

Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada

Cape Breton's harbour city greets ships with a giant steel fiddle and a main street that actually lives up to its name. From Celtic pubs to the wild Cabot Trail, this is Canada's east coast at its most authentic.

 Docked (pier)  Typical call: 8-10 hrs  Canadian Dollar (CAD)  English (Gaelic heritage)

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships dock at Joan Harriss Cruise Pavilion, steps from downtown Charlotte Street

Best For: Celtic music lovers, Cabot Trail day-trippers, Canadian history

Walk to Centre: 2–3 min on foot to Charlotte Street shops, restaurants, and the Big Fiddle

Don't Miss: Photo with the world's largest Celtic fiddle at the pier, then live music at a downtown pub

 Getting around:  Taxi  CAD 15–30 ·  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Cabot Trail Highlights Drive** — The famous coastal highway loops through Cape Breton Highlands National Park.
- **Fortress of Louisbourg** — North America's largest reconstructed 18th-century French fortress sits about 40 minutes from Sydney.
- **Celtic Music & Downtown Sydney Walk** — Cape Breton is the heartland of North American Celtic music.
- **Cape Breton Miners' Museum** — In Glace Bay, 20 minutes from Sydney, retired miners lead underground tours of an actual coal seam.
- **Bras d'Or Lake Scenic Drive** — The vast inland sea of Bras d'Or Lake is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

BEST WALKS

- **Sydney Waterfront & Charlotte Street Stroll** 45–60 min | Easy | 1.5 km — Start at the Big Fiddle at the pier, walk the Esplanade boardwalk north to Wentworth Park, then loop back along Charlotte Street through downtown shops, murals, and...
- **Cossit House & Historic Core** 30–45 min | Easy | 1 km — From the pier, walk a few blocks inland to Cossit House (c).

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:14AM–7:48PM · Jun 5:09AM–8:53PM · Aug 6:00AM–8:08PM · Sep 6:39AM–7:11PM · Oct 7:18AM–6:13PM	
Apr	44°	31°	13d		
Jun	64°	50°	12d		
Aug	74°	61°	12d		
Sep	67°	55°	10d		
Oct	57°	46°	11d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book Cabot Trail early. Shore excursions selling out is a real problem in Sydney peak season (July–September). If you want a guided Cabot Trail run, reserve before you sail.
- USD works, but poorly. Most downtown shops accept US dollars, but the exchange rate offered in-store is unfavourable. Use a no-fee debit card at an ATM on Charlotte Street instead.
- Pack a layer. Cape Breton weather is famously changeable. Even a sunny Sydney morning can turn cool and foggy by afternoon — a light jacket is always worth bringing.
- Taxi to Louisbourg is negotiable. A return taxi to the Fortress of Louisbourg costs roughly CAD \$100–130 for up to 4 people — often cheaper than a ship excursion and more flexible.
- Live music is free. Many Charlotte Street pubs host afternoon fiddle sessions during port days — no cover charge. Check the Celtic Colours schedule if you're there in October.
- Eat right on the waterfront. Governors Pub & Eatery on the Esplanade is a short walk from the pier for fresh seafood, Nova Scotia craft beer, and frequent live Celtic music — a reliable close-to-ship option.

Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Membertou Heritage Park | Experience Mi'kmaq culture, history, and traditions at this heritage park. | 2 St Patrick's Church Museum | Explore local history in a beautifully preserved former church. |
| 3 Old Sydney Society | Discover Sydney's rich history through preserved buildings and exhibits. | 4 Baille Ard Trail | Enjoy scenic walking and hiking trails through beautiful woodlands. |
| 5 Cape Breton Fossil Centre/Sydney Mines Heritage Museum | See ancient fossils and learn about Sydney Mines' coal mining heritage. | 6 Worlds Largest Fiddle | See the iconic giant fiddle sculpture celebrating Celtic music. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |