

# On Our Forefather's Footsteps in Acadie

July of 2019



A warm invitation from Novacadie Tours



**Day 1. Flight arrival to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.**  
**Wednesday, July 3rd**

Amis Voyageurs Welcome to *Beloved Acadie* ! Individual arrival of the participants at the Halifax airport. Free shuttle service to take you to our Hotel, close by for the night. Just mention to the front desk attendant you belong to Novacadie Tours group.

**Day 2. Halifax—Peggy's Cove—Lunenburg--Bridgewater**  
**Thu. 4<sup>th</sup>**

Good day *mes amis!*

Greetings to all from your friendly guide at the restaurant at breakfast time.

Our motor coach is waiting, the luggages are loaded and we are ready to go on! Our first exploration of the day and of the tour is the capital Halifax, the "city of trees" with a lot of character and jovial citizens. Learn about how this city was chosen and settled in 1749 within a complex of British defense against the French and the Natives from the site of the **Citadel**, the overlooking fort on the hill. We will take a drive by tour of the **Port of Halifax**; the second largest natural harbor in the world which also hosts the eastern Canadian Naval headquarters. On this tour you'll learn about the famous "1917 Halifax Explosion", the largest man made explosion after Hiroshima. Explore the buzzing commercial street of Spring Garden and relax a little in the oldest Victorian **Public Gardens** in Canada nearby. 12:30h-Let's take place in a lovely restaurant managed by a good friend of your director. All will be pleased at *Le Bistro*. Bon appétit!



The road now calls us to make our way towards immortalized **Peggy's Cove**, one of Canada's most visited attractions. We are in a region of mysteries, shipwrecks and renowned buried treasures... Let us pursue our pleasant exploration **the Lighthouse Route** and its superbly rugged Atlantic coast. Enjoy the clean breeze from the ocean, some outstanding lighthouses,

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picturesque fishing villages and amazing shorelines. Next, **UNESCO world heritage town of Lunenburg** welcomes us, home of Canada's North Atlantic pride, the *Bluenose*.



This area, like many others in Nova Scotia, was settled by the **early Acadian people**, and was known as *Mirliguèche*. We will tour the town and its architecture wealth at our pace. Resettled by protestant families under British control, its obvious 18<sup>th</sup> century German and Victorian influence, will charm you. Here is a place that definitely stands apart with its historic buildings, museums and boutiques which remind us of the legacy of the Schooners, then, to the Steamers who have been bringing people here, from all over the world for centuries. Let's check into our hotel for the night in Bridgewater. **B.L.D.**

**Day 3. Bridgewater--La Hève—Grand Pré**  
**Fri. 5th**

Good morning all! A short distance west-wise along the coast is the region which is where France's explorer Samuel de Champlain, first landed in 1604, claiming the possession of New France in "*La Cadie and other lands of Canada*". Our tour takes us to **la Hève River** to a crucial historic location. It was known as the *Fort Ste-Marie-de-Grâce*. Founded in 1632 by Isaac de Razilly; *lieutenant Général* of the king in New France. He made of Acadie, the first French self-sufficient colony in New France. Responsible with his cousin D'aulnay, for bringing the first few families from France, the very first pioneer peasants from France, will plant their roots to become the Acadians / Cajuns! Amongst the group, the Trahan, Bourque, Thériau, Dugas, Guidry, Comeau, Boudreau, Landry, LeBlanc, to name just a few, they all started here! Now, thanks to the effect of this most watched T.V. series shown on the History channel...The mysterious and nowadays **famous Oak Island** is just up to coast. It's our turn to discover a part of this amazing place, niched within the beautifully jagged coast of this ancient land! We will do this by the best way possible; **by boat** onto which the captain Tony Sampson, an authority on the matter, also professional diver who has appeared on the TV series from the beginning. He will take us (2 groups of 10) very close to all pertinent locations on the island, recount the story going back centuries ago and show us many artefacts retrieved throughout the island over the years. Get ready for a truly fabulous outdoor 'Life' experience! Then, pursuing on this incredible day, the road leads us towards the world's unique **Bay of Fundy region**. Welcome to the beautiful **Annapolis Valley**! For a change of scenery, a pleasant drive through gorgeous farmland and orchards takes us to the top of **Cape Blomidon** for that essential view of one of

Canada's finest agricultural lands; the prestigious Annapolis Valley and the Bay of Fundy from above! We are reminded that from this basin, many British vessels departed with their human cargoes in 1755...referred as "le Grand Dérangement"(Great upheaval / Acadian Deportation)

Let's check into our local hotel for a good night sleep near Grand Pré.

