



CHÂTEAU MADELINOT

*Hotels Accents*

## 2021 Seal pup-watching season February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>

*“Because one day we realized that we were so privileged to be surrounded by so much natural beauty that we had no choice but to share it.” – A pioneering Madelinot observer of seal pups on the Magdalen Islands*

Every year since then, enthusiasts of nature, wildlife observation and photography have travelled to the Magdalen Islands to experience this incomparable nature experience.

Looking for a unique winter trip? Need to escape and find some inspiration?

The ice floes of the Magdalen Islands are your next destination!

Be one of the lucky ones and join this excursion named one of [National Geographic TOP 25](#) travel destinations.

**Please note that, for the 2021 season, places are limited for those wishing to take part in the excursion.** So act quickly and find out about the best options available to you!



Photo credit: Louis-Philippe Audet (Instagram: lpaudet)

## CONCEPT

From February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, you'll be able to take a special helicopter flight to enjoy the one-of-a-kind winter experience of watching baby seals. Climate change in recent years has forced us to reconsider how to continue offering guests our winter experience, which has made Château Madelinot's reputation throughout the world for 35 years. Our objective remains unchanged: to provide our guests an exceptional experience against the backdrop of the unique Magdalen Islands archipelago.

Come enjoy this special experience; see the harp seals on the pack ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; watch the mothers taking care of their young; take photos of the little faces of the white seal pups against the snow and ice that stretch as far as the eye can see. The Magdalen Islands are the only place in the world where you can see harp seal pups.

### **How many days are recommended for this visit?**

Because of changing weather conditions, and to take full advantage of your time on the Islands, we recommend a stay of at least three nights.

## WEATHER & CLOTHING

On average, the weather on the Magdalen Islands in February and March ranges from -10 to -20 degrees.

### **Equipment provided in the package:**

For the helicopter outings, guests will be provided with a Mustang flotation suit, which is warm enough for going out on the pack ice. We recommend wearing a polar fleece suit or long underwear underneath it. Boots are also available.

\*Note that it is mandatory to wear a Mustang flotation suit on helicopter outings.

Winter hats and mittens are available for purchase at the hotel shop. Snowshoes, poles and all other equipment needed for the activities will be provided.

### **What you should bring:**

We recommend that you bring the following items with you in order to get the most out of the outdoor activities:

- Winter jacket and pants
- Polar fleece suit or long underwear
- Winter hat and gloves (bring gloves that will allow you to handle your camera equipment)

# ACTIVITIES

## DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGE ACTIVITIES

Every day, a schedule is posted offering 6 activities to all package guests, including the not-to-be-missed helicopter outing. Among the options are: an outdoor activity, a discovery/photo activity or a discovery/culture activity.

N.B.: The schedule is subject to change at any time by hotel team's depending on the weather conditions prevailing during your stay. We want to treat our guests to activities that are enjoyable and totally safe. If we are forced to cancel an activity, our tour leader will see to it that an alternative activity is provided. Your cooperation and understanding will be greatly appreciated.

## ACTIVITY: HELICOPTER

Total duration of the outing: 3 hours (may vary, depending on conditions)

Maximum number of passengers per helicopter: 6

Accompanied by our guide, you'll have the privilege of seeing them up close in their natural habitat. You'll be awed not only by the seal-watching experience, but also by the vastness of the landscape surrounding you. The magnificent views from the helicopter will also satisfy your appetite for discovery and excitement.

### Notes:

The safety of our operations is our top priority and the decision is based on good weather conditions.

### **Is it possible to reserve more than one helicopter outing?**

When weather conditions and availability allow, we offer guests the possibility of reserving additional three (3)- or six (6)-hour helicopter outings.

The cost of an additional flight can vary depending on the flight itinerary (whether it lands on the pack ice or not) and can start at the cost of *\$1,300+tx per person per flight*. Guests who are interested in taking additional flights will be informed about pricing only when they are at the hotel.

Note that only the flight included in the package is guaranteed (depending on conditions) before the guest's arrival. We cannot guarantee additional flights.

## ACTIVITIES: CULTURE AND DISCOVERY

### **Guided tours of the Islands**

Duration: 3 hours/tour

Aboard a comfortable, private shuttle, find out more about the archipelago from an enthusiastic local guide.

### **EASTERN part of the archipelago**

The high points of the tour of the EASTERN part: fishing ports, a view of the salt mine, a visit to the Seal Interpretation Centre, Old Harry Beach (on National Geographic's list of the world's top 10 beaches), the village of Grande-Entrée and lots more!

