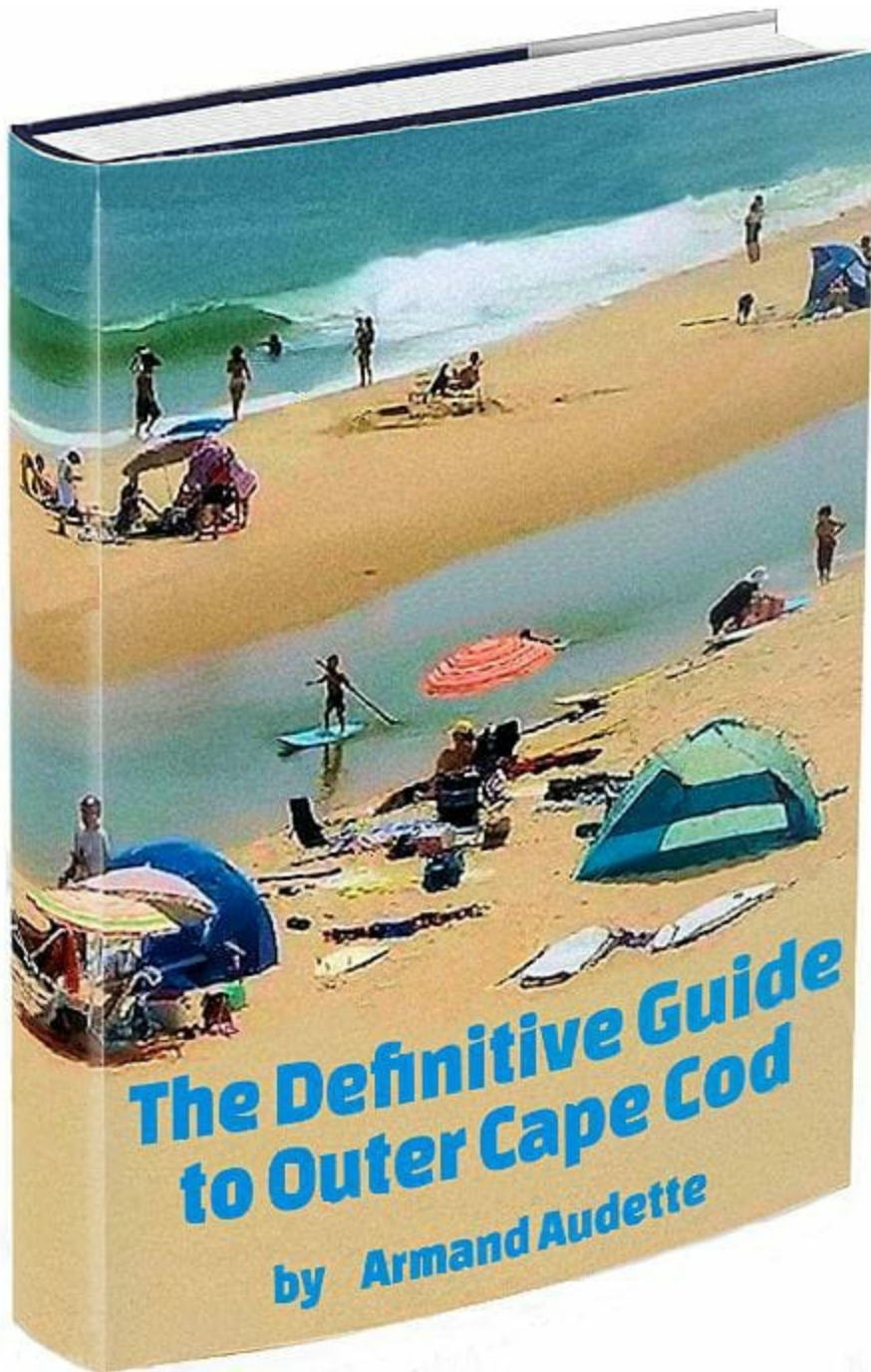


The Vacationer's Guide to Outer Cape Cod

by Armand Audette



The Definitive Guide to Outer Cape Cod

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

1. [Orleans](#)

2. [Eastham](#)

3. [Wellfleet](#)

4. [Truro](#)

5. [Provincetown](#)

6. [What to Eat](#)

7. [Where to Stay](#)

Introduction

Choosing Cape Cod as a vacation destination was a great decision. Now, you must decide what part of the Cape to visit and where to stay. Our 65 miles have distinct "sections," each with its own special features:

The Upper Cape (closest to the bridges),
the Mid-Cape,
the Lower Cape and
the Outer Cape.

Many people get confused and call the areas towards the tip of Cape Cod "the Upper Cape" since, technically, it is farther North. The easiest way to remember is to think of Cape Cod as, in the words of Henry David Thoreau: "the bent and twisted arm of Massachusetts."

If you hold your arm out, in the shape of Cape Cod, your hand may be higher than your shoulder but you can still remember that your upper arm is by your shoulder and your lower arm is by your hand.

The Upper Cape was settled first (if you don't count the Pilgrims pre-Plymouth landing in Provincetown, circa 1620). On the Upper Cape you will find many historic houses and classic architecture. The beaches are found on Cape Cod Bay and Nantucket Sound.

The Mid-Cape is the most populated part of the Cape. The closest thing that we have to a "city," Hyannis, is located there. Visitors who do not want to be without the urban influences of malls, neon and night life should plan to stay there. Mid-Cape beaches are found on Nantucket Sound and Cape

Cod Bay. The Lower Cape is at the elbow of the arm. The towns there include Harwich, Chatham and Orleans.

The most remote and least populated part of Cape Cod is the Outer Cape. It is also the narrowest and is surrounded by water. Outer Cape beaches are found on the Atlantic Ocean, Cape Cod Bay and at the numerous crystal clear fresh water ponds located throughout. These ponds were formed by huge chunks of ice left by our last passing glacier.

The Great Beach, running from Orleans to Provincetown, faces the Atlantic and is truly the best beach on the Cape. It inspired President Kennedy to form the Cape Cod National Seashore Project here on the Outer Cape and not in the Mid-Cape area where he had his own summer home. It is the only place to go if you are a lover of waves.

Standing on the shore, beneath towering dune cliffs, one gets a special feeling watching the sun rise out of the ocean, knowing that beyond the horizon lies ... Portugal. The North Atlantic is known for its violent storms and these produce some of the most majestically breaking waves here on the Outer Cape. Surfboards and their owners are seen trying to harness that power year 'round here.

Because of The National Seashore, there are no motels and very few accommodations on the ocean side. Waterfront accommodations may be found by the bay or on Nantucket Sound in other towns, but most of their guests end up commuting to the Atlantic Ocean beaches just the same since, and trust me on this, all beaches are not the same. If you like to walk along a beach, you can do that here, along all 30 miles of it!

The Outer Cape has been described as what the rest of Cape Cod used to look like prior to development. Quaint little vil-

lages, local fishing boats and an abundance of undeveloped land in its natural state wait for you to explore. When Patti Page was promoting her hit song "Old Cape Cod," she came to Eastham.

