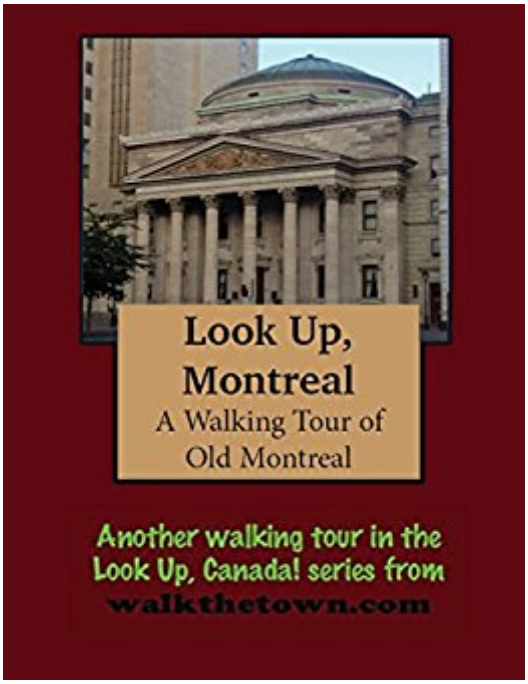
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A Walking Tour Of Old Montreal, Quebec



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Synopsis

There is no better way to see Canada than on foot. And there is no better way to appreciate what you are looking at than with a walking tour. Whether you are preparing for a road trip or just out to look at your own town in a new way, a downloadable walking tour from walkthetown.com is ready to explore when you are.Each walking tour describes historical and architectural landmarks and provides pictures to help out when those pesky street addresses are missing. Every tour also includes a quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on North American streets.Once French explorer Jacques Cartier started poking around the St. Lawrence River in 1535 he had no choice but to discover what would become modern-day Montreal - it was as far as ocean-going ships could sail upstream before encountering impassable rapids. After planting the French flag there were repeated attempts to establish a fur trading post on the spot but the Mohawks who lived in the area defended their traditional hunting grounds with spirit.Even after what would ultimately be the permanent settlement of Ville-Marie was established in 1642 its success was scarcely assured. At one point, with the population reduced to 50 by native defenders there were plans to pull up stakes and head back to Quebec City. But the outpost survived and officially became Montreal in 1705. Stone fortifications began rising and a dam was built to link the river to the ÃƒÅ le de la Visitation by Simon Sicar which spurred the rise of water-powered industry. It was one of the great engineering triumphs of New France. Soon the Montreal area was home to over 20,000 people and realized its destiny as the center of fur trade in North America. Then in 1759 the British achieved what the Mohawks and Iroquois Nation couldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t quite accomplish - they drove the French out of North America on the battlefield on the Plains of Abraham. The people are allowed to stay and keep their French language and institutions as they so desire. Montreal remained primarily French until the 1830s; it was incorporated as a city in 1832 as more British citizens pointed towards the Saint Lawrence Seaway. By the 1850s Montreal was the largest and most important city in British North America. The streets began to reflect the status of Montreal as the economic centre of the Dominion of Canada with ornate company headquarters designed by some of the leading architects in Great Britain and the United States. Well into the 20th century, as the population climbed over one million, Montreal builders were constrained by a law that limited high-rise buildings to no more than ten storeys, below the height of fabled Notre Dame Basilica.In the middle of the century the prohibition was removed and Montreal began to modernize. It became a truly international city, staging a worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fair in 1967, becoming home to the first major league baseball franchise outside of the United States in 1969 and hosting CanadaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s first Olympic Games in 1976. While the financial and business sector moved into trendier quarters the part of

Montreal where the city grew up on the banks of the Saint Lawrence River was declared an historic district in 1964. The buildings (many of them but not all) were saved, renovation projects were launched and revitalization plans implemented. Today Old Montreal is the leading tourist destination in the city and we will kick off our explorations of this slice of 19th century British North America at the spot where it all began...

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