

NATIONAL PARK · CANADA · NOVA SCOTIA

Cape Breton Highlands

at a glance

A high plateau between the Gulf and the Atlantic, and the road travellers come to Nova Scotia for runs right through it.

1936

ESTABLISHED

950 km²

AREA

106

CABOT TRAIL IN THE
PARK
of nearly 300 km

26

HIKING TRAILS

BEFORE YOU GO

**106 kilometres of the Cabot Trail lie in the park**

The Cabot Trail loops around northern Cape Breton for nearly 300 kilometres (186 mi).

**New in 2026: reservations at the Skyline Trail**

For the first time, a paid parking reservation applies to the park's best-known trail from 26 June to 25 October 2026.

**Clockwise to Chéticamp**

Two routes lead to the western entrance: Route 19, the Ceilidh Trail, through Judique, Mabou, Inverness and Margaree Harbour, which starts ...

**Season from May to October**

The park's operating season runs from May to October, with full services in July and August.

**Moose on the road**

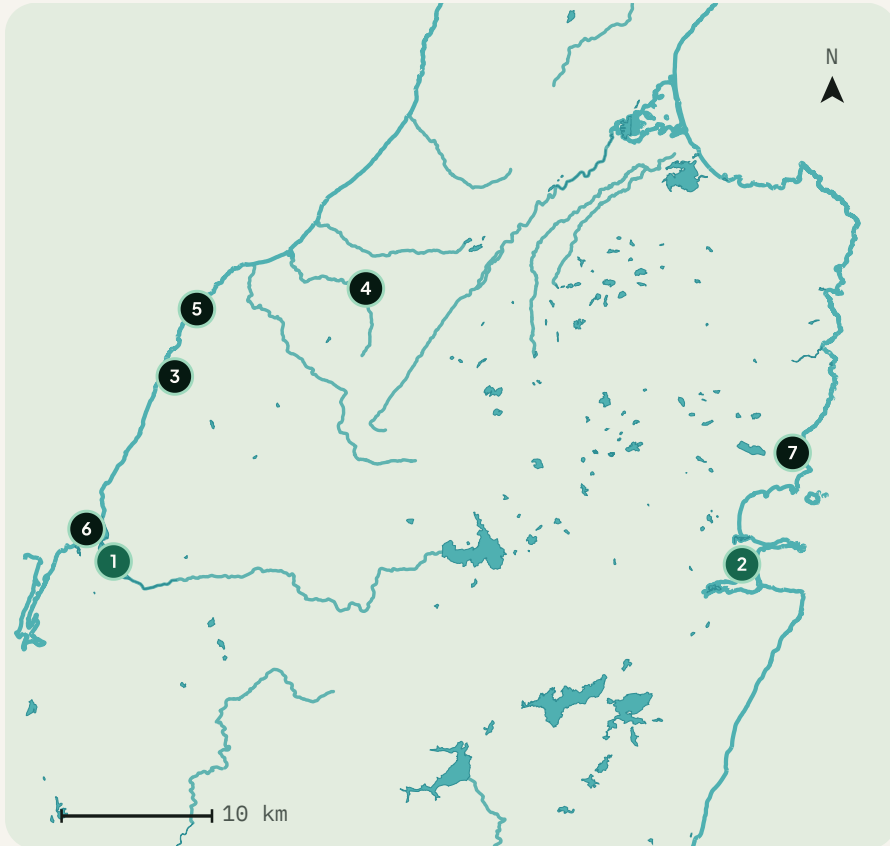
The park authority explicitly warns that moose are hard to see on the road, especially at dusk or when they are not facing the vehicle.

**Coyotes**

In this park, Parks Canada works with experts in coyote behaviour, wildlife management and visitor behaviour on safety standards.

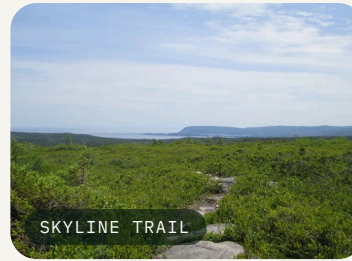
**Fees and opening hours, up to date**

Fees and times change. The park page lists them with source and date:
nationalparksatlas.com/en/canada/cape-breton-highlands



- 1 Chéticamp Visitor Centre
- 2 Ingonish Visitor Centre
- 3 Skyline Trail
- 4 Lone Shieling
- 5 Fishing Cove
- 6 Chéticamp Campground
- 7 Broad Cove Campground

Green: entrances. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).



SKYLINE TRAIL



THE CABOT TRAIL



MOOSE AND OTHER WILDLIFE

THINGS TO DO

Skyline Trail: 6.5 or 8.2 kilometres

The short version takes about two hours there and back to the viewing boardwalk on the headland.

Lone Shieling: 350-year-old sugar maples

A short trail through a stand of 350-year-old sugar maples, one of the places where the park shows its ...

Fishing Cove: the only backcountry site

At the foot of MacKenzie Mountain there was once a fishing village where Scottish settlers fished and traded ...

Established in 1936, 950 square kilometres

The park protects about 20 per cent of northern Cape Breton and is one of the largest protected wilderness ...

[More on the park page](#)

26 hiking trails with clear details

The park authority lists every trail with length, walking time and elevation range: Acadian 8.4 km (5.2 mi) ...

Lookoffs along the road

Numerous lookoffs line the park section of the Cabot Trail.

Wildlife on land and at sea

The park authority mentions bears eating blueberries, moose antlers among spruce and fir, bald eagles, hawks ...

Acadian, boreal and taiga at once

The cool maritime climate and rugged terrain allow a mix of Acadian, boreal and taiga habitats.

TOURS AND GETTING THERE • AD



Highlands National Park: Cabot Trail tour

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FROM PICKUP IN SYDNEY INCLUDED

Cabot Trail & Cape Breton Highlands tour

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



From Baddeck: the whole Cabot Trail through the national park

ON VIATOR ➤



PARK AUTHORITY • NO PARTNER LINK • PARK AUTHORITY PROGRAMME • SUNSET • FROM SKYLINE TRAIL PARKING LOT

Skyline Trail sunset hike with the park authority

ON PARKS.CANADA.CA ➤



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