

Journal

2013 • 2014 | ENGLISH VERSION



PARC NATIONAL DE
MIGUASHA



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



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 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 Kuururjuq 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.

DISCOVER QUÉBEC'S NATIONAL PARKS





THE MUST-DOS



► EXCLUSIVE FOSSILS

The museum's permanent exhibit brings together the finest fossil specimens in the park's national collection, exceptionally well-preserved fossils with much to teach us that have been the subject of research for over 130 years. Take a guided tour or explore the collection on your own – and find out why the park is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



► FUN ACTIVITIES

Between the puppet theatre, geology activities on the beach, historical presentations, scientific talks, the film showings in the amphitheatre, and the temporary exhibit "Prince Joyau" (featuring hidden treasures from Canadian mines), the Parc national de Miguasha offers a full calendar of fun and educational activities for everyone. Whether on your own or as a family or group, everyone will find a multitude of things to do that suit their interests and available time.



► A FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL TEAM

Energetic, well-trained and always attentive to visitors' needs – that's the Parc national de Miguasha team. By providing warm and friendly service, all the park's employees – from the reception staff to the business services personnel to the activities and patrol teams – are committed to making sure all park visitors have a great experience.



► A TOUCH OF THE GASPÉSIE

Always a favourite stop, L'Échoppe, our newly refurbished gift shop, is where a score of artisans and artists from the Gaspésie exhibit their finest wares and works. Treat yourself to something special as you admire their talent. At Le Dévonien snack bar, lobster, smoked salmon and beer from the local microbrewery beer showcase the region's delectable products. Savour and enjoy a touch of the Gaspésie!



► A UNIQUE SITE

Despite its small size, the park boasts enchanting scenery. In the shadow of the mountain, the park's natural setting – a blend of forest, rocky cliff and seaside – opens onto the Restigouche River estuary. Take the time to explore and soak up the beautiful surroundings at your own pace – the early morning mist and spectacular sunsets are an extra bonus!

WELCOME

WELCOME TO PARC NATIONAL DE MIGUASHA

The Parc national de Miguasha offers visitors of all ages a popular science adventure, both in the natural history museum and in the natural surroundings. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Miguasha and its fossils – including fish, plants and invertebrates dating from 380 million years ago – present a page in the history of life on Earth. Guided tours, informative talks, interpretation activities and puppet theatre give visitors the opportunity to explore and learn, each at their own pace. A must-see destination in the Parcs Québec network.

Entry fees valid from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014
(taxes included)

	PARK + MUSEUM	WITH PASS*	PARK ONLY	PASS	
				PARK	NETWORK
Adult (18 or over)	\$17.00	\$10.50	\$6.50	\$32.50	\$58.50
Child (6 to 17)	\$8.25	\$5.25	\$3.00	\$15.00	\$27.00
Child (under 5)	Free	n.a.	Free	Free	Free
1 adult with children 6 to 17	\$25.25	\$15.75	\$9.50	\$47.50	\$85.50
2 adults with children 6 to 17	\$39.25	\$26.25	\$13.00	\$65.00	\$117.00
Organized adults group	\$12.65	N/A	\$5.75	N/A	N/A
School or student group	Free	N/A	Free	N/A	N/A
School groups with guided tour	\$60.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Organized youth group (aged 6 to 17)	\$2.50	N/A	\$2.50	N/A	N/A

*Note: Park or Network card is valid for 12 months. To visit the museum and its exhibitions, the card holder must pay the difference between the entrance fee to the park and the entrance fee to the museum. **Prices, terms and conditions, as well as services mentioned in this newsletter are subject to change without notice.**

Natural History Museum Visiting Hours 2013-2014

Open June 1 to October 7, 2013: Daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Open October 8 to December 20, 2013, and January 6 to May 31, 2014, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed December 20, 2013 to January 5, 2014, and on the following holidays: April 18 and 21, and May 19, 2014.

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. For more information, we invite you to consult our Web site at sepaq.com.



REGULATIONS



To contribute to improving the quality of the park experience, an entry fee was established by the government. You must always carry your receipt or your annual card during your visit.



It is **strictly forbidden to do any digging, or to collect and/or break up rocks** on the beach or the cliff, or to climb the cliff. Visitors who happen to find fossils must give them to the park warden or take them to the museum.



To preserve the natural riches for future generations, it is prohibited to remove natural elements (animals, plants, dead wood, rocks, etc.).



The flora is sensitive to being trampled. If we multiply the impacts of thousands of visitors, it's easy to understand why it is mandatory to stay on the hiking trails.



Nature exhibits exemplary equilibrium. The animals find everything they need to eat here, and that is why feeding wildlife is prohibited. In this respect, it is also prohibited to leave food or garbage unsupervised. Keep them in your car.



