



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada



Cap Tourmente

Nature as far
as the eye
can see!



Canada 



Geese? Of course, but so much more to see, learn and do!

The Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area (NWA) is best known for the spectacular sight of huge flocks of migrating geese in spring and fall. Beyond that, however, it is an exceptional meeting place for a diversity of natural environments. Bird watchers and nature enthusiasts flock here by the thousands each year. Come and find out what they already know about the full spectrum of year-round activities available at Cap Tourmente.

Administered by Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service, the Cap Tourmente NWA is located 50 km east of Quebec City on the shores of the St. Lawrence. It encompasses 2400 hectares (24 km²) of marshes, wetlands, plains and forests that are positively teeming with species of all kinds. It is one of eight National Wildlife Areas in Quebec, part of a network of 147 protected areas across Canada established to conserve the critical habitats of wildlife species, including some that are at risk. The Cap Tourmente NWA is also recognized as a wetland of international significance.

Cap Tourmente's highly diverse habitats make it one of Quebec's best bird-watching sites.



In addition to the Greater Snow Geese that feed along the flats and in the fields during migration periods, some 100 breeding birds and more than 200 other species can be observed at various times throughout the year, including aquatic birds, abundant and brightly coloured passerines, birds of prey, and even a few rare birds like the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle and Great Gray Owl in winter. Feeding and observation stations, some with telescopes, can be found in a variety of locations.

The area is also home to 30 mammal species, numerous amphibians and invertebrates, and 700 different kinds of plants.

Many kilometres of trails to discover

Treat yourself to a nature discovery adventure along any given section of the area's 20 km of hiking trails. From the quick half-kilometre loop near the interpretation centre to the more challenging path leading to the top of the promontory and a view of Isle-aux-Coudres, there are trails for every taste and every ability. Strike out on a rugged trail beneath a canopy of trees, meander along the plain or stroll right through a swamp on a wooden boardwalk. There are countless paths, complete with lookouts and rest areas perfectly suited for observation activities, even in winter, with 6 kilometres of snow-packed trails strewn with 13 bird feeders and the heated l'Érablière shelter along the way.



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Making learning fun

Embark on a journey of discovery and learn all there is to know about this vast protected area and its inhabitants.

- At the interpretation centre: through words, pictures and a rich taxidermy collection.
- With the *Cap Tourmente GeoTour*: hit the trails with this GPS navigation device, which will lead you to 27 stations highlighting the area's plant and animal life as well as its historical milestones. Let the GeoTour's touch screen, multi-scale maps, pictures and audio recordings guide you.
- With the *Cap Tourmente BioKit*: a family activity with a multitude of trail options (with or without GPS*). Retrace the footsteps of a castaway from the good ship *Éléphant* that ran aground in 1729, to discover the area's biodiversity: a geocaching adventure that leads to a treasure chest at the end of the trail!
- Try *Uncovering the Past* by following the clues in the brochure. Complete a 13-marker circuit, where each marker reveals fascinating facts about human activity in the area over the centuries.

* Rentals available at the interpretation centre.



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Spring into action with naturalists!

Assist our naturalists with the different research projects currently underway at the Cap Tourmente NWA. Depending on the season, you might be asked to keep an eye out for geese fitted with tracking collars or even to record the comings and goings of falcons around their nests. Either way, you will be contributing to the conservation of migratory birds!



A long-standing tradition

Hunting has always had a place at Cap Tourmente. From the First Nations peoples prior to the arrival of Europeans, to members of the 20th century's private clubs, goose and duck hunting has always been a part of local traditions. In the interest of managing the Greater Snow Goose population, Environment Canada has allowed controlled hunting since 1972 in a limited number of blinds on the riparian marsh along the St. Lawrence. Hunters are selected by random draw from among all the registration forms submitted. In addition to four-person blinds, the package includes an information session on hunting techniques and regulations, electronic calls, decoys, getting hunting equipment to the blinds, and goose storage.

Cap Tourmente school

The Cap Tourmente NWA has a large classroom. Bring your students so they can connect with nature through learning activities that comply with Quebec educational programs and reforms. By teaming up with teachers, the area provides creative ways of achieving educational goals while allowing students to discover the true nature of Cap Tourmente.



General information

Address

570 Chemin du Cap-Tourmente
Saint-Joachim QC G0A 3X0
Telephone: 418-827-4591
Email: cap.tourmente@ec.gc.ca
www.ec.gc.ca

GPS coordinates

N 47° 03.860'
W 70° 47.774'

Hours of operation

Early May to late October:
Open daily from 8:30 a.m.
to 5:00 p.m.

Early January to mid-March:
Weekends and during spring
break from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Rates (including taxes)

Adults: **\$6.00**

Students: **\$5.00**

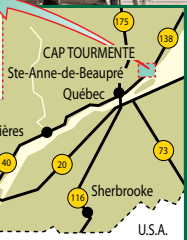
Children under 12

accompanied by an adult: **free**

Free parking

Passes and group rates are available.

Rates, hours of operation and programs
are subject to change without notice.



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