

Clarke Cove & Marble Mountain

CHS Chart No: 4279 – Bras d'Or Lake & Lennox Passage

Amenities:

Public wharf, wash rooms, launch ramp, water.

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Description:

A huge scar, visible from all points in West Bay and from well down East Bay in clear weather, rises up midway along the North Mountain range. It derives from a marble quarrying operation that began in 1869 and, until its closure in 1921, brought an era of exceptional prosperity to the village of Marble Mountain.



The remains of the quarry waste, almost completely devoid of trees, form a distinctive landmark for an approach to Clarke Cove, in an island dotted bay where hundreds of sailing vessels once lay at anchor waiting to take on cargoes of marble and lime. The lime was mostly shipped to Prince Edward Island for conditioning soil. The white sand beach along this shore gives a turquoise colour to the water reminiscent of Caribbean beaches, and is a popular swimming spot. Ashore one can visit Cape Breton Island's only vineyard and the view from the old quarry is worth the hike. The Marble Mountain Wharf Preservation Society renovated and maintains the public wharf. A small fee is charged for overnight dockage. Spring water may be jugged from a hose located on the beach.

Navigation:

There's no longer commercial shipping in Clarke Cove, but the Canadian Coast Guard still maintains navigational aids for entry to the cove. However, most of the buoys are **very small**, and difficult to spot in choppy conditions or poor visibility.

On an approach bearing of 294°T, the first starboardhand buoy, DA2, marking Paddle Shoal, is located approximately mid-bay. The buoy, DA3, is positioned to the north of Nameless Shoal. Both Paddle Shoal and Nameless Shoal carry at least 9 feet. A white light tower (Fl G, 4s, seasonal, night-only) marks the north east side of Cameron Island. It is recommended to proceed on a course of 294°T directly to the second starboardhand buoy, DA4, at George Shoal, thereby leaving the green buoy, DA3, at Nameless Shoal well to port. A light (F R, seasonal, night-only) is shown from the end of the wharf.



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