

# See the **BIG** picture

Montréal Space for Life  
2016 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES



espace  
pour la  
vie montréal

biodôme

insectarium

jardin botanique

planétarium rio tinto alcan

NEW IN 2016

## SEEING life through a CHILD'S EYES

At first, the children are curious. They throw themselves into the adventure. In the huge playground, their eyes full of wonder, they explore nature with no holding back. They want to experience it all. Everything is new, everything intrigues them. They try things, attempting to understand every last detail, as if the greatest mystery of all - the mystery of life - were hiding inside. Then, all at once, they want to share their discoveries with the whole family.

Montréal Space for Life invites you to relive your childhood and discover nature as if for the first time. There's always something new and exciting to explore, evoking memories and sensations from years ago. Are you ready to be amazed, surprised and delighted?

Fascination guaranteed!

### At the Botanical Garden HEROES OF THE FOREST

June 20 to August 28

Step into a forest where you're the hero. Follow the storytellers into the heart of a dreamlike world full of fabulous tales sure to thrill visitors of all ages. The most daring members of the family can head off on a quest that will appeal to their senses and emotions and put their agility to the test.

*Heroes of the Forest* is a fun, immersive experience that invites you to get close to trees and nature as you enjoy an unforgettable adventure.

*In collaboration with the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.*

### At the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium MIRA, THE LITTLE STAR

November 11 to December 11

Mira's playground is the vast Universe, and she spends her time dancing and frolicking with her friends. But one day the nasty Algol decides that he's fed up with their antics. So he starts chasing the little star, trying to catch her lovely sparkling young light. Will Mira manage to escape Algol and his black hole gang?

*Mira, The Little Star* is a musical multimedia show designed especially for ages 4 to 7 and their parents. *In French*

### At the Insectarium OH, POOP!

June 23 to September 5

It may not look too appealing, but dung is a big part of insects' lives. From food for their young to camouflage or trail markings, it offers lots of clues about insects' habits - as you'll hear from our nature interpreters. We have an "excremental" collection to fascinate visitors of all ages. You're sure to see poop in a whole new light!

### At the Biodôme POOP TALES

June 18 to September 5

Look for them all along the pathway through the ecosystems. What's that, you say? Check out the small containers in front of some of the animals' habitats. Open the lids and you'll find a fascinating collection of ... dung! Some bits are tiny and others brightly coloured. Our nature interpreters will explain how no two kinds are alike, and how they offer excellent clues to the habits of the animals that left them - from what they eat to how they move about and even how they communicate. We dare you to explore!

season

1

February  
March

# Fun with NATURE

Playing until the spring equinox, the Northern Lights will drape the starry heavens in their entrancing colours, as if by magic. As well, colourful caterpillars hide among the leaves, revealing their vibrant camouflage to those with sharp eyes, just like the denizens of the sea floor.

## AURÔRAE

Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium  
Until September 5

On a frigid night, under a clear sky in Yellowknife, nature puts on one of its most amazing shows. The Northern Lights suddenly appear just above the horizon, their shimmering waves of light dancing across the sky. Set to music by DJ Champion, *aurôrae* takes you to the Far North and introduces you to this fleeting, fascinating multicoloured spectacle.

## BUTTERFLIES GO FREE

A CATERPILLAR'S LIFE  
Botanical Garden  
February 18 to April 24

Before turning into graceful butterflies, those odd-looking caterpillars draw on their many surprising talents. They may be green, yellow or blue, spotted or striped, hairy or spiny – all strategies they use to protect themselves from predators. If they are to ensure the survival of the species, caterpillars have to eat leaves – lots and lots of leaves – and store up enough energy to metamorphose into a butterfly. Channel your inner child and head off in search of these “crawling stomachs” hiding under the leaves of the tropical plants.

*Produced and organized by the Insectarium.*

## MISSION: I SPY CHALLENGE

Biodôme  
February 20 to March 6

Bring the whole family to the Biodôme during March Break! Then grab an identification guide and try to spot as many of the animal and plant species in the ecosystems as you can. Our nature interpreters will be glad to lend a hand!

## THE UNDERWATER WORLD OF THE ROCKY SEA FLOOR

Biodôme  
At all times

The all-new cylindrical aquarium is home to the rich life typical of the rocky sea floor in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The sea floor is full of fascinating biodiversity, including species with rather funny names, like sea peaches, scarlet psolus and hermit crabs. They're waiting for you!

