

Bourgouies, a notable figure from the past. She was entrusted with the task of looking after 'les Filles du Roi' – one thousand French girls who emigrated to Canada to increase the population of Nouvelle France and whose dowries were assured by Louis XIV.

However, Montreal is not the kind of place to rest on its past. It is also a vibrant modern city with fashionable stores, palatial underground shopping malls, fine museums, jazz clubs, night clubs and restaurants to delight the gourmet. The city's many festivals and sports events are world famous.

The Place des Arts boasts a fine arts complex and is the home of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. The Théâtre Maisonneuve and the Théâtre Port-Royal are just two of the venues for opera, ballet and drama performances all year round. In short, Montreal is a place where all tastes are richly catered for.

The scenic beauty of rural Quebec


Away from the province's two major cities is a vast region of picturesque towns and countryside waiting to be explored. On the eastern shore of the St Lawrence, for instance, there is the Gaspé peninsula with its rugged shoreline, delightful fishing villages and the artists' colony of Percé. The Richelieu River Valley – close to Montreal, with farms and country churches – is another

favourite haunt for lovers of beauty and tranquillity.

To the north of Montreal are the Laurentian Mountains – like uncrowded Swiss Alps – with resorts that offer skiing in the winter, and swimming, sailing, rock climbing, riding and fishing in the summer. The picturesque Outaouais region nearby also provides plenty of opportunity for outdoor sports – notably scuba-diving, canoeing, windsurfing and golf.

Travel northeast along the north bank of the St Lawrence and you come to the spectacular Montmorency Falls. And further on, where the Sanguenay River flows into the St Lawrence, you can do some whale watching. This spot offers rich feeding grounds for the blue whale, and visitors come from far and wide to observe these fascinating creatures.

Yet there is still much more in the province to explore. To the north is a vast wilderness of forests, rivers and lakes (more than one million of them) where Man has seldom set foot. It is a paradise for adventurers and naturalists, allowing you to see snow geese, gannets and caribou; discover the way of life of the Indians and Inuit (Eskimos); and admire the geological wonders of the Mingan Archipelago.

Whether you seek wide open spaces or cosmopolitan sophistication, Canada's largest province is unlikely to disappoint. 

Quebec prepares for an eventful summer

The Festival d'été takes place each summer in Quebec.



British tourists heading for Quebec this summer will have plenty to engage their attention, for the province is a lively place with planned events ranging from firework contests to film festivals, and from jazz jamborees to grand prix races.

In June, for instance, the world's best Formula 1 racing drivers will be converging on Montreal to compete in the Molson Grand Prix of Canada. Later that month, the city's celebrated International Jazz Festival will take the stage; the ten-day event will feature 1000 musicians from 15 countries and is likely to attract 400 000 jazz fans.

The Quebec International Summer Festival in July is an annual cultural event, which offers a wide variety of entertainment in the streets and parks of Old Quebec. In August, the spotlight

again falls on Montreal as the Players International Tennis Championships get under way at the Jarry Stadium.

August also sees the start of the Montreal World Film Festival, the only competitive film festival in North America to be recognised by the International Federation of Film Producers.

Among the other events that are planned this year are:

- Festival of the Americas Theatre, Montreal, May 22–June 4.
- Benson & Hedges International Firework Contest, Montreal, end of May–mid-June.
- Tour de l'Île de Montréal (cycle race), June 9–11.
- Les Nuits Bleues du Jazz, (street festival), Quebec City, June 21–25.
- Lanaudière Summer Festival (classical and contemporary music), June 27–August 23.
- Drummondville World Folklore Festival, July 7–17.
- Valleyfield International Regatta, July 8–9.
- Just for Laughs Festival (humour and fantasy), Montreal, July 14–24.
- Haut-Richelieu Hot Air Balloon Festival, St Jean sur Richelieu, August 12–20.
- Montreal International Marathon, September 24. 