**B.D.**



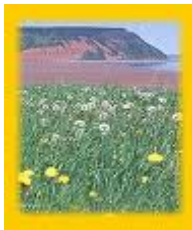
**Day 4.**

**Annapolis Valley; breadbasket of Acadie!--Grand Pré**

**Sat. 6<sup>th</sup>**

-"All aboard!" driving back through orchards in bloom and fertile farmland your host takes you on a complete tour of the **Grand Pré National Historic Site**. Once known as Acadie's "bread basket", the Grand Pré area is the mythical land of Evangeline.

Its classic story, fictitious and real, comes alive for us! Welcome to a Grand memorial site dedicated to Acadie and Acadians from all over the world.



Next is the picturesque **Hall's Harbour**. Admire the fishermen's basin fill up or drain before your very eyes. Complete the experience by walking along the stony beach in search of semiprecious stones such as amethyst and jade or browsing through the quaint gift and artisans shops with the sound of the ocean waves surrounding you. Rest assured, you will never forget the Atlantic oceans highest tide's spectacle. Let's now go for a visit in the Falmouth/Windsor region known as **Pigiguit** in pre-deportation times. The **Acadian cemetery of Ste-Famille** is our first stop. Discovered only a few years ago, this was the location of church and burial ground for several hundreds of Acadian people from the late 1680's till the expulsion. Trahan, Rivet, Babin, Doiron, Vincent, LeBlanc, Landry, Breau, Broussard, Thibodeau, etc. are some of the name associated to old **Sainte-Famille** Parish. Many thousand descendants especially from Louisiana trace their origins to this superb region.

A revealing tour of the historic land and vineyard and (Optional) **wine tasting at the Ste-Famille Winery** sounds like a great plan! Driving through the town of Windsor we will stop at **Fort**

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**Edward National historic site.** Here, is the oldest blockhouse fort in Canada dating back to 1750. From the hilltop where it stands, we see the « two rivers that meet » meaning of the native place name *Pigiguit*. British troops proceeded with the Expulsion from here as well. It was known as *Notre Dame de l'Assomption* Parish until the fatal year. Time to check into our cozy hotel for our second night in the 'mythical' area, homeland of Évangeline. **B.L.D.**

**Day 5, Grand Pré—Annapolis Valley's Port Royal—Grand Pré**  
**Sun. 7<sup>th</sup>**

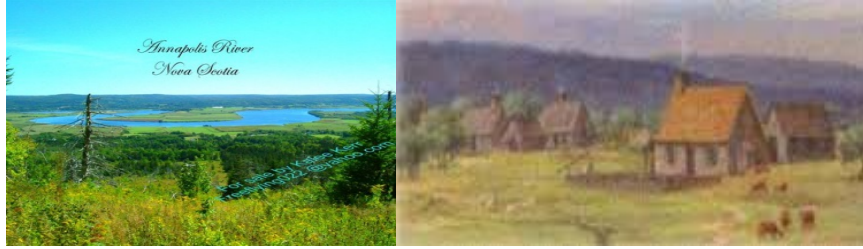
To start the day the right way, let us enjoy breakfast at our Hotel. Then a lovely drive to be welcomed to the **Port Royal** area, which is referred as the "*cradle of the Acadian culture*" worldwide. This is Canada's birth place. We are stepping back in time at the **1605 Champlain's Habitation**, the 1<sup>st</sup> permanent Euro-American settlement north of Sainte-Augustine, Florida, (*Spain*) and two years before British Jamestown, Virginia. Next is **Melanson Settlement** close by.



