

# WALKING TOUR



## MEMORY & MODERNITY

Exploring the  
historic heart  
of Trois-Rivières

**TRÈS**  
Trois-Rivières





## CAPSULE 2



St. Lawrence & Saint-Maurice Rivers / Origins of Trois-Rivières

Champlain Sea / Territory

Harbourfront Park

# HARBOURFRONT PARK & RIVER

Trois-Rivières takes its name from the geography of the area. At the junction of the Saint-Maurice River, which divides the city in two, and the St. Lawrence River, there is a delta of islands that, when seen from the river, gives the impression that three rivers flow into it.

Moreover, the St. Lawrence River, which originates from the Great Lakes, stretches more than 3,000 km (1,800 mi) to reach the Magdalen Islands. Its shores are composed of rich and fertile lands. The fertility of these lands results from the melting of glaciers that created the Champlain Sea around 12,000 years ago. This explains why nearly 80% of Quebecers live within 40 km (25 mi) of its banks today.

The river has always been an excellent means of transportation. Although its shores were used for docking at the start of the colony, it wasn't until the advent of steamships that proper infrastructure was established at the port of Trois-Rivières, in 1809.

## CAPSULE 3



Founders / Date of foundation

- Monuments
- Lavolette
  - Foundation
  - 12th Regiment

# PLATON

It was with the aim of protecting good relations and trade with the First Nations that the first foundations of the Trois-Rivières fort were laid on July 4th, 1634. Recognized as a trading post, Trois-Rivières was intended to be a commercial hub for the colony. As part of the goal to colonize the territory with French men and women, Trois-Rivières would become the second oldest city in Canada after the founding of Quebec in 1608. It is said that a certain Lavolette was its founder. However, the identity of this figure remains a mystery to this day.

This founding site, called the "Platon," is perfectly suited for the commemorative monuments located there. First, at the center, is the monument to Lavolette, founder of the city. Behind it is the plaque of the "Catalogue des Trépassés," recounting the arrival of the first settlers. Not far to the east is the plaque of the fort of Trois-Rivières, and to the west, the 150th anniversary of the 12th Armored Regiment of Canada, one of the first military regiments in the country, is highlighted.



## CAPSULE 4

# TURCOTTE TERRASSE

The Turcotte Terrace, initially a wooden sidewalk, was created by Mayor Joseph-Édouard Turcotte in 1869. The aim was to provide a gathering place for the Trois-Rivières bourgeoisie. In 1908, a fire completely destroyed it. The only residence to survive the flames was the one located at the eastern end of the street: the Turcotte House. Over the years, it housed several notable figures from the economic sector of Trois-Rivières, including Mathew Bell of the Saint-Maurice Ironworks and Charles Ross Whitehead of the Wabasso Cotton Company. The other residences on the street belonged to families that primarily worked in the lumber trade.

Another fascinating feature of the Turcotte Terrace is its stained-glass windows. This initiative was led by Jean Beaulieu, a glassmaker artist who used art as a means of social transformation. It provided opportunities for more than 44 socially excluded and homeless youth. This project helped reintegrate them into the workforce. The 12 stained-glass windows depict, among other things, the arrival of the Ursulines, photographer Pinsonneault, Maurice Duplessis, and the great fire of 1908.

Turcotte  
Terrasse

Houses on  
the street

Stained glass  
initiative



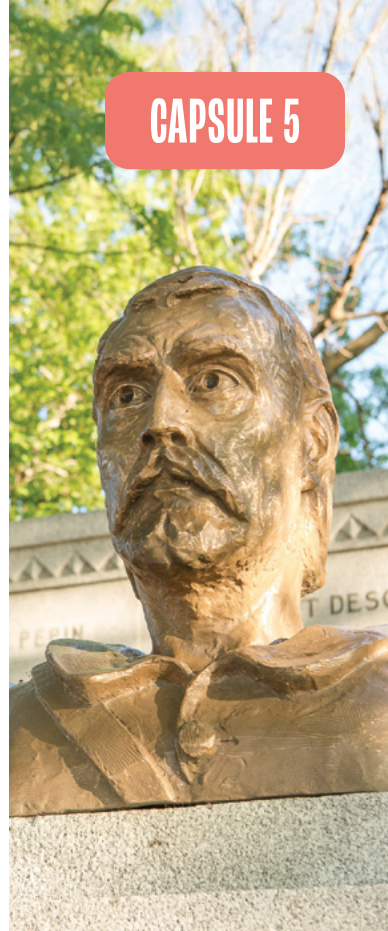
## CAPSULE 5

# LA VÉRENDRYE MONUMENT

During the time of the French colony, Trois-Rivières never had a population of more than 600. It was a territory populated by *coureurs des bois*, explorers, and adventurers, with a few rare men settling there permanently. The Monument to the Discoverers honors these men. Among those mentioned are Jean Nicolet, a *truchement* or interpreter; Pierre Pépin, an explorer; Pierre-Esprit Radisson and Médard Chouart Sieur des Groseilliers, founders of the Hudson's Bay Company; and Christophe DuFrost de La Jemmerais, who participated in La Vérendrye's exploration.

In fact, the bust of Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de La Vérendrye, stands before the monument. At the age of 46, he set out to explore the western part of the country with around fifty companions, including three of his sons. This expedition lasted 12 years. He is credited with being the first European man to reach the Rocky Mountains.

That being said, the absence of these men made them poor husbands. This explains the low number of *Filles du Roy* (King's Daughters) who settled in the region. There were eight: Marie Allence, Jeanne Bouchard, Jeanne Dodier, Jeanne-Léonarde Genest, Marie Grandin, Marie Gravois, Michelle Quinville, and Élisabeth Prévost.



La Vérendrye

Explorers /  
Filles du Roy

## CAPSULE 6



Monastery of the Ursulines

St. James

Hertel-De La Fresnière House

# THE URSULINES & ST. JAMES CHURCH

The Ursulines arrived in Trois-Rivières in 1697 at the request of Bishop Saint-Vallier. From the moment they came, they began educating young girls. As the town was too small for two congregations, they also undertook a hospital mission. This temporary vocation stretched for 150 years. The hospital had 12 beds, which initially met the population's needs, but by the mid-19th century, the space had become somewhat cramped.

St. James Church, on the other hand, was built by the Recollets in 1693 and later rebuilt in stone in 1754. After the Conquest in 1760, the residents of Trois-Rivières laid down their arms and swore allegiance to King George II of England. At this point, the church became an Anglican place of worship. Between 1779 and 1823, it also served as a hospital, apothecary, courthouse, and prison.

The Hertel House is a heritage building that houses EMA. The Boutique Space offers works by creators from Trois-Rivières and beyond, while the Gallery Space is an exhibition and diffusion hall for arts and crafts.

