

Wonderful Miramichi!

From the earliest times when the Miqmag people called this area home, to when the Acadians and then the Irish and Scots arrived and the river hosted the shipbuilding and lumber trades, the majestic Miramichi River has always been and continues to be the heart of the city of Miramichi. Nowadays the river acts like a magnet to salmon fishers, providing a world-class fly-fishing experience. Weekends spent in the Miramichi region provide an authentic and very different kind of getaway for couples and families alike.



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You can get a taste of the shipbuilding heritage at Ritchie Wharf Park. This waterfront was once a thriving shipbuilding centre — now you can wander the boardwalk, take in the shops or enjoy a delicious meal. The children will also enjoy the nautical-themed playground.

Beaubears Island Shipbuilding National Historic Site of Canada marks the only known, undisturbed, archeological site that is associated with the 19th-century wooden shipbuilding industry in New Brunswick. Wharves, foundations, and other shipbuilding remnants have remained untouched for the past 100 years. Discover its history by taking a short boat trip to the island and a walking tour accompanied by costumed guides.

Between 1756 and 1760, many Acadians found refuge from the British at nearby Wilson's Point. Beaubears Island was an integral part of the early settlement, and gives testimony to the Acadian experience. If you time your visit to the Miramichi to coincide with the annual Acadian Day, you can immerse yourself deeper in the Acadian cultural heritage. Enjoy fiddlers, folk music and songs as well as Acadian meals.

Timing your getaway in Miramichi to coincide with one of the many summer festivals is an ideal way to meet locals and understand their way of life today. The Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition is a terrific opportunity to celebrate summer and the local farming community. And the Miramichi Folksong Festival is a spectacle of song and dance, featuring authentic traditional and contemporary folk music. Let the magic of the city of Miramichi cast its spell on you this summer!

Editor's Note: Start your planning with the city of Miramichi Tourism (tel.: 1 800 459-3131, Web site: www.miramichi.org). Be sure not to miss Canada's Irish Festival on the Miramichi, a New Brunswick Top Festival held this year from July 15 to the 17. For more information on all festivals in New Brunswick, go on-line at www.TourismNewBrunswick.ca.

