

# Cape Breton Island

your heart will never leave.

## CABOT TRAIL

298 KM

Plan several days to experience the journey of a lifetime on one of the world's most scenic drives.

### Map Legend

- Airport
- Beach
- Bird Watching
- Ferry
- Fishing
- Golf
- Hiking
- History
- Information Centre
- Waterfall
- Kayaking
- Living Cultures
- Music & The Arts
- Parks Canada
- Significant Natural Area
- Unique Camping
- Sailing
- Whale Watching
- Coastal Adventure
- Lighthouse

- Trans-Canada Highway
- Provincial Arterial
- Provincial Truck
- Collector Highway
- Ceilidh Trail
- Bras d'Or Lake Scenic Drive
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Railroads
- Cabot Trail
- Fleur-de-lis Trail
- Sydney Area - Marconi Trail

## CANADA'S MUSICAL COAST

This magical coastline is teeming with Celtic fiddling, Acadian dance and some of the best golf in the world.

### VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

<p><b>Baddeck</b> Welcome Centre t 902-295-1911</p> <p><b>Chéticamp</b> Visitor Information Centre t 902-224-2642</p> <p><b>Inverness</b> Visitor Information Centre t 902-258-3740</p> <p><b>Louisbourg</b> Visitor Information Centre t 902-733-2720</p>	<p><b>Margaree</b> Visitor Information Centre t 902-248-2356</p> <p><b>North Sydney</b> Visitor Information Centre t 902-794-2524</p> <p><b>Port Hastings Provincial</b> Visitor Information Centre t 902-625-4201</p> <p><b>St. Peter's</b> Visitor Information Centre t 902-535-2185</p> <p><b>Sydney Port</b> Visitor Information Centre t 902-304-1392</p>
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## CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Prepare for an experience that will uplift your spirit and awaken your senses.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

## SYDNEY AREA - MARCONI TRAIL

Treasure our rich coal mining stories, charming coastal villages and fine craft.

## LOUISBOURG AREA

An 18<sup>th</sup>-century fortress, a bustling town and a beautiful surrounding area are waiting to greet you.

## CAPE BRETON'S SOUTH COAST

Head south for rugged seascapes and sumptuous seafood. Explore the South Coast's pristine capes, keys, and coves.

## BRAS D'OR LAKE

A Biosphere Reserve and in-land sea, experience beautiful anchorages and hundreds of coves and islands.

Kilometre

	ARICHAT	BADDECK	CAPE NORTH	CHÉTICAMP	ESKASONI	INGONISH BEACH	INVERNESS	IONA	LOUISBOURG	MABOU	MARGAREE FORKS	MEMBERTOU	PORT HASTINGS	PORT HAWKESBURY	PORT HOOD	ST. ANN'S	ST. PETER'S	SYDNEY
ARICHAT	147	277	211	122	234	144	149	171	123	176	122	64	58	109	165	47	134	
BADDECK	147	131	88	110	87	80	53	114	67	53	79	83	89	82	18	136	77	
CAPE NORTH	277	131	70	209	44	67	184	204	153	105	177	213	219	168	113	247	167	
CHÉTICAMP	211	88	70	146	114	62	127	202	83	35	164	142	148	97	106	195	165	
ESKASONI	122	110	206	146	165	110	65	72	90	110	40	101	106	104	62	41	40	
INGONISH BEACH	234	87	44	114	165	167	140	154	149	134	170	176	168	69	202	123		
INVERNESS	149	80	67	62	110	167	87	195	21	27	154	80	86	35	98	133	157	
IONA	149	53	184	127	65	140	87	98	69	92	63	85	91	83	71	108	61	
LOUISBOURG	171	114	204	202	72	160	185	98	181	167	34	176	170	195	96	123	37	
MABOU	123	67	153	83	90	154	21	69	181	48	143	59	65	14	85	112	144	
MARGAREE FORKS	176	53	105	35	110	149	27	92	167	48	128	107	113	62	71	160	130	
MEMBERTOU	64	79	177	164	40	134	154	63	34	128	137	131	181	62	86	3		
PORT HASTINGS	64	83	213	142	101	170	80	85	176	59	107	137	6	45	101	53	141	
PORT HAWKESBURY	58	89	219	148	106	176	86	91	170	65	113	131	6	51	107	47	135	
PORT HOOD	109	82	168	97	104	168	35	83	195	14	62	181	45	51	100	98	158	
ST. ANN'S	165	18	113	106	62	69	98	71	96	85	71	62	101	107	100	138	59	
ST. PETER'S	47	136	247	195	41	202	133	108	123	112	160	86	53	47	98	138	88	
SYDNEY	134	77	167	165	40	123	157	61	37	144	130	3	141	135	158	59	88	

