

TRAVEL

Thursday's Travel News and Tips

In Transit

By SHIVANI VORA JUNE 25, 2015

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Our weekday morning digest that includes consumer news, deals, tips and anything else that travelers may want to know.

JAZZ ON THE TRACKS

Train Hôtel, a Montreal-based train company, is celebrating the Montreal International Jazz Festival, running from June 25 to July 6, by offering round-trip rides between Penn Station in New York City and Central Station in Montreal in a **Jazz Railcar**. The car, attached to an Amtrak train, can accommodate 36 passengers and features three hours of jazz entertainment during parts of the 11-hour trip by Mari Sild, a pianist-singer from Montreal, and Marie Michèle, a singer with Oh La La!, a New York City jazz band. Three multi-course meals prepared by the train's chef are included in the cost, and the picturesque scenery along the way includes the Hudson River Valley and Lake Champlain. The company ran three of the same round-trips on the jazz car during the Easter season, but it's the first time it is doing so for the festival. \$240 one-way and \$320 round-trip.



words

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images

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From NY To Montreal By Jazz Railcar

On June 25th, our Design Director Tim and I were lucky enough to board the inaugural [Jazz Train](#) from New York City to Montreal, a trip conceived by Francois Rebello and sponsored by [The Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers](#). The idea behind this excursion, set in a vintage railcar attached to an [Amtrak](#) train, was to offer an interactive and unique experience to guests through music, food, and a classic setting. “Traveling to Montreal or NYC should not be just reaching the destination,” Francois explains. “It is also an occasion to discover the beautiful northern part of NY State and to enjoy listening to live music and eating fine local food.”

As we boarded the train at Penn Station, we were filled with the kind of excitement that can only accompany a new adventure. We were ushered into a lounge car, equipped with sweeping windows, beautifully upholstered seating, wooden shutters, and a small kitchen. It was, in a word, elegant. As we rode along the varied and beautiful landscape of NY State, we were serenaded by French jazz singer [Marie Michelle](#), whose Cole Porter and Edith Piaff songs blended perfectly with the dreamy views outside.

In the end, it was the voyage itself that we will remember. The overwhelming blue of Lake Champlain, the regional food, the wonderful company, and the lulling music that filled the car. Thank you to our hosts for showing us hidden parts of New York that we may never have had the chance to explore otherwise.