



Cabot Trail

# CAPE BRETON ISLAND

## Welcome to Cape Breton Island

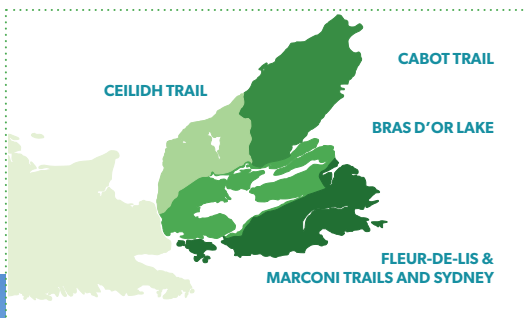
Words of welcome have long been offered to visitors as they cross the Canso Causeway to Cape Breton, ready to explore a region where history lives and breathes.

Step into the life of a French settler at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, North America's largest historical reconstruction; take a White Glove Tour of the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site and get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into Bell's life; hear Mi'kmaw stories and music while on an Eskasoni Cultural Journey; discover Chéticamp's Acadian history and world-famous hooked rugs at Les Trois Pignons Museum; visit Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village, an outdoor living history museum and Gaelic folklife centre that illustrates the story, culture and identity of Nova Scotia Gaels; or tap your toes to the Celtic tunes and try your hand at playing the fiddle at the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre. Tales of Cape Breton's past continue to influence its future with countless opportunities for you to become immersed in the Island's stories.

Breathe in the fresh air as you venture outside to take in a hike along the Skyline Trail in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, recently voted the Best National Park in

Canada by *USA Today 10Best*—the spectacular cliffside ocean vista is a reward for the senses. Play a round at Cabot Cliffs or Cabot Links, named #13 and #25 respectively on *Golf Digest's* World's 100 Greatest Golf Courses for 2024 and #1 and #6 respectively on *Golf Digest's* Best Courses in Canada for 2024. Stretch your legs with a bike ride or hike along the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail. Take a bike, car, or motorcycle tour of the world-renowned Cabot Trail, recently voted Best Scenic Drive in Canada by *USA Today 10Best*, with its dramatic coastal views and highland scenery.

From history and culture to music, seafood, outdoor adventures, talented artisans, and friendly locals, a new discovery awaits around every corner of Cape Breton Island, recently named the #1 Island in the Americas by *Condé Nast Traveler*, and #1 Best Island in Canada by *Travel + Leisure*.



Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site



# CEILIDH TRAIL

Ceilidh Trail

NovaScotia.com

Lawrence's Beach, Port Hood



# Gaelic culture at its best

“Ceilidh” (*kay-lee*) is Gaelic for “gathering,” and a journey along the Ceilidh Trail (Route 19) by vehicle, or the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail by bike, offers an opportunity to experience the true meaning of the word. Both routes run parallel to the ocean and connect the communities and attractions along the way.

Meet the locals by stopping into the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre or The Red Shoe Pub for some live music and dancing, and enjoy a delicious meal at The Clove Hitch Bar & Bistro overlooking the ocean in Port Hood. Say hello to artist Ann Schroeder and peruse her beautiful hand-painted quilts and silk scarves. A trip to Mabou wouldn't be complete without a stop at the Mabou Farmers' Market. Over 40 vendors offer delicious local food and produce, beautiful jewellery and art, and of course, live music on Sunday mornings. For the golfer in your group head to Inverness and play a round at the world-renowned Cabot Cliffs or Cabot Links, named #13 and #25 respectively on *Golf Digest's* World's 100 Greatest Golf Courses for 2024, #1 and #6 respectively on *Golf Digest's* Best Courses in Canada for 2024, and #1 and #3 respectively on *SCOREGolf's* Top 100 for 2024.

Gaelic, Acadian, and Mi'kmaq people have strong roots in this area. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Strathspey Performing Arts Centre, a state-of-the-art performance facility where the music, dance, and folklore of these cultures are celebrated.

History, culture, and beautiful natural landscapes are combined here, offering up an unforgettable visit along Cape Breton's rugged coast.

## Unexpected discoveries

### Galloping Cows Fine Foods, Port Hood

This culinary treasure offers hand-crafted preserves that were featured in gift baskets at the Golden Globes, the Oscars, and the Toronto International Film Festival. Create your own gift basket of favourites, such as blueberry-rhubarb jam and brandy cranberry marmalade.

### Glenora Distillery, Glenville

North America's first distiller of single-malt whisky is cradled in a glen in the picturesque Mabou Highlands. Enjoy a tour of the distillery, followed by a taste of Glen Breton Rare whisky—the closest to authentic Scotch outside of Scotland. Don't forget your dancing shoes, The Glenora Pub has traditional ceilidhs twice a day. Make it an overnight stay and book a room in the inn, lodge or a chalet on site. The surrounding foliage is especially beautiful during the fall.