**Beaches**

There's no shortage of beaches around Cape Breton Island. Beaches on the Gulf of St. Lawrence offer water that's warmer than the Atlantic Ocean. Port Hood Beach, Inverness Beach, West Mabou Beach and Chimney Corner Beach are just a few of the popular beaches that can be found on the west side of the Island. On the east side, Black Brook Beach, Dingwall Beach, Dominion Beach, Kennington Cove Beach, Point Michaud Beach and Ingonish Beach are a few that offer a true Atlantic Ocean swim. For an entirely different beach experience, discover the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes at Marble Mountain Beach, Grove's Point Provincial Park and Kidston Island and beach.

**Cape Breton Highlands National Park**

USA Today Readers' Choice Awards voted the Cape Breton Highlands National Park the Best National Park in Canada, and you'll soon see why! Its 26 scenic hiking trails call out to be experienced, ranging from easy to challenging, some to waterfalls and some to spectacular views. Enjoy a few of the many experiences offered by Parks Canada, such as Sharing Stories about Mi'kmaw Culture, among many others.

**Hiking**

Our Island has a wealth of exceptional and diverse hiking trails, from easy walks to rugged paths, leading to dramatic views of Cape Breton Island's coastline or amazing waterfalls. For more information on our hiking trails visit [cbisland.com/hiking](http://cbisland.com/hiking).

**Kayaking**

Seeing Cape Breton Island from its calm coastal waters provides a perspective like no other. Glide your way around with a guide or rent kayaks on your own. Rent your own kayak from Eagle North Kayak, North River Kayak, CB West SUP, Cabot Trail Adventures, Cabot Shores Wilderness Resort, The Groundswell, Kayak Cape Breton & Cottages, Dundee Resort and Richmond Adventure Planning.

**Unique Camping**

From Mongolian yurts to geodesic domes to oTENTiks, Cape Breton Island is full of unique camping and glamping experiences. Archer's Edge Luxury Camping, Blue Bayou Resort, True North Destinations, Off the Beaton Path, Two Rivers Wildlife Park, Live Life in Tents, Kluskap Ridge, Cabot Shores Wilderness Resort, Whycocomagh Provincial Park and the Cape Breton Highlands National Park all contribute to this collection of amazing overnight experiences.

**Adventures by Bike or Flight**

The Celtic Shores Coastal Trail is a great trail for a leisurely cycle with the Gulf of St. Lawrence on one side and beautiful landscapes on the other. For something a bit faster, the Cabot Trail has long been recognized as one of the world's greatest scenic drives. Cabot Trail Biker Tours offer guided tours. If a bird's eye view is more your style, see the Island's beauty from a perspective only enjoyed by few; a helicopter ride with Breton Air. Be sure to visit Destination Cape Smokey, the only gondola ride in Atlantic Canada, with views of the ocean and Cape Breton Highlands National Park.



White Point

**Water Adventure: Tubing, Surfing, SUP**

From tubing with Live Life in Tents or standup paddle boarding with CB West SUP, the renowned Margaree River is one sure bet for these fun and relaxing water adventures. For other great standup paddle boarding experiences, check out The Groundswell. More surf action can be found at Point Michaud. Experience its two kilometres of sandy beach and secluded coves, perfect for surfing.

**Bird Watching Tours**

Experience our majestic Island coastline as you join knowledgeable and passionate tour guides for an adventure of a lifetime! Puffin tours launch at Bird Island Boat Tours in Big Bras d'Or or Donelda's Puffin Boat Tours in Englishtown.

