



Coteau-du-Lac
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.

It's Saturday morning and the farmer's is in full swing. Strolling past booths that entice you with artisanal breads, organic meats, and fresh-picked strawberries, you can taste the richness of the land. The woman selling knitwear is at her stall, her fingers flying, looping yarn over her needles as she recommends a walk around the fort and along the St. Lawrence River.

Inside the Interpretation Centre, a guide suggests the Layers of History exhibit, a cultural treasure chest disguised as a plain stack of drawers. A bear-tooth necklace transports you over 5,000 years back in time, to when nomadic Native peoples often passed by this area.

Then fast forward several millennia to when the British military were staying at the fort during the War of 1812. When you see the domino, the dice, and the Jew's harp, you can practically hear the noise of rowdy soldiers carousing in their barracks after a hard day's work!

As you stroll in the streets of Coteau-du-Lac, you do feel something special, almost as if you had gone back to a simpler, humane time. You eat your lunch at the local restaurant and chat with the waitress who tells you about the story of the town. You would not find such a warm atmosphere in a chain restaurant!

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

For the **Cultural Explorer** we suggest...

LAYERS OF HISTORY - Artifacts discovered on-site are carefully arranged by era. Go drawer by drawer to examine a native bear-tooth necklace and arrowheads dating back 5,000 years up to contemporary objects such as toys.

CAN YOU START A FIRE? - Learn how to use an iron striker, the ancestor of a lighter. Hit a flint against the hard metal and use the sparks to start your own fire.

B. Y. O. BIKE - If you've brought your bike along, go to the Interpretation Centre and pick up a packet to guide you along the 45 km path that follows the Canal de Soulanges. You'll see the fort, the old power station, and other sites that have defined the history of the area.

LIVING HISTORY - Costumed interpreters give visitors a real feel for the past. Don't miss the re-enactment of a military camp on August 23 - 24!

FARMERS' MARKET - Wake up early one Saturday morning and experience the vibrant colours, tastes, and smells of the farmers' market right on site at the fort. You can find all kinds of local products: artisanal breads, hand-knit ponchos, and fresh-picked produce. Be sure to taste some sweet Québec strawberries!

