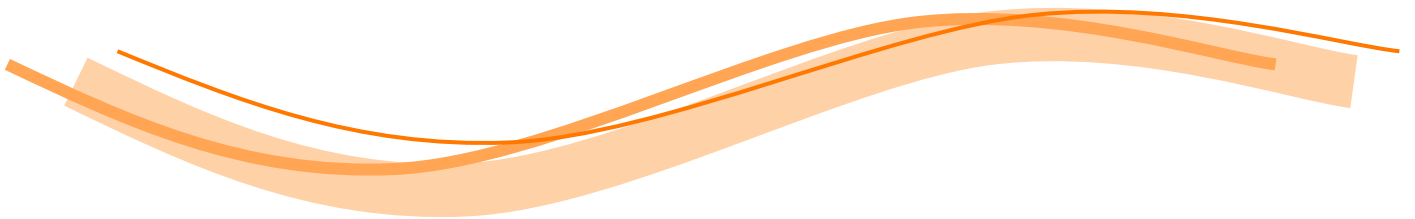




ILES DE LA MADELEINE & CTMA





<p>Îles de la Madeleine</p>	<p>Discover the beautiful, unique Îles de la Madeleine - offering stunning scenery, wonderful cuisine and an authentic island culture.</p> <p>The CTMA Vacancier leaves Montreal on Fridays, June to September for the Cruise and Taste of the Islands package to the Îles de la Madeleine. Passengers stay seven nights in their comfortable cabins and all activities and meals while sailing are included.</p> <p>For two days you cruise past wonderful sights like Québec City, Tadoussac and the Saguenay Fjord. Then enjoy three days of guided tours of the Îles de la Madeleine and sample local produce, gastronomy, local culture, arts and crafts. Encounter marine wild life such as whales, seals and birds whilst cruising back to Montreal with stops at Chandler to visit Percé on the Gaspé Peninsula and Québec City.</p> <p>This unique experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Seven nights in cabin on the MV CTMA Vacancier •All meal while the ship is sailing (several gastronomic ones) •All activities on board •3 days guided Tours of Les Îles de la Madeleine •Meals in local restaurants •One evening gastronomic meal at the Petite Baie restaurant •Visit to local producers and tasting •Visit to local Arts and Crafts shops •Transfer to the town of Percé by bus from the port of Chandler •One free day in Québec City
<p>Location</p>	<p>The Îles de la Madeleine are part of the Province of Quebec, in Canada. They lie off the east coast, right in the middle of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, where it meets the Atlantic Ocean: 215 km from the Gaspé Peninsula, 105 km from Prince Edward Island and 95 km from Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia</p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p>There are nine major islands: Amherst (Havre Aubert), Brion, Grand Entry (Grande Entrée), Grindstone (Cap aux Meules), Grosse Île, House Harbour (Havre aux Maisons), Île aux Loups, Entry (Île d'Entrée) and Bird Rock (Rocher aux Oiseaux). There are numerous islets as well. Total land area is 205 square km</p>
<p>Name</p>	<p>Jacques Cartier named the islands in 1534 in his Journal on his return to France from the islands.</p>
<p>Population</p>	<p>The total population of the islands is around 13,000</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>French, although English is also spoken in some communities.</p>
<p>Currency</p>	<p>Canadian Dollar</p>
<p>Government</p>	<p>The Îles de la Madeleine are part of the province of Quebec.</p>

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Documentation	None needed for Canadians.
Time zone	The Îles de la Madeleine are in the Atlantic time zone, one hour later than mainland Québec.
Safety tips	Heed local advice on the tides – they know which of the many beaches are safe to swim from and when.

CLIMATE	
General climate	The Magdalen Archipelago is blessed with a mild maritime climate. At the end of August and in September, the water in the lagoons and bays around the Islands reaches temperatures up to 18 and 21 degrees Celsius. The Gulf Stream, the low tides and the fact that the Islands are surrounded by shallows all help keep the water warmer. Water in swimming areas is warmer here than along the shores of the Saint Lawrence or even along North Carolina, and swimming is still a pleasure as late as the end of September
Today's weather	20 Centigrade and sunny (20 June 2009)
Best time to visit	The maritime climate enjoyed by the Islands is markedly different from that of the mainland. The huge water masses that circle the archipelago temper the weather and create milder conditions in each season. On the Islands, winter is mild, spring is cool, there are no heat waves in summer, and fall is wonderfully warm.

