



ONTARIO & QUEBEC
GUIDE TO
HI HOSTELS
2009-10

Iles de la Madeleine




petit futé

MAGDALEN ISLANDS



47°N 61°W

Population :

12 600 inhabitants

74 people per km²

"The Islands," as they are known, provide visitors with bewitching new surroundings. Everything on the archipelago seems exotic: from the language that is spoken to the red cliffs, sand dunes and brightly coloured houses.

This archipelago of about a dozen islands is located a few hundred kilometres off the Gaspé and New Brunswick peninsulas. In the summer, the scenery encourages you to laze about and fall into a meditative state – when the wind dies down, at least! Indeed, the winds here are often strong and unpredictable, which delights sailing aficionados. Due to a combination of factors, including the low tidal amplitude and the Gulf Stream's influence, the temperature of the sea and lagoons sometimes reaches a very warm 21°C. In short, it is an enchanting place that seems suspended in time. To fully appreciate its charms, plan to stay for at least a week.

HI-ÎLES DE LA MADELEINE PARC DE GROS-CAP & AUBERGE INTERNATIONALE DE JEUNESSE

74, du Camping, L'Étang-du-Nord | 418-986-4505 / 1 800-986-4505
www.hihostels.ca/ilesdelamadeleine | ilesdelamadeleine@hihostels.ca
Open May 1 to September 30 (open year-round for larger groups).

The hostel, brightly coloured and very welcoming, overlooks the sea and is swept by its fresh breezes. The devoted hosts will gladly tell you about the local lifestyle and the Islands' best-kept secrets. If you're lucky, you might even get to hear a few of the region's traditional tall tales and legends.

Getting there via public transportation

By ferry: The CTMA provides a ferry service between Souris (Prince Edward Island) and Cap-aux-Meules. Timetables change according to the season. No ferries from January 31 to April 1. A weekly cruise links Montreal and the Islands (via Chandler in the Gaspé Peninsula). For information, visit www.ctma.ca or call 1 888-986-3278. Cars are allowed on board (\$).

By plane: Air Canada Jazz flies from Montréal, Quebec and Gaspé (www.aircanada.ca or 1 888-247-2262). An independent regional airline, Pascan Aviation, has flights from Montreal, Quebec, Mont-Joli and Bonaventure (www.pascan.com or 418-877-8777 / 1 888-313-8777).

Once there: If you didn't come by car, you'll need to take a cab to reach the hostel. There are car, scooter or bike rentals near the hostel.

Rates (breakfast included): **Shared rooms:** From \$23 for members, \$27 for non-members. | **Private rooms:** From \$46 for members, \$58 for non-members. | **Family rooms (4 beds):** \$70 to \$76. | **Camping:** \$19 to \$24 (June 1 to September 30).

Number of beds: **Hostel:** 27 beds. | **Camping:** 100 sites (60% tents, 40% campers/RVs).

On-site services: Fully-equipped kitchen, living room with piano, terrace with sea views, Internet access and Wi-Fi, lockers, sea kayaks, on-site activities, exhibition about the Island's fisheries, beach access. For the camping: comfort station, laundromat, Internet access at the reception and Wi-Fi at the sites, collective shelters, playgrounds, sea kayaking and other activities, beach access.

Amenities for families: Family rooms (4 beds, 2 adults maximum), playpen and high chairs.

On-site activities: Sea kayak expeditions, level I and II sea kayak lessons, 2-day trips, games and entertainment.

ACTIVITIES

AÉROSPORT, CARREFOUR D'AVENTURES

1390, de Lavernière, L'Étang-du-Nord | 1 866-986-6677 | www.aerosport.ca
Prepare to be blown away by these power-kite professionals. Attached by four sturdy ropes, the power kite gathers enough wind power to pull a person in a buggy, or on skis, a snowboard or a surfboard. Sea kayaking is also available.

EXCURSIONS EN MER

Kiosk located at the Cap-aux-Meules marina | 70 Principal
418-986-4745 | www.excursionsenmer.com
Many outings offered. Discover the cliffs and caves, Île-d'Entrée or Brion Island. Watch marine birds, expand your knowledge of the countryside, or go fishing! By reservation only.

LA SALICORNE

377, route 199, Grande-Entrée | 418-985-2833 / 1 888-537-4537 | www.salicorne.ca
In the summer, this holiday center organizes cave-exploration tours, kayak and whitewater kayak expeditions, clam fishing outings, hikes, clay baths, etc.

VERT ET MER

Located under Les Pas Perdus bistro
418-986-3555 / 1 866-986-3555 | www.vertetmer.com
A leader in low-impact eco-tourism on the Islands. This is THE resource for exploring the archipelago's unique attractions. Guided sea kayak and hiking tours, educational tour of Brion Island's ecological reserve.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

CRÊPERIE BACALAR

354, de la Dune-du-Sud, Havre-aux-Maisons | 418-969-2220
Open mid-June to mid-September: Sun–Wed, 11 am to 4:30 pm; Thurs–Sat, 11 am to 7:30 pm.

Featuring gastronomical crepes with imaginative names. On Saturdays, kick off the evening with their "Pink Martini" cocktail hour.

LES PAS PERDUS

169, Principal, Cap-aux-Meules | 418-986-5151 | www.pasperdus.com

Summer hours: Open daily 8 am to 11 pm. Winter hours: Mon–Wed,

11:30 am to 3 pm; Thurs–Fri, 11:30 am to 10 pm.

A cute little restaurant with a delicious menu. Great place to catch a concert or to have a drink with friends.

MICROBRASSERIE À L'ABRI DE LA TEMPÊTE

286, Coulombe, L'Étang-du-Nord | 418-986-5005 | www.alabridelatempete.com

June: Mon–Sun, 1 pm to 7 pm. End of June to mid-September: 11 am

to 11 pm. Mid-September to early October: 1 pm to 7 pm.

Open in the winter for special events. Discounts for HI members.

This microbrewery is both a beer-making installation and a pub.

It offers many tapas-type plates of local finger foods to enjoy

alongside a variety of beers. During the off-season, the pub

hosts salsa nights every other Saturday and the "KinOcéan"

short films screening on the last Friday of the month.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

(in addition to those previously mentioned)

BOUTIQUE LE PÉDALIER

15% discount on
bike rental

800, ch. Principal,

Cap-aux-Meules

418-986-2965

www.lepedalier.com

LES AUTOBUS LES SILLONS

10% discount on
the Islands tours

284, ch. les Caps, Fatima

418-986-3886

www.autobuslessillons.com

VOYAGE VASCO

10% discount on scooter rental

357, ch. Principal, Cap-aux-Meules

418-986-6565 | www.ilesdelamadeleine.com/vasco

À L'ABRI DE LA TEMPÊTE

\$2.75 discount on the brewery tour

286 ch. Coulombe, L'Étang-du-Nord

418-986-5005 | www.alabridelatempete.com

BOUTIQUE AU GRÉ DU VENT

10% discount on kite-flying lessons and
kite purchase

Place du Marché, La Côte, L'Étang-du-Nord

418-986-5069 | www.greduvent.com

LA BRÛLERIE DE CAFÉ DES ÎLES

10% discount on drinks

97-1 ch. principal, Cap-aux-Meules | 418-986-2660