A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

2011 was an outstanding year for Parks Canada. On the special occasion of its 100th birthday, Parks Canada received the prestigious Gift to the Earth Award, World Wildlife Fund-International’s highest accolade. The award recognizes Parks Canada’s outstanding conservation achievements, including the recent dramatic growth of Canada’s system of protected areas.

Since the creation of the first National Park in 1885 up until today, Parks Canada’s system of protected natural areas has grown to over 320,000 km² of protected lands and waters. Today, we protect 42 national parks, 167 national historic sites and 4 national marine conservation areas across the country. This world-class family of protected natural areas is one of Canada’s greatest gifts to the world.

In the coming years, we will continue to build and expand our network of protected natural land and water areas, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, our many partners, and Canadians across the country. We will soon conduct a study on the creation of a marine protected area in the Magdalen Islands.

The Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park protects a part of the Saguenay Fjord and St. Lawrence River estuary, a region known for its incredible biodiversity. This unique park is managed in cooperation with the Quebec Government along with active participation from surrounding communities. As minister responsible for Parks Canada, I am particularly proud to contribute to the protection of the park’s exceptional marine environment and to offer the public opportunities to enjoy memorable experiences in these surroundings.

I invite all citizens and our visitors to our most cherished places and to discover and become better acquainted with these protected areas. In 2012, don’t miss the special activities to be held in national historic sites in commemoration of the War of 1812, a critical chapter in our history.

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

SUMMARY
The Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park.......................... 2
Research for Conservation......................................... 4
Complementary protection measures.............................. 5
Experience the sea...................................................... 6
Marine Park Map.................................................... 10

Don’t miss it.......................................................... 12
Discovery Network.................................................... 13
Underwater diving..................................................... 20
Winter fun............................................................... 20
Bulletin Board......................................................... 21

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

A Word from the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park Co-directors

Welcome to the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park! On behalf of Parks Quebec and Parks Canada, we invite you to discover this marine area, home to an impressive range of biodiversity. It also enjoys a reputation as one of the best places in the world for whale-watching.

In order to promote the responsible observation of marine mammals, we formed up the Eco-Whale Alliance, in partnership with the Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals as well as marine excursion businesses operating in the marine park. Founded in June 2011, this alliance has given us new tools for raising the level of protection afforded to the marine park and improving the quality of experiences enjoyed by visitors.

To discover and fully appreciate this park endowed with an array of riches, glide out over its waters aboard a boat or kayak; listen spellbound to a captain’s stories hear a guide-interpreter talk about the underwater world; take advantage of tide-washed beaches; and visit one or more of the numerous sites making up the Marine Park Discovery Network. We hope you’ll also have the pleasure of hearing the song of the beluga and the blow of whales, of breathing in the ocean breezes and marveling at the beauty of the local landscapes.

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 Marine Park’s mission is to increase ecosystem protection levels for conservation purposes, for the benefit of present and future generations, 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 tides, the water column, and the sea floor. 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 is one of the most beautiful along the St. Lawrence River. The marine 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 Goldeneyes. 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 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, Esquimalt 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 Parks Quebec and Parks Canada for you. In the name of Coordination Committee members, I wish you one and all memorable moments at the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park.

Daniel Laplante
Co-Director Parks Canada

Nathalie Bergeron
Co-Director Parks Quebec

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

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’Étang 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 Parks Quebec, 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-Marguerite, 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.

**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.

**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.

**Comprehensive protection measures**

Comprehensive preservation zones are designed to protect vulnerable species and fragile habitats. For example, the area around Île aux Frasiers is a comprehensive protection zone because it is a resting area for seals and staging area for birds. Baie Sainte-Marguerite is, for its part, a preferred area of belugas, where they raise their calves, reproduce and rest; that is the reason why it has also been declared a comprehensive preservation zone.

Zoning regulations will soon be in force. Boaters, hunters, fisherman, kayakers, and other users are therefore invited to stay away from these comprehensive preservation zones.