GETTING THERE	
Flights	Several airline companies offer daily flights to the Îles de la Madeleine, with flights from Montréal, Québec and Gaspé. Flight time can vary from one to four hours depending on the departure city and the number of en-route stops. Air Canada Jazz offers daily flights from Gaspé, Québec City, and Montréal - for information and reservations, see your travel agent or 1-888-247-2262 or www.aircanada.com
Cities	There are no cities on the islands – and that's part of their attraction!
Distances	The islands are 1190 kms from Montreal Cap-aux-Meules to Ile d'entrée is 16 km It's 65km from one end of the islands to the other.
Ferries	There is a daily ferry service with Groupe C.T.M.A. between Prince Edward Island and the Îles de la Madeleine. This 5-hour ferry crossing allows you to combine a tour of the Atlantic provinces with a cruise on the St. Lawrence. The M.V. Madeleine is a very comfortable ship offering a multitude of services such as a cafeteria, dining room, movie theatre, daycare centre, cabins, entertainment, etc. Phone : 1-888-986-3278 Cost: \$28.75 low season, \$44.75 high season Website : http://www.ctma.ca
Driving	One of the principal characteristics of the Magdalen Archipelago is the

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	long dunes linking the islands. These extensive sand dunes provided a foundation for the construction of route 199, which runs from one end of the island chain to the other. That means you can drive, bike or hike the 65 km between one extremity of the Islands and the other. Only one of the inhabited islands, Entry Island, is not linked to the others by the road. Car rental is available from several companies.
Buses	Autobus les Sillons provide service: www.autobuslessillons.com

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	<p>There is every sort of accommodation option available on the islands from hotels to camping. Here are a couple of suggestions:</p> <p>Auberge Madeli and Restaurant As soon as you arrive at the Auberge Madeli , you'll feel right at home. The Inn's central location makes it a prime spot for lodging. The Madeli Inn has 59 rooms available, all tastefully decorated in a modern decor, as well as 4 luxury suites for those seeking a little extra comfort.</p> <p>Château Madelinot and Restaurant Located by the sea, only a few minute's walk from Cap-aux-Meules, the Château Madelinot is a 3 stars top notch hotel offering typical island hospitality. Your stay at the Château Madelinot is sure to provide you with the opportunity to discover the Magdalen Islands with its islanders.</p>
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	Young children will love the beaches and the warm water lagoons that lace the islands. And the Islanders love children, so it's a win-win!
Teens	Teens will want to try their hand at kitesurfing – a very cool sport! Windsurfing is wonderful here and most youngsters would enjoy a fishing trip with a chance to catch a shark.
Romance	This is one of the few places in Canada where you can be guaranteed to find a stretch of sand to stroll at sunset barefoot with the one you love...And then that fine gastronomy to look forward and comfortable accommodations...Of such things is romance made!
Seniors	The perfect way for Seniors to visit the islands is on CTMA's ferry-cruise to the islands from Montreal.

UNIQUES	
Surprising	The English communities have been part of life on the archipelago since the very first colonists set foot here. Although most of the original Madelinots chose to live on Havre Aubert Island or on Cap aux Meules, the first Anglophone families, Goodwins, Rankins and Clarks from Nova Scotia, settled on Grosse-Île at the beginning of the 19th century. Officially founded in 1828, Grosse-Île was incorporated as a municipality in 1892.

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	<p>The first inhabitants of Entry Island were Dicksons and Mcleans who arrived in 1822 from Liverpool, Nova Scotia. New settlers joined them later, mostly from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with a few from the Highlands of Scotland. In 1831, there were five families on Entry Island. Over the years the English population of the archipelago has increased, in part with the addition of shipwrecked sailors, but Anglophones have never represented more than 12% of the total population.</p> <p>On Grosse-Île and Entry Island, as elsewhere in the Islands, the fishing industry has always been the driving force behind the economy. In these sectors, the fishing industry depends on a single resource: lobster. Though the fishery powered the economy, the Anglophones from Scotland and Ireland who settled on Entry Island, Île Brion and Grosse-Île were the first Madelinots to make a living from agriculture. Today, 5% of the population of the Îles de la Madeleine speaks English. Grosse-Île has 550 inhabitants and Entry Island has about 150. The English population is decreasing in both places, gradually in Grosse-Île, but much more rapidly on Entry Island. More and more Anglophones are now living on the central islands.</p> <p>Anglophone Magdalen Islanders are very attached to their customs and traditions. They are more like the people of the Maritimes than like those from Ontario or Québec. When they leave their islands, it is to visit family in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island. Also, like French-speaking Madelinots, when they travel to the rest of the country, people tend to comment on their accent and their maritime vocabulary, believing that they come from Newfoundland!</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>Jacques Cartier was the first European to visit the islands, in 1534. However, Mi'kmaq Indians had been visiting the islands for hundreds of years as part of a seasonal subsistence round, probably to harvest the abundant walrus population. A number of archaeological sites have been excavated on the archipelago.</p> <p>In 1755, the islands were inhabited by French-speaking Acadians. When the British expelled the Acadians from the rest of what is now the Maritime Provinces of Canada, they did not come as far as the Magdalen Islands. To this day, many inhabitants of the Magdalen Islands (Madelinots) fly the Acadian flag and think of themselves as both Acadians and Québécois.</p> <p>The islands were administered as part of the Colony of Newfoundland from 1763 until 1774, when they were joined to Quebec by the Quebec Act.</p> <p>Until the 20th century, the islands were completely isolated during the winter, since the pack ice made the trip to the mainland impassable by boat. The inhabitants of the island could not even communicate with the mainland. In the winter of 1910, they sent an urgent request for help to the mainland by writing many letters and sealing them up inside a</p>

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	molasses barrel (or puncheon), which they set adrift. When this reached the shore, on Cape Breton Island, the government sent out an icebreaker to bring aid. Within a few years, the Magdalens were given one of the new wireless telegraph stations so that the inhabitants could at least have some communication in the winter. The puncheon is now famous, and every tourist shop sells replicas.
Books	The Magdalens: Islands of Sand and Rendezvous in the Magdalen Islands, both by George Fischer
Must Sees	<p>The Lighthouses</p> <p>Around the Îles de la Madeleine, six lighthouses still project their life-saving beams out to sea. For many years, they were a vital link for thousands of vessels travelling around the archipelago's treacherous coast and for the local population whose livelihood was dependent on the sea. Their geometry and the various materials employed in their construction give an excellent picture of the evolution of lighthouses in the Gulf of Saint-Lawrence. While lighthouses and their keepers have been replaced by modern navigation equipment, the remaining structures stand proud reminding us of their invaluable contribution to navigation. They have become a valuable part of the archipelago's maritime heritage. The Musée de la mer and other cultural and heritage centres exhibit their collections of objects, photographs and archives illustrating the history of the Islands and the varied origins of the Madelinots.</p>

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	<p>You can play golf on the Îles de la Madeleine on the 9-hole course in l'Étang-du-Nord. Family groups will have a great time on the 18-hole mini-putt in Dune-du-Sud.</p> <p>Club de Golf des Îles: Nine-hole course. Equipment rentals. Bar and snack bar. Schedule: Daily 7am to 9pm. Phone : (418) 986-3665 Fax : (418) 986-3140</p>
Fishing	<p>Fishing is the main commercial activity in the archipelago, and, depending on the season, the catch of the day might yield lobster, scallops, snow crab, fish and other ocean delicacies. Those with a yen to catch their own can go deep-sea fishing for mackerel or even shark. Learn about traditional methods of smoking herring at the Fumoir d'antan (old-time smokehouse); or explore the archipelago's undersea world at the Island Aquarium, located on the historic site of Grave in Havre-Aubert. The Musée de la mer (museum of the sea) presents the islands' maritime history and tells the tale of its inhabitants past and present. Visitors who want to really see it all will appreciate a trip to peaceful Île d'Entrée, far from the madding crowds.</p>
Horse riding	Horseback riding on the boundless beaches and hillsides of the Îles de

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	<p>la Madeleine, is an incomparable experience spiced with adventure and the freedom of the great outdoors. Lessons are available for those wishing to improve their riding skills.</p> <p>Centre équestre " La Crinière au Vent " Certified Équi-Qualité, this school offers you secured activities for the whole family! Day-camp for kids will make them discover horses...horse cares, riding, trick riding, etc. The initiation activity gives you the chance to discover and learn at your own rhythm. Prepare and ride your horse or pony! We also offer beautiful ballads in a nice cabriolet. Reserve soon! New! Indoor riding ring. Phone : (418) 986-6777 Website : http://www.lacrinierEAUVENT.ca</p>
<p>Hiking</p>	<p>On each island of the archipelago, there are trails available for strolls and walking tours. While it is possible to take long hikes on the trails, the back roads and beaches also offer interesting walks and gorgeous panoramas. Walking the islands is like discovering a quiet and charming universe.</p> <p>Sentier Ivan Quinn This path is on Entry Island, located 16 km from Cap-aux-Meules. Around fifty Anglophone families live there. It's a perfect paradise for anyone who enjoys hiking and outdoor activities. Big Hill on Entry Islands is the highest point in the Magdalens, the path end. From the summit, you have a spectacular view over the whole island chain.</p>
<p>Cycling</p>	<p>Where else could you be astride your bike and still in such close contact with the sea? Route 199, the main road linking the islands, has a paved shoulder over most of its length. You can also travel along secondary roads and take in the extraordinary scenery.</p> <p>Route Verte The Route verte runs along the main road (199) that links most of the archipelago's larger islands. At the southern tip, the first section of marked trail covers 23 km, running from the La Grave Historical Site through the Parc du Site de La Côte in L'Étang-du-Nord, up to the Borgo lighthouse at Cap Hérissé, which is famous for its magnificent sunsets. The second section covers 14 kilometres from La Pointe in Havre-aux-Maisons to the Détroit bridge near Pointe-aux-Loups. Starting from the Route verte, you have infinite possibilities for side trips off the beaten track ! Bike along one of the four suggested panoramic routes or take one of the off-route bike trails. These run along the cliffs on Cap-aux-Meules, from L'Étang-du-Nord, Fatima and Grande-Entrée.</p> <p>A Route verte favorite: Havre aux Basques From the chemin La Martinique at Étang-du-Nord, cycle along the</p>

