

48 Hours in Montreal + a Free Travel Guide

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

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welcome

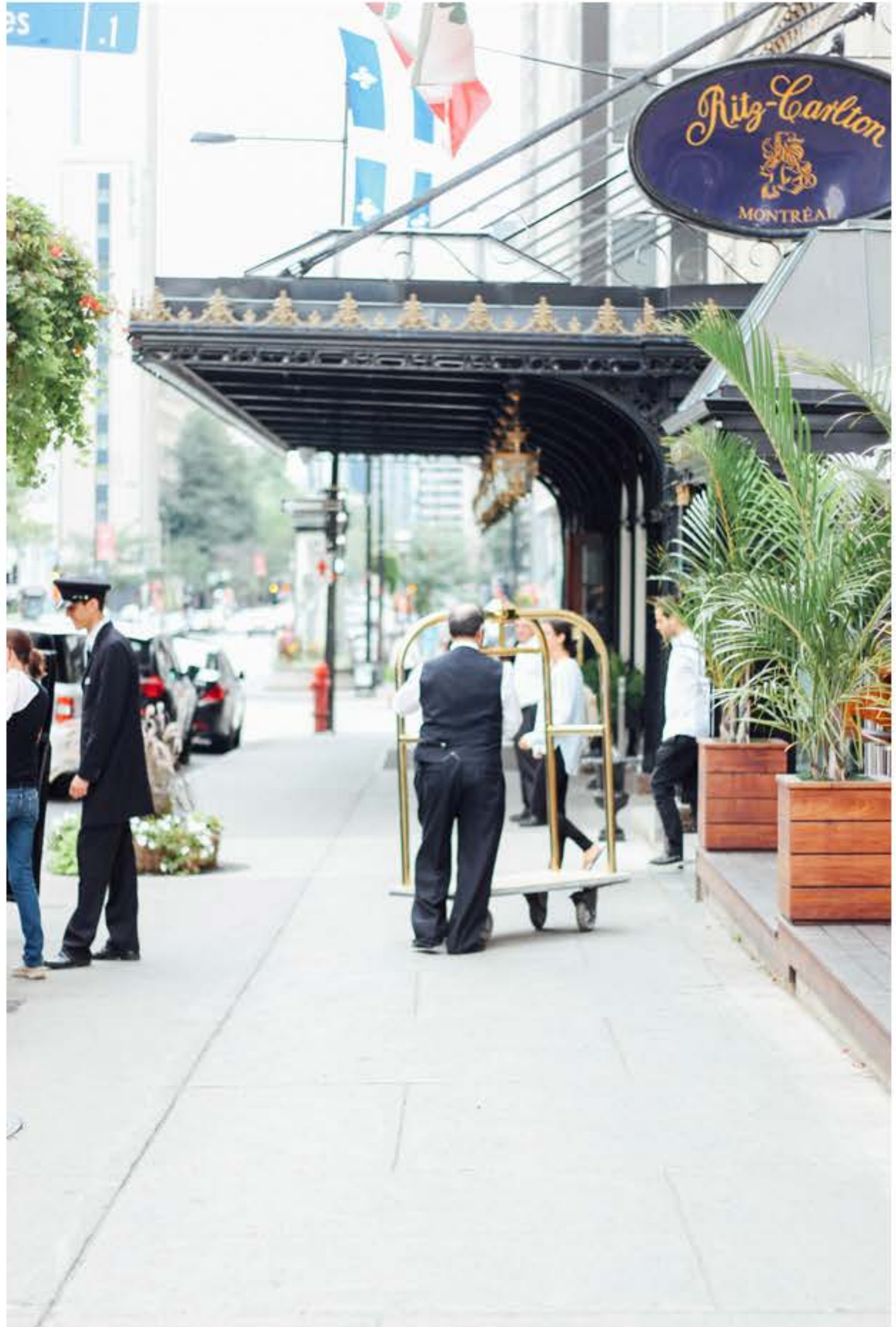
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I'm Ana, project manager and blogger. I live in Toronto where I share my life with my husband and our growing troop of baby boys. [Find out more about Ana](#) →





While chatting with my husband a few weeks ago he said something profound, "we don't really get a long anymore". My first reaction was to deny it, stand my ground and try to convince him that he was wrong and that our marriage was "perfect", but reality was that we had been fighting quite frequently. Nerves were at an all time high, and unless we were barking orders or instructions at one another we really were not communicating much. It's almost embarrassing to admit it but we'd become more room mates than romantic partners and it made me sad to realize that he was right.

I felt we needed a "reset button" on our relationship, which of course does not exist, but the next best thing did...we could leave the boys with my parents for a weekend and get away just us to. At the very root of our disengagement from our marriage was sleep deprivation and parental responsibilities, which at the end of every day leave us drained and seeking silence rather than closeness.

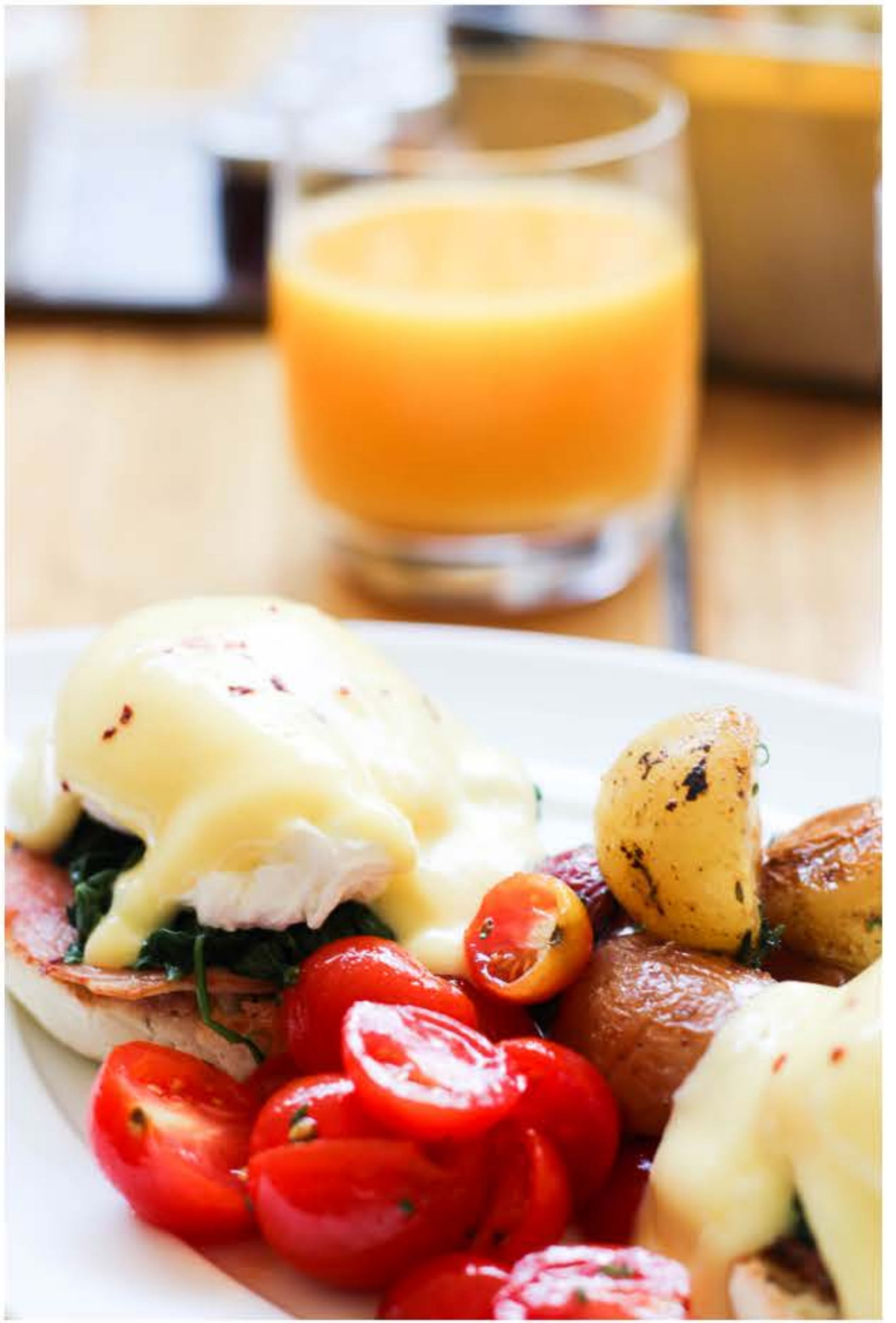




So we packed our bags and drove off to Montreal. In retrospect perhaps we should have flown, as it would have been quicker, but chatting and listening to music and making pit-stops along the way was kind of fun as well.



We arrived in Montreal late Friday night and quickly checked into the [Ritz Carlton Montreal](#). An incredible hotel, with an even more incredible team of people, it was the perfect stay for us and we couldn't have asked for anything more. Our room was quiet and peaceful, with a plush comfortable bed and a wonderfully relaxing rain shower. We ate both breakfasts at the hotel restaurant, Maison Boulud, and Michael was most appreciative of a good breakfast buffet.





We spent the rest of the weekend eating, drinking and strolling the streets of Montreal. Joe beef, Le Club Chasset et Peche, Olive+Gourmando, Au Kouign-Amann just to name a few of our favourite eateries. It was amazing to find out we had things in common again, and not just when it comes to the boys. But food and drinks and laughter. 48 hours that felt like so much more.

Yes it was nice to get home to our babies, and after 48 hours we both felt more than ready to see our mini troop. But having some time to recharge and spend alone time with the "original two" was so so nice as well, and so needed.

I've put together a little [TRAVEL GUIDE](#) full of our favourite things, places, etc... essentially what we did in 48 hours in Montreal. Its a [free printable](#) so just click the link and print it as you wish. I will look to put together little guides in the months to come of other places we've visited and places we know and love.

48 hours in Montreal

A TRAVEL GUIDE

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I don't travel as much as I would like to these days. The kids, the life responsibilities, they keep us from visiting and doing the things we would perhaps otherwise do more of. But when we do travel we want to eat well, get a feel for the culture, sleep in the best places, and visit the most interesting sights, before heading back to reality.

If we only had 48 hours in Montreal, here's how we would live it.

stay

The **Ritz Carlton Montreal** is an incredible experience. Voted number one Canadian City Hotel in the Travel & Leisure World's Best list of 2015, the Ritz Montreal is immeasurable in style and quality.



eat

BREAKFAST - Maison Boulud inside the Ritz Carlton is exquisite. From the eggs benedict, to the breakfast buffet, its one of the best breakfasts I have experienced. If you're craving simple local fare, the famous **Fairmont Bagel** serving fresh Montreal bagels is not to be missed, but go early, the line-up can stretch up the block.

LUNCH - Olive + Gourmando go twice if you have the chance, it is that good! Be sure to try their #24 salad, or one of their delicious grilled paninis.

DINNER - Joe Beef no words can describe how good the food is. Rich and full of flavour in a hipster casual atmosphere, its one of the best in the city. **Le Club Chasse et Peche** also a must! A little more upscale, but incredible through and through. Resos are recommended.

drink

I'm a sucker for a good drink. A martini, glass of wine or beer, we spent at least a couple of hours in the famous **Palm Court** at the **Ritz Carlton**. Its as beautiful as it is perfect for an evening drink.

The **Garde Manger** in Old Montreal is also a perfect post dinner drinks kind of place and its just steps away from the St. Laurent river if you're craving an evening walk.



visit

Old Montreal with its old cobble stone streets, gorgeous colonial architecture and tiny shops is the only place you'll want to visit if you're on a short stay. Take the time to walk up and down the tiny streets and back alleys, and even head into the **old Port** and watch some of the ships. Stunning and without a doubt one of the most wonderful walks you'll take in rain or shine.

Please note this travel guide is meant as a personal reference for things I personally enjoyed. Feel free to research and add or subtract as you desire.

xo
ana