

# PARC NATIONAL DES GRANDS-JARDINS

DISCOVERY GUIDE

2018

# WELCOME TO THE PARK



**Large, northern style gardens, traversed by woodland caribous, where the mountain, the taiga and the burnt-over areas combine to offer an exceptional site for initiation and the practice of adventure and to perpetuate a tradition of fishing more than centenary.**

Parc national des Grands-Jardins (319 km<sup>2</sup>) offers an exceptional nature where impressive peaks sit alongside large rolling plateaus covered by the taiga, burnt forest in regeneration, lakes and rivers. Surround yourself with these landscapes shaped by the fall of a meteorite, the great glaciers or by the successions of fires. The very poetic name of “Grands Jardins” will make sense as soon as you make contact with this territory.

**Discover more at [sepaq.com/grandsjardins](http://sepaq.com/grandsjardins)**



**THE SPRUCE GROUSE, THE ANIMAL EMBLEM OF THE PARK**

This bird, from the Phasianidae family, is an annual resident of the territory and can be observed at any time. The diversity of ecosystems that characterizes the park suits him perfectly: coniferous forests, burnt-over areas, blueberry fields. It feeds mainly on fruits, mushrooms, and conifer needles in winter. The male is easily recognizable by its bright colors: black throat and breast and red ridge above the eye. The female is brownish and striped.

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# MUST-DOS



A

## DES GRANDS JARDINS

Fires have forged this unique landscape and gave way to a mosaic of landscapes that takes on different colors depending on the hours of the day and the seasons. Come and discover the rich history and the fascinating characters who have traveled this territory that looks like Northern Quebec.



B

## VIA FERRATA

The most sporty will like to push their limits on the safe Via Ferrata circuit of mont du Lac des Cygnes. Two trails are proposed: La Traversée and La Montée. These two itineraries provide an opportunity to explore fascinating environments with spectacular view from the air!



C

## FISHING FOR ALL

Novice fishermen or experienced anglers! There is something for everyone at Les Grands-Jardins: free equipment rental, wading or row fishing, day fishing or fishing trip in a cabin. Come and enjoy the tranquility of the park's lakes and tease the brook trout hidden there.



D

## NORDIC TERRITORY

Looking for adventure? The territory of Grands-Jardins has a lot to offer. Our Nordic skiing circuit or snowshoeing trails will take you to impressive summit or burnt forests with endless white horizons. To prolong your stay, let yourself be tempted by our huts or the comfort of our cabins!



E

## ADVENTURE ON WATER

Discover the "water gardens" by kayak or by canoe, from Lac Arthabaska all the way to the Wabano dam and ask for our self-discovery guide to better understand what's around you. Furthermore, Lac Arthabaska is the ideal place to learn stand-up paddleboard. Yours to discover.



