Sydney is the cruise port for Cape Breton Island, one of the world's most scenic islands with rugged Atlantic coastline, mountains, beautiful forests, and Bras d'Or saltwater Lakes. The area has a rich Celtic history of settlement by Scots and steel production using local iron ore and mining coal from under the sea. During tourist season, reenactors staff the Celtic Highland Village, Fortress Louisbourg, and other areas “taking you back in history to experience what life was like years ago”. There is also the world famous home and museum of Alexander Graham Bell, and a Coal Mine Museum with walks under the sea.

Cape Breton Island can be overwhelming; it is 4000 square miles!!! Consider these points:

• There is not much to do near the port in Sydney, PLAN an excursion to travel to the tourist sites.
• Tourism is seasonal. Most sites open mid-May to September. Cruise ships arrange for tourist sites, restaurants, etc. to be open for their bus excursions. If you are planning self guided tours, check open days and hours for the sites you plan to visit.
• Time in port is very important. To maximize sightseeing time, you want 7 to 9 hours in port. The first cruise ship to arrive docks at Sydney port, the second ship anchors in the harbor and tenders passenger into shore. You'll waste as much as 30-60 minutes each way if you tender to/from shore.
• Weather can be an issue. Fog may make it unsafe to drive over the mountains to Cabot Trail.
• Road construction along Cabot Trail in the Fall months can cause major delays.

CAVEAT
Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan
NOTE: I would like to thank Isabelle Mullaley for her extensive help with this port guide. She lives in Canada and knows this area well.
The street address for the ship's dock is “Esplanade & York St., Sydney, Nova Scotia”
The street address is important to find the dock on a Google Map or to program into your GPS.
Be sure to visit the passenger terminal. There is a small gallery with paintings and sculpture. There's a video of Cape Breton Island and a free museum displaying animals, scale models of sites such as Fortress Louisbourg and murals to introduce you to the history of the area. In the main room, you'll find a wide variety of crafts and souvenirs for sale by local artists.

Tour desks are staffed with locals. Canadians are friendly and helpful. They love people from the US as long as the conversation is not ice hockey. The tour staff can update you on current activities. For example, the local church occasionally serves a seafood lunch. The lunch gets rave reviews.

Photo tip
When the ship arrives, a thousand people rush to the Ceilidh fiddle to take a picture. I don't want a lot of people I don't know in the foreground of my photos.
To take a photo with no one in the foreground, wait until the ship is about to leave. There will be a long line of passengers boarding the, but no one will be standing in front of the fiddle.
This is the perfect time to get an unobstructed photo of the largest fiddle in the world. See photo at left.
Local Tours of Sydney
In May 2011, our ship was late getting into Sydney. Our ship's excursion to Cabot Trail was canceled due to inadequate time in port and fog. We booked the only tour available - a 2.5 hour “Historic Sydney & Coastal Drive Tour” of residential areas which included Whitney Pier Historical Museum (a house turned into a museum) and a drive along the coast to Fort Petrie. This was billed by the cruise line as the “Most Popular Tour”. I was disappointed in the tour; it was not what I wanted to see and it wasn't very picturesque.

Local ship's tours include a bus ride of the area. There's also a walking tour of a few blocks of old homes, museums, and churches near the dock. Some people visit the Coal Mine Museum which is not far from port.

The best and most popular tourist sites are outside of Sydney
- Fortress Louisbourg is world famous and it's the closest major tourist site to the cruise dock.
- Tour around the west side of Bras d'Or Lake to visit Baddeck and the Alexander Graham Bell Museum
- Tour around the east side of Bras d'Or Lake to Highland Village Museum.
- If you love beautiful scenery, Cabot Trail north to Ingonish is the place to go, but it is a long distance requiring a 7-9 hour tour. Travel time alone is about 6 hours.

Excursion Options
I describe the popular tourist sites on the following pages with some thoughts on the ship's bus excursions, private tours, and self-guided touring via a rental car. PLEASE download my Cabot Trail Island Scenic Driving Tours guide. It's a companion document to be used with this port guide.
Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site

Address  
Louisbourg, NS Canada

Typical ship excursion  
3.5 hours including 1.7 hour travel time. You could spend all day at this site.

Websites  
http://fortressoflouisbourg.ca/Overview/mid/13

The peak season is July 1st to Labour Day (first Monday in September)  9:30 am - 5:00 pm
The site is open year round but buildings will be closed and re-enactors are not present except in peak season
Adult admission is~ $7 to 17 CAD depending on the time of the year.

