



MARKETS THEN AND NOW Self-Directed Walking Tour

Welcome to a Routes on the Red self-directed tour of the Red River Valley. These itineraries guide you through the history and the geography of this beautiful and interesting landscape. Several different Routes on the Red, featuring driving, cycling, walking or canoeing/kayaking, lead you on an exploration of four historical and cultural themes: Fur Trading Routes on the Red; Settler Routes on the Red; Natural and First Nations Routes on the Red; and Art and Cultural Routes on the Red.

The purpose of this route description is to provide information on a self-guided walking trip. The walking described includes public lands, sidewalks and trails. While you enjoy yourself, please walk carefully as you are responsible to ensure your own safety and that any activity is within your abilities. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this description is accurate and up to date. However, we are unable to accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained as a result of anyone relying upon this information.

Recreate the hustle and bustle of a thriving marketplace from the fur trade on this short walking tour in Winnipeg. Start your tour at The Forks. During the time of the fur trade, much like today, this was a place for people to discover exotic goods from far-away lands, and to meet friends both old and new. Stroll the

banks of the Assiniboine River, past the Legislative Building and ultimately to The Bay, the modern incarnation of the Hudson Bay Company store. This is shopping history. Return to The Forks on foot, by the Downtown Spirit, a free shuttle bus, or grab a Splash Dash water bus.

There are many places to stop for a bite to eat. The Forks has many food kiosks and restaurants, and the Legislative Building has a cafeteria as well. The Bay also has a grocery store in the basement.

On today's trip you will visit the following sites:

The Forks –

201-One Forks Market Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 957-7618

<http://www.theforks.com>

Forks Market open daily

from 9:30 am - 6:30 pm

Friday from 9:30 am - 9:00 pm

Manitoba Legislature

450 Broadway Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 945-5813

Tours by appointment from September to June

From July 1 to the Labour Day long weekend in

September, tours are offered on an hourly basis.

Archives of Manitoba

200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 945-3971

Monday - Friday 9 am - 4pm

Closed for inventory control during
the first full week after Labour Day.

Since it is a secure building, suggested hours
to visit are between 11:00 and 12:00

Monday through Friday.

The Bay – 450 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 783-2112

Open Monday - Wednesday; 10:00 am - 6:00 pm,

Thursday - Friday; 10:00 am - 9:00 pm,

Saturday; 8:00 am - 6:00 pm,

Sunday; 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm, .

The Forks has been a meeting place for centuries. Long before Europeans came to the area, First Nations peoples came here to camp and trade. The fur trading companies followed, building posts and forts to which Aboriginal traders brought their furs. Upper Fort Garry, the Hudson's Bay Company fort, located in the vicinity, was the centre of the colony and of trade in the area. Lower Fort Garry was intended to replace it after the upper fort was demolished in 1826, but Upper Fort Garry was rebuilt in 1835 because traders objected to having to go all the way to the new fort. As the population grew, the fur trade became less important and new businesses were established, though much of the new development took place away from The Forks. The coming of the railroads restored The Forks to economic importance but made the site inaccessible to the local population. But since 1989 The Forks has again become a place where people come to socialize and to shop and gather for festivals and special events. It is once more a central meeting place.

Begin your tour by exploring the buildings, with their shops, where interesting things from all over the world are on offer, and food stands, where tantalizing aromas tempt you to taste

an array of treats. Then stop and imagine a time when none of this was here. Imagine small groups encamped on the river banks, stopping here to hunt and meet with groups from far away. Trade was more than merely an exchange of goods, however. It was accompanied by ceremonies that cemented alliances and friendships. Imagine the arrival of European traders and the establishment of trading posts on this site. Aboriginal people would come to exchange their furs for all kinds of items and the currency was not money but Made Beaver, which was the name for a prime beaver pelt. The goods purchased by the Aboriginals were practical things such as cloth, chisels, hatchets, knives, guns, and gunpowder. As a treat there was tobacco. The trade room would be heaped with goods, in cases and bundles, waiting to be carried off. Settlers would arrive to purchase important household goods such as kettles, needles, twine, and scythes and perhaps some tea. The air was redolent with the faint smell of burlap and tarred canvas and everywhere was the din of voices raised in chatter and laughter and bartering. But now it's time to return to the present and begin your walk.