**Fishing**

The beauty of our renowned Margaree River is the perfect backdrop as you tie a fly and try your hand at salmon fishing. Do this on your own or with a guide like Spey Simplicity or Atlantic Salmon Fly Fishing Guide. Fishing for tuna, mackerel, lobster or cod in the clean cold waters around Cape Breton Island is the ultimate sportfishing experience. Charters are available around the Island such as Rankin Tuna Charters, It's Now or Never Tuna Charters, Dawn Treader Tuna Charters and many more. The Bras d'Or lakes offers up a chance to reel in some rainbow or speckled trout with accessible fishing found throughout the Lake such as Whycocomagh, River Denys Basin, East Bay and more!

**Sailing Adventures**

Hop on board with Sailing CBI and sail around Baddeck Bay on the beautiful Bras d'Or Lake. See bald eagles swooning for their daily catch, pass their majestic nests and see Beinn Breagh, home of Alexander and Mabel Bell. If chartering is more your style, grab the wheel and set sail with Cape Breton Sailing Charters, Richmond Adventure Sailing Tours, Sailing CBI, Sail Cape Breton and with many other operators to experience the wonder of the Bras d'Or Lake.

**Whale Watching**

Your ocean encounters will leave you wanting more! Spend a day with one of our experienced captains whale watching, sharing stories and admiring the seacoast. Tours are offered by Keltic Express Zodiac, Ingonish Whale Watching, Dixon's Zodiac Seafari, Pleasant Bay Whale Watching, Captain Mark's Whale & Seal Cruise, Captain Zodiac, Captain Cox's Whale and Bird Watch, Oshan Whale Watch, Guaranteed Whales and Seaside Whale & Nature Cruises.

**Artisan studios**

The St. Ann's Bay region presents an inspiring hub of artisans with studios you can visit. There are many other artisan studios around the Island. Pick up a copy of the Artisan Trail Map for a complete list.

**Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design**

This light-filled gallery shop in downtown Sydney showcases the work of over 110 Island artisans. Works of jewellery, visual art, wood, glass, textiles and pottery are available for purchase. The modern exhibition space presents the latest work of local artisans and regional, national and international exhibitors. Check out the Customs House Artisan Incubator as it is a must-see in the Town of Port Hawkesbury displaying a wide variety of media. You can also see artists in residence at work, in one of the state-of-the-art studios.

**Céilidhs & Celtic Pubs**

Céilidhs (pronounced Kay-leees) are traditional gatherings where Celtic music, dancing, singing and true Cape Breton spirit come to life. From dance halls to church halls, and restaurants to pubs, a céilidh is never far away on Cape Breton Island. For a healthy dose of live Celtic music, check out the Red Shoe Pub, the Doryman Pub & Grill, Glenora Distillery, the Cabot Public House, Governors Pub & Eatery, the Old Triangle Alehouse, Frolic'n Folk Pub & Grill, and the Highland Sitting Room, to name a few.

**Celtic Colours International Festival**

We invite you to experience Cape Breton Island's rich culture in a unique celebration of music, dance and tradition. Celtic Colours International Festival is one of Canada's premiere musical events, a cultural highlight of Nova Scotia's tourism season and a much-loved Island-wide gathering. Over the 25 years since the Festival began, many first-time attendees have become life-long supporters, returning again and again to relive the magic of this special event every October.

**Celtic Music Interpretive Centre**

The Celtic Music Interpretive Centre is your first stop on Canada's Musical Coast for authentic Cape Breton traditional Celtic music, culture and culinary experiences. Enjoy live music and seasonal dining during a Lunch Céilidh, Sunday Céilidh or Outdoor Patio series. Spend time in the interactive exhibit room for an experience of music and history and partake in a fiddle or dance lesson that will create memories of a lifetime.

**Square Dances**

Square dancing is a beloved and long-standing tradition of couples hitting the dance floor and whirling up a storm to rollicking fiddle music. Some of the popular choices include: West Mabou Family Square Dance, Baddeck Gathering Céilidhs, Glencoe Mills Family Square Dances, Brook Village Adult Square Dances, St. Peter's United Church Hall, Celtic Music Interpretive Centre, Féis An Eilein, The Barn in Margaree, South West Margaree and many more locations around the Island.

