

**Jim Gold International Folk Tours
and Richard Schmidt
present:**

Eastern Canada!

WHERE CANADA BEGAN

June 28 to July 10, 2024

Led by Richard Schmidt



- **Old Montreal (1642)**
- **Old fashion Montreal smoked meat.**
- **Olympic site**
- **The walled City of Quebec (1608)**
- **Chateau Frontenac**
- **Bay of Fundy - highest tides in the world**
- **Bluenose II • Peggy's Cove lighthouse**
- **Red beaches**
- **Anne of Green Gables**
- **Acadians**
- **Whale watching in the St. Lawrence**



Itinerary

Day 1 - Friday June 28 – Montreal - Dinner & folk dancing

Arrive in the largest French-speaking multicultural city in all the Americas. Montreal was



the largest city in Canada for most of its history and the springboard to the west for many immigrants to the country over the centuries.

Situated on an island in the St. Lawrence River, Ville Marie was founded in 1642 by the French King Louis XIII. Known by the native Iroquois as Hochelaga (Osheaga) which translates as “big rapids.” To give you some perspective New York City was taken over from the Dutch in 1653. On



our first day we will all gather at our luxurious downtown hotel for a welcome dinner followed by some international folk dancing and a swim in the heated rooftop pool

Day 2 – Saturday June 29 – Montreal – Tour & folk dancing

After breakfast, our deluxe motorcoach arrives with our guide, and we venture out to see the sites:

1. The Olympic Stadium and Village – home to the first Olympic Games held in Canada in 1976
2. St. Helen’s and Notre Dame Islands – home to the Six Flag Amusement Park and the annual Formula I Grand Prix racetrack. These sites were home to the World’s Fair of 1967 (Expo ’67)
3. Approximately one quarter of Canada’s Jewish population live in Montreal with the oldest record dating back to 1776. We will learn all about this vibrant community and their contributions to the city and stop by St. Viateur Bagels for a few dozen freshly-baked bagels.
4. We’ll go the top of Mont Royal (or the mountain as it is affectionately known as by Montrealers) for a spectacular view of the downtown skyscrapers.
5. We’ll take some time for lunch and taste the famous Montreal Smoke meat and poutine.
6. Montreal is home to the largest number of Catholic churches in Canada, with the most famous one being Notre-Dame Basilica, based on the one in Paris. It’s where Celine Dion was married.
7. We will walk the narrow cobblestoned streets of Old Montreal and visit the town square down by the Old Port. A time travel feeling!

After all this we will enjoy a great meal and then meet up with some well-known folk-dance teachers and learn some new dances and revisit a few oldies.

Day 3 – Sunday June 30 – Quebec City – Tour & folk dancing

Everybody on the coach, we're off to Quebec City, capital of the province of Quebec. It's a three-hour drive east, down the Trans-Canada Highway which is Canada's longest highway at close to 5,000 miles. Did you know it would take over 100 hours to drive its length from coast to coast? Quebec City is the only walled-in city in North America and one of the oldest if not the oldest. Walking along the old cobblestone streets, you will feel the history oozing out of the buildings. We will be staying in the heart of the city and visiting the sites and indulging in the cuisine and culture.



DAY 4 – Monday July 1 – Saint John NB – Canada Day Fireworks

As we head east, you will feel the difference in the air and see a change in the nature as we enter the Maritime provinces and leave the mineral-rich Canadian Shield. We're headed straight for the Bay of Fundy known for extremely high tides, as at spots like New Brunswick's Hopewell Rocks. Eroded "flowerpot" formations stand in the ocean or on dry land, depending on the time of day. The coastal Fundy Trail Parkway offers lookouts and beaches. On this National Holiday we will join the proud locals for a celebration of the country with fireworks, music and dance.

DAY 5 – Tuesday July 2 – Halifax NS – Bay of Fundy, St. Martins Sea Caves, Magnetic Hill, pubs and dancing

Let's go explore the bay closer and check out the caves at St, Martins. Walk along the bottom of the ocean where soon there will be 35 feet of water. Then we'll let the bus get pulled uphill on Magnetic Hill before heading into Nova Scotia where we'll switch from the French to the Scottish culture. Pubs and dancing are on the schedule!

DAY 6 – Wednesday July 3 – Halifax NS– Lunenburg, The Bluenose II, Peggy's Cove and Lobster lunch, Tour and folk dancing

A wonderful day of touring is ahead today. After a tour around the city, we'll drive out to Lunenburg, a typical fishing village on the coast and home to the Bluenose II schooner that you can find on the Canadian dime, and we'll visit the fisheries museum. Fresh lobster and lobster rolls is on the menu for lunch as we enjoy our meal overlooking the lighthouse at Peggy's Cove before taking some spectacular scenic photos. An evening of reels and Scottish country dancing will be a great way to end our day in Halifax.



