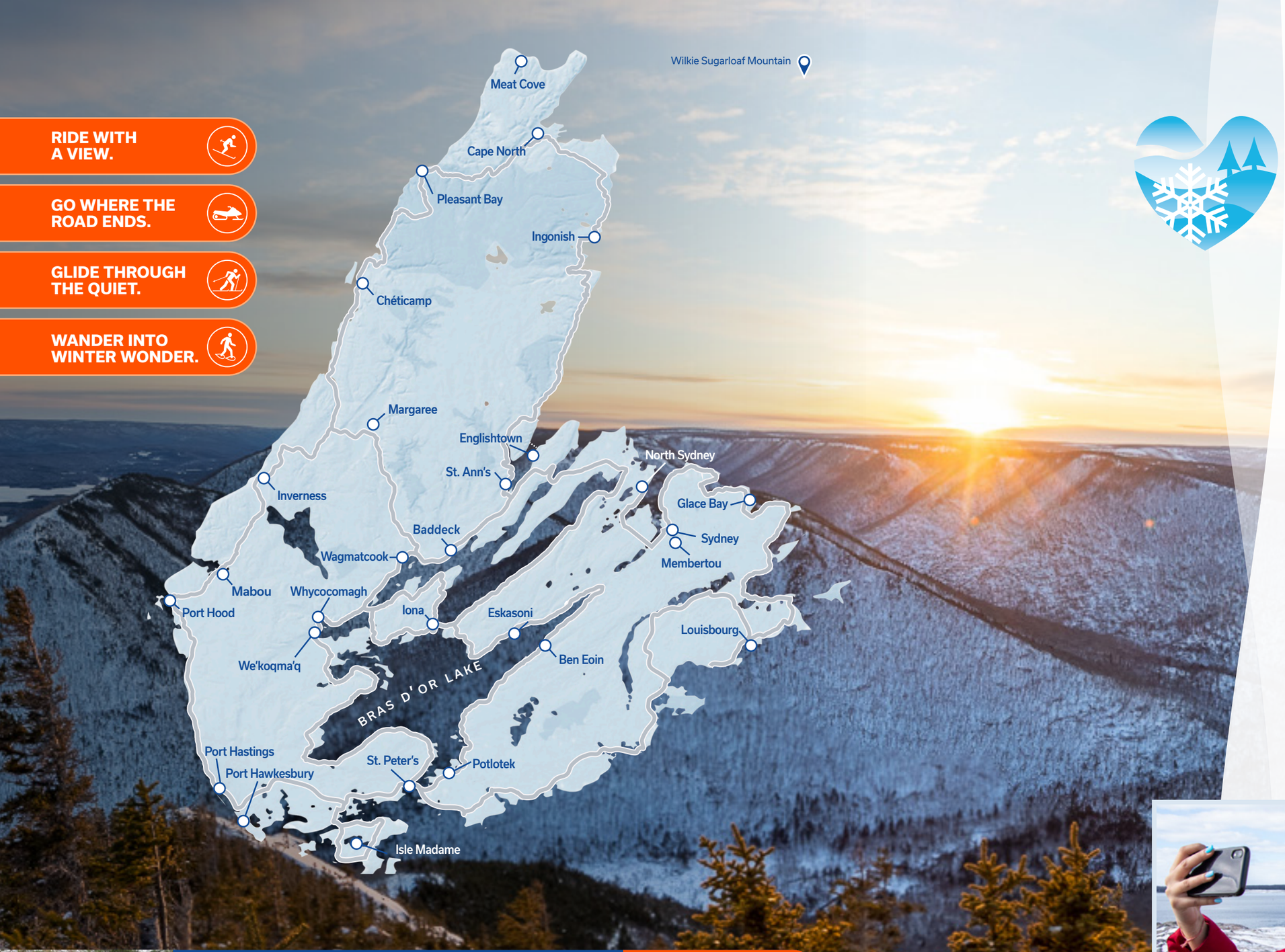

FIND
YOUR
WINTER.
RIDE. GLIDE. SLIDE. EXPLORE.
Cape Breton
Island
#WINTERCAPEBRETON
#WINTERCAPEBRETON

RIDE WITH A VIEW.

GO WHERE THE ROAD ENDS.

GLIDE THROUGH THE QUIET.