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	<p>Havre aux Basques dune to the La Grave Historical Site on Havre Aubert Island. This stretch of the Route verte runs along the main road (199) between two bays, and is exposed to winds from all directions. On one side, the bare hills of Entry Island rise over the waters of the Baie de Plaisance. On the other, Havre aux Basques Bay is home to a wide variety of avian fauna. As you ride by, you can admire the bold stunts of the kite boarders and wind surfers who hang out here. You should also pull off at one of the many roadside rest areas along the panoramic route so you can take a dip in the invigorating waters of the Gulf or just relax on the fine white sand at La Martinique beach. On Havre Aubert Island, before arriving at the La Grave Historical Site, you will see a myriad of colourful traditional houses clinging to the slopes of Les Demoiselles. At La Grave, the pebble beach that used to be an important centre for fisheries and business still keeps its maritime feel. Fill your lungs with the fresh salt air, enjoy this special place where you can meet people, chat, stroll and enjoy the relaxed mood.</p>
<p>Windsurfing and Kiteboarding</p>	<p>The Iles de la Madeleine are a veritable paradise for wind sports enthusiasts. The best evidence of this is that the specialist media rank them in the world's top 10 destinations for wind sports. The geography and location of this enchanting archipelago make it the ideal spot, no matter which direction the wind is coming from, for sports such as windsurfing, kitesurf and kite buggy. The Islands are sometimes called the "Québec Caribbean", the "Canadian Hawaii". And the Magdalens have played host to some of the most important windsurfing and kitesurfing competitions in the world, both amateur and professional. Over the years the Islands have hosted the PWA World Cup, the Canadian Windsurfing Championship, the PKRA Kiteboarding World Cup, the North American Kitesurf Challenge and a number of other great events</p> <p>Aérosport Carrefour d'Aventures First Canadian kitesurfing school! More than 10 years of experience. Take advantage of exceptional wind conditions to learn to kitesurf. Teaching methods according to IKO standards, on private land. Safe training sessions adapted to your goals and with the support of sea-doo's. Experience not required. AEQ member, certified "BNQ-Outdoor and Adventure". Winner of "les Grands Prix du Tourisme" 2001/2002/2003/2005. Gold Award 2008. Shedule: June 15th to Sept.15th, daily from 9 am to 6 pm. Bilingual. Phone : (418) 986-6677 Website : http://www.aerosport.ca</p> <p>Centre nautique de l'Istorlet (Centre de Vacances) Windsurfing courses and rentals for beginners and experts in the Bassin</p>

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	<p>Bay. Also available: sailing courses and boat rentals (CS-36, Laser 1, Caravelle, 420, Optimist). Enjoy learning about these windsports with qualified guides. Member of Quebec Sailing Association. Schedule: June to September. Distributor of Gun Sails and Angulo products. Phone : (418) 937-5266 Website : http://www.istorlet.com</p>
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CULTURE	
Arts	<p>In their workshops and boutiques, the Magdalens' artists and craftspeople offer paintings, watercolours, photographs, sculptures and original creations fashioned from materials found on the Islands: wood, glass, metal, textiles, clay, stone (alabaster, jasper, etc.), sand, sea shells, leather and sealskin.</p>
Music	<p>Spectacle d'été Tante Emma A great way to spend an evening, with humour and songs from the Islands. Come and enjoy a different kind of party where Auntie Emma and her accompanist entertain you with music and stories about her beloved Islands. Pointe-aux-Loups: Tuesday and Thursday from July 21th to September 17th 2009 at 8:30 pm</p>
Museums	<p>On the Islands, you can visit a number of museums that tell tales and display artifacts of ships, storms, seafaring men, men who went to war, exhibits showing life as it used to be - some in miniature, some life size. Interpretation centres focus on the life cycle of seals or on sea farming. Economuseums tell of the sea, its denizens, such as the herring, and even its sandy bed. There is an aquarium featuring a tank where you can actually handle the specimens. Whether the subject is history, science or ecology, visiting the various museums, interpretation centres and economuseums is your chance to learn the story of the Islands.</p> <p>Musee de la Mer Aquarium des Iles Sand Economuseum Seal Interpretation Centre</p>
Festivals	<p>Over the years, the coming of spring and the beginning of the fishing and boating season have become rituals that both Madelinots and visitors are impatient to see. It is the same for the arrival of the harp seal herd and the changing light in March that signals the first breath of spring.</p> <p>Festivals have been created around activities that combine wind, boats, salt, sand and water. Ingenious competitions are run to the music of laughter, wonder and water.</p> <p>Some festivals have traditional roots. The Mi-carême (mid-Lent) Festival has been largely forgotten in the outside world, but it is still alive and well in Fatima. It enlivens mid-winter with its costumes, jigs and high-jinks and helps people survive until a long-awaited summer!</p>