## SIGHTS TO BE SEEN

Satisfy your sweet tooth with some maple taffy at the **Frédéric Back Tree Pavilion**.

At the **Insectarium**, have fun trying to spot the leaf insects hiding in the branches. Did that leaf just move?



season

2

April  
May

# Curious NATURE

It all starts with insatiable curiosity. Like children, who are always trying to figure out the lives around them, from the smallest insect to the largest mammal, we observe and try to understand what makes each part of our universe tick, from the tiniest particle to the most spectacular astronomical phenomenon.

## GREAT GARDENING WEEKEND

Botanical Garden  
May 27 to 29

What will your garden look like this summer? Let your five senses guide your plans: a colourful flowerbed, leaves rustling in the breeze, the perfume of a lilac, the aroma of fresh herbs, a velvety or veiny leaf beneath your fingertips... Still not sure? Chat with one of the exhibitors at the Great Gardening Weekend and then get planting.

## SUPER INSECTS ON TOUR

Insectarium  
At all times

The Insectarium's superheroes are eager to meet you! Here's your chance to discover their true colours. Ghost mantises that resemble dead leaves, stick insects motionless on branches, and many other little-known heroes await you. Our experts will reveal their superpowers.

## YES, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Biodôme  
March 25 to April 24

To mark Earth Day, we're covering the Gulf of St. Lawrence ecosystem in heaps of plastic garbage. Disgusting! But that's what could happen to all the oceans around the globe. The solution to preventing this disaster may lie in an invention by a young Dutchman named Boyan Slat. His plastic recovery platform could well change the world. Check out the 3-metre tall model of his invention in the main basin.

## FACE TO FACE WITH A RESEARCHER

Biodiversity Centre at the  
Botanical Garden  
Every Thursday from May 19 to  
August 25

Dive into the amazing, mysterious world of the Biodiversity Centre's researchers. They'll take you behind the scenes, into the greenhouses or even outdoors, and help you see nature from a new perspective.

For instance, Alain has some wild plants for you to taste, Daniel will reveal flowers' beauties under his microscope, and Stéphanie will let you touch some carnivorous plants. Get ready for a discovery-filled summer!

## SIGHTS TO BE SEEN

With the warmer weather, everyone wants to get outside and play. Head over to the **BuzzGround!** The whole hive is bound to have fun in this insect-inspired play area.

How would you like to step into a fairy tale? In late May, the **Leslie Hancock Garden** turns into an enchanted forest. It's a visual feast.

# See life DIFFERENTLY

The Montréal Space for Life App offers an original way to visit the Botanical Garden, Insectarium, Biodôme and Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium. You'll be sure not to miss anything, for it perfectly complements the basic information available from the on-site nature interpreters.

Download the app and pick a route. Amazement and wonder guaranteed!



## The App routes

### AT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

**EXPRESS GARDEN ROUTE** / For all ages • 90 min (May to October)

This custom route will take you to all the must-see gardens. Enjoy the subtle harmony of the Rose Garden and the Zen ambience in the Japanese Garden, then reconnect with Mother Earth in the First Nations Garden.

**GARDENS OF LIGHT** / For all ages • 90 min (September and October)

At dusk, discover the story told by the multicoloured lanterns in the Chinese Garden. Then head to the Japanese Garden, where the filtered light envelops nature in a contemplative atmosphere.

### AT THE INSECTARIUM

**WE ARE THE INSECTS...** / For all ages • 45 min

Follow the guide! Join Proscio and meet all kinds of species essential for keeping our ecosystems in balance. Some are active during the day, some at night, some are brightly coloured and others camouflaged. They're armed for battle or equipped for hunting. And they lay hundreds of eggs to ensure the survival of their species.

**VIVARIUMS** / For all ages • 90 min

Peer into the fascinating world of insects! Did you know that some ants are farmers? How many legs does a millipede really have? Try to tell male and female insects apart, compare different species' eating habits, and see if you can find the ones disguised as leaves.

### AT THE BIODÔME

**SECRETS AND MYSTERIES OF THE BIODÔME** / For all ages • 90 min

Have you ever wondered how the Biodôme works? Enjoy a peek behind the rocks and trees. Learn how we keep the animals from roaming, see where we raise insects, and even find out how we produce seawater!

**ANIMAL STARS** / For all ages • 90 min

Share our "star" animals' secrets: lounge with the sloths and the caimans, rock and roll with the otters, admire the lynxes' steely gaze. And can you spot the cotton-head tamarin, the remarkable king eider and the penguin sporting a blue ring?

### AT THE RIO TINTO ALCAN PLANETARIUM

**ARTWORK** / For all ages • 45 min

Come admire some real treasures: the statue of Copernicus, who proposed that the Earth orbits the Sun; a time machine called the Zeiss projector, and its time capsule; meteorites sculpted by the air; and our unique sundial.

**THE GREEN ROUTE** / For adults • 60 min

The planetarium earned its LEED® NC 1.0 - Platinum certification for its environmental performance and energy efficiency thanks to some amazing technical features: its green roof, natural lighting, ventilation and heating systems, rainwater recovery and more.

season

3

June  
July  
August

# Glorious NATURE

Hooray! It's summer holiday time! Everywhere you look, nature is brimming with life. There's loads of exciting fun for kids all summer long: they can play outdoors from morning til night, jump and splash in the water, run through a garden after the butterflies browsing from one flower to another, roll in the grass and follow the ants back to their bustling microcosm.

## HEROES OF THE FOREST

Botanical Garden  
June 20 to August 28

It's the trees' turn to speak. Enter a colourful world where amazing things happen. You and the family will hear some tales, embark on an exciting quest and explore the poetic universe of trees - can you hear them whispering their secrets? Perhaps you, too, will become a creature of the forest.

*In collaboration with the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.*

## THE ARTS PUT ON A SHOW AT THE GARDEN

Botanical Garden  
June 12 to August 28

The Botanical Garden will be filled with music every Sunday afternoon. Take a comfortable seat, relax in the heart of nature and let our guest artists serenade you in this intimate yet simple summer setting.

**ARTISTS** Including:  
Arthur H June 12  
Michel Rivard June 19  
Patrick Norman June 26  
Vincent Vallières July 10  
Mara Tremblay August 21  
... and many more!

## ONE DAY... ON MARS

Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium  
Starting June 14

Was there life on Mars at one time? The red planet has continued to intrigue scientists for over fifty years. While humankind is preparing to land on its arid soil within the next few decades, Mars' rugged landscapes have much to tell us about its history, the presence of water and more recently of clay, a new element that raises hopes of actually finding traces of life there.

## POOP TALES

Biodôme  
June 18 to September 5

Dung is in the spotlight at the Biodôme this summer, and every animal has a part to play! Large, small, long and skinny or shapeless, animals' droppings can tell us a lot about their habitats, their social interactions and their health. All along the pathway through the ecosystems, visitors of all ages will find some intriguing samples and learn to recognize and decode them! Smiles and chuckles guaranteed!

## ASTEROID: MISSION EXTREME

Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium  
Starting June 14

Ready for an extreme mission? Are you up to the challenge? It's both the ultimate risk and a fantastic opportunity. Asteroids are threatening to collide with the Earth in a cataclysmic event, and at the same time they could be used to transport us across the solar system.

## OH, POOP!

Insectarium  
June 23 to September 5

Dung can be very revealing. From food for their young to camouflage or trail markings, droppings are full of clues about insects' habits. Our nature interpreters will be delighted to show you a fascinating collection of samples and tell you all about them. Can you keep a straight face?

## SIGHTS TO BE SEEN

Close your eyes and explore the **Courtyard of the Senses** with your fingertips. Touch, sniff, taste... and try to guess. It isn't easy!

Look up! The meteor shower known as the **Perseids** is coming in mid-August. Pick a shooting star and make a wish.

season

4

September  
October

# Colourful NATURE

Fall is here. The sun is lower in the sky and the days are getting shorter. Nature is gradually donning its most brilliant hues. Children's excitement is growing, as they dream of their Halloween costumes and make scary trick or treating plans. Boo!

## GARDENS OF LIGHT

Botanical Garden  
September 2 to October 31

The gardens are lit up at dusk, inviting visitors of all ages to stroll along the paths. While the multicoloured lanterns have a new story to tell this year, nature is decked out in surprising glowing hues.

## CHINESE GARDEN

Surrounded by bronze cranes and turtles, the illuminated lanterns recount the life of the Son of Heaven, the Chinese Emperor. Step into Beijing's Forbidden City for a look at the key moments in the sovereign's life, from his enthronement to his wedding.