## CAPSULE 7



Pachirini

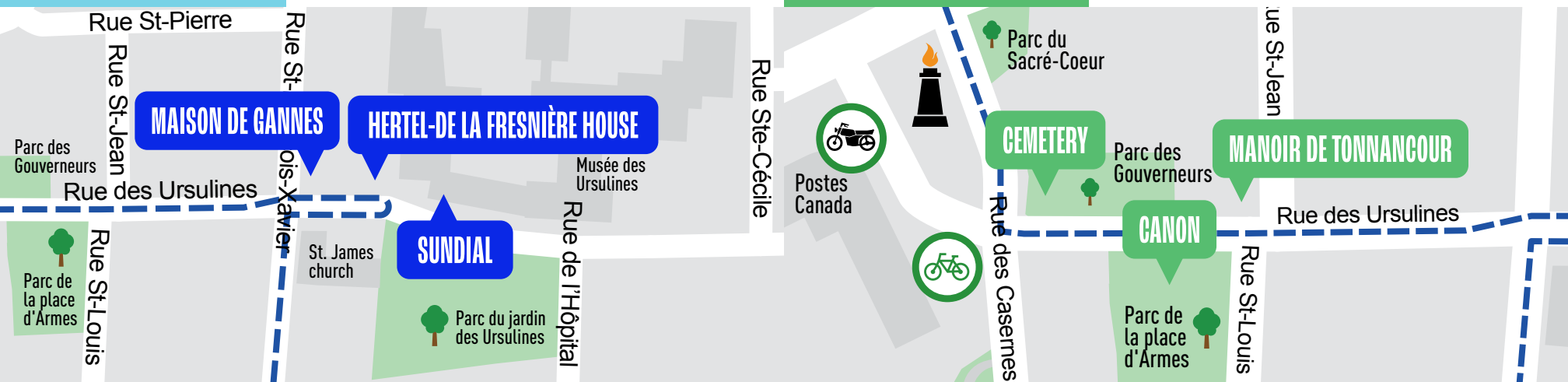
Place d'Armes

Manoir de Tonnancour

# PLACE D'ARMES & MANOIR DE TONNANCOUR

The Place d'Armes, formerly called "Fief Pachirini," was a fur trading site among the First Peoples. In 1648, Pachirini, an Anishinaabeg chief, was granted this stretch of land located near the fort. In 1722, the land became home to a public market while continuing to host trade with Indigenous peoples, and by 1751, it was also used by the military for their maneuvers, which explains its current name, Place d'Armes (Square of Arms).

The Manoir de Tonnancour, built in 1723 by René Godefroy de Tonnancour, has served many purposes, including as a residence, store, and officers' barracks during the English regime. Later, it functioned as a rectory and bishopric before becoming a primary school. It is one of the oldest houses in Trois-Rivières. Since 1972, the Galerie d'art du Parc has held around ten exhibitions and artistic events annually, showcasing the diversity of contemporary art in its various forms.



## CAPSULE 8



Church / Cemetery

Monuments

- Sacred Heart
- Torch
- Monument to the Brave

1908 fire

# PLACE PIERRE-BOUCHER

Place Pierre Boucher honors the governor of Trois-Rivières, Pierre Boucher. He is known for defending Trois-Rivières in 1653 and advocating for the colony in France in 1661. Following his actions, the young colony was strengthened with the arrival of the *Filles du Roy* (King's Daughters), soldiers of the Carignan-Salières Regiment, and 160 new settlers. In 1667, he founded the seigneurie of Boucherville.

Over the years, the location of Place Pierre Boucher has been a central point in the life of Trois-Rivières. It was the site of the first governors' residence, the first seminary, and the first parish churches. All these buildings were destroyed in the great fire of 1908.

Today, Place Pierre Boucher features the Monument to the Brave, inaugurated in 1921. It pays tribute to the Trois-Rivières regiment, which was the Canadian regiment that remained at the front the longest during World War I - 450 days. The torch was erected in 1934 during the celebrations of the city's 300th anniversary. There is also the Monument of the Sacred Heart, marking the location of the parish church destroyed in the 1908 fire.

## CAPSULE 9



Boucher-de Niverville Manor

Rue Bonaventure

Maurice Duplessis

# BOUCHER-DE NIVERVILLE MANOR

The Boucher de Niverville Manor, the oldest manor in Trois-Rivières, was built in 1663 by Jacques LeNeuf de La Poterie, a lord involved in the fur trade. Initially smaller, the building was expanded and transformed first by François Châtelain in 1729, and later in 1761 by Joseph-Claude Boucher de Niverville. The latter served militarily for 69 years under both the French and English crowns. He became the owner of the manor through his marriage to Marie Joseph Châtelain. The building was spared from the flames during the great fire of 1908.

The statue at the back of the garden depicts Maurice Duplessis. Born in Trois-Rivières in 1890, he was the prime minister of Quebec from 1936 to 1939 and from 1944 to 1959. Nicknamed "Le Chef" (the Chief), he left a significant mark on 20th-century Quebec. It was during his leadership that Quebec's flag, the *fleurdelisé*, was adopted in 1948.