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	<p>Acadian Festival: August 1 to August 15, 2009 Île du Havre-Aubert Cultural and outdoor activities in Havre-Aubert, including the Small Boat-Building Contest.</p> <p>International Story Telling Festival: September 18 to 28, 2009 Île du Cap-aux-Meules Artists from around the globe share their words every year with thousands of hungry ears. A unique chance to discover this ageless tradition in the middle of the Saint-Lawrence Gulf.</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	
Beaches	<p>There are 300 km of beaches across the islands! Most of the sand on the beaches starts off as sandstone eroded from red cliffs. Once in the salt water, material from the cliffs loses its thin film of iron oxide and is carried around the islands by long-shore currents before being deposited in spits whose general orientation is determined by the direction of the prevailing winds and currents. Once dry, the sand appears white. It accumulates on beaches and helps create the dunes. Grains of sand on the beaches are in constant movement, and the width of any beach is directly related to the volume of material available and the strength of the waves and currents, which carry it. The beaches are easy to reach, and what a pleasure it is to swim, relax and get a good tan from the wind and the sun or take long, invigorating walks. You can also build sand castles, collect shells or just sit and meditate by the sea. The temperature of the seawater around the Islands usually stands at around 18 degrees Celsius in mid-August. Water in lagoons and bays can reach temperatures higher than 20 degrees Celsius. Wind is a major factor when choosing a place to swim: it is always a good idea to look for a beach protected from the wind.</p>
Wildlife	<p>Seals are plentiful: there are harbor, gray, harp and hooded seals to be found around the islands. During the winter months, beginning in mid-February, eco-tourists visit to observe new-born and young harp seal pups on the pack ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence surrounding the islands.</p> <p>Minke whale, Fin whale, Atlantic white-sided dolphin and harbor porpoise may all be seen in the waters around the islands. The Îles de la Madeleine sit on an underwater ridge in the middle of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Because of this, the waters around the Islands are fairly shallow and whale sightings are infrequent near the shore. It is possible, however, to see whales occasionally from the C.T.M.A ship. At one time, large walrus herds were found near the islands but they had been eliminated due to overhunting by the end of the 18th century.</p>

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	<p>The islands' beaches provide habitat for the endangered Piping Plover and the Roseate Tern. The Magdalen archipelago is on the migration route for several species of birds. The best time for observation of migrating birds is in May and June or September and October. There are over 300 listed bird species for the islands.</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>There are three places worthy of special mention, either for their natural habitat or for their flora and fauna typical of the Îles de la Madeleine. Two sites are designated as reserves in the Islands: Île Brion and pointe de l'Est in Grosse Île. Rocher aux Oiseaux became a bird sanctuary in 1919.</p> <p>Île-Brion Ecological Reserve The Île-Brion Ecological Reserve is located 16 km off Grosse-Île. Several families occupied it for about a century, after which it was seasonally inhabited for fishing until the beginning of the 1970's. It is now deserted. This island has always been difficult to visit, especially on windy days, and the old wharf offers little protection for boats. In 1984, the Government of Québec acquired the island for conservation purposes. It shelters a great diversity of species and represents the Islands as they used to be. Its forest, stunted by the climate, is home to more than 140 species of birds. The vegetation found here amazed both the explorer Jacques Cartier and the botanist Marie-Victorin. CAMI, the Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders, manages the island in an official capacity for the Québec Minister of the Environment. Visits and short stays for educational purposes may be authorised: conservation, observation, and exploring the natural habitat. Only a limited number of visitors are permitted on the island at a time. Guided boat excursions are available, weather permitting.</p> <p>Bird Rock Sanctuary This high rocky islet is located 32-km northeast of Grosse-Île, in the middle of a shipping lane for vessels entering the Gulf of St-Lawrence. Access to this islet is difficult for visitors. It serves as a refuge for colonies of aquatic birds such as petrels, northern gannets, razorbills, murre and gulls. Even though the lighthouse, first lit in 1870, is now automated, the lightkeeper's house and other structures are still there. Even with its difficult access, this rock is one of the most important ornithology sites in the gulf of St-Lawrence. Guided boat excursions are available.</p> <p>East Point National Wildlife Reserve This National Wildlife Area situated in the region of Grosse-Île, is a vestige of the sole ecosystem of its kind in Québec. Its 684-hectare site brings together in whole or in part the typical elements of the</p>

