

the magic & adventure of cape breton island

BY TIFFANY THORNTON

Now is the time to rediscover Nova Scotia's masterpiece and experience the magical effects that Cape Breton Island has on all who visit. National Geographic has named it one of the top 20 places in the WORLD to visit in 2013, and for Nova Scotians, it's just across the causeway.

The island is filled with majestic nature and awe-inspiring grandeur, where sweeping vistas are found at every turn. The topography is rugged, yet accessible for visitors to explore.

Among its many and continuous accolades, The Cabot Trail is also celebrated by National Geographic as "one of the world's greatest driving tours". This ride will take you on a winding journey around magnificent, lush mountains boasting staggering scenes at every turn. As you ascend higher, a must-see is the Skyline Hiking Trail. You will know you have arrived when all of a sudden you are enveloped by majestic, breath-taking views that leave you feeling like you are on top of the world.

This land of intrigue and inspiration is also steeped in living history, which can be found throughout the island with experiences like a visit to the thriving Gaelic College where fiddles and bagpipes often serenade, or at the Highland Village where Scottish Gaelic comes alive through authentically costumed animators in a stunning setting. Or experience The Eskasoni Cultural Journey where the Eskasoni First Nation has partnered with the Highland Village to offer a multi-cultural tour showcasing the common threads linking these two cultures in history and present day, all within the scenic surroundings of Cape Breton's own Unesco Designated Biosphere Reserve, the Bras d'Or Lake.

In addition, Cape Breton has a long, rich Acadian history which can be experienced in communities such as scenic Arichat and idyllic Cheticamp. In the Cheticamp region, where the village is alive with culture, you can sample Acadian foods, witness the incredible workmanship of world renowned rug-hooking, or perhaps even test out your French.

Speaking of where history meets scenery, this year marks the 300th anniversary of The Fortress of Louisbourg. It is the perfect time to visit and take in the undeniable history that

helped to define this great country of ours. Countless activities and celebrations will be taking place this season, and it is a once in a lifetime opportunity that's not to be missed.

All of these adventures can make for a ravenous appetite, and what better place to feast upon a bounty of great food than Cape Breton Island? No matter when you visit this season, the lobster is fresh and culinary delightful, but if you are looking for a unique foodie experience, The Right Some Good Movable Feast runs from August 22 to September 1. It's a "gourmet pop-up dining festival" that features thirteen world-class chefs preparing various mouth-watering menus daily around the island, in places such as Inverness, Cheticamp, Baddeck and more. In addition, musicians will take to the stage nightly to entertain the crowd of loyal foodies.

Whatever your interest may be, Cape Breton has something to offer all of us. There is no time like the present to enjoy this place of magic and adventure that is right on our very own doorstep...a place your heart will never leave.

"...a place your heart will never leave"



Festival of Golf
CAPE BRETON ISLAND
SEPTEMBER 2 - 8, 2013

CABOT LINKS

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golf in cape breton

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Cape Breton Island is unparalleled in its sheer beauty. It is a place so distinctive in the variance of its terrain that it is truly unlike any other. The Atlantic Ocean hugs the rugged shoreline at every turn. Across the rolling hills, hues of yellows and green mesh together to form a stunning landscape of colour that is almost reflective of a Monet painting. National Geographic has hailed it as one of the world's "must see" places.

In addition to Cape Breton Island's beauty, it is also a golfer's paradise. It is rapidly becoming a premiere golf destination, offering unrivalled courses that would even challenge professional golfers. Forbes Magazine has dubbed it "the hottest island in golf."

Cape Breton's Highland Links is consistently ranked among the top golf courses in Canada, and Golf Digest has ranked it as one of the top 100 courses in Canada and the world. Pretty impressive, and it is evident right from the moment you tee off, as each hole is shaped to mirror the stunning scenery of the Atlantic Ocean and Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Cabot Links is Canada's only authentic links, reminiscent of the geography of Scotland or Ireland, with its splendid views of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and holes spread out towards the sea. It was also

named the Best New Course in Canada by SCOREGolf Magazine in 2012, and this year was among the top 10 of Canada's best courses, according to Golf Digest. The unprecedented media attention to this course, where you can hear the sound of the ocean waves crashing against the shore as you leave your stress behind and spend the day outdoors enjoying an old-world golf experience, has enhanced Cape Breton Island as a premiere golf destination.

Bell Bay golf resort can be found in the idyllic town of Baddeck, which is known for being the summer home of Alexander Graham Bell (hence the name "Bell Bay"). Awarded 'Best New Course in Canada' by Golf Digest in 1998, Bell Bay sits high above Cape Breton's Inland sea – the Bras d'Or Lakes – offering panoramic views from virtually every hole. Bell Bay is also set in a location with an interesting history, as it is the place where Bell's Silver Dart made the first successful airplane flight in Commonwealth in 1909, and is today the home to a museum showcasing his work. Take in vivid views of the lakes at every turn, as you golf the day away.

Parlez-vous français? Why not try the Le Portage Golf Club located in the Acadian Village of Cheticamp. Le Portage is on the world-renowned Cabot Trail and is surrounded by stunning mountain views. All 18 holes have French names - Hole 3 is "La Couléche" (named after a nearby mountain) and the 18th Hole is called "Les 14 Vieux," as a tribute to the 14 founding fathers of Cheticamp. While standing in the tee box you can take in the beautiful Cape Breton Highlands National Park all around you.

Perhaps the biggest event of all this summer is the Festival of Golf, a week-long series of golf events across the island that coincides with a PGA Tour Canada event, the 2013 Cape Breton Celtic Classic, from September 2 to 8 at The Lakes Golf Club in Ben Eoin.

The Lakes is the Island's most played course and features dramatic elevation changes and spectacular views of the beautiful Bras d'Or Lake. It offers multiple experiences to golfers because of the changing winds, slopes and elevation, and was named 'Best New Course in Atlantic Canada' by SCOREGolf in 2010.

The Festival of Golf kicks off at Le Portage, which is hosting a junior clinic and junior Celtic Cup. There will also be a Charity Pro-Am at The Lakes Golf Club, and Highland Links will be home to the Cape Breton 'Kilted' Classic. The festival wraps up at Cabot Links with "Ladies on the Links," a women's golf clinic, and a chance to Play with a Pro, while the final two rounds of the Celtic Classic wrap up.

The Festival of Golf is the ultimate golf experience for players of all skill levels, and the finishing touch on an incredible season of golf on Cape Breton Island. Grab your clubs and leave all your stress behind as you set out on a Cape Breton golfing adventure at one of these fantastic courses.

For more information on the Festival of Golf, or any of Cape Breton's courses/events, visit www.golfcapebreton.com

