A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

The Parks Canada Agency plays a prominent international role on the management of protected areas. I believe that people’s hearts and minds are in closer contact with nature whenever they visit national parks and other protected areas. That is why I invite the public to visit our 44 national parks, 167 national historic sites and 4 national marine conservation areas across Canada.

During your visit to the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park you will connect with its distinctive natural features. You certainly will be touched by the incredible biodiversity of this unique park that protects parts of the Saguenay Fjord and St. Lawrence River estuary.

As minister responsible for Parks Canada, I am particularly proud to contribute, along with the government of the province of Quebec and local communities, to the protection of the park’s exceptional marine environment. I invite you to discover the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park and our protected areas and take advantage of our treasured places. I hope you’ll come away with some unforgettable experiences.

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

OUR MANDATE

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada’s natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.
In 1999, the Government of Québec entrusted Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (Sépaq) with the mission of managing, protecting and developing Québec’s network of national parks located above the 50th parallel. Overall, there are now 22 national parks across the different regions of Québec. A marine park operated jointly by Parcs Québec (Sépaq) and Parks Canada has been added to these many natural sites of outstanding beauty.

Every day, staff members at the national parks strive to preserve these unmatched natural resources for the enjoyment of visitors from Québec and abroad. Measures are implemented on a daily basis to preserve a legacy of exceptional sites for future generations. Emphasizing the benefits of nature on young people is therefore important, so that the generations to come know how to make the most of Nature’s wonders and deal with the protection and conservation challenges to be faced in the future.

New premises will open in 2013 at Parc national du Lac-Témiscouata, the latest addition to the Parcs Québec network. The park was officially established in 2009 to protect a representative sample of natural sites at Monts Notre-Dame. Parc national du Lac-Témiscouata features quality infrastructures in line with Québec network. The park was officially established in 2009 to protect a representative sample of natural sites at Monts Notre-Dame. Parc national du Lac-Témiscouata features quality infrastructures in line with national park standards. This protected area is actually renowned for its wetlands and its ornithological sites at Monts Notre-Dame. Parc national du Lac-Témiscouata features quality infrastructures in line with national park standards. This protected area is actually renowned for its wetlands and its ornithological and archaeological wealth. I invite you to come and discover the park this summer.

A third national park north of the 50th parallel will also be created following the Pingualuit and Kuururijuq projects. Covering 26,000 km² of land, Parc national Tursujuq will allow us to achieve the 9% mark of protected areas across Québec. Like the other two northern parks, the management and development of this new territory is entrusted to the Kativik Regional Government.

Clearly, the range of protected areas is expanding with each passing year. In your vicinity or on the road to your summer holidays, you are sure to find a park to explore. Enjoy a wonderful season of discovery at your national parks!

Yves-François Blanchet
Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks

THE MISSION OF PARCS QUÉBEC

With a view to achieving harmonious development at the cultural, social, economic and regional levels, Parcs Québec is responsible for the conservation and development of territories that are representative of Québec’s 43 natural regions and exceptional sites, due notably to their biological diversity, while ensuring that they are accessible for educational and outdoor use.

All of Québec’s national parks were created in accordance with World Conservation Union standards. A national park is a relatively vast area:
- that represents one or more ecosystems that are moderately or not at all transformed by exploitation;
- where animal and plant species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of particular interest from a scientific, educational or recreational viewpoint, and that offers scenery of great beauty;
- in which the highest competent authority of the country has taken measures to eliminate exploitation and to instill respect for the ecological, geomorphological or aesthetic aspects on the whole;
- where a visit is authorized, under certain conditions, for educational, cultural or recreational purposes.
THE “MUST-DOS”

WHALE-WATCHING BY BOAT
What fun it is to hear a whale blow or catch a glimpse of this incredible animal at the water’s surface! From aboard a boat, take in the fascinating spectacle of marine animals. Get ready for a seaside experience in the kingdom of whales, seals and seabirds. Select the type of excursion best suited to you. See pages 6 to 8.

WHALE-WATCHING FROM SHORE
While out walking, biking or driving along the marine park shorelines, keep your eyes peeled and your ears open! You might well glimpse or hear belugas, minke or fin whales as well as harbour porpoises all hugging the coast. Some surprises in store for you in a range of locations, starting from Baie-Sainte-Catherine and extending to Les Escoumins, with the Sacré-Cœur sector in between. See the Discovery Network section (pages 14 to 20).

