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Travel

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Summer Escapes

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Cape Breton Island

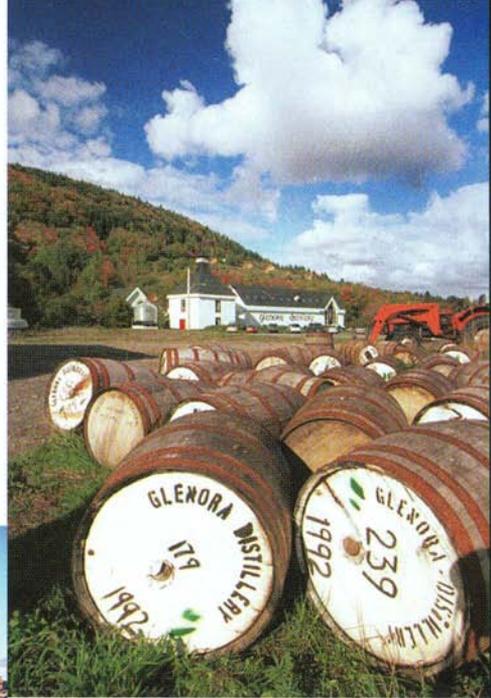
Nova Scotia

---> Considering there are possibly more moose than people in Canada, it's not surprising that there you'll find one of the most rustic, peaceful spots in the Western Hemisphere: Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island. With its green hills, misty lakes, and heavy Celtic influence, you'll think you're in Scotland-only with more sun and fewer soccer hooligans.

To fully embrace the heritage of Nova Scotia, check in to the **Keltic Lodge** (800-565-0444, www.signatureresorts.com), a classic grand resort and spa overlooking the Atlantic surf. For a woodsier base, there is the **Normaway Inn** (800-565-9463, www.normaway.com), a lodge surrounded by a series of cottages near the Margaree River, one of the world's best fly-fishing spots for salmon.

Among the island's main attractions is the **Cape Breton Highlands National**

The **Keltic Lodge**, a resort and spa overlooking the North Atlantic; below, Cabot Trail in Highlands National Park.



The **Glenora distillery**, which produces one of Canada's only single-malt whiskies. ▲



Lay of The Land

Getting around

You can fly directly to Cape Breton, although with all the **connections**, **swimming** may be faster. Better to fly directly to Halifax and rent a car there. The drive from Halifax to Cape Breton takes under three hours.

What it will cost you

A round-trip ticket from New York to Cape Breton starts at \$480; to Halifax, \$350. Rooms at the Keltic start at around \$180 a night; at the Normaway, around \$95a night.

The weather

Surrounded by the North Atlantic, Cape Breton sees its share of squalls. Summer days tend to be sunny and warm, though nights can get down to what locals call "cold as balls." Bring a waterproof jacket and a sweater.

Park (902-224-2306, www.pc.gc.ca), which hosts a third of the Cabot Trail. Hiking trails meander through moose and eagle habitats, and on the park's ocean edge you can kayak around coves and try to spot whales. (Just don't fall in: the North Atlantic is extremely cold, even in summer.) And it wouldn't be a quasi-Scottish vacation without links goif. The **Highlands links** is considered one of Canada's best public courses, with summer rounds

costing under \$85 (800-447-7778, www.highlandlinksandgolf.com). It should come as no surprise that Cape Breton has its fair share of pubs. The best is the **Red Shoe Pub** (902-945-2996, www.redshoepub.com), a mecca for fiddle music in the island's Celtic heartland. Be sure to cap the evening with a glass of locally distilled Glen Breton, one of Canada's few Single-malt whiskies. You can thank the Scots for that as well.-DAVID SAX



One of the many moose you may spot in Highlands National Park.



If You Do Only One Thing ...



---> The 155-mile drive along the Cabot Trail is one of the most scenic touring routes in North America. It climbs, descends, and winds around stormy bays, through traditional Acadian villages, past abandoned coal mines, and into the wooded highlands at the northern tip of the island.