A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

This year, Parks Canada is celebrating its 100th birthday. In 1911, the government established the Dominion Parks Branch, the very first national parks service in the world. Today, Parks Canada protects 42 national parks, 167 national historic sites and 4 national marine conservation areas across the country.

Canada has the world’s longest coastline, along three oceans, as well as the largest freshwater reserve in the world. These marine and coastal regions are home to an extraordinary ecological diversity and abundance and are also the site of numerous human activities. As such, not only do they make a major contribution to the economy but they are also of incalculable social and cultural value.

Established in 1998, the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park is one of Canada’s first marine protected areas. Cooperation between the Canadian and Quebec Governments for the management of this unique park along with active participation from surrounding communities makes for a truly inspiring model. As minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency, I am particularly proud to contribute to the protection of the park’s exceptional marine environment and to offer the public opportunities to discover and enjoy memorable experiences in these surroundings.

I invite all citizens and our visitors to come celebrate our most cherished places and to take advantage of this opportunity to discover and become better acquainted with these protected areas. The launch of the Parks Canada centennial activities will take place across the country on May 19, 2011. Admission is free at all Parks Canada sites on Canada Day (July 1) and Parks Day (July 16).

Join in the celebrations as we begin our second century of history!

Peter Kent
Canadian Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency
Message from the Minister

Over the years, Sépaq has become a true leader in the nature tourism field in Québec. Sépaq is unique in what it has to offer: 22 national parks, a marine park, 15 wildlife reserves, Sépaq, Ancienneté, Aquarium du Québec and 7 resorts. The Société operates 47 establishments grouped in three networks: Parcs Québec, Wildlife Reserves and Resorts.

In 2010, it celebrated its 25th anniversary, and national parks have been part of the Sépaq family since 1999.

During the past 12 years, Parcs Québec has succeeded in increasing the quality standards in parks so that they compare advantageously with the other major national park networks around the world. It has also developed a feeling of belonging and pride in these exceptional protected territories, while making sure that their ecological integrity is maintained. This vast natural domain is dotted with hundreds of lakes and rivers. It is home to rich and diversified wildlife and flora, boasts several historical sites, and serves as a backdrop for the majestic St. Lawrence River as it flows to the ocean and for the stunning Saguenay fjord, one of the world's most beautiful fjords.

For millennia, the song of the beluga whale, the emblem of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park, has been heard between the steep walls of the fjord. Other equally fascinating species are found in the park, the first marine conservation area in Québec. Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park was created under two laws, one provincial and the other federal. Parks Canada and Parcs Québec are working together to raise the level of protection of the ecosystems and the biodiversity of the Saguenay fjord and the estuary of the St. Lawrence River for conservation purposes, while promoting their use for educational, recreational and scientific purposes. Let yourself be surprised, let yourself be filled with wonderment! The biodiversity of this marine territory is being enhanced for the benefit of both current and future generations.

Have a great vacation!

Pierre Arcand
Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks

Summary

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www.parcsquebec.com
Welcome to the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park!

Purpose of the Marine Park

Recognizing the importance of protecting the environment, wildlife, plant life, and natural resources of a part of the Saguenay Fjord and St. Lawrence River estuary, the Governments of Quebec and Canada created, together with public support, the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park.

The purpose of the Marine Park is to increase, for the benefit of the present and future generations, the level of protection of its ecosystems for conservation purposes, while encouraging its use for educational, recreational and scientific purposes.

Activities in the Marine Park are regulated with a view to ensuring the sustainable use of this area and its resources. Regional stakeholders contribute to achieving the marine park’s objectives.

Park sectors

The Marine Park protects the marine environment, the portion of the shoreline covered at high tide, the water column, and the sea floor, and all the life they support. The islands and islets are not included in the park, but many are nevertheless protected.

Covering an area of 1,245 km², the Marine Park is made up of three interconnected ecosystems at the confluence of the Saguenay and St. Lawrence Rivers.

1. Upper estuary: A nurturing area

With its islands set in a sea of turquoise, the upper estuary scenery is one of the most beautiful along the St. Lawrence River. The many lighthouses, standing tall on the rocky shores, bring a final touch to this outstanding seascape. The upper estuary is an ideal habitat where herring, capelin, birds, seals, and belugas can reproduce, feed, and rest. In winter, it is the preferred place of birds, and particularly Barrow’s Goldeneye. This area represents 53 % of total park area.

2. Lower estuary: A gigantic pantry

This is without a doubt the most popular sector of the Marine Park! Every summer, whales, seals and birds regale on the plethora of small fish and plankton that thrive here. The upwelling of cold salt water coming from the Gulf and Atlantic Ocean is at the origin of this abundant marine life. This is also where most of the excursion boats come to watch marine mammals. The area is also a preferred setting of sea-kayakers. It makes up 30 % of total park area.