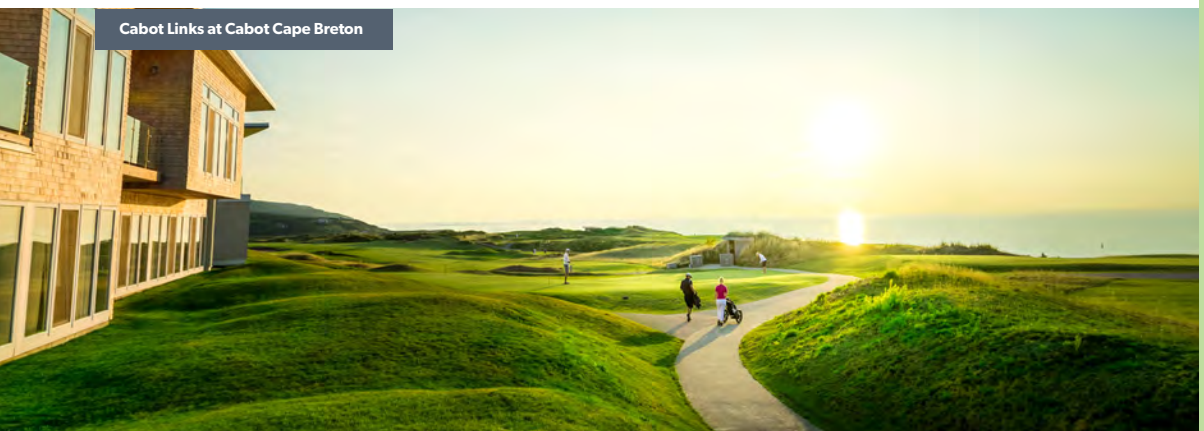
### Route 19 Brewing, Inverness

Enjoy a brew with a view! Located near world-renowned Cabot Links and Cabot Cliffs Golf Courses, this three-level facility, which includes a restaurant and tap room, is the ideal spot for a refreshing sampler after your round or a day at the beach, or for catching a sunset.



Ceilidh Trail

Cabot Links at Cabot Cape Breton



NovaScotia.com

## Not-to-be-missed experiences

This area is rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. The following suggestions offer you the quintessential Ceilidh Trail experience.

### Tune in to Cape Breton music

#### Celtic Music Interpretive Centre, Judique

Take an interactive journey through samples of song, stories, dance, and bagpipe and fiddle music. Interpretive media displays let you try your hand at a fiddle tune or learn how to step-dance.

### Take in a cultural performance

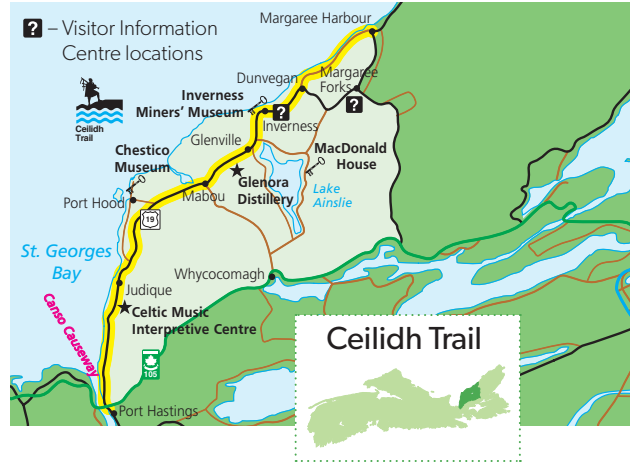
#### Strathspey Performing Arts Centre, Mabou

At this state-of-the-art performing arts centre, Cape Breton's rich diversified culture is celebrated through Celtic music and the folklore, dance, and music of the Acadian and Mi'kmaq communities.

### Live music with your meal

#### Red Shoe Pub, Mabou

Co-owned by world-renowned singers, the Rankin sisters, visit this iconic pub for a delicious, hearty meal and for toe-tapping live music, seven days a week. The pub is located nearby the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail.



## Outdoor adventures

Whether you're cycling our oceanside Celtic Shores Coastal Trail or discovering the communities and sandy beaches nestled among the rolling hills, the natural environment of this region is best seen at a slower pace. Park your car and check out these gems.

### Golf at Canada's only authentic links courses

#### Cabot Links and Cabot Cliffs golf courses at Cabot Cape Breton, Inverness

Cabot Cliffs was designed by Bill Coore and two-time Masters champion Ben Crenshaw and was ranked as the #1 on SCOREGolf's Top 100 in 2024, #13 of the World's 100 Greatest Golf Courses by *Golf Digest* in 2024 and ranked #1 and *Golf Digest's* Best Courses in Canada for 2024. Referred to as the "Pebble Beach of Canada" by *Links Magazine*, the course, set along the picturesque rugged seaside cliffs of western Cape Breton, features an unusual configuration of six par-threes, six par-fours and six par-fives. Nearby Cabot Links, with golf greens sculpted around sand dunes and ocean views offered at each of the 18 holes, is the recipient of continuous accolades, including SCOREGolf's ranking of #3 on their Top 100 in 2024. Enjoy fine dining at Panorama or casual pub fare at Whit's Public House after your round. Also, be sure to check out The Nest, a 10-hole par 3 course offering up some of the best views on the property.

