

SURPRISE ENCOUNTERS

CRUISES

Two uncommon cruises are offered in **Québec maritime**. The first takes you down the St. Lawrence, from Montréal to the Îles de la Madeleine. The second allows the more adventurous to embark on a supply ship heading north, stopping in small villages all along the way to Blanc-Sablon on the Lower North Shore. In both cases, the chances of spotting marine mammals are excellent.

CTMA

Types of excursions: Ferry cruise
Activity: Cold-water cruises on the St. Lawrence from Montréal to the Îles de la Madeleine (with stops)
418-986-3278 / 1-888-986-3278
www.croisierescзма.ca

Relais Nordik

Types of excursions: Coaster
Activity: Cold-water cruises on the St. Lawrence from Rimouski to Blanc-Sablon (with stops)
418-723-8787 / 1-800-463-0680
www.relainordik.com

FERRIES

Ferries are not just a practical way of crossing the St. Lawrence. They also offer a great opportunity to discover it and observe several species of marine mammals. Take along your binoculars and be sure to talk to the crew.

Îles de la Madeleine – Prince Edward Island (CTMA)
418-986-3278 / 1-888-986-3278
www.traversierctma.ca

Matane – Baie-Comeau – Godbout
418-562-2500 / 1-877-562-6560
www.traversiers.gouv.qc.ca

Rimouski – Forestville
418-725-2725 / 418-562-2933
1-800-973-2725
www.traversier.com

Rivière-du-Loup – Saint-Siméon
418-862-5094 / 418-638-2856
www.traverserdl.com

Tadoussac – Baie-Sainte-Catherine
418-235-4395 / 1-877-787-7483
www.traversiers.gouv.qc.ca

Trois-Pistoles – Les Escoumins
418-851-4676 / 1-877-851-4677
www.traversiercnb.ca

As marine mammals are found in great numbers in the St. Lawrence, any opportunity to spend time on the water may result in an unforgettable sighting. Keep your eyes peeled!



SEA EXCURSIONS

Spending time at sea in a **kayak, sightseeing boat or trimaran** may lead to surprise encounters. The following activities are not particularly focused on the observation of marine mammals but still offer opportunities to see them.

BAS-SAINT-LAURENT

SEBKA (Société d'écologie de la batture du Kamouraska)

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions in the Kamouraska islands
T: 418-493-9984
www.sebka.ca

Société Duvetnor

Types of excursions: Boat
Activity: Exploration of the St. Lawrence River and Saguenay Fjord
T: 418-867-1660 / 1-877-867-1660
www.duvetnor.com

CÔTE-NORD

Ferme 5 Étoiles Family Vacation Site

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions on the St. Lawrence River and Saguenay Fjord
T: 418-236-4833 / 1-877-236-4551
www.ferme5etoiles.com

Fjord en Kayak

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions on the Saguenay Fjord
T: 418-272-3024 / 1-866-725-2925
www.fjordenkayak.ca

Mer et Monde Écotours

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions on the St. Lawrence River and Saguenay Fjord
T: 418-232-6779 / 1-866-637-6663
www.mer-et-monde.qc.ca

Paradis Marin

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions in the Les Bergeronnes region
T: 418-232-6237
www.campingparadismarin.com

GASPÉSIE

Cap Aventure

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions in Forillon National Park
T: 418 892-5055 / 1 877 792-5055
www.capaventure.net

Club nautique Jacques-Cartier

Types of excursions: Sailboat rentals (catamarans, centreboarders and keelboats)
Activity: Excursions in Gaspé Bay
T: 418-368-1288
www.marinadegaspe.com

Excursions L'Omirlou

Types of excursions: Boat
Activity: Introduction to coastal fishing methods
T: 418-534-2955
www.lomirlou.com

Exploramer

Types of excursions: Boat
Activity: Exploration of underwater flora and fauna with interpretation
T: 418-763-2500
www.exploramer.qc.ca

ÎLES DE LA MADELEINE

Aérosport Carrefour d'Aventures

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions along the cliffs and caves of the Islands
T: 418-986-6677 / 1-866-986-6677
www.aerosport.ca

Auberge La Salicorne

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions along the beaches and cliffs of the Islands
T: 418-985-2833 / 1-888-537-4537
www.salicorne.ca

Parc de Gros-Cap

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Exploration of the cliffs and caves of the Islands
T: 418-986-4505 / 1-800-986-4505
www.parcdegroscap.ca

Vert et Mer

Types of excursions: Sea kayaking
Activity: Excursions around the Islands
T: 418-986-3555 / 1-866-986-3555
www.vertetmer.com

Québec maritime and marine mammals

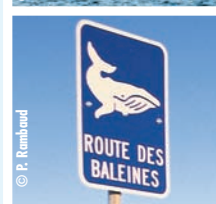
A VERY NATURAL LOVE STORY



LE QUÉBEC MARITIME

Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie, Côte-Nord, Îles de la Madeleine

quebecmaritime.ca



Québec maritime is home to 13 species of whales, including blue whales, belugas and white-sided dolphins. These mammals can be regularly observed from the shore or during sea excursions. It is therefore no coincidence that, from Tadoussac to Blanc-Sablon, Côte-Nord has officially been recognized as the "Whale Route" by Tourisme Québec.

