



Canada 2015 Crime and Safety Report: Montreal

Travel Health and Safety; Transportation Security; Stolen items; Theft; Winter weather; Religious Terrorism; Riots/Civil Unrest; Floods

Western Hemisphere > Canada; Western Hemisphere > Canada > Montreal

1/5/2016

Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Crime Rating: Low

Crime Threats

There are no areas of Montreal or the Quebec Province that should be avoided due to high crime rates. The crime trends in Montreal tend to lean toward vehicles and other personal property crimes. Many cars are targeted by thieves looking for easily visible valuables. Street crime throughout Quebec can best be categorized as below or at U.S. levels for comparable metropolitan areas. The downtown area, where the majority of sites and hotels are located, is considered by police to be safe. The Montreal downtown area, including the underground city, is an enjoyable area of restaurants and retail establishments and can be enjoyed during the daytime and evening hours alike. However, one may encounter open use of recreational drugs and alcohol while walking around the downtown area. Prostitution is not legal, but it is occasionally present in downtown areas during the later evening hours.

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There is a presence of organized crime syndicates in Quebec, for which Montreal is the capital. Organized crime has a wide footprint in Quebec asserting control in several cities, influencing the ports and commerce, and deeply involved in the construction industry. In October 2011, the Quebec government enacted the Charbonneau Commission, a public inquiry into the corrupt awarding of public construction contracts. As a result, two Montreal mayors and a mayor from Laval stepped down due to corruption allegations.

Transportation-Safety Situation

Road Safety and Road Conditions

Road conditions are similar to those found in larger U.S. cities. Visitors driving in the winter months need to be prepared for winter driving conditions in a northern climate. Visitors need to be aware that right turns on a red light are illegal on the island of Montreal. Park in areas that are well-illuminated and do not leave anything of value in your vehicle.

Public Transportation Conditions

All public transportation throughout Montreal and Quebec is considered safe and is used regularly by locals and tourists alike.

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Political, Economic, Religious, and Ethnic Violence

Political Violence Rating: Low

Local, Regional, and International Terrorism Threats/Concerns

During the 1960s and 1970s, there was a period of domestic terrorism in Quebec. The Front de libération du Québec (Quebec Liberation Front, FLQ, Front de libération Québécois) was a left-wing terrorist group in Canada. The FLQ was responsible for more than 200 bombings and the deaths of at least five people that culminated in 1970 with what is known as the October Crisis. Founded in the early 1960s, it supported the Québec sovereignty movement. The main players of the FLQ have long been indicted and sentenced for their terrorist acts.

In October 2014, Canada raised its domestic terror threat level from low to medium because of what it called “an increase in general chatter from radical Islamist organizations.”

On October 20, 2014, a local man deliberately rammed his car into two Canadian soldiers in St. Jean sur Richelieu, Quebec. The government characterized the attack as a terrorist attack, where one of the soldiers died and the other was seriously wounded. The terrorist, a local convert to Islam who had recently radicalized, had his Canadian passport revoked in June 2014 after authorities learned his intentions of traveling to Iraq and join the terror group ISIL. The attack was inspired by the ISIL video released in September 2014 where the terror group urged supporters to carry out attacks against Western countries, including Canada, that are

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fighting the militants in Iraq and Syria.

Terrorism Rating: Low

Civil Unrest

Permits are required for demonstrations, and often the police will provide uniformed officers to facilitate the movement of traffic and intervene should a crime be committed. Demonstrations in Montreal are, for the most part, peaceful and occur frequently during the spring and summer months. In the winter, protests are fairly infrequent due to the cold weather. Demonstrations are usually led by workers unions, specific ethnic groups, or student associations. Within the last five years, there have been no violent demonstrations targeting the U.S. Consulate. In 2012, there was a period of daily demonstrations related to rising student tuition rates. These demonstrations typically violated local law and resulted in road blockages and confrontations with local police.

Post-Specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

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Montreal experiences winter ice storms and blizzards, followed by occasional flooding in spring. There have been a few mild earth tremors over the years, but no large scale damage to infrastructure or human life occurred.

Police Response

The Montreal Police Service (SPVM) is very proactive and responsive when dealing with all types of criminal activity. The capabilities of both city and federal law enforcement agencies are on par with their U.S. counterparts. Police can be relied upon to respond to the scene of crimes in a timely manner. Police agencies and emergency medical services in the Montreal area have 911 capabilities, which have proven highly effective in the rare instances when members of the U.S. mission have needed police or emergency services. Routine and emergency requests for police assistance from the Regional Security Officer in Montreal have been met with an excellent response by the SPVM and RCMP.

Crime Victim Assistance

Victims of crimes and persons in need of emergency medical care should dial 911 for immediate assistance.

Police/Security Agencies

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SPVM is the primary first responder in the case of any emergency. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has responsibility for diplomatic facilities in Quebec.

Medical Emergencies

Emergency medical care is reliable and on par with any major U.S. hospital. Individuals can walk into emergency rooms or, if needed, dial 911 for ambulance service.

Contact Information for Recommended Hospitals/Clinics

Jewish General Hospital

Tel: 514-340-8222

Montreal Children's Hospital

Tel: 514-412-4400

Montreal General Hospital

Tel: 514-934-1934

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Recommended Air Ambulance Services

Air Medic

Emergency Tel: 1-877-999-3322

Info@airmedic.net

CDC Country-specific Vaccination and Health Guidance

For additional information on vaccines and health guidance, please visit the CDC at:
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/canada?s_cid=ncezid-dgmgq-travel-sing-le-001.

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Situational Awareness Best Practices

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Visitors are advised to take the same security precautions they would take while traveling to any major U.S. city. The Regional Security Officer recommends the use of common sense security measures such as remaining alert and conscious of one's environment at all times in order to avoid being victimized.

Stay alert and remain aware of your surroundings. Avoid flaunting or displaying large sums of cash or jewelry in public. If staying in a hotel, store valuables in safety deposit boxes or room safes and always keep your room door locked. Stay or walk in well-illuminated and populated areas. Keep your cell phone and keys in a pocket on your person and not in a purse or handbag. Use only ATMs in well-illuminated areas that are in public places. Let someone know where you are going and when you will be back. Do not overburden yourself with bags and packages as you walk around.

U.S. Consulate Location and Contact Information

Consulate Address and Hours of Operation

U.S. Consulate Montreal

1155 St. Alexandre

Montreal, Quebec H3B 3Z1

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Normal Operating Hours: Monday-Friday, 0815-1700

Consulate Contact Numbers

Regional Security Officer: 514-908-3666

Consulate Operator (Switchboard): 514-398-9695

Duty Officer: 514-941-1547

Website: <http://montreal.usconsulate.gov/>

Nearby Posts

Embassy Ottawa: <http://canada.usembassy.gov/>

Consulate Calgary: <http://calgary.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Halifax: <http://halifax.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Quebec: <http://quebec.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Toronto: <http://toronto.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Vancouver: <http://vancouver.usconsulate.gov/>

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Consulate Winnipeg: <http://winnipeg.usconsulate.gov/>

OSAC Country Council Information

There is no active OSAC Country Council. To reach OSAC's Western Hemisphere team, please email OSACWHA@state.gov.

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