### Cycle the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail

#### Various entry points between Port Hastings, Troy, and Inverness

This 92-kilometre multi-use trail winds through the communities of Judique, Port Hood, Mabou, and Inverness. Along the way, you'll find active fishing harbours, beaches, exhilarating views, museums, restaurants, and accommodations. Include the trail in a multi-day cycling or trekking itinerary, or stop for an hour or two to take in the natural beauty of this area.

### Walk and swim at Inverness Beach

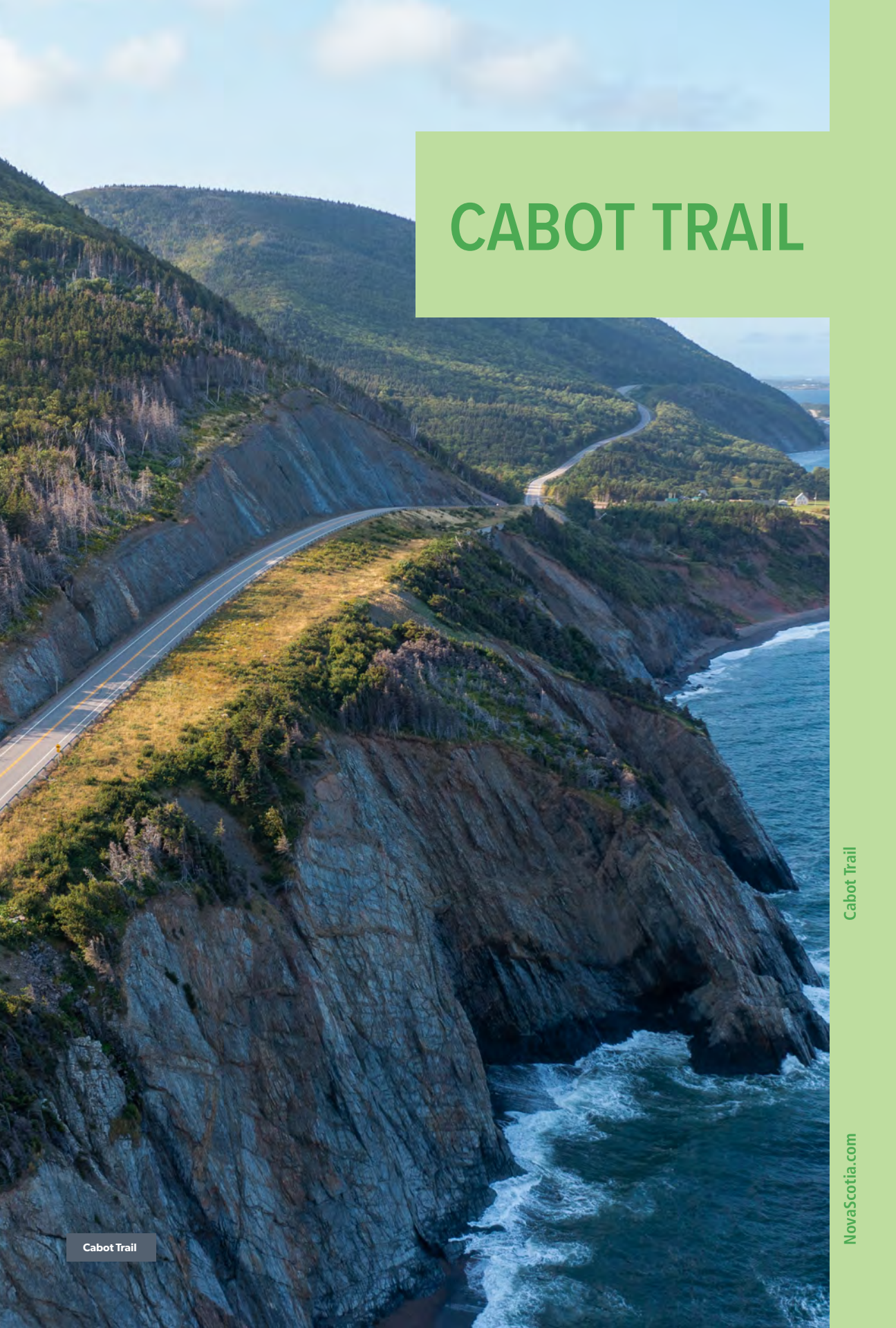
Explore the 1.5 kilometres of soft sand or a refreshing saltwater swim in the warm waters. This beach is supervised throughout the summer and features sand chairs and mats, allowing those with mobility challenges safe access to the water. Afterwards, enjoy an ice cream cone on the boardwalk through the sand dunes.

# CABOT TRAIL

Cabot Trail

NovaScotia.com

Cabot Trail



# Hike, golf and dance the Highlands

*“I have travelled the globe. I have seen the Canadian and American Rockies, the Andes and the Alps and the highlands of Scotland, but for simple beauty, Cape Breton outrivals them all.”*

—Alexander Graham Bell

The natural beauty of the highlands provides the perfect backdrop for outdoor activities such as golfing, kayaking, hiking, cycling, fishing, bird-watching, skiing, and snowmobiling. And don't forget the drive—the Cabot Trail was previously **voted Best Scenic Drive in Canada by USA Today 10Best**. The panoramic views are spectacular!