## CAPSULE 10



# CHAMPLAIN PARK

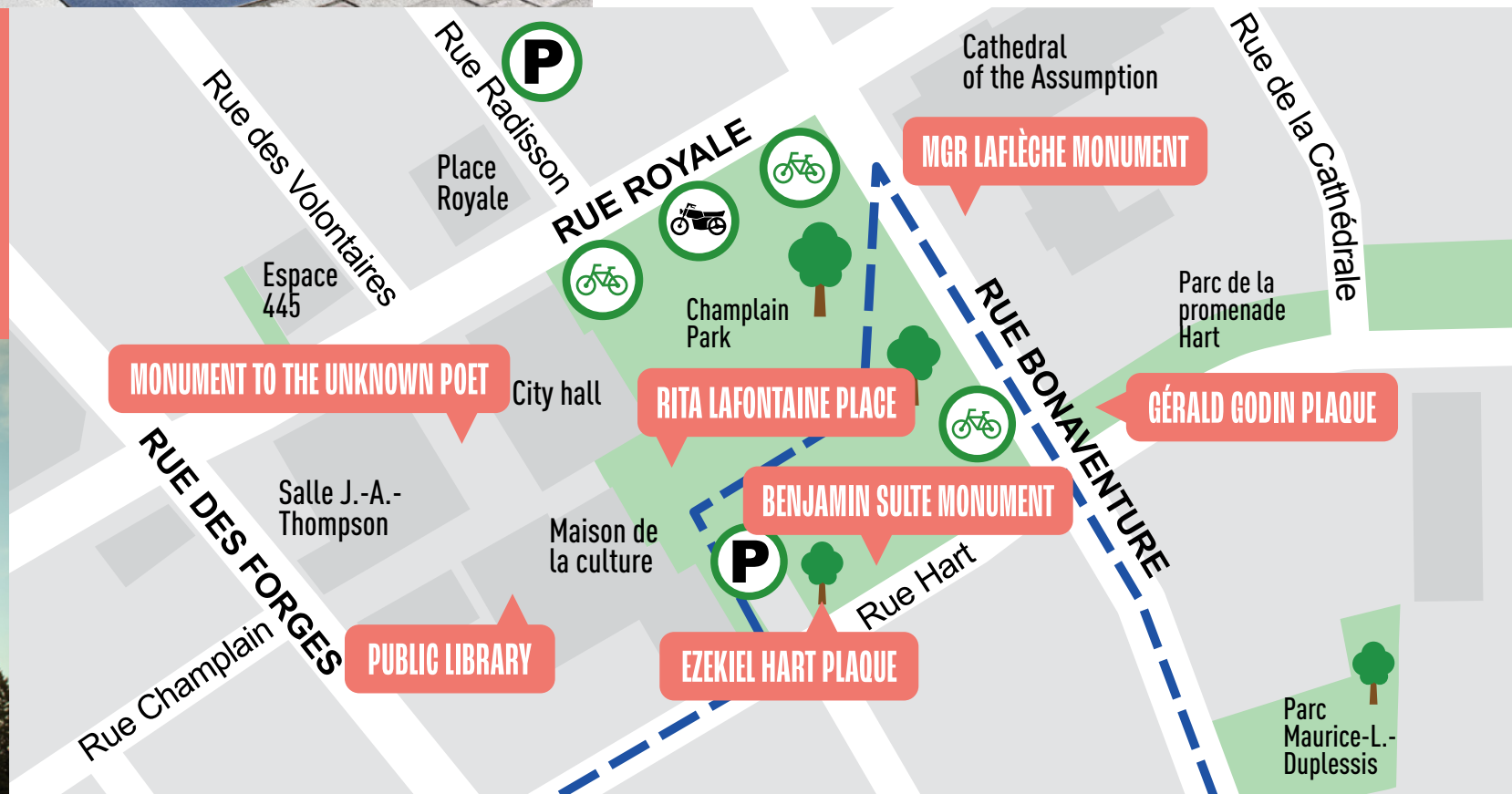
The Hart family, of Jewish origin, left a significant mark on Canada's history. Aaron Hart, the first Jew to settle in Canada after the Conquest, was a merchant and entrepreneur in Trois-Rivières. His lands covered a large portion of the city center. He and Dorothea Judah had four sons and four daughters. Upon Aaron's death, his four sons — Moses, Ezekiel, Alexander, and Benjamin — took over the family businesses. Moses stood out for his entrepreneurial spirit, owning, among other things, a steamboat. Ezekiel was the first Jew elected as a Member of Parliament in 1807, but he was prevented from serving because he could not take the required Christian oath. Brothers Alexander and Benjamin, meanwhile, were involved in property management.

