



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE VOYAGEURS 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 walk. The walking described includes public lands and trails. While enjoying yourself, please hike 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 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.

Experience the legacy of the fur trade on a walking tour as you explore the banks of the Red River in Winnipeg. Start at The Forks in downtown Winnipeg. Head across the Red River to Winnipeg's historic French quarter – St. Boniface – that traces its roots back to the early days of the fur trade. Meander quiet streets, pass historic buildings and enjoy the calm of the Seine River. En route, stop at the St. Boniface Museum and the striking St. Boniface Cathedral and cemetery, where the ghosts of the

fur trade reside. Find the homestead site of the first European woman to live on the Canadian prairies, Marie-Anne Lagimodière, and walk historic paths through quiet forests to the recreated North West Company post, Fort Gibraltar, before returning to The Forks.

This is a half to three-quarter day tour. Shops and restaurants can be found at The Forks and along Provencher Blvd.

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

St. Boniface Museum – 494 avenue Tache

phone: (204) 237-4500
open May - September
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

St. Boniface Cathedral 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale

phone: (204) 233-7304
open daily from 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Fort Gibraltar –

866 St. Joseph Road, St. Boniface, Manitoba

phone: (204) 237-7692
fax: (204) 233-7576

Open only on special occasions
no interpretation available.

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
and Friday from 9:30 am - 9:00 pm.

In the summer the Forks Market is open
daily 9:30 am - 9:00 pm

The first French-speaking arrivals to the Red River came as explorers and fur traders. These men began their careers in this rugged land by working for the North West Company as labourers and voyageurs. When they left the companies' employ, these men often stayed in the Red River Valley to farm or provided provisions for the fur trade. Many married local First Nation women and had families. The descendants of these unions became known as the Métis.

Because of the fur trade and the people it brought into the Red River Valley, numerous French speaking communities developed along the rivers, including St. Boniface. In 1818, when the Roman Catholic Church in Québec established a mission on the east bank of the Red River the community of St. Boniface became officially recognized. The primary goal of this mission was to minister to the French and Métis population. The mission was named by Father (soon to be Bishop) Joseph-Norbert Provencher after an English medieval evangelist who had inspired him.

km to next location	DIRECTIONS	Total km
0.0	Begin your tour in front of the map panel outside The Forks Market Building. With the parking lot at your back, head straight between The Forks Market Square building and the Johnston Terminal.	0.0
	Cross the circular pavillion with the Johnston Terminal on your left and head down the steps to the river and dock area	

The Forks, at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, has been a meeting place for thousands of years. First Nations camped, traded, and hunted here. It was important during the fur trade era, since the rivers were key shipping routes and the surrounding area was a primary source of provisions. The Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company, which

were the two rival fur-trade companies, both had forts near The Forks. Today it is a National Historic Site.

Want to know more about the First Nations in the Red River Valley? Try Routes on the Red's First Peoples of the Red: self-directed drive & stroll tour.

0.1	Turn left and follow the path along the river (which will be on your right).	0.1
0.1	Pass the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.	0.2

Winnipeg is a Cree word for "muddy water". Notice the colour of the water at the junction of the two rivers – in certain lights it has a very distinctive reddish colour. This colour and the

muddy appearance of the water are from all of the silt and clay that is suspended in the water.

0.3	Veer left up the ramp as you approach The Forks Amphitheatre, with views of St. Boniface Cathedral across the river on your right.	0.5
0.1	Continue straight onto the crushed rock surface and then swing left with the path and head toward the bridge.	0.6
0.1	Keep left then right at the Y-intersections to get onto the bridge.	1.7
0.1	Turn right to cross the Red River on the Esplanade Riel Pedestrian Bridge.	1.8
0.3	After crossing bridge, turn right at Taché to walk along the river.	1.1
0.1	Pass interpretive panels explaining the construction of the new bridge on your right.	1.2

The Manitoba Legislature and Golden Boy can be seen in the distance between buildings.

