

SAGUENAY-ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK

VISITOR'S GUIDE 2002
TO THE DISCOVERY NETWORK

SAGUENAY-ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK



Québec 

Saguenay-St. Lawrence
MARINE PARK

Canada 

INTRODUCTION

« CROSSROADS OF LIFE,
SITE OF EXCHANGE,
WELLSPRING OF RICHES »

Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park is the first park in Québec to protect and present an exclusively marine environment. It has the particularity of being managed jointly by the governments of Canada and Québec in association with local bodies.

The territory of the Marine Park covers a section of the St. Lawrence Estuary and of the Saguenay Fjord with a surface area of 1138 km², entirely within the marine environment. Bordering this territory is the offshore coordination zone where the sites of the various organizations involved with the park are located.

Since the Marine Park is in an area made up of water, your contact with the marine environment may well occur on land. The mysteries and the riches of this large ecosystem are presented by interpretation sites located outside the park limits. Each of these sites acts as a link in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park Discovery Network by presenting a theme related to the marine environment.

By visiting the Discovery Network, the Marine Park invites you to discover, understand and appreciate the marvels hidden below the surface of the water. Since the network continues to grow from one year to the next, stop by each time you are in the offshore coordination zone to discover new facets of this protected environment.

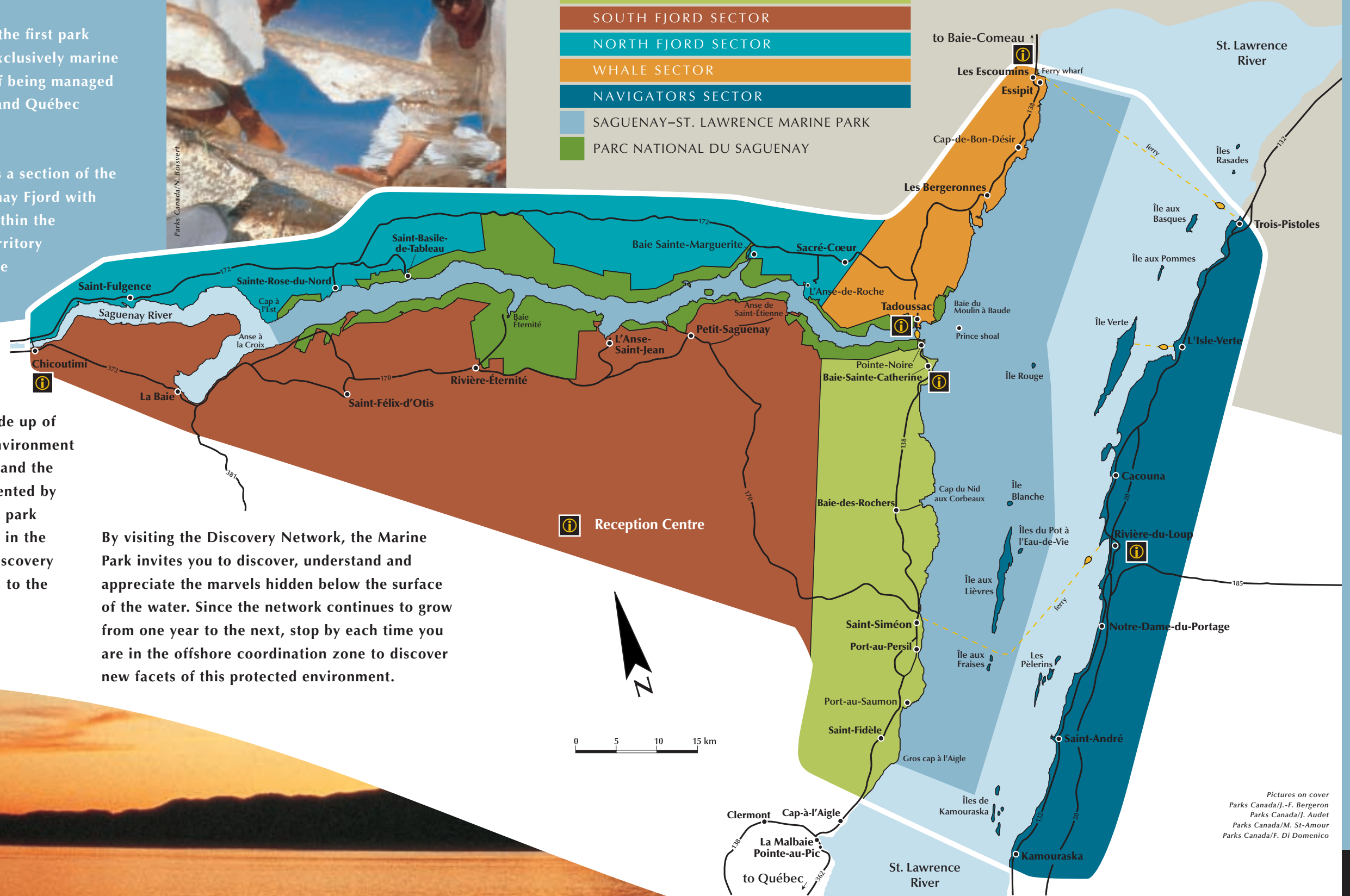


Parks Canada/N. Boisvert

EXPLANATION OF THE LEGEND

The map below illustrates the Marine Park's Discovery Network. The territory has been divided into sectors, each of which is identified by a different colour, which is taken up again inside the guide. The title of each sector refers to the tourist road of the *Associations touristiques régionales*.