DISCOVERY ACTIVITIES
To satisfy your thirst for knowledge, take part in any one of several activities on offer. Enthusiastic guide-interpreters and fascinating exhibits will give you some valuable insights into the many facets of the marine park. These helpful resources will tell you the full story of marine life, ranging from starfish to sharks, along with the history of local lighthouses and Aboriginal populations. See the Discovery Network.

KAYAKING
Whether you go out paddling with a professional guide or on your own, sea-kayaking is a great way to appreciate the marine park’s beauty and sprawling spaces. When prepared with care, a kayaking outing offers you the pleasures of the great outdoors in complete safety. For an excursion lasting several days, take advantage of the campsites located along the edges of the park. See pages 6 and 9.

SPECTACULAR VISTAS
On foot or by car or bicycle, discover the numerous viewpoints out over the Saguenay Fjord and the St. Lawrence Estuary. Once you begin to admire the sights along the shoreline, listen to the crash of waves on the beach and breathe in the salt air; it won’t be long before you’ve left the daily grind behind you. Located in the immediate vicinity of the marine park, the Discovery Network guarantees you a real change of scenery.
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.

Small fry figure big in the diet of giants!

Aboard the boat L’Alliance, Parks Canada biologists sail back and forth across the marine park studying the diet of whales, seals and birds. In the Lower Estuary, the particular combination of currents and seafloor configuration fosters the presence of great quantities of food, which marine animals require in order to satisfy their huge energy needs.

Using specialized equipment, these researchers are able to detect the presence of prey – namely, small fish and krill, a kind of shrimp-like crustacean. And, according to their findings, the type of prey has an impact on the feeding habits of whales and seals.

In 2010 and 2011, there were a lot of small fish of the kind that live in schools, such as the capelin and the sand lance. To catch this quick-moving prey, group hunting appears to be the best strategy. Hundreds of grey seals banded together for that purpose. Fin whales also went hunting in groups of one to two dozen individuals; their synchronized movements made for an impressive ballet of giants.

In summer 2012, nature put on an entirely different show. Fish were both less abundant and more dispersed. On the other hand, there was an incredible quantity of krill. These schools of krill in turn attracted a dozen blue whales. The amazing thing was that these blue whales fed non-stop, day and night, for several weeks! And, as krill do not move quickly, there was no need to form up groups to hunt them. The fin whales adapted their strategy accordingly and, like the blue whales, hunted alone more often.

The number of minke whales and humpback whales remained constant throughout this time. Being small and fast, minke whales are skilled hunters that are able to satisfy their needs with less dense schools of fish. Humpback whales can feed on fish and krill alike.

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

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 belugas, 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 Lower 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 preservation zones are designed to protect vulnerable species and fragile habitats. For example, the area around Île aux Fraises is a comprehensive preservation 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, fishermen, kayakers and other users are therefore invited to stay away from these comprehensive preservation zones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZONING CATEGORY</th>
<th>AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive preservation: 3 % of the park</td>
<td>Scientific research under specific conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific protection: 42 % of the park</td>
<td>Navigation, marine tours, underwater diving, scientific research</td>
</tr>
<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.

DISTANCE
1/2 nautical mile = 926 meters

SPEED
3 knots = 5.56 km/h = 3.45 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.
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 of St. Lawrence 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: AN IMPRESSIVE SCENERY**

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.
**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 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
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Camera
- Binoculars

**For non-guided kayak outings, we suggest:**

- Tide tables
- HF radio
- Thermal and spare clothing
- Nautical Charts
- Food and water
- To notify a designated contact person of your itinerary

**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 to this activity, to respect your limits and to use appropriate equipment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harbour seal</th>
<th>Grey seal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harbour porpoise</td>
<td>Beluga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minke whale</td>
<td>Humpback whale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fin whale</td>
<td>Blue whale</td>
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**A SAILING EXPERIENCE**

**Voile Mercator**

Enjoy sailing on the St. Lawrence River and Saguenay Fjord. Personalized activities are available for groups of 8 maximum. The entire family is invited to take part in manoeuvres. “Introduction to sailing” excursions (3 hrs., 5 hrs., 7 hrs.) and sailing courses (2 to 5 days) leading to certification.

Discover the marine park as you run before the wind.

