

# FORT GIBRALTAR

SCHOOL  
PROGRAM 2023





# INTRODUCTION

We invite you to learn about Fort Gibraltar's influence over the cultural development of the Red River settlement.

Throughout your visit, your students will meet the various people who lived and worked during the fur trade era.

Through interactive demonstrations of traditional trades, learn about the formation of this unique community. Costumed interpreters will guide your class back in time to the year 1815 to a time of immeasurable change in the Red River valley.

Festival du Voyageur (owner and operator of Fort Gibraltar) recognizes the role the fur trade played in the colonization of these lands and the impact it has had on Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge that this fort stands on Treaty 1 territory, the lands of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree) and Dakota peoples and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Fort Gibraltar

866, Saint-Joseph St.

Managed by: Festival du Voyageur inc.

Phone: 204.237.7692

1.877.889.7692

[www.fortgibraltar.com](http://www.fortgibraltar.com)

[www.heho.ca](http://www.heho.ca)

### Dates of Operation | School Program

May 15 to June 30, 2023

### Hours of Operation

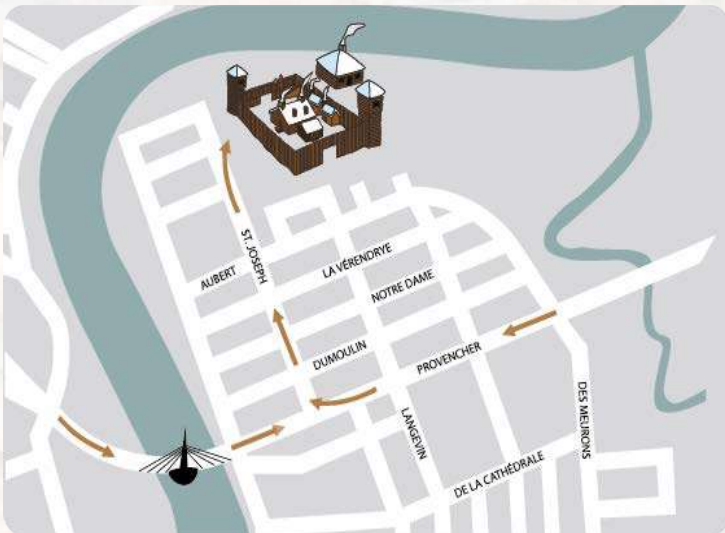
Monday to Friday | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

School programs available from 9:30am to 2pm.

## Lunch

Fort Gibraltar does not offer any food services. However, Fort Gibraltar is located in Whittier Park, ideal for a group picnic.

## Saint-Boniface



## Admission

### School Programs

Option #1 – \$5.50 per student (+GST)

Option #2 - \$7.50 per student (+ GST)

- One (1) teacher/chaperone per 10 students (1:10) is included at no extra cost
- Additional chaperones (above the 1:10 ratio) will be charged \$5.50 (+GST)
- All Educational Assistants enter at no cost.

## Reservations

School tours must be booked in advance.

**School tours are subject to availability.**

When making your booking please provide the following information:

- Contact person, name of school, grade level(s) of students
- Preferred date and start time
- # of teachers and chaperones
- Language of program
- Name of program you wish to attend

To book your program, please contact the Festival du Voyageur school program team at: [reservations@heho.ca](mailto:reservations@heho.ca)

- We do not accept registrations by telephone

Once we have confirmed a date and time, we will send you a preliminary invoice for your approval.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Payment Methods

Visa, MasterCard, Interac, cheque, cash, or invoice

**Please make your cheque payable to :**  
**Festival du Voyageur inc.**  
233 Provencher Blvd.  
Winnipeg (Manitoba  
R2H 0G4

Your payment is required prior to your arrival onsite unless other arrangements have been made to invoice your school. A receipt will be issued to you when your payment is made.

## Cancellation

Festival du Voyageur will not be issuing refunds due to illness, absenteeism or bad and/or severe weather. Also, Festival du Voyageur will not issue refunds for school bus cancellations by the schools or school divisions.

For more information, please contact us at **204.237.7692** or at **1.877.889.7692** or at [reservations@heho.ca](mailto:reservations@heho.ca)





# FORT GIBRALTAR

## 1. Trading Post

Trade goods on display range from every day necessities to more luxurious wares from around the world. Good relations between the company and local communities were essential to keeping business moving at the fort. Furs, from muskrats to moose, could have been temporarily stored here before being shipped east and eventually to Europe.

## 2. Workshop

Company employees or engagés were kept busy throughout the year with general maintenance. Skilled labourers would be tasked with repairing canoes, making barrels and preparing timber for construction. The fort had to be self-sufficient in effecting repairs and made many daily items from raw materials harvested nearby.

## 3. Blacksmith's Shop

Tradesmen such as the blacksmith received a basic, yet thorough, formal education as an apprentice often in the major centres of eastern Canada or overseas. They were charged with the task of repairing iron tools, muskets and hardware as well as limited production of trade for the local market.

