

Your Acadian Ancestral Tour de France 2024



LES VOYAGES
DIASPORACADIE

10 year anniversary!

April 12 to 27, 2024

16 days / 14 nights

* FROM \$4,125 US / \$5,505 CA per person (double occupancy) *

One-of-a-kind itinerary for passionate Acadian descendants interested in learning about their French and Acadian heritage. This tour is specifically designed to visit the most important Acadian heritage sites in France.

Follow in the footsteps of our early explorers and founding Acadian families ... the POITOU REGION. Includes guided tours to several towns and villages such as RICHELIEU, LA CHAUSSÉE, MARTAIZÉ, D'AULNAY, LA ROCHELLE. You will kneel in the church where some Acadians prayed before leaving for Acadie.

See the famous Towers of La Rochelle ... the last landmark Acadian would have seen before leaving their native land

Learn what happened to over 3,000 Acadians who were deported back to France over a seven-year period

Discover the towns of your ancestors in ARCHIGNY, CHÂTELLERAULT, BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER, NANTES, SAINT-MALO and learn about their lives in France and how they eventually returned to Canada, Louisiana and elsewhere in North America

Travel through four regions of France ... Île-de-France, Poitou, Bretagne (Britanny) and Normandy. In addition to the Acadian focus of the trip, you will enjoy over 2,000 years of French history and culture while visiting some of the most popular attractions of Europe, including the castle of Chenonceau, the Mont Saint-Michel, Omaha Beach and the Eiffel Tower.

The tour package includes:

Land transportation by Grand Tourisme motorcoach

14-night accommodation

- Poitou (3 nights)
- La Rochelle (3 nights)
- Quiberon (2 nights)
- Saint-Malo (3 nights)
- Caen (1 night) + Paris (2 nights)

31 meals including special meals and entertaining soirées in unique venues, plus several « collations » (snacks), wine and cider tastings

Two experienced tour guides with you at all time : one Acadian, one French.

All entrance fees and guided tours

A 100-page « carnet de route » (Acadian custom tour book)

ALL TAXES and TIPS to tour guides, restaurants and bus drivers. Administration fees.

TOUR PRICE & DISCOUNTS :

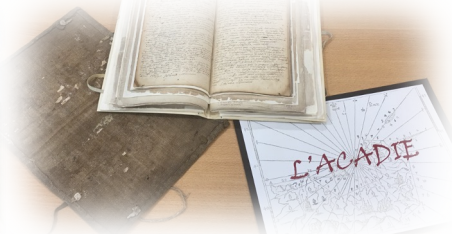
\$4,450 US / \$5,950 CA (double occupancy)

SAVE \$100 US / \$135 CA REBATE for early-bird reservations (before October 31, 2023)

SAVE \$100 US / \$135 CA REBATE if you have traveled with us before

SAVE \$125 US / \$175 CA REBATE for payments by cheque

* Price does not include airfare *



DO NOT WAIT, THIS TOUR WILL SELL OUT FAST!

Contact Claude Boudreau at diasporacadie@gmail.com or call 506-850-7662



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PROPOSED ITINERARY

- IMPORTANT - This is a preliminary itinerary and may be modified at any time before or during the tour due to unforeseen events or to improve the experience

(B = French breakfast L = lunch S = supper)

DAY 1 - Friday, April 12 The adventure begins !

Departure from USA or Canada. Most flights to France are overnight.

DAY 2 - Saturday, April 13 An intro to FRANCE

A quick shuttle ride to your airport hotel to rest. Meeting with the group and your tour director. Guide tour of the city of SENLIS. Head to bed early to fight off the jetlag for the next day.