The Outer Cape is a hiker's haven, a bird-watcher's bonanza, a biker's blessing and a city-dweller's oasis. The main motto here is... Life's a Beach!

Navigation tips:

1. Route 28 runs from the New Hampshire border, through Boston and south to Cape Cod, to Falmouth where it turns East and runs along the southern coast of Cape Cod (Nantucket Sound) to the town of Chatham, where it then turns North and goes to Orleans. This entire route, south, then east, then north, is called "Route 28 South." This has caused many a traveler much confusion when they see a road sign in Chatham directing them to Rt. 28 South to Orleans when their GPS and compass clearly indicate that Orleans is North of Chatham! Just one of the quirks of Massachusetts.

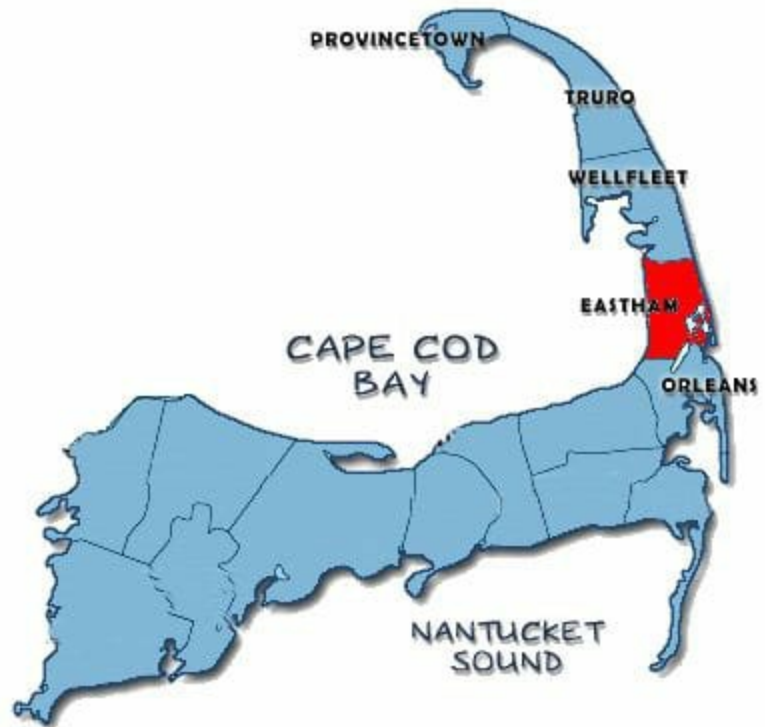
2. Route 6A runs from the Sagamore Bridge, along the northern coast (Cape Cod Bay) to Orleans where it joins Rt. 6. Route 6A then begins again in North Truro and runs into Provincetown as "Shore Road." There is no Rt. 6A in Eastham, Wellfleet and most of Truro.

3. Route 6 runs across the entire country, from Bishop, California to Provincetown, MA. On Cape Cod, Rt. 6 runs through the center of the land mass. You can drive all the way to Provincetown, on Rt. 6, and never see the Atlantic Ocean! To see the ocean, you have to take a side street off the highway.

[Introduction](#) | [Orleans](#) | [Eastham](#) | [Wellfleet](#) | [Truro](#) |
[Provincetown](#) | [Where to Stay](#) | [What to Eat](#)

Eastham

The Cape Cod National Seashore Visitor's Center is located in Eastham and for that reason, Eastham bills itself as the Gateway to the Cape Cod National Seashore.



National Seashore Visitor's Center



Driving East on Route 6 in Eastham, you will see this sign on the right side of the road. This is at the entrance to the Visitor's Center at Salt Pond. The center has a museum and shows continuous movies showing how Cape Cod was formed. Helpful park rangers are at the information desk and they will tell you about all the ranger-guided activities that are scheduled for that day. There are guided hikes, demonstrations, talks and even campfires. For the first time Cape Cod visitor, this is a must see. <https://www.nps.gov/caco/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm>



Cape Cod Rail Trail



The Dennis to Wellfleet Cape Cod Rail Trail runs through Eastham and even has a bicycle tunnel crossing under Route 6. There are a number of bicycle rental shops in Eastham with hourly, daily and weekly rentals. While the paved bicycle trail runs through Eastham towards Wellfleet, there is a side trip to Coast Guard Beach that you can take on the Nauset Marsh Trail which is also for bicycles.

<https://www.capecodbikeguide.com/seashore.asp>

Nauset Light



The Nauset Lighthouse overlooks Nauset Light Beach (not to be confused with Nauset Beach in Orleans.) Coast Guard Beach (mentioned above) and Nauset Light Beach are the two Atlantic Ocean facing beaches in Eastham. Both are

run by the National Park Service and, in season, a Park Ranger will collect an entrance fee.

Nauset Lighthouse is worth a visit. Manned by volunteers who offer free tours where you can climb the tower. You can check out the tour schedule at <https://www.nausetlight.org/> One interesting fact is that this is the lighthouse that is featured on the bag of Cape Cod Potato Chips!

Eastham Windmill

Downtown Eastham is right on Route 6. There is the town hall, the police and fire stations, a small grocer and liquor store and the village green where stands the Eastham Windmill. This is the oldest windmill on Cape Cod and, in season, it is open to the public. The mill grinds corn and sells the corn meal to help support the repairs often needed in a building this old. <http://capecodwindmills.scificincinnati.com/>

eastham_windmill.htm

The village green is a great spot for lunch. The Eastham Superette is just across the street and they make subs and sandwiches to order. You can eat them picnic-style on the grass outside the windmill.



First Encounter Beach



For the history buffs, First Encounter Beach holds a significant, if not uncomfortable place in the story of our country. While exploring Cape Cod Bay, members of the landing team from the Mayflower decided to come ashore at this beach in Eastham. Apparently the local natives did not welcome them and wished them to leave. The Pilgrims would not be deterred but they did finally leave but only after an exchange of gunfire and arrows. Reportedly, no one was hurt but our "First Encounter" was not a pleasant one and really not one to be proud of. You can, if you desire, visit the spot where it all began. <https://www.fodors.com/world/north-america/usa/massachusetts/cape-cod/things-to-do/sights/reviews/first-encounter-beach-110429>

The beach itself is on the warmer water bay side of Eastham. At low tide the flats seem to go on forever and you can walk out on them. It is also a great place to watch the sun set into Cape Cod Bay.