**Zoning category**

- Comprehensive preservation: 3 % of the park
- Specific protection: 42 % of the park
- General protection: 19 % of the park
- General use: 36 % of the park

**Authorized activities**

- Scientific research under specific conditions
- Navigation, marine tours, underwater diving, scientific research
- Navigation, marine tours, underwater diving, scientific research, as well as recreational hunting and fishing
- Navigation, marine tours, underwater diving, scientific research, recreational hunting and fishing, as well as commercial fishing under specific conditions.

**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!**

**Distance**

- 1/2 nautical mile = 0.926 meters
- 1 knot = 1.852 km/h = 1.15 mph
- 3 knots = 5.56 km/h = 3.45 mph
- 10 knots = 18.52 km/h = 11.5 mph
- 25 knots = 46.30 km/h = 28.7 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.
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 beluga 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 in this activity, to respect your limits and to use appropriate equipment.

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 whales. 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
• Sunglasses 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

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 seabirds are also present. In September and October nature puts on its colourful coat and great numbers of birds fly through the region.

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 marine environment.

Eco-Whale Alliance

Marine excursion businesses, Parcs Québec, Parks Canada and the Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals (GREMM) joined forces to found the Eco-Whale Alliance to ensure that whale-watching in the marine park is conducted responsibly and in keeping with the principles of sustainable development. Member businesses have adopted a charter that sets out their commitments as part of this alliance. See it on the premises of members or on www.eco-baleine.ca. Take a few minutes to read it and support compliance with these commitments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Croisières AML
1 800 563-4643
croisieresaml.com
Croisières AML, outstanding nature experience with certified bilingual guide-naturalists who will let you feel their passion for marine mammals!
Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine

Croisières Essipit
1 888 866-6666
essipit.com
Exhilarating whale-watching excursions in safe zodiac boats, from Les Bergeronnes.
Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine

Croisières Groupe Dufour / Croisières Charlevoix
1 800 463-5250 / 866 638-1483
dufour.ca / baileys.ca
Groupe Dufour invites you to discover its fabulous whale-watching excursions accompanied by seasoned naturalist guides. Several departures are offered per day from May to October. Only our cruises offer 5-star service and guaranteed unforgettable moments.
Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Siméon

Les Écumeurs du Saint-Laurent
1 888 817-9999
lecumeurs.com
Les Écumeurs du Saint-Laurent invites you to discover the fascinating world of whales on board one of our zodiacs, in the company of our passionate captains.
Les Escoumins

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-passerger zodiac boats.
Tadoussac

Croisières Neptune
418 232-6716 / 1 877 NEPTUNE
croisieresneptune.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

Les Pionniers des baleines
1 866 501-8725
croisierebaleine.ca
Les Pionniers des baleines invites 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

Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay
1 800 665-6527
parcsquebec.com
Come on board the OrganisAction/Le Québec Hors Circuit’s zodiac and enjoy an unforgettable trip enabling you to discover the particularities of the fjord. Accompanied by a captain-naturalist, make a foray into an ecosystem whose diversity is unique around the world.
Baie-Éternité

Experience the sea by kayak

Azimut Aventure
418 237-4477
azimutaventure.com
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.
Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine

Centre de vacances – Ferme 5 étoiles
1 877 236-4551
ferme5etoiles.com
Discover the beauty of the Saguenay Fjord sea-kayaking. Rocky cliffs, beluga whales, and natural gems await. Guided outings and kayak rentals.
L’Anse-de-Roche

Excursions Fanons
418 233-2846
excursionsfanons.com
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.
Les Escoumins

Katabatik – Aventure dans Charlevoix
1 800 453-4850 / 418 665-2332
katabatik.ca
Discover the Charlevoix coast with half-day to three-day excursions; bird-watching, whale-watching, winter kayaking. Open March to October.
Baie-des-Rochers, Cap-à-l’Aigle, Baie-Saint-Paul

Mer et Monde Écotours
1 866 637-6663
meretmonde.ca
In small groups (8 pers. max.) accompanied by a professional guide, kayak along the St. Lawrence in quest of sea mammals.
Tadoussac, Les Bergeronnes

Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay
1 800 665-6527
parcsquebec.com
Explore the most beautiful parts of the Fjord with OrganisAction/Le Québec Hors Circuit’s naturalist-guides. On the menu: The dizzying cliffs of the Fjord at your own pace… and with the flow of tides!
Baie-Éternité

Kjak en Kayak
418 232-1027
kjak-en-kayak.ca
Guided tours with a focus on safety and nature discovery. This adventure sport will give you the feeling that wildlife is so close you can touch it!
Les Bergeronnes

Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay
1 800 665-6527
parcsquebec.com
Explore the most beautiful parts of the Fjord with OrganisAction/Le Québec Hors Circuit’s naturalist-guides. On the menu: The dizzying cliffs of the Fjord at your own pace… and with the flow of tides!
Baie-Éternité
DISCOVERY NETWORK
1. Centre écologique de Port-au-Saumon
2. Port-au-Persil
3. Parc municipal de la Baie des Rochers
4. Pointe-Noire Interpretation and Observation Centre
5. Petit Saguenay Dock
6. L’Anse-Saint-Jean
7. Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay (Baie-Sainte-Marguerite sector)
8. Musée du Fjord
9. Centre d’interprétation des bateliers et de réhabilitation des oiseaux (CIBRO)
10. Sainte-Rose-du-Nord
11. Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay (Baie-Sainte-Marguerite sector)
12. Anse-de-Roche Dock
13. Centre d’interprétation des murene de mer et des requins (SMRM)
14. Poste de traite Chauvin
15. Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay (Baie-Sainte-Marguerite sector)
16. Archipel Tétoq Centre
17. Cap-de-Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre
18. Marine Environment Discovery Centre
19. Île aux Basques
20. Parc de l’avenir basque en Amérique
21. Île de la Vérendrye National Wildlife Area
22. Île Verte Lighthouse National Historic Site of Canada
23. St. Lawrence Exploration Centre
24. Îles du Parc à la Sauvage et Île aux Lièvres

LEGEND
1. Park information office
2. Municipality
3. Shuttle
4. Interpretation
5. Underwater dive services
6. Ice fishing
7. Sightseeing cruises
8. Kayak access
9. Hiking trail
10. Hiking and cycling trail
11. First Nation community
12. Sainte-Catherine Interception
13. Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park
14. Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay
15. Other protected areas
16. Town of Baie-Comeau
17. Cap-de-Bon-Désir
18. Sainte-Catherine
19. Other historic sites
20. Marine environment discovery centre
21. Marine environment discovery centre
22. Île des Pétroles
23. Îles du Parc à la Sauvage
24. Île aux Lièvres

This map is not to be used for legal or navigational purposes.
Dive for a good cause: take part in the Plonge-eau-thon!

May 18 to 21

This event is designed to raise funds for the medical care of children in Quebec. Divers are invited to contact Plongée Aventure Québec to register. The participation fees will be donated to the charity known as Opération Enfant Soleil.

To rent diving equipment or to be accompanied by an experienced diver, contact the diving base at 418-233-4021.

The event will be held at the Marine Environment Discovery Centre*. Parks Canada is a proud partner of Plongée Aventure Québec in support of Opération Enfant Soleil.

On three full moon evenings... We JAZZ it up under the moon!

July 7, July 28 and September 2

It’s a one-of-a-kind event in Quebec, with the river and its whales gradually segueing into a moonlit landscape, offering a skivvy venue for an outdoor jazz-tinged concert.

All shows will be held in the outdoor amphitheatre of the Marine Environment Discovery Centre® (and inside in the event of inclement weather).

For reservations, call 418-232-6653.

A presentation of “Odyssée artistique,” in partnership with Parks Canada, the municipality of Les Escoumins and the Centre local de développement Haute-Côte-Nord.

Need information about the Marine Park?

Visit one of these information offices:

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

Trois-Pistoles
Tourist Information Bureau
51, route 132 Ouest
418 851-3698

Rivières-du-Loup
Tourist Information Bureau
195, boulevard de l’Hôtel-de-Ville
418 862-1981

Les Escoumins
Tourist Welcome Bureau
154, route 138
418 233-2663

Baie-Sainte-Catherine
Baie-Sainte-Catherine Wharf
151, route 138

Subscribe to the newsletter

Published four times a year, the newsletter will provide you insights into the marine park and keep you posted on projects conducted by the park team and its partners.

To subscribe, please visit our Website at: marinepark.qc.ca.

August is archaeology month!

August 1 to 31

Throughout Quebec 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 Bergeronnes 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 artefacts.

Have a great archaeology month! For further information:
1 877 bonjour or 1 877 266-5687
Centre Archéo Topo: 418 232-6286

Festival marin des Escoumins 2012
(Le Festival marin des Escoumins)
5th edition

September 1 and 2

During the Labour Day weekend, gaze in wonderment at the St. Lawrence’s underwater landscapes. Attend some film screenings and follow divers as they perform a night dive. You’ll be amazed by the marine life on view!

Submit a photo or vote for your favourite entry in the photo contest. Divers are invited to take part in an underwater treasure hunt.

The event will be held at the Marine Environment Discovery Centre®. For information: 418 233-2766, ext. 26.

Produced by the municipality of Les Escoumins, the Corporation de développement des Escoumins, the Fédération québécoise des activités subaquatiques, Explor-Nature and Parks Canada.

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

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; sea and touch various marine organisms.

Municipality of Baie-des-Rochers
Day, minimum 3 days
June to August, $100 per
Cabin rentals:
Adults: $5
Children (5-12): $5
Youth (6 to 17): $2.90
Seniors (over 65): $4.90
Families (2 ad., 2 ch.): $35
Children (under 5): Free
Families of 10 and +: $13.50

Admission
Free

Schedule
All summer long

Admission fee charged

141, route 138
One minute away from the Tadoussac-Baie-Sainte-Catherine ferry
Baie-Sainte-Catherine
Tel. 418 237-4383
1800 697-5077 (toll-free)
parkscanada.gc.ca

March
Saturdays, Sundays, and
Tuesdays to Fridays: 9 AM to 5 PM

June 23 to September 3
Open year-round

June 23 to September 3,
every day: 10 AM to 5 PM
September 4 to June 22
Friday, Saturdays, and
Sundays: 10 AM to 5 PM

Schedule

Admission

21, chemin de
Port-au-Persil Saint-Siméon
Tel. 418 620-5010

One of the most splendid viewpoints along the fjord, the Petit-Saguenay wharf is blessed with a majestic setting and awe-inspiring sunsets that have inspired numerous painters and photographers. This genuine natural work of art is also the starting point of the “Les Caps” trail, which offers spectacular panoramas out over the fjord. Come and enjoy a picnic with your family; try catching some sea trout, or stop in at the little handcrafts shop set up inside a giant bulge.

The Petit-Saguenay wharf is a must-do stop on the Saguenay fjord for discovering the marine park and the charming town of Petit-Saguenay.

Admission
Free

Schedule
May to mid-October

Tourist information
At Cap-Diamant
Petit-Saguenay
Tel. 418 272-3217

51, rue Royale
Petit-Saguenay
Tel. 418 272-3323
petitsaguenay.com

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

Children get to play “Xplorers” for a day. Find out more at the visitor reception area.