**The Big Fiddle and Sydney Harbour Boardwalk**

Take a selfie with the world's largest fiddle and browse the specialty shops at the pavilion, before sauntering along our community boardwalk that stretches along the Sydney waterfront.

**Theatres and Playhouses**

From the spoken word to performing arts and from intimate concerts to blockbuster musicals, arts and entertainment reign supreme on Cape Breton Island. The Louisbourg Playhouse, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre, Baddeck Theatre, the Savoy Theatre, Highland Arts Theatre (the HAT), and Strathspey Centre for the Performing Arts all present exceptional and professional programming.

Cape Breton Island

*your heart will never leave.*



Destination Cape Smokey

North River Falls

living cultures

**Mi'kmaq**

Unama'ki, otherwise known as Cape Breton Island, has been home to Mi'kmaw people from time immemorial. The Mi'kmaq enrich the Island with their legends, art, music, spirituality, history and language. In Unama'ki the culture is thriving with five Indigenous communities. You can immerse yourself in this rich culture with Eskasoni Cultural Journeys, Membertou Heritage Park, Wagmatcook Cultural Centre, Canal Landing and the Skye River Trail in We'koqma'q.

**Acadian**

Since 1713, the Acadian spirit and joie de vivre has thrived among Nova Scotia's Acadian French population. Today's Acadians are descendants of the first European settlers. On Cape Breton Island, the Chéticamp and Isle Madame/Louisdale regions are hubs of this vibrant culture. Mask making at La Centre de la Mi-Carême, rug hooking at Les Trois Pignons, cultural experiences at Centre la Picasso, and music and dance performances in various venues are just some of the ways you can celebrate the rich and storied history of Cape Breton's Acadian culture. And be sure to look for traditional Acadian dishes such as fish cakes or meat pies at eateries in those regions.

**Gaelic**

In the 1800s, Gaelic speaking immigrants, mainly from the highlands and islands of Scotland with a smaller number from Ireland, came by the tens of thousands and made Cape Breton Island their home. To this very day, Gaelic is spoken at the Gaelic College / Colaiste na Gàidhlig, the Highland Village / Baile nan Gàidheal and in a number of communities. To participate in the culture, visit the aforementioned sites, join in a square dance, sing along at a milling frolic, learn the art of weaving or research your Gaelic roots.



Eskasoni Cultural Journeys

local history



Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site

Miners Museum - Glace Bay

**Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site**

Discover the fascinating life and work of Alexander Graham Bell - scientist, inventor, teacher and innovator. See the Silver Dart replica, take the White Glove Tour for a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the life of Bell.

**Cape Breton Fossil Centre**

View an impressive collection of fossils from around the globe and hit the beach to comb for your very own on a guided fossil excursion.

**Cape Breton Miners Museum**

Journey underground at the Ocean Deeps Colliery with an entertaining, retired coal miner as your guide. Interactive exhibits and a village of period buildings and animators further tell the story of Cape Breton coal mining life. Experience the coal mining industry through the ages with a virtual tour guide, Angus.

**Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site**

Step through time to the 1700s as you explore the streets of North America's largest historical reconstruction. Take in one of the site's diverse experiences including rum tasting, 18th-century camping or visit their Mi'kmaw Interpretive Centre.

**LeNoir Forge Museum**

Visit one of the oldest stone buildings on the Island and learn the traditional art of blacksmithing. Classes are held each Thursday in July and August and participants will produce a unique piece to take home.

**Marconi National Historic Site**

In a world of nanosecond speeds and cloud technology, it's hard to remember a time when wireless messages couldn't cross the Atlantic. Guglielmo Marconi would change the world forever with the first official transatlantic exchange of radio messages at Glace Bay. Find out how Marconi triumphed at his first permanent transatlantic wireless station at Table Head, and how his work would usher in the age of global communications.

**St. Peter's Canal**

This striking 800-metre tidal lock canal, the oldest in North America, links the Atlantic Ocean with the Bras d'Or Lake and offers scenic views, history and a picturesque picnic area. Check out Canal Landing which offers culturally oriented experiences, recreational equipment rentals and a place to purchase authentic quality crafts.