Fort Hill Trail

Located off of Rt. 6 (watch for signs) this is a nice trail

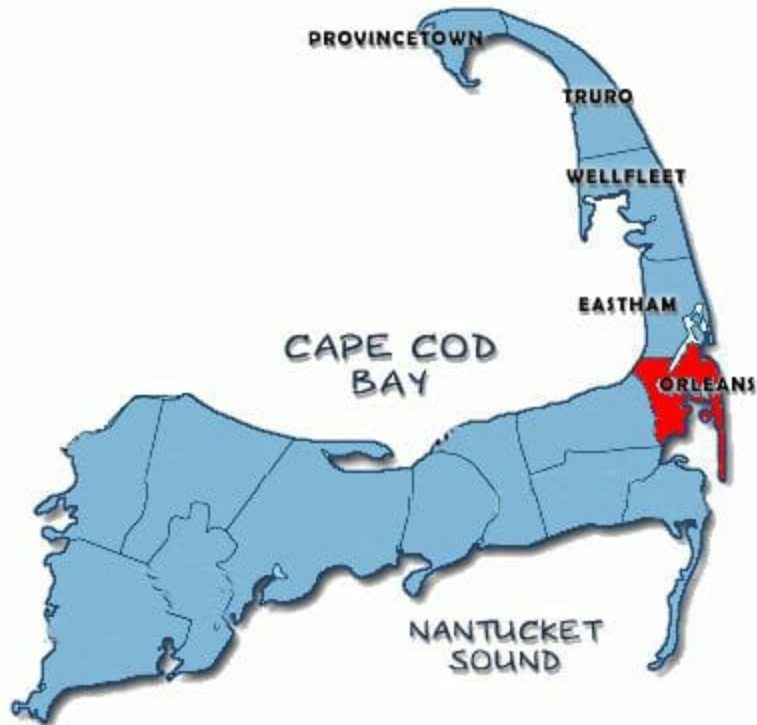
through a salt marsh overlooking the outer beach. Great for birders. <https://npplan.com/parks-by-state/massachusetts-national-parks/cape-cod-national-seashore-park-at-a-glance/cape-cod-national-seashore-hiking-trails/cape-cod-national-seashore-fort-hill-trail/>



[Introduction](#) | [Orleans](#) | [Eastham](#) | [Wellfleet](#) | [Truro](#) | [Provincetown](#) | [Where to Stay](#) | [What to Eat](#)

Orleans

The town of Orleans is the only Cape Cod town with a French Name. In Orleans you will find the beginning of the Great Beach that runs from Orleans to Provincetown. It is the only Cape Cod beach that faces the Atlantic Ocean and is the beach that was



once walked by Henry David Thoreau as he was researching his book called "Cape Cod" back around 1850. The main ocean beach in Orleans is Nauset Beach, named after the Native Americans who lived in the area.

Rock Harbor Sunsets

Located on the bay side of Orleans, Rock Harbor is a beautiful spot to watch the sun set into Cape Cod Bay. Every Spring, tall saplings are "planted" in the harbor to mark the channel for the many boats that travel in and out. Unsuspecting tourist are often told these are "clam trees" growing

in the bay. Of course we all know that clams don't grow on trees but even the locals now affectionately call the channel markers "clam trees."

Oftentimes, in season, a crowd assembles at the harbor to witness a glorious sunset followed by a round of applause for the great show.



Rock Harbor Fishing Charters

There is nothing quite like having a fish dinner and eating the fish that you caught that day! At Rock Harbor, there is a service that puts together fishing charters so you don't have to hire the entire boat for just one or two fishermen. It's easy to do, all bait and tackle are provided and no fishing license needed. <http://www.rockharborcharters.com/>

Coast Guard Lifeboat

Anchored at Rock Harbor every summer, the Coast Guard Lifeboat CG-36500, that was featured in the movie "The Finest Hours" <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6vz03l> The lifeboat has been thoroughly renovated back to its original condition and if you have seen the movie, you will be amazed to experience a visit to this incredibly small vessel that saved so many lives.



Cape Cod Rail Trail

The Cape Cod Rail Trail (Dennis to Wellfleet) runs through downtown Orleans. There are a number of bicycle rental shops in town or, you can bring your own! Built on the old Cape Cod Railway bed, the trail offers safe, off-street bicycling and jogging.



Cape Cod Baseball League

The Cape Cod Baseball league has become a long-standing institution in this area. Every summer, the best college players from all over the U.S. come and compete and are



watched by major league baseball scouts. The Orleans Firebirds is the local team that has alumni who have later had professional careers with the Boston Red Sox and other major league team. Come watch a game or two

and see the future stars and maybe get an autograph. You will then be able to tell everybody that you knew these baseball stars before their fame. Admission to the games is free but the hot dogs are not. Donations, to help with overhead costs, are accepted. <http://capecodbaseball.org/>

French Cable Museum

Before the Marconi Wireless Station (see Wellfleet) a communications cable was run under the Atlantic Ocean from France to this station in Orleans. Notification of Charles Lindberg's landing in France, after his flying across the Atlantic, was sent to the U.S. via this station.



Free tours of the antique equipment. Check website for hours. <http://frenchcablestationmuseum.org/>

Kayaking on Town Cove



Town Cove is a protected inlet with calm waters and is the perfect place for a guided kayak tour or you can rent boats and go off on your own. Easy access at the Goose Hummock Shop <https://www.goose.com/>

Jonathan Young Windmill

Overlooking Town Cove, near the Goose Hummock Shop, Rt. 6A and 28 in Orleans. Sometimes the mill is open and volunteers offer free tours but most times it's closed. One of the oldest, if not THE oldest windmill on Cape Cod, it has been lovingly restored to working order. A great historical sight.

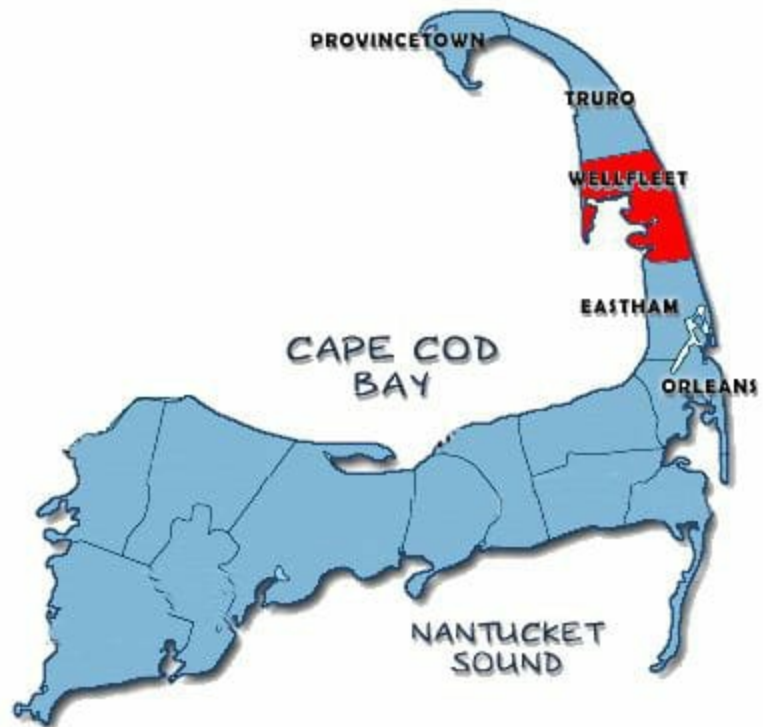


[Introduction](#) | [Orleans](#) | [Eastham](#) | [Wellfleet](#) | [Truro](#) | [Provincetown](#) | [Where to Stay](#) | [What to Eat](#)

Wellfleet

There are two theories about how Wellfleet got its name.

Theory #1: It was named after the Wallfleet Oyster beds in Great Britain. Since Wellfleet is also famous for its Oysters, it would make sense that settlers would name it accordingly.



