



THE NATIONAL SEASHORE PROTECTS THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC SCENE

A great peninsula, shaped like a bold bent arm, thrusts some seventy miles into the Atlantic Ocean from the Massachusetts mainland. This is Cape Cod, landmark and haven for mariners who sought a new world or wrested their living from a perilous sea. Here vacationists now seek refreshment along sweeping shores and quiet coves.

Heaped up by glaciers long ago, then molded by winds and waves and currents, Cape Cod has been endowed with plant and animal life in rich variety. Now it is a scene of everchanging charm, beautiful to behold, fascinating to study. Surf pounds the eastern headland. Calmer waters of Cape Cod Bay and Nantucket Sound wash the cape's northern and southern shores. Between these shores, the winds brush marsh and heath and woodland, ruffling ponds the glaciers left behind.

For three centuries Cape Cod, with its magnificent shoreline, was spared the great industrial buildup of our eastern coast. Combined with a seafaring way of life and a proud heritage, this isolation produced a picturesque scene: unique villages, weathered gray cottages, fishing wharves, windmills, and lighthouses.

Until recently, Cape Cod's natural and historic scene was preserved by the good taste and care of individuals, the Towns, and the Commonwealth. The establishment of Cape Cod National Seashore in 1961 now more permanently assures this protection. Wild beach, heath, forest, and ponds are no longer threatened here in one of the last expanses of uninterrupted natural lands along the Atlantic. Historic buildings, with traditional shake or clapboard siding, can repose in natural surroundings. Cape Cod National Seashore ultimately will embrace some 27,000 acres of land and promises to keep intact the charm and beauty of the Old Cape for future generations.

LANDMARK IN THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

In 1616, John Smith described Cape Cod as "made of the main sea on one side, and a great bay on the other in the form of a sickle." A landmark during the Age of Exploration, the cape was known and visited by such European mariners as Bartholomew Gosnold (1602), Champlain (1606), Henry Hudson (1609), and Capt. John Smith (1614). Verrazano and John Cabot may have been here even earlier, and some believe this is the "Keel Cape" of Thorvald the Viking (1004).

Cape Cod's first important historical significance is, of course, connected with the Pilgrims. This was the first New World land they saw; here they landed (at present-day Provincetown), making their first contacts with this strange, new land. Here they found their first seed corn, drank their "first New England water with as much delight as we ever drank in all our lives," and had their first encounter with the red man. From here they sailed to find the harbor that became home.

WHERE TO GO . . . WHAT TO SEE AND DO

Four areas of Cape Cod National Seashore have been readied for visitor use: 1. Province Lands Area; 2. Pilgrim Heights Area; 3. Marconi Station Area; 4. Coast Guard Beach Area. Facilities have been or will be developed only in these areas for the present season. Other areas within the authorized boundaries are under private ownership. *Private property rights must be respected.*

A manned information station is operated on U.S. 6 in the town of Orleans for your convenience. Guided walks, self-guiding nature trails, evening talks, and exhibits are provided to acquaint you with the human and natural history of Cape Cod National Seashore. You are invited to attend these events, a schedule for which is available at the information station or seashore headquarters.

NATURAL FEATURES

Cape Cod's "mighty headland" has been the subject of comment since mariners first charted it. Henry David Thoreau named it the Great Beach. "A storm in the fall or winter," he wrote, "is the best time to visit it; a light-house or a fisherman's hut the true hotel. A man may stand there and put all America behind him." Nature fashioned this beach scene—a product of forces as evident today

as in Thoreau's time. Change is characteristic; in time of storm, it is spectacular and dramatic.

In the outer section of the cape, rising from the beach, are banks of continental glacier gravel, sand, and clay ranging in height up to 175 feet and sliced by the elements into clean-sloping cliffs. Glacial kettle ponds provide placid contrasts to the nearby ocean. Recent modifications in the cape topography have resulted from changes in sea level and the forces of wave action, currents, and wind.

Today parts of the cape provide rugged conditions for plants and animals. In protected areas, life is more abundant, with luxuriant forest in some places. Biotic zones vary from the ocean to the highlands and include beaches, dunes, and salt- and fresh-water marshes. To Cape Cod come hundreds of thousands of birds, winging the Atlantic flyway to nest or sojourn here. Shore birds feed and nest on the flats; in summer, terns nest on the beaches, and, in winter, major concentrations of waterfowl are found just offshore and in the marshes.

