-ARO VOYAGES-

Quebec – Ontario

IRISH CARAVAN

JUNE 10 TO 18, 2027



EXCLUSIVE

ACCOMPANIED BY
KATHLEEN
JUNEAU ROY



IN COLLABORATION
WITH VICKI ONUFRIU



In the footsteps of the first Irish immigrants

BOOKINGS & INFO: 514.728.7222 | AROVOYAGES.COM

ITINERARY

PROGRAM 1
JUNE 10 TO 14, 2027

MONTREAL • LANAUDIÈRE • QUEBEC CITY • GROSSE ÎLE • CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

An exceptional journey through the regions that welcomed the first Irish families.
From Lanaudière to Quebec City, from Grosse Île to Nouvelle-Irlande, discover the villages, churches, cemeteries and landscapes that still bear witness to their presence today.

DAY 1 - JUNE 10
MONTREAL → LANAUDIÈRE → QUEBEC CITY

Departure from Montreal for an immersion in the heart of Quebec's Irish heritage.
First stop in Mascouche, home of Grace Anglican Church — the oldest place of worship still standing in the MRC Les Moulins. Historian Vicki Onufriu will tell you the story of the Alexander family and of the famous "montée des Irlandais." Then on to Rawdon, the first township founded north of Montreal, which was home to a large Irish community as early as 1825. After discovering the picturesque Village Canadiana and its period buildings (if it is scheduled to be open on that date), you will pass by the Marie-Reine-du-Monde-et-Saint-Patrick church. A talk on the Irish footprint in Rawdon, followed by a red clover tea tasting, will round off this stop. In the afternoon, head to Saint-Ambroise-de-Kildare, whose Gaelic name means "church of the oak." Travelling along rang Kildare, you will pass the former lands of Irish settlers, now brought to life by local agritourism businesses.
Arrival in Quebec City at the end of the day. Dinner on your own and overnight at the Hôtel Plaza (or similar). L

DAY 2 - JUNE 11
QUEBEC CITY → SHANNON

The day begins with a guided walking tour of Old Quebec with an Irish history enthusiast. As you stroll the streets, discover the Celtic cross in Artillery Park, the monuments dedicated to Lord Dorchester and General Richard Montgomery, the first St. Patrick's Church and the former St. Brigid's Home, built to support the community's most destitute. Highlight of the morning: the Morrin Centre, a former prison turned vibrant cultural venue, where you will explore the original cells. Then on to Shannon, a municipality with a rich Irish heritage where several streets still bear the names of the founding families. The Shannon Historical Society will welcome us. The afternoon will delight genealogy enthusiasts with a stop at the Société de généalogie de Québec and the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ): a unique opportunity to trace your own Irish roots. Dinner on your own and overnight at the Hôtel Plaza (or similar). B-L

DAY 3 - JUNE 12
GROSSE ÎLE

Cross the river to Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial, an essential site of remembrance in the history of the Irish in Canada. A silent witness to the tragedy of the Great Famine of 1847, this former quarantine station saw wave after wave of sick immigrants endure their ordeal. Explore the remains of the hospitals, the period buildings and the moving, windswept cemeteries, under the gaze of the great Celtic cross. A striking and emotional chapter of history, honouring the courage of those who dreamed of a fresh start. Return, dinner on your own and overnight at the Hôtel Plaza (or similar). B-L

DAY 4 - JUNE 13
CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

Follow in the footsteps of "Nouvelle-Irlande," a settlement territory rooted in the heart of the Appalachians. In Sainte-Agathe-de-Lotbinière, commemorative monuments bear witness to the first Irish families and farms through the Coirneal Cealteach site. The route then winds through villages rich in heritage — Saint-Sylvestre, Saint-Jacques-de-Leeds, Kinnear's Mills, Lipsey Hill, Inverness — where old churches, cemeteries, farmland and historic roads tell the story of the pioneers. An immersion along country roads and wide-open spaces, punctuated by places marked by these Celtic and religious roots. Return to Quebec City, Irish-themed dinner and overnight at the Hôtel Plaza (or similar). B-D

DAY 5 - JUNE 14
QUEBEC CITY → MONTREAL

Return to Montreal. This last stop of the first program brings your exploration of genealogy and family history to a beautiful close, as you discover tools for researching our ancestors. After your arrival, enjoy an exclusive meeting with the Société généalogique canadienne-française. *For Program 2 participants, Montreal becomes the springboard to a new immersion in Irish history. (Please note: overnight in Montreal to be arranged if needed, $)* B



ITINERARY

PROGRAM 2
JUNE 15 TO 18, 2027

MONTREAL • OUTAOUAIS • OTTAWA • AYLMER

From the Great Famine to today's Irish communities
The second part of the caravan takes us to the heart of the Irish communities of Montreal, the Outaouais and Ontario.

DAY 6 - JUNE 15
MONTREAL

Follow in the footsteps of the Irish community, a true pillar of Montreal's history. This tour immerses you in the working-class past of Griffintown and Pointe-Saint-Charles, in the steps of the Lachine Canal workers. You will relive the dark hours of the Great Famine and the typhus epidemic of 1847 as you pause in reflection at the Black Rock. Erected in 1859, it is the oldest surviving monument to the victims of the Great Irish Famine. It marks the site of Canada's largest mass grave and the largest Irish burial ground outside Ireland, where some 6,000 Irish refugees who died during the 1847–1848 migration are laid to rest. The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation is working to transform the site into a world-class place of remembrance and interpretation. You will then discover how this immigration shaped the city's economic and religious landscape, notably through St. Patrick's Basilica, built in 1847. Rounded off with the expertise of historians from the McCord Stewart Museum, this day promises an immersion rich in stories and emotion. The evening continues with Irish entertainment, followed by an overnight stay at the Travelodge Montreal (or similar). D

DAY 7 - JUNE 16
MONTREAL → OUTAOUAIS → OTTAWA

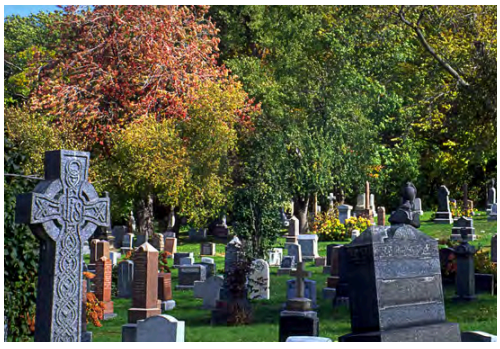
Travel to Saint-Colomban, a community rich in Irish pioneer heritage. Discover the Bronze Shoes, symbolizing those forced to flee Ireland during the Great Famine (An Gorta Mór). The Canadian Irish Migration Preservation Network (CIMPN) will share the history of the region's Irish settlers and explain the significance of the Bronze Shoes, followed by a visit to the historic church and cemetery.
Your route will then cross the former Irish township of Gore and its surroundings. Prepare for this visit by watching Jean-François Hamilton's documentary *Le triomphe de la nature (2021)* and reading excerpts from Margaret Cook's historical novel *Une Terre à nous (1969)*. This next stage will take you deeper into the history of the Irish diaspora.
Overnight at the Ottawa Embassy Hotel (or similar). B

DAY 8 - JUNE 17
OTTAWA

Dive into Ottawa's Irish history by exploring its founding neighbourhoods. From Lowertown to the vibrant ByWard Market, follow in the footsteps of the waves of immigration that built the city. From St. Patrick's Basilica to the Great Famine memorial sites, each stop links the tragic and courageous history of the pioneers to the vitality of today's community. A moving immersion between heritage and the present. We will visit the Ontario Genealogical Society, time permitting. Overnight at the Ottawa Embassy (or similar). B

DAY 9 - JUNE 18
OTTAWA → AYLMER → MONTREAL

Last stop in Aylmer, a former town shaped by the lumber industry. Meet the first pioneers and discover their historic homes, witnesses to the region's growth. Step into the turbulent era of the Shiners, the lumberjacks and rivalries that shaped the beginnings of the timber trade in the Ottawa Valley. The tour then takes you into the heart of Aylmer's old houses, shops and places of worship, reflecting the vibrant imprint of the Irish communities. Return to Montreal. B









