

# Cape Cod

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Cape Cod. The very name conjures up a place that's a far sight better than wherever you are now. One of America's classic vacation destinations, 'the Cape' – as it is universally known – has something for just about every taste and pocketbook.

If the beach is your bag, there are 400 miles of shoreline, studded with dunes, cloaked with scrub oak and pine, and dusted with eelgrass. History buffs will love strolling the historic town centers and learning about the Kennedys and famous writers who made the Cape their home. Nature observers can watch birds in the Cape's forests, and seals and whales in its waters. Serious shoppers and gallery hoppers can choose from dozens of art and antique galleries, artisans' workshops and boutiques. And if all you want is a nice piece of fish, you won't have to look far for a down-home meal; you'll also find other restaurants whose sophistication and innovation rivals anything in America.

Plus, the Cape is made for outdoor activities – kayaking, canoeing, hiking, golf and especially biking are all popular. Don't forget to bring the kids! There's plenty for them too. And the Cape's cultural institutions, including museums and especially theater, are some of the best in the northeast.

Locals use a somewhat confusing nomenclature for the Cape's various sections. The 'Upper Cape' (Sandwich and Falmouth to Mashpee) is nearest the mainland. 'Mid-Cape' extends from Barnstable and Hyannis eastward to Dennis. The 'Lower Cape' (or 'Outer Cape') extends north and east from Brewster and Harwich east and north to Provincetown, although for purposes of this book, Provincetown has its own chapter.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Only in New England – watching the sunrise over **Nobska Lighthouse** (p69) in Woods Hole
- Exhilarating – bike the **Cape Cod Rail Trail** (p89)
- Open spaces – explore the **tidal flats** (p94) on Cape Cod Bay
- Heaven on a half-shell – oysters and other seafood delicacies in **Wellfleet** (p118)
- Sin-seal-ly yours – exploring Chatham's **Monomoy Island** (p102) or whale-watching off **Barnstable** (p74)



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 508

■ POPULATION: 229,545  
(including Provincetown)

■ AREA: 396 SQ MI  
(including Provincetown)