



~ Your Visit ~



Fortress of Louisbourg

Definitely not "just another fort"! This meticulously reconstructed townsite and its many inhabitants recreate life in the 1700s, when France and Britain fought for control of North America. Friendly and highly knowledgeable guides and re-enactors welcome visitors to the largest historical reconstruction in North America and what was once one of the largest military and commercial centers on the continent.



Our Picturesque Harbour

Present-day Louisbourg stands out among Maritime fishing villages as it is one of the very few that has its own individual wharves at which fishermen tie up their lobster boats and are always ready to chat with curious visitors who come to look at their daily catch. Louisbourg's smaller wharves and colourful fishing boats paint a quaint and picturesque scene reminiscent of a traditional fishing village.



Louisbourg Lighthouse

Visitors who take the time to drive ten minutes or walk (about 45 minutes) to the lighthouse are always glad they did. Completed in 1924 at the site of the first lighthouse in Canada, Louisbourg's lighthouse overlooks the entrance to historic Louisbourg Harbour and marks the beginning of a coastal hiking trail that winds along Cape Breton's most rugged stretch of Atlantic coastline.



Kennington Cove Beach

Once the landing site of the invading British forces (1745 and 1758) and later, home to Scots settlers, Kennington Cove today is a favourite spot to relax and enjoy the sea and sands. Just 2 miles west of the Fortress, its beaches are arguably two of the nicest in Nova Scotia; the second one, Anson's Beach, is the most popular. We've had guests who, over a 4-5-day stay, have spent most of their time at "the Cove."



Kennelly Point Look-off

A popular picnic spot, Kennelly Point is named after the original owner of much of what today is national park property. The Kennelly house is no longer standing but you can well appreciate why it had been built on this point of land. From here you can see the harbour entrance, islands, Fortress and lighthouse, and every morning from mid-May to mid-July, the lobster fishermen out hauling traps in the harbour.

Louisbourg Playhouse

Our very own playhouse is a Cape Breton Island hotbed of Celtic music. Weekdays throughout the summer, "Spirit of the Island," an entertaining mix of comedy, singing, dance and fiddle, delights visitors and locals alike. On weekends, the music series "Soundscapes" presents renowned Island musicians who have established reputations on stages throughout the Maritimes, Canada and abroad.

S&L Railway Museum

This grouping of buildings and train cars includes a turn-of-the-century train station that today houses a visitor information center, gift shop and museum. The Sydney & Louisbourg Railway Museum provides a fascinating glimpse of the railway in its heyday and of Louisbourg's role as a major coal-shipping terminal and seaport from the late 1800s and early 1900s through to the 1950s.

The Lighthouse Trail

Photo opportunities abound along this seven-kilometre coastal trail, which begins near the Louisbourg Lighthouse. With its breathtaking scenic vistas and views of the Fortress in the distance, this newly constructed hiking trail is enjoyed by a growing number of visitors to Cape Breton as well as local residents.

Simon Point Nature Trail

A "natural beauty," this stunning stretch of coastline is located about a mile beyond the Fortress, on the way to Kennington Cove. An easy walking trail leads to Gabarus Bay, where the British fleet anchored prior to the sieges of Louisbourg. As compared to the lighthouse shore's high rock faces, the shoreline here is equally scenic but very different, having stretches of rolling grey-blue beach rocks and driftwood.

A Race Through Time

A featured race in the Run Nova Scotia series, the Race Through Time is a fun and unusual 8-mile run held in mid-August. It proceeds from present-day Louisbourg to the national park along the shore of the harbour, past Black Rock, the site of the 18th-century gallows, then through the streets of the Fortress and out through its gates, looping back to modern-day Louisbourg.