

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW WINTER PACKAGE

Winter trip - NEW PACKAGE

The Château Madelinot would like to inform you that the baby seal watching winter package will offer an **ALL-NEW VACATION PACKAGE** starting in 2018! This experience will be available from February 23 to March 11, 2018, with a **GUARANTEED** helicopter tour (*which may or may not land on the pack ice, depending on conditions).

“Changes in climate in recent years have led us to think about the best way of continuing to offer our winter experience vacation package, an area of expertise that has built the Château Madelinot’s reputation internationally for 35 years. Our goal remains the same: to offer our clients an outstanding adventure vacation experience against the unique backdrop of the Magdalen Island Archipelago,” stated Ariane Bérubé, Sales Director of the Château Madelinot.

In addition to the not-to-be-missed helicopter tour, visitors will be able to take full advantage of the unique winter playground that the Magdalen Islands provide through the bonus outings and visits offered. From now on, clients can choose as they wish from among the following activities: outdoor, cultural and discovery activities and evening entertainment.

This is the beginning of a new era for the Château Madelinot, a Hôtels Accents establishment. If the baby seals make an appearance, it will be an added value, but we’re planning on introducing you to the other hidden treasures of our island. Will you be among the lucky ones?

Magdalen Islands 2018
A winter adventure to inspire you!

EXAMPLE OF A 3-DAY PACKAGE WITH MEALS

The example is the same for clients who have not chosen the 3-meals-per-day package. The only difference is that they will have to pay for their noon and evening meals (see details attached).

Day 1

Arrival on the Magdalen Islands

Orientation session on how your stay will unfold

Registration for activities (outdoor, cultural and discovery)

Dinner

Evening activity (different each evening: local musician, conference, etc.)

Day 2

Breakfast

Helicopter outing (see description).

Lunch

Activity: outdoor or cultural or discovery (see description).

Dinner

Evening activity (different each evening: local musician, conference, etc.)

Day 3

Breakfast

Activity: outdoor or cultural or discovery (see description).

Lunch

Activity: outdoor or cultural or discovery (see description).

Dinner

Evening activity (different each evening: local musician, conference, etc.)

Day 4

Breakfast

Activity: outdoor or cultural or discovery (see description).

Lunch

Transportation to the airport.

*For the sake of logistics with respect to activities and time spent on the Islands, we recommend that you take an afternoon flight departing from YGR. If a client takes the morning flight, they will be brought to the airport after breakfast.

Included in the package:

3 breakfasts

3 lunches

3 dinners

1 helicopter tour

7 opportunities to take part in activities (outdoor, cultural and discovery, evening entertainment)

1 round-trip transfer from/to the airport in a shuttle bus and continuous shuttle bus service to the village.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The activities included in the package are designed to provide guests with an immersive experience during their stay. Depending on the number of days in their package, clients can choose from the following activities once they arrive:

3-night package: 7 activities + 1 helicopter tour

4-night package: 10 activities + 1 helicopter tour

5-night package: 13 activities + 1 helicopter tour

6-night package: 16 activities + 1 helicopter tour

Question:

Is it possible to book more than one helicopter tour?

Answer:

When weather conditions and availability allow it, we offer clients the possibility of booking extra helicopter tours.

Additional flights cannot be guaranteed.

Only the flight included in the package is guaranteed (depending on conditions) before the client's arrival.

The rate for additional flights can vary depending on the itinerary of the flights (with or without landing).

Clients will be notified at the hotel of the rate for additional flights.

HELICOPTER

Scenario A -

Tour to the pack ice and baby seal watching

Level: beginner Total duration of the tour: 3 hours (may vary, depending on conditions)

Number of passengers per helicopter: maximum of 6

Landing on the pack ice: yes (when conditions allow it)

When ice conditions allow it, our helicopters will land amid a spectacular herd of baby seals (harp seals). Accompanied by our guide, you'll have the privilege of observing them up close, in their natural habitat. In addition to the seal-watching activity, you'll be amazed by the vastness of the scenery surrounding you. The Magdalen Islands is the only place in the world where it is possible to observe the whelping of harp seals.

New!

Scenario B -

Helicopter tour and possibility of baby seal-watching (without landing)

Level: beginner Total duration of the tour: 3 hours (may vary, depending on conditions)

Landing on the pack ice: no (because of conditions)

Number of passengers per helicopter: maximum of 4

You'll feel the same sense of discovery and excitement during this helicopter tour. We can take many possible routes, depending on prevailing flight conditions, but the goal is always the same: to take breathtaking shots of flora and fauna. If the seals make an appearance, we may be able to fly over them for a view (species: harp seals and grey seals).

*Flight time will vary depending on prevailing conditions. The total duration of each tour (**Scenarios A and B**) indicated above is provided for reference purposes only.

Notes:

The safety of our operations is our number one goal. A decision about **Scenario A** will be made no later than February 9, 2018, depending on the conditions of the ice cover (pack ice) present in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Some years, it may be possible to confirm whether **Scenario A** will take place **before February**. If this is the case, you will be informed as soon as a decision has been made.

If **Scenario A** cannot take place, **Scenario B** will be included in the package.

The itinerary may have to be changed due to weather conditions. The chief pilot and the Château Madelinot's management team will make decisions daily on flight schedules and itineraries.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Snowshoeing

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Guided excursion on trails.

Hiking (new)

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

3-hour guided tour with wildlife interpretation (possibility of sighting American red foxes and herds of elk (farmed) (one of the largest species in the deer family in the world)

Photo safari (new)

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

3-hour guided tour based on certain photo safari themes (ex.: lighthouses, fishing ports, cliffs, ocean)

Sunrise (new)

Level: beginner Duration: 1½ hours

Guided tour for a sunrise photo safari.