### **CENTRAL part of the archipelago**

The high points of the tour of the CENTRAL part are: the village of Havre-aux-Maisons (cheese dairy, lighthouse, smokehouse, etc.), the village of Fatima (Mi-carême Museum), the village of Étang-du-Nord (fishing port, statue of fishermen) and lots more!

### **WESTERN part of the archipelago**

The highlights of the tour of the WESTERN part are: the village of Havre-Aubert, La Grave historical site, *Musée de la mer* (museum of the sea), *Économusée des Artisans du sable* (sand art museum), scenic route and much more!

### **Introduction to Fishing Workshop**

Duration: 2 hours

Under the guidance of Christian Vigneau, a friendly local fisherman who owns *CULTURES DU LARGE*, you'll have the privilege of entering the world of oyster farming and lobster fishing. Be one of the fortunate people to learn the secrets of this islander. Tasting included.

## ACTIVITIES: OUTDOORS/DISCOVERY & PHOTOS

### **Snowshoeing**

Duration: 3 hours

Guided tour on trails.

### **Trekking**

Duration: 3 hours

3 hours guided visit with fauna interpretation. Observation of red fox, red squirrel, white hare & many other forest birds possible.

### **“The Islands and the Sea” photo safari**

Duration: 3 hours

3-hour guided, sea-themed photo outing. Discover stunning views: lighthouse, fishing port, cliffs, a sea of ice and much more.

### **Sunrise**

Duration: 90 minutes

Guided outing for a sunrise photo safari.

### **Sunset**

Duration: 90 minutes

Guided outing for a sunset photo safari.

### **Ice fishing**

Duration: 3 hours

Guided outing for an ice fishing activity with a local fisherman. Fish for Gulf of St. Lawrence mackerel, a unique and unforgettable experience.

### **Evening under the stars**

Duration: 3 hours

Guided outing to *Butte du vent* – a yurt and campfire await you.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MANY OTHER ACTIVITY OPTIONS DEPENDING ON THE DATES AND TIMES OF YOUR STAY!**

## RESTO BISTRO ACCENTS

Come discover the cuisine of our renowned chef Hugo Lefrançois. Whether it's part of an all-inclusive package, the daily table d'hôte menu or the breakfast package, many options are available that will allow you to discover gourmet delights during your visit.

We offer an à la carte menu designed specifically for the winter period featuring comforting local gourmet food. We also have noon and evening table d'hôte menus that change regularly, offering different, reimagined dishes.

Discover the flavours of the Magdalen Islands – local products prepared to perfection!

Indulge your palate with meals at the Resto Bistro Accents!

### SAMPLE MENU:

<div data-bbox="326 695 542 846" data-label="Image"></div> <p><b>STARTERS</b></p> <p>Soup of the day Vegetable, tofu or chicken miso soup</p> <p>Seafood chowder (scallops, shrimp and lobster)</p> <p>Green salad (with balsamic vinaigrette)</p> <p>Green salad topped with pulled rabbit, green apple, walnuts and goat cheese</p> <p>Vegetable spring rolls served with wasabi mayonnaise</p> <p>Fried oysters Provençale, wasabi mayonnaise</p> <p>Scallops pan-fried in sesame oil served over braised fennel</p> <p>Shrimp tempura served with Thai mayonnaise</p> <p>Beef or salmon tartare</p> <p>Garnished boar rillettes</p>	<p><b>MAINS</b></p> <p>Mackerel tempura, fries and a salad</p> <p>Miso ramen noodles with vegetables and bok choy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Tofu or chicken</li><li>· Shrimp</li></ul> <p>Lacquered chicken with vegetables and sticky rice</p> <p>Pesto linguine with vegetables and tofu</p> <p>Creamy linguine with seafood</p> <p>Gourmet beef burger stuffed with cheese curds and bacon, served with fries and cole slaw</p> <p>Smoked meat sandwich on sunflower and pumpkin seed bread (Fleur de Sable bakery), served with fries and cole slaw</p> <p>Salmon fillet on pureed parsnips and vegetables, crème fraîche, capers and lemon</p> <p>Pan-fried Magdalen Islands halibut served on carrot puree with sesame oil, vegetables, basil olive oil sauce</p> <p>Risotto with scallops, green peas and mushrooms</p> <p>Filet mignon (8 oz.) cooked in butter, mushroom brandy sauce, served with vegetables and potatoes</p>
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# TRANSPORTATION

## □ What means of transportation are there to get to the Magdalen Islands?

### Flight

[Pascan Aviation](#) is the only airline who offers flights to the Magdalen Islands airport (YGR) from Montreal (YHU) or Quebec City (YGR). [Pascan Aviation](#) is the #1 airline in Quebec who offer multiple flight options from the cities to every region of the province of Quebec.