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

141, route 138
One minute away from the Tadoussac-Baie-Sainte-Catherine ferry
Baie-Sainte-Catherine
Tel. 418 237-4383
1800 697-5077 (toll-free)
parkscanada.gc.ca

March
Saturdays, Sundays, and
Tuesdays to Fridays: 9 AM to 5 PM

June 23 to September 3
Open year-round

June 23 to September 3,
every day: 10 AM to 5 PM
September 4 to June 22
Friday, Saturdays, and
Sundays: 10 AM to 5 PM

Schedule

Admission

21, chemin de
Port-au-Persil Saint-Siméon
Tel. 418 620-5010

One of the most splendid viewpoints along the fjord, the Petit-Saguenay wharf is blessed with a majestic setting and awe-inspiring sunsets that have inspired numerous painters and photographers. This genuine natural work of art is also the starting point of the “Les Caps” trail, which offers spectacular panoramas out over the fjord. Come and enjoy a picnic with your family; try catching some sea trout, or stop in at the little handcrafts shop set up inside a giant bulge.

The Petit-Saguenay wharf is a must-do stop on the Saguenay fjord for discovering the marine park and the charming town of Petit-Saguenay.

Admission
Free

Schedule
May to mid-October

Tourist information
At Cap-Diamant
Petit-Saguenay
Tel. 418 272-3217

51, rue Royale
Petit-Saguenay
Tel. 418 272-3323
petitsaguenay.com

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

Children get to play “Xplorers” for a day. Find out more at the visitor reception area.

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

141, route 138
One minute away from the Tadoussac-Baie-Sainte-Catherine ferry
Baie-Sainte-Catherine
Tel. 418 237-4383
1800 697-5077 (toll-free)
parkscanada.gc.ca

March
Saturdays, Sundays, and
Tuesdays to Fridays: 9 AM to 5 PM

June 23 to September 3
Open year-round

June 23 to September 3,
every day: 10 AM to 5 PM
September 4 to June 22
Friday, Saturdays, and
Sundays: 10 AM to 5 PM

Schedule

Admission

21, chemin de
Port-au-Persil Saint-Siméon
Tel. 418 620-5010

One of the most splendid viewpoints along the fjord, the Petit-Saguenay wharf is blessed with a majestic setting and awe-inspiring sunsets that have inspired numerous painters and photographers. This genuine natural work of art is also the starting point of the “Les Caps” trail, which offers spectacular panoramas out over the fjord. Come and enjoy a picnic with your family; try catching some sea trout, or stop in at the little handcrafts shop set up inside a giant bulge.

The Petit-Saguenay wharf is a must-do stop on the Saguenay fjord for discovering the marine park and the charming town of Petit-Saguenay.

Admission
Free

Schedule
May to mid-October

Tourist information
At Cap-Diamant
Petit-Saguenay
Tel. 418 272-3217

51, rue Royale
Petit-Saguenay
Tel. 418 272-3323
petitsaguenay.com

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

Children get to play “Xplorers” for a day. Find out more at the visitor reception area.

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

141, route 138
One minute away from the Tadoussac-Baie-Sainte-Catherine ferry
Baie-Sainte-Catherine
Tel. 418 237-4383
1800 697-5077 (toll-free)
parkscanada.gc.ca

March
Saturdays, Sundays, and
Tuesdays to Fridays: 9 AM to 5 PM

June 23 to September 3
Open year-round

June 23 to September 3,
every day: 10 AM to 5 PM
September 4 to June 22
Friday, Saturdays, and
Sundays: 10 AM to 5 PM

Schedule

Admission

21, chemin de
Port-au-Persil Saint-Siméon
Tel. 418 620-5010

One of the most splendid viewpoints along the fjord, the Petit-Saguenay wharf is blessed with a majestic setting and awe-inspiring sunsets that have inspired numerous painters and photographers. This genuine natural work of art is also the starting point of the “Les Caps” trail, which offers spectacular panoramas out over the fjord. Come and enjoy a picnic with your family; try catching some sea trout, or stop in at the little handcrafts shop set up inside a giant bulge.