Golfers will never forget a day at the Stanley Thompson—designed Cape Breton Highlands Links, consistently ranked as one of the ten best golf courses in Canada. For a different perspective, take a guided kayak tour with Cabot Trail Adventures along the highlands of Northern Cape Breton. One of the most spectacular paddling destinations in North America, this remote and rugged coast offers imposing cliffs of ancient bedrock, which feature waterfalls, sea caves, and towering arches.

Some of the best hiking opportunities in Nova Scotia are found in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, previously **voted Best National Park in Canada by USA Today 10Best**, with 26 trails for all interests and abilities. For a truly spectacular sunset view, take part in the Skyline Trail Sunset



Keltic Lodge, Ingonish Beach

Hike. This guided hike leads you to the top of a mountain headland, overlooking the ocean as the sun slowly dips into the horizon. The beauty of the highlands inspires many artisans living around the Cabot Trail. Stop in to watch them create their art, or try one of the hands-on workshops such as glass blowing at Glass Artisans Studio & Gallery.

The Cabot Trail's natural beauty is only outdone by the area's unique culture and unrivalled hospitality. You'll feel like a local after attending a ceilidh and hearing some of Cape Breton's finest musicians. Be sure to wear your dancing shoes, because you'll be up learning how to step or square dance with new friends in no time. By the end of your stay, you may even know a few words of the Gaelic language.

Plan to spend at least three to five days along the Cabot Trail, where you'll discover how Nova Scotia, or "New Scotland," got its name.



Meat Cove Campground



Rug hooking at Les Trois Pignons

## Not-to-be-missed experiences

There are many special hands-on activities along the nearly 300 kilometres of the world-famous Cabot Trail. These suggestions will ensure that you miss nothing along the way.

### First flights, kites, and telephones

#### Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, Baddeck

Explore the life and work of this great teacher, scientist, and inventor. See full-scale replicas of Bell's Silver Dart, the first powered flight in Canada, and the HD-4, the world's fastest watercraft in 1919. Children (and the young at heart!) can let their imaginations take flight with the popular kite programs. Discover the rooftop patio and relax in the Red Chairs overlooking the sparkling waters of Baddeck Bay. Learn, play, and get inspired!

### Delve into la vie acadienne

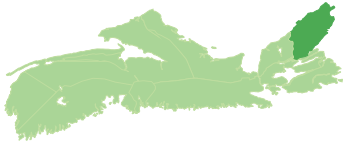
#### Les Trois Pignons, Chéticamp

Chéticamp's Acadian history and culture come alive through its world-famous hooked rugs and antiques. The site also offers a genealogy resource centre, a library, and a full range of visitor information services.

### Kayak around St. Ann's Bay

Dipping your paddle alongside seals and seabirds, surrounded by our coastal cliffs, with North River Kayak Tours. Take a half or full day guided tour of the waters around Baddeck. Look out for marine life, seabirds, lobster fishers, and enjoy a snack on a small secluded beach.

## Cabot Trail



### Visitor Information Centre locations



Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site

### The White Glove Tour

#### Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site

A unique, behind-the-scenes tour where you'll hold personal mementos and models made by the inventor himself. Tours offered daily in both English and French.

### Cabot Trail Bike Tour

#### Freewheeling Adventures

Take this fantastic six-day, five-night cycling tour through the Cape Breton Highlands. This classic road tour covers a 320-kilometre loop curving along the spectacular coastline of Cape Breton Island.

### Skyline Trail Sunset Hike

#### Cape Breton Highlands National Park

Meet your park guide and set off on a 2- to 3-hour hike to watch the sunset from the boardwalk platform, one of the most photographed spots on the island.

### Island-Wide Celtic Cultural Immersion

#### Celtic Colours International Festival

Experience the music, energy, and excitement of our rich culture. Take in concerts, dances, workshops, and community suppers, all set against a gorgeous backdrop of autumn colour. October 9-17, 2026.



Celtic Colours International Festival

## Outdoor adventures

The Cabot Trail is a nature-lover's paradise, so get out and enjoy all it has to offer for explorers of every fitness level.

### Cape Breton Highlands National Park

Set against a backdrop of coastal highlands, a visit to Cape Breton Island is not complete without exploring this epic national park. For families looking to share memories around a campfire, or experienced adventurers seeking their next challenge, there are endless opportunities for exploration. Offering 26 hiking trails, camping for all experience levels, including oTENTiks, relaxing beaches, scenic look-offs, wildlife viewing, hidden waterfalls, and more. Hit the Cabot Trail and set off on your next great outdoor adventure!

### Salmon fishing on the Margaree River

For generations, anglers have been lured to the Margaree's tumbling rapids, deep pools, and still marshes. This popularity has attracted the TV show *The New Fly Fisher*, which chose the Margaree River as its first Nova Scotia location. Arrange a fishing guide to help you try your luck.