DAY 3 - Sunday, April 14 Kings and Queens of France

After a good night's sleep, we head to the Poitou, the land of our ancestors. On our way we will stop to visit the Château de Chenonceau along the LOIRE RIVER and end our day in the small town of Richelieu, named for the famous Cardinal. You will start learning about the early beginnings of Acadie. (3 nights in Richelieu) (B,L,S)

DAY 4 - Monday, April 15

Discovering your French homeland in Poitou

You will discover the hometown of some of our founding fathers and mothers in the Domaine des Trahans (wine tastings), the towns of Martaisé, Aulnay, La Chaussée (Maison de l'Acadie) and Loudun. (B,L,S)

DAY 5 - Tuesday, April 16

Walking in their footsteps ... 250 years later !

Richelieu, Châtellerault, Archigny, Cenon and the Acadian Line

Let's **celebrate our Acadian roots** by dressing up in Acadian colors! The morning starts with a walking tour of the town of Richelieu. We will continue with a special visit of the city of CHÂTELLERAULT where many Acadian refugees stayed during their exile. After a special lunch here, you will discover more Acadian history as we stop in Archigny to visit the Acadian farms, Cenon and have supper in one of the historic buildings on the Acadian line with several Acadian cousins. (B,L,S)

DAY 6 - Wednesday, April 17

On your way to the New World !

Today, we will drive to the Atlantic Coast to discover the port City of La Rochelle, the departing point for many Acadians for the New World. Walking tour of the city in the afternoon. (3 nights in La Rochelle) (B,L)

DAY 7 - Thursday, April 18

Free time to explore the city

Enjoy a day to discover La Rochelle at your own pace. Visit the famous La Rochelle towers and museums, take a stroll on the beach, board a cruise to the famous 'Fort Boyard' or just enjoy the many shops and cafés around the port area. (B,S)

DAY 8 - Friday, April 19 Acadian Archives & Brouage

The morning starts with a special visit to the Departmental Archives to view Acadian Documents. After lunch, we will drive in the French countryside and discover the fascinating city of Brouage. This fortified city is marked by the military vocation of Cardinal de Richelieu in the 17th century. Brouage is also the place of birth of Champlain! (B,L)

DAY 9 - Saturday, April 20 Nantes and Louisiana history

As we travel to Brittany, we will stop in Nantes to view the freshly restored Robert Dafford mural of Acadians leaving for Louisiana. This is the beginning of the transition from Acadian to Cajun. We tour the medieval town centre and have lunch before we continue to the Carnac prehistoric site and the ocean-side city of Quiberon. (2 nights in Quiberon) (B,L,S)

DAY 10 - Sunday, April 21

The Acadian Isle of Belle-Île-en-Mer

We will take the ferry to meet French-Acadians on Belle-Île-en-Mer, the 'Acadian' island. We will tour the island and see amazing scenery, the Fortress, the Acadian Cross, Acadian villages, and have lunch with local Acadians. Back by ferry to Quiberon. (B,L)

DAY 11 Monday, April 22 & Tuesday April 23

The famous port and City of Saint-Malo

We make our way to the walled city of Saint-Malo. It was home to the explorer Jacques Cartier and to thousands of Acadians during the Déportation. On the way we will visit small villages where Acadians lived for several years before returning to Acadie or Louisiana: Pleudihen, Saint-Suliac and Saint-Servan. You will enjoy some free time in Saint-Malo to explore, shop and rest. (3 nights in Saint-Malo) (2B,L,S)

DAY 12 Wednesday, April 24

The amazing Mont Saint-Michel

We will spend the entire morning exploring one of the most popular attractions in the world, the famous Mont Saint-Michel. Along the way back, we will make various stops It's our last night in, so be sure to make the most of it! (B)

DAY 13 Thursday, April 25 The Coasts of Normandy

The D-Day invasion began on June 6, 1944, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy. We will visit the Caen Memorial, the Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, and Arromanches. (1 night in Caen) (B,L,S)

DAY 14 Friday, April 26 A glimpse of Paris

For our last day we will head back to Paris where we will enjoy lunch on a bateau-mouche cruising the Seine River in the heart of the City of Love! Check-in at Charles-de-Gaulle airport hotel later in the evening. (B,L)

DAY 15 Saturday, April 27

Return flight back (B)