The Petit-Saguenay wharf is a must-do stop on the Saguenay fjord for discovering the marine park and the charming town of Petit-Saguenay.

Admission
Free

Schedule
May to mid-October

Tourist information
At Cap-Diamant
Petit-Saguenay
Tel. 418 272-3217

51, rue Royale
Petit-Saguenay
Tel. 418 272-3323
petitsaguenay.com

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

Children get to play “Xplorers” for a day. Find out more at the visitor reception area.

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

The “Pearl of the Fjord”, a town set in a valley between two huge kilometres of trails with the most beautiful panoramic viewpoints over the Fjord. As the gateway to the Marine Park along the north shore of the Saguenay, Sainte-Rose-du-Nord has some interesting secrets to share with you. Be sure to stop in at the visitor information office, the pleasure craft mooring area and the reception pavilion for cruise passengers and other nautical enthusiasts.

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.

To see the new garden called “Jardin de la grève”: Côte-Nord flarea and five belugas sculptures. Get the full measure of a life-size blue whale.

Whether you are staying at the campground or simply having a picnic, the principal attraction in this sector is without doubt beluga-watching from the shore. This small white whale and the history of the area are also featured in an exhibition at the discovery and visitors centre. The “Halte du beluga” activity is held every afternoon all summer long, where a park warden tells all about this fascinating protected species.

Twelve nautical miles from Tadoussac in the Saguenay Fjord and less than ten kilometres for the town of Sainte-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.

Get an exceptional view of the immenseness of the oceans. The last great glacer 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’île” is a spectacular site for land-based marine mammal observation.

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.

To see the new garden called “Jardin de la grève”: Côte-Nord flarea and five belugas sculptures. Get the full measure of a life-size blue whale.

Whether you are staying at the campground or simply having a picnic, the principal attraction in this sector is without doubt beluga-watching from the shore. This small white whale and the history of the area are also featured in an exhibition at the discovery and visitors centre. The “Halte du beluga” activity is held every afternoon all summer long, where a park warden tells all about this fascinating protected species.

Twelve nautical miles from Tadoussac in the Saguenay Fjord and less than ten kilometres for the town of Sainte-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.

Get an exceptional view of the immenseness of the oceans. The last great glacer 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’île” is a spectacular site for land-based marine mammal observation.
**PARC DE L'AVENTURE BASQUE EN AMÉRIQUE**

66, rue des Pélicans
Trois-Pistoles
Tel: 418 851-1354
1 877 951-1354
provancher.ca

**Schedule**
Open for groups upon reservation.

Children (5 and under): Free
Children (6-17): $4
Adults (17 +): $7.50

**Admission**
Groups of adults: $5 / pers.
Families (2 adults and their children): $18

**Experience the great era of the Basque fishermen in North America. Follow their adventures throughout the St. Lawrence, including their involvement in the fur trade with the Aboriginal peoples or whale-hunting in the 16th century.**

Archaeological discoveries and much more are on tap! Guided tour at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Self-guided visits can be made at all times.

Rendez-vous basque, July 28-29

---

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

80, rue Mackay, Rivière-du-Loup
Tel: 418 867-1560
St-Lawrence Live Activity Corporation

**Schedule**
Mid-June to early October

**Admission**
Adults: $25 / $210
Students: $25 / $210
Children: $15 / $125
Families: $70

**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!**

Terre aux Fraises. Lodgings available as well as daily guided excursions with or without stopover.

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, Île aux Lièvres, Îles Pèlerins archipelago and Île aux Fraises. Lodgings available as well as daily guided excursions with or without stopover.

---

**ÎLE AUX BASQUES**

Île aux Basques is located along the south shore of the St. Lawrence, opposite the town of Trois-Pistoles, 250 km east of Quebec City. This island, the property of the Société Provancher since 1929, is a gem of our natural and historic heritage. Ideal for bird- and seal-watching, the island also features several hiking trails. Come discover the ancient stone ovens used by Basque fishermen.