- ESTUARY SECTOR
- SOUTH FJORD SECTOR
- NORTH FJORD SECTOR
- WHALE SECTOR
- NAVIGATORS SECTOR
- SAGUENAY–ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK
- PARC NATIONAL DU SAGUENAY



Parks Canada/F. Di Domenico

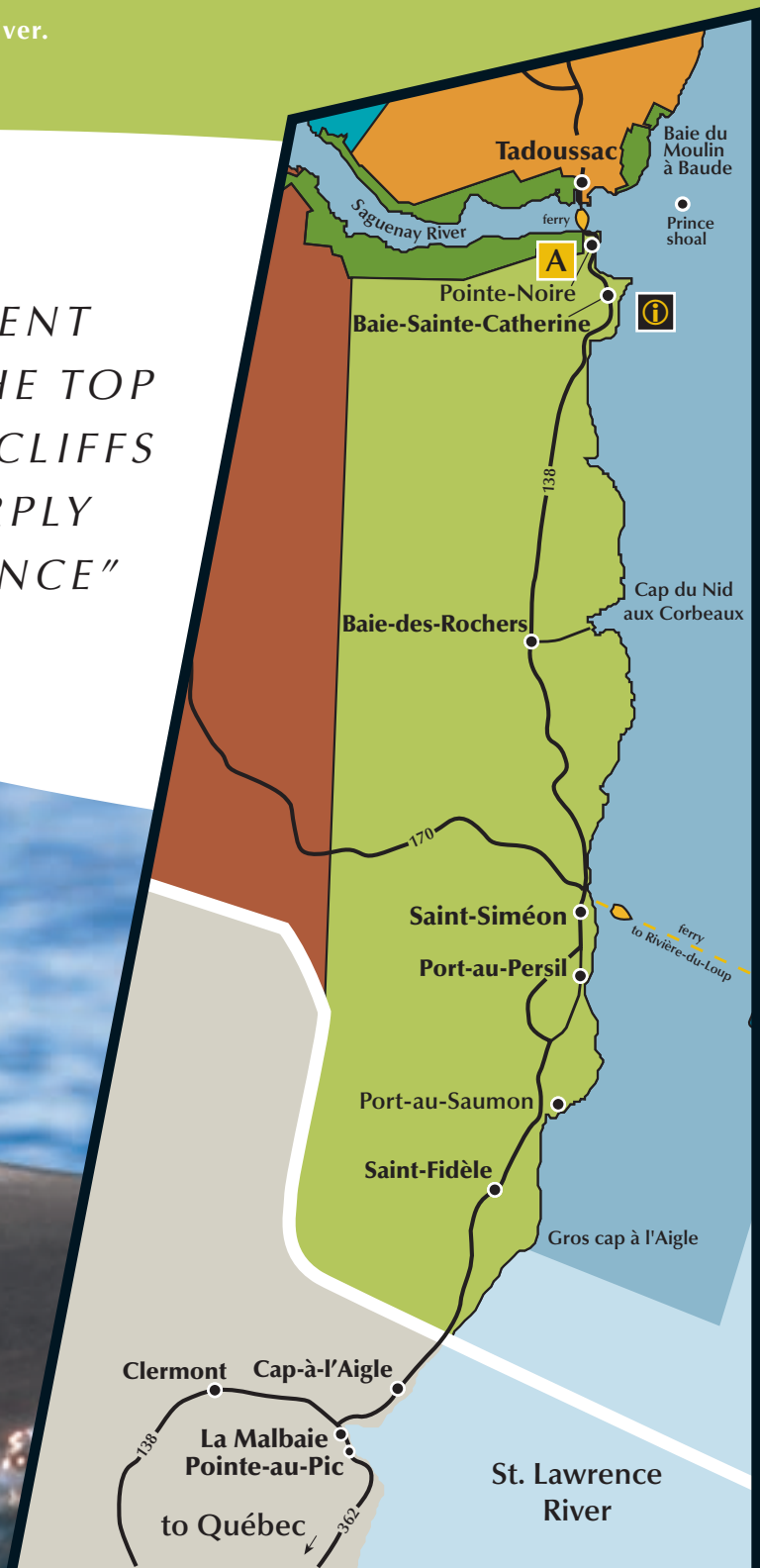
Pictures on cover
Parks Canada/J.-F. Bergeron
Parks Canada/J. Audet
Parks Canada/M. St-Amour
Parks Canada/F. Di Domenico

ESTUARY SECTOR

Port of entry to the Marine Park for a number of visitors, Highway 138 juts out from time to time onto the Charlevoix coast. The relief in this sector provides glimpses of the marine environment from the top of the steep cliffs that plunge sharply into the St. Lawrence. This sector is known as the estuary rather than as the river.

For further information on the Marine Park, head for the wharf at Baie-Sainte-Catherine where our reception clerks will be pleased to answer your questions.

