

An island paradise set between sea and sky



ÎLES DE LA MADELEINE
QUÉBEC CANADA





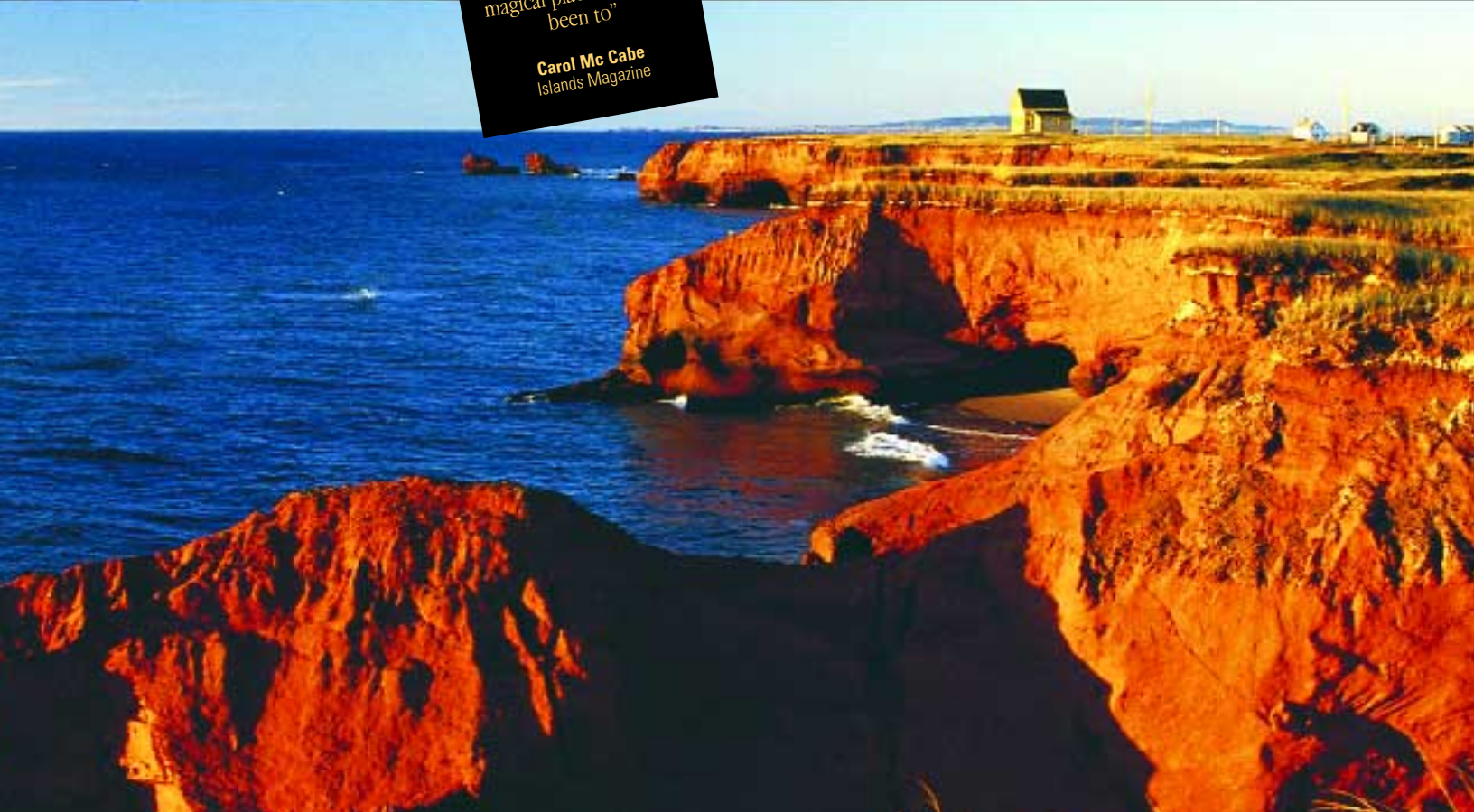
In the heart of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence



the dozen or so islands of the Magdalen Archipelago, including 6 which are linked by narrow dunes, lie in a curved line over a length of approximately 65 kilometres. The coastline provides vacationers with three hundred kilometres of some of the finest beaches in North America. Because of their location in the Gulf, the climate of the Islands is the most temperate in Quebec, and in summer, the temperature of the water in the lagoons and along the coastal beaches regularly rises to 17 and 20°C.

"It's truly one of the most magical places I've ever been to"

Carol Mc Cabe
Islands Magazine





Economically, fishing, and especially the lobster fishery, has always been the most important activity of the Îles de la Madeleine.

Visitors will see and enjoy evidence of fishing activities everywhere on the Islands: fishing ports, fishing trips and techniques, typical local foods, even the language of the Islanders has its own "salty tang". Tourism and salt mining are the other two major industries.

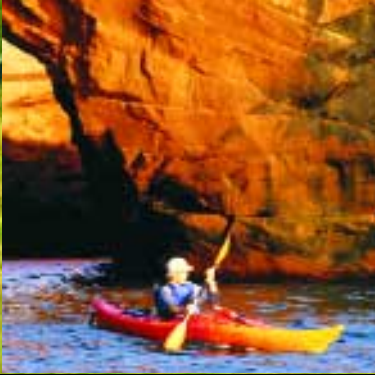
The Madelinots live in the Atlantic time zone, which means it is one hour later there than in the rest of Quebec.

