

Our Great Forest-Forêt Acadian Heritage CMA 2024 Tour
August 2nd to 7th, 2024



A warm invitation from Novacadie Tours Inc.



Day 1. Friday, August 2nd **Participants arrival near Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, Canada.**

Amis Forest *Voyageurs*, **Welcome back home** to beloved Acadie ! Our Hotel is located in nearby Grand Pré, New Minas. Its front desk staff and your tour director are ready and waiting for you. All you need to do is 'check in' at the front desk. **Group first gathering at the hotel at 19:00h.**; Distribution of travel kits, tour plan explanations and friendly introductions. Good night all and 'sea' you tomorrow!

Day 2. Saturday Aug. 3rd **Grand Pré—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 short stop at the **Melanson Settlement** close by.
Our journey into the grand culture of Acadie continues as we visit the **Fort of Port Royal**, (renamed Fort Anne) proud to claim, its 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** with a focus on the **original Forest village**. Appreciate the reddish apple orchards everywhere as introduced by our forefathers and precious 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 **group meal** is a great idea (End of the Line pub a steps away from the former Foret hamlet).
Back to the Minas region (Bassin des Mines) Grand Pré for the night. **B.D.**



Day 3. Sunday, Aug. 4th

Grand Pré N.H.S.--Morden- Hall's Harbour—Cape Blomidon—G.P.

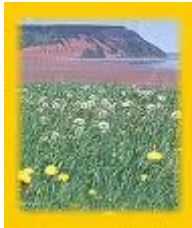
-"All aboard!" driving back through orchards in bloom and fertile farmland your host takes you on a complete tour of the **Grand Pré National Historic Site**. Once known as Acadie's "bread basket", the Grand Pré area is the mythical land of Evangeline.

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**. **Halls Harbour** is next... Fresh lobster meal O.Y.O. 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

From there, since the day is young, let's visit an unusual beautiful and very inspiring location; **the Morden French Refugees site on** the Bay of Fundy.

Returning to our home away from home for the evening and the night in New Minas.

B.



Day 4. Monday, Aug. 5th

Grand Pré—South Shore—LaHève—Lunenburg—G.P.

Good morning! Today, we are heading into the region which is where France's 1st viceroy and governor Pierre Du Gua DeMons, explorer Samuel de Champlain and a valiant crew first landed in 1604, claiming the possession of New France in "*La Cadie and other lands of Canada*". We are at **La Hève National historic site**, a very crucial historic location. The same location was revisited twenty-eight years later, but settled this time. It was in 1632 by one of Champlain's disciple 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, the first European French permanent colony and capital 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; Our forefathers. We will have a special visit on site (t.b.d.)

To enrich our experience of the area, your guide takes you 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: **Mirliguêche**. Indeed, this area, like many others in Nova Scotia, was first settled by European French and our early Acadian pioneers are the true heroes of the Story! The main family clans here were the **Petitpas, Guidry and Meuse**. We will tour the town and its architecture wealth at our pace. Resettled by protestant families under 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 legacy of the brigs and schooners, then, to the 'steamers' Etc. who have been bringing people here, from all over the world for centuries. Return to our hotel near Grand Pré. **B.**

Day 5. Tuesday, Aug. 6th Grand Pré--Glooscap Trail-Truro Tidal Bore—G-P.

Today we plan on traveling towards the "hub" of Nova Scotia. Our route goes along the surprising *Glooscap Trail* by the ocean's large Minas Basin. Soon, we are driving by several former Acadian settlements now bearing English place names for the most part. The upper reach of this region is also referred as *Cobequid*, a Mi'kmaq word meaning "where the great waters end". Family names of second and third generation such as Aucoin, Blanchard, Bourque, Hébert, Doiron, Martin, 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 our 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 incredible phenomena called the **Bay of Fundy Tidal Bore**. (Expected at approximately 14:30h.) Let's go have a toast to our triumphant ancestors including the Forest by a well garnished table in their honor, as we reflect of this fabulous history and geography. Return to our hotel near Grand Pré. **B.**

Day 6. Wednesday, Aug. 7th Grand Pré—Piguit—Forest village site--Grand Pré

Simply put, today is the **FOREST day** of our tour. Let's now go for a visit in the Falmouth region to the **Pre-deportation Acadian cemetery of Ste-Famille of Piguit**. Discovered only a few years ago, this was the location of church and burial ground for several hundreds of Acadian people from the 1680's till the expulsion. Mélançon, Trahan, Rivet, **Forest**, Babin, Doiron, Vincent, LeBlanc, Landry, Breau, Broussard, etc. are some of the name associated to old *Sainte-Famille* Parish. It's now time to for a little " on-the-ground" experience at the former **Forest village** location and enjoy an all-inclusive **wine tasting and**

tour at the “*Lost Bell*” formerly the Sainte-Famille winery. Driving through the town of Windsor we will than 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 » meaning of the very ancient native place name. British troops proceeded with the Expulsion of over 1100 Acadian ancestors from here. All these people were forced away from their beloved lands in the fall of 1755. This parish ‘on-the-hill’ was known as *Notre Dame de l’Assomption* until the fatal year.



Our last group meal/**celebration** of the tour is coming up folks! We are heading a short distance north along the Avon (*Pigiguit River*) to enjoy an **Acadian country-style feast/picnic, buffet-style**, in the apple orchard on the former Acadian “Breau” farmstead. The Oulton family Farm although not of Acadian roots has always preserved some remaining pre-deportation physical features and memories of gone-by years in Acadie. It also has a fascinating “agrizoo” with exotic animals for us to appreciate as we walk amidst colorful apple orchards... With **Forest land local wines** supplied, let’s have a toast to our ancestors!

Our trip ends on this cheerful note! Time to head back to our hotel for our last night in the area. **B.D.**

Day 7. Thursday, Aug. 8th Grand Pré—tour end

Well, it has been a great last few days. It is now time to say goodbye for some... but likely a simple “See you later!...” at the official **Forest Family reunion** in the Yarmouth region. **B.**

Good bye all! And happy continuation at the 7th Acadian World Congress!!

Forest! ... for ever!!

See you soon I hope.

Your friendly tour director and guide,

Richard Laurin