### Kayaking off Northern Cape Breton

One of the most spectacular paddling destinations in North America, this remote and rugged coast offers magnificent cliffs, sea caves, unique rock formations, and the occasional whale passerby. The challenging nature of this environment is only suited for experienced paddlers, and a guided tour is recommended.

### Whale watching

Pods of Atlantic pilot whales spend their summers gorging on squid just off the shores of Pleasant Bay and Chéticamp. Book a Zodiac tour to view these highly social sea creatures, which are sometimes as intrigued by you as you are by them. Along with many species of whales, chances are you'll see porpoises, seals, and seabirds while out on the open water. The best times to see whales are in the summer and fall months. Don't miss stopping into the Whale Interpretive Centre in Pleasant Bay with knowledgeable interpreters and interactive exhibits.

### Puffin-viewing boat tour

These cute, stocky seabirds summer in large colonies on coastal cliffs and rocky offshore islands before making their way south in the fall. Due to the remoteness of their nesting areas, a boat tour to sites like the Bird Islands—Hertford and Ciboux—is the best way to view them.

### Cape Smokey

Pay a visit to this four-season adventure centre. Take in the views as you ride Atlantic Canada's first gondola to the top of Cape Smokey; also a spectacular way to view the fall foliage. During the winter months ski, snowboard, cross-country ski or snowshoe; in summer enjoy paddleboard and kayak rentals, hikes and ice cream from the Summit Shack at the top of the mountain.

### Skyline Trail Parking Reservations

From June 26–October 25, 2026 parking reservations are required at Skyline Trail in Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Visit [www.parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ns/cbreton](http://www.parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ns/cbreton) for more information.

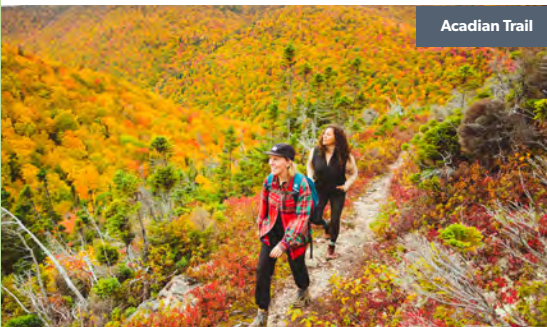
Fly fishing on the Margaree River



Kayaking in Dingwall Harbour



Acadian Trail



Mkwesagtuk / Cap-Rouge Campground





Ingonish Beach, Cape Breton Highlands National Park



Skyline Trail, Cape Breton Highlands National Park

## Cycling the Cabot Trail

Named one of the top ten cycling destinations in the world by *Lonely Planet*, the Cabot Trail is a must-do on every cycling enthusiast's itinerary. The nearly 300 kilometres of paved roads take you along rolling terrain and up steep hills, all with a view of the open ocean. There are several tour packages available to help you make the most of this epic excursion, like those with Cabot Trail Adventures. If you prefer an independent adventure, head to Vélo Max Cycling in Chéticamp to rent a bike and pick up cycling supplies before hitting the hills. Visit [cyclenovascotia.ca](http://cyclenovascotia.ca) to download route maps and GPS coordinates.

## Tube the Margaree River

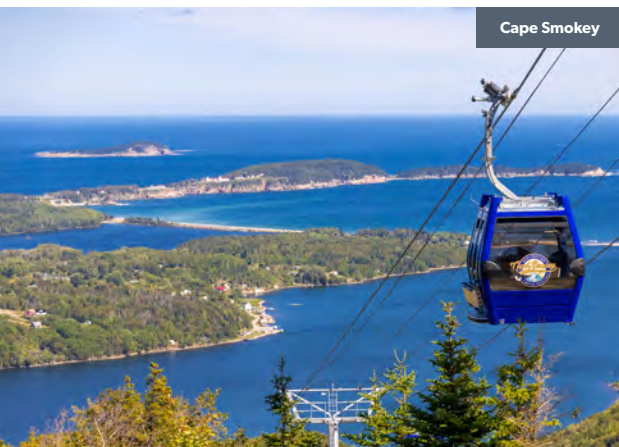
Take a break and relax on the world-famous Margaree River with Live Life in Tents. Let the currents carry you downstream as you dip your toes in the river. Keep your eyes peeled for salmon, bald eagles, and the occasional otter.

## Highland Bow & Arrow, Wreck Cove

This roadside archery attraction on the Cabot Trail in Skir Dhu, near Wreck Cove, focuses on traditional archery, providing a variety of recurve and longbow choices to try. Bows range according to age and ability.

## Sail the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region

While visiting the lakeside community of Baddeck, set sail with Sailing CBI to explore the Bras d'Or Lake. This large inland sea is part fresh- and part saltwater, allowing it to sustain diverse ecosystems and wildlife, including many bald eagles. The gentle fog-free waters, beautiful anchorages, and hundreds of coves and islands make the Bras d'Or Lake the perfect sailing destination.



# 48 Hours Exploring

## Judique to Ingonish

Mix and match these 48-hour road trips located throughout this guide to create a Nova Scotia adventure all your own or click [here](#) for more itineraries and trip ideas.