Theory #2: Wellfleet harbor used to be very deep and there was a large whaling fleet that called Wellfleet home. This was back when burning whale oil provided most of the light and night, including powering the local lighthouses. So, the harbor was the place where there was a whale fleet. Saying "Whale-fleet" over and over again and then introducing a thick New England accent to the word and you can easily transform "Whale-fleet" to Wellfleet.

Theory #2 sounds like the correct one to me and I'm sticking to it.

Wellfleet Center

Unlike the town center of Eastham, which is directly on Rt. 6, Wellfleet center is off the highway. The charming downtown is on Main Street and it has all the qualities of a small, quaint New England village. The white town hall building is the seat of our local government. See: <http://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/>



With shops and restaurants, churches, a community center, an historical museum, art galleries and free parking , Wellfleet center is a great area to walk around, maybe with an ice cream cone, and experience a maritime village of the past. Heading down Bank St. to Commercial Street, you can enjoy a leisurely walk to the town pier at the harbor, passing even more art galleries on the way.

Wellfleet Harbor



Boasting the largest pier on Cape Cod, Wellfleet Harbor is bustling with maritime activity. Commercial fishing and clamming boats share the space with pleasure crafts in slips and on moorings throughout the harbor. Day trippers can be seen launching their boats at

the town boat ramp. For those who have boating experience, there are sail and motor boats in the water available for rent at Wellfleet Marine.

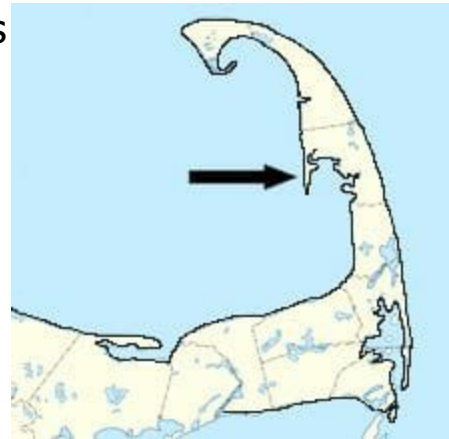
One favored activity is to boat out to Great Island and to anchor offshore, wade onto the beach there and have a picnic lunch.

Another Wellfleet tradition in July and August, weekly "square dancing on the pier" every Wednesday night. "Square dancing" is in quotes because, besides the usual do-see-doe-ing, they have family friendly line dancing where they teach everyone the steps before the entire crowd moves in unison to the music. Parents and preteens usually have a ball while older children stand around complaining how lame it is. Ice cream, available nearby, helps. This all happens as the sun is setting ... very scenic.

Great Island Trail

Looking at a Cape Cod map, it's always easy to find Wellfleet. Just look for a long spit that runs south into Cape Cod Bay. This spit is Great Island which protects Wellfleet Harbor from the ravages of the sea. It used to be an island but it has reattached to the mainland and is now part of the Cape Cod National Seashore Park. The Great Island Hiking Trail is clearly the most challenging hike on all of Cape Cod ... about 8 miles round trip.

There is no drinking water and, for parts of it, no shade. At times a park ranger will guide a hike and inform you of the history of this remote area. <https://www.nps.gov/caco/planyourvisit/greatislandtrail.htm>



Wellfleet Drive-in Movie Theater/Flea Market

Located at the town line of Wellfleet and Eastham, this Drive-in has been operating since the 1950's and, in season, shows a double feature every night. On the week-



ends, and on other days in season, the drive-in parking lot becomes the largest flea market on Cape Cod where you can find reasonably priced treasures for one and all.

This throwback to Cape Cod vacations of the past, continues to this day. For most visiting children, it is their first and only chance to encounter the joy of watching movies in your car with the sound coming from your car radio or from the still-working speakers that hang in your window. Don't forget the precooked hot dogs and burgers, salty popcorn and overpriced candy at the snack bar. It's all part of the experience. <https://www.wellfleetcinemas.com/drive-in-theatre/>

Wellfleet's Gull Pond

Cape Cod is relatively narrow here. With the Atlantic Ocean on the eastern shore and Cape Cod Bay on the western shore, it's surprising to find fresh water pond in between. On



all of Cape Cod, there are 365 ponds!

Formed by receding glaciers these ponds are fed via an underground aquifer and have wonderful beaches that offer you an alternative to when the ocean waves are too big or

the low tide on the Bay creates mud flats that are not conducive to swimming. Besides Gull Pond, which is located off of Gull Pond Road, there is also Long Pond, on Long Pond Rd., and Great Pond, located on Cahoon Hollow oad.

Scenic, clean and having water that is much warmer than the ocean, these ponds are great spots to eat a picnic lunch, sunbathe or to bring a kayak or canoe.

Marconi Station Site

In 1903, the first transatlantic, wireless telegraph from the U.S. to the U.K. was sent from this Wellfleet site on a bluff overlooking the ocean beach below. Nothing remains of the actual station or the transmission towers as they were the victims of coastal erosion. You can visit this site, off of Rt. 6, for free but there is not much there besides a commemorative plaque and beautiful vistas of the ocean and beach below. <https://npplan.com/parks-by-state/massachusetts-national-parks/cape-cod-national-seashore-park-at-a-glance/cape-cod-national-seashore-historic-sites/cape-cod-national-seashore-marconi-station-site/>

Marconi Beach, a mile or so down the access road, charges for parking and offers a staircase down the dunes to the water. There are also changing rooms and showers.

White Cedar Swamp Trail

Off of the parking area for the Marconi Station Site, you will find restrooms and behind that is a trail to the Atlantic White Cedar Swamp Trail. This is part of the National Seashore Park and consists of a boardwalk trail through a cedar



swamp. Both eerie and intriguing this one mile walk takes you into an ecosystem that is dramatically different than the area around it. Bug spray is recommended in the swamp. There are log steps on the trail accessing the boardwalk which could be a problem for the mobility challenged.

<https://www.nps.gov/caco/planyourvisit/atlanticwhitecedar.htm>

Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theater

An award winning, non-profit theater founded in 1985. The main stage is named for, and dedicated to, the actress, the

late Julie Harris, a former Cape Cod resident. <http://www.what.org/>



Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

In the same neighborhood as the Drive-in Movie Theater, you will find the Massachusetts Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellfleet. It features a nature center with numerous exhibits and there are also extensive trails through a salt marsh, a beach on the bay and pine woodlands. The area attracts a wide variety of wildlife and migratory birds. There is even a summer day camp for ages 3 to 14.



<https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/wellfleet-bay>

Cape Cod Rail Trail

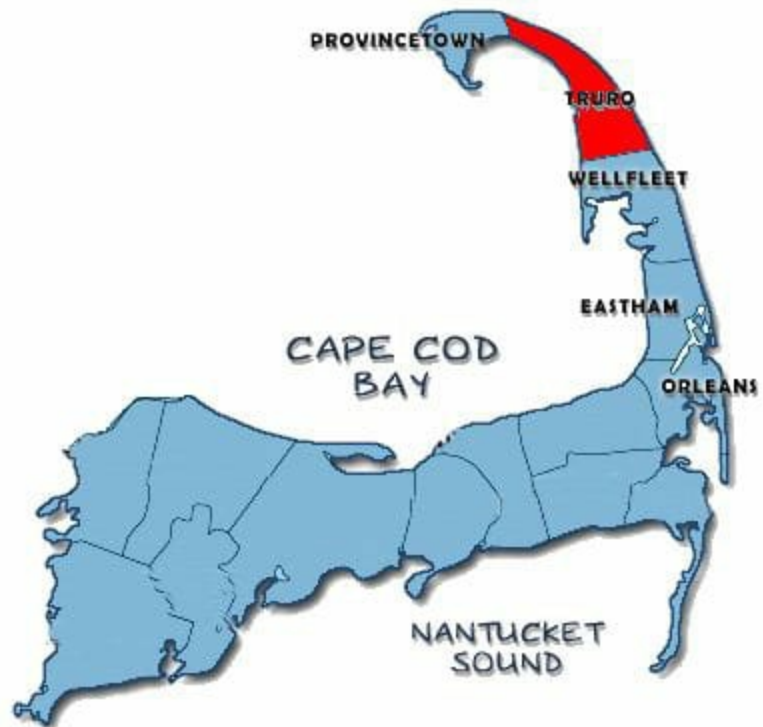
Wellfleet is currently the northern terminus of the bicycle trail that runs to Dennis and Chatham. It is a paved bicycle and jogging trail that was constructed over the old Cape Cod Railroad bed and offers miles and miles of safe, off-road bicycling.



[Introduction](#) | [Orleans](#) | [Eastham](#) | [Wellfleet](#) | [Truro](#) |
[Provincetown](#) | [Where to Stay](#) | [What to Eat](#)

Truro

Between Wellfleet and Provincetown, you will find the little town of Truro. Over half of the land area of Truro is in the Cape Cod National Seashore. It is comprised of two villages: Truro and North Truro, the ocean side is marked with majestic sand dunes. On the bay side there are many cottage colonies and condos catering to tourists wanting to be steps away from a beach.



Highland Lighthouse (Cape Cod Light)

Having been moved back from the dune cliffs in 1996, Cape Cod's oldest and tallest lighthouse is not as dramatic as it

was when it was perched at the edge of the dune cliff. Still, it is a great place to visit. While the light originally burned whale oil, it was upgraded through the years until, in 2017, an LED beacon was installed. The lighthouse tower is undergoing renovations in



2019, to make it safer and until those renovations are completed, visitors will not be allowed to climb up. The attached building is a visitors center and is open May to late October. More info at <https://www.highlandlighthouse.org/>

Truro Vineyards



Look for the large wine barrel on the stand, visible from Route 6. Vineyard tours and tastings daily and you get to keep the commemorative wine glass! Visit them online at <https://trurovineyardssofcapecod.com/>

<https://trurovineyardssofcapecod.com/>

Day's Cottages

While not an attraction in and of itself, you will drive by these cottages on your way to Provincetown if you take Rt. 6A-Shore Road. An often photographed and painted scene, these nearly identical cottages, each named



after a different flower, have been sitting on Truro's bay shore since the 1930's. They have been sold as condominiums recently.

Payomet Performing Arts Center and Theater

National talent on a local stage. There might be a show you'd like that coincides with the time of your visit. Check it out at <http://www.payomet.org/>

Atlantic Spice Company

I know many people who include a trip to this store as a part of their annual trip to Cape Cod. They have many different teas and bulk spices and kitchen gadgets. If you are driving

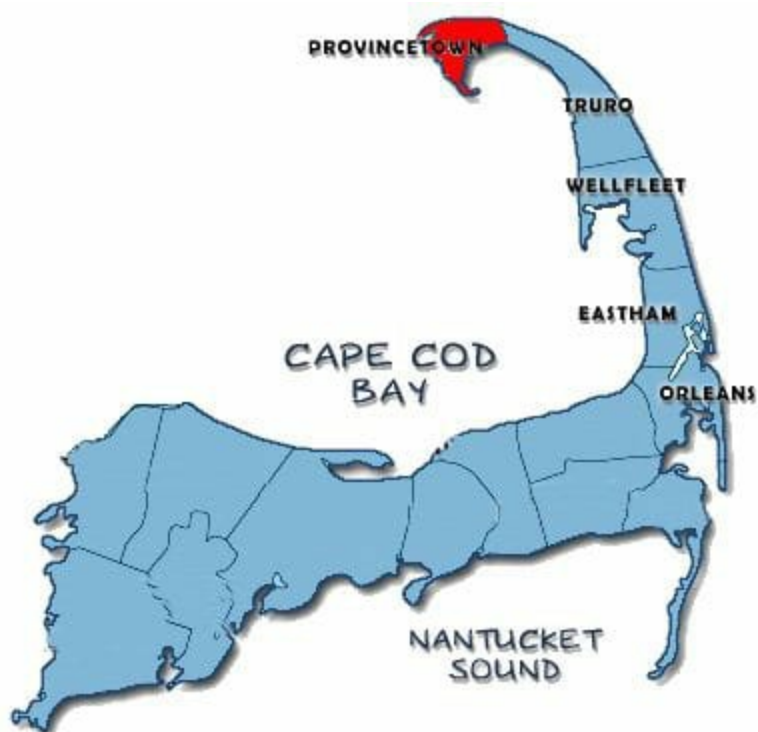
by and see this sign, it would be worth it to stop. <https://www.atlanticspice.com/>



[Introduction](#) | [Orleans](#) | [Eastham](#) | [Wellfleet](#) | [Truro](#) |
[Provincetown](#) | [Where to Stay](#) | [What to Eat](#)

Provincetown

At the very tip of Cape Cod, you will find this charming town that is part artist colony, part fishing village and part cabaret. The developed part of Provincetown is only two streets wide ... Commercial Street along the water and Bradford street that parallels it.



Pilgrim Monument

As you are driving towards Provincetown you will notice the town's skyline which is punctuated with the tallest, all-granite structure in the U.S. This structure is the Pilgrim Monument which commemorates the Pilgrims first landing of the Mayflower in the New World in 1620 before they moved on to Plymouth. If you climb to the top of this monument you can get a breathtaking birds-eye view of the curve of the Cape as it winds around Cape Cod Bay. It opened back in 1910

At the base of the monument there is also a museum with many interesting exhibits.

For more information go to <https://www.pilgrim-monument.org/>



One thing to keep in mind when you plan to visit Provincetown. During the summer season, whenever it is not a "beach day" because of the weather (cloudy, rainy, etc.) it will feel like everyone who is visiting the Outer Cape decides to visit Provincetown for the day. The traffic along Route 6 to Provincetown will attest to the fact that you will not be alone when you arrive. Another point to note is there is no free parking in Provincetown. Expect to park your car in a lot for a fee. On the pier there is a parking lot that charges by the hour but it is very popular because it is the closest parking to the whale-watch boats.

Whale Watching



The number one activity in Provincetown is Whale Watching. The boats leave McMillan Wharf, cruise around the tip of Cape Cod to Race Point and then they head North to Stelwaggen bank where the whales are. It takes about 1.5 hour commute each way and you actually spend about 30 minutes with the whales. Sightings are so successful, if you don't see a whale on any particular trip, they will give you a free ticket to go again anytime. Their success rate is 99%.

