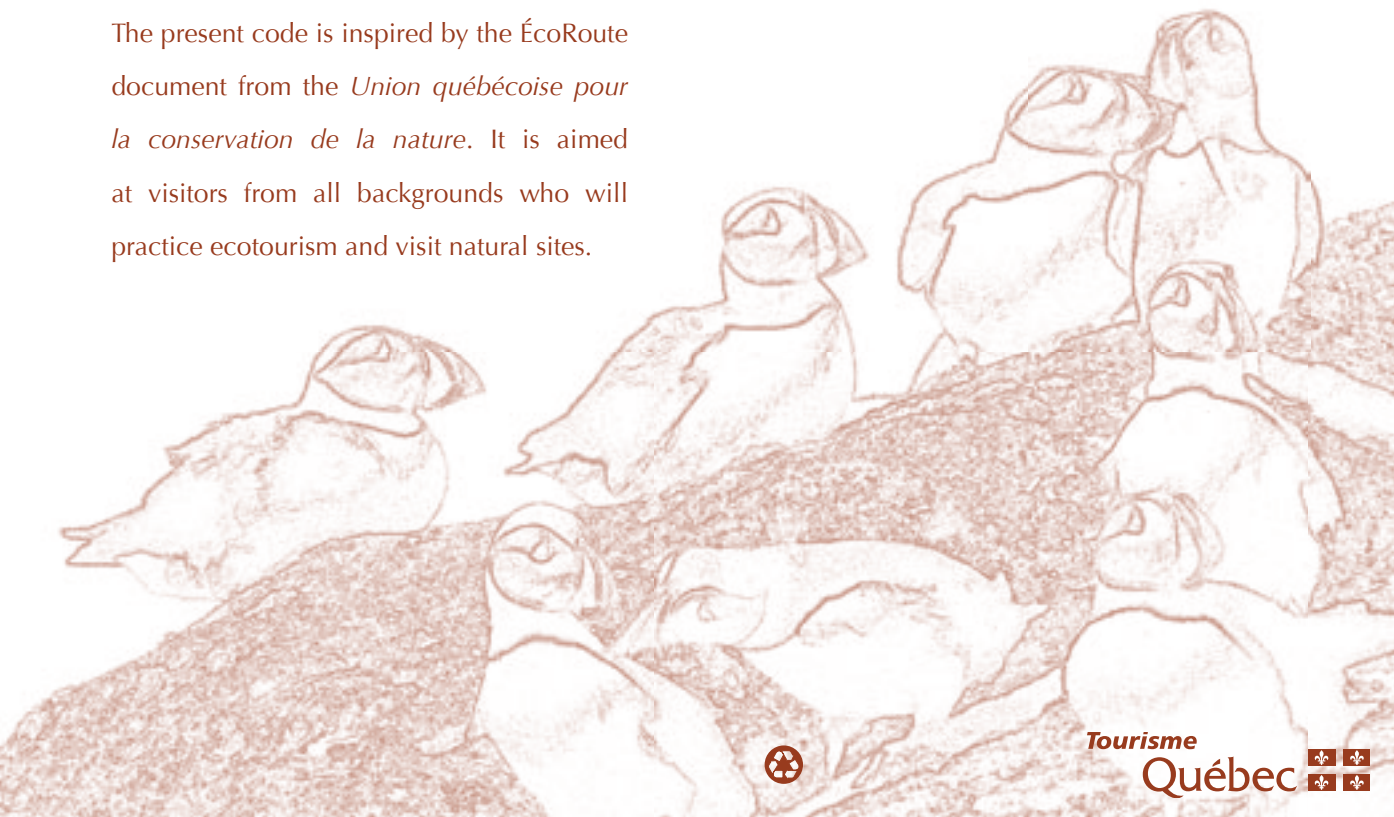




The ecotourist code of conduct provides visitors with the do's and don'ts of responsible ecotourism. The code is more than a general ethics guide like Leave no Trace Inc. 2000, which is distributed in U.S. national parks. In addition to limiting the negative impact of human presence on the natural habitat, the ecotourist code of conduct promotes the protection of natural and cultural heritage. The present code is inspired by the *ÉcoRoute* document from the *Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature*. It is aimed at visitors from all backgrounds who will practice ecotourism and visit natural sites.

***Ecotourism—
Our natural
and cultural heritage—
yours to discover!***

The ecotourist
**Code of
Conduct**



Tourisme

Québec



Québec





THE ECOTOURIST... Prepare before you leave

- ◆ Choose a business or tour operator who cares about minimizing environmental impact.
- ◆ Choose a travel agency or promoter who offers an introductory session covering such topics as site and facility use and environmentally-friendly activities.
- ◆ Find out about your destination's natural habitat and its cultural values.
- ◆ Take steps to fit in with the area you're visiting.



THE ECOTOURIST... Follow the rules

- ◆ Don't enter areas that are off-limits to the public.
- ◆ Obey signs.
- ◆ Inform tour operators, authorities or visitors of any breach of rules regarding the natural and cultural habitat.



THE ECOTOURIST... Respect wildlife, flora and their habitat

- ◆ Move around calmly to avoid upsetting the natural environment.
- ◆ Keep at a reasonable distance from animals to avoid disturbing them.
- ◆ Never feed animals.
- ◆ Don't alter the natural habitat.
- ◆ Don't enter areas where animals are in high numbers: nesting and spawning sites, containment or hibernation areas, etc.
- ◆ Leave things where they are. This includes plants, animals, or parts thereof.
- ◆ Never purchase any animal or plant, or product made from animals or plants on the threatened or endangered list; in addition to environmental concerns, it is illegal to purchase these products.

Carefully chose your trails and rest areas to avoid environmental degradation.



THE ECOTOURIST... Lessen your impact on the environment

- ◆ Adopt behaviour that reduces pollution, be it chemical, biological, visual (vandalism, graffiti), olfactory or noise pollution.
- ◆ Travel in small low-impact groups.

- ◆ Be aware of how your activities affect the environment.
- ◆ Keep motorized equipment in good working order.
- ◆ Use non-polluting or low-polluting equipment.
- ◆ Choose durable, biodegradable and renewable products.
- ◆ Dispose of waste in designated trash sites.
- ◆ Promote transportation that has little or no impact on the environment.



THE ECOTOURIST... Respect the human environment

- ◆ Appreciate the uniqueness of the people you visit.
- ◆ Respect local customs, local traditions and cultural differences.
- ◆ Be open to learning.
- ◆ Support the local economy by buying local products and services.
- ◆ Respect people's privacy and private property.
- ◆ Adapt to local culture.
- ◆ Be considerate of other visitors.