*\*Please note that Air Canada has decided to reduce their services for summer time only.*

Pascan : [www.pascan.com](http://www.pascan.com)

Phone : 1-888-313-8777 | Courriel : [reservation@pascan.com](mailto:reservation@pascan.com)

### Club Voyages Les Iles

Local travel agency located at Magdalen Islands who is the #1 reference to assist you in the booking of your flight to the islands. Special rates and booking conditions for the guests who take part in the 2021 Harp Seal trip.

Phone: 418-986-4224 | Courriel: [france.groulx@clubvoyages.com](mailto:france.groulx@clubvoyages.com)

### SHIP

In addition, CTMA Ferry offers three crossing per week from Prince Edward Island during the winter season, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

CTMA Ferry: [traversierctma.ca](http://traversierctma.ca)

Phone: 1888-986-3278 | E-mail: [info@ctma.ca](mailto:info@ctma.ca)

## ON THE ARCHIPELAGO

### □ Is there a public transit system for getting around?

No. However, there are taxi companies and vehicle rental agencies. We recommend that guests staying for long periods of time arrange for some means of transportation to make it easier to get around during their visit.

Leblanc Location d'Autos (vehicle rentals): [www.leblanclocationdautos.com](http://www.leblanclocationdautos.com)

Phone: 418-969-9006 | E-mail: [leblanc.locationdautos@gmail.com](mailto:leblanc.locationdautos@gmail.com)

Agence de location des Iles : [www.agencedelocationdesiles.com](http://www.agencedelocationdesiles.com)

Téléphone : 418-986-6565 | Courriel : [info@agencedelocationdesiles.com](mailto:info@agencedelocationdesiles.com)

# CONDITIONS

## 1. Canadian currency

All prices are in Canadian currency. and include

## 2. Taxes

All prices include applicable taxes (provincial and federal taxes, as well as the accommodation tax).

## 3. Legislation

Participants must comply with all federal, provincial and territorial laws, ordinances, regulations and decrees in force.

## 4. Cancellation policy

For information about our cancellation policy, ask your booking agent.

## 5. Non-smoking policy

Please inform your customers/partners and employees that Hôtels Accents establishments, including all rooms, are NON-SMOKING. Failure to abide by this rule will result in a minimum \$250 charge being added to the customer's bill without prior notice.

## 6. Prices subject to change

All prices shown are subject to change.

## 7. Tip included

Prices include the tip on the meals at the Resto Bistro Accents with the all-inclusive package (15%).

## INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Thanks again for your interest in our destination. If you need any other information about our packages, feel free to ask! Best wishes from the Magdalen Islands!

### 2021 Harp Seal trip

Château Madelinot - Hôtels Accents

Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Toll-free number: 1-855-986-2211

E-mail: [chateau@hotelsaccents.com](mailto:chateau@hotelsaccents.com)

### **Ariane Bérubé**

Directrice des ventes | Sales Director  
Hôtels Accents, Îles de la Madeleine

(418) 986-2211

[ventes@hotelsaccents.com](mailto:ventes@hotelsaccents.com)

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*Will you be one of the privileged few to experience this unique  
adventure in 2021?*

We're waiting for you!



## Reminder

- The Harp Seal Observation package is essentially based on optimal weather conditions which allow pack ice to form in the Gulf of St. Lawrence;
- The safety of our customers and our teams is the priority that guides all the decisions we may make. Consequently, any external change that has an impact on safety could lead us to suspend our operations without notice.

## Reervation and cancellation policy

- The rates may be subject to change due to the evolution of the current situation in connection with the pandemic or any other external cause of force majeure;
- The 2021 season may be canceled due to external causes, such as the environment, a pandemic, or any other case of force majeure;
- A non-refundable deposit of 25% of the total cost will be required when the Harp Seal Season is confirmed during the week of February 8th, 2021 (the period may vary depending on the evolution of the situation);
- In the event the 2021 Harp Seal Season is cancelled by the Château Madelinot, it will be possible to transfer the reservation to the 2022 season, at the rate applied in 2021.

## The COVID-19 pandemic

- We invite all travellers wanting to go to the Magdalen Islands to become familiar with the travel conditions and restrictions issued by the governments of [Canada](#) and [Quebec](#).
- Since the standards that we are subject to change quickly in the context of the pandemic, the services that we offer may also have changed between the time of your reservation and your arrival at our hotels. You are welcome to contact us a few days before your arrival if you would like more details about the services that will be available during your stay. All [information about our services is also updated in the COVID-19 section of our website](#).