km to next location	DIRECTIONS	Total km
0.0	Begin in front of the map panel outside the northeast entrance to The Forks Market.	0.0
0.1	Descend steps toward the river dock on the Assiniboine River.	0.1
0.1	Turn right and follow the Assiniboine river trail upstream.	0.2
0.4	Turn right to climb the stairs to Bonnycastle Park to reach the site of Upper Fort Garry gate. At the top of the stairwell, walk to the right of Fort Garry Place (in front of you).	0.6
0.1	Cross Assiniboine Avenue and walk up Fort Street.	0.7
0.1	Arrive at the north gate to Upper Fort Garry in _ a block on the right.	0.8

All that's left of the once imposing Upper Fort Garry is the stone gate to the north entrance of the fort. Upper Fort Garry was the last of five forts that were built near the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. Following the flood of 1826, which precipitated the destruction of the previous fort, Upper Fort Garry was constructed near the original location in 1835. This fort was an impressive structure with thick, 15 foot high stone walls and four corner bastions. It housed barracks, officers quarters, the Chief Factors residence, a general store, a fur store and a pemmican store. The main entrance to the fort was located approximately in the middle of what is now Main Street, just south of the junction with Assiniboine Avenue. Outside this entrance was the location of the liquor store.

By 1853 the fort was becoming too small for all the business and trade that occurred at the site and so it was extended north. The gate in front of you was the rear entrance to this northern expansion. The decision was taken not to enclose this section of the fort with stone walls; rather wooden walls made of two rows of squared oak logs filled with stone rubble were built (the wooden walls that you see today are replicas of the original). If you were to enter the fort through this gate

150 years ago, immediately in front of you would be the magnificent Governor's Residence, bordered by trees and a large oval garden.

Upper Fort Garry was the seat of government for the district before 1870 and for a time also the seat of the new provincial government after 1870. However, the fort quickly fell into decline as the development of the City of Winnipeg occurred northward away from the fort. By 1882 only a few buildings and the gate were left. Some of the wall was dismantled in order to straighten Main Street and much of the stone from the original walls was used in the construction of surrounding structures.

After the buildings within the fort were sold, the northern gate was neglected. Souvenir hunters collected stone chips from it and tourists had their pictures taken in front of it. Perhaps the most famous was Buffalo Bill Cody who posed in front of it while he and the members of his Wild West show visited Winnipeg in 1910. In 1900, after all kinds of proposals for the gate's fate had been suggested and rejected, the Hudson's Bay Company donated the gate and four lots to the City of Winnipeg to be preserved as a public park in perpetuity.

0.2

Return to the Riverwalk by reversing your route to the gate. Turn right to continue with walk.

1.0

As you pass under the Donald Street Bridge, you will see three coloured lines on the cement abutment. The bottom blue line indicates the average flood level in the spring. As the line is far above the river walk upon which you are walking, you can correctly infer that the river walk is usually not accessible during the spring as the water levels are too high. The next line, which is yellow, indicates a warning that a flood will occur if the

water levels continue to rise above this point. As a cautionary measure, city workers start getting ready for a major flood by preparing sandbags. The red line at the top indicates a flood in the City of Winnipeg.

0.5

Pass stairs to McFadyen Park at Winnipeg Hydro sign.

1.5

0.2

Turn right to climb stairs toward the Manitoba Legislature.

1.7

This is the location where you can catch the Splash Dash water bus back to The Forks, once you have completed your tour.

0.1

Arrive at statue of Louis Riel.

1.8

Louis Riel is recognized as a father of Manitoba. He was born in the Red River Settlement in 1844, the grandson of the first French Canadians to settle permanently in the west – Jean-Baptiste Lagimodière and Marie-Anne Gaboury. In 1858 Riel headed east, attending law school in Montreal and in 1864, he became a clerk in a Montreal law firm. After travelling through the United States for a time, he returned to St. Boniface in July 1868. Upon his return he found a community that was in turmoil about its political future, prompting him to become involved in the opposition to the unilateral incorporation of the Red River Settlement to Canada.

Louis Riel became the leader of the Métis and between 1869 and 1870 a number of small skirmishes and acts of defiance occurred in the Red River Settlement. They captured Upper Fort Garry and formed a Provisional Government, which led the struggle for a negotiated entry of the Red River Settlement into Confederation, as a province rather than a territory. While Riel's militia kept the Canadian representatives from occupying the Settlement, it was Father Noel-Joseph Ritchot, parish priest of St. Norbert, who travelled to Ottawa with two other residents of Red River to negotiate the terms of the Manitoba Act of 1870.

This Act, which conceded provincial status to Manitoba, also confirmed political rights, existing land ownership, use of the French language, and separate state supported Catholic and Protestant schools.