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	<p>archipelago's landscape. This territory is protected and administered by Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service and is part of the network of eight national wildlife areas in Québec. For many shorebirds and ducks, the reserve represents an essential stopping point in their yearly migrations. The presence of the piping plover and the horned grebe during the breeding period is one of the main justifications for protecting the Pointe-de-l'Est habitat, since these birds are on the list of endangered species. To explore the Reserve, its vegetation so typical of the dune environment and its bird life, two nature interpretation trails are available: Les Marais Salés and L'Échouerie. These are accessible from route 199, after Grosse-Île and before Old-Harry. Access to the Reserve is free and trails can be walked alone or with a guided tour.</p>
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OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	There are a number of arts and crafts shops that can provide a unique reminder of your time here.
Markets	Fresh produce – from land and sea – is available all over the islands and is one of the highlights of any visit.
Nightlife	<p>Bar Le Central Bar and terrace where you can relax and rest your feet while sipping and espresso or enjoying a draft or imported beer with a light meal, or sipping an espresso. A favourite spot where the islanders love meeting vacationers. Located in the heart of Cap-aux-Meules, since 1986.</p>

CUISINE	
Food	As a gourmet destination, the Îles de la Madeleine offer an exceptionally extensive list of premium quality regional products: fish and seafood, cheeses, oils and seasonings, aromatic ciders, artisanal wines, beers, delicatessen meats, chocolates, Viennese pastries, meats, fruits, vegetables and many other mouth-watering temptations that you will certainly succumb to before long... These regional products can be purchased directly from the producers or in the Islands' grocery stores or even in stores near where you live.
The Flavours Circuit	The Îles de la Madeleine archipelago is a treasure trove of tasty, tempting locally-produced foods. The association called Le bon goût frais des Îles de la Madeleine is a group of producers who are renowned for the variety and high quality of their foods. They are experts in the art of creating, processing and serving a whole range of unique products. The Flavours Circuit links the producers, processors and restaurant owners who are all driven by one traditional Madelinot goal - the quality and high traceability of everything they make. The result is a line of products that are second to none in quality, variety and fine taste.

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Restaurants	<p>After all the exciting activities available in the region have given you a healthy appetite, the numerous restaurants on the Îles de la Madeleine will help you feast your eyes and your palate on the Madelinots' unique culinary expertise. The local cuisine is renowned for its fresh fish and sea-foods, but also for its excellent locally produced agri-foods. Whether you prefer fast foods or fine cuisine, Madelinot restaurants have something for everybody, at prices suitable for anyone's budget. Their chefs are in love with their art: they welcome you in friendly, comfortable surroundings and serve up unique, exclusive, incomparable meals! Here are some recommendations:</p> <p>Île du Havre-Aubert : Boulangerie artisanale La Fleur de Sable Auberge Chez Denis à François Bistro du Bout du Monde Restaurant Café de la Grave</p> <p>Île du Cap-aux-Meules : Restaurant Le Clair de Lune Café La Côte Restaurant La Table des Roy Restaurant La Patio Aux Pas Perdus Hôtel - Château Madelinot La Factrie (Les Pêcheries Gros-Cap)</p> <p>Île du Havre-aux-Maisons : Auberge de La P'tite Baie 1995 Restaurant Le Sablier Le Domaine du Vieux Couvent La Maison d'Éva-Anne</p> <p>Ile de Grande-Entrée : Club Vacances «Les Îles»</p>
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MORE INFO	
Brochures	Tourisme Îles de la Madeleine 128, chemin Principal, Cap-aux-Meules, Quebec G4T 1C5 Toll Free : 1-877-624-4437
Website	www.tourismeilesdelamadeleine.com

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CTMA	For 65 years, CTMA has provided memorable travel experiences on the St Lawrence River and their ferry-cruising is well known for its unique route and destinations.
History of CTMA	<p>CTMA Group was founded in the forties from the need of the community of Les Îles de la Madeleine to provide itself a dedicated and reliable means of transportation that would play an active role in the economic development of the region.</p> <p>For many years, the Group's ships traveled between the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec and Les Îles de la Madeleine, carrying goods and passengers to and from the archipelago. In the seventies, the Group introduced a regular ferry service between Prince Edward Island and Les Îles de la Madeleine. That ferry service has since become the main access to the Islands. More recently, the company introduced a regular weekly cruise between Montreal, the Gaspésie Region and Les Îles de la Madeleine, with a stopover in Quebec City on the way back.</p> <p>During the Winter of 2004, CTMA introduced a Cold Water Cruise in the Gulf of St-Lawrence including a stay on Les Îles de la Madeleine. Seal observation on the ice floes, as well as outdoor and cultural activities are central to the themes.</p> <p>CTMA Group also operates a fleet of trucks, offering ground transportation between destinations in Canada and the Eastern United States.</p>
CTMA Vacancier	<p>Vital statistics of the ship:</p> <p>Weight: 12,000 tons Length: 126 metres Breadth: 22 metres Decks: 8 Cabins: 220</p>
Services Aboard	<p>You will not lack for things to do on this cruise!</p> <p>Entertainment Reading room Exercise room Interpretation centre Movie theatre Bars Dining room Restaurant Observation deck Convenience store Cabins Massage</p>
Itinerary	<p>Day 1 (Friday) - Board the ship in Montreal Sail Down the St-Lawrence The ship leaves at around 3:00 PM. As it sails past the Old Port of Montreal, you see the beautiful skyline, Old Montreal, the Clock Tower,</p>