BOOK your next trip!
Patricia Patera, your travel advisor for genealogy trips
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voyages@arovoyages.com

THE IRISH *caravan*

JUNE 10 TO 18, 2027

COST OF THE TRIP

- Double occupancy **PROGRAM 1: $1,999**
- *Single occupancy supplement:* ***$430***
- Double occupancy **PROGRAM 2: $1,379**
- *Single occupancy supplement:* ***$480***

Costs per person in Canadian dollars, including GST/QST and FICAV, based on a minimum of 22 paying participants. $100 discount if you book both Program 1 and Program 2.

The program presented is a sample itinerary. It may be modified, adapted or enhanced before or during the trip, depending on the discoveries and opportunities that arise.
Our genealogy and history trips offer an exclusive experience, designed for travellers seeking authenticity, unique discoveries and enriching encounters.
Our priority: the quality of the experience and the richness of the discoveries.

- Quebec permit number 702825 -

COSTS INCLUDE

- Issued by a travel agency and including the contribution to the Compensation Fund for Customers of Travel Agents
- Double occupancy accommodation in 2-3* hotels or similar
- Minibus without on-board toilet
- Driver's gratuity
- Meals where mentioned (set menu) B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner
- Visits as mentioned. English or French translation will be provided for logistical instructions and the main visits, so that every participant can fully enjoy the experience.
- GST, QST and FICAV
- Lectures
- French-speaking tour escort Kathleen Juneau Roy (translation available)
- Travel booklet in French with sources in English
- Administrative fees (logistical organization, administrative follow-up, pre-departure document management, meeting, etc.)

COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE

- Any service not mentioned in the program
- Gratuities at your discretion
- Beverages and alcoholic drinks
- Insurance
- Personal expenses
- Baggage handling
- The June 14 overnight in Montreal if you take both programs

CIMPN/RCPMI

MONUMENT IRLANDAIS DE MONTRÉAL
MONTREAL IRISH MONUMENT

1. GENERAL PAYMENT TERMS

Payment for the trip will be made in two instalments payable to ARO VOYAGES.

- First instalment: deposit of $1,000 per person per program to reserve your place in the program;
- Payment: final balance due before March 15, 2027.

2. NOTICE

Due to the specific nature of this program, ARO VOYAGES declines all responsibility for any inconvenience, changes or setbacks occurring before, during or after the trip (local living conditions, itinerary adjustments, changes of dates or schedules, delays, cancellations, etc.). In all circumstances, the program management will do everything possible to support participants and collaborators in resolving the situation as well as possible.

3. CONDITIONS

- The price is based on a minimum of 22 participants. Refer to the cost section for details.
- If the minimum number is not reached, the program will be refunded or an alternative will be offered.

4. ROOM SHARING

Travelling solo but would rather share your room? ARO VOYAGES will help you find a roommate of the same sex. Simply indicate your choice on your registration form. We will then put you in touch with someone who has made the same request.
Please note: the sharing arrangement must be mutually agreed upon by both participants. We encourage you to discuss your habits (sleep, pace, expectations) before departure to ensure a pleasant stay together. Please note that ARO Voyages facilitates the matching but cannot guarantee that a roommate will be available, and declines all responsibility in the event of disagreement. If no match is possible or workable, the single occupancy rate will apply.

5. PENALTIES APPLIED IN CASE OF CANCELLATION*

In the event of cancellation, for any reason whatsoever, the following penalties apply and cover, in part or in full, the administrative fees, services already rendered, and fees and penalties charged by carriers and partners arising from this document:
- From registration until March 15, 2027: $1,000 non-refundable per person per program
- From March 16, 2027: 100% non-refundable

**If participants are insured for trip cancellation, depending on the cause of the cancellation and the insurance policy, these fees may be reimbursed by travel insurance. Please note that the amount paid for travel insurance is always non-refundable.*