### Day 1

#### Morning

Park the car at the **Celtic Music Interpretive Centre** and enjoy a bike ride (bring your own) or hike along the **Celtic Shores Coastal Trail**. Head back to the centre for a lively lunchtime ceilidh.

#### Afternoon

Head just a few kilometres up Route 19 to **Glenora Distillery** for a tasting of North America's first single malt whisky. Then, continue to the beachside community of Inverness for an afternoon splashing in the waters of **Inverness Beach**. Golfers will enjoy a round at world-renowned **Cabot Cape Breton**.

#### Evening

End your day in the Acadian community of **Chéticamp**. Enjoy a locally inspired and casual dinner at **L'Abri** or try a traditional Acadian dish at **Le Gabriel's**.

### Day 2

#### Morning

Get an early start ahead of the crowds and head out to hike the **Skyline Trail** in **Cape Breton Highlands National Park**. Be sure to book your hiking time on the Parks Canada website prior to visiting.

#### Afternoon

Spend the afternoon looking for **whales** and other marine life with a tour out of **Pleasant Bay**. Continue on the **Cabot Trail** pulling off the road at one of the designated viewing spots to check out this incredible coastal roadway.

#### Evening

Dip your toes at **Freshwater Lake**. The calm water makes for the perfect way to end your day with the green, rolling highlands as a backdrop. Hiking trails, playground, and canteen onsite. Stay at the campground on Ingonish Beach in an **oTENTik** or at a cottage, cabin or inn nearby.

# BRAS D'OR LAKE



# Discover the Island's inland sea



Stunning scenery is a fact of life in Nova Scotia, and that is especially true in the Bras d'Or Lake region. Literally translated as "Arm of Gold," the name surely was inspired by the sunsets over Canada's only inland sea. With a complex sequence of barrier beaches, rocky headlands, barachois ponds, and wetlands, it is no surprise that the area is a designated UNESCO Biosphere Region.

Here, you can connect with vibrant Mi'kmaq and Gaelic cultures. Experience Eskasoni Cultural Journeys on Goat Island to hear local stories, songs, and drumming, while learning about Mi'kmaq ways of life past and present. Immerse yourself in Gaelic culture at the Highland Village Museum | Baile nan Gàidheal and experience North America's only living history museum for Gaelic language and culture. Tour the historic buildings and award-winning exhibits in the new Welcome Centre, try hands-on activities, and be sure to stop by the Village Store for Gaelic-inspired gifts, baked goods or a takeaway charcuterie box to enjoy on your adventures.

Pick up picnic supplies and visit the St. Peter's Canal National Historic Site, where you will learn how the canal has provided a link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Bras d'Or Lake for over 140 years.



## Outdoor adventures

*The Bras d'Or Lake region offers outdoor enthusiasts an array of adventures for every age.*

### Step aboard the Puffin Express

#### Bird Island Boat Tours

Just off the coast of Big Bras d'Or, the dramatic Bird Islands rise from the sea like rocky pillars. Take a tour with Bird Island Boat Tours to see thousands of nesting sea birds, including razorbills, kittiwakes, and over 300 pairs of Atlantic puffins.

### Golf lakeside

The incredible lake views will inspire you to play your best 18 holes on our acclaimed courses. Choose from Dundee Resort & Golf Club or The Lakes Golf Club.

### Cruise the lake

Known for gentle, fog-free waters, beautiful anchorages, and hundreds of coves and islands, the Bras d'Or Lake is also part of the UNESCO Biosphere Region. Take a sailing cruise of the lake with Cape Breton Sailing Charters, or Amoeba Tours. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, cormorants, and herons. You can also brush up on your sailing skills or take an introductory lesson.

### Canal Landing Sweet Grass Excursion

Discover how the Mi'kmaq harvest sweet grass on a two-hour guided excursion with your local expert. Sweet grass, a culturally significant plant, is used by the Mi'kmaq for traditional ceremonies, crafting and cleansing of the mind, spirit, body, and soul. Hike along a moderate trail as you explore nature, visit historic landmarks, and enjoy the beautiful aroma of sweet grass.



## Not-to-be-missed experiences

There's history, culture, and beauty waiting to be discovered. The following offers you the definitive Bras d'Or Lake experience.

### Vineyard on the hill

#### Marble Mountain Estates, River Denys

Marble Mountain Estates is the first and only estate winery on Cape Breton Island. Enjoy the view from its location perched upon Marble Mountain overlooking the Bras d'Or Lake. Stop in to sample and purchase some wine, or ask for a glass at local restaurants.

### Learn a story

#### Wagmatcook Culture & Heritage Centre

Experience the music, storytelling, nature, food, language, and spirituality of Nova Scotia's first people, the Mi'kmaq, in a beautiful setting on the shores of the sparkling Bras d'Or Lake.

### GRÁ Sustainable Farm

Translated from Gaelic, GRÁ means "love". This 150-acre sustainable farm located on the Bras d'Or Lake grows produce, herbs, flowers, and animals using farming techniques that protect the environment and foster the development of healthy living. Dine on food grown just a few feet away, prepared using traditional cooking techniques with an emphasis on seasonality, freshness and a menu that accommodates what is harvested from the garden and surrounding area on a daily basis.