Here is further proof that this region is one of the best in the world for whale watching: four internationally renowned research groups are based here. Some of them even offer sea excursions with their researchers.

Four species of seals can also be found in the waters of Québec maritime: harbour seals, grey seals, harp seals and hooded seals. They are generally easy to observe, particularly when they are sunning themselves on the rocks.



ENCOUNTERS WITH WHALES AND SEALS



ON THE ICE

Most marine mammal species that frequent the St. Lawrence are migratory and are therefore best observed from June to October. However, there is one exceptional activity that occurs only in the winter: the observation of baby seals on the ice surrounding the Îles de la Madeleine.

Château Madelinot

T: 418-986-2211 / 418-986-3695 / 1-800-661-4537

www.hotelsilesdelamadeleine.com



FROM THE SHORE

On its website at www.whales-online.net, the Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals (GREMM) provides a list of places where marine mammals can readily be observed from the shore. Here are several other sites where naturalist guides lead interpretation activities about marine mammals:

CÔTE-NORD

Sept Îles Archipelago

T: 418-962-1238 / 1-888-880-1238

www.tourismeseptiles.ca

Saguenay – St. Lawrence Marine Park

Marine Environment Discovery Centre

T: 418-233-4414 / 418-235-4703

Cap-de-Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre

T: 418-232-6751 / 418-235-4703

1-888-773-8888

www.parcmarin.qc.ca

Anticosti National Park

T: 418-535-0156

www.parcquebec.com/anticosti

Fjord-du-Saguenay National Park

Pointe-de-l'Islet sector in Tadoussac

Baie-Sainte-Marguerite sector

T: 418-272-1556 / 1-800-665-6527

www.parcquebec.com/fjord

OBSERVATION OF SEALS IN CAPTIVITY

It is also possible to observe seals at close range during visits to:

Bioparc de la Gaspésie

T: 418-534-1997 / 1-866-534-1997

www.bioparc.ca

Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve

T: 418-538-3285 / 418-538-3331

1-888-773-8888

www.pc.gc.ca/Mingan

BAS-SAINT-LAURENT

Bic National Park

(seal observation and interpretation with a naturalist)

T: 418-736-5035 / 1-800-665-6527

www.parcquebec.com/bic

GASPÉSIE

Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé National Park

T: 418-782-2240

www.parcquebec.com/ilebonaventure

Forillon National Park

T: 418-368-5505 / 1-888-773-8888

www.pc.gc.ca/Forillon



IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT

Whether you opt for an excursion in the comfort of a 500-passenger sightseeing boat or would rather enjoy a trip aboard a reliable Zodiac or sea kayak, you are guaranteed an enriching sea experience thanks to the qualified staff of the following excursion companies:

CÔTE-NORD

Croisières 2001

Types of excursions: Zodiac and catamaran

T: 418-235-3333 / 1-800-694-5489

www.croisieres2001.com

Croisières AML

Types of excursions: Zodiac and boat

T: 418-235-4642 / 1-800-563-4643

www.croisieresaml.com

Croisières Essipit

Types of excursions: Zodiac

T: 418-233-2266 / 1-888-868-6666

www.essipit.com

Groupe Dufour Croises

Types of excursions: Zodiac and boat

T: 418-692-0222 / 1-800-463-5250

www.dufour.ca

BAS-SAINT-LAURENT

Croisières AML

Types of excursions: Boat

T: 418-867-3361 / 1-800-563-4643

www.croisieresaml.com

GASPÉSIE

Croisières Baie de Gaspé

Types of excursions: Boat

T: 418-892-5500 / 1-866-617-5500

www.baleines-forillon.com

Croisières Julien Cloutier

Types of excursions: Boat

T: 418-782-5606 / 1-877-782-2161

www.croisieres-julien-cloutier.com

Les Bateliers de Percé

Types of excursions: Zodiac and boat

T: 418-782-2974 / 1-877-782-2974

www.lesbateliersdeperce.com



IN AN INTERPRETATION CENTRE

To learn even more about the life of marine mammals, visit any of the following interpretation centres in *Québec maritime*:

CÔTE-NORD

Marine Mammal Interpretation Centre (CIMM)

T: 418-235-4701

www.whales-online.net

Seal Interpretation Center

T: 418-985-2833 / 1-888-537-4537

www.salicorne.ca

GASPÉSIE

Bioparc de la Gaspésie

T: 418-534-1997 / 1-866-534-1997

www.bioparc.ca

Exploramer

T: 418-763-2500

www.exploramer.qc.ca



Main Partner:

Canada Economic Development / Développement économique Canada



Other Partners:

Parks Canada / Parcs Canada



By purchasing the whale and seal identification guide, Le Québec maritime helps GREMM protect the whales of the St. Lawrence.