3. Saguenay Fjord: A unique environment

Dark waters enclosed within dizzying cliffs give the Saguenay Fjord a somewhat mysterious aspect. The Fjord is at once a sea and a river, as cold salt water from the St. Lawrence estuary invades its depths, while warmer fresh waters from its tributaries and Lake St. Jean run along the surface. This sector is a favourite of recreational boaters and fishing enthusiasts. It covers 17 % of the park.
A word from the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park Co-Directors

Welcome to the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park, a unique marine conservation area supported by two park networks that unite their strengths to provide two exceptional ecosystems with high levels of protection, and park users with high-quality nature experiences. Parcs Québec and Parks Canada invite you to come discover the countless gems this park has to offer.

Fall under the charm of the stories told by a boat captain; glide along the waters of the St. Lawrence estuary or Saguenay River on a guided kayak outing; find out about the underwater world from a guide-interpreter; relax on a beach shaped by the comings and goings of the tides; let the Discovery Network unveil for you the many aspects of the park, and plunge into the heart of cultural heritage. Hear the song of belugas, the blowing of whales, breathe the sea breeze, and marvel at the beauty of the landscapes.

So many ways to experience the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park. . . Yours to discover! We hope this guide will help you get the most of your park experience.

Daniel Langlois
Co-Director
Parks Canada

Nathâel Bergeron
Co-Director
Parcs Québec

A word from the President of the Coordination Committee

Navigating on the waters of the Marine Park or walking along Discovery Network sites, the natural beauty of the surroundings will astound you, as will the many activities offered. And if you had a chance to come backstage, you might be impressed by the sheer number of contributors who are wholly committed to the sound development of this magnificent marine environment.

Formed upon the creation of the Marine Park, the Coordination Committee is made up of representatives from the regional county municipalities, Essipit Innu First Nation, scientific community, and from the fields of education and tourism. The committee plays a part in determining the management orientations of the park and making sure the management plan is followed. Moreover, a committee on marine activities and a number of advisory committees oversee the various stakes of the park and contribute to the dynamics and sound management of the Marine Park.

In short, a large number of regional role players are active behind the scenes and collaborate with Parcs Québec and Parks Canada for you. In the name of Coordination Committee members, I wish one and all memorable moments at the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park.

Émilien Pelletier
President, Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park
Coordination Committee,
Professor, Institut des sciences de la mer de Rimouski (UQAR-IMER)

A region known for its beautiful landscapes

A rich living and inhabited environment, the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park and surrounding areas are also places of natural and cultural heritage. Many neighbouring protected areas contribute to the Marine Park’s protection: Charlevoix World Biosphere Reserve, Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay, the Baie de l’Île-Verte and Îles de l’Estuaire National Wildlife Areas, certain Lower St. Lawrence private islands, and the St. Fulgence marsh.

Charlevoix World Biosphere Reserve

The Charlevoix region has been listed among the “World Network of Biosphere Reserves” for the diversity of its landscapes, wildlife, and plant life. This natural environment is in great demand for a multitude of uses. The local communities work together towards the sustainable development of the reserve and its natural resources, and the conservation of its biological diversity. www.biospherecharlevoix.com
Protecting a given environment starts with understanding that environment, and scientific research is essential to the task by measuring the effectiveness of protection measures and helping to mitigate the effects of human activities on the marine environment.

The St Lawrence estuary and Saguenay Fjord have for a long time fascinated scientists. Researchers have shown interest in the area’s unique ecosystems and living organisms since the 1960s. Still today, many scientists affiliated to universities, and government and non-government organizations, conduct research on a wide range of topics. The Marine Park has not yet revealed all its secrets. Here are two of the projects under the microscope:

**Keeping an eye on the beluga**

In collaboration with Parcs Québec, a Parks Canada team is studying the beluga whale in two specific areas of the Marine Park at the mouth of the Saguenay River and in Baie-Sainte-Marie, where pods of adult belugas and their calves spend a substantial part of the summer. The knowledge thus acquired and invaluable support of the local population will help us to better protect this magnificent marine mammal.

**Just what do whales eat in the Marine Park?**

On board “L’Alliance”, Parks Canada researchers navigate the Marine Park waters to find out what’s on the menu for whales, seals and birds. Their equipment is specially designed to detect krill and fish below the surface.

As cold water comes up the maritime estuary it brings along large amounts of these types of prey. But researchers have many questions on their minds: How abundant is the prey? What influences their numbers? What is the relation between prey numbers and predator distribution? What does the future hold for whales, seals, and birds in terms of food?

Conducted each summer since 2009, the study will provide answers to these questions. We will better understand why whales, seals, and some bird species visit the area at specific times of the year.

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**Some species are threatened; it’s up to us to protect them!**

Around the world, wildlife species are threatened by human activities. Thanks to protection efforts, some species, like the Peregrine Falcon, have recovered or are in the process of recovering. Others, like the beluga and blue whale, still need our help.

