



THE TIME IS RIGHT, and OUR COASTS ARE CLEAR: TIME TO COME BACK to CAPE COD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cape Cod, MA July 2, 2020 — If ever there was a time for a Cape Cod getaway, it is now. Here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, health numbers are leading to the safe reopening of businesses and organizations, who are eager to get back to work!

Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, regional tourism council for the entire Cape region, has received a significant number of inquiries about visiting the Cape, what is open, not open, or about to open. New and returning visitors are requesting guidance on how to plan for their visits. This press release is designed to provide information to help plan your Cape Cod visit.

LODGING, DINING and WHAT'S NEXT

Cape-wide, lodging establishments*, restaurants* (indoor and outdoor dining), personal services* (day spas, salons, etc.) are open. This month, bars*, museums*, fitness gyms* and everything else* (besides nightclubs and large venues) will reopen under Phase III of [Reopening Massachusetts](#). Cape Cod's culinary scene runs the gamut from clam shacks to haute cuisine. Many Cape restaurants are renowned for decades with new eateries calling the Cape home as food trends and opportunities flourish. In addition, check out the [Cape Cod Beverage Trail](#) featuring craft beer and spirits. Just in time for July 4th, [Finn's Craft Brew Tap House](#) opened this

week in Hyannis! In Chatham, make a stop at the popular [Chatham Fish Pier](#) where visitors can watch the day's catch be offloaded afternoons from the observation deck (there is also a fish market offering fresh fish and take away cooked seafood).

GETTING HERE and AROUND

Need to get to or around the Cape? [Air carriers](#) are flying, [CapeFLYER](#)'s weekend service between Boston South Station and the Cape with stops in Braintree, Brockton, Middleborough/Lakeville, Wareham Village, Buzzards Bay, Bourne and Hyannis runs through Labor Day. [Plymouth & Brockton](#) and [Peter Pan Bus Lines](#) offer transportation between Boston, Providence and Cape Cod (several locations). [Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority](#) offers Cape-wide transportation year-round. If traveling onward to Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket, air and [ferry](#) transportation (Steamship Authority, Hy Line Cruises, Freedom Boat Lines, Island Queen, Patriot Party Boats, Bay State Cruises, Boston Harbor Cruises and Ptown Fast Ferry) are running on schedule!

BEACHES, LAKES, PONDS, RIVERS & WATERWAYS

Across the 70-mile peninsula Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds, Atlantic Ocean, Cape Cod and Buzzard Bays [beaches](#) are open* — including Cape Cod National Seashore's six dazzling beaches. Inland, hundreds of lakes and ponds, more than a dozen rivers and other waterways offer unique and refreshing ways to explore the Cape without the crowds. Kayak, SUP, canoe, sail, motorboat, Jet ski, water ski or swim the Cape's pristine waterways. Windsurfer alert: Hyannis' [Kalmus Beach](#) (at the end of Ocean Street, with a dedicated surfing area of the water) and [West Dennis Beach](#) (on the road of the same name) are favorite wind- and kite-surfing locations because of their favorable high winds. Not only are wind- and kite surfing great fun and thrilling, they are equally enjoyable to watch nice and dry from the beach!

HIKING, WALKING and MOUNTAIN BIKING

Visitors who wish to get some exercise (or practice extreme social distancing), take a hike! And we mean that in the nicest way! Throughout Cape Cod's 400 square miles there are at least 500 hiking, walking and mountain biking trails, comprising [Mass Audubon](#) wildlife sanctuaries (no

dogs please), [Trustees of Reservations](#) nature reservations, [US Fish & Wildlife Service](#) wildlife refuges, MA Wildlife Management Areas ([Frances Crane](#) in Falmouth and [Hyannis Ponds](#) in Hyannis), [Barnstable Land Trust](#) and 15 Town conservations trusts. Within these pristine land tracts one can find peace and serenity, varied hiking, walking and mountain biking terrains from beginner to extreme, a wide variety of flora and fauna including more than 100 varieties of trees within these lands' canopies, varied understory, forest floors and emergent forest. One can also find the unique characteristic of coastal marshes offer superb opportunities to view wildlife and typical coastal wetlands biome, such as ferns, bulrushes, cattails, reeds, sedges, and rushes. These lands are ideal for plein air painting, photography, bird watching as well as more active pursuits.

In Provincetown, with bare feet or a sturdy pair of sneaks, visitors can [walk across Provincetown Harbor](#) on the boulder-ed Breakwater to Long Point (about 1½ miles one way) to explore Long Point and see Long Point and Wood End Lighthouses up close! Walk back or take the [Long Point Shuttle](#) over or back but, be aware, high tide is not a safe time to cross!

CULTURE & HISTORY

Looking to relax? Why not explore the [Cape & Islands Bookstore Trail](#), a great way to get out and visit some new parts of the cape and score a great beach, hammock, nighttime or porch read! History and culture buffs can find much to enjoy along the [Cape Cod Museum Trail](#) featuring 80 museums, historical societies and other cultural locations! In the Town of Yarmouth, be one of the first to explore the [Olde Cape Cod Discovery Trail](#), including the ever-popular [Edward Gorey House](#), celebrating the life and work of this enigmatic American writer, illustrator, playwright and ser designer who purchased this unassuming house in 1970 and lived here until his death in 2000. On this enchanting Trail, visitors can discover natural beauty and historic heritage in Yarmouth. While in Yarmouth, take a Town-wide tour of the 17 whimsical sand sculptures along the Town's [Sand Sculpture Trail](#) using this [downloadable map](#) and perhaps win a prize by entering the annual Sand Sculpture Trail Photo Contest (details on the website). Heritage Museums & Gardens' many [gardens are open](#) for strolling, as are its nature trails and Café, although its museums and collections remain shuttered for the present.