DAY 7 – Thursday July 4 – Charlottetown PEI – 4th of July picnic on the red beaches of Cavendish, Anne of Green Gables

Back on to the Trans Canada Highway we will cross The Confederation Bridge which spans an 8 mile stretch of the Northumberland Strait connecting Prince Edward Island

to New Brunswick. Happy 4th of July – What better way to celebrate than a beach picnic on the red sandy beaches of Cavendish with its rocky red cliffs. We'll have to bring the white and blue. You know dancing will be involved. We'll also make a stop in at Anne's house and visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum before heading into Charlottetown.

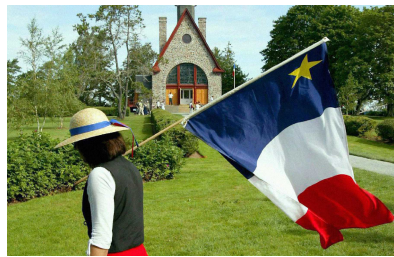
DAY 8 – Friday July 5 – Charlottetown – Tour, relax and dancing

How about a little history? The Constitution Act of 1867 was originally known as the



British North America Act (BNA Act). It was the law passed by the British Parliament on 29 March 1867 to create the Dominion of Canada. It came into effect on the 1st of July 1867. The Act is the foundational document of Canada's Constitution and was signed in Charlottetown. A peaceful transition to nationhood was achieved. We will spend our day enjoying the peace and beauty of Charlottetown. Take some time to rest and get in some dancing.

BTW: Charlottetown was named after Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III and the island was named in honor of Prince Edward, their 4th son and father of Queen Victoria.



DAY 9 – Saturday July 6 – Bertrand NB – Home of the Acadians (Cajun)

Today we visit the Acadians who are the ancestors of present-day Cajuns from Louisiana. Originally from the West Central part of France, they were peasants recruited as part of France's efforts to colonize Canada in the 17th century. They settled mainly in New Brunswick, and we are going to immerse ourselves in their culture.

DAY 10 – Sunday July 7 – Matane QC – Whale watching & folk dancing

On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, Matane is known for shrimp and salmon. A quaint town with 2 covered bridges and converging rivers we will soak up the sites, enjoy the food from the sea and a day and evening session of folk dancing.

DAY 11 – Monday July 8 – Tadoussac – Ferry crossing to north shore

No bridges here to cross the gulf of St. Lawrence so we will have to take a ferry. July is a prime month for spotting Belugas, blue whales, minke whales, fin whales, humpback whales, harbour porpoises, right whales, killer whales, sperm whales, narwhals, white-nosed dolphins, white-sided dolphins, northern bottlenose whales. This memorable excursion will find us on the north shore with a stop in Tadoussac, Quebec, home of the very first settlement of the French in 1600.

DAY 12 – Tuesday July 9 – Montreal – Farewell Dinner & folk dancing

Straight to our hotel in the airport to freshen up before heading out for our farewell dinner to share our photos, contact info and memories before an evening of folk dancing with the locals and a performance by some local folk groups.

DAY 13 – Wednesday July 10 – Fly home from Montreal International Airport

No worries! No fuss! Your hotel is incorporated into the complex of Montreal's

International Airport – Pierre Elliott Trudeau and just a few steps away from the terminal that handles all flights to the USA. Have a safe trip home and do come again – All of our tours are made with you in mind.

About Richard Schmidt



Richard Schmidt received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the government of Poland for his dedication to promoting Polish culture abroad. He received this honor on his 40th birthday and now in his 60s, he shows no signs of slowing down. In 2008, he founded the White Eagle Folk Dance Academy, for the youth of Montreal, Canada to learn the art of Polish folk and to showcase the beauty and diversity of Poland’s national and regional dances on the stages of the world.

Having done Polish folk since the age of four in a performing ensemble and maintaining a position as a soloist for 25 years, Richard also studied under many of Poland’s top specialists and choreographed, taught and directed many performers and ensembles throughout his career.

Considered a master of the trade, he is much sought after on the International Folk Camp circuit. He recently returned from a very busy teaching tour of Japan including several visits with the Folk Federation of Japan and was the headliner at their Spring Festival 2023.

Richard also leads top-notch folk tours of Poland and Eastern Canada where his guests travel in luxury, eat like royalty, soak up the history, make new friends and dance the nights away.

Land Only: \$4995

REGISTRATION FORM: I can't wait to go! Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Western Canada single supplement: \$995 . Hotel taxes and service charges: \$185. Gratuities not included. Program subject to change without notice. Cancellation 90 days prior to departure: Total refund: Less than 90 days: No refund. Travel insurance recommended.

Total balance due March 15, 2024

Name _____

Address _____

No. of people _____ Phone_(_____)_____

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Reservations: Deposits and Payments: Deposit of \$200 per person is required at time of reservation. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure date.

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Baggage: One baggage per person and a carry on is allowed.

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Gratuities: Tipping to guides, drivers, transfer personnel and hotel staff is left to the discretion of the participants and is not included.

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