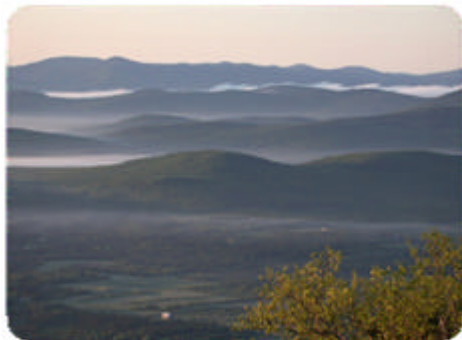


The Parc du Mont-Mégantic and the ASTROLab From the earth to the stars

In the southern part of the Eastern Townships discover a route between the lakes and mountains, the Route des Sommets. The main point of interest along this route is the Parc national du Mont-Mégantic. Located three hours from Montreal and only minutes away from the US border, the Parc national du Mont-Mégantic attracts visitors in every season. The high peaks are accessible by car and numerous hiking trails reveal splendid panoramic views of the region's mountains. In addition, the public observatory and ASTROLab lend a unique character to the location, offering astronomy activities led by passionate animators.

Outstanding hiking and panoramic views



With an area of almost 55 km², Parc national du Mont-Mégantic offers hikers unique mountains, valleys, crests and hills, each turn providing exceptional views of the White Mountains in New Hampshire and Maine and the Green Mountains of Vermont. This broad expanse of land features a wide variety of plant life and more than 125 species of birds and 20 species of mammals, including moose and white-tailed deer – which will delight ecotourists. Outdoor enthusiasts will love the hiking trails on the mountain: 70 km of trails for all levels of difficulty and varying lengths allow for the discovery of the various types of vegetation that exist in the park.

Astronomy in the first International Dark Sky Reserve



When night falls, visitors can turn their gazes towards the sky where, on clear nights, they will be able to observe the sheer immensity of the Universe. With the help of passionate animators, the astronomy activity centre helps participants increase their understanding of the solar system's many facets and explore the issue of light pollution. Astronomy buffs can learn more about the Universe and the solar system using powerful telescopes and other observation tools. The Parc national du Mont-Mégantic features the most powerful astronomy observatory in Canada. Two observatories are open to the public: L'Observatoire Velan located at the foot of the mountain, and the popular observatory nestled at the mountain's summit.

Did you know?

- Thanks to its many efforts to control light pollution, the Mont-Mégantic region was named the first International Dark Sky Reserve by the International Dark Sky Association.
- 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy .
- Mont-Mégantic is the Quebec's highest summit that is accessible by vehicle, with an altitude of 1100 metres.

Nearby:

- **Domaine des Montagnais**
- **Pavillon de la faune**
- **Croisière du lac Aylmer**

Theme index: Natural park, hiking, astronomy, wildlife observation, International Dark Sky Reserve, ecotourism.