“GLIMPSES OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE TOP OF THE STEEP CLIFFS THAT PLUNGE SHARPLY INTO THE ST. LAWRENCE”



POINTE-NOIRE OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION CENTER OCEANOGRAPHIC PHENOMENA FOUND AT THE CONFLUENCE

A

POINTE-NOIRE
Highway 138
Baie-Sainte-Catherine
(Québec)
G0T 1A0

Telephone :
(418) 237-4383 high season
(418) 235-4703 off season
Fax : (418) 235-4686

SCHEDULE
June 17 to September 2
everyday
from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
September 3 to October 14
Friday to Sunday
from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FEES
Individual (aged 6 and over) : \$2.00
Family : \$5.00

Pointe-Noire is located where the waters of the St. Lawrence Estuary and the Saguenay Fjord mix, namely at the “confluence” of the Marine Park. The site is characterized by oceanographic phenomena influenced by the rhythm of the tides. Rip tide zones and the formation of plumes will no longer hold any mysteries for you after your visit to the Pointe-Noire exhibition.

The site offers an exceptional panorama for observing the birds and marine mammals that cross the zone. A stroll along the panoramic trail and a stop at the lookout equipped with telescopes will enable you to admire this magnificent landscape and to identify the marine animals and bird life in the sector.

A team of naturalists proposes a wide range of interpretation activities and talks to help you discover and better appreciate this natural and cultural heritage. Alignment beacons on the site still stand guard at the mouth of the Saguenay.



Charlevoix coastline



“THIS SECTOR IS KNOWN AS THE ESTUARY RATHER THAN AS THE RIVER”

SOUTH FJORD SECTOR

This region is the gateway to the very heart of the Saguenay. Offering several access points to the Fjord, Highway 170 winds through a sea of mountains where trees roll over the landscape like waves breaking on the shore. A truly unusual scene!

For further information on the Marine Park, drop by the kiosk in Chicoutimi, located in the Old Port, and meet our reception clerks.

PLACES TO DISCOVER

- The L'Anse de Tabatière interpretation trail leads to a lookout offering a splendid view of Île Saint-Louis and the Saguenay Fjord.
- The L'Anse-Saint-Jean wharf is the perfect spot to stop and appreciate the landscape.



"A SEA OF MOUNTAINS
WHERE TREES
ROLL OVER
THE LANDSCAPE
LIKE WAVES
BREAKING ON THE SHORE"



THE PARK AND BAIE ÉTERNITÉ THE UNIQUENESS OF THE SAGUENAY FJORD

PARC NATIONAL
DU SAGUENAY
91, Notre-Dame
Rivière-Éternité
(Québec)
G0V 1P0

Telephone : 1 877 272-5229

Fax : (418) 272-3438

www.parcsquebec.com

SCHEDULE
From June 7 to October 14

FEES
Adult : \$3.50
Family : \$7.00



The Saguenay Fjord is one of the most exceptional in the world. The steep cliffs lining this body of water bring to mind the action of the glaciers as they passed through this area a few thousand years ago. From the depths of the fjord to the summits of Trinité and Éternité capes, explore the many facets of this unique environment.