WANDER INTO WINTER WONDER.



Welcome to Winter on Cape Breton Island

Winter on Cape Breton Island is a season of beauty and contrast. Bright mornings overlooking icy coastlines. Snow-laden forests that hush the world around you. Lively après moments spent with friends old and new.

Whether you're carving ocean-view ski runs, exploring Highland snowmobile trails, gliding through Nordic forests or wandering snowy coastal paths, winter here is yours to define.



Ski Ben Eoin



Lighthouse Trail, Louisbourg



AMBASSADOR TIP

SHANE WILKIE, @SHANEWILKIE

My favourite part of winter in Cape Breton is exploring hidden gems like, Gairloch Mountain Falls, that are tough to reach in the summer, when the trails are busier. Everything feels quieter, more magical, and completely transformed under a fresh blanket of snow.

DOWNHILL THRILLS & FIRESIDE FEELS

Cape Smokey



Cape Smokey

CAPE BRETON ISLAND'S downhill ski scene blends dramatic landscapes with unforgettable views. Ride the gondola at Ski Cape Smokey and take in the Atlantic stretching beneath you, or head to Ski Ben Eoin, where night skiing lights up the snow like stars.

End your day with local music, craft drinks and cozy fireside moments — the kind of après that makes winter feel alive.

Ski Ben Eoin





AMBASSADOR TIP

KATHERINE MACLEOD, @KAT_MAC_LEOD

Whether you're skiing or snowboarding, few things compare to cruising down a run at Ski Ben Eoin as the sun sets over the Bras d'Or Lake. As the chairlift keeps turning and the lights come on, the hill shifts from golden hour to night laps, taking on a whole new energy. Whether you're skiing Cape Smokey or Ski Ben Eoin the views are almost as good as the skiing!

Sally's Brook Wilderness Cabins



APRÈS ADVENTURE!

Craft Beer & Cider
Seafood chowder
Warm fires
Local live music
Comfort food classics

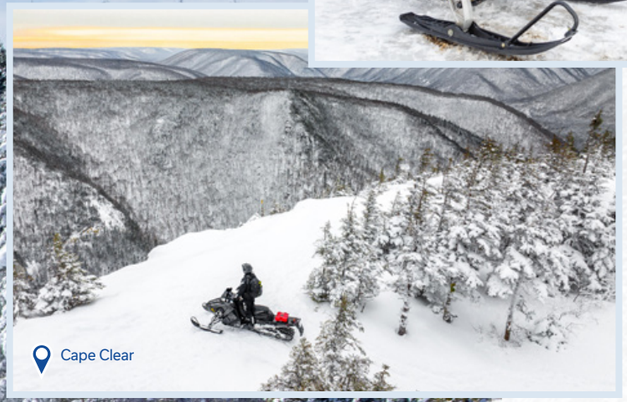
Click here for more Info on downhill skiing

RIDE THE HIGHLANDS

Cape Breton Highlands

Wreck Cove Wilderness Cabins





Cape Clear

Winter transforms the highlands into a snowmobiler's dream — snowy valleys, wide-open ridges and hundreds of kilometres of **groomed, well-marked trails**.

With **official snowmobile trail maps available**, planning your adventure is easier than ever. Choose your route, check conditions, find warm-up huts and fuel stops, and explore at your own pace.





AMBASSADOR TIP

ASHLEY GEORGE, @ASHLEYDGEORGE

Snowmobiling to Cape Clear is the ultimate way to take in Cape Breton's magical winter landscapes. Crisp air and endless views of the Margaree Valley make every ride unforgettable.

SNOWMOBILER'S CODE:

- **Stay right**
- **Respect land & communities**
- **Know your route—always use the map**
- **Monitor fuel and daylight**

Click here for more Info on snowmobiling

FIND YOUR FLOW

North Highlands Nordic

Cross-Country Skiing on Cape Breton Island

Cape Breton's Nordic scene is experiencing a resurgence, with passionate local skiers working to make the sport more accessible than ever. Whether you prefer quiet woodland tracks, open terrain with harbour views or classic old-world trails, the Island offers a mix of experiences for every skier. Glide, skate or explore at your own rhythm—winter moves beautifully here.