0.1	Pass an interpretive panel that describes the bishop's house on the left (Archbishop's Palace –1864).	1.3
	Come to the Water Bus dock on your left and cross to the other side of Taché. With your back to the water, in front of you now is the St. Boniface Cathedral and Cemetery, which you will explore in a few minutes. Continue along Taché.	
0.2	Arrive at the St. Boniface Museum-turn left to enter.	1.5

The building in which the museum is housed was built between 1845 and 1851 and is Winnipeg's oldest building. It is also the largest oak log building in North America. Today it is recognized as a National Historic Site. The building was originally home to the Grey Sisters of Charity who arrived in 1844 and ran

a hospital and school here. Many of the exhibits in the museum focus on this era. The museum also has the largest collection of artifacts associated with Louis Riel. After visiting the museum, turn right upon exit at the front door to head toward the Cathedral.

0.1	Follow the paths through the park. Cross into Cemetery and walk toward the huge Cathedral façade.	1.6
0.2	Arrive at the front of the Cathedral.	1.8

The first mission was established at St. Boniface in 1818 and was one of the first permanent missions west of the Great Lakes. It was an important focus for Roman Catholic missionary activity and a place of worship for fur traders and their families. The church also sought to Christianize the Aboriginal population, not only because it wanted to save their souls but also because it wanted to persuade them to adopt a settled, agricultural way of life.

The present cathedral is the sixth church on this beautiful site. The first was a small log chapel built in 1818. The second was completed in 1825. In 1832, a cathedral with twin spires was erected on the same location under the direction of Bishop Provencher. After it was destroyed by fire in 1860, a larger cathedral was built under the direction of Bishop Taché. In 1908, the fourth was completed to replace the old cathedral, which the parish had outgrown. This building burned on July 22, 1968, but its façade and partial walls were incorporated into the present cathedral, which was completed in 1972.

Contained within the façade are the tombs of past bishops of Saint-Boniface. Just inside on the left are the tombs for

J.N. Provencher, A.A Taché, L.P.A Langevin. On the right: Jean Edouard Darveau, R.A. Maisonneuve, and Jean Tissot. The most important of these are Joseph-Norbert Provencher and Alexandre-Antonin Taché.

Joseph-Norbert Provencher (1787-1853) was the first bishop of St. Boniface. He came to the Red River settlement from Lower Canada (Québec) as a missionary in 1818 and settled at The Forks amongst the Métis. He was to build the settlement's first church and his duties were education, conversion of the indigenous population, and the encouragement of Catholic emigration. He became bishop in 1847.

Alexandre-Antonin Taché (1823-1894) arrived at the Red River from Lower Canada in 1845 as a member of the Oblate order of priests. Taché was a strong advocate for the Métis of the area and fought hard to have the government attend to their problems. He served for almost 50 years in the Red River settlement where he was made bishop in 1853 and archbishop of St. Boniface in 1871.

After visiting the church, return to front of façade.

0.1	To continue walk, put the Cathédrale on your right and the river on your left. Walk to the road - Rue de la Cathédrale – and turn right .	1.9
0.2	Pass College Saint Boniface on right.	2.1

College Saint Boniface is among the oldest post-secondary educational institutes in western Canada. It originated in the mission school established in 1818. It was incorporated

in 1871, at the same time as St. John's College and Manitoba College, and was united with them in 1877 to form the University of Manitoba.

0.1	Cross Rue Aulneau Street to stay on Rue de la Cathedrale Avenue.	2.2
0.5	Turn left at Rue Des Meurons.	2.7
0.4	Cross Provencher Blvd and turn right to cross Des Meurons and then some railroad tracks. Immediately turn left onto a walking trail.	3.1
0.1	At intersection with bridge on right, turn left to follow the trail to the left (away from bridge).	3.2
0.1	Pass a small trail to a look out over Seine River. When trail comes to small road turn right to enter the Lagimodiere-Gaboury historic park. Follow the trail along the Seine river.	3.3

Jean-Baptiste Lagimodière, one of the park's namesakes, was born in Lower Canada in 1778 and came west in 1800 as a voyageur.

The French term voyageur, meaning "traveller", was given to the men who guided and paddled the canoes of explorers and fur traders during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The voyageurs were the backbone of the fur trade era working 14 hours a day, paddling 50 strokes a minute, and transporting 180 pounds of goods each at a time over portages. They carried on back breaking labour for little pay. Explorers such as Alexander Mackenzie, George Simpson, and earlier French explorers, relied on the voyageur's know-how to open the vast expanses of the continent.

