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# Discover

## Massachusetts' Cultural Coast

### Explore Six Lively Regions of Culture, History, Learning and Fun

Massachusetts Cultural Coast comprises Quincy, Plymouth County, Southeastern Massachusetts (i.e., Bristol County), Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Within these six diverse, yet remarkably similar regions, there is much to explore and activities to partake in. These six contiguous regions are a wonderful tapestry of the American cultural experience ... its history, traditions, culture, arts and crafts, lore, theater and music, recreation and economies ... weave together icons of the American way of life with backwards glances at this country's stirring history, much of which emanated from these very parts of Massachusetts. Visitors can explore the roots of the American democracy and colonization. Here Native American heritage is strong and many cultural attractions delve into the history and traditions of Native people. Explore the paths once trod by presidents.

## Cultural Coast: Evolution

The Cultural Coast was the brainchild of Congressman William Delahunt. Inaugurated to coincide with the 2004 Democratic National Convention, the Cultural Coast has evolved into a formal marketing partnership between six of Massachusetts' premier destinations. Delahunt wished to showcase the

economic impact of tourism, especially international and long-haul tourism, to his district. Through identifying the appropriate partners in each of the original five regions and conducting an asset inventory, the regions were able to join assets and develop collateral and a website funded by a grant. Since its inception, the Massachusetts Cultural Coast has added Southeastern Massachusetts (comprising Bristol County), as this contiguous region was viewed as strategically viable as a new member, although not part of Delahunt's district. The Massachusetts Cultural Coast's focus is to promote the six member destinations to media, domestic and international media trade and consumer markets and increase their exposure as world-class, year-round destinations.

## Cultural Coast Regions: Plymouth County

In Plymouth County, see where the *Mayflower* Pilgrims made their first settlement back in 1627 Plymouth Colony at Plimoth Plantation where, as they say "Suddenly, you're not just a tourist. You're here." After stepping back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century time, explore today's Plymouth, which is chocked full of interesting gems of museums such as Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth National Wax Museum, Plymouth Rock and a host of exciting sights and attractions. Take a whale watch from downtown Plymouth, the South Shore's only whale watch departure point. At Jenney Grist Mill, Miller John Jenny evokes the 1630s life at the mill. Be certain to see the statue Faith, a soaring 81-foot granite statue pointing heavenward with one foot on Plymouth Rock. President Abraham Lincoln himself donated funds to this project, which was completed in 1889. It is a fact that Plymouth, at 103 square miles, is the largest municipality in the Commonwealth.

Beyond Plymouth, comb the South Shore's illustrious beaches; roam the highways and byways of its coastal villages and bucolic interior. Hull is home of the Paragon Carousel, Hull Lifesaving Museum, Fort Revere Memorial Park and offers panoramic Boston Harbor Island and lighthouse views. Hingham's World's End, a 251-acre property with landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, overlooks Hull and Boston Harbor. Take some snapshots at picturesque Scituate Lighthouse where, during the War of 1812, the lighthouse keeper's 15- and 16-year old daughters played fife and drum, frightening away British soldiers who had planned to burn the town to the ground. Visit Maritime & Irish Mossing Museum, where memorabilia of regional seafaring traces the area's nautical past.

New England towns like Marshfield, Duxbury and Kingston feature terrific shopping and do not miss the local antiques shops or a tea ceremony at Duxbury's Art Complex Museum. Watch the renowned and illustrious cranberry harvest in autumn wonder amidst the magnificence of one of the region's most glorious and popular seasons. At Middleboro Historical Museum and see the

famous little people exhibit, featuring General and Mrs. Tom Thumb, of the P.T. Barnum Circus. In Mattapoissett, visit Ned's Point Lighthouse and then take in the coast along Onset Bay. Brockton, "City of Champions and home of the Brockton Fair, features a large inventory of Victorian architecture. The Historical Society displays the Thomas Edison Exhibit and memorabilia of undefeated World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Rocky Marciano. The Fuller Museum of Arts presents exhibits of contemporary craft in wood, glass, ceramic and fiber from local, national, and international artists. There are also a Fire and Shoe museums.

