montreal

Montreal is a great city for shopping with many markets, boutiques, malls and local shops.

Montreal has a lot of specialties but in particular, when in Montreal, you must shop for perfume and jewelry. The city has become known for its small boutiques that offer world class products and service that you won't be able to find anywhere else!

If you want to do some serious shopping, here are some of the most popular shopping areas of Montreal: Greene Avenue, Sherbrooke Street, Old Montreal, and not to forget the underground shopping complex of the Eaton Centre.

Feedback

Before the everyday routine back at home sets in completely we would be very pleased if you could give us your feedback. As a participant you can tell us about your experiences. Just fill out the online form at <http://www.sprachcaffe.com/english/feedback.htm> We always welcome ideas, tips and constructive criticism!

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We wish you a wonderful stay and a successful language course!

**Your
Sprachcaffe Team**

Checklist before departure

Things you might want to think of when packing your luggage

Important travel items

- Travel guide
- Reading material
- Dictionary
- Cash, credit card
- Phone number of your credit card company, in case you have to block the card
- Vaccination card
- Inform Sprachcaffe about arrival time
- Alarm clock
- Sunglasses

First-aid kit

- Sunscreen
- Any medicine required
- Insect spray
- Medicine for stomach trouble
- Plasters
- After-sun lotion
- Tweezers

Travel documents

- Identity card
- Flight or train ticket
- Student ID
- Sprachcaffe travel documents

Sport/Hobby

- Camera
- Extra film, extra memory card
- Music / radio
- Batteries
- Sports equipment

Insurances

- Travel health insurance
- Luggage insurance
- Insurance card from your car insurance
- Phone number of your car insurance

Checklist for returning home

- Buy souvenirs for friends and relatives at home
- Exchange addresses with people in the course, teachers and host family
- Pick up course participation certificate
- Tidy and clean up the room
- Pack and check the rooms for anything left behind