## JAPANESE GARDEN

The cycle of the seasons is an integral part of Japanese culture, taking nature through spectacular changes. Admire the trees, waterfalls and stones in a new light, as if you were entering another universe.

## THE GREAT PUMPKIN BALL

Botanical Garden  
September 30 to October 31

Everything you always wanted to know about squash! They come in an amazing variety of shapes and sizes and you can see them all at the Squash Kiosk for Halloween. And be sure to stop by and say hello to Esmeralda, the friendly witch, in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse when you check out the some 800 entries decorated by students and visitors for the pumpkin-decorating contest.

## SPIDERS UNMASKED

Insectarium  
October 6 to 31

### TRICKY SPIDERS

They're not only great charmers, but also fearsome hunters, with amazing adaptability. Learn all about their exploits and their secrets. We bet you can't resist their charms!

### ARACHNIDS ON TOUR

Go ahead and touch them! Spiders and their cousins are waiting for you to give them a friendly "leg shake." You're sure to find them very docile and totally irresistible.

## WE ARE STARS

Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium  
Starting September 6

What are we made of? Where did the matter that surrounds us come from? *We Are Stars* offers answers to the greatest questions of all time in an exploratory journey across the Universe. Blast off in search of the secrets and explosive origins of the cosmos and see how life on Earth is linked to the evolution of the Universe itself.

## SIGHTS TO BE SEEN

Fall is **apple season!** Cortland, Empire, Gala, Honeycrisp, Paulared, Vista bella, Rosinette... All the apple varieties in Quebec are delicious!

Your best chances of observing the **Northern Lights** are around the two equinoxes, in September and March.



season

5

November  
December  
January

# Dreams of NATURE

The whole house falls silent at bedtime, as the sandman invites everyone to embark on a fabulous journey into an imaginary world. Children will thrill to a story filled with extraordinary adventures in a distant Universe where the majestic galaxies are the queens and the stars are the princesses. Sweet dreams are made of this!

## TROPICAL ADVENTURE HAS A NEW HOME!

At the Botanical Garden  
December 15 to January 22

The Biodôme is getting a facelift, so *Tropical Adventure* has moved to the Botanical Garden's Main Exhibition Greenhouse. Visitors ages 3 to 8 can head off on an expedition to explore an all-new environment.

At the "Beaks and Band-aids" rescue centre, kids can dress up and play to their hearts' content in this fun space designed especially for them. Along with nature interpreters from the Biodôme and the Botanical Garden, they can pretend to be veterinarian's helpers and learn how to feed and care for the stuffed animals.  
*Produced and organized by the Biodôme.*

## CAPY'S BIG DAY

That's it! Our little capybara is all grown up. But everyone's surprised when he says that he wants to be king of the forest! Will he succeed? This puppet show starring animals from the Tropical Rainforest combines the exuberance of a musical with the clownery of a Chaplin film. It's sure to entertain both young and old.

## MIRA, THE LITTLE STAR

Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium  
November 11 to December 11

Mira, a happy and carefree little star, is always dancing and frolicking with her friends in the vast Universe. But one day the nasty Algol decides that he's fed up with their antics and starts chasing the little star, trying to catch her lovely sparkling young light. Will Mira manage to escape Algol and his black hole gang?

*Mira, The Little Star* is a musical multimedia show designed especially for ages 4 to 7 and their parents.  
*In French*

## INSECTS IN WINTER

Insectarium  
Starting November 3

Where do they all go to escape the cold? Our enthusiastic nature interpreters will answer your questions. They'll reveal insects' hiding spots and all their tricks for reappearing in great shape in spring. You'll find out that our little friends don't actually go very far.

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Botanical Garden

From dawn to dusk, all winter long, access to the outdoor gardens is free. So strap on your skis and head out along the three kilometres of groomed cross-country ski trails. What better way to enjoy some fresh air in the heart of the city, surrounded by nature at its most glistening white?

## SIGHTS TO BE SEEN

The **constellations** in the starry night sky have all kinds of stories to tell. Have fun dreaming up new ones by connecting the stars as you like.

The **Tropical Food Plants greenhouse** is filled with heady aromas. Drop by and find out which plants fruit and spices come from.





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**Buy tickets online**

Schedules, rates, packages, calendar  
and suggested tour routes at:

[montrealspaceforlife.ca](http://montrealspaceforlife.ca)  

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