Afterward is the **Historic Gardens**, which offers several acres of a dreamland of gardens featuring hundreds of varieties of roses as well as exotic plants from all over the world. A 1671 thatched roof **Acadian cottage** and its **kitchen garden** have been re-created nearby the reclaimed marshland like many would have stood during the golden age of Acadie. —“*We'll have lunch in the garden dear!!...*”

Our journey into the grand culture of Acadie continues as we walk to the **Fort of Port Royal**, (renamed Fort Anne) proud to claim, its earthen star shape structure (Vauban) is the oldest and best preserved earthen fortification of the kind on the North American continent. Canada's destiny was played on these shores. To top things off, we'll enjoy the site of the first grist mill in Canada circa 1607.

Our slow pace drive takes us along the beautiful Annapolis River as we point out the **ancient Acadian hamlets** surrounded by fragrant white and pink apple flowers everywhere! Appreciate the remnants of the pioneer's legacy nearly 375 years ago. Their accomplishment as a people has earned them a dignified place in history of Canada and America in general. We will be sure to point out as much as possible the original village area of your ancestor. This picture below is taken near the pre deportation thriving **Belle Isle Acadian settlement** along the *Rivière de Port Royal*.



A generous meal in the region or beautiful town of Annapolis Royal sounds good! Then, to our Inn near Grand Pré as the sun sets. **B.L.D.**

**Day 6. Port Royal—Church Point & region---Baie Sainte-Marie  
Mon, 8th**

Bonjour Madame, Monsieur. Continuing our lovely tour, we travel along the *bassin de Port Royal* to soon reach the **Baie Sainte-Marie**. The so-called “ longest street in the world” takes us to the very **Acadian region of Clare**, a very significant French Acadian region of the province. The area, famous namely for its churches will seduce you in more than one way. This is where **the land of Belle Évangeline** begins, and never ends, at least, in one’s heart... So much to “sea” and so little time...To enlighten our discovery of the region, a long-time friend and colleague of your director and the state of Louisiana, **Mr. Jean-Douglas Comeau** is joining us for a little while today. Of course we will visit “*cathédrale*” of *Saint-Bernard*, a massive granite structure, in Church Point “*l’Église Ste-Marie*”; the largest wooden church in North America, both major monuments overlooking the *Baie*, which has sustained its faithful Acadian communities for a long long time. The **Rendez-Vous d’la Baie Centre** will surely complete our appreciation and profile of the community.

We’ll also take a brief tour of the campus of the small, local illustrious French university steps away. A little further south, **Mavillette Beach, Cape Ste-Marie, Smuggler’s Cove Etc.** are but a few points of interest along our way. To close this great day, I suggest we enjoy a fabulous evening meal and a cultural experience in a **first class Acadian country restaurant**.

A very restful home awaits us for a fabulous night nearby. **B.L.D**

**Day 7. Baie Ste-Marie—Truro--Moncton  
Tues. 9th**

Today we plan on traveling towards the "hub" of Nova Scotia. Our route goes along the **Glooscap Trail** by the ocean. This region is also referred as *Oué-Cobequit*, a Mi'kmaq word meaning “*where the great waters end*”. Family names such as Aucoin, Blanchard, Doiron, Dugas, Lejeune and many more used to live off this marshland that they reclaimed by means of dykes and "aboiteaux”. Let's pursue our discovery of the area and their fabulous culture. A



“must” stop at **Burnt Coat Head**, site of the **highest ever recorded tides in the world** (54’3 inches). Then, once in Truro, we may stop to appreciate the occurrence of the **tidal bore** (expected at approximately 15:00 h.)

Onward, a stop at **Fort Beauséjour** is a MUST as we cross into the province of New Brunswick; A very impressive scenery in a unique environment. The Bourgeois, Arsenault, Cormier, Hébert, Richard etc. as the *Founding Fathers* of this crucial territory surely envisioned great hopes of achievements here in 1672 for their people who will follow them from Port Royal. These men are considered the Acadian leaders for many young Acadian families thereafter. Sadly some, 83 years later, **Beaubassin** became the site of the beginning of the Deportation of the Acadians as a people... Let’s go have a toast to our triumphant ancestors however, as they would like us to, and reflect on this fabulous history and geography. Check into our Hotel in Moncton. **B.L.**



**Day 8,  
Wed. 10th**

**Moncton, N.B.— Summerside, Prince Edward Island**

Our first stop of the day is at the most comprehensive **Musée Acadien** around. It is on the campus of the University of Moncton where we will meet and exchange with Acadian genealogy authority **Stephen White**; Quite a privilege! An enjoyable afternoon drive takes us to the acclaimed **Confederation Bridge**. Appreciate the ride on the **longest bridge in the world** to cross over a body of water that actually freezes in the winter months. Over nine miles long of impressive technology brings us to Canada’s smallest province but not the least! Soon you will arrive to the **Evangeline Region** which will seduce you in many ways. Called *Isle Saint-Jean* by the French who had maintained a good relationship with First Nation’s Mi’kmaw, they built Port Lajoie as the seat of their government in 1720 in order to take claim of this jewel in the gulf of St-Lawrence. At that time, several Acadian families, including the Arsenault, Bergeron, Richard, Gallant, Doucet, Poirier, Aucoin, Henry, Boudrot, Pitre Etc. from Nova Scotia’s Acadie moved here gradually and throughout the island under growing threat from the British authorities in the course of the 1700’s. **Miscouche**, with its **Museum** will reveal many facts about the Acadians of this province and of this region from the beginnings through the Renaissance of the culture in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Another privilege, a good friend of your director, **M. Georges Arsenault** celebrated local Acadian historian and author of many books and articles is with us for a few hours touring the **Evangeline Region**. Add to this, a few surprises with entertainment galore concluded by a **lobster feast** in great company. Meet wonderful, friendly and hospitable folks, as always! Night spent in nearby Summerside. **B.L.D.**



**Day 9, Summerside, P.E.I.—Charlottetown--Cape Breton Island, N.S.  
Thu. 11th**

Good morning! Bonjour Madame! Bonjour Monsieur! Our discovery of this quaint province continues as we admire the remarkable beauty of the island. The nice country roads seem to unfold like a lace ribbon amongst green rolling hills bordering the red soil and blue shoreline. Visit at **Port Lajoie**, ancient capital of *Isle St-Jean*. Then, to today’s island capital **Charlottetown**. Our exploratory tour by foot of old Charlottetown includes *Province House*, birthplace of Canada’s confederation circa 1864, **Confederation Centre of the Arts, Dunstan Cathedral** Etc. Lunch on our own downtown.

**12:30h.** Ready to embark on our next adventure, the **Confederation Ferry boat** takes us for a smooth and pleasant 75 minutes sail across the *Northumberland Strait* to Pictou (14:00 crossing). This Nova Scotia “land fall” is referred as “the birthplace of New Scotland”. Indeed, from 1773 on, the largest group to substitute the Acadian civilian population in this province (after the Deportation) made its way here. With them, under British rules, a rich Scottish heritage appeared and flourished. It is now obvious throughout the province; we will be exposed to its culture and heritage. Then, we go north along the "*Sunrise Trail*". We may stop at Auld's Cove nearby for souvenirs-fresh food and rest a little by **the deepest "Causeway" in the world** connecting the island to the mainland is in sight! We are off to the magnificent **Cape Breton Island**. Today’s journey ends at Baddeck on the Bras d’Or lake. **B. evening cocktail**