The St. Lawrence beluga whale population numbered between 7,800 and 10,000 individuals in the mid-19th Century. Deemed to be the cause of their decline, hunting was banned in 1979. Since the 1980s, the population has stabilized to about 1,100 individuals. But this state of affairs is an indication that other factors may be harmful to the St. Lawrence beluga, which has been assigned the status of threatened species.

The blue whale, the largest animal on the planet, is endangered. Despite the hunting ban, the North Atlantic population only numbers 250 to 300 individuals of reproductive age, and a few calves. Estimates show that ten or so individuals occasionally visit the St. Lawrence maritime estuary.

Threatened and endangered whale species are the subject of special protective measures in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park. Help protect them by respecting the environment and by complying with regulations governing the approach distances and speeds to be maintained in the vicinity of marine mammals.
Complementary protection measures

Zoning

Zoning is a conservation measure used in land and marine parks to delimit areas where certain types of activities can or cannot be practiced, with a view to sustainable use of the protected areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zoning category</th>
<th>Authorized activities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive preservation: 3% of the park</td>
<td>Scientific research under specific conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific protection: 42% of the park</td>
<td>Navigation, marine tours, underwater diving, scientific research</td>
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<tr>
<td>General protection: 19% of the park</td>
<td>Navigation, marine tours, underwater diving, scientific research, as well as recreational hunting and fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General use: 36% of the park</td>
<td>Navigation, marine tours, underwater diving, scientific research, recreational hunting and fishing, as well as commercial fishing under specific conditions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marine Activities in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park Regulations

Developed in partnership with the marine tour companies, the regulations provide a framework for the activities practiced in the Marine Park. The regulations indicate the maximum navigation speed permitted throughout the park, as well as the distances and speeds to be respected when marine mammals are present (see table). All watercraft in the Marine Park must comply with these regulations.

Boat captains and sea-kayaking guides of organizations with marine tour permits must pass the Parks Canada regulations course.

Let’s protect whales - let’s keep our distance!

- MAX 10 knots
- MAX 25 knots
- MAX 5 knots

- Maintain a distance of at least 400 m from belugas and blue whales
- DO NOT CROSS THE PATH OF WHALES
- IT IS PROHIBITED TO COME WITHIN 200 m OF WHALES *
- OBSERVATION ZONE

Speed

5 knots = 9.26 km/h = 5.75 mph
10 knots = 18.52 km/h = 11.50 mph
25 knots = 46.30 km/h = 28.70 mph

In the event of any disparity, the text of the Regulations shall take precedence over the information presented in this guide.

* Under certain conditions, marine tour permit-holders (i.e., whale watching vessels) are allowed to come as close as 100 m of whales other than belugas and blue whales.
Experience the sea!

Whether you are looking for adventure or a quiet tour on the water, you will be delighted. Choose the type of boat and excursion that suits you best and take the full measure of wide open spaces. Each sea outing is unique!

To help you choose

Marine tour companies have many watercraft types and sizes. Contact the marine tour providers to determine which products best suit your needs.

Guided excursions

Marine tour captains and guides have sound knowledge of the marine environment. They can put that knowledge at your service and answer your questions.

Regardless of the type of boat you choose, your captain will stay within regulated speeds and respect the approach distances and speeds to be maintained in the vicinity of marine mammals. However, whales can sometimes unexpectedly emerge near a boat. Your captain knows what to do in such circumstances. When sea-kayaking, your guide will make sure you keep to the proper distances and navigate in complete safety. Follow your guide...

What you need

Even during summer, it is colder on water than on land. Warm, comfortable clothing is recommended.

For outings on a boat, we suggest:
- Long pants and closed shoes
- Hat, gloves and scarf
- Windbreaker or raincoat
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Camera
- Binoculars

For non-guided kayak outings, we suggest:
- Tide tables
- VHF radio
- Isothermal and spare clothing
- Nautical Charts
- Food and water
- To notify a designated contact person of your itinerary

Visiting the whales

In summer, the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park is a gigantic, natural pantry. The whales, seals, and birds you see, for the most part, travelled thousands of kilometres to come feed here. These wild animals spend a large part of their time feeding and resting. You are privileged to be able to watch them in their habitat and witness their natural behaviour.

Six months of amazement

Through the seasons, landscapes undergo changes and new players enter the scene. In May and June, countless birds can be seen and the first migrating whales are back in the park. In July, August, and September, several migrating whale species arrive in greater numbers. Seals and seabirds are also present. In September and October, nature puts on its colourful coat and great numbers of birds fly through the region.

To find out more

- About the Marine Park: marinenparkqc.ca
- About birds: explos-nature.qc.ca/oot/
- About marine mammals: romm.ca/baleinesendirect.net
- About all these topics and much more: visit the Discovery Network sites

Did you know...

That four large migrating whales can be seen in the Marine Park in the summer: they are the minke whale, the fin whale, the humpback whale and the blue whale.

The belugas whale and harbour seal are the only marine mammals that spend the entire year in the St. Lawrence estuary.

