

People of Quebec... Then and Now

Guided Tour

Duration : 75 minutes, including welcoming

Only by retracing a society's past can we understand its present.

Fernand Dumont, sociologist,
Genèse de la société québécoise, 1993



This permanent exhibition allows visitors to relive historical moments in the founding of Québec society as we know it today. It eloquently sums up more than four hundred years of history, making it meaningful for modern-day citizens. Québec's history was written by men and women who, thanks to their hopes, dreams and achievements, created a society and an identity that are unique in North America.

Travelling back in time

The exhibition is presented chronologically, thus transporting visitors back through time. It begins with the arrival of Jacques Cartier and ends around the year 2000, and also provides an overview of the Native peoples who lived on the territory before it was discovered by Europeans. Visitors will thus relive four different eras: New France; the British colonial period; the period from the early 1800s to 1960; and modern-day Québec, from the Quiet Revolution to the present.

These eras are interlinked by seminal events that changed the course of history, namely, the conquest of 1760, the rebellions of 1837-1838 and the election of Jean Lesage and the Liberal Party in 1960.

One overarching theme, four eras, three turning points. The exhibition recounts the political and social history of each of these eras (socioeconomic, cultural and religious trends).

The culture of French-speaking peoples underpins the exhibition, since they are what shaped Québec as it is today and account for the majority of its population. However, other inhabitants called this territory home prior to 1534, and new arrivals have, over the centuries, swelled the ranks of the original settlers. All are part of Québec's history; all are this exhibition's "people of Québec."

Enjoy your tour!