## 4. Warehouse

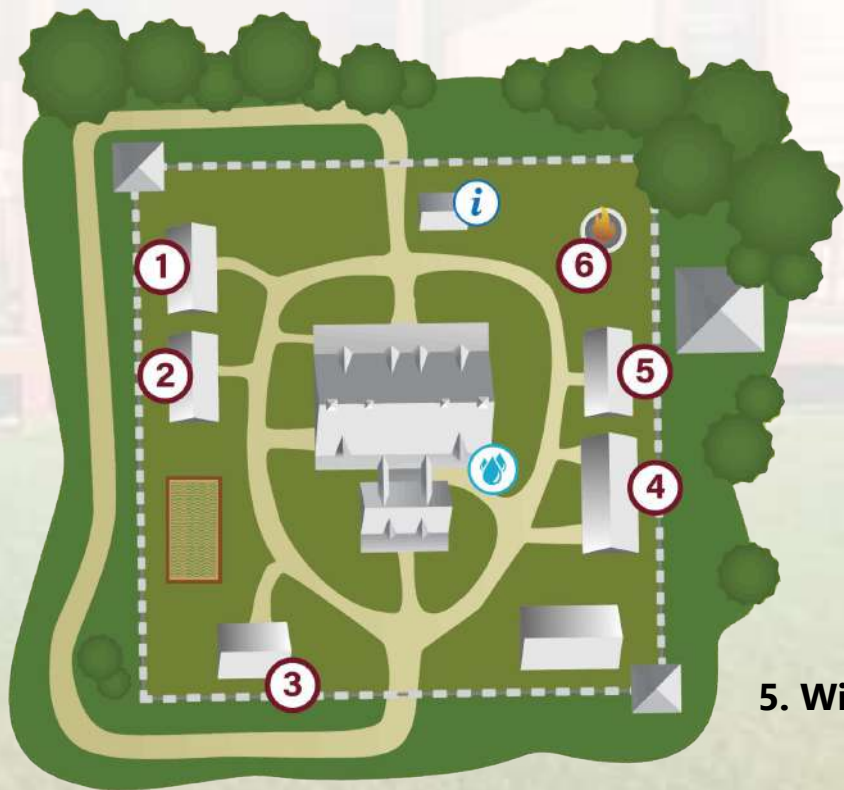
Fort Gibraltar was built as a provisioning post to supply the company's employees with foodstuffs such as pemmican, made from dried bison meat mixed with fat, and locally grown produce. Along with provisions, items such as trade goods and furs would be stored here until they could be shipped out. A clerk would have bunked in the loft to keep an eye on the company's important possessions.

The North West Company built Fort Gibraltar at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers in the year 1810. The fort was able to tap into already existing trade networks for provisions such as pemmican and locally grown produce. Food traded here was used to supply brigades of voyageurs destined for the rich fur country in the north-west. For over 6,000 years, the Forks was a meeting place for many different First Nations: a strategic location at the heart of the prairies.

In 1815, the Forks was home to a diverse population of First Nations peoples, a growing Métis community, recently arrived settlers from Europe, retired voyageurs, and fur traders. These inhabitants formed complex relationships rooted in commerce and kinship ties. In this environment, Fort Gibraltar tells the story of competition and connections at the centre of the fur trade.

## 6. Summer Kitchen

Processing food was an important task at the fort for voyageurs, local Indigenous day labourers and domestic servants. They would smoke water fowl and fish, dry meat, render grease and parch wild rice and corn. The bake oven was used to cook bread and prepare hard biscuit and on special occasions for baking treats like cakes, cookies, and pies.



## 5. Winterer's Cabin

Winterers or hivernants were a group of voyageurs who travelled from Lake Superior to the far reaches of the north-west and spent the winter at forts like Fort Gibraltar. Typically, they were young men hired by the company to transport trade goods and furs. This accommodation was provided as a warm and dry place to stay during the frigid winter months.





# School program

## OPTION 1

### The Fur Trade at Fort Gibraltar

**May 15 to June 30 | Available from 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Grade levels:** 1 to 12

**Length:** 90 minutes

**Admission:** \$5.50 per student

**Maximum group size:** 4 classes

During this 90-minute tour of Fort Gibraltar, your students will discover the ins and outs of the early 19th century fur trade. Encounter costumed interpreters who portray the colourful characters of fur trade society. Meet the clerk in charge of assessing the quality and value of the different furs; a voyageur retelling tall tales about his travels in the north-west; the tradesmen applying saws to wood and hammers to iron, and learn about the essential roles that Indigenous peoples played in the success of the North West Company.



# School program

## OPTION 2

### Hands-on Fort Gibraltar

**May 15 to June 30 | Available from 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Grade levels:** 4 to 12

**Length:** 120 minutes

**Admission:** \$7.50 per student

**Maximum group size:** 2 classes

During this 120-minute program, your students will meet the people who made the early 19th century fur trade happen. Interact with costumed interpreters as they discuss their role at the fort and the skill-set that brought them there. Then engage in an in-depth hands-on activity that brings Manitoba's history to life.



Your students will see the following stations on a 60 minute tour:

- The Trading post
- The Blacksmith shop
- The Warehouse
- The Winterer's cabin

Followed by a sash weaving craft. (60 minutes)