Fortress Louisbourg is a popular tourist site and it is relatively close to the ship. En route, you will pass through attractive scenery of rolling hills and the pristine Mira River, the longest river in Nova Scotia.

The fortress was the most expensive fortification in North America. Complaining about the high cost, the King said that it cost so much and was large enough that he expected to see it from France. It is a very large and picturesque 12 acre site with 50 buildings.

Today, it is a living museum and faithful recreation of a 250-year-old town. From July 1st to Labour Day, reenactors or animators staff the site in period costume as soldiers, musicians, merchants, street vendors, bakers, servants, and fishermen. Period homes, exhibits, and theme centers line the streets, and the waterfront.

The Fortress of Louisbourg includes two other National Historic sites; namely, Wolfe's Landing, and the Royal Battery. Collectively, these three diverse sites encompass 40 square kilometres of land along 15 kilometres of seacoast. Their landscape varies from protected harbour shores and pristine sandy beaches to rugged rocky coasts and mossy forests. (Source = Parks Canada).

BEST SOURCE OF INFORMATION on Fortress Louisbourg

The Canadian Parks Group has published a little known, but incredibly informative, summary of what to see and do in the AREA throughout the year. The summary describes the tourist seasons and suggests different ways of exploring the Fortress depending on when you will visit it.

In addition to exhaustive coverage of the Fortress Fortified City, this guide also covers the spectacular beaches at Wolfe's Landing National Historic Site with details on how to get there and what to see. There is also detailed information on five hiking trails.

It is the best written description I have ever seen by a parks group. The title is:

“Reference Guide Information on the Fortified Town, North Shore Trails, Lighthouse Area, Kennington Cove Area, and the Modern Community (June 27, 2012)”

It's a bit difficult to find this guide on the web so I posted it on my website. Be sure to download a copy of it. Use this link:  http://www.tomsportguides.com/fortress_of_louisbourg_reference_en.pdf

Excursion options:

Be sure to read the “best source of information” referenced above and check the websites to know what will be open and the level of activity at the Fortress the day you will be there.

The ship's bus excursion and private tours in a van are fine. A rental car is feasible because it's a simple, easy route of 48 Km and a 50 minute drive one way from the ship along highway 22. I doubt you will get lost, especially if you read my driving tour guide.

A rental car provides flexibility to go where you wish and spend time as you choose. I suggest the first stop as Lighthouse Cove for some photos. Then stop at the Visitor Information Center in Louisbourg to get current information on things to see and do in the area. Depending on when you visit, it might be a good time of year to see the beaches or some special events outside the Fortress. The third stop is at the Fortress Louisbourg Parks Canada Visitor Center. This is where you park your car and get a short bus ride to the entrance gate to the Fortress. At some times of the year, you drive the back road around the Fortress and park inside.

SEE my driving tour guide for details on how to get there including GPS coordinates, maps and photos.
Baddeck and the Alexander Graham Bell Museum

Note: Cruise ships offer a combined 7.5 hour tour of Baddeck, Alexander Graham Bell Museum, and Highland Village. Our tour included lunch at the Inverary Resort. It's a pricey tour but we loved it.

Why Baddeck Is A Popular Tourist Site

The most common route to Baddeck is quite scenic because it crosses Kelly's Mountain with Bras d'Or and St Ann's Look Offs to see and photograph majestic views of the lake from the top of the mountain.

Baddeck is a small village around a harbor on the west side of Bras d'Or Lake. It's surrounded by hills and was described by Alexander Graham Bell as one of the most beautiful places to live. Mr. Bell built his home on a hill overlooking the lake and did extensive research here. He was an extremely prolific inventor creating all sorts of devices. He was sensitive to the needs of hearing impaired and focused on family.