Can you tell which is which?

Your Safety: Your Responsibility

Outdoor activities can involve certain risks. Make sure that you have the skills and abilities required for the activity you choose. It is important to know the risks inherent to this activity, to respect your limits and to use appropriate equipment.
Experience the sea by boat

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Croisières AML</th>
<th>Croisières Charlevoix inc. (Groupe Dufour)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 800 563-4643</td>
<td>1 866 638-1483</td>
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<tr>
<td>croisièresaml.com</td>
<td>baleines.ca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AML, outstanding nature experience with certified bilingual guide-interpreters who will let you feel their passion for marine mammals.

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine, L’Anse-Saint-Jean, Rivière-du-Loup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Croisières Groupe Dufour</th>
<th>Croisière Personnalisée Saguenay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 800 463-5250</td>
<td>418 272-2739</td>
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<tr>
<td>dufour.ca</td>
<td>croisieresaguenay.ca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Groupe Dufour invites you to discover its fabulous whale-watching excursions. Eight departures per day from May to October. Only our cruises offer 5-heart service, and guaranteed unforgettable moments.

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine

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<tr>
<th>Croisières 2001</th>
<th>Les Croisières du Fjord</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 800 694-5489</td>
<td>1 800 363-7248</td>
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<tr>
<td>croisières2001.com</td>
<td>croisiéremarjolaine.com</td>
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Palpitating 3-hour excursions in a warm atmosphere with whale-watching and a foray into the Saguenay Fjord.

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine

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<tr>
<th>Société Duvetnor</th>
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<tr>
<td>418 867-1660</td>
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<tr>
<td>duvetnor.com</td>
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Cruise around the St. Lawrence islands (with or without stopover). See a great variety of seabirds (before the end of July), landscapes, and hear fascinating seafaring stories (smuggling, sea trading post…). Commentated, informative excursions.

Rivière-du-Loup

Located 25 minutes from La Malbaie, Saint-Siméon is your ideal place to embark on a whale-watching excursion in the Marine Park. Choice of boat or zodiac.

Saint-Siméon

Top of the range customized, contemplative excursions for an intimate, distinctive, and enriching experience on the majestic Saguenay Fjord. A delightful interlude…

L’Anse-Saint-Jean

On board our “bateau-mouche” tour boat, discover the most spectacular parts of the Saguenay Fjord. See Capes Trinité and Éternité and the statue of the Virgin Mary. Includes a moment of contemplation with the recitation of the Ave Maria!

Chicoutimi, Sainte-Rose-du-Nord, La Baie, Baie-Éternité, L’Anse-Saint-Jean, Saint-Félix d’Otis and Tadoussac
Experience the sea by zodiac boat

**Croisières AML**

1 800 563-4643  
croisieresaml.com

AML, outstanding nature experience with certified bilingual guide-interpreters who will let you feel their passion for marine mammals!

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine

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**Croisières Essipit**

1 888 868-6666  
essipit.com


Les Bergeronnes

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**Croisières Groupe Dufour / Croisières Charlevoix**

1 800 463-5250 / 1 866 638-1438  
dufourca / baleines.ca

Groupe Dufour invites you to discover its fabulous whale-watching excursions. Eight departures per day from May to October. Only our cruises offer 5-heart service, and guaranteed unforgettable moments.

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Siméon

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**Croisières Neptune**

418 232-6716 /1 877 7NEPTUNE  
croisiereseventune.net

Croisières Neptune offers whale-watching excursions skimming the water in safe, modern zodiac boats. A fast, discrete, and fun way to meet the whales.

Les Bergeronnes, Les Escoumins

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**Les Écumeurs du Saint-Laurent**

1 888 817-9999  
lesecumeurs.com

Les Écumeurs du Saint-Laurent invites you to discover the fascinating world of whales on board one of our zodiac boats, in the company of our passionate captains.

Les Escoumins

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**Les Pionniers des baleines**

1 866 501-8725  
croisierebaleine.ca

An excursion for passengers to breathe in the fresh sea air and observe whales aboard large zodiacs spacious enough for photo safaris. Vessels equipped with quiet, four-stroke engines, smoke and odor-free.

For information on boarding locations: 1 866 501-8725

---

**Otis excursions**

418 235-4197 / 418 235-4537  
otisexcursions.com

Get close and intimate with whales and other marine mammals on board our quiet, ecological, 12-passenger zodiac boats.

Tadoussac

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**Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay**

1 800 665-6527  
parcsquebec.com

Come on board an OrganisAction zodiac boat for an unforgettable foray into the Fjord. Discover an ecosystem with world-unique diversity with our captain-naturalists.

