

# In Port

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## Sydney, Nova Scotia

### History

No one knows exactly when the Micmac (*Malecite*) tribes first reached Nova Scotia. Likely descendants of migrating nomads that had wandered across the Bering Land Bridge thousands of years ago. Eventually, roaming clans populated two continents. Though there were occasional skirmishes, the Micmacs cherished their paradise and lived in relative harmony—until the end of the 15th century.

John Cabot reached Cape Breton Island, but it is not clear whether he landed or only sighted the land. French explorers established the first settlement in 1605 at Port Royal. Trappers and fishermen had lived in the region for some years, but the port was the first to be formally declared. *Nova Scotia (New Scotland)* was the name given by King James I

### What's Ashore

#### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

St. Patrick's Church is Cape Breton Island's oldest Roman Catholic Church. Built in 1828, the Gothic church is carefully preserved as Sydney's historic archive. Artifacts recall the pioneer era, which did not always match idyllic folk tales.

#### COSSIT HOUSE

Built in 1878 as the official home for Reverend Rana Cossit, Sydney's first Anglican Minister, Cossit House is also in the old part of the city near the church. The restored home is furnished in period style and includes some of Cossit's own personal effects. Docents dressed in traditional costumes guide visitors through the home at 75 Charlotte Street, daily until mid-October.

Nearby **Jost Heritage House** (*circa*

### In case of emergency contact:

F.K. Warren Limited (Sydney) 20 Macintosh Avenue Port Hawkesbury  
Nova Scotia Canada, Phone: 902-625-2823

### Port Particulars

Sydney is filled with public parks. Wentworth Park surrounds a pleasant pond that is home to a variety of local birds. Cape Breton remains as one of Canada's most breathtaking scenic wilderness areas. The pristine area draws many summer visitors, and the resort community of Baddeck, on the other side of the island, was Alexander Graham Bell's home. Keep your camera ready as you cruise the pristine coast.

**Going Ashore:** The ship is scheduled to dock at the **Port of Sydney\***

**Shop til you drop** along the Charlotte Street between Prince and Amelia Streets

**Official Languages:** French, English

**Currency:** Canadian *dollar*

**Info:** Pier (on arrival)

**Net:** Esplanade

### In Port Shopping

Your All Ashore Port & Shopping Ambassador is your personal guide to the best shopping and savings ashore, and will be available to you throughout the voyage with shopping tips and advice. Learn about all of the ports of call by attending the fun and informative Port & Shopping Talks throughout the cruise. Be sure to check your Daily Program for times and locations for your Port & Shopping Ambassador's desk hours, Port & Shopping Talks, and special seminars onboard. Take advantage of the amazing dutyfree prices that are found in the guaranteed and recommended shops in the ports of call. See the reverse side of this program for the Holland America Line guaranteed and recommended shopping map. Be sure to carry this map with you ashore. It will save you valuable time and money while shopping

in his 1621 charter to British claimants led by William Alexander. There was violent fighting in the Americas. French and British troops passed lands back and forth in centuries-long tug-o-wars. The Micmacs were soon too weak from new European diseases to resist. By the end of the 18th century, exploratory expeditions set out from “established” colonies in New York and New Hampshire. Immigrants were still arriving in search of “streets paved with gold” only to find that land in the newly independent America was already claimed. In 1785, Colonel JFW DesBarres led a group of *Loyalists* to Cape Breton Island and named the new colony of Sydney for British Colonial Secretary Lord Sydney. Within a few decades, a large influx of Celtic immigrants solidified the community, which served as capital of the Cape Breton colony until it merged with Nova Scotia in 1820.

