



L'ACADIE
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ESCAPE IN ACADIE



WHERE IS L'ACADIE ?

Look on a map, and you won't find l'Acadie. The territory no longer exists as a formal jurisdiction, but the Acadian community is indeed alive and well!

Founded in 1604 in part of what is now Nova Scotia, l'Acadie was the first French colony in North America. Its history is marked by the **Grand Dérangement**, also called the Great Expulsion, which began in 1749 and ended in 1755. Pressured by the British, nearly 12 000 Acadians were deported to France, England and the eastern coast of the United States. Families were separated; their belongings were confiscated; farms and crops were burned... Many died in the tragedy.

After, many Acadians remained in France, some settled in Louisiana, and others eventually returned to the Maritimes. Those who successfully fled the Expulsion remade their lives in Quebec and the neighbouring territory, which became New Brunswick.

WHO ARE THE ACADIANS?

There are 3 million Acadians today around the world. About 1 million of them live in the United States, in New England and especially in Louisiana, where they're known as Cajuns. Closer to home, there are 6000 on Prince Edward Island, 40 000 in Nova Scotia, and more than 250 000 in New Brunswick.

SYMBOLS

- The **patron** of the Acadians is Notre-Dame de l'Assomption.
- In her honour, the **national holiday** is celebrated on August 15.
- The **national flag** of the French Acadians displays the colours of France. The gold star represents the Blessed Virgin (Sainte Vierge) guiding the Acadian colony through storms and around reefs.
- The **insignia** of the Acadian people is a ribbon of blue silk with a shining star and a vessel at full sail. It is worn on the lapel during holidays.
- The Acadian **motto** is "L'union fait la force" (strength in unity).
- The traditional **national hymn** is Ave Maris Stella. However, in 1994, for the first World Acadian Congress, a contest was opened to the public for a French version of this Latin hymn. Jacinthe Laforest wrote the winning composition.

THE FAMOUS ÉVANGÉLINE

Évangéline is the best known Acadian heroine. Published in 1847, the poem "Evangeline: A Tale of Acadia", by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, evokes the passion of Évangéline and Gabriel, who grew up together in the village of Grand-Pré. The young woman's courage and undying love for Gabriel conquered generations of readers, in Acadie and elsewhere.



TINTAMARRE

The Tintamarre is a festive tradition in which Acadians gather and make a symphony of noise. In all Acadian communities of the Atlantic coast, on August 15 at 6 p.m. sharp, people parade in the streets, on foot or by car, and make as much noise as possible. With makeup and costumes in the colours of the Acadian flag, participants prefer improvised instruments. Guaranteed to move you!

TASTE OF L'ACADIE

Poutine râpée: A scoop of shredded potatoes, with pieces of pork in the middle.

Poutine à trou: Also called poutine routie because it's cooked in the oven, this pastry is a doughnut stuffed with small raisins, blueberries or cranberries and pieces of apple. One of the most refined Acadian desserts, the poutine à trou is especially popular in southeastern New Brunswick.

Râpure: Shredded potatoes mixed with pieces of chicken, beef or clams, cooked together in the oven.

Fricot: Traditional meat, fish or seafood stew with cubed potatoes and onions and lots of bouillon.

Pet de sœur: A brioche-type dessert made of pastry covered with brown sugar and baked in the oven.

Fish and seafood: Thanks to the maritime culture, Acadian cuisine often includes outstanding fish and seafood dishes.

ACADIAN FRENCH

The Acadian language is spoken in the Maritime provinces and certain neighbouring regions of Quebec and Maine. Like other dialects that resulted from the French colonization of America, Acadian has evolved with time. Some terms have remained fairly true to their language of origin, while others are quite new...

Galance : swing

Faire zire: to disgust

Berlicoco: 1- pine cone

2 - a type of snail

Asteur: now, from now on, henceforth (from à cette heure)

Abriller: cover, shelter

S'attoquer: support (against something else)

Mouiller: wet or rain

Bouchure: enclosure or fence