Baie-Éternité
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Azimut Aventure</strong></th>
<th><strong>Centre de vacances – Ferme 5 étoiles</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>418 237-4477</td>
<td>1 877 236-4551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>azimutaventure.com</td>
<td>ferme5etoilles.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow the rhythm of the tides and discover the astonishing cliffs along the Saguenay Fjord. Keep your eyes peeled for seals and minke whales. Guided expeditions from a few hours to several days.</td>
<td>Discover the beauty of the Saguenay Fjord sea-kayaking, Rocky cliffs, beluga whales, and natural gems await. Guided outings and kayak rentals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine</td>
<td>L’Anse-de-Roche*</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Excursions Fanons</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fjord en Kayak</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>418 233-2846</td>
<td>1 866 725-2925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>excursionsfanons.com</td>
<td>fjord-en-kayak.ca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our experience is your guarantee of a well-organized sea-kayaking experience. Our guides and our zodiac boat are there to make sure your outing is safe and enjoyable.</td>
<td>Follow your guide and choose between 2 to 5-day expeditions or short outings with family or friends. 2002 and 2010 province-wide Gold winner in Tourism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Escoumins</td>
<td>L’Anse-Saint-Jean</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Katabatik - Air du Large</strong></th>
<th><strong>Kayak du Paradis</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1 800 453-4850 / 418 665-2332</td>
<td>418 232-1027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>katabatik.ca</td>
<td>campingparadismarin.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover the Charlevoix coast with half-day to four-day excursions; bird-watching, whale-watching, winter kayaking. Open March to October.</td>
<td>Guided tours with focus on safety and nature. This adventure makes you feel like you are holding wildlife in the palm of your hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap-à-l’Aigle, Saint-Îrénéée, Baie-Saint-Paul*</td>
<td>Les Bergeronnes</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Mer et Monde Écotours</strong></th>
<th><strong>Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1 866 637-6663</td>
<td>1 800 665-6527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meretmonde.ca</td>
<td>parcsquebec.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small groups (maximum 8 persons) with a professional guide sea-kayaking on the St Lawrence to the discovery of marine mammals.</td>
<td>Explore the most beautiful parts of the Fjord with OrganisAction naturalist-guides. On the menu: The dizzying cliffs of the Fjord at your own pace... and with the flow of tides!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tadoussac, Les Bergeronnes</td>
<td>Baie-Éternité</td>
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</table>

*Other boarding locations available.*
**Plonge-o-thon for Opération Enfant Soleil**

May 27 and 28

A fundraising event for children’s medical care in Québec, to be held at the Marine Environment Discovery Centre*.

Parks Canada is proud to partner with Plongée Aventure Québec in support of Opération Enfant Soleil.

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**Parks Canada centennial concerts**

This summer, attend the Parks Canada 100th anniversary concerts and celebrate with us in so many unique places throughout Canada and Québec.

For more information about the concerts to be held in the Marine Park area, visit our website at www.marinepark.qc.ca or call 1 888 773-8888 (toll free).

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**Escoumins marine festival 2011**

September 3 and 4 (Labour Day weekend)

See films on diving, and follow divers through a night dive, live! The marine life will amaze you!

At the Marine Environment Discovery Centre*


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**Full moon evenings... Moonlight JAZZ!**

June 18, July 16, and August 13

A one-of-a-kind event in Québec where the St. Lawrence and the whales quietly step aside for Lady Moon to shine her silvery light on outdoor jazz concerts.

Concerts held at the Marine Environment Discovery Centre*

An “Odyssee artistique” presentation, in partnership with Parks Canada, Les Escoumins municipality and Centre local de développement Haute-Côte-Nord.

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*The Marine Environment Discovery Centre is located at 41, rue des Pilotes, Les Escoumins.

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Need information about the Marine Park?

Visit our information offices at the following locations:

2820, boul. Malcolm-Fraser
La Malbaie (Saint-Fidèle sector)
418 434-2299

51, Route 132 Ouest
Trois-Pistoles
418 851-3698

189, boulevard de l’Hôtel-de-Ville
Rivière-du-Loup
418 862-1981

154, Route 138
Les Escoumins
418 233-2663

Musée du Fjord
3346, boul. de la Grande-Baie Sud
Saguenay (La Baie District)
418 697-5077
Parks Canada, Parcs Québec and their partners propose a unique experience!

Discover the natural and cultural gems of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park. Choose among a wide range of experiences: Visits of interpretation centres and protected areas; Kayak or boat excursions; Outings on hiking or cycling trails; or Marine mammal and bird observation from the shore.
CENTRE ÉCOLOGIQUE DE PORT-AU-SAUMON

The Centre écologique de Port-au-Saumon invites you to follow an experienced guide-interpreter along a special trail and discover the St. Lawrence upper estuary. The ecological centre has been a part of the Charlevoix heritage for over 40 years; a faithfully preserved exceptional site.

Discover a variety of marine and forest ecosystems; explore a crevasse and a 15-metre waterfall; see and touch various marine organisms.