The sense of family and community is evident in the village and there are things for children. When weather permits, there are sail boat rides of the lake from the harbor and boat rides to the tiny island with the windmill. The village has a number of small shops, restaurants, a few museums, and art galleries. Activities change depending on the season, but I think it is a nice place to visit anytime of the year.
Note: On our first ship’s tour to Baddeck, the bus only stopped for a minute for us to photograph the statue of Alexander Graham Bell and his wife Mabel. Then the bus took us to the museum and to lunch. Some bus tours give you time to walk around Baddeck. If you have time, stop at the Visitor Information Center at Chebucto & Twining St (see map below). Get information at the Visitor Center on current events, tourist site open hours, restaurants, shopping, etc. The boardwalk is a “must see” along Water St. View boats in the harbor, the lighthouse, and take pictures of your friends sitting on the bench next to statues of Alexander Graham Bell and his wife Mabel.
The Baddeck website =  http://www.visitbaddeck.com/

**Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site**

Address  
559 Chebucto Street, Baddeck, NS B0E 1B0, Canada

Ship’s tour length  
4 hours including 2 hours bus travel time

Website  

Normal open hours  
May 1 to October 31 (2011) - Daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Phone  
(902) 295-2069

The Alexander Graham Bell museum is one of Nova Scotia’s finest national historic sites. Set just a few meters back from the waters of Bras d’Or Lakes, it commemorates the life and work of the man who created the telephone from his Baddeck home, Beinn Bhreagh, along with a slew of other inventions.

You’ll want at least 2 hours to find out about Bell’s man-carrying kites, a record-breaking hydrofoil and how he taught deaf people to speak.

The museum is particularly good at involving children. There’s a special discovery area for kids, where you’ll often see demonstrations of experiments. Then there’s the chance to dress up in period clothing that Bell and his wife Mabel would have worn. Kite-making workshops are staged occasionally. Phone ahead to find out when the next one is scheduled.
Highland Village Museum/An Clachan Gàidhealach

Address 4119 Highway 223 Iona, NS, B2C 1A3 Canada
Ship’s tour length 3.5 hours including 2 hours bus travel time
Normal open hours June 1 to October 16 (2011) - Daily 9:30 am to 5:30 pm
Phone (902) 725-2272

NOTE: We took an all day cruise ship bus tour that included a 5 minute stop at the harbor in Baddeck, a visit to the Alexander Graham Bell Museum, a fantastic seafood buffet lunch at Inverary Resort, and about an hour stop at Highland Village. The driving route circled Bras d'Or Lake and was quite scenic. The tour was expensive, but we loved it. **Important: Cruise ships can arrange for tourist sites to be open for their bus tour groups when the site is “closed” to the public. Highland Village was open for our bus tour. Workers locked the buildings and closed the site for the winter as we were leaving. If you are traveling on your own, know when the site is open to the public.**

The vision of the Highland Village Museum/An Clachan Gàidhealach is to be internationally acknowledged for advancing research, fostering appreciation, learning and sharing authentic Gaelic language and heritage while serving a vibrant Gaelic cultural community. The mission of the Highland Village Museum/An Clachan Gàidhealach, a living history museum, is to research, collect, preserve and share the Gaelic heritage and culture of Nova Scotia and represent it accurately and vibrantly. The Highland Village is focused on growing Gaelic language and cultural interpretive programming on site as well as working with the wider community to facilitate the reconstruction of Gaelic language in Nova Scotia. (Source: Canada Parks)

The village is on a large, attractive site with scenic views and buildings representing the history of construction in the area beginning with stone huts. It has a farm, a complete village with homes, a church, a schoolhouse, and buildings used by tradesmen such as a blacksmith. There are reenactors in period costume to greet you as you enter the buildings and explain what life was like. The visitor center has an excellent collection of souvenirs and good prices on books about Cape Breton. It's a great place to visit and to take postcard photos!
The site is on a hill. Take your time and it is easy to walk. This is an excellent site to take postcard photos because the buildings, the farm implements, and the farm animals are “staged” in beautiful settings. I couldn’t get the horse to pose for my photo, but it was a beautiful animal.

We were greeted by re-enactors in period costume in several of the buildings. They explained the site and were charming people. The blacksmith was at work in his shop.

We were treated with refreshments at the visitor center. I loved this site and highly recommend visiting it.
Watch for eagles on the railroad bridge

About 1.8 km and a 2 minute ride from Highland Village, you will cross the bridge at Barra Strait. The road bridge runs parallel to a railroad bridge. There are birds on the bridge. Our bus tour guide called our attention to an eagle perched on the bridge (photo below). It's a lousy photo taken through the moving bus window.

Depending on whether your tour circles the lake from the Highland Village or Baddeck side will determine whether the bridge is before of after Highland Village. Ask your bus driver. If you are driving in a rental car, I have provided details on the exact location of this bridge in my driving tour guide. Slow down or stop on the bridge, open the window and take a good photo.

Excursion options:

CAVEAT: I don't have an agenda to promote one type of excursion. My goal is to provide information, which I believe to be accurate, to help describe your options. It's your choice and your responsibility for the decisions you make regarding where and how you tour.

The ship's bus tour I took to this area was excellent. Although I did not tour the Bras d'Or Lake area with him, I'm confident the private tour guide, Don Blackwood would give you an excellent tour of this area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Don Blackwood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackwood Tours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>654 Willow St, New Waterford, NS, B1H 3W4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 902-862-3791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:donblackwood@seascape.ns.ca">donblackwood@seascape.ns.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Renting a car for a tour is not for everyone, but I like to drive because I want to stop at every scenic spot to take photos. I consider this a moderate distance, potentially challenging driving tour:

- If you just drive to Baddeck, it's 87 km and 1 hour 8 minutes driving time one way.
- If you just drive to Highland Village, it's 70 km and 1 hour 3 minutes driving time one way.
- If you drive the continuous loop around Bras d'Or Lake to Baddeck and Highland Village it's 209 km with 3 hours 13 minutes total driving time. I drove the continuous loop.

But it's not just driving distance, there are other important considerations:

- Fog can be an issue because you are driving winding roads over Kelly's Mountain. These roads can be
dangerous in fog. As a practical matter, you can't see anything or take pictures in the fog anyway. If there's fog the day you are in port, either change your driving plan and go to Fortress Louisbourg (which does not involve crossing any mountains) or cancel your driving tour.

- **You may encounter road construction.** Road work tends to affect your drive both ways so if you note the delay time on the outbound route, you can add it to your return time and plan accordingly. I've been to Sydney five times and always encountered some road construction.

- **The continuous route around the lake involves a ferry crossing at Little Narrows.** That ferry was closed on one of our trips to Cape Breton Island.

- **The sites you wish to visit might be closed.** The Alexander Graham Bell Museum is open from ~ May 20\textsuperscript{th} to October 14\textsuperscript{th}. Highland Village is open~ June 1\textsuperscript{st} to October 14\textsuperscript{th}. Note that cruise ships may make special arrangements for these sites to be open for the ship's bus tours.

**Cabot Trail Scenic Drive to Ingonish Beach and Keltic Lodge Area**

The ship's bus excursion is 7.5 Hrs including 5 hours travel time and lunch. We used Don Blackwood for a private 9 hour tour in a van. Cabot Trail is drop dead gorgeous.

Cape Breton Island is 4000 square miles with 4 major driving trails. Each one would take a full day. The best way to see the area would be to spend a week leisurely driving the trails, going whale watching, and visiting the small villages staffed with reenactors during tourist season. But it's impossible to do that in the limited time a cruise ship is in port. Even an experienced driver who knows the roads, the location of the ferry boats, and the scenic areas off the main road can't only take you much further north than the Ingonish Beach area because of driving time.

I'm sure the ship's excursion is very good, but given a choice between riding a bus vs. a private tour in a van, I opt for the private tour. A van has more flexibility in terms of where it can go and stop for photos. I do not like to take photos through windows of a moving bus considering blur, reflections, and dirt on the glass.

A private tour is more flexible and personal, driving small back roads to fishing villages and scenic locations. Also, the private tour is less expensive than a ship excursion.

Our cruise critic travel companions found Don Blackwood. He is the former head of tourism for Cape Breton Island and is an outstanding guide. I highly recommend him, but please recognize his schedule books early because he's in great demand.

Don Blackwood, Blackwood Tours, 654 Willow St, New Waterford, NS, B1H 3W4 Canada
Phone: 902-862-3791 (office) or 902-537-2976 (mobile)
Email: donblackwood@seascape.ns.ca

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**Englishtown Ferry**
A waterfall at a cove along the Atlantic Ocean near Ingonish

Bras d' Or Look Off from Kelly's Mountain Looking North to the Atlantic Ocean
Excursion options:

We've visited Sydney five times on cruise ships; four times in October to see the fall colors and once in May. The May visit was a disaster. The ship was late getting into port and our ship excursion to Cabot Trail was canceled due to heavy fog, particularly in the mountains. At the last minute, we booked the “Historic Sydney & Coastal Drive Tour” which was a big disappointment.

We booked our October 2012 cruise at the last minute to take advantage of a great price. I immediately sent an email to Don Blackwood asking if he was available. But he was fully booked, so I decided to rent a car and drive Cabot Trail north past Ingonish. I drove further north than the ship's bus excursion. Driving time alone was over 6 hours. I have described the tour in great detail in the Breton Island Scenic Driving Tours guide.

As I reflect on the experience, I draw the following conclusions:

• If you love beautiful scenic areas, Cabot Trail north to Ingonish is the best tour.
• A no-hassle, but pricey route is the ship's bus excursion. NO planning is required, just sign up for the
tour and pay for it. However, if you are an avid photographer you won't get many good photos through
the windows of a moving bus and the tour bus only stops a few times. You have no flexibility to change
the tour; it's all pre-planned. I am often disappointed in lunch on a ship's tour because it sometimes has
a limited menu. However, our ship's tour to Baddeck had an incredible seafood buffet.

• If you are willing to spend a little time planning a tour and can start the planning process long before
your ship will dock in Sydney, the best choice is Don Blackwood's private tour. You MUST contact him
early to book your tour because he's in great demand. The other issue is to get a small group of people
(4) to share the van with you. The tour will be personalized for your priorities so travel with like minded
people. Tell Don what your priorities are and he'll customize the tour for you.

There are several advantages to touring in a van. It can drive small back roads to the most scenic spots;
Don knows where they all are. You can stop for photos. YEAH!!! And rather than have a cafeteria
style lunch with 50 other people in a restaurant, Don will take you to a small, family owned restaurant.
Order what you want or just have a cup of coffee. It's your choice. The bottom line is that a private tour
with a great guide gives you more choices to spend your time as you choose. And, it's less expensive
than the ship's tour.

• Renting a car and driving a long distance into a remote, sparsely populated area from the ship is
challenging. The risk is whether you will make it back to the ship on time. If you use my driving tour
guide with a GPS, it's unlikely you will get lost. But there is a possibility of being delayed by road
construction or an accident. The farther north you drive away from the ship, the more beautiful the
Atlantic Coast becomes. I drove further north than the ship's tour bus and was a bit nervous about
getting back. I'm quite adept and finding maps and routes, but I could not find the scenic coves that Don
Blackwood took us to. And I did not have the local knowledge of which restaurant was open so we
missed a great seafood lunch.

Bottom line = my priority for touring Cabot Trail north to Ingonish would be # 1 Don Blackwood's tour, #2 rent
a car, #3 take the ship's tour. NOTE: This is a personal preference. Not everyone wants to rent a car.

Cape Breton Miner's Museum -
Address 17 Museum St, Glace Bay, NS
Ship’s tour length 4 hours incl. 1.5 hours bus travel time & a 1 hour visit to Glace Bay Heritage Museum
Website http://www.minersmuseum.com/
Normal open hours June 1 – October 31 10 am – 6:00 pm Underground tours by appointment.
Phone 902-849-4522

Coal mining, under the seabed, began in the early
1700's when the French needed fuel to construct
the Fortress Louisbourg. Subsequently, it became
the largest coal mining operation in the world.
Today, the mine is closed and there is little
evidence it was ever there, underneath your feet.
The ship's excursion tour includes a 20 minute
walk into the mine accompanied by retired miners.
You can experience, first hand what it was like to
extract coal. Underground tours of the mine are
by appointment.

Note: cruise ships make special arrangements to
spend 20 minutes with a miner, but on self-guided
tours, people spend an hour touring with the
miner. Typical self-guided tour time for the
Miners Museum, including travel time, is 3 hours.

The ship's excursion is 4 hours, including travel time, because it includes another 1 hour stop at the Glace Bay Heritage Museum, which features exhibits chronicling the area's history and contributions or you can explore the Miner's Village which has a company house and store.

Planning Your Shore Excursions
Your cruise ship website lists most tourist attractions for a port. This is an excellent starting point to create a list of places of interest you might wish to visit. Don't be distracted by the price of the tour because you have the options of private and self guided tours.

As you plan your vacation, remember there are limited things to do and see in Sydney. The most popular tourist sites are outside the city. As a general rule, the closest popular tourist sites are 1.5 to 2 hour round trip travel time from the cruise ship. You will need at least one hour to explore a site, so your minimum excursion length is 3 hours (including travel time). It is possible to combine a few tourist sites if you have a full day in port.

