

Your Acadian Ancestral Tour of France 2023



LES VOYAGES
DIASPORACADIE
www.diasporacadie.com






From May 26 to June 9, 2023

15 days / 13 nights

4150 \$US* / 5675 \$CAN per person, double occupancy

Reserve before January 31, 2023 and save 100 \$US / 135 \$ CAN per person

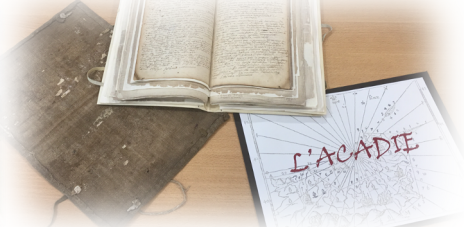
This unique tour is customized for passionate **Acadian descendants** interested in learning about their French and Acadian heritage. The tour is specifically designed to visit and **experience** the most important Acadian heritage sites in France. This year's tour also includes special activities for the 250th anniversary of the return of the Acadians to the Poitou!

-  You will explore where some French explorers and founding Acadian families came from ... 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.
-  You will see the famous Towers of La Rochelle ... the last landmark they will ever see of their native land.
-  You will learn what happened to **over 3,000 Acadians who were deported back to France over a seven year period.**
-  You will also walk in the footsteps of your ancestors in ARCHIGNY, CHÂTELLERAULT, BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER, NANTES, SAINT-MALO and learn about their lives and in France and how they eventually returned to Canada, Louisiana and North America.
-  You will also 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 tourist attractions of Europe, including a beautiful castle, le Mont Saint Michel, Saintes, Cognac and the Eiffel Tower.

The tour package includes :

-  Land transportation by « Grand Tourisme » motorcoach
-  13 nights accomodation :
 - Poitou (3 nights)
 - La Rochelle(3 nights)
 - Quiberon (2 nuits)
 - Saint-Malo (3 nuits)
 - Paris (2 nuits)
-  **30 meals** : including special meals and entertaining soirées in castles and special venues for the 250th anniversary. Several « collations » (snacks), wine and cider tasting
-  All entrance fees and guided tours.
-  A team of travel professionals at your service.
-  A 100 page « carnet de route » (Acadian custom tour book)
-  **ALL TAXES and TIPS to tour guides, restaurants and bus drivers.**
-  Administration fees.

* PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE AIRFARE.
* Regular price is 4375 \$ US. / 5950 \$ CAN
* 125 \$ US / 175 \$ CAN discount for payments by cheque.
* 100 \$ US / 135 \$ CAN discount for early-bird reservations.



DO NOT WAIT, THIS TOUR WILL SELL OUT !

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

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Your Acadian Ancestral Tour de France 2023

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 tour.

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

DAY 1 - Friday, May 26: The Adventure Begins!

Departure from USA. Most flights to France are overnight.

DAY 2 - Saturday, May 27: An intro to FRANCE !

A quick shuttle ride to your airport hotel to rest. Meeting with the group and your tour director. Early to bed to adjust from the jetlag for the next day.

DAY 3 - Sunday, May 28: 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, May 29:

Discovering Your French Homeland in the Poitou

The morning starts with a walking tour of the town of Richelieu. This is also the day you will discover the home town of some of our founding fathers and mothers in the towns of Loudun, Aulnay, La Chaussée and Martaisé. We will visit the *Maison de l'Acadie* and have a special 250th anniversary supper with traditional French dancers. (B,L,S)

DAY 5 - Tuesday, May 30:

Walking in their footsteps... 250 years later ! Châtelleraut, Archigny and the Acadian Line

Today we will **celebrate the 250th anniversary** of the return of the Acadians to the Poitou after the Deportation. We will start 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 and have supper in one of the historic buildings with several Acadian Cousins. (B,L,S)

DAY 6 - Wednesday, May 31:

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. Three nights in La Rochelle. (B, S)

DAY 7 - Thursday, June 1:

Archives & Time on your own to explore

The morning starts with a special visit to the Departmental Archives to view Acadian Documents. You have the rest of the day to do as you please : 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)

DAY 8 - Friday, June 2: Roman Ruins & Cognac tasting!

Today we will drive in the French countryside and discover the fascinating city of Saintes and its Roman history. In the afternoon you learn all about the famous drink and the town of Cognac! We end the day with a very special supper with French music & dancing. (B,L,S)

DAY 9 - Saturday, June 3: 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 where we will stay for two nights. (B, L, S)

DAY 10 - Sunday, June 4:

The Acadian Isle of Belle-Île-en-Mer

We will take the ferry to meet French-Acadians on Belle-Île, 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 by the sea. (B,L)

DAY 11 & 12 Monday & Tuesday, June 5 & 6: 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. Guided tour of the city, free time to explore, shop, rest and enjoy. We will spend **3 nights here!** (2B, 2L, 1S)

DAY 13: Wednesday, June 7: The amazing Mont Saint-Michel and the coast of Normandy

From Saint-Malo we will do a day trip into Normandy, as we visit one of the most popular attractions of the World, the Mont-Saint-Michel. (B)

DAY 14 : Thursday, June 8: a Glimpse of Paris at night!

For our last day we will head back to Paris and stop at a French Cidrerie (cider house) for a tour, lunch, and cider tasting! On to Paris for our special farewell supper on a bateau-mouche on 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, S).

DAY 15 - Friday, June 9: Return flight back



Do not wait to reserve your seats as this tour will sell out quickly!

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