Eskasoni Cultural Journeys

## Unexpected discoveries

### Eskasoni Cultural Journeys, Eskasoni First Nation

Take in this Indigenous cultural experience on Goat Island, part of Eskasoni First Nation, the largest Mi'kmaq community in the world. Experience Goat Island with a guided tour where you take part in a smudging ceremony, learn basketry, traditional dance, and hunting and fishing techniques, enjoy drumming and singing and a traditional snack of luskinigan and tea. Join an interpreter on a Medicine Walk Tour learning about age-old medicinal remedies or embark on a guided kayak tour. Self-guided tours are also available.

### Discover the Bras d'Or Lake UNESCO Biosphere

Experience the Bras d'Or Lake UNESCO Biosphere up close and hands-on at the Àros na Mara Centre of Learning and Discovery. Interact with a touch tank and gain a snapshot of the unique ecosystem of the biosphere.

### Taste local craft beer

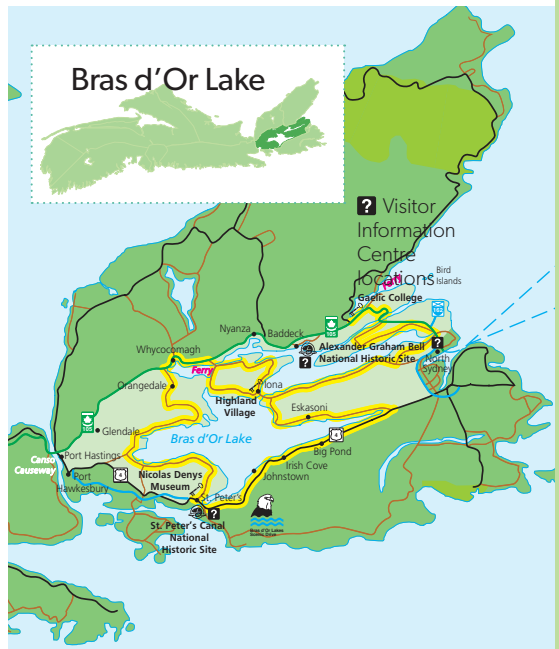
#### Big Spruce Brewing, Nyanza

Using certified organic hops grown on their farm, Big Spruce Brewing crafts microbrews with fun names like Cereal Killer Oatmeal Stout and Kitchen Party Pale Ale. Choose your pint while relaxing in their tasting room, overlooking the Bras d'Or Lake.

### Stroll through a Gaelic village

#### Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village Museum, Iona

Fàilte! Costumed interpreters greet you in Gaelic at this 43-acre living history museum and share the stories of their ancestors while you tour the 11 historic buildings. Enjoy songs, stories and music of Nova Scotia's Gaelic-speaking people at traditional ceilidhs. For an immersive encounter check out the Living History Program where you dress in period attire and experience what life was like for our Gaelic ancestors. (Note: space is limited). Perched upon Cape Breton hills, overlooking the Bras d'Or Lake, the sunsets viewed from this historic village are not to be missed.



# FLEUR-DE-LIS & MARCONI TRAILS



Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site

Fleur-de-lis / Marconi / Sydney Area

NovaScotia.com

# Living history and a lively port city

The Fleur-de-lis Trail begins at the Canso Causeway and winds its way along the southeastern part of Cape Breton Island, where Acadian fishing villages dot the coast, hugged by untouched wilderness.

From the Fleur-de-lis Trail, continue onto the Marconi Trail, where a storied past will immerse you in its rich history. Enter the largest reconstructed fortified town in North America, the 18th-century French Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site which offers a peek into the daily lives of the costumed interpreters' personas. Descend into a coal mine with a retired coal miner at the Miners Museum in Glace Bay. At the Marconi National Historic Site, learn how the first wireless message transmitted across the Atlantic led to today's network of global communications.

Music is a vital part of life in this region. Feel the excitement at the award-winning Celtic Colours International Festival each fall. This nine-day Celtic music extravaganza brings the whole island alive with music and energy. Take in one of the shows at the Louisbourg Playhouse, a theatre-in-the-round performance venue inspired by London's 1599 Globe Theatre, or the Highland Arts Theatre in Sydney.

At the port city of Sydney, enjoy a stroll along the waterfront boardwalk. Take a selfie with the giant fiddle standing 18 metres (60 feet) tall, and savour the flavours of fresh, chef-prepared dishes inspired by the sea at one of the local restaurants overlooking Sydney Harbour. Check out the downtown shops along Charlotte Street, and don't miss the collection of locally made one-of-a-kind masterpieces at the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design.



Sydney Waterfront

## Unexpected discoveries

### LeNoir Forge Museum, Arichat

Situated on the historic Arichat waterfront, this 18th-century French blacksmith shop features a working forge, demonstrations, and a gift shop. For the history buff, the site also includes a community archive, genealogy centre, and a boat barn.