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Jacques Cartier Bridge, Notre-Dame and Ste-Helene Islands and the La Ronde Amusement Park. A few hours later, pass by the City of Sorel and the wonderful Bertier-Sorel Archipelago. At Lake St-Pierre, watch as the ship switches pilots without slowing down. A short while later, at about 8:00 PM, sail under the Laviolette bridge and past the City of Trois Rivieres and the Shrine of Notre-Dame-du-Cap. After sunset, the ship passes under the Pierre-Laporte Bridge and the old Quebec Bridge. At around 11:00 PM, Quebec City comes into view, with the magnificent Chateau Frontenac dominating the skyline. At the foot of the cliffs lies Old Québec.

Day 2 (Saturday) - Discover the Gaspé peninsula

After sailing near Tadoussac at the mouth of the Saguenay River, the ship crosses over to the south shore and sails close to land. In the afternoon, sail past the towns of Rimouski and Matane, where you will start to see the impressive windmill park, which stretches on hill tops all the way to Cap-Chat. Afterwards, the shore starts to get quite rugged as you sail past Ste-Anne-des-Monts, the Chics-Chocs Mountains and the town of La Martre. At Mont-St-Pierre, you will see people wearing all sorts of wings leaping from the hill tops and gliding to the whim of the thermals. Then sail past the lighthouse at Pointe-à-la-Renommée, and the fishing port of Rivière-au-Renard, then around Forillon Park and the Bay of Gaspé. After navigating between Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island, the ship gets into Chandler at around 11:00 PM.

Day 3 (Sunday) - First Day on les Îles de la Madeleine

The ship gets into Cap-aux-Meules, the main town on the archipelago, at around 10:00 in the morning. After breakfast served on board, set out on your own, armed with a tourist guide, to discover the archipelago's treasures and routes. Guided discovery Tours of Les Îles de la Madeleine are for sale on board Friday and Saturday.

Day 4 (Monday) - Discover Îles de la Madeleine

Day 5 (Tuesday) - Discover Îles de la Madeleine

Boarding the M/V CTMA Vacancier: 7:00 pm. The ship leaves les Îles at around 9:00 PM.

Day 6 (Wednesday) - The Gaspésie Region

The ship gets into Chandler at around 6:00 the following morning. There, you can choose to discover the immediate area, or to board a minibus to the famed town of Percé and its Rock. On the way, the driver will tell you about the different aspect of life in the area as well as on the history, pointing out interesting sights.

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	<p>Day 7 (Thursday) – Whale watching and Quebec city At daybreak, sail on past Tadoussac, where many whales gather. You then pass by the Saguenay Fjord, Baie-Ste-Catherine and La Malbaie where we can see the famed Manoir Richelieu and its Casino. Then sail past St-Joseph-de-la-Rive, l'Île aux Coudre and Baie-St-Paul, where so many landscape artists are inspired by the sheer beauty of the surroundings. Sail by Le Massif, the Cap-Tourmente Preserve, l'Île aux Grues and Grosse Île and its Irish Memorial. Next is La Côte-de-Beaupré, L'Île d'Orleans and the Montmorency Falls. Around noon, stop at the only walled city in North America, Québec City. The ship gets in at noon and stays there until 8:00 PM. You'll certainly enjoy discovering the many cobblestone streets and visiting the shops and attractions that this unique city has to offer.</p> <p>Day 8 (Friday) - Back to Montreal Early in the morning, the ship gets in to Montreal. After you have had your breakfast, your cruise sadly ends.</p>
<p>Themed Cruises</p>	<p>Thematic Cruises are specific departures inside CTMA's operating season that are geared towards certain activities. They take part on the ship but also sometimes in one or more ports of call. Onboard activities blend into regular activities and are normally free to all passengers, while shore activities are usually extra and must be purchased onboard.</p>
<p>Bird Watching Cruise</p>	<p>July 17 to July 24 2009 With over 300 species on record, The Madelinot Archipelago is a choice destination for ornithological observations. Pierre Fradette of Québec Oiseaux, biologist, passionate bird watcher and expert on the islands' bird population is with you. Having several works in print, he published - Les Oiseaux des Îles de la Madeleine - which to this day, remains the reference on the Islands' bird population. Serge Beaudette is a bird specialist who devotes his time alerting people about nature and the environment, their understanding and protection. In a very personal way, he passes on his knowledge. Those two unique specialists will share their passion with you during the 2009 edition of the Bird Watching Cruise.</p>
<p>Musical Cruise</p>	<p>Aug 28 to Sept 4 2009 The traditional musical group Suroît has made its mark both in Europe and in North America, performing on stage with a very dynamic style, traditional music of Celtic origin. Learn on their web site that the charm and originality of Suroît spring from the down to earth style of traditional music and the modern sounds of today. The four musicians are from Les Îles de la Madeleine. Restless travelers, they circle the world to tell their story, explain the originality of their roots and share their musical influence. During the Cruise, they will also give instrument workshops for the exclusive benefit of the passengers.</p>