**Historic monuments, Basque ovens, small rustic interpretation centre.**

---

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

**HISSACOMM CORPORATION**

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, Île aux Lièvres, Îles Pèlerins archipelago and Île aux Fraises. Lodgings available as well as daily guided excursions with or without stopover.

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

418 898-2300
National Historic Sites

**Schedule**
Mid-May to mid-October

**Admission**
Exhibitions: $7
Passport for the three museums on the island: $15

The site offers cultural activities and films. The museum tells the history of the lighthouse and their courageous keepers’ lives.

---

**ÎLE-VERTE**

**PARC SCÉNICO-NATUREL**

418 877-8882 ext. 201
parcs.canada.gc.ca

**Schedule**
Mid-June to mid-September

**Admission**
Seniors: $11.95
Students (17 and under): $4
Children (6-15): $3.90
Children (5 and under): Free
Families: $19.60

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

---

**ÎLE-DE-LA-MARINE**

**INTERPRETATION AND DISCOVERY CENTRE**

45, rue des Plantes
Les Escoumins
Tel: 418 233-4414
1 877 851-1556
parkscanada.gc.ca

**Schedule**
May to mid-September

**Admission**
Seniors (over 65): $6.80
Students (17 and under): $4
Children (6-17): $4
Children (5 and under): Free
Families: $18

**Explore the world of starfish, sea anemones and sea mammals. From June 30 to August 25, be a part of the “St. Lawrence Live” activity. In the company of guide-interpreters, you’ll be able to take the plunge – yet remain as dry as toast. For reservations, call 418-233-4414.**

Divers, please check out the “Underwater diving” section (page 20).

---

**ST. LAWRENCE LIVE ACTIVITY CENTRE**

41, rue des Pilotes
Trois-Pistoles
Tel: 418 233-4414
parkscanada.gc.ca

**Schedule**
May to mid-September

**Admission**
Seniors (over 65): $6.80
Students (17 and under): $4
Children (6-15): $3.90
Children (5 and under): Free
Families: $19.60

**Experience the great era of the Basque fishermen in North America. Follow their adventures throughout the St. Lawrence, including their involvement in the fur trade with the Aboriginal peoples or whale-hunting in the 16th century.**

Archaeological discoveries and much more are on tap! Guided tour at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Self-guided visits can be made at all times.

Rendez-vous basque, July 28-29
**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 various marine life. These sites offer divers special access to the Marine Park (fess apply).

---

**Underwater diving**

**Dive for a good cause:**

Ice fishing on the Fjord

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 Batuttes, Grande-Baie and Anse-à-Beauport.

The most common fish 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 birdwatching. 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, Oldsquaw, Lesser and Greater Scaups, and scatter ducks gather. One may also see Barrow’s Goldeneye, a threatened species, and Buffleheads. Winter is a great time to see nature’s beauty.

---

**Attention all geocachers**

Parks Canada has a geocaching experience to offer you. Do a search for “The White Whale,” “Magtoque” or “A Fragile Ecosystem” on geocaching.com.

---

**EXPLOS-NATURE: EDUCATION-RESEARCH**

The “Species at Risk” trail in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park

The Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park area sees a surprising variety of bird species. In the fall, the Observatoire des 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 more information, see the OOT Website at explos-nature.qc.ca or call toll-free at 1 877 MER-1877.

---

**“For the birds”!**

For further details, visit, marinepark.learnquebec.ca

---

**The Marine Park in your school**

Parks Canada offers two learning activities related to Quebec school curriculum.

Students in the secondary – cycle 1 geography program get to discover the protected territory.

For further details, visit, marinepark.learnquebec.ca
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

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
traversiercnb.ca

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

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

To help you plan your stay...

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
bassaintlaurent.ca

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)
saguenaylacstjean.ca

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