

## Inspired By Canada

The place that inspires my image of Canada is Old Montreal, a colorful city located in the province of Quebec. Old Montreal stretches along the St. Lawrence River and is a historical site dating back to the 17th century. There is so much to do and see that you will not be bored for a second! The neighborhood is known for its cobblestone streets, stunning architecture, unique shopping, and is home to many charming cafes and restaurants. If you are into culinary adventures, Old Montreal will not disappoint. You must try mouthwatering poutine, a Canadian classic made with crispy fries, cheese curds, and gravy, or if you are a fan of bagels, you have to try the famous Montreal-style bagels, which are smaller, sweeter, and baked in a wood-fired oven. The art vibe in Montreal is amazing! The city is filled with incredible galleries, theatres, lots of street art, and the best festivals that everyone can enjoy.



Shenishevsk, Leah

The specific area in the picture above is where me and my family would spend our days in Montreal, sitting on the patio of a cafe, enjoying the view and the delicious food, getting our pictures drawn by local artists, listening to talented musicians, exploring art galleries, and just having a really nice time. This picture brings back a ton of great memories! This spot holds a special place in my heart when I think of Canada for many reasons. Firstly, the history of Old Montreal makes it an interesting place to explore. When I walk down the streets, I can feel the past and imagine all the stories that happened there. Every time I visit the Notre-Dame Basilica with its stunning gothic architecture it feels like a time machine is taking me back to the past. This shows Canada's cultural heritage and the European influence on its development. If you are interested to learn about Indigenous cultures and the early days of Montreal, you might want to visit the great museum Pointe-a-Calliere. This spot has multiple exhibits and archeological remains of the city's first settlement and its Indigenous past. Secondly, Montreal also shows the multicultural spirit of Canada. You can find neighborhoods like Chinatown, Little Italy, and the Quartier Latin, each representing a different cultural community. You can try different cuisines from French and Italian to Middle Eastern and Asian. The different languages you hear as you walk through the streets add to the multicultural atmosphere. It is the whole of Canada in one little place!

Old Montreal enforces the image of Canada and shows that while we are becoming more modern, we still value our history and heritage. Montreal has been a great inspiration for many artists. "Theme from Montreal" by John Labelle is a beautiful song that perfectly expresses my thoughts and emotions about Old Montreal. Every time I spend "a night in good old Montreal" my worries just melt away. As the song goes,

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“Just for laughs, let's hear some jazz or watch the skies explode

Montreal in summertime's a treat for young and old

She's quite an island summer, winter, spring or fall

Train or boat or jet there and you're sure to have a ball”.

Old Montreal, just like Canada, has something for everyone no matter age or culture. It is a delightful place to visit, learn about Canada’s heritage, and simply have a great time!

When I think about Canada, it fills me with a sense of hope and vision for the future. From the stunning landscapes of the Rocky Mountains and Niagara Falls to vibrant cities like Toronto and Montreal, Canada has something for everyone. It is a land of endless possibilities and opportunities. It is a country that promotes diversity, celebrates multiculturalism, and values inclusivity. We will grow by supporting new ideas, investing in education, focusing on environmental sustainability and renewable energy sources, reducing carbon emissions and preserving Canada’s natural beauty. Together these efforts can contribute to a better future for all Canadians!

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John Labelle- Theme From Montreal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgH2VIMD-Dw>

Lyrics:

There's a place that I call home in Montreal  
Never dreamed till I left home I'd miss her call  
But when it's wintertime and green is all I see  
Then I'd give the world to be at Place Ville Marie

There's a bar on St.-Denis that's where I want to be  
Sipping cocktails feeling oh-so-fancy-free  
Keep your Manhattan, keep your Carnegie Hall  
Just give me a night in good old Montreal

Sunday shopping underground from store to store  
Bennett playing Place Des Arts who could ask for more  
Root for the Alouettes, the Impact, the MSO  
There's a thousand places, baby, where we could go

I love you, je t'aime beaucoup, it works either way  
Montreal's an ideal place for lovers at play  
Ride down the mountainside, why not do it all?  
Just give me a night in good old Montreal

Just for laughs, let's hear some jazz or watch the skies explode  
Montreal in summertime's a treat for young and old  
She's quite an island summer, winter, spring or fall  
Train or boat or jet there and you're sure to have a ball

I love you, je t'aime beaucoup, it works either way  
Montreal's my kind of town and I'm here to stay  
Keep your Manhattan, keep your Carnegie Hall  
Just give me a night in good old Montreal  
Why not give me a night in good old Montreal?