

February 25, 2018 to March 3, 2018

MONTRÉAL

Montréal En Lumière 2018 **This Week**

INSIDE

The Colorful World

Montréal en Lumière's Outdoor Site

An integral part of Montréal en Lumière's programming lies in and around the festival of lights' outdoor site located in Place des Festivals' public space. The outdoor site also spills out onto Ste. Catherine Street and Place des Arts' adjacent plaza.

Local DJs, live concerts featuring local French music artists, an ice slide 110 metres (361 feet) long and a zipline spanning two city blocks allowing festival-goers to zoom over the outdoor site are the leading attractions.

In 2018, the outdoor site is open February 22 through March 4, 2018 with the bulk of the fest's free entertainment and activities scheduled on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

At ground level, you can even roast your own sausages and marshmallows on an open fire because... why not? Stranger things have happened downtown. There are also gourmet food stations selling everything from soup to maple products to cheese fondue, depending on the year.

Free curling, free zip lining, and more, there's also a Ferris wheel on location but if I were you, I'd only go on it if properly dressed up. It gets really cold on that thing if you're not wearing the right threads.

"There are also gourmet food stations selling everything from soup to maple products to cheese fondue, depending on the year."

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Frédérique Ménard-Aubin

A Ferris wheel at the Montréal en Lumière event.



Frédérique Ménard-Aubin

Fromages d'ici worker smiling.

5 TOP Restaurants Nearby

- **Menthe et couscous**
361 Rue Émery
Montréal, QC H2X 1J1
(514) 842-3717
- **Anticafe Montreal**
294 Saint-Catherine St W
Montréal, QC H2X 2A1
(514) 866-2684
- **Bouillon Bilk**
1595 St Laurent Blvd
Montreal, QC H2X 2S9
(514) 845-1595
- **Cachitos**
3 Saint-Catherine St W
Montreal, QC H2X 3V4
(514) 500-6259
- **Eggspectation**
190 Rue Sainte-Catherine
Montréal, QC H2X 2X3
(514) 288-6448

60 Types Of Cheese

Festival of Quebec Cheeses

Every February, something special happens in Montreal. It's called free cheese. Free, made-in-Quebec coagulated milk protein that makes the masses go mmmm. The kind of fermented food product that compels even the lactose intolerant to reach for another piece, regardless of what flatulent, bloated hell they'll pay for the rest of the day. We're talking cheese that is just that good.

Think over 450 different kinds produced in province, including varieties made with, of all controversial ingredients, raw milk, a completely legal and safe undertaking in the eyes of regional government as long as proper precautions are met.

Running February 23 to February 26, 2017, Fête des fromages d'ici offers the public the chance to try roughly 60 different Quebec cheeses made by 17 different producers, free of charge, on site. Cheeses can also be bought on location. Alcohol cheese pairings are an additional possibility, one requiring pre-purchased coupons which are usually \$1 each and must be exchanged at participating kiosks in order to sample local wines, beers and ciders.

What's More?

Montréal en Lumière proposes themed fine dining evenings with dishes prepared by guest chefs flown in from the Festival of Lights' theme country and theme city of the year.



Frédérique Ménard-Aubin

A chef preparing delicious food.

READY

For The Dark ?

Montréal Nuit Blanche

Nuit Blanche is easily the biggest attraction linked to Montréal en Lumière, one held the last Saturday of the festival that involves more or less 200 free activities that stretch out until dawn.

In 2018, Nuit Blanche runs March 3, 2018.

As someone who's a Nuit Blanche veteran, I've had awesome experiences. And I've also had dreadful ones. So I put together a list of Nuit Blanche tips to help you plan for a great one.

Sure, Montreal stays up til the wee hours of the morning all the time, but only one night a year features around 200 mostly free cultural, musical, culinary, and sports-oriented activities available to the public 6 p.m. through 6 a.m. It's called Montreal Nuit Blanche, it's a Montreal en Lumière festival of lights highlight, and it's a blast!

In 2018, Nuit Blanche is on Saturday, March 3, 2018, starting as early as noon and ending as late as 6 a.m. the morning of March 4, depending on the activity and event.



Frédérique Ménard-Aubin

A Child enjoying the Montréal en Lumière Nuit Blanche.