Tour the trails
June 27 to August 19

Long tours:
10 AM and 2 PM
Adults: $9
Children (5-12): $5
Children (under 5): Free

Short tours:
10 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM, and 3 PM
Adults: $5
Children (5 to 12): $3

Cabin rentals:
June to August, $100 per day minimum 3 days

PORT-AU-PERSIL DISCOVERY AREA

Haven of peacefulness to the rhythm of the tides, Port-au-Persil is a member of the “Most Beautiful Villages of Québec Association”. Discovered by Samuel de Champlain, this hamlet has inspired many an artist. The panoramic route leads you to the reception lodge where you will find shelter, information, and boat ramp for kayaks.

Make the most of the hiking trails and picnic areas to breathe in the air from the sea and enjoy the scenery.

POINTE-NOIRE INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATION CENTRE

Let the beauty of the landscape charm you, contemplate the rocky cliffs of the Saguenay Fjord, and see the tides advance and recede. The centre is one of the best places to watch belugas from the shore. Visit the range-light station which, today still guides ships at the mouth of the Saguenay River.

Become an Xplorator; information available at reception.

Visit three sites on the same day! For an extra $2 per adult, visit the Cap-de-Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre and Marine Environment Discovery Centre also.

PETIT-SAGUENAY DOCK

Saguenay—St. Lawrence Marine Park discovery area, inspiration of painters and photographers, nature contemplation, magical sunsets, enchanting scenery...

Boat ramp for small craft, kayaking, sea-trout fishing, hiking, interpretation, picnic area, and crafts.
L’ANSE-SAINT-JEAN

Set in the hollow of a beautiful valley, on the shores of a natural bay neighboring the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park, L’Anse-Saint-Jean spreads its charms around a covered bridge and between stupendous capes on the Saguenay Fjord, from whence the scenery is simply breathtaking.

The village has many services, a marina, sea-kayaking facilities, and short and long hiking trails.

PARC NATIONAL DU FJORD-DU-SAGUENAY
(Baie-Éternité sector)

Nestled between dizzying cliffs, the sector has a wide variety of land and water activities to offer. In addition to sightseeing cruises, zodiac sailing, and sea-kayaking, a vast network of hiking trails awaits. Campground, cabin, and shelter lodgings are also available for peaceful nights.

On the waters of Baie Éternité, go back to the time of the “coureurs de bois” with the activity: “Un commis voyageur à l’époque du rabaska”.

CENTRE D’INTERPRÉTATION DES BATTURES ET DE RÉHABILITATION DES OISEAUX (CIBRO)

Known for its variety of attractions and pleasant atmosphere, the CIBRO gives you an opportunity to spend unforgettable moments with birds. It is an observation and care giving organization for birds of prey and other wild bird species.

Owl and Falcon: Interactive activity on how birds of prey adapt. Contact us for more information.
SAINTE-ROSE-DU-NORD

The “Pearl of the Fjord”, a town set in a valley between capes, has kilometers of trails with the most beautiful panoramic viewpoints over the Fjord.

Doorway to the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park, Sainte-Rose-du-Nord invites you to visit its distinctive tourist booth where the town’s secrets are revealed. The site offers a dock and a pleasurecraft mooring area, the reception pavilion for sightseeing cruise passengers, and other nautical activities.

ANSE-DE-ROCHE DOCK

Twelve nautical miles from Tadoussac in the Saguenay Fjord and less than ten kilometers for the town of Sacré-Cœur stands a seaport with a unique viewpoint on the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park. Breathtaking scenery and a variety of land and sea activities are available.

Outstanding landscapes, mesmerizing sunsets, kayaking, bistro, pergola, interpretation and picnic areas await your visit.

CENTRE D’INTERPRÉTATION DES MAMMIFIÈRES MARINS (CIMM)

Meet a 13 m sperm whale and explore the world of whales. Original videos, sounds, games and skeleton collection, exclusive film (air-conditioned room): A complementary must to your excursion. Our experts will answer all your questions. All purchases made at the boutique contribute to whale protection endeavours.

See the all new garden called “jardin de la grève”: Côte-Nord flora and five beluga sculptures. Get the full measure of a life-size blue whale.
PARC NATIONAL DU FJORD-DU-SAGUENAY  
(Baie-de-Tadoussac sector)

Get an exceptional view of the immenseness of the oceans. The last great glacier left behind two marine terraces called the “dunes” by the local population. Discover the remains of the glacial period where thousands of birds stopover in the fall, on their way south.

Set at the confluence of the fjord and estuary, Pointe-de-l’Islet is a spectacular site for land-based sea-mammal observation.

CENTRE ARCHÉO TOPO

For thousands of years the Haute-Côte-Nord region has seen Amerindian communities travel the land and hunt seals. Archaeological digs reveal occupation of the shoreline and use of marine resources dating back nearly 8,000 years. An amazing journey back in time...

Take part in pottery or bead-making workshops and discover how ancient Amerindian communities lived in harmony with the marine environment.

CAP-DE-BON-DÉSIR INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATION CENTRE

Hear the whales blow from the shore, breathe the sea air, and observe abundant marine wildlife. Bring warm clothing, binoculars, and your picnic fare. The guide-interpreters have a range of family activities to offer.