## Cultural Coast Regions: Southeastern Massachusetts

Southeastern Massachusetts, time travel to New Bedford, setting for Herman Melville's classic tale, *Moby Dick*, and visit its enchanting Whaling Museum, Seamen's Bethel, seaport and historic byways. Zeiterion Theater (nicknamed the "Z") opened on April 2, 1923 and has, over the past 85 years, experienced its glories (such as five world premieres) and despairs (two closings). Today's "Z" is a historic venue for musicals, plays and concerts, including the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, from September through May. Taber Park, at Clark's Point (the city's southernmost tip), offers miles of walking and cycling trails and panoramic views of Buzzards Bay and the Elizabeth islands. On the second Thursday of each month, downtown New Bedford comes alive with *AHA! Night*, a cultural event in which more than 40 museums, galleries, merchants and restaurants participate. There are live music, new art exhibits, performances, lectures and more, making New Bedford "the" place to be for arts and culture.

In Fall River, visit Battleship Cove, a unique "floating" museum docked on the Taunton River containing the world's largest collection of 20th century U.S. naval fighting vessels. Climb aboard and explore the battleship *Massachusetts*, submarine *U.S.S. Lionfish*, destroyer *U.S.S. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.*, two P.T. Boats and the Soviet missile cruiser *Hiddensee*. *Massachusetts* was the largest ship ever launched from Quincy, Massachusetts' famous shipyards. Housed in a beautiful Victorian-style hippodrome the magnificent Fall River Carousel -- Philadelphia Toboggan Company Carousel #54 -- resides at Battleship Cove, fully restored to its previous splendor. The carousel, with 48 majestic steeds and two spectacular chariots, is the oldest functioning carousel in America. Also on the Fall River waterfront is the *H.M.S. Bounty* (of *Mutiny on the Bounty* fame), one of the last remaining wooden sailing ships actively cruising the world's oceans.

Fall River was once home to Lizzie Borden; her legacy is alive at the *Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast and Museum* at 92 Second Street. Stop by for a tour and, perhaps, sight some otherworldly specters (as many visitors have). It is a fact that, despite the infamous rhyme which posits that Lizzie Borden gave her

mother “forty whacks” and her father “forty one,” truth is that her stepmother actually received nine axes blows and her father 11 on August 4, 1892. The Historical Society’s collection of artifacts relating to the still-unsolved Lizzie Borden murder mystery is the largest in existence. Actual courtroom evidence, rare photographs and even the handle-less hatchet, the suspected murder weapon, are included in the exhibit.

Narrows Center for the Arts exhibits the work of up and coming artists from the region; the Renaissance Gallery is open a few hours Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Old Colony & Fall River Railroad Museum is a must-see. This Museum houses replicas of many old trains, preserving New England’s nostalgic railroading past.

Although the foregoing are the most renowned cities, it is easy to meander all over this glorious and historic region. Some towns and villages are almost hidden, such as enchanted Padanaram, whose quaint charm and elegance can be seen in the grand homes ringing the harbor, quiet streets and salty waterfront. But one thing sets Padanaram apart from many other destinations ... it is not listed on any chart (they call it Apponagansett Bay in the town of South Dartmouth, but everyone knows it is really the historic village of Padanaram). Padanaram is one of the original names for Mesopotamia which lay between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in what was Assyria. Explore this wonderland of history, culture and recreation by the seacoast and within its rolling interior.

Undiscovered but worth discovering are the cities and towns of Southeastern Massachusetts. Defined by the sea and its bucolic hinterland, one can easily spend a week or longer discovering the beauty, history, cultural and recreation within this diverse and exciting part of Massachusetts.