Focus on the description of the tour, the names of the places visited, the length of time of the tour, and details of the itinerary. The excursion description includes how many minutes are spent riding on the bus, time at each stop, and free time for shopping. I'm not keen on shopping on Cape Breton Island, I would rather see the sites.

The “Official” tourist information website for Nova Scotia is an excellent resource
The www.NovaScotia.com website covers ALL museums, parks, and tourist sites. Learn more about the places you may wish to visit. Below is the menu screen for this website:

The top right hand corner has a box titled “Search”. Type the name of any place you are interested in. You do not have to use the full, official name of the tourist site, just a few words. For example, to learn more about the “coal mine museum” enter that string and the information below appears.

Results 1-5 of 5 for coal mine museum (0.1201 seconds).

Cape Breton Miners' Museum - Attractions - Museums
The Cape Breton Miners' Museum in Glace Bay pays tribute to the contribution of the region's coal miner and coal mining industry in the advance of civilization. ...
www.novascotia.com/en/home/thingstoseeanddo/novascotiaattractions/listingde...

Tour a Mine, Springhill Miners' Museum - Attractions - Museums
Tour a Mine, Springhill Miners' Museum is located in Springhill (off Route 2) in the Fundy Shore and Annapolis Valley region. Tour the depths of a Springhill coal ...
www.novascotia.com/en/home/thingstoseeanddo/novascotiaattractions/listingde...

Cape Breton Island Travel | Cabot Trail | Acadian History & Festivals
A Nova Scotia Museum Pass, good for twelve months, will pay for itself in a hurry. and descend to a coal mine beneath the ocean floor on the Fleur-de-lis and ...
www.novascotia.com/en/home/discovernovascotia/uniquely_novascotia/cape_bret...

Cape Breton Island | Hotel | Activities | Travel
From museums, artisans, tours and golfing the island provides plenty of .... The area was populated with logging mills, gold mines, hunting lodges and cabins. ...

novascotia.com - Discover Your Nova Scotia Roots Contest
He worked in the coal mines for a short time, but then joined the Royal ... I found my family surname in the history museum exhibit of families who were ... www.novascotia.com/en/home/blogsforumsandcontests/contests/discoveryourroot

Click on the link for the first of the 5 search results Cape Breton Miners' Museum - Attractions – Museums
This screen is displayed

This screen has the full name, address, contact information, and open times for the museum.

Now click on “Maps & Directions” The screen below appears
Note the map and the website www.minersmuseum.com

Under the heading “Getting there from”, I typed the street address for the cruise port and pressed enter. The Map and driving directions from the cruise ship to Cape Breton Miners Museum is displayed

This map (above) shows detailed driving directions from the cruise ship to the museum. The estimated driving time is 28 minutes, but the cruise ship's detailed itinerary shows 40 minutes for the bus to reach this site. Use the more conservative time estimate by the cruise ship. Always increase driving time to allow for delays.

Now that you know the official name of the tourist site, the address, the website for the museum, open times, and driving route, you can get more detailed information. By visiting the www.minersmuseum.com website you'll find entrance fees, see some photos, etc. You will also learn that underground tours are by appointment only. If you want to go on that tour, call or email the website and ask for additional information.

Also, with this information in hand, you can do a Google search for reviews, find photos, etc. and more descriptive information from others who have visited this site. ALL of the information you want for any tourist site near Sydney port is only a few mouse clicks away if you use the techniques outlined above.

If you plan to rent a car, the Doers and Dreamers guide is helpful with tips on following the route and knowing to look for.

CAPE BRETON ISLAND = A GREAT VACATION DESTINATION

If I had a week in June through September, I'd rent a car and tour Cape Breton Island Driving Trails. I would visit the fishing villages to see the reenactors and go whale watching. It's on my “bucket list”.

For more guides, see www.TomsPortGuides.com
Fleur-de-lis Trail

The Evangeline Trail is North & West of Halifax
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
User feedback helps me make corrections and improve the format and content in my quest to produce the “ultimate” port guides. I welcome offers to collaborate with me or provide materials for use in my guides.

PLEASE Help “spread the word” about my website
The only negative feedback I get is, “I wish I knew about your port guides before my vacation”. Please tell your friends and post a reference to my guides and website on the blogs. To receive email notification when new guides are available, send your email address to me at TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

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Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

If there is any question about use of my guides, contact me at TomsPortGuides@Gmail.com

Tom Sheridan