WELCOME TO THE PARK

Miguasha: when fishes ruled the world...

The Parc national de Miguasha offers visitors the chance to travel back in time to the Devonian Period, 380 million years ago. With a total area of only 0.8 km², this tiny park plays in the big leagues! A member of the prestigious World Heritage List, the park holds the enviable title of the world’s best place to explain and explore the “Age of Fishes,” a key period in evolution when vertebrates first emerged from the water to inhabit the land!

Find out more at sepaq.com/miguasha

SUPERVISED ACCESS FOR DOGS

MAIN RULES*
- Dogs must remain in the places where they are authorized at all times.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash and under surveillance at all times.
- The person in charge of the dog must pick up the animal’s excrement without delay.
- Barking or howling dogs as well as dogs affecting the tranquility and safety of other visitors are not allowed.

*Individuals who fail to comply with any of the rules stated above may be required to leave the area and/or issued a statement of offence, where appropriate.

AUTHORIZED PLACES

- Summer trail
- L’évolution de la vie
- Camping
- RV area
- Nautical access point
- Shore

Compliance with the regulations is essential, and the offer could be reviewed if non-compliance is noted.

EUSTACHE, THE PRINCE OF MIGUASHA

EUSTHENOPTERON FOORDI, THE PARK’S EMBLEMATIC ANIMAL

Eusthenopteron foordi is literally a ‘rock star’! Found in abundance in the fossil-rich cliff, the specimens of this lobe-finned fish reveal every detail of its astonishing anatomy. With its strong fins and lungs, this ancient predator, nicknamed the Prince of Miguasha, was the first fossil fish used by paleontologists all over the world to demonstrate the relationship between terrestrial vertebrates and their finned ancestors.

ANNUAL QUÉBEC NATIONAL PARKS CARD

Québec’s national parks offer a one-of-a-kind experience.
Explore this exceptional world of nature with the Annual Québec National Parks Card, featuring:
- Unlimited access to ALL national parks for 12 full months
- Many exclusive benefits, including a free night of camping

Details at sepaq.com/parkcard
CALLING ALL FOSSIL HUNTERS! (ONLY IN FRENCH)
Kids all love to go on treasure hunts, and the Elpi Rally is a great way to learn while having fun searching for real a treasure. Are you up for the hunt?

A LAB WHERE YOU ARE THE HERO
The educational laboratory offers an immersive experience that’ll engage your eyes, hands and brain. A great opportunity to learn about what paleontologists do!
Not offered during the 2020 season

ELPISTOSTEGE: THE ORIGINS OF A QUEST (ONLY IN FRENCH)
Did you know that our own existence is linked to that of fascinating and adventurous fish who lived on planet Earth some 380 million years ago? In 2020, don’t miss this activity, which reveals the secrets recently published in the prestigious journal *Nature* about this extraordinary fossil, the only one of its kind in the world!
Not offered during the 2020 season

A CLIFF THAT TAKES YOU BACK IN TIME
This incredible fossil-rich cliff is the reason behind the park's creation and has, to date, yielded fossils of approximately 14,000 specimens of fish, plants, and invertebrates from another era. In the company of a park warden-naturalist, come discover the cliff’s fascinating geology!

LE DÉVONIEN RESTAURANT
A visit to a park by the sea would not be complete without a tasty meal inspired by this enchanting setting. The menu features crab and lobster sandwiches served with a smile by park staff.

L’ÉCHOPPE GIFT SHOP
The most beautiful gift shop in Québec’s national park network! Stones, geodes, crystals, local artisanal products, jewellery, casts of Miguasha’s famous fish fossils – you’re sure to find something special to take home!
A VISIT TO THE PARK WILL PLUNGE YOU INTO A TROPICAL ESTUARY FROM 380 MILLION YEARS AGO TO EXPLORE THE MYSTERIES OF ITS FASCINATING ECOSYSTEM!

The oldest forests in the world date from the Devonian Period. Visit the sandbox to find and handle real fragments of these ancient plants!

Do we have any evidence of what the Prince of Miguasha really ate? Head over the exhibition hall, “From Water to Land”!

Each layer of the fossiliferous formation was once the bottom of the estuary. Explore the cliff to learn how to “read the rock”!

Bothriolepis, Miguasha’s most common and strangest fish. Drop by the educational laboratory and see if you can distinguish the true from the false.

Could King Elpi stick his head out of the water? To find out, take a stroll through the exhibition hall, “Elpistostege: the origins of a quest”!

The oldest forests in the world date from the Devonian Period. Visit the sandbox to find and handle real fragments of these ancient plants!
Our favourite offers at the park

- Elpi Rally
- Puppet theatres - Not offered during the 2020 season
- Sandbox - Not offered during the 2020 season
THE LARGEST NATURE AND OUTDOOR NETWORK IN QUÉBEC

Sépaq has the privilege of developing territories of incredible richness. Among them, 24 national parks stand out as unique. These are protected areas that belong to all Quebeckers and that provide lasting memories for visitors who proudly make such exceptional destinations their own.

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FREE* reusable bag with an in-store purchase of $75 or more.

The reusable bag is made of natural wood fibre, a biodegradable and recyclable material.