### Two Rivers Wildlife Park, Huntington

Get up close and personal with over 50 native and non-native species of wildlife like lynx and black bear at this family-friendly park and wilderness area. Enjoy the wagon and sleigh rides, playground, petting zoo, and U-fish pond. Take a nature break by exploring the hiking and cross-country ski trails.

### Savoy Theatre, Glace Bay, and Highland Arts Theatre (HAT), Sydney

These historic theatres play host to a variety of performances each year, from comedy to theatre to music. Check out the schedule of events and be sure to attend a show when you're in town.



Groundswell Pub & Inn



Drum making at Membertou Heritage Park

## Not-to-be-missed experiences

Finding it tough to choose an itinerary? The following suggestions will help you enjoy the richest experiences in Sydney and along the Fleur-de-lis and Marconi trails.

### 18th century life

#### Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site

Experience the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, North America's largest historical reconstruction set in a breathtaking coastal landscape. Immerse yourself in an 18<sup>th</sup> century world through costumed animators, family activities, hiking trails, and more. Discover the many cultures that helped shape Canada through authentic music, dance, language, craft and culinary experiences. Extend your stay, camping under the stars within the Fortress walls. Connect with a land that is filled with memory and share in fun experiences that will last a lifetime.

### Take a ghost tour... if you dare

#### Ghosts & Legends of Historic Sydney

Join in a spine-chilling ghost tour through the haunted streets of historic Northend Sydney. Costumed guides take you through haunted heritage homes and graveyards, entralling you with stories of ghostly residents. Skeletons in the cellar, bodies under the floorboards, tales of ghostly visions, and the location of a triple execution—this is just a sample of the spooky stories of Old Sydney that await you!



Lartigue House



Governor's Pub & Eatery

## 48 Hours Exploring

### Baddeck to Louisbourg

Mix and match these 48-hour road trips located throughout this guide to create a Nova Scotia adventure all your own or click [here](#) for more itineraries and trip ideas.

#### Day 1

##### Morning

Enjoy a morning sail on the Bras d'Or Lake with **Cape Breton Sailing Charters**. Then, experience a White Glove Tour at the **Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site**.

##### Afternoon

Visit **Membertou Heritage Park** to experience authentic Mi'kmaw culture. Take part in a hands-on, immersive cultural experiences, guided tours, explore exhibits, browse the gift shop and dine at **Kiju's Restaurant** nearby.

##### Evening

End your day in Sydney. Walk along the waterfront, see the noteworthy **"Giant Fiddle"**, and stroll downtown Sydney for dining and unique shops, including the **Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design**.

#### Day 2

##### Morning

You can easily spend the entire day at the **Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site**. From firing a cannon or musket to rum tasting to children's programming and the Mi'kmaw Interpretive Centre, you want to allow yourself lots of time to experience all that's available here.

##### Afternoon

If you have time after your visit to the Fortress, check out the **Old Town Trail**, or **Lighthouse Trail** which offer impressive views of the Fortress.

##### Evening

Extend your Louisbourg adventure into an overnight stay. Spend the night at the Fortress of Louisbourg in the period-style **Lartigue House**. Propane camp stove and lanterns are provided along with access to a fire pit. Be sure to make reservations in advance.

## Find your inner artist

### Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design, Sydney

Art and craft often mirror our heritage, our lifestyle, and our geography. Check out one of the workshops exploring creativity and innovation at all skills levels and browse the centre for a one of a kind souvenir that was crafted in Cape Breton.

## Follow the footsteps of our settlers

### Old Town Trail, Louisbourg

Every footprint tells a story on these historic trails, offering impressive views of the Fortress of Louisbourg and its rugged coast. The 2.25-kilometre Old Town Trail lies just outside the fortress walls, with interpretive panels telling the story of the people who once lived and worked there. The trail begins at the Stella Maris Cemetery and ends near the site of the original fortified town.

## Visit the birthplace of wireless communications

### Marconi National Historic Site, Glace Bay

Guglielmo Marconi sent the very first wireless message across the Atlantic Ocean from this site in 1902, ushering in a new era of communications and technology.

## Walk in the miners' footsteps

### Cape Breton Miners Museum, Glace Bay

Learn about the life and struggle of Cape Breton coal miners as you tour the Ocean Deeps Colliery coal mine. Your guide, a retired coal miner, will share his personal stories and first-hand knowledge of mining. Complete your tour with a meal at the Miners Village Restaurant.

## Mi'kmaq culture: then and now

### Membertou Heritage Park, Membertou

Learn about the history and culture that the Mi'kmaq of Membertou maintain to this day. Browse through Petroglyphs Gift Shop, which specializes in traditional and contemporary Mi'kmaq arts and crafts. Take a piece home to remember your visit.

## Tour the Sydney fossil cliffs

### Cape Breton Fossil Centre, Sydney Mines

Allow your imagination to take you back in time, from the lush green forests of today to the Carboniferous era, 270–350 million years ago. Guided tours of the fossil centre and the nearby fossil cliffs, where visitors can walk the beach and find fossils to be identified by the on-site geologist available.



## Fleur-de-lis/Marconi/Sydney Area