**ALLIANCE ÉCO-BALEINE**

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. Their objective is 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. The charter is posted on the premises of members as well as on www.eco-baleine.ca. Take a few minutes to read it and support compliance with these commitments.
**Croisières AML**

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<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-800-563-4643</td>
<td>croisieresaml.com</td>
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Take advantage of a whale-watching cruise aboard one of our comfortable excursion boats, or set off in discovery of the Saguenay Fjord in all its immensity. Croisières AML, outstanding nature experience with certified bilingual guide-naturalists who will let you feel their passion for marine mammals!

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

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**Croisières 2001**

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<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-800-694-5489</td>
<td>croisieres2001.com</td>
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During a thrilling 3-hour excursion in a friendly atmosphere, you can enjoy whale-watching and make a foray into the Saguenay Fjord. An underwater camera allows participants to view the sea floor.

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine

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**Croisières Groupe Dufour / Croisières Charlevoix**

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<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-800-463-5250 / 1-866-638-1483</td>
<td>dufourca / baleines.ca</td>
</tr>
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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-heart service, and guaranteed unforgettable moments.

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Siméon

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**Les Croisières du Fjord**

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<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-800-363-7248</td>
<td>croisieresdufjord.com</td>
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On board our “bateau-mouche” tour boat, discover the most spectacular parts of the Saguenay Fjord. See Capes Éternité and Trinité with the statue of the Virgin Mary. Includes a moment of contemplation with the recitation of the Ave Maria!

Sainte-Rose-du-Nord, La Baie, Baie-Éternité, L’Anse-Saint-Jean and Tadoussac

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**Croisière Personnalisée Saguenay**

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<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>418-608-8058 ou 418-272-2739</td>
<td>croisieresaguenay.ca</td>
</tr>
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For 23 years, we have been offering customized high-end cruises focused on contemplation, according to a private or combined approach (6 people maximum), thus ensuring you a personal, distinctive and rewarding experience on the majestic Saguenay Fjord. A delightful interlude…

L’Anse-Saint-Jean

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**Société Duvetnor**

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<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-877-867-1660</td>
<td>pharedupot.com</td>
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Cruises offered in and around St. Lawrence islands (with or without stopover); longer stays on islands also available (inn, cabin or campground). 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
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<tr>
<th><strong>Croisières AML</strong></th>
<th><strong>Croisières Essipit</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1-800-563-4643</td>
<td>1-888-868-6666</td>
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<tr>
<td>croisieresaml.com</td>
<td>essipit.com</td>
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For an electrifying experience, come aboard one of our Zodiacs! You’ll really be in the front row for watching these giants of the sea during our 2- or 3-hour outings. Croisières AML, outstanding nature experience with certified bilingual guide-naturalists who will let you feel their passion for marine mammals!

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine

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<tr>
<th><strong>Croisières Groupe Dufour / Croisières Charlevoix</strong></th>
<th><strong>Croisières Neptune</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-800-463-5250 / 1-866-638-1483</td>
<td>418-232-6716 / 1-877-7NEPTUNE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dufourca / baleines.ca</td>
<td>croisieresneptune.net</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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-heart service, and guaranteed unforgettable moments.

Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Siméon

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<tr>
<th><strong>Les Écumeurs du Saint-Laurent</strong></th>
<th><strong>Les Pionniers des baleines</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-888-817-9999</td>
<td>1-866-501-8725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lesecumeurs.com</td>
<td>croisierebaleine.ca</td>
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</table>

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 passionate captains.

Les Escoumins

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<tr>
<th><strong>Otis excursions</strong></th>
<th><strong>Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>418-235-4197 / 418-235-4537</td>
<td>1-800-665-6527</td>
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<tr>
<td>otisexcursions.com</td>
<td>parcquesquebec.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Tadoussac

Exhilarating whale-watching excursions in safe zodiac boats, from Les Bergeronnes. Two-hour outing — get ready for a thrilling experience. Kuei! Welcome!