Domestic animals are prohibited in Québec's national parks. But guide dogs and service dogs accompanied by their foster families are admitted. However, these dogs must be easily identifiable, wearing the Mira scarf or harness. Those in charge of the animal must carry the foundation's letter of accreditation.



It's great to enjoy an authentic natural environment that is clean and healthy! Carry out your garbage, leave it in the containers provided, and take home any harmful substances, such as soap, oil, combustibles or pesticides.



For the preservation of the milieu and for your safety, only a certain number of activities are allowed in these parks. Plan your visit and first check the list of activities that are allowed in the parks you plan to visit.

CONSERVATION

EROSION AND MEASURES TO CURB THE LOSS OF THE MEMORY OF TIME

Although it may appear solid to the casual observer, the park's cliff consists of alternating layers of conglomerates, sandstones and argillites (claystones) that are vulnerable to rapid erosion. The base of the cliff is eroded by waves and tides, and the top of the cliff is affected by runoff and infiltration of surface water, as well as by frost weathering of the rock caused by freeze/thaw cycles. In recent years, these phenomena have been exacerbated due to the increased frequency of warm winter spells, accelerating the degradation and retreat of the cliff.

The steady erosion of the Escuminac Formation and the collapse of cliff face present serious challenges for the park's conservation mission. By increasing the rate at which fossil specimens are lost or damaged, erosion reduces the amount of information that can be collected from recovered specimens. Although erosion in the park may be inevitable, it can be slowed by implementing appropriate control measures.



Rock falls can potentially be fatal to visitors who get too close to the base of the cliff. Stay alert at all times when on the beach.



Particularly when they coincide with storms, spring tides (high tides at the full or new moon) are a major factor in the cliff's erosion.



Erosion at the summit often results in trees falling onto the shore.



Reforestation of the top of the cliff is an ongoing erosion control measure. In June 2012, visitors of all ages participated in a reforestation project and thus became honorary "Sentinels of the Cliff."



Planting trees to reforest the denuded sections at the top of the cliff.



Red osier dogwood takes root quickly when planted as cuttings, anchoring the soil and helping to slow the natural erosion of the cliff.



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A PARCS QUÉBEC'S EXCLUSIVE!

Discover the **Huttopia tent**, a simple and comfortable way to discover the joys of camping without all the lugging.

Each unit includes:

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- supplementary heating and lighting
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2013 SEASON

80 new tents

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- Lac-Témiscouata

LOW SEASON ⁽¹⁾

\$99 /night

HIGH SEASON ⁽²⁾

\$116 /night

Capacity of 5 people (max. 4 adults)

(1) From Sunday to Thursday until June 20, 2013 and from September 8, 2013.

(2) Fridays, Saturdays, holidays and every day from June 21, 2013 to September 7, 2013. Taxes and entrance fee not included

Online reservation: parksquebec.com/huttopia

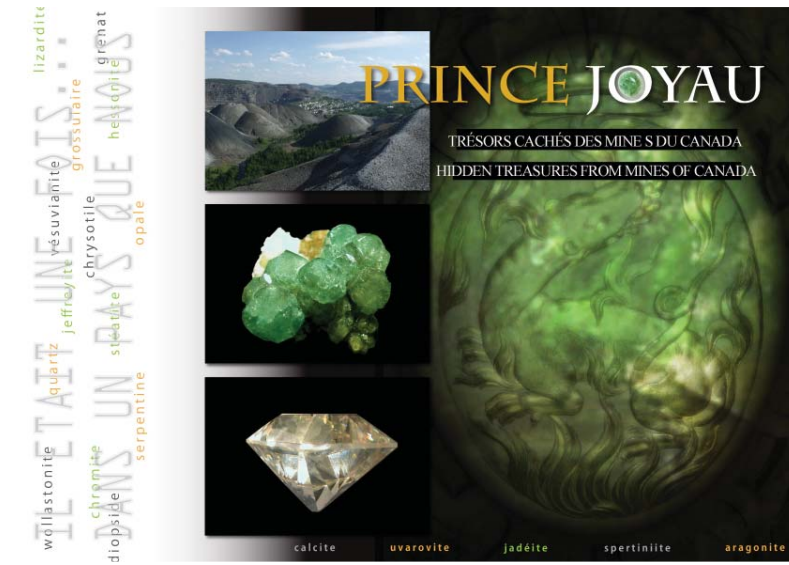
THINGS TO SEE AT THE PARK

TABLE OF DISCOVERY ACTIVITIES · SUMMER 2013

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	DURATION	ADMISSION
Museum's permanent exhibition Guided tour: Exhibit and cliff	June 1 to 20, and August 25 to October 7	Depending on visitor traffic	45 min.	Admission sticker
Museum's permanent exhibition Guided tour: Exhibit and cliff	June 23 to August 24	According to a set schedule	45 min.	Admission sticker
Museum's permanent exhibition Self-guided tour	Year round	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Each at their own pace	Admission sticker
Temporary exhibit hall "Prince Joyau" Exhibit	June 1 to October 7	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Each at their own pace	Admission sticker
Puppet Theatre The Prince in the Kingdom of Miguasha	July 14 to August 18	11:30 a.m.	30 min.	Admission sticker
Talks in the amphitheatre Safari in the Land of the Dinosaurs	Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, July 7 to August 24	1:00 p.m.	45 min.	Admission sticker
Talks in the amphitheatre Mammal Mega Quiz	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, July 8 to August 23	1:00 p.m.	45 min.	Admission sticker
Antoine Plourde told me... Presentation on the history of the site	Daily, June 23 to August 24	12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.	25 min.	Admission sticker
If the cliff could speak... Presentation on the geology of the cliff	Daily, June 23 to August 24	From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	25 min.	Admission sticker
Documentary series in the amphitheatre Parc national de Miguasha – La part du monde	June 1 to October 7	Streaming broadcast	25 min.	Admission sticker
The <i>L'Évolution de la vie</i> (evolution of life) Trail The history of life in 12 informative panels	Summer and autumn		3 km / 60 min.	Park access or park and museum access

The daily schedule of discovery activities is available at the museum's visitor centre.





PRINCE JOYAU: A NEW PRINCE IN MIGUASHA?

PUPPETS FOR VISITORS OF ALL AGES





CUSTOMER SERVICE AND CONTACT DETAILS



OUR PRIORITY: CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer service is a key priority for the Parc national de Miguasha, where we strive to ensure that every visitor has an unforgettable, even magical experience. To do this, the park offers attentive visitor services, a snack bar and gift shop showcasing the park and products from the Gaspésie, and a trail that allows visitors to explore this protected environment. The Parc national de Miguasha has been certified *Qualité Tourisme Gaspésie*, testifying to the fact that our visitors are our primary concern.

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Donations to Fonds Parcs Québec serve to support the conservation of Québec's national parks. Through the funding of research, knowledge acquisition, and species population monitoring and inventory, vital data are obtained to particularly safeguard plant and animal species.

The collection is available at the Boutique Nature shop.

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PARC NATIONAL
DE L'ÎLE-BONAVENTURE-
ET-DU-ROCHER-PERCÉ



Photos: Corentin Chailion, Mélanie Sabourin

NIGHTTIME OUTING

Come experience the incredible feeling of being on the island at nightfall, whether to enjoy the tranquility of the island at dusk, to watch over the gannet colony in peaceful sleep or simply to admire the dark mass of Percé Rock across the water. Ten nighttime outings are planned to create magical holiday memories.



From July 16 to
August 17, every
Tuesday and Saturday.

\$29.95 + taxes
Duration: 4 hours
Admission fee not included



parcsquebec.com • 1-800-665-6527



PARC NATIONAL
DE L'ÎLE-BONAVENTURE-
ET-DU-ROCHER-PERCÉ



Photos: Jean-Pierre Hurd, Corentin Chailion, Mélanie Sabourin



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ISLANDERS

Accompanied by a park ranger-naturalist, walk in the footsteps of the ancient islanders on the Chemin du Roy, one of the most beautiful trails on the island. Cod appetizer tasting. Visit the restored homes of some of the island's past inhabitants, soaking up their stories and contemplating the magnificent scenery along the way.




From July 7 to
August 24, every day
at 11:15 a.m.



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* Plus park entry fee. Prices may vary depending on the dates you choose. Valid from June 24, 2013 to September 28, 2013.



Photos: Mathieu Dupuis, Sépaq



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**MUST-SEE
ATTRACTIONS**
Gaspésie

Photos: Louise Tanguay and Eric Marchand

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Photos: Éric Marchand and Sophie Jean

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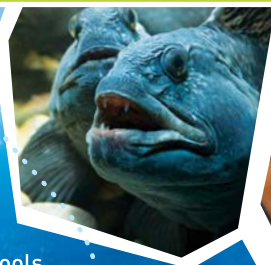
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Photos: Robert Baronet and Éric Marchand

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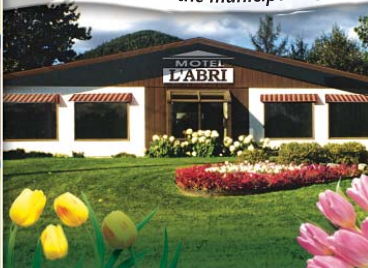
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