North Highlands Nordic


Celtic Shores Coastal Trail

Click here for more Info on cross-country skiing



AMBASSADOR TIP

LEE FRASER, @LIVELIFEINTENTS

If you want snow, head to Cape North and stay at the Highlands Hostel. Hit up Ski Highlands Nordic, head up the Aspy Fault or snowshoe/ski around the top of North Mountain. The options are unlimited.



AMBASSADOR TIP

MIKE MACINNIS

Cape Breton Island during winter is full of untapped potential for adventure! Just strapping on a pair of snowshoes and hiking the Mabou Highlands can take you into a winter wonderland of possibilities!

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site

FIND YOUR QUIET

Snowshoeing on Cape Breton Island

Snowshoeing invites you to slow down and take winter one step at a time. Wander through snow-laden forests, climb to breathtaking lookoffs or drift along coastal paths where the ocean meets the snow.

From trails all over the Island, every route reveals a new kind of winter wonder.



Click here for more Info on snowshoeing



AMBASSADOR TIP

ASHLEY GEORGE, @ASHLEYDGEORGE

Snowshoeing lets you explore the trails while listening to the satisfying crunch of fresh snow underfoot. It's peaceful, grounding, and a true winter escape.



AMBASSADOR TIP

SHERIN & SHEETHAL, @NOVA.HIKERS

Pack warm essentials: A thermos with hot tea or coffee, extra gloves, hand warmers, and dry socks make a huge difference on colder days especially when you're snowshoeing in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Cape Clear

WINTER EVENTS & LOCAL GATHERINGS



Winter on Cape Breton Island brings people together - indoors and outdoors. From coastal festivals and craft markets to lively kitchen parties and bonfire nights, the season is filled with moments that warm the heart. Whether you're here for the music, the food or the community spirit, there's always something happening.

Click here for more Info on winter events



The Dancing Goat

FIRESIDE FLAVOURS



Winter on Cape Breton Island means gathering, food, local craft and comfort. When the snow drifts and the trail calls, the Island's kitchens answer with warm soups, hearty stews, artisan breads, rich seafood chowders and fresh-baked treats. From cafés tucked in the hills to gourmet spots by the coast, each meal is a place to reset, savour the moment and feel the winter welcome.

Click here for more Info on winter dining

Winter Dining Tips:

Many restaurants shift to winter hours or reduced schedules — check ahead.

Use the Seasonal Filter on visitcapebreton.com to see which dining spots are open during winter.

Call ahead — snow, staffing or seasonal changes may impact service.

Reservations recommended at year-round or feature dining experiences especially in the winter season.

Pro Tip:
Pair your meal with a local craft cider or beer — it's the perfect end to a winter day.



ASHLEY GEORGE, @ASHLEYDGEORGE

AMBASSADOR TIP

A winter beach picnic! Imagine coffee, soup and a sandwich from your favourite café and watching the waves. It is a magical way to enjoy the quiet coast.



KALEY LANGILLE, @KALEYLANGILLE

AMBASSADOR TIP

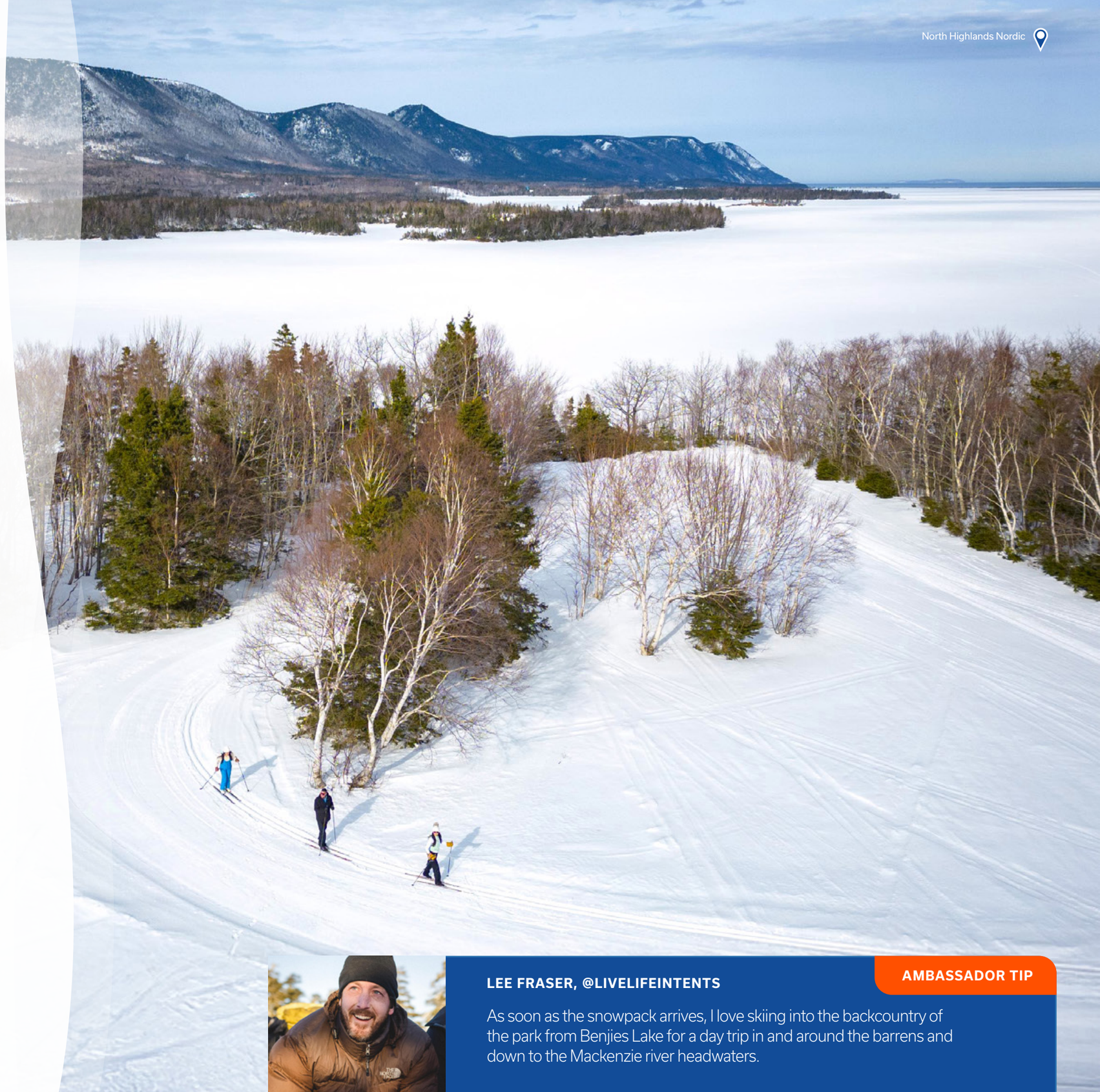
Cape Breton is SO UNDERRATED IN THE WINTER!!! it is absolutely stunning & turns into a magical winter wonderland. Stay warm and cozy by visiting your closest café and enjoy a special hot chocolate and some cookies!

CHECKLIST +WINTER TIPS

- [ ] Took in the view from the gondola at Cape Smokey
- [ ] Followed fresh tracks — on skis, snowshoes or boots
- [ ] Spotted a frozen waterfall or icy lookout
- [ ] Tried a local winter dish or warm drink
- [ ] Built a seaside snowman — or a snow heart, snow fox or snow anything
- [ ] Captured your winter moment at a scenic lookout
- [ ] Listened to live music or joined a community gathering
- [ ] Watched sunrise or sunset over snowy peaks or coastal views
- [ ] Relaxed by a fire — indoors or outdoors
- [ ] Shared your winter moment — big or small — using #WinterCapeBreton

Mindful Travel Tips:

- **Respect trails & wildlife**
- **Be prepared for the weather**
- **Support local businesses**
- **Be culturally curious**
- **Leave no trace**



AMBASSADOR TIP

LEE FRASER, @LIVELIFEINTENTS

As soon as the snowpack arrives, I love skiing into the backcountry of the park from Benjies Lake for a day trip in and around the barrens and down to the Mackenzie river headwaters.



FIND YOUR WINTER
ON CAPE BRETON ISLAND

- 1100 KM OF SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
- 50+ SNOWSHOE TRAILS
- NORDIC SKIING
- DOWNHILL SKIING

Cape Breton Island

#WINTERCAPEBRETON

VisitCapeBreton.com/Winter

#WINTERCAPEBRETON #UNAMAKIWINTER