

Our Great Acadian Heritage CMA 2024 Tour
August 10th to 20th, 2024



A warm invitation from Novacadie Tours Inc.



Day 1. Saturday, 10th **Flight arrival to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.**

Amis *Voyageurs* Cajuns and all, **Welcome back home to beloved Acadie !** Your Hotel is very close by, ready and waiting for you. An easy-to-take and regular shuttle service is offered from the airport terminal upon your arrival. All you need to do is 'check in' at the front desk. They're waiting for you guys. **Group first gathering at the hotel at 18:00h.**; Distribution of travel kits, tour plan explanations and friendly introductions. Good night all and 'sea' you tomorrow!

Day 2. Sunday, 11th **Halifax—Peggy's Cove—Lunenburg-- Bridgewater**

Good day mes amis! Our first exploration of the day is a concise tour of 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*. We will take a drive-by tour of the Port of Halifax; the second largest natural harbor in the world which we will further appreciate by walking at our leisure on the inviting **'board walk' by the sea** (free time on our own). On this city tour you'll learn about the famous "1917 Halifax Explosion", the largest man made explosion after Hiroshima, *the Parliament*, site of the first elected assembly of the country, the catastrophic event and connection with the sinking of the Titanic. Halifax also hosts the eastern *Canadian Naval headquarters*. We'll explore and relax in the oldest Victorian **Public Gardens** in Canada nearby.



The road calls us to make our way towards immortalized **Peggy's Cove**, one of Canada's most visited attractions. Its famous lighthouse "planted on the rock" is nothing less than spectacular. We are in a region of mysteries, shipwrecks and renowned buried treasures... Let us explore of **the Lighthouse Route** and its superbly rugged Atlantic coast. Enjoy the clean breeze from the ocean, picturesque fishing villages and amazing shorelines. Some highly intriguing locations as well, like the most watched documentary T.V. series shown on the History channel *The Treasures of Oak Island*, on the way to our hotel. **B.D.**

Day 3, Monday 12th

Bridgewater--La Hève—Bridgewater

Good morning! 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 National historic site**, a very crucial historic location. It was revisited and settled this time in 1632 by one of Champlain's brilliant student, Isaac de Razilly; *lieutenant Général* of the king in New France. The chosen site was known as the **Fort Ste-Marie-de-Grâce** thus, making of it, a milestone of the first European French permanent colony in Acadie, New France. Consequently, he is hugely responsible with his cousin D'aulnay for bringing the first few families and pioneer peasants from France. The children of these colonists will become the Acadians / Cajuns! Amongst the group, the Trahan, Bourque, Blanchard, Thériau, Dugas, Gaudet, Guidry, Comeau, Boudreau, LeBlanc, to name just a few, they were all familiar with this region! We will have a special visit on site (t.b.d.)

Your guide suggests we go walking bare feet in the **blue waters of the Atlantic** just minutes away from there as our first ancestors likely did.



We are now heading to **UNESCO world heritage town of Lunenburg** and home of Canada's North Atlantic pride, the *Bluenose*....Otherwise it was also known as the 17th century Acadian/Metis community would have called it: **Mirliguèche**.

Indeed, this area, like many others in Nova Scotia, was settled by the **early Acadian people**. In this area, the main family clans were the **Petitpas, Meuse** and **Guidry** with the latter now abundantly found in Louisiana. After touring the **old Acadian burial grounds** on the lower part of town, we will zigzag (by bus and by foot) through its Cartesian-like streets and enjoy the village's wealthy architecture. Resettled in the early 1750's by protestant families under newly imposed British control, its obvious 18th 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 **Age of Sail** legacy, with the brigs and schooners, then, to the 'steamers' in the trading of our northern salted fish for Caribbean's sugar, molasses and of course RHUM!

This trade has drawn people here, from all over the world for centuries hence the colorful locality-by-the-sea. Let's check into our hotel for the second night. **B.L.D.**

Day 4, Tuesday 13th

Bridgewater—Par-en-Bas—Yarmouth

Bonjour all! Our tour takes us now to the official **2024 CMA hosting region** within Argyle County.

Dropping in on our friends at the **Tuna Fishery Museum** in **Wedgeport** by the blue ocean to learn all about this amazing local tradition which has drawn world renowned people in the region for several decades.. Following this we are heading off to the **Village Acadien of N.S. in Pubnico**. Walk about a 19th century recreated coastal Acadian village and mingle with the jovial period interpreters; assuredly, a fun, educational, impressive and colorful moment of our tour. **A typical Acadian meal** will also be served for us on site... On our program this afternoon; back to Yarmouth, it is the **Symposium on Louisiana Heritage and Culture**. Indeed, our group is blessed with some of the best and most qualified voices and academics to represent today's **Cajun Country's** rich heritage, cultural landscapes and pride to the public. Take part into this great and fun event with a true Cajun signature from early afternoon on (13-17h.). **B.L.**

Day 5, Wednesday 14th

Yarmouth—Baie Sainte-Marie--Belleisle--Yarmouth

Bonjour Madame, Monsieur. Continuing our lovely tour, we travel along the mouth of the Bay of Fundy with its huge tides into the **Baie Sainte-Marie**. The so-called " longest street in the world" takes us into the **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 who served many years as director for recruiting and enrolling Cajun Louisiana folks of all ages into summer French immersion camps at Université Ste-Anne, **Mr. Jean-Douglas Comeau** -t.b.c. is joining us for a little while today.