Paradise lost – and found

Relax in peace and harmony. Sit with both feet in the gentle swells and, for a few tranquil moments, feel yourself adrift with the eternal rhythm of the tides. Or ride the surge of real sea waves! Let the wind be your guide: people have been sailing in the Îles de la Madeleine for centuries.

Come aboard, enjoy a trip to the ends of the world, a change of scene, a breath of fresh air, new experiences guaranteed!





New horizons in a novel and exotic destination

Landforms that exist nowhere else in Quebec, green-sloped buttes and valleys, vast expanses of golden sand, towering red cliffs sculptured into monumental works of art by wind and wave, an endless array of dazzling landscapes.

Brightly coloured houses scattered here and there over the land exemplify the spirit of their inhabitants. So take to the sea, discover a people of the sea, a land where you will be free to get away from it all.



You should know that the Islands also welcome many other visitors: more than 200 species of migrating birds shelter on the islands in the summer, and in winter, hundreds of thousands of seals come to the ice pack around the archipelago, offering visitors a chance to observe one of nature's most magnificent spectacles.

A singularly perfect setting where action and contemplation can live in perfect harmony

Take a sea kayak or shrug on your scuba gear to explore caves, tunnels and sea beds: spectacular sites! Ride your horse through the forest or gallop along the beaches. Wide open spaces and exceptional light

conditions provide extraordinary views for any photographer of nature's wondrous beauties. Cycle along the network of tiny panoramic routes and uncover the hidden treasures of the archipelago. For amateurs of sliding and wind sports, the wind is a faithful, ever-present companion. A multitude of lagoons and bays make the practice of water sports convenient and safe. And, if you prefer, you can stay high and dry on one of the many beaches and just enjoy lying around enjoying the clear air and whispering waters.





The Madelinots invite you to share their love of music, of the sea, of fine cuisine

94% of the 13 000 inhabitants of the archipelago are French-speaking Acadians, and proud of their distinct differences. The warmth of their welcome will make you want to drop anchor with them. The rhythms of daily life are ruled by the fishery and by the pride and concern of all islanders for their neighbours. Listen carefully, hear their distinctive accent, their vocabulary awash with maritime terms.

The typical regional cuisine features fresher-than-fresh ingredients. It's fine reputation is well-deserved. Come and enjoy this feast of the seas where the lobster reigns supreme. The Madelinots are renowned for the warmth of their welcome, their fun-loving spirit, their *joie de vivre*.

Islanders and visitors alike enjoy the many shows, activities and outdoor terraces. Popular family events are also held during the summer, like the famous Sand Castle Contest.

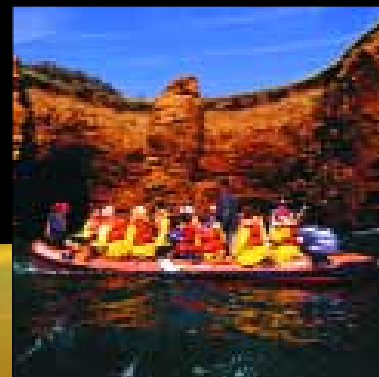
Islands for all seasons

The Îles de la Madeleine offer a wide range of attractions and activities throughout the year. In summer, of course, it is the beaches and outdoor activities which draw our visitors here. Winter is the perfect time to experience the natural rhythms of island life after the bustle of the summer season.

Every year, during the first weeks of March, hundreds of thousands of harp seals and hooded seals migrate to the ice fields around the Îles de la Madeleine to bear their young.

Helicopter tours to the ice pack are available for the observation of adult seals and whitecoats in their natural habitat: a spectacular landscape of snow and ice peopled by this enormous herd of marine mammals. This trip also provides an opportunity for the visitor to see the islands dressed for winter.

Winter visitors can explore a totally different aspect of the Islands: frozen lagoons are the ideal playground for sliding and wind sports such as kite ski and kite buggy. Let the wind carry you away ! Give in to the seductive allure of kayaking the calm waters between the ice floes or in the many grottoes along the coast of the island chain. For a truly unique experience, take a dog sled tour into the forest trails or onto the pack ice.





Spring brings back the fishing season and once more gives Islanders and visitors a taste of their most coveted product: the lobster. Truly fresh fish and seafood are the backbone of the local cuisine, and even the most critical of gourmets will be delighted.

The special quality of the light in September and the autumn winds combine to create spectacularly beautiful images for the photographer. A perfect time to take long, solitary walks on the beaches or across the islands where the birds may be your only companions.

Getting to the Îles de la Madeleine

By road and by boat

A ferryboat runs from Prince Edward Island (which is now linked to the mainland by a bridge) to the Îles de la Madeleine. The ferry timetable varies with the seasons: it runs from April 1st to January 31, and there may be up to two crossings per day in the high season. The crossing takes 5 hours. We strongly recommend you make reservations if you are planning to take the ferry in July or August. There is also a “cruise-ferry” trip between Montreal and the Îles de la Madeleine which departs once a week from May to October, with short stopovers in Quebec and in the Gaspé Peninsula.

By air

Several airlines fly to the Îles de la Madeleine from Montreal, Quebec and the Gaspé Peninsula, with several flights per day.

Lodging

There is a complete range of comfortable lodging options on the Îles de la Madeleine (hotels, inns, campgrounds, resorts, cottages, youth hostel, houses, tourist rooms in homes owned by Madelinots...). In July and August, we strongly advise you make advance reservations. Tourisme Îles de la Madeleine offers a search engine that will help you find the most suitable lodgings for your needs as quickly as possible. See our web site at www.tourismeilesdelamadeleine.com

Useful information

For information or documentation on the Îles de la Madeleine:

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From Montreal: (514) 873 2015

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