



Fort Chambly
National Historic Site of Canada
parkscanada.gc.ca

Cultural Explorer

You seek constant opportunities to embrace, discover, and immerse yourself in the entire experience of the culture, people and settings of the places you visit. Not content to just visit historic sites and watch from the sidelines, you want to participate in the modern-day culture as well. You often attempt to converse with locals, attend local cultural festivals, or go off the beaten track to discover how people truly live.

From the military architecture inspired by Vauban to the eating habits of soldiers, you can feel the French influence everywhere in Fort Chambly!

A guide dressed as a peasant talks about how people in the 18th century cooked on the hearth and shows what was on their table. Bread and wine were already a staple of the French Canadian diet, he says, but potatoes were not popular yet. Will you dare try the “déjeuner à la canadienne”, which consisted of a raw onion and a glass of hard alcohol?

Not only did soldiers eat a lot of onion ; you learn that they also dressed like onions –with several layers ! First, a long shirt going all the way down to the knees and tall woolen stockings. Then breeches and a wool jacket, plus a long frock coat called “justaucorps”. The final touch? A famous tricorne hat of course!

As you climb up the bastion to see the view from a watchtower, you can imagine how hot the soldiers were in summer, with all those woolen layers on! After this, you seek the refreshment of the cool breeze off the canal and marvel at the hand - operated locks.

Speak to our Parks Canada staff to make the most of your visit!
www.canada.travel/eq

For the Cultural Explorer we suggest...

Being a French soldier at Fort Chambly – Try on a military uniform from the companies franchises de la Marine. You can also see for yourself what soldiers ate and how they cooked.

The architecture of the fort – Take a tour of the architecture of the fort and learn why it was first built in wood, and then in stone. Ask your guide why there is a bell-tower and where the soldiers slept.

Hear the musket! – Fort Chambly is the only Parks Canada site where you can witness the firing of the matchlock musket. Beware of its powerful bang!

Along the Richelieu River – Did you know that apart from defending New France against invasions the French soldiers also had to prevent the smuggling of furs along the river?

Meet the operator of the old locks and bridges and learn about the importance of the Chambly canal for military and industrial development.

Discover Old Chambly – Take the heritage walking tour of Old Chambly and discover St. Stephen’s Church and the Manoir Salaberry. Around the fort, try to spot historic buildings that were part of the military complex built by the British.