Les Bergeronnes

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

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

Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay

Come on board the OrganisAction/Le Québec Hors Circuits’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
418-514-8787 / 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

Fjord en Kayak
1-866-725-2925  fjordenkayak.ca
Follow the guide and enjoy an outing with your family (children aged 3 to 9 years) or just between grown-ups (2 hrs., 3 hrs., or 1 day), or go for a 2- to 5-day expedition. Gold medalist at Quebec tourism awards in 2002 and 2010; Business of the Year 2012 by Aventure Écotourisme Québec; Canadian Tourism Commission’s “Signature Experiences Collection.”
L’Anse-Saint-Jean

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*

Kayaks du Paradis
418-232-1027  campingparadismarin.com
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

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 Circuits! naturalist-guides. On the menu: The dizzying cliffs of the Fjord at your own pace… and with the flow of tides!
Baie-Éternité

*Other boarding locations available.

YOU ARE PLANNING A SEA-KAYAKING 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.

For your safety, stay close to the shoreline so as to always keep it in sight, particularly under fog conditions. On account of marine traffic, avoid making “shore-to-shore” crossings.
**TO PUT ON YOUR “NOT-TO-BE-MISSED” LIST**

**Festival marin des Escoumins 2013, 6ᵉ édition (Les Escoumins marine festival)**

- **August 31 and September 1**

  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 41, rue des Pilotes, Les Escoumins.


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

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

- **June 22, July 20 and August 17**

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

  All shows will be held in the outdoor amphitheatre of the Marine Environment Discovery Centre, 41, rue des Pilotes, Les Escoumins (and inside in the event of inclement weather).

  For reservations, call 418-232-6653.

  A presentation of “Odyssée artistique,” in partnership with Parks Canada and the municipality of Les Escoumins.

**August is archaeology month!**

- **August 1 to 31**

  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 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

**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

**Rivière-du-Loup**

TOURIST INFORMATION BUREAU
189, 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
418 233-2663

**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
Parks Canada, Parcs Québec and their partners have teamed together to offer you some truly rewarding, unforgettable vacation experiences!

The Discovery Network is: 25 ways to discover the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park. Choose from a wide array of experiences: meet some genuinely gung-ho people, take in some fascinating exhibits, enjoy some fabulous outings and explore the great outdoors. Bring along your picnic and binoculars: there are some good times ahead for you and your close ones.
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-Eternité sector)
8. Musée du Fjord
9. Centre d’interprétation des battures 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 mammifères marins (CIMM)
14. Poste de traite Chauvin
15. Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay (Baie-de-Tadoussac sector)
16. Archéo Topo Centre
17. Cap de Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre
19. Marine Environment Discovery Centre
20. Île aux Basques
21. Parc de l’aventure basque en Amérique
22. Baie de L’Isle-Verte National Wildlife Area
23. Île-Verte Lighthouse National Historic Site of Canada
24. St. Lawrence Exploration Centre
25. Îles du Pot à l’Eau-de-Vie and Île aux Lièvres

LEGEND

1. Park information office
2. Municipality
3. Shuttle
4. Ferryboat
5. Hiking trail
6. Hiking and cycling trail
7. First-Nation community
8. Scenic lookout
9. Interpretation
10. Underwater diver services
11. Ice fishing
12. Sightseeing cruises
13. Barrier-free access
14. Land-based whale-watching
15. Bird-watching
16. Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park
17. Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay
18. Other protected areas
This map is not to be used for legal or navigational purposes.
3330, boul. Malcolm-Fraser  
(route 138)  
La Malbaie  
(Saint-Fidèle sector)  
Tel: 418-434-2209  
1-877-434-2209  
cpas.qc.ca

Tour the trails  
June 25 to August 15

Long tours:  
10 AM and 2 PM  
Adults: $8  
Children (6 to 12): $5  
Children under 6: Free

Short tours:  
10 AM, 11 AM,  
2 PM, and 3 PM  
Adults: $5  
Children (6 to 12): $3  
Children under 6: Free

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

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 is a  
focal point of the World Biosphere  
Reserve of Charlevoix. For more than  
40 years, it has enabled visitors to  
discover an outstanding landscape and a  
faithfully preserved biodiversity.

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

555, chemin de  
Port-au-Persil  
Saint-Siméon  
Municipality of  
Saint-Siméon  
Tel: 418-620-5010

Schedule  
All summer long

Admission  
Free

A haven of peace in phase with the tides,  
Port-au-Persil is a member of the  
“Association des plus beaux villages du  
Québec” (Quebec’s most beautiful  
towns). Discovered by Samuel de  
Champlain, this hamlet has inspired many  
artists and writers, such as Jean-Paul  
Lemieux and Gabrielle Roy. The  
panoramic road will take you to the  
reception lodge, which provides shelter  
and information. The recently renovated  
wharf features a launch for kayaks and  
small boats.