Note: It is always colder at Stelwaggen bank than it is on shore and windy too. Bringing a light jacket to break the wind is a smart idea.

For more information go to <https://whalewatch.com/>

Commercial Street

The second most popular activity in Provincetown is people watching! In season, people walk up and down Commercial Street which is the street closest to the water that has most of the shops and restaurants in town. You never know what

you might see along this street. Street performers advertise cabaret shows featuring female impersonators who are very talented and funny.



There are also a number of art galleries in town and, on the pier, you can find sailing charters, water taxis and fishing charters.

The Provincetown Chamber of Commerce has an office in town with helpful staff. <https://ptownchamber.com/>

On the North side of Provincetown, you will find Race Point beach and the Province Lands. There is a challenging bicycle trail (approx. 5 miles) and a National Seashore visitor center. Race Point is a very popular spot for surf-casting fishing.

Pilgrim Landing Place

At the West end of town, you will find a small park that commemorates the ac-



tual landing of the Pilgrims as they came ashore from the Mayflower after having sailed across the Atlantic. History buffs will get a special feeling to be standing where the Pilgrims first touched soil 399 years ago. Provincetown is planning a great celebration in the year 2020 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of this special beginning of our country. See <https://provincetown400.com/>

Race Point Lighthouse

Located at the "knuckles" on the hand of Cape Cod, Race Point has a great swimming beach. It is also a great fishing spot. If you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle and an overland permit, you can drive to your favorite fishing spot just south of the swimming area. A bit north of the swimming beach,

you can find Race Point Lighthouse and the lighthouse keeper's house. You can actually rent a room and sleep there! Get the information at <https://www.racepointlighthouse.org/>



Old Harbor Lifesaving Station

A little bit south of the Race Point beach parking lot, you will find the Old Harbor Lifesaving Station. This historical building have actual rescue re-enactments, with a breeches buoy and real gunpowder, at 6:00 pm every Thursday in July and August. It is a great show.



<http://www.capecodmuseumtrail.com/museum-directory/old-harbor-life-saving-station/>

[Introduction](#) | [Orleans](#) | [Eastham](#) | [Wellfleet](#) | [Truro](#) | [Provincetown](#) | [Where to Stay](#) | [What to Eat](#)

What to Eat

Seafood reigns supreme on the Outer Cape. Of course you can always find beef and chicken, pizza and other offerings.



Lobster Rolls

Lobster rolls can be found in every town on Cape Cod. Locals and visitors alike have their favorites as do I. Most lobster rolls around here are comprised of 100% lobster meat with a touch of mayo. A few introduce celery but not a lot.



3 notable lobster roll suppliers in Wellfleet are:

Maurice's Market <https://mauricescampground.com/maurices-market/> Located across from the Drive-In Movie Theater, this market also have a few picnic tables outside so you can enjoy your lobster roll on premises. Reasonable prices.

PJ's Family Restaurant <https://www.pjscapecod.com/> & <https://newengland.com/yankee-magazine/travel/massachusetts/cape-cod/pjs-family-restaurant/> The food network has a show called "The Best Thing I Ever Ate" and on this show, one of these celebrity chefs visited PJ's Restaurant in Wellfleet and declared that their lobster roll was the best thing he ever ate. Many visitors, year after year, agree.

Moby Dick's Restaurant <https://mobys.com/> This clam shack style restaurant has a BYOB alcohol policy. Their lobster roll is made with only claw and tail meat, yum.

While not on the Outer Cape, The Sesuit Harbor Cafe in Dennis gets honorable mention here. It is well known for their outdoor dining overlooking the harbor and their lobster rolls make the trip worth it. Expect to wait in line before you can order. <https://sesuit-harbor-cafe.com/>

Oysters

Wellfleet Oysters are world famous and are unlike any others. <https://wellfleetspat.org/wellfleet-cape-cod-oysters-about/> Some people have an aversion to eating raw shellfish while others cannot get enough. Oysters are also used to make stew, stuffing and pies. Fried oysters are also a popular dish. Cocktail sauce, with a healthy dose of horseradish, make the slurping of oysters on the half shell all the more enjoyable.



Clam Chowder



Helpful hint: If a Cape Cod restaurant doesn't use the word "homemade" when they describe their chowder, no matter how tasty it may be, it comes from a can. That is a simple fact.

Clam chowder purist believe that a true clam chowder has a watery consistency but most people enjoy a thick, milky

chowder. Chowder, thickened with cornstarch or flour is very common. The better chowders are made and then set to sit in a refrigerator overnight before being re-heated and served to the customer. Overnight, the starch from the potatoes leech into the broth to thicken it naturally. Yum

Warning: The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce has stated that anyone caught putting tomatoes into their Clam Chowder will be immediately deported to New York.

Fried Clams



Fried

Clams typically are the whole belly local clams that have been cooked to a golden brown state. With a unique flavor all it's own that is only improved by a touch of tartar sauce. For the landlubber, most restaurants also offer clam strips which has some of the flavor but it is just not the same.

Lobster



All the lobsters served on Cape Cod are local lobsters and not trucked in from Maine. Cold water lobster, off the Chatham coast usually have thicker shells and sweeter meat. Every restaurant serving lobsters have staff who are willing to teach you how to properly open and eat a whole lobster. Good meat can be found in the tail, claws, knuckles, rear flippers and legs. Many places now steam their lobsters in special steaming machines instead of boiling them. Don't forget your lobster bib!

Fish

Even though our area is called Cape Cod, a fact of life is there is very little local cod fish anymore. If your menu says



"North Atlantic Cod," it's probably from Iceland. Most Flounder is local, and sometimes there is local Haddock but, my favorite eating fish is the Striped Bass (broiled in butter with a little salt). The "season" for striped bass begins in July but is severely limited. There is a quota and when that quota is reached, they can no longer sell it in restaurants. People know this and buy it before the quota

runs out which causes the quota to be reached sooner each year. Most places will fry your fish (fish and chips), broil or bake it en-casserole. Yum

Where to Eat

This is not a complete list. Some were omitted due to poor reviews or personal experiences. There are more places to eat in each town but these will get you started:

Orleans

At the fork in Orleans where Rts. 6A and 28 separate, The Lost Dog Pub is a bar with dining tables but there is also a separate dining room. Reasonably prices meals can be had in a family friendly setting. This building has the distinction of being the very first Howard Johnson Restaurant before the chain grew popular. <https://www.lostdogpubs.com/> Next door to this restaurant is one of the ever popular Christmas

Tree Shops where you can pick up some discounts.