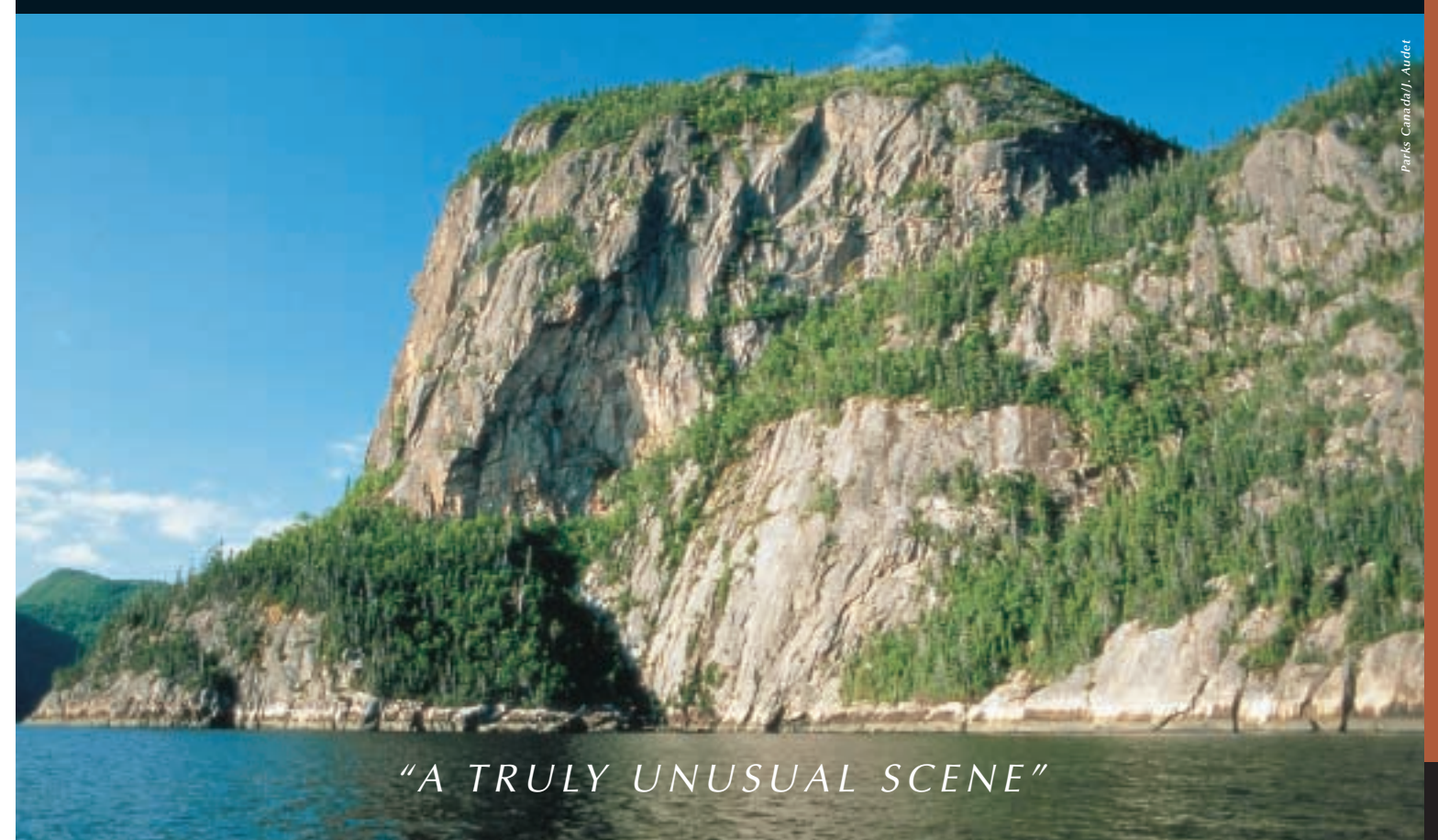
Le Fjord du Saguenay Interpretation Centre presents an interactive exhibition on the history of the formation of the fjord and presents its marine wildlife. Take this opportunity to discover the immensity of the Saguenay Fjord on the wings of a flight simulator. Take part in posted activities with guide-naturalists and attend the talk in French entitled "Une pêche miraculeuse", starring a friendly fisherman and a water spirit, and learn a little more about marine life.

Le Fjord du Saguenay Reception and Interpretation Centre is the starting point for many guided walking trails including the Méandres à falaise trail presenting the valley and the delta of Baie Éternité.