Take advantage of the hiking trails and  
picnic areas to breathe in the sea air  
and marvel at the scenery.

141, route 138  
(One minute away from  
the Tadoussac–Baie-Sainte-  
Catherine ferry)  
Baie-Sainte-Catherine  
Tel: 418-237-4383  
418-235-4703 (off-season)  
parkscanada.gc.ca

Schedule  
June 22 to September 2,  
every day: 10 AM to 5 PM  
September 3 to October  
14 (incl.), Fridays, Saturdays and  
Sundays: 10 AM to 5 PM

Admission  
Fees set according to age  
and group. Free of charge  
for children under 6 years  
of age. Take advantage of  
the special rate to visit all  
3 Parks Canada sites the  
same day.

Enjoy a break and treat yourself to a  
breathtaking view out over the sea! Stroll  
down the boardwalk into the heart of this  
range light station. There you can meet  
and talk with the guide-interpreters and  
use the telescopes on location to better  
understand and admire the whales. In  
the lighthouse keeper’s quarters, take  
in the exhibit to learn more about the  
encounter of the Saguenay and the  
St. Lawrence. Enjoy your visit!

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

Baie-des-Rochers  
Saint-Siméon  
Municipality of  
Saint-Siméon  
Tel: 418-620-5010

Village Nature  
Enjoy a break and treat yourself to a  
breathtaking view out over the sea! Stroll  
down the boardwalk into the heart of this  
range light station. There you can meet  
and talk with the guide-interpreters and  
use the telescopes on location to better  
understand and admire the whales. In  
the lighthouse keeper’s quarters, take  
in the exhibit to learn more about the  
encounter of the Saguenay and the  
St. Lawrence. Enjoy your visit!

Parkscanada.gc.ca
PETIT-SAGUENAY DOCK

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 and a giant beluga.

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.

L’ANSE-SAINT-JEAN

Set in the hollow of a beautiful valley, on the shores of a natural bay neighbouring 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, offering breathtaking scenery.

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

POINTE-NOIRE INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATION CENTRE

MUSETTE DU FJORD

Nestled between dizzying cliffs, the sector has a wide variety of land and water activities to offer. In addition to sightseeing cruises, zodiac excursions, 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”.

The totally reinvented Musée du Fjord heartily invites you to explore the captivating world of the Saguenay fjord. Discover the hidden side of the fjord and its inhabitants. Come in contact with the starfish, sea urchins and sea cucumbers in our touch tank. Then, allow the giant aquarium and its fascinating fish to carry you into the depths of the Saguenay.

Plunge into adventure through a multimedia show on the splendors of the fjord and its biodiversity. Through its varied exhibits and interactive outdoor excursions, the museum makes science and history both accessible and enjoyable for you and your family.
Discover eagles, falcons, owls and other fabulous birds in the woods located at Cap des Roches. Trails running near one of several aviaries will offer you the chance to see our recovering birds and discover their history, all the while enjoying outstanding panoramas of the fjord. In the wildlife refuge covering the marsh and flats, you’ll have the opportunity to observe a broad range of aquatic birds.

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 capes, has 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.

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 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, interpretation and picnic areas await your visit.
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.

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 marine mammal observation.

The Centre Archéo Topo narrates the history of human occupation – from the first Aboriginal peoples down to the present time and along the entire North Shore, from Tadoussac to Blanc-Sablon. It makes for a fascinating exhibit covering 9,000 years of history.

Take part in pottery or bead-making workshops and discover the way of life of longstanding Aboriginal communities and their ties with the marine environment.

The Centre Archéo Topo presents the “Faunart/Aueshishat” exhibit. View Quebec’s terrestrial, marine and avian wildlife, as mounted by Denis D’Amours, an internationally renowned artist and taxidermist.
Watch whales, seals and seabirds in close to shore.
Our guides are eager to answer your questions. It’s all happening down on the rocks. Be sure to bring along warm clothing, binoculars and a picnic.

Activities for the whole family!
Every day, guide-interpreters have some activities to offer you. Presented three times a week, “Ocean Encounter” allows you to see and touch marine animals in a surprising array of shapes and colours. Show up at the rocks 30 minutes before the start of this activity.