The port continued to grow with the introduction of a productive steel industry during the 19th century, but unlike many industrial North American towns, the environment was carefully preserved. The foresight paid off when industry began to falter and the city turned to its natural beauty for survival. Many cities in Maritime Canada were not so lucky. Be on deck for the approach and arrival in port. Although Sydney shows some vestiges of its commercial heyday, the air is the cleanest you will find anywhere. ✱

1787) was built by a prosperous local merchant. Also preserved as a museum, the wooden home, at 54 Charlotte Street, has an authentic cooking fireplace and bake-oven and special displays about local marine artifacts and an apothecary shop. The structure is a fine example of a colonial-era wooden house.

#### CAPE BRETON CENTRE

Cape Breton Centre for Science and Heritage hosts a series of changing exhibits in his display halls at the Lyceum Building, 225 George St. The children’s exhibit is **Discovery Corner**, and the shop stocks a collection of books covering local topics, along with souvenirs and fine jewelry.

#### FORT LOUISBOURG

The first French colonists landed at Louisbourg in 1713. As they competed with the British for control of North America, strategic placement became increasingly important. Fighting was nearly constant throughout the 17th century, and finally, in 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht was signed, and much of the territory, including Newfoundland, and what are now the Maritime Provinces, was ceded to English control. The French retained Cape Breton, and their fortress at Louisbourg commanded the entrance to the St. Lawrence River. This posed a problem for the British. Even though they controlled the lands upriver, they

*(continued on reverse)*

## Historic Footprints

- c1000AD Leif Ericsson and others visit Newfoundland and Labrador. Settlement is established at L’Anse aux Meadows.
- 1497 Venetian Giovanni Caboto (*aka* John Cabot) lands at Newfoundland and claims Cape Breton Island in the name of King Henry VII.
- 1521 Portuguese navigator Joao Alvares Fagundes leads a few settlers to Cape Breton. Their fate is still unknown.
- 1535 Jacques Cartier, names Canada by misunderstanding the native word *Kannata* (a grouping of small huts) to be the local name for the land.
- 1666 Canada’s first census counts 3,215 non-native inhabitants in 668 families. Native families are not even counted.
- 1669 British Parliament forbids settlement in Newfoundland to protect cod trade.
- 1753 George Washington marches into *Monogahela*. French troops stop him.
- 1763 *Treaty of Paris*. France cedes its North American possessions to Britain.
- 1812 War of 1812. The 49th parallel is the Canadian-US border – still the world’s longest undefended border.
- 1867 Canada is made a sovereign nation under the *British North America Act*. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick are united as the Dominion of Canada. Sir John A. Macdonald is the first prime minister.
- 1962 The first section of Montréal’s underground city is built as an experimental design geared toward inclement weather.
- 1965 Maple leaf flag (Feb. 15).
- 1967 Expo ’67 in Montreal. De Gaulle is asked to leave after *Vive Quebec Libre* speech.
- 1980 Quebec votes down sovereignty. *O Canada* is the official national anthem.
- 1987 The House of Commons narrowly defeats proposed restoration of capital punishment. The first Canada-US Free Trade Agreement is signed.
- 1991 Canadians in Iraq.
- 1993 Jean Chrétien elected Prime Minister.
- 1994 Canada NATO forces leave Germany.
- 1997 120 nations meet in Ottawa to sign an international land mine ban. The US, China, Russia, and Iraq refuse to sign.
- 1998 Human rights tribunal grants female Canadian public servants compensation for unequal pay.
- 1999 Nunavut is a new Canadian province.

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FOR PORT MAP**

#### PORT SHOPPING BUYER’S GUARANTEE

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**\*THINGS CHANGE... Always consult your daily program for updated docking information.**

*(What's Ashore continued...)*

were unable to reach their territory without passing the French station. In 1745, British troops captured the fort, and 15 years later, they dismantled it.