NEW! Be among the first to see the new exhibition “Cap sur l’observation”. Discover the true nature of the St. Lawrence River!

Be a Parks Canada Xplorer, a family activity.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT DISCOVERY CENTRE

Explore life below the surface; starfish, the Northern sea anemone, the Atlantic Spiny Lumpsucker, and much more. Join the “Saint-Laurent en direct” (St. Lawrence Live) activity with our guide-interpreters and experience underwater diving in dry comfort. Reservations recommended: 418 233-4414.

Find out about our services for certified divers by visiting the Underwater diving section on page 20 of this guide.
Ile aux Basques sits near the north shore of the St. Lawrence River and across from the town of Trois-Pistoles, 250 km east of Quebec City. The island, owned by the Societe Provancher since 1929, is a gem of our natural and historic heritage. The island is an ideal site for bird and seal observation with hiking trails throughout. See the ancient ovens used by Basque fishermen.

Historic monuments, Basque ovens, small rustic interpretation centre.

### PARC DE L'AVENTURE BASQUE EN AMÉRIQUE

Relive the great saga of Basque fishermen in America! From the fur trade with Amerindian peoples to whale fishing in the 16th Century, follow their adventures on the St. Lawrence River. Archaeological finds and much more! Commentated visits at 11 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM. Self-guided tours at all times.

**Challenge France, June 20-26**
Rendez-vous basque, July 8-10
International pelota tournament July 29 to 31

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La Maison Girard Interpretation Centre 371, Route 132 Est L'Île-Verte High season: 418 896-2757 Off-season: Corporation PARC Bas-Saint-Laurent 418 857-8802

### BAIE DE L'ÎLE-VERTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA

The coastal sector of the “Baie de L’Île-Verte” National Wildlife Area has several discovery trails to offer: de la Montagne, de la Savane, des Passereaux, des Roitelets, de la Spartine et de la Digue, in addition to the Maison Girard Interpretation Centre.

From mid-August to mid-September, the “Baguage de canards” (duck banding) package will give you a close look at the animal world and its environment.

### ÎLE-VERTE LIGHTHOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Since 1809, the oldest lighthouse on the St. Lawrence lights the way for all navigators. Stay at the “Maisons du phare” bed & breakfast for an unbelievable experience. The houses of the former lighthouse keeper and assistant-keeper will let you go to sleep to the sounds of the waves, in the comforting glow of the lighthouse.

The site offers cultural activities and films. The museum tells the story of the lighthouse and their courageous keepers’ lives.
Located near the shore, this interpretation centre explains marine life in the St. Lawrence River. Come and see marine mammal skeletons, touch a starfish, see films on the marine environment, watch shoreline wildlife in action, and more! Terraces and souvenir boutique on location.

Guided tours reveal St. Lawrence marine mammals and underwater wildlife. Touch the animals and feed them in the aquarium!

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ÎLES DU POT À L’EAU-DE-VIE AND ÎLE AUX LIÈVRES

Corporation dedicated to the conservation of natural environments with a range of ecotourism products in the following bird sanctuaries: îles du Pot à l’Eau-de-Vie archipelago and Île aux Lièvres, Îles Pêlerins archipelago and Île aux Fraises. Lodgings available as well as daily commented excursions with or without stopover.

Tel: 418 867-1660
duvermec.com

Schedule
June 10 to October 2
Pot à l’Eau-de-Vie
Lighthouse
Sea excursions
Cabin rentals
(Île aux Lièvres)
Inn (Île aux Lièvres)

Admission
Adults: $25 / $210
Students: $20 / $175
Children: $15 / $175

Reservations required
The length and cost of excursions and stays vary according to destination. Only telephone reservations accepted. No internet reservations.
Underwater diving

Dive into the heart of magnificently coloured gardens and discover animal life below the surface. The cold salt waters of the St. Lawrence estuary are home to varied, impressive marine life. These sites offer divers special access to the Marine Park (fees apply).

Paradis marin
4, chemin Émile-Boullianne, Les Bergeronnes
Tel: 418 232-6237
Services on location: Launching site, showers and washrooms.

Marine Environment Discovery Centre, a Parks Canada site
Diving base operated by the Fédération québécoise des activités subaquatiques (FQAS)
41, rue des Pilotes, Les Escoumins
Tel: 418 233-4025
Services on location: Equipment rentals, air refills, guided dives, customized packages, launching platforms, hot-water showers, and washrooms.

Off-season
May 20-23, Friday to Monday
May 27 to June 19, Friday to Sunday
October 7-10, Friday to Monday
Fridays, noon to 6 PM, Saturdays, 8 AM to 6 PM, Sundays and Mondays, 8 AM to 4 PM
The diving base will be closed from September 6 to October 6, but diving will be allowed on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 AM to 5 PM.

High season
June 23 to September 5:
Every day 8 AM to 6 PM

Winter fun

Ice fishing on the Fjord
In winter, when the ice is at least 30 cm thick, fishing huts start to appear on the pack ice, grouped into small, colourful villages. There are seven ice fishing sites on the Saguenay Fjord: L’Anse-Saint-Jean, Rivière-Éternité, Sainte-Rose-du-Nord, Saint-Fulgence, Les Battures, Grande-Baie and Anse-à-Benjamin. The most common species are rainbow smelt and bottom-dwelling fish like redfish, Atlantic cod, Greenland cod, and Greenland halibut.

Ducks as far as the eye can see
The Marine Park and surrounding area provide an excellent venue for winter bird-watching. Ice-free areas, such as bays and river mouths, are places where ducks can find the food they need to survive the winter. Hundreds, even thousands of American Black Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, Oldsquaws, Lesser and Greater Scaups, and scoter ducks gather. One may also see Barrow’s Goldeneye, a threatened species, and Buffleheads. Winter is a great time to see nature’s beauties!
Geocaching enthusiasts

Parks Canada now offers a geocaching experience in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park. Look for the “white whale”, “Magogpek”, or a “fragile ecosystem” at geocaching.com.

August is archaeology month!

Throughout Québec in August, a large number of archaeological activities will be offered at Archéo-Québec member locations.

Near the Marine Park, the Centre Archéo Topo proposes a tour through the Bergeronnès digs accompanied by a guide-archaeologist. The archaeological dig simulation workshop is a unique experience for children; they will discover arrowheads, pipes, pottery shards, and other artifacts.

Have a great archaeology month!

Further information:
1 877 bonjour or 1 877 266-5687
Centre Archéo Topo: 418 232-6286

“Species at risk” trail at the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park

This hiking and cycling trail, 18 km in length, offers breathtaking viewpoints of the St. Lawrence estuary. Alone or with your family, you can watch birds and marine mammals from observation points and rest areas as you go along the way. Set between two Parks Canada sites, the Cap-de-Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre and Marine Environment Discovery Centre, the trail provides information on species at risk.

“For the birds”!

The Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park area sees a surprising variety of bird species. In the fall, the Observatoire d’oiseaux de Tadoussac (OOT) team goes to the “dunes” sector in Tadoussac to observe a spectacular migration. Ornithologists here count and identify thousands of birds. Banding activities give you a very special proximity with the birds. For further information, see the OOT Website at explos-nature.qc.ca or call toll-free at 1 877 MER-1877.
IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

CANADIAN COAST GUARD
Marine Rescue Centre and Marine Pollution
VHF Channel 16 (156.8 MHz)
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Cellular Phone #16
Marine Rescue Centre 1 800 463-4393
Marine Pollution 1 800 363-4735

PARKS CANADA
Concerning collisions with or disturbances
of marine mammals 1 866 508-9888
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

RÉSEAU QUÉBÉCOIS D’URGENCES
POUR LES MAMMIFÈRES MARINS
(Quebec marine mammal emergency network)
Concerning a marine mammal who is either
wounded or in trouble 1 877 722-5346

To help you plan your stay...

You are planning a seagoing activity without a certified guide?
Before you set out, find out about the directives you need to
follow to make sure your outing is safe and enjoyable. Indeed,
weather conditions change rapidly and strong marine currents
could make your outing hazardous.

Ferryboat schedules and information

Escoumins / Trois-Pistoles
Tel: 418 851-4676

Rivière-du-Loup / Saint-Siméon
Rivière-du-Loup Tel: 418 862-5094
Saint-Siméon Tel: 418 638-2856

Baie-Sainte-Catherine / Tadoussac
Tel: 418 235-4395
traversiers.gouv.qc.ca

See the tourist guides for the four tourist regions surrounding
the Marine Park: accommodations, restaurants, special
attractions, leisure activities, all are here!

Tourisme Bas-Saint-Laurent
Tel.: 418 867-1272 ・1 800 563-5268
tourismebas-st-laurent.com

Association touristique de Charlevoix
Tel.: 418 665-4454 ・1 800 667-2276
tourisme-charlevoix.com

Association touristique du Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean
Tel.: 418 543-9778 ・1 877 BLEUETS (253-8387)
saguenaylacsauintjean.ca

Association touristique de Manicouagan
Tel.: 418 294-2876 ・1 888 463-5319
tourismemanicouagan.com

INFORMATION
Saguenay—St. Lawrence Marine Park
marinerep.qc.ca

Parks Canada
182, rue de l’Église
Tadoussac (Québec) G0T 2A0
Tel: 418 235-4703

To find out more about the Parks Canada network
Tel: 1 888 773-8888
canada-que@pc.gc.ca

Parcs Québec
91, rue Notre-Dame
Rivière-Éternité (Québec) G0V 1P0
parcs.ministerie@sepaq.com
parcsquebec.com

Send us your comments at
parcs-canada-que@pc.gc.ca