Sunset

Level: beginner Duration: 1½ hours

Guided tour for a sunset photo safari.

Outing to *Bout du banc* (new)

Level: intermediate Duration: 3½ hours

Guided tour by motor vehicle to *Bout du banc* for a photo safari. Be among the privileged few to walk to the end of the famous Sandy Hook Beach, which offers an unobstructed view of Entry Island.

Birdwatching (new)

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Guided tour focusing on birdwatching.

Ice fishing (new)

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Guided tour with an ice-fishing activity with a local fisherman.

An evening under the stars (new)

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Guided tour to the *Butte du vent*- a meet-up in a yurt and a campfire await you.

Evening activities

Level: beginner Duration: 1½ hours (may vary)

Activities will be offered in the evening in the Château Madelinot's auditorium. We will alternate between featuring an evening of local musical entertainment, a conference on seals, a conference on photography, etc. Your evenings will be quite busy!

Notes:

The Château Madelinot's activities coordinator will inform clients of the details of the different outings during the orientation session on Day 1.

The departure point for all the activities will be at the Château Madelinot's reception desk.

CULTURE AND DISCOVERY

Guided tours of the Islands - EASTERN part of the archipelago

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Sitting in a comfortable, private 18-seat shuttle bus, you'll learn lots more about the archipelago in the company of an enthusiastic local guide. The high points of the tour of the **EASTERN** region are: fishing ports, a drive by the salt mine, a visit to the Seal Interpretation Centre, Old Harry Beach (one of National Geographic's top 10 beaches), the village of Grande-Entrée, and much more!

Guided tours of the Islands - CENTRAL part of the Archipelago

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Sitting in a comfortable, private 18-seat shuttle bus, you'll learn lots more about the archipelago in the company of an enthusiastic local guide. The high points of the tour of the **CENTRAL** region are: the village of Havre-aux-Maisons (cheesemaker's, lighthouse, scenery, colourful houses), the village of Fatima (lighthouse, church), the village of Étang-du-Nord (fishing port, statue of fishermen) and much more!

Guided tours of the Islands - WESTERN part of the Archipelago

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Sitting in a comfortable, private 18-seat shuttle bus, you'll learn lots more about the archipelago in the company of an enthusiastic local guide. The high points of the tour of the **WESTERN** region are: the village of Havre-Aubert, the La Grave historical site, the *Musée de la mer* (museum of the sea), *Économusée des Artisans du sable* (sand art museum), the scenic route and much more!

Introductory fishing workshop (new)

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Accompanied by Christian Vigneau, a friendly local fisherman, you'll have the privilege of being introduced to fishing at the heart of an oyster farming and lobster fishing hub. Be one of the lucky few who might learn this islander's secrets. Tasting included.

Culinary workshop (new)

Level: beginner Duration: 3 hours

Information: a surcharge and a minimum number of participants are required for this activity.

In the company of an enthusiastic local chef, you're guaranteed to enjoy a privileged introduction to the cuisine of the Magdalen Islands. This islander gives full meaning to our local cuisine and regional products. Foodies, epicures and the naturally curious: this workshop is for you!

Notes

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ONGOING**Shopping shuttle**

When: One departure in the morning and one in the afternoon Level: beginner

Whether you want to visit the village of Cap-aux-Meules, the heart of the archipelago or just do a few errands, the shuttle will allow you to access various services (ex., shopping centre, bank, drugstore, souvenir shop, grocery store, coffee shop, etc.).

Airport shuttle

When: Daily, based on flight departure and arrival times Level: beginner

You can count on our airport shuttle service upon arriving at, and departing from, the Iles de la Madeleine Airport (YGR). A member of our staff will come meet you when you arrive at the airport.

Translation service

A member of our staff (Mayumi Tanaka) will take care of any translation needs you may have at the different orientation sessions and during check-in at the reception desk and will be available throughout your stay. Our interpreter is able to provide service in French, English and Japanese.

All the guides who work for the Château Madelinot (including those on the helicopter tours) are able to provide service in French and English during our outings.

FAQS -

What means of transportation exist for getting to the Magdalen Islands?

Two airlines serve the Iles de la Madeleine Airport (YGR): Air Canada and Pascan Aviation. The CTMA ferry offers 3 crossings from Prince Edward Island in winter.

How many days do you recommend for a stay on the Islands?

To make allowances for changing weather conditions and to benefit fully from your time on the Islands, we recommend that you stay at least 3 nights.

What equipment is provided in the package?

For the helicopter tours, clients will be provided with a red mustang suit. This suit is warm enough for a visit to the pack ice. We recommend that you wear polar fleece or thermal underwear as a base layer under this. We also recommend wearing boots, winter hats and mittens. Snowshoes are included in the hikes.

*Note that it is compulsory to wear a mustang suit during the helicopter tours.

What should I bring?

We recommend bringing the following items so that you can fully enjoy the outdoor activities:

- Winter jacket
- Winter pants
- Fleece or thermal underwear
- Winter hat
- Gloves (bring gloves that will allow you to easily operate your camera)
- Camera
- Do you need additional details? Contact us at château@hotelsaccents.com

*Note that there are two shops that sell outdoor clothing on the Islands in case you forget anything.

What is the temperature on the Magdalen Islands in February and March?

The average temperature can vary from -14 to -20 degrees Celsius.

Are there restaurants near the hotel?

The Château Madelinot is located less than 1 km from the village of Cap-aux-Meules, where there are a few restaurants and coffee shops.

Is there a public transportation system for getting around?

No, but there are taxi companies and vehicle rental companies. For long-term visitors to the Islands, we suggest planning on some means of transportation to facilitate getting around during your stay.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

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