DISCOVER THE CLIFF

The beach is an extraordinary place of learning, where visitors can connect with the park’s raison d’être: the fossil cliff. While enjoying the park’s beautiful landscapes, you’ll have the opportunity to touch, see, understand and even experience paleontology in the field.

In the eyes of the geologist

At the foot of the cliff, you’ll find answers to all your questions about geology, fossiliferous formations, and fossil digs. A park warden-naturalist will show you how to put all your senses to work to understand what makes this cliff so exceptional.

VISIT THE EXHIBITION HALLS

Come discover the finest specimens of fish, invertebrate and plant fossils found over the decades by the park’s research teams! These exceptional fossils, including the world’s only known complete specimen of *Elpistostege watsoni*, are put in context, providing an understanding of life as it spread over land and sea 380 million years ago.

The exhibitions halls may not be accessible during the 2020 season

FAMILY FUN

The park’s fun activities give young families an introduction to the fascinating world of paleontology! Whether watching the children’s puppet show starring its entertaining marionettes or playing scientific investigators in the Elpi Rally or at the educational laboratory, the young and young-at-heart will all find something to interest them.

Not offered during the 2020 season
CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW

SYSTEMATIC FOSSIL DIGS

With its enormous paleontological potential, the cliff continues to yield some 500 new fossil specimens every year to add to the park’s collections. This summer, a systematic excavation site on the cliff allows fossil hunters to reveal the many secrets that have been buried for over 380 million years. As you walk along the beach, you may be lucky enough to be the first to see the treasures that will be taken to the research centre!

A RESEARCH CENTRE

The research centre at the Parc national Miguasha – the only such facility in the national park network – makes it possible to prepare, catalog and study exceptional fossil specimens from the cliff. This year, a project to overhaul the database and redesign the collection rooms will ensure that the fossils and the information about each specimen are properly conserved for the future.

A DURABLE BUT FRAGILE CLIFF

Exposed to the elements and composed of friable sedimentary deposits, the park’s fossil cliff is subject to constant natural erosion. All of the park’s ongoing activities – from developing outdoor facilities to setting up excavation sites and reforestation projects – are aimed at minimizing the impact of humans on this process.

In 2020, the park’s shoreline will be studied in order to identify the main causes of erosion and the corrective measures that can be implemented to preserve this unique natural heritage.

As part of the Environmental Indicators Monitoring Program (EIMP), researchers measure the rate at which the park’s cliff is retreating each year. In the medium term, this should make it possible to identify the areas that are most at risk within the park.
PLAY IT SAFE

IN THE WILD, YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
Sépaq’s mission is to ensure the widest possible access to Québec’s most beautiful natural treasures. Sépaq is committed to the safety of its visitors and urges you to play it safe!

Preparing yourself adequately is the first step in the safe and enjoyable practice of your favourite activities. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY and risk management is an integral part of your experience.

Before leaving for an excursion, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED to practice your chosen activity AND RESPECT YOUR PHYSICAL LIMITS. Your outing should leave you with nothing but pleasant memories. We invite you to consult our safety guides for Sépaq activities, available at sepaq.com/security. You will also find a list of organizations that can help you plan your activities safely.

sepaq.com/security

CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME
• Plan on going with at least one other person.
• Check the weather report.
• Pack water and food, even if the activity is only for a few hours.
• See that you have appropriate clothing and footwear for anticipated weather conditions.
• Let somebody know the exact location of your destination and the time you plan to return home.

ONCE YOU ARE ON SITE
• Do not rely on your cellphone.
• Check how much time it will take to complete your activity.
• Obey signs and notices, including bans on open fires.

WHEN YOU GET BACK
• Once you have completed your activity, make sure that you report to our staff anything wrong or any damage or problems you encountered.

REMINDERS

During your visit to a national park, you must always carry your entry fee receipt or your annual entry card.

Remember that animals are in their natural habitat and that you are a visitor. To ensure both your safety and theirs, feeding them is prohibited; otherwise they may lose their natural fear of human beings and become aggressive.

To preserve our natural riches, you are not allowed to remove any natural elements (animals, plants, dead wood, rocks, etc.). Please also keep to established hiking trails to avoid trampling flora.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: 911

SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC: 310-4141 (general number) / 4141 (for cellphones)
* Where cellphone networks are available. The costs and expenses incurred in conducting search and rescue operations are the responsibility of the beneficiary. You can obtain protection against these risks from an insurer.
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CHECKLIST

Legal Deposit: 2019
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC: 310-4141 (general number) /*4141 (for cellphones)
Where cellphone networks are available. The costs and expenses incurred in conducting search and rescue operations are the responsibility of the beneficiary. You can obtain protection against these risks from an insurer.

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4456, ch. du Lac-Supérieur
Lac-Supérieur (Québec) J0T 1P0
Information: 418-848-3169
Réservation: 1 800-665-6527
parc.jacques-cartier@sepaq.com
sepaq.com/jacquescartier

Photos: Parc national des Grands-Jardins, Steve Deschênes:
Dominic Boudreault, Mathieu Dupuis, Agathe Girard-Tremblay, Jean-Pierre Huard, Steve Deschênes, Lise Génois, Caroline Langevin, Paul Binet – Dreamstime

PLAY IT SAFE

EXPLORE, HAVE FUN, LEARN
and be amazed!

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FISH HARVESTING ACTIVITY

EXCURSIONS EN MER
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