Parks Québec/S. Turcotte

Cap Trinité

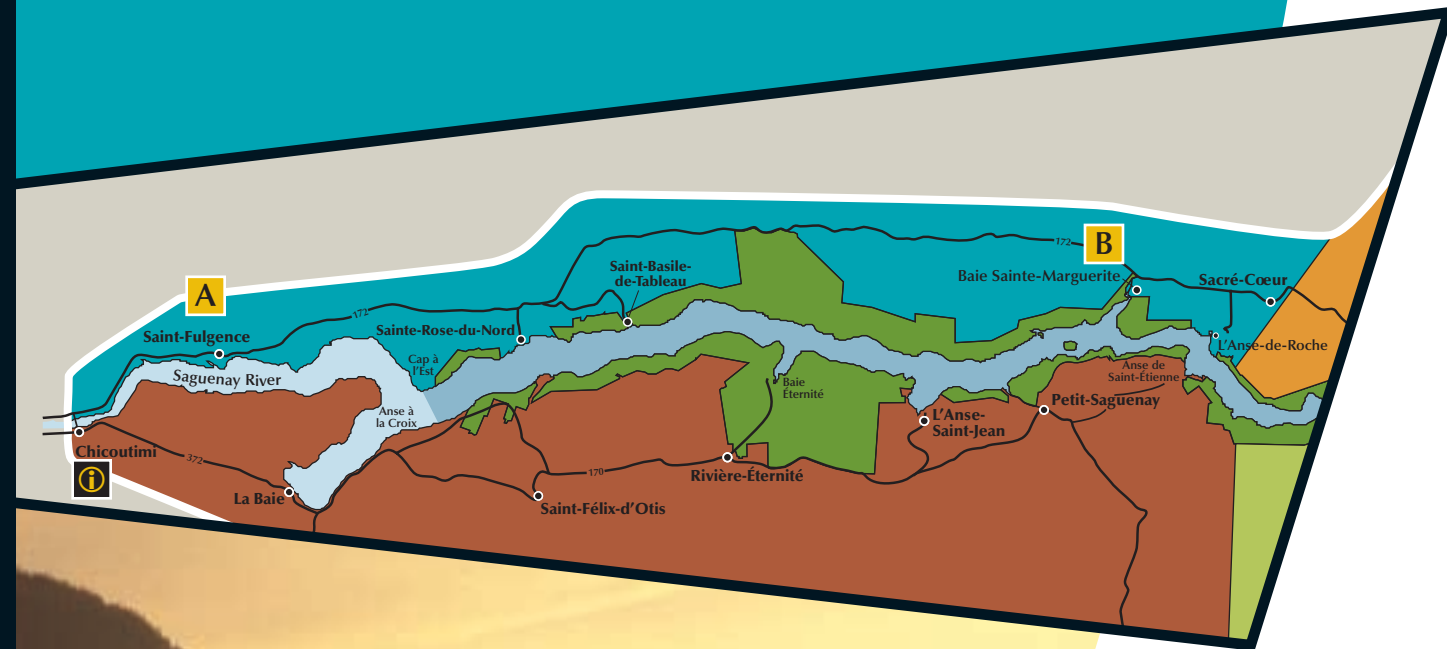


Parks Canada/J. Audet

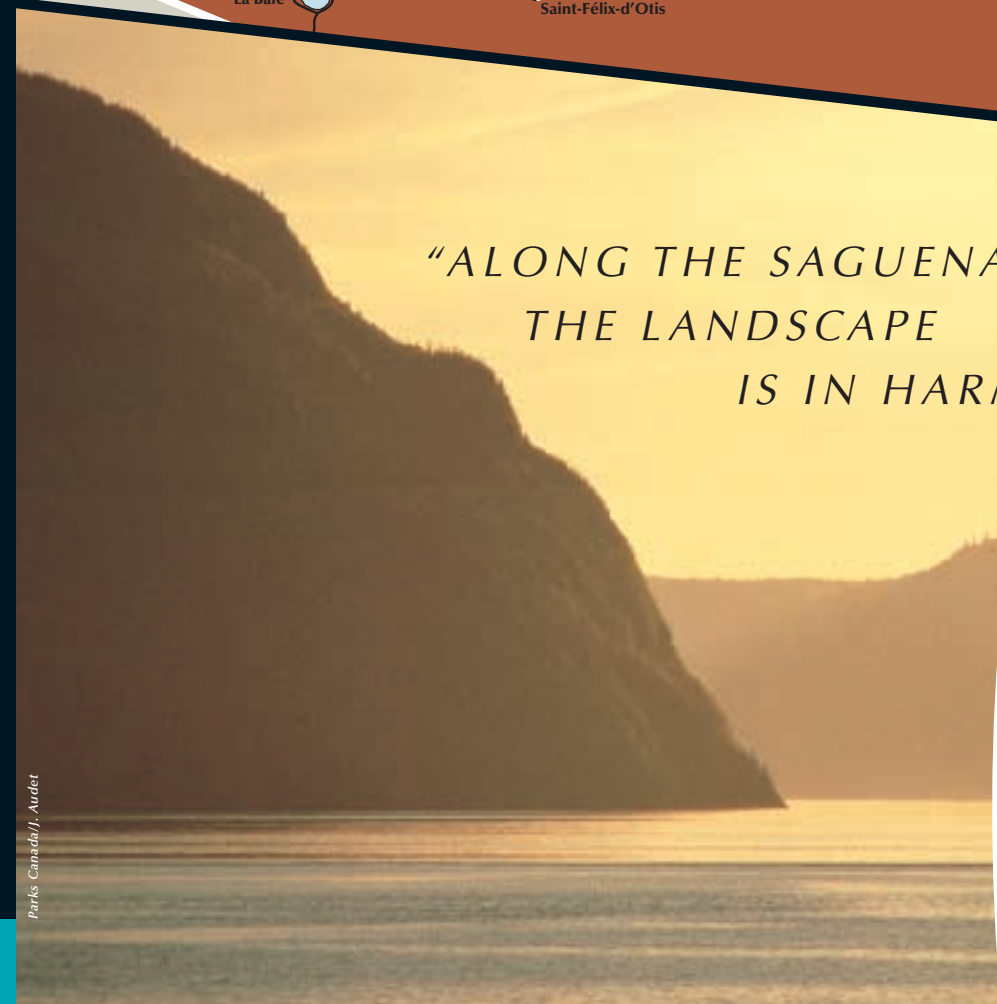
"A TRULY UNUSUAL SCENE"

NORTH FJORD SECTOR

Along the Saguenay, the landscape is in harmony with the tides. Running along the Sainte-Marguerite River parallel to the Fjord, Highway 172 goes through a valley where each new twist and turn reveals a unique landscape. Stop along your way and discover magnificent views of the Saguenay.



“ALONG THE SAGUENAY,
THE LANDSCAPE
IS IN HARMONY
WITH THE TIDES”



Parks Canada/J. Audet



CENTRE D'INTERPRÉTATION SUR LES BATTURES ET DE RÉHABILITATION DES OISEAUX (CIBRO) A SPIT AND A MARSH UNIQUE TO THE FJORD

A

CIBRO
100, rue du Cap des Roches
Saint-Fulgence
(Québec)
G0V 1S0

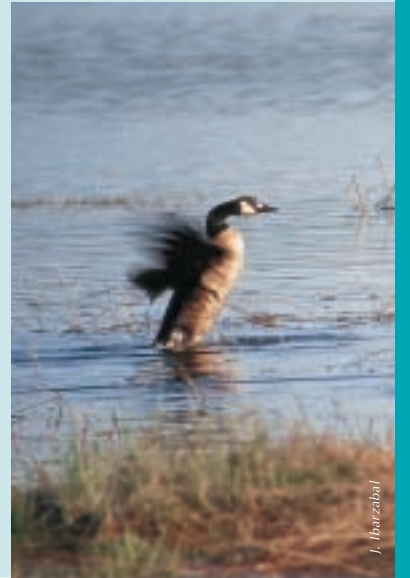
Telephone : (418) 674-2425
Fax : (418) 674-9213

SCHEDULE
May 1st to October 7,
everyday
from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

FEES
Adult : \$5.50
Child (aged 4 to 14) : \$3.00
Student (aged 15 to 18) : \$4.50
Senior : \$4.50
Family : \$15.00

The rock walls of the fjord give way to vast marshes in front of Saint-Fulgence. The briny waters of these marshes provide food and refuge for dozens of bird species. The site also features a very unusual phenomenon called a spit.

At the *Centre d'interprétation sur les battures et de réhabilitation des oiseaux* interpretation centre, you will learn about the spit, the marshes and about exceptional birds. It is a powerful tool for the conservation of the natural environment. Created by the tides, the sandbank is a special sedimentation zone featuring a unique landscape, vegetation and habitat. The bird rehabilitation component, in addition to safeguarding the birds and returning them to their natural habitat, offers a unique regional tourism product and increases visitor awareness about the impact of our actions and about our relationship with the environment.



J. Ibarzabal

THE PARK AND BAIÉ SAINTE-MARGUERITE THE CRITICAL BELUGA HABITATS

B



You are invited to a fascinating rendezvous with the beluga of the St. Lawrence at Baie Sainte-Marguerite. The white whales can stay in this area for several hours and sometimes come up to the surface. Considering the vulnerable status of this species, the observation of the beluga is a privileged experience that will surely touch you.

Baie Sainte-Marguerite, with a rich history linked to the industrial colonization, has recovered its tranquillity and is a perfect site for an authentic meeting with the beluga. From the lookout, the guide naturalists will share the secrets of the beluga's way of life and the importance of protecting the environment in which it lives. Stop by the

interactive exhibition at the *Le Béluga Interpretation Centre* and learn about this white whale's habitat and its relationship to humans over the ages.

Visitors can also take part in a talk, in interpretation activities and in a guided hike on the history of the site.



Parks Canada/F. Guay

PARC NATIONAL
DU SAGUENAY
1121, Highway 172 North
Sacré-Cœur

ADMINISTRATION
91, Notre-Dame
Rivière-Éternité
(Québec)
G0V 1P0

Telephone : 1 877 272-5229
Fax : (418) 272-3438
www.parcquebec.com

SCHEDULE
From June 7 to September 10

FEES
Adult : \$3.50
Family : \$7.00



WHALE SECTOR

Beyond Tadoussac, the Laurentian channel plunges some 300 metres forming an underwater valley teeming with unsuspected life. As its name implies, the sector is known for the whales that come to the site to feed. Follow the road signs and let yourself be spellbound when coming into contact with these large mammals, whether from the shore or on the water.

For further information about the Marine Park, drop into the *Maison du Tourisme* at Tadoussac or stop by the Les Escoumins Tourism Information Kiosk and meet our reception clerks.

PLACES TO DISCOVER

- The Pointe-de-l'Islet interpretation trail in Tadoussac presents the phenomena associated with the mouth of the river.
- The Tadoussac heritage circuit recounts 400 years of history through a walking circuit dotted with a dozen interpretation panels.
- *Le Morillon* interpretation trail located in Les Bergeronnes guides you on the *Chemin des Squatters* and offers views of bird life at Anse de Bon-Désir.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

- Four talks are presented at the *Maison de la mer* at Les Bergeronnes from Wednesday to Saturday at 8:30 p.m. For information, telephone (418) 232-6249.



"AN UNDERWATER VALLEY
TEEMING WITH
UNSUSPECTED LIFE"



CENTRE D'INTERPRÉTATION ARCHÉO TOPO ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEOHISTORY AT THE MARINE PARK

ARCHÉO TOPO
498, rue de la Mer
Les Bergeronnes
(Québec)
G0T 1G0

Telephone : (418) 232-6286
Fax : (418) 232-6695

SCHEDULE
June to October
from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For millenniums, various Amerindian communities have travelled across the Haute-Côte-Nord to hunt seals. Archaeological excavations reveal that the occupation of the shoreline and the use of resources from the sea date back nearly 8 000 years! The Archéo Topo Centre introduces visitors to the millennial relationship between humans and the sea.

An important meeting place for sharing and distributing information on regional archaeology, the Archéo Topo Centre invites you to discover the life of prehistoric nomadic communities and their ties with the marine environment. Visitors of all ages will be captivated by the permanent exhibition and by a variety of activities. A laboratory featuring educational games illustrates the work of researchers in archaeology.



CENTRE D'INTERPRÉTATION DES MAMMIFÈRES MARINS (CIMM) ALL ABOUT WHALES

A visit to Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park would not be complete without marine mammals. During a sea cruise or while observing the shoreline, often one only catches a glimpse of these animals. As they come up for air, the whales only reveal some of their secrets. The CIMM provides a unique opportunity to learn more about these extraordinary mammals.

This interpretation centre invites you to take a plunge into the fascinating world of whales by viewing spectacular video footage, scale models, a collection of skeletons unique in Canada... Specialists are also available to provide information and to answer your questions. The CIMM is

a good introduction, an ideal complement or an enriching alternative to whale-watching cruises.

The CIMM is the work of the *Groupe de recherche et d'éducation sur les mammifères marins*, a non-profit organization devoted to education, protection and scientific research on marine mammals in the St. Lawrence.



CIMM
108, rue de la Cale Sèche
Tadoussac (Québec)
G0T 2A0

Telephone : (418) 235-4701
Fax : (418) 235-4325

www.gremm.org
www.whales-online.net

SCHEDULE
May 13 to June 14
from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
June 15 to September 22
from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
September 23 to October 20
from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FEES
Adult : \$5.50
Child (aged 6 to 12) : \$3.00
Child (aged 5 and under) : free
Senior : \$4.00
Family : \$13.50
Adults group : \$4.00
Children group : \$2.25



CAP-DE-BON DÉsir

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION CENTER

A DEEPLY MYSTERIOUS ESTUARY

C

CAP-DE-BON-DESIR
13, chemin du Cap-de-Bon-Désir
Les Bergeronnes
(Québec)
G0T 1G0

Telephone :
(418) 232-6751 high season
(418) 235-4703 off season

Fax : (418) 232-6502 high season

SCHEDULE

June 1st to 16
from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

June 17 to September 2
from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 3 to October 14
from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

FEES

Child (aged 12 and under) : \$2.00
Student : \$3.00
Adult : \$5.00
Senior : \$4.00
Family (2 adults + 2 children) : \$10.00
Group : \$3.75
Talk : \$2.00

The St. Lawrence Estuary mixes fresh water from the River and salt water from the Gulf. The characteristics of the Estuary make it a rich environment harbouring a wide variety of life forms. Cap-de-Bon-Désir is a unique spot to learn about navigation on the St. Lawrence and the diversity of marine life.

Offering a natural platform for observing marine mammals, the site also provides visitors the opportunity of participating in interpretation activities. Accompanied by interpreters, head off to discover the shoreline or, better yet, let the naturalist-divers bring up mysterious animals living at the bottom of the Estuary. Listen to accounts of the history of the lighthouse and of its residents, and discover the evolution of navigation on the St. Lawrence over the years.

Ask what time the various interpretation activities and talks will be held!



Parks Canada/C. Auget



THE PARK AND BAIE DU MOULIN À BAUDE

THE MARINE TERRACES

D

Overlooking the St. Lawrence Estuary, the Baie du Moulin à Baude sector offers an exceptional panorama of the river where the passing of the last glacier led to the creation of two marine terraces known in the region as "The Dunes".

The *La Maison des dunes Interpretation Centre*, which explains how the coastal landscape was formed and the human occupation, gives visitors the opportunity of observing one of the most beautiful landscapes in the park. A major crossroads for the migration of birds of prey, you can go bird-watching at the top of the dunes where three lookouts facilitate the

observation of sparrowhawks, falcons and passerines.

Take part in an interpretation activity during a seaside hike on the Pointe-de-l'Islet trail and discover the hidden life of the shoreline. Also at Pointe-de-l'Islet, a talk will help you appreciate the beauty of the riverside plant communities along the St. Lawrence.

PARC NATIONAL DU SAGUENAY
750, Ch. Moulin-Baude
Tadoussac

ADMINISTRATION
91, Notre-Dame
Rivière-Éternité (Québec)
G0V 1P0

Telephone : 1 877 272-5229

Fax : (418) 272-3438

www.parcquebec.com

SCHEDULE

From June 21
to September 10

FEES

Adult : \$3.50
Family : \$7.00



NAVIGATORS SECTOR

As its name implies, this region lives in harmony with the St. Lawrence owing to its maritime culture. Throughout almost the entire sector, Highway 132 runs along the St. Lawrence, offering a sea and island landscape. A region reached from the Côte-Nord by ferry, this type of boat also transports visitors throughout the park.

For further information on the Marine Park, head for the Marine Park's Reception and Orientation Center in Rivière-du-Loup at 189 boulevard de l'Hôtel-de-Ville and meet our reception clerks.

"THIS REGION LIVES
IN HARMONY
WITH THE
ST. LAWRENCE
OWING TO ITS
MARITIME CULTURE"



Parks Canada/J.-F. Bergeron



Parks Québec/S. Turcotte



ÎLE AUX BASQUES

THE BASQUES IN THE ST. LAWRENCE ESTUARY

A

ÎLE AUX BASQUES
418, de la Marina
Trois-Pistoles
(Québec)
G0L 4K0

Telephone (guard-boatman) :
(418) 851-1202

www.provancher.qc.ca

SCHEDULE
Depending on the tides

FEES
Individual : \$15
Child (aged 5 and under) : free

Île aux Basques bears witness to the age-old relationship between man and the Estuary. Amerindians and Basques successively stayed on the island to hunt marine mammals to ensure their subsistence. Visit the island yourself, not only to take advantage of the marine resources but to understand them and to appreciate how important it is to protect them.

Archaeology and ecology stimulate visitors curiosity at Île aux Basques. Surprising discoveries await you. On one hand, the vestiges of ovens used to melt whale fat prove the presence of Basque hunters on this island well before the voyages of Samuel de Champlain. On the other hand, several bird species stop on this small island in the middle of the Estuary during their migration.

The *Société Provancher* offers a "nature-culture" visit by organizing guided excursions to the island leaving from Trois-Pistoles. Naturalists will guide you in the observation of animal and plant life on this island, which is both a refuge for migratory birds and a National Historic Site of Canada.



Société Provancher



LE PARC DE L'AVENTURE BASQUE EN AMÉRIQUE

THE BASQUES IN THE ST. LAWRENCE ESTUARY

A

PARC DE L'AVENTURE BASQUE
66, rue du Parc
Trois-Pistoles
(Québec)
G0L 4K0

Telephone : (418) 851-1556

SCHEDULE
June 3 to June 23
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 24 to September 2
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 3 to October 14
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FEES
Adult : \$6.00
Adult, student and senior : \$5.00
Student (aged 13 to 17) : \$3.50
Child (aged 7 to 12) : \$2.50
Child (aged 6 and under) : free
Family of 3 to 5 people : \$12.00
Rates for groups of 10 or more with reservation

Humans have played an important role in the overall ecosystem of the Marine Park, since they were able to survive by living off the resources of the St. Lawrence. However, the fact that they crossed the ocean in the 16th century to exploit the riches of this environment is surprising. Discover who these Basque whale hunters were. Solve the mystery of their arrival by visiting the exhibition at the *Parc de l'aventure basque en Amérique*.

This interpretation centre presents an exhibition on the Basque whale hunters, cultural activities drawing inspiration from Basque traditions, such as the Basque rendezvous, and an international Basque pelota tournament. During your visit, why not take up the challenge of the Basque pelota on our fronton, the only one of its kind in Canada. If you suspect your family roots date back to the first whale hunters, find more information at the documentation centre of the *Société historique et généalogique de Trois-Pistoles* located at the *Parc de l'aventure basque*.



Gilles Gaudreau

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

THE ISLANDS OF THE ESTUARY:
CULTURAL AND NATURAL SANCTUARIES

B



Completely enclosed within the Marine Park, the islands of Pot à l'Eau-de-Vie and aux Lièvres offer a very enriching ecotourism experience. Devoted to the conservation of wildlife habitat, the Société Duvetnor, which is the owner, increases its efforts to make visitors aware of the vulnerable resources of the St. Lawrence Estuary. Privileged witnesses to maritime traffic, the islands of Pot à l'Eau-de-Vie are brimming with items of historical interest.

The Phare du Pot, restored in 1989 and converted into an inn, offers visitors the opportunity of spending a night in the ambience of the last century!

Duvetnor has several travel packages for visiting these islands especially aimed at outdoor lovers. Hikes, cruise-excursions, interpretation, bird-watching, camping or staying in cottages, these are just some of the activities offered in an exceptional natural setting!

Duvetnor, a non-profit organization, arose from the desire to conserve the untouched character of the islands of the Bas-Saint-Laurent. From now on, education and recreation are an integral part of the Société's development plan, but the conservation of wildlife and of habitats is still the primary objective.

The islands of the Bas-Saint-Laurent can be reached from Rivière-du-Loup. The Société's offices are located at the Rivière-du-Loup marina.

DUVETNOR
200, rue Hayward,
P.O. Box 305
Rivière-du-Loup
(Québec)
G5R 3Y9

Telephone : (418) 867-1660

Fax : (418) 867-3639

www.duvetnor.com

SCHEDULE
Beginning of June
to end of September

Islands of the Bas-Saint-Laurent

« A SEA AND ISLAND
LANDSCAPE »

Parks Canada/J. Beardsell



Jean Bédard/Savagelle

TO HELP YOU TO PLAN YOUR STAY...

Consult the tourist guide books of the four tourist regions bordering the Marine Park for information on everything from accommodation and restaurant facilities to special attractions and recreational activities.

ON THE SOUTH SHORE :

Tourisme Bas-Saint-Laurent

(418) 867-1272 • Toll free: 1 800 563-5268

ON THE NORTH SHORE :

Charlevoix tourist association

(418) 665-4454 • Toll free: 1 800 667-2276

Saguenay–Lac-St-Jean tourism federation

(418) 543-9778 • Toll free: 1 800 463-9651

Manicouagan tourist association

(418) 294-2876 • Toll free: 1 888 463-5319

FERRY INFORMATION

Rivière-du-Loup (418) 862-5094

Saint-Siméon (418) 638-2856

Baie-Sainte-Catherine (418) 235-4395

Tadoussac (418) 235-4395

Trois-Pistoles (418) 851-4676

1 866 851-4676

Les Escoumins 1 866 851-4676

www.traversiers.gouv.qc.ca

*“ON EACH SIDE OF THE ESTUARY
INCLUDING THE ISLANDS,
OR ALONG THE FJORD,
EMBARK ON THE DISCOVERY OF THE
SAGUENAY–ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK”*

Parks Canada/N. Boisvert



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Saguenay–St. Lawrence
MARINE PARK