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Acadian Heritage Cruise	<p>Sept 11 to Sept 18 2009</p> <p>Come and discover the roots of Acadian culture with the musical group Ode à l'Acadie, as they perform traditional Acadian songs in their own very professional way. On this cruise, you will discover the beauty of Les Îles de la Madeleine before sailing on to Havre-Saint-Pierre on the North Coast of Quebec. Located 225 kilometers East of Seven Islands and facing the Mingan archipelago and Anticosti Island, Havre-Saint-Pierre is the main town in the Minganie Region. In the show Ode à l'Acadie, find songs from the sea, songs from exile, songs of revolt, of love and of hope. Ode à l'Acadie provides modern interpretations of some of the most beautiful songs from Acadie. They are seven talented artists, together on one stage, who sing, dance, play the violin, the saxophone, the piano, the flute and the drums.</p>
Gourmet Cruise	<p>Sept 18 to Sept 25</p> <p>Les Îles de la Madeleine have a reputation for good food and exceptionally fine produce. During this cruise, you will have the opportunity to discover those treasures, due to the talent of the two invited chefs and a renowned wine expert who will accompany you. From Dijon in France, Jean-Paul Grappe has been a culinary teacher at the Institut de Tourisme et d'Hôtellerie du Québec for the past twenty years. His wide experience allows him to be one of the most reputable Chef in the francophone community. Roch Desjardins is a pastry teacher and responsible for communication at CFP Jacques-Rousseau in Longueuil. As an added bonus, Story tellers from The International Festival Contes en Îles perform on board.</p>
Dress Code	<p>There is none! Informal wear is suggested in the dining room. A suitable sweater or wind breaker is recommended for strolling the decks.</p>
Families	<p>Children are welcome on board and can participate in all activities if accompanied by a parent. There is also a dedicated reading area in the library. However, there isn't a separate children's program, so it is recommended that the parents bring along games or other hobby activities. Kids will be entranced by the wildlife spotting opportunities on the trip!</p>
Tipping	<p>As tipping is an expression of your satisfaction, the amount and method of payment is left to the guests' discretion. An amount of \$10 per person per day and 15% for alcoholic beverages is suggested.</p>
Seasickness	<p>Not generally a problem as the ship is fitted with stabilizers and the cruise is entirely within the St Lawrence estuary.</p>
Meals	<p>Breakfast and lunch are available in the cafeteria, whilst dinner is served in the dining room</p>
St. Lawrence Cruise News	<p>19 June 2009: Quebec Tourism Minister Nicole Menard told cruise line executives, ports and destinations at the Canada/New England Cruise Symposium in Saguenay, that the government of Quebec intends to</p>

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	<p>make the St. Lawrence River ‘a major cruise destination in North America’.</p> <p>Quebec is contributing \$52.5 million from a total budget of \$156 million to develop cruise tourism. Menard said the goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quadrupling the annual passenger count to 400,000 by 2014 • Doubling cruise-related revenues to \$71 million • Extending the season beyond the fall foliage months of September-October. <p>“Since September 11 and for reasons beyond our control, there has been a significant downturn in American visitors. The cruise sector has demonstrated a sustainable growth pattern in the last years,” Menard said, explaining why Quebec has focused on cruise.</p> <p>She noted cruise-related infrastructure investments made in Gaspé, Sept-Iles and Baie-Comeau, with Havre-Saint-Pierre and Iles de la Madeleine as the next destinations targeted to develop their cruise tourism infrastructure</p> <p>“Quebec is a remarkable tourism destination with the potential to spark the interests of international clientele,” she said.</p> <p>Quebec’s investment in cruising impressed symposium delegates who called it amazing and speculated that the province’s plans and a budget of that size would put Quebec on the world cruising map.</p>
Cost	<p>From Montreal to Iles de la Madeleine one way costs from \$578 to \$744 depending upon cabin type.</p> <p>The all-inclusive rate for the full return trip is from \$1180 to \$1479 per person in 2009.</p>
Booking Information	<p>Groupe C.T.M.A. 313, chemin du quai, Cap-aux-Meules (Québec) G4T 1J4 Phone : 1-888-986-3278 or 418-986-6600 E-mail : info@ctma.ca Website : www.ctma.ca</p>

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