Along Hyannis Harbor, [HyArts Artists Shanties](#) are now open daily (Hyannis Harbor Overlook shanties, just opposite at the end of the Walkway to the Sea, will open soon)! These small fishing shack-style structures provide Cape Cod artists and artisans space to work and sell at these “seaside studios” Visitors can stroll, speak to artists and artisans, take pictures and enjoy the harborside location and nearby restaurants.

[Old King’s Highway](#) (also called Route 6A), runs 62 miles along the Cape’s northern coast through nearly all the Cape’s towns from Bourne to Provincetown. This meandering former Native American path was a principal east-west cart route for early Cape farmers and settlers. In the 17th century it evolved into an extension of Plymouth’s King’s Highway. Along the Highway visitors can view four centuries of architecture (including former sea captains’ homes), centuries-old stone walls, and find shops, galleries, restaurants, scenic pullovers, museums, and Cape Playhouse (oldest summer theater in America). A Cape map with helpful markers and hyperlinks can be downloaded from Google [here](#).

Nothing can be more evocative of Cape Cod than its treasure trove of more than a dozen lighthouses. These maritime sentinels are nostalgic and, even in the 21st century, vital navigation guideposts for seamen. Most of the Cape’s lighthouses are accessible and some are even open for tours. This [map](#) can direct visitors to the Cape’s lighthouses and includes some background and hyperlinks to those that have websites. Many visitors enjoy taking a Cape ‘Lighthouse Tour’ to see how many they can visit while they are on Cape Cod.

For a dazzling look at one of Cape Cod’s most magnificent unexpected and edifices, take a free [tour](#) of Church of the Transfiguration at Rock Harbor in Orleans. The architecture, contemporary frescoes, mosaic tile floor and eye-popping apse are truly impressive. It recently built 10-bell 100-foot Bell Tower is topped by a bronze angel statue. The Church also offers [concerts](#) of its E.M. Skinner Organ as well as its choir, Gloriæ Dei Cantores throughout the year.

Museums are scheduled to open during Phase III of Reopening Massachusetts, but dates are somewhat fluid, depending upon health metrics.

CYCLING

Let's talk about cycling! Although much of the Cape is bike-friendly, 114 miles of cycling trails can be found from the Upper to the Outer Cape! [Cape Cod Canal's Cycling Trails](#) are 7.1 miles each, paved and off-road, along each side of the Canal. Falmouth's 10.7-mile [Shining Sea Bikeway](#) rail trail is truly a coastal treasure hugging the Buzzards Bay coast from Woods Hole to North Falmouth past Sippewissett Marsh, cranberry bogs and overlooking Chapaquoit Beach. [Cape Cod Rail Trail](#), now running from South Yarmouth to South Wellfleet is 25.7 miles end to end, including a new bridge over Bass River and other improvements. Lots of visitors know about the larger trails, but perhaps are unaware that there are several other cycling trails such as Chatham Loop (five-mile loop accessible from Chatham Fish Pier); Nauset Marsh Trail (3¼ miles roundtrip from Doane Rock picnic area to Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, intersecting with Cape Cod Rail trail); Head of the Meadow Trail (two miles; access in Truro at Head of the Meadow Beach parking area; its runs to Head of the Meadow Beach); Province Lands Trail (7½ miles; challenging paved loop through majestic dunes to Herring Cove and Race Point Beaches in Provincetown. This hilly loop starts from the Province Lands Visitor Center in Provincetown).

WHALE WATCHES

One of Cape Cod's most popular and exciting activities is whale watching, which commence 6 July and run through October. Reports of many whales just offshore continue to arrive from fishing boats. Whale watches depart from [Provincetown](#) and [Barnstable](#) lasting approximately four hours. Visitors should be certain to bring sunglasses, sunblock, sweatshirt and, of course, a camera!

FISHING

Nothing like the thrill of reeling in a great striper or other fish. Whether at the Cape Cod Canal, taking a [fishing charter](#), going out on a friend's boat, surfcasting or shell fishing, Cape Cod is the place with the freshest seafood anywhere! Massachusetts does not require a license for recreational saltwater angling; [here](#) are MA saltwater fishing regulations. To clam for quahogs or oysters, license required from Town where gathering will be done for anyone age 14+.

GOLF

Cape Cod golf clubs are open, with restrictions such as shorter hours. Of planning to golf while visiting, contact your golf club of choice for opening guidelines, most of which can be found [here](#).

DRIVE-IN THEATRES

This year, there will be more drive-in theatres on Cape Cod than ever before. [Wellfleet Drive-In](#) has been the Cape's only drive-in since 1957. But this summer the following drive-ins will open, with limited space for distancing, but offering new movie viewing options.

[West Yarmouth Drive-In](#) | 669 Route 28, West Yarmouth (on Parker's River); two screens.

[Main Street, Hyannis Drive-In](#) | Parking lot at corner Main Street & High School Road, 50 cars max; \$20 /car; six consecutive Fridays starting 3 July 2020.

[Heritage Drive-In](#) | Route 130 Sandwich; admission \$15, admission for military members, seniors, and children 11 and under is \$12.

For additional information about visiting Cape Cod call 888-33CAPECOD, visit www.capecodchamber.org. To [download a digital copy](#) or [order](#) a 2020 *Cape Cod Travel Guide*, follow hyperlinks.

* With restrictions and some capacity limitations; visitors are reminded, to mitigate spread of COVID-19, abide by these safety measures: cover your face; wash your hands; socially distance; be vigilant for symptoms; and stay at your lodging if feeling ill.