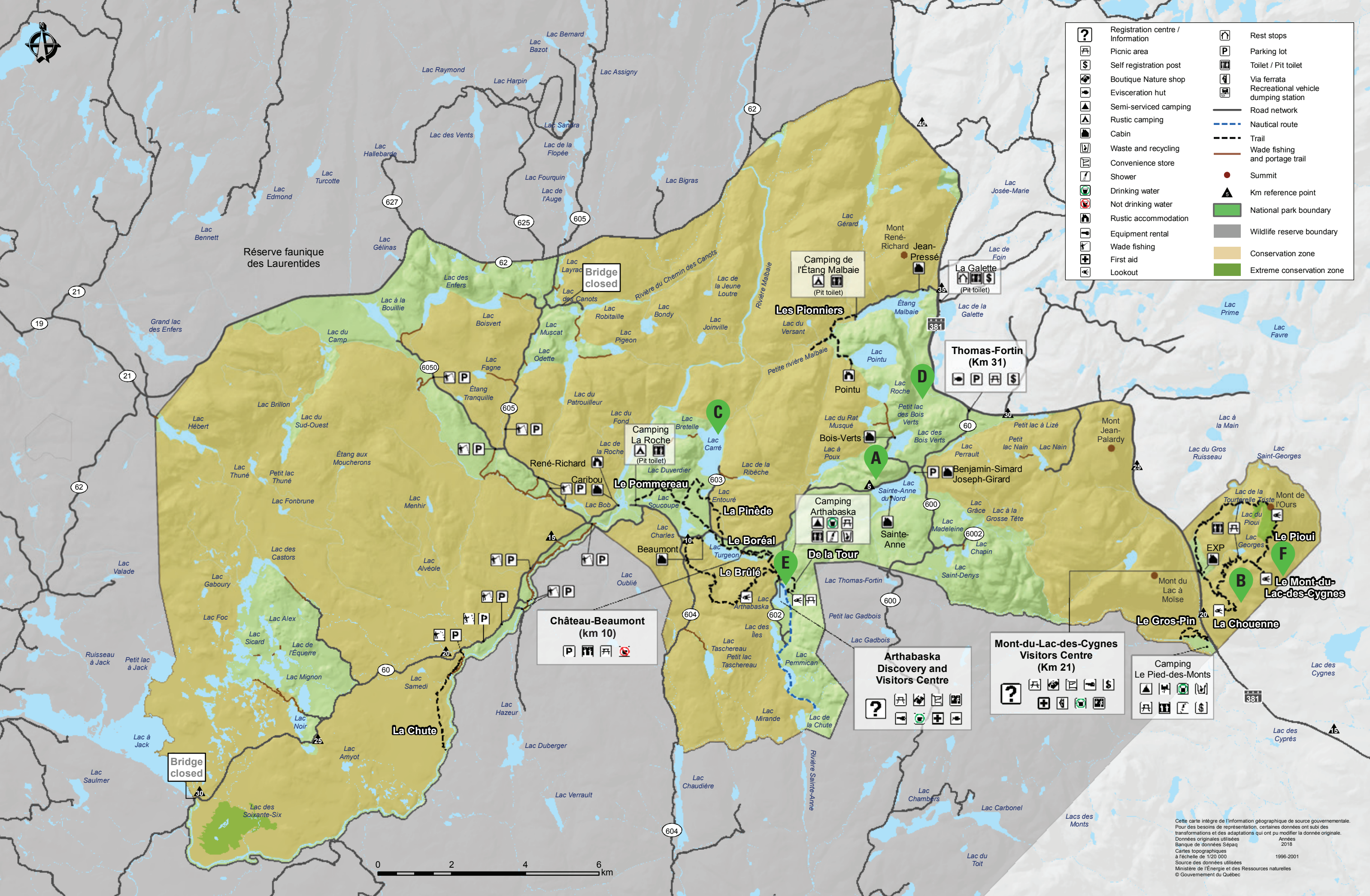
F

## MOUNTAIN PEAKS

The area of Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnes offers three hiking trails accessible year-round. Pioui and Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnes trails will introduce you to the Charlevoix meteorite crater, while La Chouenne offers a magnificent view of the valley and the walls of Mont du Gros-Bras. Happy hiking!



	Registration centre / Information		Rest stops
	Picnic area		Parking lot
	Self registration post		Toilet / Pit toilet
	Boutique Nature shop		Via ferrata
	Evisceration hut		Recreational vehicle dumping station
	Semi-serviced camping		Road network
	Rustic camping		Nautical route
	Cabin		Trail
	Waste and recycling		Wade fishing and portage trail
	Convenience store		Summit
	Shower		Km reference point
	Drinking water		National park boundary
	Not drinking water		Wildlife reserve boundary
	Rustic accommodation		Conservation zone
	Equipment rental		Extreme conservation zone
	Wade fishing		
	First aid		
	Lookout		



Réserve faunique des Laurentides

Bridge closed

Camping de l'Étang Malbaie  
  
 (Pit toilet)

La Galette  
  
 (Pit toilet)

Thomas-Fortin  
 (Km 31)

Camping La Roche  
  
 (Pit toilet)

Le Pommereau

Camping Arthabaska

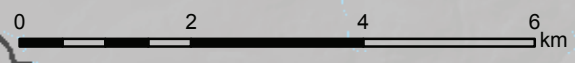
Château-Beaumont  
 (km 10)

Arthabaska  
 Discovery and  
 Visitors Centre

Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés  
 Visitors Centre  
 (Km 21)












Camping  
 Le Pied-des-Monts



Bridge closed



Cette carte intègre de l'information géographique de source gouvernementale. Pour des besoins de représentation, certaines données ont subi des transformations et des adaptations qui ont pu modifier la donnée originale. Données originales utilisées : Années 2018, Banque de données Sépaq. Cartes topographiques à l'échelle de 1/20 000, 1996-2001. Source des données utilisées : Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles, © Gouvernement du Québec.

# DISCOVER OUR TRAILS

TRAIL		LENGTH AND DURATION*		DIFFICULTY LEVEL*	HEIGHT DIFFERENCE (M)	OPEN DATES	DEPARTURE POINT
	<b>Le Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés</b> – The viewpoint on Charlevoix Crater (981 m) and on the Laurentian mountains is one of the most impressive! Don't forget to look under your feet, where an arctic-alpine mountain vegetation grows. Be careful! Fragile!	8,6 km round-trip	4 h	<b>D</b>	480	Year round	Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés Visitors Centre (route 381, km 21)
	<b>La Chouenne</b> – Trail leading to a 730 m high summit. Magnificent viewpoints on the valley and on the face of mont du Gros-Bras. A dazzling spectacle right from the first kilometer.	4,8 km round-trip	2 h	<b>I</b>	250	Year round	Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés Visitors Centre (route 381, km 21)
	<b>Le Pioui (rustique)</b> – After a steady climb, the view from the crests will dazzle you. Don't miss noticing a small peat bog and the alpine vegetation that covers the summit.	10,4 km loop	5 h	<b>D</b>	480	Year round	Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés Visitors Centre (route 381, km 21)
	<b>Le Gros Pin</b> – Take a stroll under tall trees to the sound of poplar leaves rustling, woodpecker cries and the murmur of the stream	2,1 km loop	1 h	<b>E</b>	23	Year round	Le Pied-des-Monts campground (route 381, km 19)
	<b>Le Boréal</b> – Offer yourselves a pleasant stroll in one of the park's oldest boreal forest. Discover the park's typical atmosphere and take a short tour into a sector regenerating itself since the 1991 fire.	3,6 km loop	1 h 30	<b>E</b>	2	Mid-May to mid-October	Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre (route 60, km 9)
	<b>La Pinède</b> – In a single trail, get to see a boreal forest, a gray pine forest and many interesting views on Ice Age lakes.	6,2 km loop	3 h	<b>E</b>	15	Mid-May to mid-October	Château Beaumont (route 60, km 10)
	<b>Le Pommereau</b> – Follow this trail to get to La Roche campground and observe the lake Soucoupe water plant community that is slowly becoming a peat bog.	3,6 km round-trip	2 h	<b>E</b>	25	Mid-May to mid-October	La Roche campground (route 60, km 13)
	<b>La Chute</b> – Discover landscapes typical of the taïga, viewpoints on the Malbaie river, and have lunch at the Hume-Blake falls.	6,6 km round-trip	3 h	<b>E</b>	20	Mid-May to mid-October	Route 60, km 20
	<b>Les Pionniers</b> – Besides some nice views on the Petite rivière Malbaie, your hike will make you discover moss-covered forests and a forest in full regeneration following the 1999 fire.	3,6 km round-trip	2 h	<b>E</b>	20	Mid-May to mid-October	Étang-Malbaie campground (route 381, km 34,5)
	<b>De La Tour</b> – This trail offers a short walk towards a pretty observation point along the Arthabaska lake. A shelter is installed which evokes the presence of fire towers that used to line the old territory.	1,4 km round-trip	40 min	<b>E</b>	10	Mid-May to mid-October	Arthabaska campground (route 60, km 9)
	<b>Le Brûlé (rustique)</b> – A real immersion in the heart of the peaks of the Arthabaska sector! This trail will allow you to appreciate the contrasts left by forest fires. You will cross areas of boreal vegetation and taïga. Quietness guaranteed!	6,4 km loop	2 h	<b>I</b>	164	Mid-May to mid-October	Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre (route 60, km 9)

 Hiking  Mobile application  Family experience

**E** : Easy    **I** : Intermediate    **D** : Difficult

\*The duration and the degree of difficulty indicated are indicative and refer to the summer season.



# DISCOVERY TIME



**Are you staying in the park? Enjoy 50% off morning rentals of watercraft.**



## VIA FERRATA : WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 1- Minimal height of 1.3 meter
- 2- Minimum weight of 50 kilos (110 lbs)  
maximum weight of 110 kilos (242 lbs)
- 3- Closed and laced sporting shoes with rigid soles
- 4- Bring one to two litres of water per person
- 5- Long hair tied
- 6- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- 7- Snack

## DISCOVER THE PARK BY BOAT OR KAYAK

Discover big “water gardens” by boat, kayak or stand-up paddleboard! Become an explorer and complete the Arthabaska Lake course up to the Wabano dam. This beautiful 4-hour return trip crosses several lake environments that provide shelter to rich and diversified flora and fauna. The perfect place to spot a moose!

**When :** from May 25 to October 8

**Where :** Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre

EQUIPMENT (TAXES EXTRA)	DAILY	4 hours	1 hour
Canoe	\$49.50	\$34.50	\$17.25
Solo kayak	\$45.00	\$31.50	\$15.50
Tandem kayak	\$54.00	\$38.00	\$19.00
Life jacket	\$7.00	-	-
Dry bag	\$7.00	-	-
Stand-up paddleboard	\$43.00	\$30.00	\$17.25
Rabaska canoe	\$209.00	\$146.25	\$73.25
6 hp outboard motor *	\$45.00	\$31.50	-
2.5 hp outboard motor*	\$35.00	\$24.50	-
Rowboat *	\$43.50	\$30.25	\$15.00
Walking stick	\$13.00	-	-

\*until September 3

## DAY FISHING

You can wade fish or fish in a rowboat and discover the vast potential of the lakes and rivers of the Park. A tasty native trout awaits you in a renowned and popular place for over 100 years. Brook trout is the most popular.

**Price :** \$80.66 for 2 people (includes fishing fee and rowboat)

**When :** from May 25 to September 3

## VIA FERRATA

Discover the via ferrata circuit on the rock face of the prestigious Mont du Lac des Cygnes. Two safe itineraries, equipped with beams, a bridge, etc., provide an opportunity to explore the cliffs, in fascinating environments with spectacular views.

While climbing, you will navigate the rock face safely and at your own pace. You will enjoy an exclusive experience in small groups (8 people maximum), accompanied by a professional guide.

CIRCUIT NAME	DIFFICULTY	DURATION	RATES		MINIMUM AGE
			ADULTS 16+	CHILDREN	
La Traversée	Beginner	3 h 50	\$47.50	\$35.50	12
La Montée	Intermediate	5 h	\$76.25	\$57.00	14



## RANDONNÉE TAÏGA: A SECRET TRAIL

There are few places in Quebec where you can walk through thick carpets of ground lichen. Access to this trail is only possible in company of a park warden-naturalist who explains the most fascinating natural phenomena of the park: forest fires, extreme temperatures, insect outbreaks, lichen and woodland caribous.

**When :** from June 22 to October 8

**Price :** \$22.29 (adult rate)

**Schedule :** at Visitors Centers



## LES SECRETS DU CRÉPUSCULE: A PRIVILEGED MOMENT

The end of the day is a unique moment to observe wildlife. Aboard a minibus, come and visit the park with a park warden-naturalist to discover how and why some animals come out at dusk.

**When :** from June 22 to September 3

**Price :** \$20.40 (adult rate)

**Schedule :** at Visitors Centers

## BALADE DÉCOUVERTE EN MINIBUS: IN THE HEART OF HISTORY

The history of wood runners interests you? The history of the Grands-Jardins will surprise you! On board a minibus, a park warden-naturalist will tell you all about the human occupation of this exceptional territory, while making connections with the wildlife that inhabits it: explorers, guides, private hunting and fishing clubs. Fascinating!

**When :** from June 22 to September 3

**Price :** \$20.40 (adult rate)

**Schedule :** at Visitors Centers



## TIRER PLUS VITE QUE SON OMBLE: FISHING IN THE PARK

In this educational game for all the family, discover the history of fishing in the park, fish species that are hiding the lakes and fishing techniques. Everything to be ready for an afternoon of fishing in the Grands-Jardins!

**Schedule :** at Visitors Centers

## BE SURPRISED BY DISCOVERY

At any time during the day you could meet a park warden-naturalist. Whether at the top of mont du Lac des Cygnes or near a visitors centre, the park wardens offer playful posted activities to make you discover the park.

## SUR L'EAU AVEC LES PIONNIERS: ESCAPE ON WATER

To escape in nature in an enchanting setting, nothing better than a getaway in a large rabaska canoe. This activity, guided by a park warden-naturalist will immerse you in the heart of the history of Grands-Jardins, a magical moment to live at the beginning or at the end of the day.

**When :** from June 22 to September 3

**Price :** \$10.17 (adult rate)

**Schedule :** at Visitors Centers



## EVENING CHATS FOR ALL TASTES (IN FRENCH ONLY)

Whether in the form of a quiz or an interactive presentation, the team of park warden-naturalists has plenty to tell you. Depending on your interest, take part in an evening chat to discover the park's essentials.

**When :** from June 22 to September 3

**Where :** Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre or Pied-des-Monts campground

**Schedule :** at Visitors Centers

# SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS



Spend the night with us and enjoy the park to the fullest. You'll have your base camp and discover the territory at your leisure all the while having a front-row seat to check out the wildlife in its natural habitat!

Visitors can choose from among several types of accommodations and packages:

- Primitive campgrounds :  
La Roche & Étang-Malbaie
- Serviced campgrounds :  
Pied-des-Monts & Arthabaska
- Ready-to-camp
- Cabin
- EXP. Cabin
- Hut
- Rustic shelter

Pay showers : \$1/4 minutes  
(Pied-des-Monts: works with a dollar coin or quarters)  
(Arthabaska: works with quarters only)

## 2018 SEASON

Réservations en cours

## BEGINNING OF BOOKINGS 2019 SEASON

April 28, 2018 (summer)

September 18, 2018 (fall/winter)

## Echo cabins

October 27, 2018

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Photo: Mathieu Dupuis

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Discover all our family destinations at [sepaq.com/family](http://sepaq.com/family)

### OUR TOP PICKS

AT PARC NATIONAL DES GRANDS-JARDINS

Take a look at our not-to-be-missed offers: popular activities, trails to discover with your family, and cosy spots for a stay.

- Family fishing : free rental equipment and initiation activity Find out!
- Evening talk for everyone
- Rally, Le Gros Pin trail
- Canoe on Arthabaska Lake



# CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW



## THE WOODLAND CARIBOU

With its spruce forests covered with carpets of lichen, the park is the perfect habitat for woodland caribou. The caribou population of Charlevoix disappeared in 1920 and was reintroduced in the 1970s. Species designated vulnerable in Quebec, actions are now taken to protect its habitat. If you are lucky to see this awesome beast, keep your distance to minimize the inconvenience.

**Unlike other species of deers (White-tailed deer, moose), the female and the male have antlers, which fall and grow again each year.**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNTING AND WEIGHING CAUGHT FISH

The quality of fishing in the Grands-Jardins depends mainly on the accuracy of the data from fishermen. Following their fishing day, everyone has the responsibility to complete and file their declaration, even if no fish has been caught. The study of these data makes it possible to calculate indicators of the health of the fish populations, thus making it possible to adjust the fishing pressure for each body of water.

**The most important data to collect are for each lake and for each species: the number of fishermen, the number of fish caught, and the total weight of these fish.**



*Aeshna septentrionalis*

## AH! THESE PRETTY DRAGONFLIES...

In 2017, we had the opportunity to welcome real enthusiasts, who are working to create the very first dragonflies atlas in Quebec. Equipped with nets and cameras, Guy Lemelin and his team searched peatlands and other wetlands of the park. We can confirm that the odonatofauna of the park includes 35 species, some of which are surprisingly in the boreal region.

**One of the objectives of their next inventory will be to confirm the presence of two subarctic species in identified peatlands.**



## COHABITATION WITH BEAVERS

The park territory includes many lakes and streams, regularly crossed by roads and forest roads. Result: a cohabitation sometimes difficult with humans. Beavers often obstruct bridges and culverts to raise the water level. In order to act more effectively, the park team has put in place a more structured follow-up of the problems and installations, targeting prevention first (since it is its home) rather than capture/relocation.

**A floating electric fence has been installed for 2 years at Lac des Bois Verts. It aims to dissuade the beaver from coming to build dams under the bridge.**



## DNA, DNA: TELL ME WHAT IS HIDING IN OUR LAKES

Populations of Arctic Charr or Red Trout of Quebec are found in 10 lakes in the park. This species, rather rare in the southern part of the province, is likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable. To check its presence in other lakes, we have used the environmental DNA method, developed by Louis Bernatchez (Laval University). It consists of taking water samples, filtering them and analyzing organic residues that may contain the Arctic charr's DNA. Samples were taken from 5 lakes. Results to come!

**Populations in southern Quebec have been isolated in fresh water since the retreat of glaciers (subspecies "ouassa"). They are remnant of the anadromous populations that once lived in the Champlain Sea and the Atlantic Ocean about 12,000 years ago [...] (MFFP).**

## EXCLOSURES FOR HUMANS

At the top of the Mont du Lac des Cygnes and La Chouenne, you will notice permanent facilities. Their purpose is to exclude certain areas of alpine arctic vegetation, more fragile to trampling. Today, the project has the expected effects, but signs of degradation are noticeable, especially in the first section of the trail where shortcuts still seem to be used. The goal of the park team is to make hikers aware to stop using these small trails and to improve facilities at the summit.

**Arctic alpine plant: a species that grows in the alpine stage (beyond the treeline limit in altitude) or in the arctic zone (beyond the treeline limit in latitude).**

# PLAY IT SAFE



In the wild, your **safety** is your **responsibility**



Photo: Steve Deschênes, Parc national des Grands-Jardins

Sépaq's mission is to ensure the widest possible access to Québec's most beautiful natural treasures. Sépaq is committed to the safety of its visitors and urges you to play it safe!

Preparing yourself adequately is the first step in the safe and enjoyable practice of your favourite activities. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY** and risk management is an integral part of your experience.

Before leaving for an excursion, **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED** to practice your chosen activity **AND RESPECT YOUR PHYSICAL LIMITS**. Your outing should leave you with nothing but pleasant memories. There are a number of organizations that can help you plan your activities safely. Do not hesitate to contact them. We also invite you to consult our safety guides for Sépaq activities on our website at

[sepaq.com/security](http://sepaq.com/security)

## CHECKLIST

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- Plan on going with at least one other person.
- Check the weather report.
- Pack water and food, even if the activity is only for a few hours.
- See that you have appropriate clothing and footwear for anticipated weather conditions.
- Let somebody know the exact location of your destination and the time you plan to return home

### ONCE YOU ARE ON SITE

- Do not rely on your cellphone.
- Check how much time it will take to complete your activity.
- Obey signs and notices, including bans on open fires.

### WHEN YOU GET BACK

- Once you have completed your activity, make sure that you report to our staff anything wrong or any damage or problems you encountered.

## REMINDERS

-  During your visit to a national park, you must always carry your entry fee receipt or your annual entry card.
-  To preserve our natural riches, you are not allowed to remove any natural elements (animals, plants, dead wood, rocks, etc.). Please also keep to established hiking trails to avoid trampling flora.
-  Animals find all they need to eat in nature. Feeding wildlife can be very damaging. Keep food or garbage out of reach of animals.
-  We ask you to carry out all your garbage.
-  Domestic animals are not accepted in Québec's national parks. However, guide dogs and service dogs are admitted.

## PILOT PROJECT AUTHORIZING DOGS

A pilot project is in place authorizing the presence of dogs in FRONTENAC, JACQUES-CARTIER and OKA national parks. As of May 18, 2018, the project will be expanded to include AIGUEBELLE and LAC-TÉMISCOUATA national parks. Please read the applicable rules and authorized places at [sepaq.com/animals](http://sepaq.com/animals).

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY : 911

**SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC: 310-4141** (general number) / \*4141 (for cellphones)

\*Where cellphone networks are available. The costs and expenses incurred in conducting search and rescue operations are the responsibility of the beneficiary. You can obtain protection against these risks from an insurer.

## Parc national des Grands-Jardins

Administration  
25, boul. Notre-Dame  
Clermont (Québec) G4A 1C2  
Information : 418 439-1227  
Reservations : 1 800 665-6527  
Email : [parc.grands-jardins@sepaq.com](mailto:parc.grands-jardins@sepaq.com) [sepaq.com/grandsjardins](http://sepaq.com/grandsjardins)

Legal Deposit: 2018  
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Photos: Mathieu Dupuis, Steve Deschênes, Pierre Bernier, Dominique Boudreault, Shutterstock





# Auberge Le Relais des Hautes-Gorges

- Vast encompassing estate near Parc National des Hautes-Gorges.
- Wellness SPA Center (opening Summer 2017).
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# GET READY FOR THE TRAILS

One step at a time



 VAUDE

## BRENTA 40 ►

The Brenta 40 is a sporty hiking backpack with comprehensive features that make pilgrimages and hut tours possible as well. The Aeroflex suspension system allows cool air to circulate at your back; the straps and hip wings offer a very good microclimate thanks to perforated foam.

## DURAND MID WP ►

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