Other places to eat in Orleans:

-Sir Cricket's Fish and Chips (Rt. 6A)

<http://nausetfishlobs.wpengine.com/sir-crickets-fish-n-chips/>

-Lobster Claw Restaurant (Rt. 6A)

<http://www.lobsterclaw.com/>

-Cookes Seafood (Rt. 28)

<http://cookesorleans.com/>

-Orleans Bowling and BBQ (Rt. 6A)

<https://www.alleybowlingbbq.com/>

-Guapo's Tortilla Shack (Rt. 6A)

<https://www.guaposcapecod.com/>

-Rock Harbor Grill (Old Colony Way)

<http://rockharborgrill.net/>

Eastham

-The Fairway Restaurant (Rt. 6)

It used to be called Fairway Pizza but they have expanded to a full restaurant menu. Very nice <https://www.fairwaycapecod.com/>

-Arnold's Lobster and Clam Bar (Rt. 6)

Very popular seafood restaurant with adjacent mini-golf.
<https://www.arnoldsrestaurant.com/>

-Local Break (Rt. 6)

While it is, basically, a bar with pub food, it is included here because of their steak and cheese sandwich which deserves accolades. <http://local-break.com/>

-The Friendly Fisherman (Rt. 6)
Outdoor, picnic table style dining where you order at a window. Award-winning food. <http://friendlyfishermaneastham.com/>

-Laura's and Tony's Kitchen (Rt. 6)
Breakfast buffet where you can eat your fill. <http://www.lauraandtonyskitchen.com/>

Wellfleet

-Van Rensselaers Restaurant (Rt. 6)
Serving Breakfast and Dinner. Recommended. <https://vanrensselaers.com/>

-PB Boulangerie Bistro (off Rt. 6)
French dining room attached to a "to-die-for" bakery. <http://www.pbboulangeriebistro.com/>

-Moby Dick's Restaurant (Rt. 6)
Casual, "order at the counter," BYOB, seafood restaurant that is very popular. Expect long lines at peak hours. <https://mobys.com/>

-The Bookstore and Restaurant
Indoor and outdoor dining overlooking scenic Wellfleet harbor. Fresh oysters, shucked to order. <https://www.wellfleetoyster.com/>

-Pearl

Indoor and outdoor dining at the harbor. <http://www.wellfleetpearl.com/>

-PJ's Family Restaurant (Rt. 6)

Seafood, burgers, chicken and ice cream <https://www.pjscapecod.com/>

-Winslow's Tavern (Downtown Wellfleet)

Fine dining on Main Street <http://winslowstavern.com/>

-The Flying Fish (Downtown Wellfleet)

Bistro-style menu. Open for Breakfast, lunch and dinner
<http://flyingfishwellfleet.com/>

-Macs Seafood

Picnic table dining overlooking Wellfleet harbor <https://www.macsseafood.com/restaurants/macsonthepier>

-Ceraldi's

7-course, prix-fixe dining at Wellfleet harbor <https://www.ceraldicapecod.com/>

-The Well Tavern and Kitchen (Main St.)

Formerly part of the Inn at Duck Creeke, the new owners are continuing the tradition and adding to it. <http://thewelltavernandkitchen.com/>

Truro

-Blackfish Bistro (Truro Center)

Fine dining <https://www.capecodchefs.com/restaurant/blackfish/>

-Montano's (Rt. 6)

Italian restaurant <https://montanos.com/>

-The Whitman House (off Rt. 6)

Good food in a great setting. <http://whitmanhouse.com/>

-Terra Luna (Rt. 6A)

Fine dining in a rustic atmosphere <https://terralunarestaurant.com/>

-Savory and the Sweet Escape

Sandwiches, subs, pizza and homemade ice cream. <https://www.facebook.com/savoryandsweetescape/>

Provincetown

-Napi's Restaurant (Downtown Provincetown)

Unusual decorations, great food. "Thai Chicken and Shrimp" is a personal favorite. <https://www.napisptown.com/>

-Mews Restaurant and Cafe (Commercial St.)

Very fine dining, excellent views. <https://mews.com/>

-Lobster Pot (Commercial St.)

Iconic seafood restaurant with a water view. <https://www.ptownlobsterpot.com/>

-Fanizzi's by the Sea (Commercial St.)

Waterfront dining <https://fanizzisrestaurant.com/>

-Bubalas by the Bay (Commercial St.)

<http://www.bubalas.com/>

-Local186 (Commercial St.)
Most likely, the best burger joint in town. You be the judge.
<http://www.local186.com/>

-Ciros and Sals (off Commercial St.)
Italian <http://www.ciroandsals.com/>

-The Red Inn (Commercial St.)
Water view dining in an historic Inn <http://theredinn.com/>

[Introduction](#) | [Orleans](#) | [Eastham](#) | [Wellfleet](#) | [Truro](#) |
[Provincetown](#) | [Where to Stay](#) | [What to Eat](#)

Where to Stay

Driving all the way to Outer Cape Cod, you will probably need to find lodging. Located about 2 hours from both Boston MA and Providence R.I., the Outer Cape is remote and worthy of more than a day trip. Note that during the high season, finding a place to stay for only one night is nearly impossible due to the high demand for rooms and cottages. There are no motels or hotels on the Atlantic side of the Outer Cape since that entire side is comprised of the National Seashore Park. On the bay side in Provincetown and Truro, you will find motels and cottages but most of the accommodations on the Outer Cape can be found in the center of the land mass, along Route 6.



Each town's chamber of commerce web site lists links to all of the accommodations in their respective town.

<https://orleanscapecod.org/>

<https://easthamchamber.com/>

<https://www.wellfleetchamber.com/>

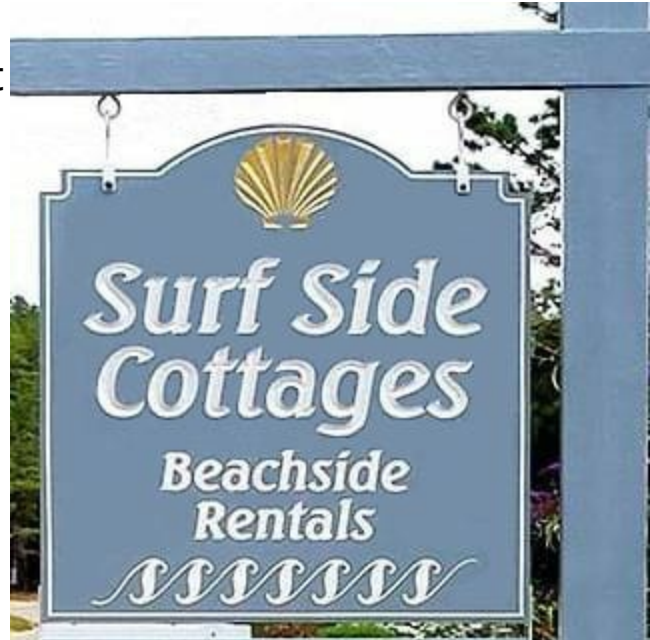
<http://www.trurochamberofcommerce.com/>

<https://ptownchamber.com/>

Surf Side Cottages

Since this entire guide is brought to you by the folks at Surf Side Cottages, now is the time for them to blow their own horn and tell you about what they offer.

Located on the ocean side of Wellfleet, Surf Side Cottages will have you staying as close to the ocean waves as you can get. All along the ocean side of Cape Cod, there are majestic sand dunes that are victims to erosion each year from the wind and rain and waves of our most severe winter storms and "Nor-easters." This erosion has caused any home, that was built at the top of the dune, to have fallen into the sea long ago. (They are actually demolished while teetering on the edge. Surf Side Cottages are close enough to the top of the dune so it is an easy walk from your cottage but they are back enough to ensure that they will still be around for a number of years to come. These cottages were built in the late 1940's and have been accommodating beach lovers ever since.