## Cultural Coast Regions: Quincy

Quincy, birthplace of two American presidents, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, as well as John Hancock, is a city brimming with history, arts, culture and excitement. It was the site of America’s first commercial railway, built specifically to transport Quincy’s granite to Boston to construct the Bunker Hill Monument. Fascinating historical sites, such as the Adams National Historical Park, birthplaces of two U.S. presidents: John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams, make the city a wonderful educational excursion for the entire family or sightseers. At the Park’s Visitor Center in Quincy Center, view exhibits and video presentation before boarding a trolley for the nostalgic ride colonial saltbox birthplaces of the presidents. From there, travel to “Peacefield,” the stately Adams mansion which served as summer White House to both Adams presidents and home to generations of their descendants.

Next, see United First Parish Church, known as "Church of the Presidents." This Quincy granite edifice was built in 1828 with funds provided by John Quincy Adams. Tours include a visit to the Adams Family crypt, where John Adams, John Quincy Adams and their wives are interred. The Dorothy Quincy Homestead, a colonial estate and home to generations of Quincys, one of Massachusetts' leading families was also childhood home of Dorothy Quincy, wife of John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence and first governor of Massachusetts. During the pre-Revolutionary War years, the Quincy Homestead was a meeting place for patriots such as John Adams, Josiah Quincy, Benjamin Franklin and Hancock.

Quincy's proud shipbuilding history comes to life at the *USS Salem*, a former Cold War-era heavy cruiser which is now home to the United States Naval Shipbuilding Museum. The Museum is on the site of the former Quincy shipyard where she was built, the vessel offers visitors a chance to experience life on the former flagship of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

Quincy is home to America's first commercial railway, the Granite Railway, which was built in 1826 specifically to transport Quincy granite to Charlestown for the construction of the Bunker Hill Monument. The Granite Railway and Quarry Exhibits hail back to these glory days when granite was quarried here. Quincy's granite industry also played a role in the city's population growth, as immigrants from Finland, Sweden, Italy and other countries settled here to work in the quarries. So prolific was the Quincy granite industry that at one point there were nearly two dozen granite quarries operating in the city.

Abigail Adams Cairn, a dome-shaped stone cairn atop Quincy's Penn's Hill, marks the spot where Abigail Adams and young John Quincy Adams watched the burning of Charlestown during the Battle of Bunker Hill. It is an interesting fact that Moswetuset Hummock, a wooded area located in Quincy, was the seat of the Native American chief Chickatabot, who was visited by in Myles Standish and Native American guide Squanto in 1621. The Hummock's name, Moswetuset, or "hill shaped like an arrowhead," is believed to be the origin of the Commonwealth's name, Massachusetts.

Two world-famous businesses were founded in Quincy: Howard Johnson's and Dunkin' Donuts! In 1925, Howard Johnson borrowed \$2,000 to buy a corner drugstore and soda fountain in Quincy's Wollaston section. That first store laid the foundation for what would become a coast-to-coast chain of 1,000 restaurants and hundreds of hotels. Twenty-five years later, in 1950, William Rosenberg changed the name of his Quincy doughnut shop from "The Open Kettle" to Dunkin' Donuts - and an international franchising giant was born. Howard Johnson's and Dunkin' Donuts - two Horatio Alger success stories that illustrate why Quincy is truly the birthplace of the American dream!

American celebrities with Quincy roots include actress Ruth Gordon and Lee Remick, actor Billy deWolfe, author John Cheever and comedian Bill Dana. And speaking of arts and culture, Quincy ArtsAlive is an arts and cultural collaborative comprising public and non-profit organizations including Discover Quincy, Adams National Historical Park, Quincy Art Association, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy 2000 Collaborative and the City of Quincy committed to supporting and enhancing the role of arts and culture in the life of the community while increasing the role that cultural activities play in the economic revitalization of downtown Quincy. With a lively calendar of events, there is always something happening in Quincy.

Taste Quincy ... known as one of New England's most delicious destinations, the City of Quincy has a diverse and dynamic dining scene. Whether dining al fresco on Marina Bay or tasting the mouthwatering ethnic cuisines in the city center, Quincy offers a variety of distinctive options to please any palate. The Taste Quincy initiative provides a forum for member restaurants to promote Quincy's restaurant community.

## