



MEET THE NEIGHBORS

CANADA AND MEXICO ARE JUST A DAY AWAY

How many times have you heard—especially lately—that the world is getting smaller? It seems that way sometimes—Americans are familiar with towns like Jalalabad and Karachi, names we'd never heard of until the past decade. So, considering our familiarity with these faraway places, it seems odd that we know so little about our own neighbors, Canada and Mexico. Seizing several opportunities, the editors of Salt Lake magazine traveled to destinations in these close-by countries and came home wanting to go back. And get to know our neighbors better.



Guadalupe Cathedral, Cathedral Metropolitana de Guadalupe

GERMANY'S
LIVING NEIGHBORS

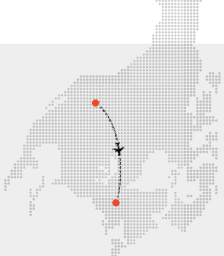
CANADA

MONTREAL

Montreal invites Wonder

Alive with culture, the French-Canadian city asks, "Why can't SL/C be like this?"

By JEREM PUGH



The bikes are pink. Our bike tour guide, Danny Spade of Spade-Palacio tours

(spadeandpalacio.com), explains his outfit: gets the bikes from Reboycycle, giving discarded bikes new life and color. Danny is one of those infectious personalities, he and his partner, Anne-Marie built their hipster tour

company, essentially on his enthusiasm for the city he loves, Montreal. We climb aboard our

pink bikes and off he goes, with a constant over-the-shoulder patter as we zoom around *La Plateau*, one of

Montreal's most *bourgeois bohème* hoods. Seeing a city from the saddle of the bike is a liberating experience and

Montreal is a city best seen by bike. Danny cheekily explains that

Montrealers are famously cheap and would rather ride bikes, rain or shine, than pay for cars and

low-rent demand from its citizens means the city is well-served by bike lanes and segregated paths

that former Salt Lake Mayor Ralph Becker—the bike mayor—probably

dreams of every night. Becker would swipe right on Montreal's bike

network, for sure. Montreal is a city that makes one wonder: Why

can't our city be more like this? Salt Lake City, as hep as it is, could take a page from Montreal's

playbook. Like SL/C, Montreal is a city with a rich culture and it is celebrated proudly throughout the town in fabulously creative, progressive and enthusiastic ways. Danny

takes us down the green alleys of *La Plateau*, where the city has urged residents to take over

side streets and alley ways to plant gardens and beautiful green installations. We zip

around the waterfront spying kayakers and stop at an open-air plant and food market for green

pappas salad and beers. After our tour, Danny

directs us to the *Cité Mémoire* installations (Montrealenhistoires.com/en/cite-memoire/), that's French for

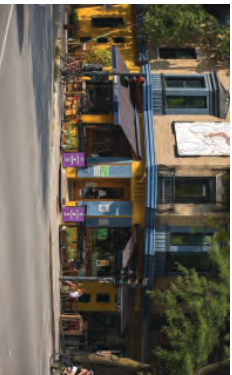
memories of the city, and in true Montreal fashion, is a blend of old and cutting-edge new. The

Cité Mémoire is a collection of yellow signs dotted around the historic old town. Scan the code on the sign with your phone and it launches a projection



PHOTO (CITÉ MÉMOIRE) ©JEAN-FRANÇOIS LEMIRE, SHOOTSTUDIO.CA

PHOTO (PLATEAU MONT-ROYAL) © ALISON SLATTERY



onto a bank building wall nearby. The projections are short films that explain important moments in the city's history and we stroll from sign to sign, lighting up each tale on demand.

Finally, we find our way to a waterfront view of the Jacques Cartier Bridge, a suspension bridge spanning the Saint Lawrence River where the Moment Factory

(momentfactory.com), a Montreal-based public art design firm, created a responsive light show on the iron beams of the bridge. The show, which is different every night, changes based on the mood of the city. Yes, the mood.

When citizens tweet using several Montreal-related hashtags, the tweet is captured by one of the bridge's towers and let loose as a point of light onto the bridge's outer skin. And, on the day gay marriage rights were

announced in Canada the bridge was, you guessed it, bright pink in response to the outpouring of joy on social media. They have that and we have Donald Trump's tweets. Go figure.

And that was just one day.

ABOVE: *Cité Mémoire*, Montreal en Histoire. **LEFT:** Plateau Mont-Royal at Mile End.

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