Natural features are Cape Cod's most important asset. Preservation of these features is the chief aim of the National Park Service.

FISH, WHALES, SHIPS, AND LIGHTHOUSES

"We took a great store of codfish," wrote Bartholomew Gosnold, who landed here in 1602 and named the cape. Ever since, fishing has played a major part in the life of its people. Provincetown, Truro, and Wellfleet were well known whaling centers. Cape Cod square-riggers took American products round the world. To guide them, five lighthouses were built within the boundaries of the seashore: Long Point Light, at the very top of the "hook"; Wood End and Race Point Lights defining the end of the peninsula; Cape Cod, or Highland Light, visible 20 miles at sea; and Nauset Beach Light, about a mile north of seashore headquarters.

HOW TO REACH THE AREA

Cape Cod National Seashore is located along the eastern part of Barnstable County, about 50 airline miles from Boston and 200 airline miles northeast of New York City. The cape is served by U.S. 6 and Mass. 5A and 2B.

NEARBY ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

Sleeping accommodations, restaurants, gift shops, groceries, other stores, and gas stations are available in all towns adjoining the seashore. For information and reservations, contact the local chambers of commerce.

Three privately operated campgrounds are within the authorized boundaries of the seashore in the town of Truro. Three other privately operated campgrounds are located just outside the seashore, in the towns of Wellfleet and Provincetown. *It is recommended that advance reservations be made for campsites during the summer season.*

ADMINISTRATION

Cape Cod National Seashore, established on August 7, 1961, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

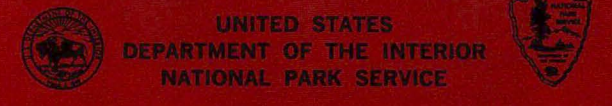
The development of this area is part of MISSION 66, a 10-year program to develop and staff the areas of the National Park System so that they can be used and enjoyed by both present and future generations.

A superintendent, whose address is P.O. Box 428, Eastham, Mass. 02642, is in immediate charge of the seashore.

AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibility for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.



MAP DEPICTS OTHER NORTHEASTERN NATIONAL PARKS, MONUMENTS, AND LANDMARKS TO INCLUDE ON YOUR TRIP TO CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office Washington, D.C., 20402 - Price 20 cents



CAPE COD
NATIONAL SEASHORE

1 PROVINCE LANDS AREA

GUARDED SWIMMING: Race Point and Herring Cove Beaches . . . 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

GUIDED WALKS: In Province Lands beech forest and pond area. Ask for an interpretive program schedule at the information station.

INTERPRETIVE PANELS: At Ocean View Lookout on Race Point Road.

1 The dunes and marshes at the tip of Cape Cod were set aside as early as 1670 by the "Plymouth Colony" in pioneering conservation action. With the establishment of the seashore, this 4,400-acre Province Lands State reservation was deeded to the American people. The area is about 25 miles north of seashore headquarters, off U.S. 6. Here are several miles of some of the most spectacular dunes along the Atlantic Coast. Formed after glacial times, they were built by sand brought to shore by ocean waves and currents and carried inland by winds. Some move dramatically over the area, engulfing entire forests in their paths; others have been stabilized by vegetation.

Just off Race Point Road is Ocean View Lookout, commanding a panoramic view. In this section of the Atlantic, hundreds of mariners have lost their lives in shipwrecks. Behind the "hook of the cape" the visitor looks across Provincetown into Cape Cod Bay. Here, on November 11, 1620, the Mayflower anchored and the first exploring party went ashore. Here, too, the males on board met in solemn conclave and drew up the "Mayflower Compact," basic document for the government of the colony. A bas-relief at the base of 255-foot Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown commemorates this agreement.

Provincetown is the summer home of many artists and playwrights. The Historical Museum houses Adm. Donald B. MacMillan's Arctic Collection as well as interesting objects connected with the cape's early history.

2 PILGRIM HEIGHTS AREA

GUIDED AND SELF-GUIDED WALKS: Pilgrim Spring Trail and Small's Swamp Trail.

INTERPRETIVE SHELTER: Exhibits describe the Pilgrims and the Indians.

PICNIC AREA: Tables are available.

