

## BLUE WHALE WATCHING



BLUE WHALE



MICS



DAYS AT SEA



GASPÉ

**Sentiers Privés** presents to you an incredible photo tour : Blue Whale Watching, come along a scientific Research project.

### On the menu :

Whale watching and photography including the blue whale with the supervision by a team of blue whales scientists, including **Richard Sears** and the discovery of the Gaspé area, in the Gaspé Peninsula.



# The MICS and Richard Sears

**Richard Sears is one of the greatest Blue Whales specialists in the world.**

He decided to create a research station in 1979: The **MICS (Mingan Island Cetacean Study)** in longue-Pointe-de-Mingan on the northern coast of Quebec.

The **MICS** has been conducting highly advanced research projects for 40 years and owns the catalogues of these whale species for the St. Lawrence, and some for the entire North Atlantic.



This nonprofit organization has been running for 40 years, increasing the knowledge about these animals as well as about our ocean's health.

The station also has a very important educational mission, by welcoming eco-tourists during the research season, which helps this organization to continue its work.



This research station is dedicated to researches about 4 marine mammals species : **blue whales, humpback whales, finback whales and mink whale.**

Richard adapted the photoidentification method to the Blue Whale. This method, which allows to recognize and identify each animal, is now used globally, on this species.





# The programm

Thanks to the researchers, you will be able to learn the techniques they use to study. They will share with you all their knowledge about these mythic animals. You can, if you wish, participate in the research work or simply help with the observation.

Here is an overview of the past stays at the base video [here](#) .

## Days at sea

**The weather is decisive** in the course of the days.

The on-site team decides every morning whether sailing conditions are safe.

**If the weather is bad** in the morning, other activities are offered while waiting for this to improve.

For instance, you can take this opportunity to the discovery the area, observe the whales through binoculars or learn about some research work.



### Course of a day at sea :

Wake up 6h30-7h.

Preparation, transfer to the dock and boat departure as soon as conditions allow.

On the menu :

the whale watching, taking a photo for identification, observing behaviors...

Lunch aboard and return to shore at the end of the day (depending on weather).

Dinner with the whole team according to the schedule of the return.