**Sydney's Historic District**

Discover life as a pioneer from the 18th century as you meander through Sydney's historic North End. Stop into Cossit House and Jost House museums for the news of the day as delivered in the 1700s. The Old Sydney Society offers haunted ghost tours of these very streets at night. If you survive, visit the Old Sydney Society's virtual reality tour taking you through the former Sydney Steel Plant. Don't miss St. Patrick's Museum's audio plays based on historical fiction.

golf

The game of golf is about places — the challenge, beauty and prestige of the course. There are close to 40,000 golf courses in the world, but only a selection of these embrace the true spirit of the game. Cape Breton Island is one of those places with three courses in *Golf Digest's* World 100 Greatest Courses. 00 Greatest Courses, including Cabot Cliffs, Cabot Links and Cape Breton Highlands Links.

Dundee Golf Club, Bell Bay Golf Club and The Lakes Golf Club, situated along the shores of the Bras d'Or Lake, offer distinctive and challenging courses, and their views are spectacular. With the Gulf of St. Lawrence on one side, and Chéticamp's mountain range on the other, the scenic surroundings will help you find the greatness in your game at Le Portage Golf Club. Visit our website for a full list of Cape Breton Island's golf courses.

Cabot Cliffs Golf Course



festivals & events

Cape Breton Island's festivals and events are a wonderful opportunity to experience our culture and to meet locals.



St. Peter's Pirate Days



Live, work, study or invest in Cape Breton

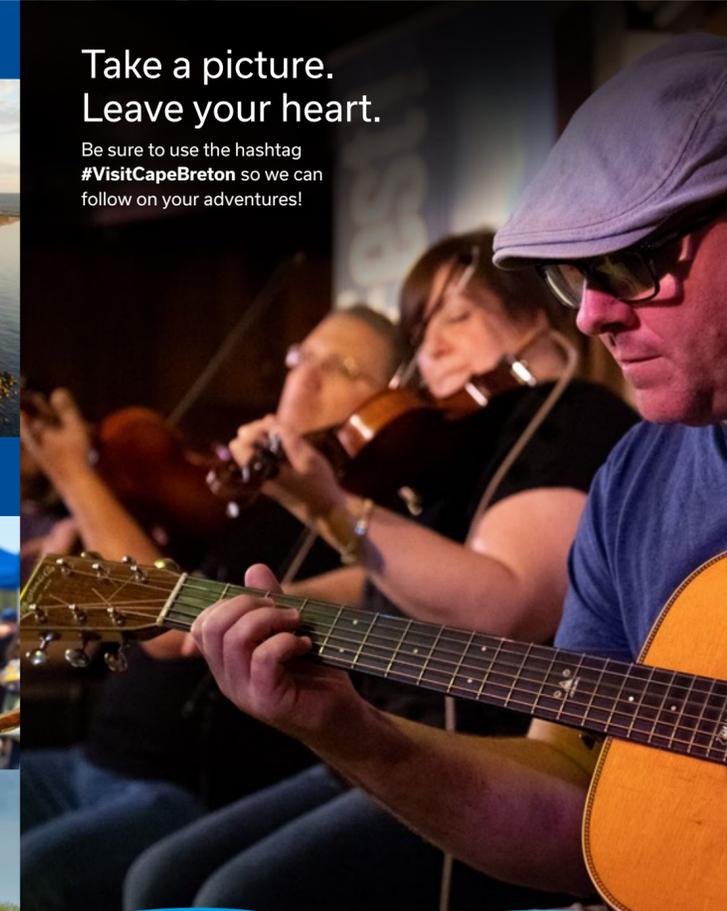
Now that you've got a taste of life on Cape Breton Island, why not explore what it is like to live here! Opportunity and adventure awaits.

For your guide to living, working, studying or investing in Cape Breton, please visit:

WelcomeToCapeBreton.ca

Take a picture. Leave your heart.

Be sure to use the hashtag #VisitCapeBreton so we can follow on your adventures!



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