Because the Canadian Government repeatedly denied Riel amnesty for his role in the Resistance, he was unable to represent his people officially, even though they elected him to the House of Commons three times. He remained in exile in the United States until 1884, when he returned to present-day Saskatchewan to lead the Métis in the Northwest Rebellion. For this action, Riel was found guilty of treason and hanged in Regina on November 16, 1885. A controversial figure, Riel was denied his place in Canadian history until 1992 when he was formally accorded status as a founding father of Manitoba.

Want to know more about the Métis along the Red River? Try Rivers West's Métis and the Path to Confederation: self-directed drive & stroll tour.

From statue walk towards the Legislative Building in front of you.

0.1

Pass the Manitoba Plaza and water fountain.

1.9

The plaza and fountain were erected in 1995 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Manitoba as a province of Canada.

0.2

At this point, you can turn either direction to go around the building. Our directions take you around the right side of the building. Turn right in front of Legislature.

2.1

0.1

Turn left to walk around building.

2.2

0.1

Turn left to round corner of building and climb stairs to enter front entrance.

2.3

The Manitoba Legislature was finished in 1920 and is constructed of Manitoba Tyn dall limestone, which is notable for the fossils embedded in it. Perched high atop the dome is the Golden Boy, re-gilded in 2002 in 24 karat gold and symbolizing the spirit of enterprise and youth. The statue faces north, where the province's future lies, and carries a torch that represents a call to the youth of Manitoba, urging them to join in the pursuit of prosperity. The sheaf of wheat represents the fruits of labour. The first thing visitors notice when they step into the building

is the grand marble staircase framed by two life-size bronze bison, commemorating the vast herds that once thundered across the western plains. Bringing these large statues into the building was a challenge, which, according to one story, was overcome by flooding the main floor with water and letting it freeze. The bison were then placed on slabs of ice cut from the nearby Assiniboine River and slid into the building, thus ensuring that the marble floor would not be scratched.

After visiting the Legislative Building, exit and walk north.

In front of you will be the statue of Queen Victoria, who was the reigning monarch when Manitoba became a province in 1870. On the legislative grounds you'll find other statues of people who were important in Manitoba's history, such as Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de La Vérendrye, the first European to reach the forks of the Assiniboine and Red rivers, and Lord Selkirk, whose efforts resulted in the establishment of the Red River Settlement.

Want to know more about the Red River Settlement? Try Rivers West's People of the Red River Settlement: self-directed drive & stroll tour.

0.1	Use cross walk on right hand side to cross Broadway Avenue.	2.4
0.1	Pass the Land Titles building.	2.5
0.2	Pass Power House.	2.7
0.1	At lights continue straight across York Avenue. Pass the Manitoba Archives building.	2.8

The entrance to the Archives is on the corner of Vaughan and St. Mary one block to your right. The Archives of Manitoba are the repository of the documents that chronicle the history of the province. Particularly noteworthy is the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, a collection of documents, maps, and pictures documenting the history of the Hudson's Bay Company, founded in 1670 and still in business. The collection was given to the province of Manitoba in 1974 and is one of the most complete sets of company records in the world. From Monday to Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon,

it is possible to get a free 20-minute tour that will tell you about the history of the company and the archives and allow you to see examples of what the vaults contain. Among the documents you'll see are a York Factory journal from 1714 to 1717, Radisson's narrative, 1682-84, and the 1813 log of the Prince of Wales, with names of some of the Selkirk Settlers. When you enter the building, go to the security desk and let them know you'd like a tour. The Archives staff will share with you their enthusiasm for the documents they look after and for the history they illuminate.

0.1	Cross St. Mary Avenue.	2.9
0.2	Reach The Bay, across the street from the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The entrance to The Bay is on the right just past the parking lot.	3.1

The Hudson's Bay Company was founded in 1670, after Médard Chouart, Sieur des Groseilliers, and his brother-in-law, Pierre-Esprit Radisson returned from a voyage to Hudson Bay with a ketch laden with furs. King Charles II granted the HBC a monopoly over all the land drained by waters flowing into Hudson Bay, a territory that encompassed a quarter of North America, including all of Manitoba, although at the time no one knew exactly how vast it was. The area was called Rupert's Land, after Prince Rupert, who was the king's cousin and also the first governor of the company.