In 2005, the cottage colony was sold as condominiums so now each cottage has a different owner but they continue to be rented to Cape Cod visitors. Blue Sky Property Management (a small company comprised of Armand and Lisa Au-

dette and their son-in-law, Peter Bucklin), came on board to manage the cottages and to rent them out for the owners. This company, which owns the name "surfsidecottages.com" also manages privately owned homes in the same neighborhood (LeCount Hollow, South Wellfleet) and all the properties that they rent can be found on their website: <http://surfsidecottages.com> even though some are not, technically, part of the original "Surf Side Cottages."

One Bedroom Units

The cottage shown is called "Beach Walk" and it is a one room, studio cottage with a kitchen in one corner, a queen bed in the second corner, a living room with cable TV, Wi-fi Internet access and working fireplace in the third corner and a private



bath in the fourth corner. It is a cozy, recently renovated cottage that we call our "Honeymoon Cottage" since it requires togetherness. Perfect for a single person or an affectionate couple. <http://surfsidecottages.com/beachwalk>

Also available is a one bedroom "apartment" called Dunecrest located on Wilson Ave. Very private but attached to a house where a retire couple live and not a free-standing unit.

<http://surfsidecottages.com/dunecrest>



Two Bedroom Units



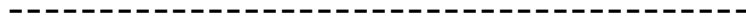
Most of our 2-bedroom cottages will accommodate up to 4 people. With full kitchens, most with dishwashers, heat and indoor and outdoor showers and working fireplaces, these cottages are not too big but offer comfortable stays.

2-bedroom Surf Side cottages:

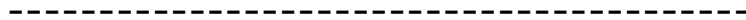
Beachcomber cottage with Air Conditioning, Cable TV and Wi-fi <http://surfsidecottages.com/beachcomber>



Ocean Breeze cottage has nothing between it and the ocean except for beach grass and a sand dune. With cable TV and Wi-fi and a fire pit. <http://surfsidecottages.com/oceanbreeze>



Silver Sands cottage has A/C, a gas fireplace and Wi-fi Internet access but no distracting TV. <http://surfsidecottages.com/silversands>



Surf View cottage is one of our most popular. Cable TV and Wi-fi and a fire pit <http://surfsidecottages.com/surfview>



Other 2-bedroom cottages:

Sea Haven cottage is on Nellie Road which dead-ends at the top of the dune that leads down to the beach. <http://surfsidecottages.com/seahaven>



Pretty Penny cottage located on Nellie Road which dead-ends at the top of the dune that leads down to the beach.

<http://surfsidecottages.com/pretypenny>



95 Rockwell Ave. Rockwell Ave. has stairs down the dune at teh end of the street.

<http://surfsidecottages.com/95rockwell>



Black Fish Creek cottage is located in a wooded setting near the tidal creek

<http://surfsidecottages.com/blackfishcreek>



Bessie's cottage is located off of Rt. 6 by The Even'tide Resort Motel. Renting this cottage gives you indoor pool privileges at the motel. <http://surfsidecottages.com/bessiescottage>



Pond View cottage located on Gross Hill Road with a view of Gull Pond. 1/2 mile to Newcomb Hollow Beach. 15 minute walk to Gull Pond. <http://surfsidecottages.com/pondview>



440 Nellie Rd. Spectacular ocean view from the wrap-around deck. This cottage is very popular. <http://surfsidecottages.com/440NellieRd>



Three Bedroom units



Our 3-bedroom units typically have:

Bedroom 1: 1 queen size bed,

Bedroom 2: 1 queen size bed

Bedroom 3: two twin size beds.

Some, but not all, of the cottages have roof decks and most of the roof decks offer obstructed views of the ocean. A variety of amenities: some have cable TV and A/C, others do not, these family friendly cottages have loyal fans who return to them year after year for their annual beach vacations.

3-bedroom Surf Side cottages:



Bonnie Dune cottage. Roof Deck, TV, Wi-fi, new kitchen and bath.

<http://surfsidecottages.com/bonniedune>



Breakers cottage. All one floor (no stairs)
200 steps to beach. Wi-fi Internet, out-
door fire pit.

<http://surfsidecottages.com/breakers>



Cliffside cottage. Recently renovated. TV
and Wi-fi, new kitchen and bath.

<http://surfsidecottages.com/cliffside>



EbbTide cottage. Roof deck with ocean
view, TV and Wi-fi

<http://surfsidecottages.com/ebbtide>



Oceanside cottage. Roof deck, flower gar-
den, TV and Wi-fi.

<http://surfsidecottages.com/oceanside>



Ocean View cottage. Roof deck and Wi-fi Internet but no distracting TV.
<http://surfsidecottages.com/oceanview>



Piney Ridge cottage. 360 steps to the beach. New kitchen and bath. Wi-fi but no distracting TV.
<http://surfsidecottages.com/pineyridge>



Sea Breeze cottage. All one floor (no stairs) TV, Wi-fi and sun deck.
<http://surfsidecottages.com/seabreeze>



Sea View cottage with a roof deck, TV and Wi-fi
<http://surfsidecottages.com/seaview>



Surf King cottage with a roof deck, Wi-fi Internet but no distracting TV. <http://surfsidecottages.com/surfking>



Surf Rider cottage with a roof deck, Wi-fi Internet but no distracting TV. <http://surfsidecottages.com/surfrider>



Surfside cottage Two floors, recently renovated with a great kitchen <http://surfsidecottages.com/surfside>

Other 3-bedroom cottages:



Another World cottage on Wilson Ave. About 400 steps to the beach. <http://surfsidecottages.com/365wilson>



Half Penny cottage on quiet Nellie Road
<http://surfsidecottages.com/halfpenny>



Solymar An ocean view, newly renovated, upside down house on Rockwell Ave.
<http://surfsidecottages.com/solymar>

Four Bedroom Unit

This is a four bedroom, 2 bath house with an ocean view from the upper deck. Just walk down the street to the top of the sand dune that leads down to the water at LeCount Hollow, in Wellfleet. There is a string of stairs down the dune to make going down and getting back up easier. This home is great for larger groups up to 8 people rented on a weekly basis only. More info and photos available at <http://surfsidecottages.com/carpediem>



Six Bedroom Unit



Here is the perfect place for a family. 6 bedrooms sleep up to 12 people. Located just a short walk down the dead-end street to the top of the dune that leads down to the water at a Cape Cod Seashore Beach. There are 3.5 bathrooms, 3 TV's, Wi-fi Internet access

and 8-zone air-conditioning. The kitchen is stainless and granite, the home is solar powered and there is even a charging station for your electric vehicle. Outdoors, behind the cottage, you will find an enclosed outdoor shower, both a charcoal and a gas BBQ grill, picnic tables and a stone fire pit. There is everything you need for a great big family week or to share with two families. See <http://surfsidecottages.com/unwinder>

[Introduction](#) | [Orleans](#) | [Eastham](#) | [Wellfleet](#) | [Truro](#) | [Provincetown](#) | [Where to Stay](#) | [What to Eat](#)