Of course we will visit impressive **Mavillette Beach, Cape Sainte-Marie, Smuggler's Cove** Etc. Once in Church Point "**l'Église Ste-Marie**"; the largest wooden church in North America, and "**cathédrale**" of **Saint-Bernard**, a massive granite structure, both major monuments overlooking the **Baie**, which has sustained its faithful Acadian communities for a long long time. The **Rendez-Vous d'la Baie/Cultural Centre** on the Campus next door will surely complete our appreciation and profile of the community, past and present. Also, today is the **CMA Broussard Family Reunion** ...Our group will attend this event with bells on and some pleasant surprises are expected! A two-part venue is on the agenda for the rest of the day: First, at **l'Anse-des-Bélliveau** and then, at the **Port Royal Belleisle Hall**. Expect quite a celebration on this ancestral land. Back to Yarmouth **B.L.D.**



Day 6, Thursday, 15th

Yarmouth—Pubnico—Wedgeport--Acadian Feast day (t.b.d.)

Good day all! **Free time** this morning for mingling with *les cousins* at various venues planned within the *Congrès*. (Suggestions made) **Its 17:55 !!**..and time to join in the amazing and indescribable **Acadian Tintamarre!** One great big Family going through the most uplifting experience awaits all participants. **Free time.** On the menu: Concerts, food galore and pride beyond words. **B.**

Day 7, Friday, 16th

Yarmouth—Port Royal

To start the day the right way, let us enjoy breakfast at our Hotel. Then a lovely drive takes us into the **Port Royal** area, (the French king's harbor) which is referred as the "*cradle of the Acadian culture*" worldwide. It should be known; this is Canada's birth place! We are literally stepping back in time at the **1605 Champlain's Habitation**, the 1st 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.

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 (Dauphin) River as we point out the **ancient Acadian hamlets** surrounded by reddish apple orchards everywhere as introduced by our forefathers! 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. A nice meal in the region or beautiful town of Annapolis Royal sounds good! Hotel check in! **B.L.D.**



Day 8, Saturday, 17th

Port Royal—Grand Pré

-“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. Your guide takes you to appreciate **the site of the Deportation** and its famous cross now replicated through the *Acadian Odyssey Monuments* all over the Diaspora. Two essential sites are also on the program: the **Grand Pré UNESCO View Park** and **Cape Blomidon Look off**.



Let's now go for a visit in the Falmouth/Windsor region known as **Pigiquit** 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, Hébert, LeBlanc, Landry, Breau, Broussard, Thibodeau, etc. are only a few of the ancestor's names 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 **wine tasting at the Ste-Famille Winery** (t.b.c.) sounds like a great plan! Crossing the Avon (*Pigiquit*) River and driving through the town of Windsor we will stop at **Fort 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 in one point » meaning of the native place name *Pigiquit*. British troops proceeded with the sinister Expulsion from here as well. It was known as *Notre Dame de l'Assomption Parish* until the fatal year and... yes, a large number of deportees from here ended up in Louisiana. Well, we're still here and triumphant! It's time to check into our cozy hotel for the night in the 'mythical' area, homeland of Évangeline. **B.L.D.**

Day 9, Sunday, 18th

Grand Pré—Glooscap Trail—Truro

Today we plan on traveling towards the "hub" of Nova Scotia. Our route goes along the **Glooscap Trail** by the ocean where it becomes the *Minas Bassin*. 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 their amazing dykes and "aboiteaux". A "must" stop at **Burnt Coat Head**, site of the **highest ever recorded tides in the world** (54'.3 inches). Let's pursue our discovery of the area with a special event organized at the **Mi'kmaw Heritage Centre** nearby. No better source of information and inspiration available than the First People to tell us how so profoundly enrooted mankind have been with this land battling the sea for several thousands of years. Our hotel is close by. **B.L.D.**

Day 10, Monday, 19th

Truro (Cobequit)—Amherst (Beaubassin)—Moncton/Dieppe

Onward to the north, we are heading for **Fort Beauséjour**. A MUST see site as we cross into the province of New Brunswick. Here is a very impressive scenery in a unique environment. The Bourgeois, Arsenault, Cormier, Hébert, Haché, Poirier, Pellerin, Richard and many more as the *Founding Fathers* of this crucial territory surely envisioned great hopes of achievements here in 1672 when most of them came from Port Royal. Under this key-settlement of Acadie, 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... However, in pride of this unnamable inner Acadian pride, we will not give up this easily! We carry on into New Brunswick, heading straight for a special place; The former hamlet of the **Beausoleil Broussard clan** on the famous **Petitcodiac River**, next to the Thibodeau, Saulnier, Trahan, LeBlanc, Aucoin, Comeau, Landry and more! In the like of proud Acadians from all over the world, let's go have a toast to our "in-the-end" victorious ancestors as they would like us to, and reflect on this fabulous history and geography. Enjoy a **special "End-of-our-tour" onsite reception.** (t.b.c.) Check into our Hotel in Dieppe. **B.L.D.**



Day 11, Tuesday, 20th

Dieppe, N.-B—Enfield, N.S. (airport area)

Good morning all! Zooming on the Trans-Canada Highway, a new stop near Truro is undisputable; The timing is perfect for us to enjoy the advent of the incredible natural phenomenon, **the Bay of Fundy Tidal Bore** (scheduled around 1:00 p.m.)

A little food before returning to our initial point of departure to this grand adventure.

Well, this is where our **tour ends** mes bons amis.

So sorry to see you go so soon!

B.L.

Au revoir Cousins!

Note: A free shuttle is offered to the Airport terminal for folks who will have opted to either stay the night near the airport, fly the same evening or the next day. It is conveniently located minutes away.



Our Great Acadian Heritage CMA 2024 Tour;

It comes once each five years...but it comes rarely in the cradle of it all!

The voyageur(se) ACadien has to come on his/her own for the 'soul' purpose of coming back to the grounds where their fore fathers began our unique *Story of Acadie*

...and it is the right thing to do!

But this time, both events come together and invite us to finally realise this long expected human travel experience.



See you...in Acadie!

Your guide,

Richard

