

SÉPAQ

PARC NATIONAL DES GRANDS-JARDINS

Protected area. Enriching nature experiences.

Discover a land of legendary adventures, a protected area with a Nordic character.

Admire the high peaks, camp in the hollow of a glacial valley, fish in the many cold water lakes or simply remain silent in front of the endless horizons of the taiga, fragile and rare at our latitude.

MUST-DOS



A

Measure up to brook trout

Learn differently from the Grands-Jardins, a scene of brook trout fishing for hundreds of years! Experienced or occasional fisherman, cast your line in our cold water lakes and rivers! For the day or for a stay in one of our accommodations, wading or in a rowboat... we have the option that is sure to suit you!



B

Adventure in winter

In winter, the Grands-Jardins reveal a completely different setting! 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!



C

Dare the nordic aspect

Meet at the Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre, starting point for exploring a territory that impresses with its exceptional character. The great fires have left their mark there, with armies of burnt trees and regenerating forests. Discover the taiga, rare at our latitude. This northern enclave, with its lichens as far as the eye can see, is at the heart of the creation of the national park.



D

Overlooking the Charlevoix crater

Daring enough to face the mountain by climbing one of the striking routes of the Via Ferrata of Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés? Determined enough to reach the peaks of Pioui or Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés, which overlook the unique landscapes of the Charlevoix astrobleme? With family and short on time? La Chouenne offers a splendid panorama over the valley.

Be part of the solution

Our national parks are places of inestimable richness. How fortunate we are to be able to explore them, stay in them, and enjoy the benefits of nature! **But did you know that their mission is also to protect these magnificent territories and the flora and fauna found therein?**

This heritage belongs to each and every one of us and to future generations too. With several million visits every year, each harmful practice can result in permanent damage to the environment, in addition to affecting the quality of the experience of other visitors. We must remain custodians of this exceptional world of nature so it can be enjoyed for a long time to come.

5 good practices to adopt

Refrain from feeding the animals

Keep your distance when animal watching

Stay on the trails

Don't collect natural elements (plants, dead wood...)

Keep your right of access on hand at all times

DISCOVER OUR TRAILS

		LENGTH AND DURATION*		DIFFICULTY/ HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	OPEN DATES	DEPARTURE POINT
	Le Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés – 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	D 480 m	Year round	Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés Visitors Centre (route 381, km 21)
	La Chouenne – 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	I 250 m	Year round	Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés Visitors Centre (route 381, km 21)
	Le Pioui (rustique) – After a sustained ascent, the hike on the ridges will dazzle you. Admire the scenery, then spot the small bog and arctic-alpine vegetation that colonizes the summit. Take care of your knees: follow the route in the direction suggested on the map!	10,4 km loop	5 h	D 480 m	Year round	Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnés Visitors Centre (route 381, km 21)
	Le Gros Pin – 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	E 23 m	Year round	Le Pied-des-Monts campground (route 381, km 19)
	Le Boréal – 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.	3,4 km round-trip	1 h 30	E 2 m	Mid-May to mid-October	Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre (route 60, km 9)
	La Pinède – In a single trail, get to see a boreal forest, a gray pine forest and many interesting views on Ice Age lakes.	9,5 km loop	2 h 30	E 15 m	Mid-May to mid-October	Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre (route 60, km 9)
	Le Pommereau – Follow this trail to get to La Roche campground and observe the lake Soucoupe water plant community that is slowly becoming a peat bog.	11,6 km round-trip	3 h	I 25 m	Mid-May to mid-October	Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre (route 60, km 9)
	La Chute – 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	E 20 m	Mid-May to mid-October	Route 60, km 20
	Les Pionniers – 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	E 20 m	Mid-May to mid-October	Étang-Malbaie campground (route 381, km 34,5)
	De La Tour – The trail offers a short walk to a nice lookout point on the shores of Lake Arthabaska. The shelter installed there evokes the presence of the fire towers that once lined the area.	1,2 km round-trip	40 min	E 10 m	Mid-May to mid-October	Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre (route 60, km 9)
	Le Brûlé (rustique) – A trail to discover! This gentle climb to the top of the hills of the Arthabaska sector will allow you to appreciate the contrasts left by the forest fires in the park.	10,2 km loop	4 h 30	I 164 m	Mid-May to mid-October	Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Centre (route 60, km 9)

Hiking

Family Experience

Dogs allowed
sepaq.com/animaux

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

*The duration and the degree of difficulty indicated are indicative and refer to the summer season. Note that some trails may be closed temporarily during the thaw period.

DISCOVERY TIME



Discover the park on water

Sail on big “water gardens” by boat, kayak or stand-up paddleboard! Explore the Arthabaska Lake course up to the Wabano dam, accompanied by a self-interpretation guide assigned to the Arthabaska Discovery and Visitors Center. This beautiful 4-hour return trip crosses several lake environments that provide shelter to rich and diversified flora and fauna. It is a privileged place for an encounter with biodiversity... and with oneself.

A world apart

Some are suspicious of it, others are passionate about it; mushrooms leave no one indifferent! An experienced guide introduces you to the ecology of fungi, teaches you to differentiate the main groups and to recognize the main species. Then, together go in search of it! A foray into the fascinating world of mycology!



Explore the Grands-Jardins in winter! Dazzlingly white, emerging from the far reaches of the North, the territory stretches as far as the eye can see over desert moors and endless mountains.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Do you want to explore the park in a different way?

Consult the list and prices of equipment available for rent.

[Click here](#)

Learn at any moment

At the top of the Mont du Lac-des-Cygnets or near a service centre, stop and share a moment with park wardens and naturalists! Through fun activities or simply by chatting, they will be able to transmit all their knowledge and passion to you.

Family Experience

Free!
Access and equipment loans for youngsters 17 and under



Secrets of dusk by kayak

At dusk, life awakens. Accompanied by a park warden, escape from your daily life and paddle in an environment rich in wildlife habitats and exceptional landscapes. Sheltered from the light pollution of big cities, you can watch nature bustle like you’ve never seen it before! Guaranteed wonder.

Tease the trout

From the shore or in the rowboat, a tasty native trout awaits you in a place with an historic reputation, always frequented by the natives and for more than 135 years by sportsmen from everywhere! Cast your line and pick up! As Mr. John Buchan, former General Governor of Canada, who fished at the Grands-Jardins said: “Fishing is something more than a sport or a profession, it is a way of life, an attitude of the mind.”

Via ferrata

Do you want to surpass yourself and discover the park differently? Take your courage in both hands and face the Via Ferrata of Mont-du-Lac-des-Cygnets. The circuit offers two routes of different lengths with spectacular views of the Vallée du Gros-Bras. An exclusive experience in a small group, accompanied by a professional guide.

Randonnée Taïga: the North at your feet

Immerse yourself in the northern universe of the taiga, this ecosystem that is usually found between the 52nd and 55th parallels. Accessible only in the company of a naturalist park warden, this secret path will allow you to discover the fascinating world of lichens and natural phenomena that shaped the Grands-Jardins. New this year: an alternative version of this popular guided hike is offered in the Arthabaska sector, with a shorter route that will appeal to the whole family!

Campfires tour: a naturalist at the campsite

Taste your marshmallows while learning about the fauna, the stars, the Charlevoix astrobles and the phenomenon of forest fires. This promises to be very interesting! Naturalist park warden tour the campfires to present personalized talks to interested campers. A privileged moment to understand what surrounds you and start your evening at the park!

DISCOVERY ACTIVITIES

Check out the detailed program (in French only)

It will describe entertaining ways to explore the park from every angle under the sun. What a great way to enrich your visit and to make all sorts of surprising discoveries!

[Click here](#)



CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW



Predators that go through four paths

The old forest roads are known to accelerate and increase the movement of large fauna. This makes it easier for moose to circulate there, leading to an increased presence of predators such as wolves and bears. Ultimately, these openings contribute to increasing predation pressure on certain species, including the Charlevoix woodland caribou herd, which is in serious decline.

Make no mistake about it!
The unique landscape of the Arthabaska sector, accessible by Route 60, is the result of forest fires, and not old logging.



Nature as therapy

Our national parks hold unexplored therapeutic potential. In the winter of 2019, we had the honor of welcoming a group from the organization Le Grand Chemin Inc. Teenagers aged 12 to 17 who have developed or are in the process of developing a problem of drug addiction, excessive gambling or cyber addiction, have lived an uplifting outdoor experience. Accompanied by their counselors, they forged links with each other and with nature in order to strive for a better balance. It just goes to show that the protection of natural environments is beneficial not only for flora and fauna, but also for humans.

DANS NOTRE NATURE

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Browse the *Dans notre nature* newsletter

For captivating
articles highlighting
the mission of our
national parks
(in French only).

[Click here](#)

Scars to heal, even after 50 years

Did you know that Parc national des Grands-Jardins still bears the scars of logging that took place long before its creation? The park has around 350 km of old, unused, but still mapped forest roads. Some sections have closed naturally, while vegetation is struggling to establish itself on others.

In the Summer of 2020, a team of researchers from Université Laval has been appointed to better understand what limits tree regeneration on these abandoned roads. The knowledge acquired will make it possible to plan the restoration work, which will begin in 2021 and will continue over the next few years.



IN THE WILD, YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Outdoor activities can involve certain risks.

Always be sure to have the skills and abilities required for the activity you choose. It is very important to find out about the risks involved in the activity, to know and respect your own limits and to use appropriate equipment. Preparing yourself adequately is the first step in the safe and enjoyable practice of your favourite activities.

For more information, visit our website at sepaq.com/security



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