"It's called Montreal Nuit Blanche, it's a Montreal en Lumière festival of lights highlight, and it's a blast!"

ART

With Steven Spazuk

Underground Art at Montréal en Lumière

For the past 15 years, Spazuk has perfected a technique called fumage, that allows him to use the flame of a candle or the flame of a torch as a pencil to create his paintings with trails of soot. Using various tools, he intuitively sculpts the plumes of soot left behind in response to the shapes that appear on the canvas.

Spontaneity and chance are the heart and soul of his creative process. He does not censor. He does not direct. Spazuk opens himself to the experience. This in-the-moment creative practice coupled with the fluidity of the soot, creates a torrent of images, shadows and light. Fuelled by the quest of a perfect shape that has yet to materialize, he concentrate in a meditative act and surrender to capture the immediacy of the moment on canvas. The human body fascinates him. Bodies in a perpetual metamorphosis are the language with which he express his thoughts on the human condition.

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Unknown Photographer

Steven Spazuk using the fumage technique to paint birds.

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He sees fragments of things, events, people, as a powerful metaphor of modern life and, even more so, of the way we perceive things through our senses and our minds. His work expresses how every one of us is a constituent fragment of the human community. Steven Spazuk's "fire paintings," in which the artist burns his canvas with a candle and manipulates the results with pens, feathers and other tools, are on display in the bird-themed exhibition Chant libre at the Galerie de la Maison du Festival Rio Tinto Alcan from Feb. 18 to May 15. Admission is free. You'll be able to see Spazuk at work during the Nuit blanche all-nighter on Feb. 27.

LISTEN

To Our Performance

Montréal en Lumière Concerts

So Montréal en Lumière does lights. It does food too, notably cheese. But it also delves into music, proposing free concerts most if not every evening at Montréal en Lumière's outdoor site. Artists tend to be local French language musicians.

As for bigger international names, they're far more likely to be scheduled on the paid concert roster. In 2017, that included Lee Fields & The Expressions, Chantal Kreviazuk, and Alex Cuba. Check Montréal en Lumière's website to see the full lineup of who's performing at this year's edition.



Frédérique Ménard-Aubin

Couple enjoying the night.

Calendar of Events

from February to March

Montréal en Lumière's Outdoor Site

From February 22 to March 4
Ste. Catherine Street and Place des Arts

Festival of Quebec Cheeses

From February 23 to February 26
Complexe Desjardins

Montréal Nuit Blanche

March 3 from noon until 6 am
Ste. Catherine Street and Place des Arts

Underground Art at Montréal en Lumière

From February 21 to March 3
Montreal's Underground City

Montréal en Lumière Concerts

From February 22 to March 3 (View Schedule)
Montréal en Lumière's outdoor site



Les
Ducs
de Lorraine

Sweet & Red

10^z Cozy^z

Hotels Nearby

- **Le Germain Hotel**
2050 Mansfield St
Montreal, QC H3A 1Y9
1 877-333-2050
- **Hôtel Gault**
449 Sainte-Hélène St
Montreal, QC H2Y 2K9
(514) 904-1616
- **Le Petit Hôtel & Café**
168 Saint-Paul St W
Montreal, QC H2Y 1Z7
(514) 940-0360
- **Hôtel Épik Montréal**
171 Saint-Paul St W
Montreal, QC H2Y 1Z5
(514) 842-2634
- **Parc Suites Hotel**
3463 Park Ave
Montreal, QC H2X 2H6
(514) 985-5656
- **The Queen Elizabeth**
900 René-Lévesque Blvd W
Montreal, QC H3B 4A5
(514) 861-3511
- **Hôtel Le Dauphin**
1025 Rue de Bleury
Montréal, QC H2Z 1M7
(514) 788-3888
- **Hotel Omni Mont-Royal**
1050 Sherbrooke St W
Montreal, QC H3A 2R6
(514) 284-1110
- **Le Westin Montréal**
270 Saint-Antoine St W
Montreal, QC H2Y 0A3
(514) 380-3333
- **Courtyard Marriott**
380 René-Lévesque Blvd W
Montreal, QC H2Z 0A6
(514) 398-9999