Want to know more about the fur trade? Try Routes on the Red's People of the Fur Trade: self-directed drive & stroll tour or In the Paddle Strokes of the Voyageurs: self-directed Canoe or Kayak Trip.

Lagimodière settled in the west and worked as a trapper and hunter. He often supplied provisions to the Hudson's

Bay Company. He also worked as a messenger for the HBC. His most famous trip as a messenger took him from The Forks to Lord Selkirk in Montreal in 1815, a journey of over 1800 miles (2,880 km)! He was carrying a message from the colony to Selkirk, seeking help against the hostile North West Company that was determined to destroy the Red River settlement. In recognition of his epic trek that helped to bring desperately needed supplies and military protection to the isolated Red River settlement, the land at the mouth of Seine River was granted to Lagimodiere by Lord Selkirk.

He married Marie-Anne Gaboury (the other namesake of this park) in 1806. She was the first white woman to settle permanently in the west and together Jean-Baptiste and Marie-Anne were the grandparents of Louis Riel, the great Métis leader who is regarded as the father of Manitoba.

Want to know more about Louis Riel and the Métis in the Winnipeg area? Try Routes on the Red's Métis and the Path to Confederation: self-directed drive & stroll tour.

0.1	Follow trail past interpretive sign.	3.4
0.1	Stay on main trail.	3.5

The Lagimodière/Gaboury homestead is thought to have been located somewhere within this park.

0.3	Cross beneath rail bridge to come to the confluence of the Red and Seine Rivers. Stay on the trail as it follows the Red River.	3.8
0.8	Pass ball park on right. You are now in Whittier Park.	4.6
0.3	Arrive at Fort Gibraltar on left.	4.9

Fort Gibraltar is a replica of the old 1810 North West Company post. The original fort was located at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers (where The Forks is today) and was an important post for the North West Company.

The fort is often closed, as the facility is only used for special events such as weddings and conferences. However, if you walk around to the other side, the main doors may be open and you can wander throughout the grounds and buildings. There is no interpretation here and re-enactment is only carried on for the public during the Festival du Voyageur in February.

The first Fort Gibraltar was destroyed in 1815 by the Hudson's Bay Company at a time when the rivalry between the two main fur trading companies was reaching a climax. During

the years of competition, the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies matched each other post for post along major waterways throughout Canada. Although the competition led to fur traders, explorers, and mapmakers, including Alexander Mackenzie, David Thompson, and Simon Fraser, to push the trade north and westwards, it was also costly. The trade became more and more expensive as both companies tried to win the trade of the Natives and more violent as traders clashed with one another and tried to force Native groups to trade with them rather than their rivals. Profits declined, costs increased, and in 1820 the two companies decided to merge under the Hudson's Bay Company. The merger was completed by 1821 retaining many of the old North West Company officers and many of its employees as well.

0.2	Follow trail along river under the toboggan slides, ignoring turn offs to the left.	5.1
0.2	Where the trail meets the corner (beside climbing tower) of Rue Messager Street and Avenue Taché, proceed down Taché. Pass water-pumping station on left and round water tower.	5.3
0.7	Just before you reach the lights at Provencher Boulevard, veer right to follow a path down to the river and under the bridge.	6.0
	Follow the path as it climbs up the other side and back around to the Esplanade Riel – to cross back over the Red River.	

This pedestrian bridge recreates the original bridge to span the river at this location. Prior to the construction of the

CN Train Station (in front of you with the green dome), Provencher Boulevard linked directly to Broadway Avenue.

0.4	After the bridge turn left to follow the paths back to The Forks.	6.4
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You're now at The Forks where you can follow a variety of walking paths. You can visit the Oodena Celebration Circle near the Children's Museum or cross the Assiniboine River to South Point from where you can go even further along other trails. Explore the Prairie Garden Preserve before returning to The Forks Market.

Take time to stroll through the buildings. There are lots of interesting shops to wander through as well as numerous places to eat. Washrooms can be found inside the main building as well as the Johnston Terminal.

0.4	Arrive back at The Forks Market.	6.8
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Thank you for joining Routes on the Red's self-directed excursion exploring the Fur Trade in St. Boniface. We hope that you had an enjoyable trip. 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**

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