

“Navigating the Montréal Metro System:  
A Set of Instructions”

Angelia-Grace Martin

# GETTING AROUND MONTREAL BY METRO



The Montreal metro system is famously expansive, connecting you to every corner of the island. Designed by a local with English-speaking tourists in mind, these instructions walk you through how to locate and navigate a station, purchase a ticket, and get to your destination.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Enough money for your trip, by card, cash, or change—check the STM website for rates!

## STEP 1 - PLAN YOUR TRIP:

The first thing you need is a destination!

Out and about in the city and just trying to get home? Getting out of the hotel to do some sightseeing? Use a maps system like Google or Apple maps to plan your trip, or check the STM website for stops & schedules: <https://www.stm.info/>

## STEP 2 - FIND THE NEAREST STATION:

Whether you're wandering and casually exploring, or you're navigating unfamiliar streets while squinting at a map, you'll know you've found a metro station by the signs posted outside the entrance.

These are standard signs that are the same all across the city: a white arrow in a circle on a blue background. You'll see the symbol on navigational signs, too.



## STEP 3 - GET TO THE STATION

Montreal is a pedestrian-friendly city, so you may be able to walk. If you have a bicycle, that's another great option; most major roads have dedicated bike lanes, and stations are equipped with large bike racks.

Another option is to use the bus system. You can find a bus stop near you using a map or a GPS, or just look for the signs on any major road. If a bus line can take you to a metro station, it will be indicated with the metro symbol.



## STEP 4 - PURCHASE YOUR TICKET:

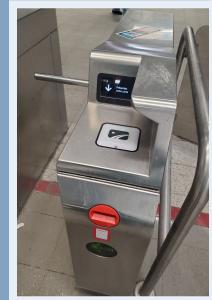
Every metro station on the STM line is equipped with a self-serve kiosk to purchase tickets. They take card as well as Canadian cash/change, and can be translated to English using the buttons indicated by the start menu.



Your ticket, once you use it, remains active for two hours for bus → metro → bus transfer. If you purchased a ticket to ride the bus, that ticket is still active once you arrive at the station and can be used at the turnstile without additional cost.

## STEP 5 - PASS THROUGH THE TURNSTILE:

To enter the metro station, you'll need to use your ticket. A paper ticket (non-rechargeable) must be fed through the red slot. A ticket on a rechargeable plastic card must be tapped on the surface indicated by the text: "Présentez votre carte" (present your card).



Once your ticket is accepted, the screen will flash green, letting you know that a ticket has been used or that the transfer of your active ticket has been accepted. You will be able to pass through the turnstile.

Be sure to hold onto your ticket for the duration of your trip! Security may stop you at the exit to scan it.

## STEP 6 - FIND YOUR PLATFORM:

Once you're through the turnstile, you need to find the right platform to stand on. Don't catch the wrong train! Use the posted maps to check which color line you need to travel, and in which direction.



(The directions are named for the stops at each end.)

Then, follow the corresponding signs to that platform.

## STEP 7 - WAIT:

When waiting on the appropriate platform for your train to arrive, stand back from the painted yellow line for your safety.



## STEP 8 - BOARD YOUR TRAIN:

Signs painted on the floor of the station indicate the etiquette for boarding and deboarding the metro: those deboarding have priority and should be allowed off, and those boarding should "squeeze in" around them at the sides.



This is most important during rush hour at the largest stations, when large crowds are getting on and off at the same time.

Once boarded, stand clear of the doors!

## STEP 9 - RIDE THE METRO

When riding the metro, watch out for your stop using the screens posted in the cars and the overhead announcements.



(Tip: "Prochaine station" means "next station" in French.)

## STEP 10 - FOLLOW THE EXIT SIGNS!

Once you've arrived at your station, follow the red signs reading "Sortie" (exit) to reach the surface. Most stations are equipped with live-updating bus schedules that list which buses will be arriving (and whether they are wheelchair accessible) to get you to your final destination.



**Congratulations!** You've officially traveled using the Montreal metro system; the savviest way to get around the city.