2 The 1,700 acres that comprise this area, formerly Pilgrim Spring State Park, are a gift from Massachusetts to the people of the United States. A paved road running east from U.S. 6 about 20 miles north of the seashore headquarters leads directly into the parking area. Pitch pine forests dot portions of the adjacent high ground, forming a picturesque setting for the shelter interpreting the story of the pre-Pilgrim Indians and their first encounters with the Pilgrims. A self-guiding nature trail leads along bearberry-heath-covered slopes into a large kettle formed long ago by melting glacial ice, and follows through azalea-blueberry-dominated vegetation on the bottom. Another trail leads down the southern slope to a spring believed to have been the one where the Pilgrims found their first fresh drinking water on Cape Cod. Within sight of the shelter are the routes of the three Pilgrim "Discoveries," described in the narratives of the Plymouth colonists.

3 MARCONI STATION AREA

ASSEMBLY HALL: This building houses several exhibits.

GUIDED AND SELF-GUIDED WALKS: White Cedar Swamp Nature Trail.

INTERPRETIVE SHELTER: Exhibits describe the Marconi Wireless Station, the first wireless station in the U.S. An ocean overlook is located here.

The Marconi Station Area consists of 1,800 acres along the ocean in South Wellfleet about 5 miles north of seashore headquarters via hard-surfaced road. Overlooks along the high cliffs provide spectacular views of the Great Beach and the ocean. Inland, much of the area modified by former Camp Wellfleet Military Reservation is now being restored to its natural condition. A white cedar swamp, a rare vegetation type in this seashore, is accessible by trail.

At the end of a hardtop road at the north end of this area lies the remains of the first wireless station in the United States. An interpretive shelter tells the story of the first wireless message to England, on January 19, 1903.

HEADQUARTERS: Cape Cod National Seashore offices are located here.

GUARDED SWIMMING: Coast Guard Beach . . . 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

GUIDED WALKS: Nauset Marsh area in summer months.

ILLUSTRATED TALKS: These are presented nightly in the amphitheater . . . 8:30 p.m.

Seashore headquarters is located in this 37-acre tract served by Nauset and Doane Roads running east from U.S. 6 a short distance north of the Eastham Town Hall. Headquarters was formerly the Nauset Coast Guard Station. The building rests on a hill overlooking the ocean and famed Nauset Marsh.

Great Beach, the ocean side or "backside" as it is known to Cape Cod residents, usually provides excellent surf fishing for striped bass, king of all salt-water game fish in Cape Cod waters.

4 COAST GUARD BEACH AREA

Swimming Beach (Protected)

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FOUR AREAS ONLY ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: PRIVATE PROPERTY MUST BE RESPECTED

This is your seashore. Help preserve its natural beauty, its historic and scientific values. Rules have been established to assure your safety and preservation of the seashore for the enjoyment of others.

National Park Service rangers are responsible for enforcing the rules. They are always ready to give information and assistance to help make your visit more rewarding. Report accidents, injuries, or other emergencies to the nearest park ranger. The following rules are of special importance:

DRIVING: Drive carefully. Observe posted speed laws. Report all accidents at once.

FIRES: Wind, low moisture, and pitch pine woods add up to high forest fire potential. Open fires, except when authorized by permit, are prohibited. Permits are not required for stoves using gas or other manufactured fuel, or for charcoal grills when these are used in designated picnic areas or on sandy or rocky beaches bordering tidewater.

PETS: All pets must be kept under physical restraint when in developed areas or areas of visitor concentration. Leashes cannot exceed 10 feet. Pets are not permitted in public buildings, picnic areas, or on protected beaches.

SWIMMING: Lifeguard services and other facilities for your convenience and safety are provided at designated beach areas. Observe water safety practices at all times.

FISHING: Fishing is in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws. No license is required for salt-water fishing. Appropriate Massachusetts and/or town license is required for fresh-water and shell fishing.

CAMPING: All camping, including trailers on the beach, is prohibited except in designated privately operated campgrounds.

HUNTING: Hunting is permitted during the open seasons on upland game and migratory waterfowl prescribed by the State. There is no open season on non-game species. Federal, State, and local laws apply.

OVER-SAND VEHICLES: Vehicles equipped for over-sand driving must use designated sand routes only. A permit is required. Indiscriminate dune-driving is prohibited.

PRESERVING THE NATURAL FEATURES: Every natural feature—flowers, trees, animals, dunes—is to be left undisturbed. Keep trails, roadsides, and other areas clean. Use trash containers for all waste. Let it not be said that this seashore is less beautiful because of your visit.

SAFETY: Use caution and common sense to avoid accidents and assure a pleasant visit.