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

Explore one of North America’s most beautiful underwater landscapes! During “St. Lawrence Live,” you get to follow divers live on widescreen images and talk with them. This activity is offered 4 times a week. For reservations, call 418-233-4414.

See whales and visit the exhibit to find out everything there is to know about marine life. Guide-interpreters are on hand to suggest activities and answer your questions. Bring along a picnic lunch and a windbreaker.

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

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

Île aux Basques is located along the south shore of the St. Lawrence, opposite the town of Trois-Pistoles, 250 km east of Québec City. This island, the property of the Société Provancher since 1929, is a gem of our natural and historic heritage. While on the island, watch birds and seals, hike the trails, and discover the centuries-old ovens once operated by Basque fishermen.

Historic monuments, Basque ovens, small rustic interpretation centre.

Île aux Basques
468, rue Vézina
Trois-Pistoles
Tel: 418-851-1202
provancherqc.ca

Schedule
June 9 to September 5
Every day, according to the tides.
Then, visits are arranged depending on demand.

Admission
Adults: $27.50
Youth (7-15): $15.50
Children (6 and under): $7
Taxes included.
Fees subject to change.

For more information visit:
aventurebasque.ca
1-877-851-1556
The new exhibit entitled “The Basque adventure in North America” is an opportunity to discover a truly epic story according to a multi-sensory approach. These men sailed into the St. Lawrence estuary as early as the 16th century to hunt whales, produce whale oil on Île aux Basques and trade with the Amerindians. Come admire the only Basque pelota fronton (court) in Canada! Games of pelota are played in the evening. You can also rent the required equipment and take a class in how to play this variety of court sport. Archaeological discoveries and much more are on tap!

Festival Rendez-vous basque, July 26 to 28

The national wildlife area and surrounding lands are part of a natural park currently being developed. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for signage indicating the Parc côtier Kiskotuk.

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.
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 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 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!

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 Pèlerins archipelago and Île aux Fraises.

Lodgings available as well as daily guided excursions with or without stopover.
**BULLETIN BOARD**

**EMBARK UPON A MODERN-DAY TREASURE HUNT: GEOCACHING!**

Equipped with a GPS, set off in search of Parks Canada’s geocaches. Do a search for “The White Whale,” “La Fidèle,” “Magto-goek” or “A Fragile Ecosystem” on geocaching.com. If you don’t have your own GPS device, you can borrow one at the Pointe-Noire Interpretation and Observation Centre to find the geocache going by the name of “The White Whale.”

**DO YOU PLAN TO GO BOATING?**

Get your copy of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park Boater’s Guide. It’s free!
- Printed on rugged, waterproof paper
- Features a map of the marine park
- Contains a host of practical information
Ask for it in one of the marinas or on marinepark.qc.ca

**THE MARINE PARK IN YOUR SCHOOL**

Parks Canada offers two online educational activities in relation to its outreach program:

- 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 explosonature.qc.ca or call toll-free at 1-877-MER-1877.

- IN YOUR SCHOOL
Parks Canada offers two online educational activities in relation to its outreach program:

Students in cycle 3 go on a virtual scientific expedition to explore the Marine Park. Write us at info.parc marin@pc.gc.ca.

**“SPECIES AT RISK” TRAIL IN THE SAGUENAY–ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK**

Walk or bike along the trail (mountain or hybrid bikes only) and take a break at one of the rest stops. There, you’ll be likely to see a variety of birds and marine mammals. This 8-kilometre-long trail links the Cap de Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre (Les Bergeronnes) and the Marine Environment Discovery Centre (Les Escoumins) (see map on page 13). It also overlaps a segment of the multi-use trail operated by the Le Morillon club.

**WEB**

For further information, visit marinepark.learnquebec.ca
INFORMATION

SAGUENAY–ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK
marinepark.qc.ca
info.parcmarin@pc.gc.ca

PARKS CANADA
182, rue de l’Église
Tadoussac (Québec) G0T 2A0
Tel.: 418-235-4703
Tel.: 1-888-773-8888
information@pc.gc.ca
parkscanada.gc.ca

PARCS QUÉBEC
91, rue Notre-Dame
Rivière-Éternité (Québec) G0V 1P0
parc.marin@sepaq.com
parcsquebec.com

Send us your comments at
info.parcmarin@pc.gc.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 that is either wounded or in trouble
1-877-722-5346

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
traverserdl.com

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
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)
saguenaylacsaintjean.ca

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

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