Built between 1854 and 1858, the Cathedral of the Assumption of Trois-Rivières is the mother church of the diocese. It was completed by Monseigneur Lafèche and later expanded. The cathedral features a neo-Gothic style inspired by the Trinity Church in New York, along with elements of Westminster style. Inaugurated in 1858, it remains the tallest building in the city to this day. It houses 125 stained glass windows by Guido Nincheri and a Casavant organ with 5,751 pipes.

Cathedral

First Jewish people in America

Champlain Park  
■ Monuments



## CAPSULE 11

# DES FORGES STREET

Rue des Forges, the main commercial artery of Trois-Rivières, owes its name to the Saint-Maurice Ironworks, the first industrial establishment in Canada located north of the city. Considered the country's first iron industry, the Ironworks produced a variety of iron objects, ranging from wood stoves to cannonballs.

A major fire in 1908 struck the downtown area and completely changed its appearance. It was rebuilt with a uniform architectural style inspired by the city of Boston: three-story buildings combining shops and apartments.

In the 20th century, the city became an economic hub thanks to the pulp and paper industry, benefiting from the natural resources of the Mauricie region. Four large factories were established, each attracting numerous workers, thereby accelerating demographic and economic growth. In 1927, Trois-Rivières was recognized as the world capital of newsprint paper.

Throughout the ages, Rue des Forges has always been a place filled with shops, restaurants, and social life. Even today, Rue des Forges remains the heart of Trois-Rivières' vitality.

Des Forges street

Forges /  
industries

Businesses



# CONCLUSION

We hope you enjoyed your experience! Now that you know more about our city, here are five tips for a more sustainable visit to Trois-Rivières:

## FAVOR ACTIVE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Explore downtown on foot or by bike rather than by car. Trois-Rivières is an ideal city for walking, and several routes allow you to discover its hidden treasures.

Use public transportation or ridesharing services if you need to travel further.

## EAT LOCALLY AND RESPONSIBLY

Choose restaurants that favor local and seasonal products, such as those showcasing the flavors of the Mauricie region.

Bring a reusable water bottle to limit plastic use and fill it at public drinking fountains.

## SUPPORT OUR REGION'S ARTISANS AND PRODUCERS

Behind every local product, there is a story, expertise, and passionate artisans. By choosing local creations, you contribute to the economic growth of our region while reducing the carbon footprint of your purchases. Bring a reusable bag for your purchases and refuse unnecessary packaging.

## RESPECT AND VALORIZE LOCAL HERITAGE

During your visit, take the time to learn more about the history and culture of Trois-Rivières by favoring museums, heritage sites, and guided tours.

Respect historic sites by avoiding touching artifacts or old buildings.

## RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Leave no trace of your visit: sort your waste and use the available facilities to dispose of it properly. Our region has a composting program.

In addition, many materials are recyclable or returnable. Our maps and brochures are printed on recyclable or reusable paper.

Respect natural sites by following marked trails. Do not feed the birds and animals you encounter along the way.

These small gestures allow you to fully enjoy the city while minimizing your environmental impact. Want to learn more about sustainable tourism? Visit [tourismetroisrivieres.com/en/sustainable-tourism](https://tourismetroisrivieres.com/en/sustainable-tourism)

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