**Day 10, Baddeck—Chéticamp—Cabot Trail—Baddeck  
Fri. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Good day all!!** An impressive drive amongst mountains and valleys galore with some of the best salmon fishing rivers in the country lead us to the “as Acadian and friendly as it gets” Chéticamp

region; A stop at **Centre la Mi-Carême** in St-Joseph-du-Moine is on the way...Then, the 'Acadian town-by-the mountains' where we will first explore its lovely **St-Pierre church** overlooking the fishing docks; How about a delicious **Acadian style lunch** nearby? Keep meeting our **Acadian cousins** and discover great local art at the **Trois Pignons** Gallery depicting the world famous "tapis hookés. After lunch, we get to enjoy one of the prettiest stretch of highway in Canada; the breathtaking **Cabot Trail**. -*Oui chère!* Imagine standing on mountain tops 1,500 feet above the Gulf of St-Lawrence, overlooking "out of this world" breath taking scenery of the coast and the rich forests around us, at the most easterly portion of continental Canada...Well, you got it!! Keep your eyes peeled for we may encounter some moose, foxes, black bears or even whales who feed peacefully in this protected national park. Get your cameras rolling folks! Today's extraordinary journey unfolds as we head back to unique Baddeck. **B.L.D.**

**Day 11, Baddeck—Louisbourg—Baddeck**  
**Sat. 13th**

Welcome to "Isle Royale"! as it was called once upon a time, while under French regime. This is the largest historical reconstruction in North America. **The fortress of Louisbourg** is at our feet! The entire atmosphere of a French city of the 18<sup>th</sup> century is ours to relive, see and enjoy! Like Acadians and early settlers from then did! Feast on a **period meal** as we mingle with the interpreters of all ages who carry on their daily lives in 1744 in period costumes... You may pinch yourself, you are not dreaming... The waters in the vicinity of this site hold many hidden shipwrecks with their treasures of the past, testimony of battles fought between France and England over the control of the continent; truly a wonderful site in great natural settings where decisive roles were played in the destiny of North America. Back to Baddeck. **B.L.**



**Day 12, Baddeck—Truro--Enfield**  
**Sun. 14th**

Let's visit this charming village and National historic site dedicated to inventor of countless items now taken for granted in our modern lives including the phone. Discover the genius and great humanitarian **Alexander Graham Bell** was. This state-of-the art centre informs us on the man who spent many years of his life here before passing away. Sadly, it is time to head back slowly to the point of departure of this lovely tour in *Canada's Ocean Playground!* However, before we get there we will first enjoy the drive along the rugged **Bras d'Or Lake** shores; the "Inland sea" of Nova Scotia. Southward let's explore the area of **Cobequit** from another angle including the



“Bible Hill” region with its ‘sacred Acadian well’ and other Acadian markers, before checking in for our last night as a group near Halifax; A little **Good-bye-all festive reception?** **B.L.D.**

**Day 13, Halifax, Airport--Tour end—Return Home flights**  
**Mon. 15th**

Good morning all! Optional visit pending on flight time at the **Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum** next to our hotel. Tel: 902-873-3773. Otherwise—free shuttle to the Airport terminal conveniently located minutes away.

Well, you must now make your way to the airport for that flight back home (or others arrangements, pending on schedule)

**So sorry to see you go so soon! Au revoir mes amis!** **B.**

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**This Exclusive Tour Includes:**

- Bilingual tour director/guide for entire stay
- Many local guides throughout
- De luxe motor coach transportation for entire tour
- Ferry crossing PEI-N.S. (July 18)
- 12 nights quality accommodations (3 1/2 stars establishments/Hotels)
- Entrance fees to all activities and major attractions
- All meals as outlined-**B./L./D.** including the freshest lobster and an 18<sup>th</sup> century period meal
- Luggage handling when necessary
- All taxes / All gratuities on supplied meals
- A tour information kit & much more

**Are not included in the tour:**

- International flights or other means of travel to N.S. (Halifax)
- Individual travel insurance (international) -mandatory
- Wine / alcohol beverages with meals
- Gratuities to your tour director/guide and / or bus driver

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**NOTE:** *This tour package may vary in some ways; Always for the best interest of the participants, all accommodations, scheduled activities and some meal choices are subject to changes before and during tour. Alterations may also occur pending on availability at the time of confirmation or when beyond our controls.*



Your guide and host, *Richard*