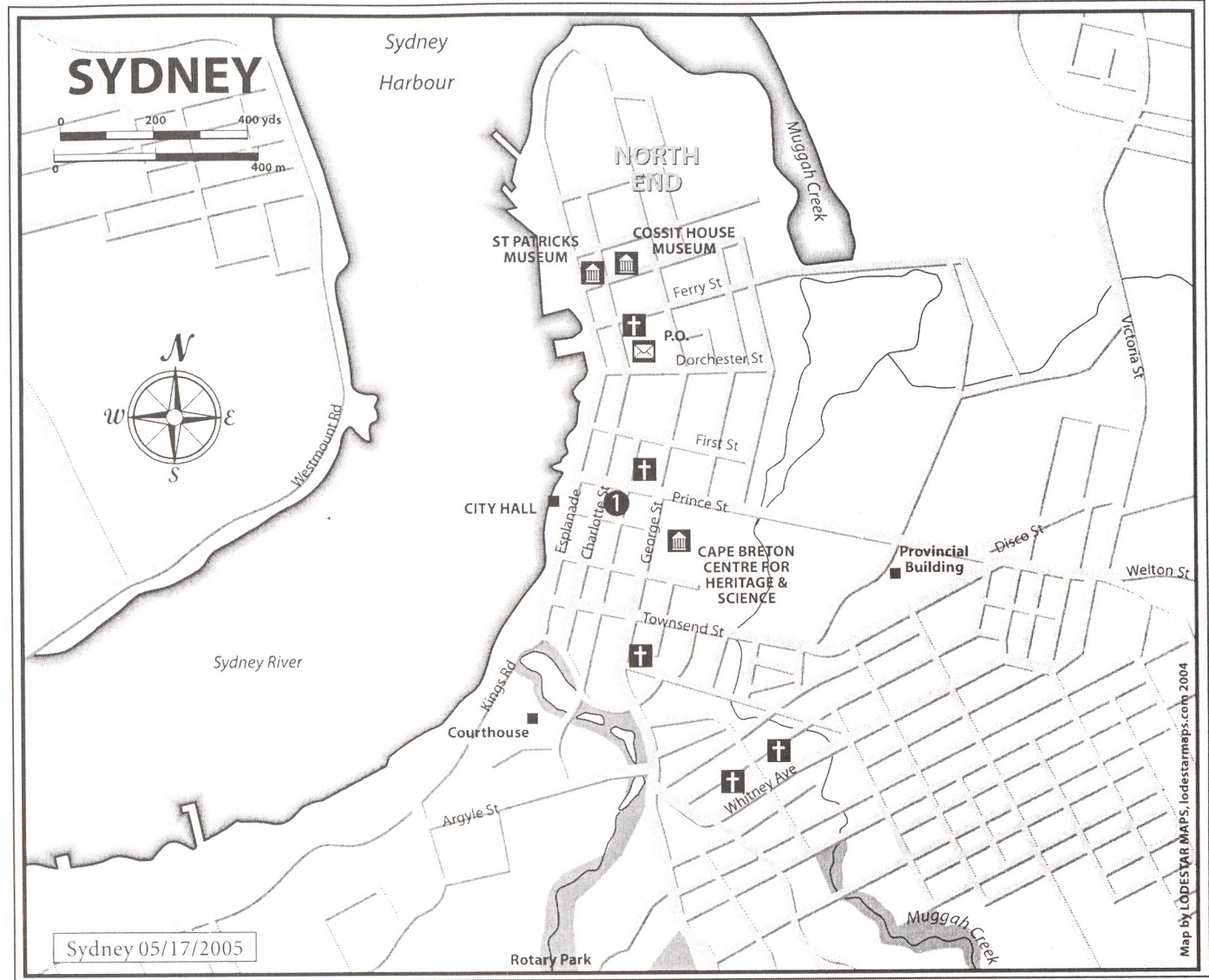
The fortress has been partially restored to its former glory. Uniformed "French soldiers" operate the restored compound as visitors watch the story of their daily lives unfold in a living history lesson! "Maids" in period costume run local pubs. All workers have a personal story to tell and will happily answer questions. Strike up a conversation and learn. The site is open summer days.

#### CASINO NOVA SCOTIA

If you are feeling lucky, the center of Sydney's local "action" is the Casino Nova Scotia. It is not a huge operation, but with nearly 400 slot machines, 7 black jack tables, a roulette table and a 3-card poker table, there is something of interest for the gambler in everyone. The centrally located casino is on George Street near the city's downtown hotels.

#### CAPE BRETON ISLAND

Cape Breton Island is one of North America's most beautiful unspoiled wilderness areas. Popular among summer residents, Cape Breton is also a historic area. Although the places listed below are on the other side of the island, it is interesting to note that they are in the region – perhaps you are already planning an extended return visit.



The center hosts a series of summer workshops geared to encourage budding young minds. There are also regular presentations on Cape Breton history. The center is just east of Baddeck and opens daily throughout the year.

#### MARCONI NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

In 1902, Guglielmo Marconi sent the

#### CAPE BRETON NATIONAL PARK

Cape Breton Highlands National Park has been established as to preserve Breton Island magnificent natural wilderness. Covering the island's northern tip, the park's more than 150 square miles are home to indigenous plant and animal life. Native residents include black bear, moose, American bald eagle, and red tailed

#### BADDECK

Baddeck on the northern shore of the inland Bras d'Or (Golden Arms) Lake was named for the Micmac phrase *abadak* ("place near the island"). A small fishing port until the 18th century, Baddeck's "discovery" led to summer cottages along the shore, shops, cafés, and golf courses.

Belying the Micmac name, the town retains strong Scottish heritage. There is even an annual Celtic festival in October. The upscale resort has its own yacht club and summer arts fair.

#### ALEXANDER BELL HISTORICAL SITE

Alexander Graham Bell was one of Baddeck's proudest seasonal residents. His descendants still own the private family summer home, and are frequent visitors. In honor of their adopted native son scientist, the community maintains a museum dedicated to his life and his historic discoveries. You may be surprised to learn that Bell was interested in much more than electricity and communications. His experiments investigated genetics, and techniques for working with deaf people. His powerful hydrofoil broke existing speed records.

first wireless to a receiving station in England. The revolutionary event changed the course of human history and represented the birth of modern communications using magnetic waves instead of wires.

Marconi was well-known and respected as a scientist during his life, so when he arrived in Sydney Harbor aboard the Royal Italian Navy warship *Carlo Alberto* people turned out to see what was afoot. The Italian had made history the year before by receiving a Morse code signal from a station atop Signal Hill (named for the event) in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The plan had been put in place the year before and by 1902, four 200-foot high aerial towers had been installed at the chosen **Table Head** site. Some adjustment was necessary, but the experiment was a success and 6 years later, the first public wireless service was operating. His Marconi process took the world by storm and the Marconi Company grew powerful between the two World Wars.

The Cape Breton Station (now managed by the Canadian Park Service) operated until 1946. Inside, displays follow the inventor's life and include examples of the original equipment that was used in wireless transmissions along with explanations about the science behind them.

hawk. During the season, migrating and feeding whales can often be seen from the Cabot Trail that circles the park's oceanside boundary.

Enjoying the distinction as the oldest national park in Canada's maritime provinces, the landscape reveals a striking similarity with the Scottish highlands. The official Visitor's Information Center at Chéticamp offers maps and printed material describing the park's various natural treasures. A guided walk is the best way to experience the park. Hikers are advised to wear comfortable non-skid shoes. The Line encourages passengers to use good safety sense. Hike in unfamiliar terrain only with an experienced guide and never hike alone.

#### IONA

Named by homesick highlanders, the small village of Iona will be the last bastion of Scottish heritage in North America. Many residents speak Gaelic. The proud residents have established their community as a living museum of Scottish heritage. The open-air museum's ten antique buildings were brought from the Cape Breton region, though you might think they were brought over from Scotland. "Residents" in period costume operate a blacksmith shop, school and store. ✱