During the following century the company competed with French traders who were operating in the interior. The HBC, however, stuck to the shores of Hudson Bay and built large posts, while the French built temporary encampments and

spent much of their time living among the Aboriginal people with whom they traded. As long as Aboriginals were willing to bring their furs to the bay, the situation was fairly stable, but over the next century the HBC found that its trading partners were being intercepted by French traders operating out of Montreal. They were known as Nor'Westers. Following the British defeat of the French and the fall of New France, the remaining traders and British merchants continued the trade and eventually organized themselves into the North West Company. In order to compete, the HBC also began to send its men into the interior and the ensuing rivalry meant that hundreds of posts were built and almost any means were used to capture the Aboriginals' trade. For Aboriginal people, this was an opportunity to play one company off against the

other to make the best deals. For the fur trading companies, it meant an increase in costs and a decline in profit and some rather violent confrontations.

The Red River Valley was not an especially important fur trading area, but it was an important source of provisions, especially pemmican. It also became important for the HBC when it established a colony there in 1811 in hopes that it would reduce its costs by supplying provisions and employees, as well as providing a place for its old employees to retire. It was their sons who, the company hoped, would man its posts and steer its boats. But competition continued as fiercely as ever and the colony was attacked by the NWC. In 1821, with profits at an all-time low, the two companies decided to amalgamate as the Hudson's Bay Company. Trade now became much more sedate. The Red River Settlement developed into an important source of workers for the HBC and the Red River became an important transport route to the north.

As a result of the merger, the HBC actually received a license granting it a monopoly of the trade in a territory stretching from Labrador to the Pacific and it had posts all across the continent. However, this monopoly was widely criticized both in the Red River Settlement and elsewhere and eventually the company recognized that it had to tolerate competition. At the same time it began to look into other economic opportunities. In 1869 it decided to sell its territory to the Dominion of Canada. When it transferred its territories to Canada, the company received not only cash but also seven million acres of land in the southern parts of what are now Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba and the sale of land became an important source of revenue. The fur trade did not disappear, of course,

but it decreased in importance as the retail aspects of its business increased. Its posts became more like stores. In Winnipeg a new store was built following the demise of Upper Fort Garry in 1881, and gradually expanded.

Early in the 20th century the HBC decided to build a chain of department stores across Canada. Its flagship store was to be in Winnipeg. Work began on September 25, 1925. The project was huge, requiring 300 men, 120 teams of horses, 20 trucks, and 2 steam shovels to build the foundation. 100,000 tons of concrete, 2,000,000 feet of lumber, and 125,000 cubic feet of Tyndall stone were used. When it was built, the store was the largest reinforced concrete building in Canada. On November 18, 1926 George F. Galt, a member of the HBC's Canadian committee, opened the store with a golden key. For years, The Bay, as it came to be called, was, along with Eaton's, one of the two big department stores in Winnipeg. Eaton's is gone, while The Bay is now the largest Canadian non-food retailer.

Although The Bay is very much a modern store, its past is not entirely hidden. Up in the linens department you can still find the distinctive striped Hudson's Bay Point blankets, first offered for trade in 1670. The point refers to the lines woven into the edge of the blanket. These lines indicated the number of beaver pelts that someone needed to exchange for the blanket. The blankets are made to the same specifications that they were so long ago. They make an excellent souvenir. Fortunately, you no longer need to bring beaver pelts to shop at the Hudson's Bay Company.

Thank you for joining Routes on the Red's self-directed excursion exploring the markets of past and present. We hope that you had an enjoyable trip, and we would love to have you discover more of the Red River Valley on our other self-directed itineraries.

We greatly value your input and comments. If something was not clear, a road sign changed, or if you found a delightful picnic site or visit that you would like to share with future travellers, please let us know. The best way to communicate is to write the changes or new information directly onto the appropriate route description page, and mail or fax it to the Rivers West office. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Rivers West, officially known as Red River Corridor Inc./L'Association du Corridor Rivière Rouge, is a not-for-profit organization, with the overall objective to develop the Red River Corridor as a destination. Our mandate is to create and implement a long-term tourism and conservation strategy focusing on the development, promotion and management of the natural, tourism, cultural and heritage, and recreational resources of the Red River from Emerson to Lake Winnipeg.

We are pleased to receive financial support from the federal and provincial governments and the participation of rural municipalities, towns and cities along the length of the river. A variety of projects are underway in the Red River region. These include the preservation of special lands for conservation, designation of the Red River as a heritage river, increasing opportunities for public access to the River, and the development and promotion of the river valley's natural, cultural, recreational and tourism resources.

Contact us for more information at:

www.riverswest.ca or www.routesonthered.ca

202-One Forks Market Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4L9

PH: 204-945-7733 or 1-800-665-0040 ext. 7733

FAX: 204-943-7915



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