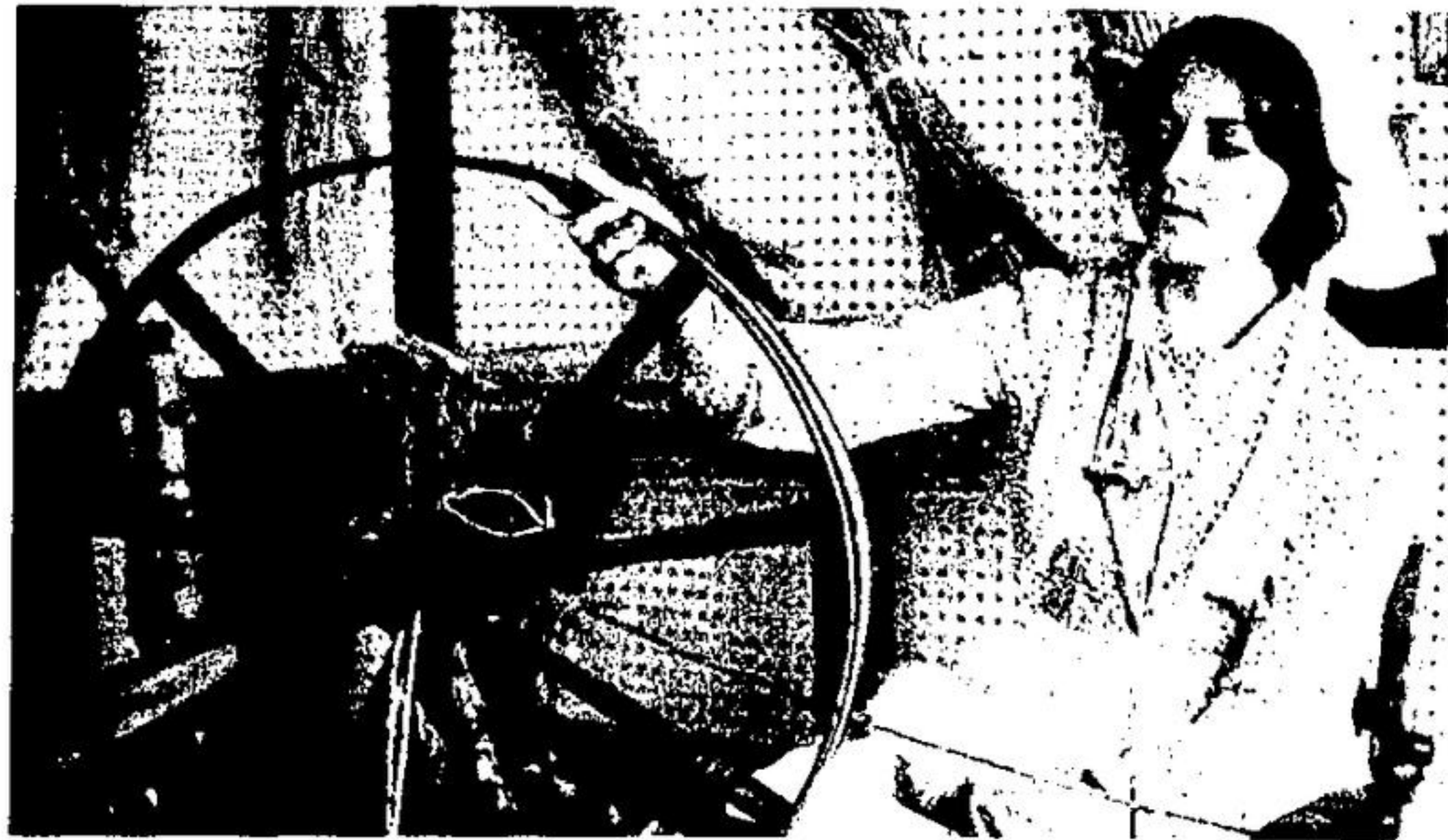


# Travel



## Visit an Acadian Village circa 1725

Not science fiction, but science fact. It is estimated that some 10,000 tourists to New Brunswick during 1977 will be taken 200 years back in time to relive the life-style of Acadian settlers.

No, the time travel won't be accomplished by some new type of apparatus. It is made possible by a careful reconstruction of the past unequalled elsewhere in Canada.

New Brunswick's Village Historique Acadien will be opening this summer after several years of preparation. A project sponsored by the provincial government, Village Historique Acadien is the result of a decade of planning and sci-

entific research into Acadian history... then, careful reconstruction of the village site using construction techniques, materials and tools of 200-250 years ago.

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## A fast growing sun destination - Cuba

CUBA IS ONE OF THE SUN SPOTS WHICH CANADIANS HAVE SUDDENLY DISCOVERED. Well over 50,000 vacationers from Canada - mostly in their late thirties and forties, but some younger and older - will jet there this year, making Castro's island one of the most popular "sun, sea and surf" destinations.

It's all happened in a few years, this Cuban attraction. It began a bit before Prime Minister Trudeau's celebrated visit two years ago, but tourism was just a trickle then. Now there's a flood of Canadian arrivals during our dreary winter, and there's a steady flow during the summer too.

What's the big draw? CERTAINLY THE NIGHT LIFE ISN'T DAZZLING. Castro nationalized the brightest lights of Havana - those former American gambling hotels; cleaned out prostitution; put clothes on the chorus girls; and even banned tipping. So travellers who want a lot of sparkle after dark head for Puerto Rico.

Cuba's hotels and villas are far from Canadian-style luxury, and the food is interestingly local, simple yet sufficient. Cuba's economy leaves no room for prime grade beef imports!

So what's in Cuba to rave about, then? It seems the people and the pace are just right, and the price is reasonable.

TODAY'S CUBAN IS PROUD, which means he serves Canadian tourists cheerfully, even though at less than lightning speed. Servility disappeared with tipping (both could make an amazingly fast comeback, however).

For vacationers the pace of Cuban living is languorous. Possibly not back to the old manana days, for there's an underlying tempo and sense of purpose in modern Cuba, but still a lot more relaxing than in Toronto or Montreal. Maybe it's the soothing sound of surf and breezes in the palms that does it.

The price of a week or two in Cuba, everything included, is somewhat less than in the neighboring islands when you consider the total package usually including all meals. Up to 30 percent less for comparable packages in some cases. But the people who are going to Cuba aren't primarily holiday bargain-hunters; they could afford to pay more.

Mostly they went to Cuba hoping to escape the crass over-commercialism and rip-offs of several other sun destinations. And in spite of the difference that Cuba offers, they were also curious about how the Cubans' "social experiment" is working out.

RETURNING CANADIANS MAY NOT HAVE ANY CLEAR-CUT ANSWERS about Castro-style socialism, but in general they come back tanned, relaxed and convinced that a no-tipping regime has something going for it.

FOR \$13 A DAY, UNLIMITED MILEAGE, visitors to these tiny Dutch islands in the Caribbean can, and do, rent donkeys.

St. Eustatius and Saba, the two little sister islands of St. Maarten in the Netherlands Antilles, lend themselves particularly to a donkey promenade. The pace of life (leisurely) - and the terrain (sometimes steep) - make the rent-a-donkey business very popular with visitors.

All eight square miles of St. Eustatius can be explored

from its Atlantic to Caribbean beaches without ever having to get into a car. Though the area is small, the history it covers is centuries old and fascinating.

YOU CAN CLOP CLOP YOUR WAY among the ruins of Lower Town, Oranjestad, that bustled with industry 200 years ago.

You can let your transportation refuel on hibiscus leaves while you browse among the tombstones of the second oldest Jewish cemetery in the Western Hemisphere or in the ancient ruins of the Dutch Reformed Church.

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## Hard currency in Yap.

If you're looking for a really reliable currency one that won't go soft on you - try the tiny island of Yap in the Central Pacific. Talk about hard, this currency is like a rock. In fact, that's what it is: stone money.

If you're a speculator, you're in for a disappointment. The Yapese won't sell any of these unique monetary units, so the only fier you can take is on Air Micronesia (an affiliate of Continental Airlines) which will jet you south from Guam 600 miles to this remote little community.

When you get there, you'll see money everywhere - just lying around in front of people's huts. But nobody's going to come sneaking around and make off with it - not unless they can sneak with a crane. The stone money comes as big as eight feet in diameter and weighs about as much as your car. The smaller pieces are maybe three feet across and only weigh about 75 pounds, but they're still not something you slip into your pocket when nobody's looking. What's more, traditional Yapese dress is "thus" for the men (a type of loin cloth) and grass skirts for the women, so nobody has pockets.



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This summer, if you're planning a trip to the Maritimes, don't miss the opportunity to take in a little time travel in Village Historique Acadien.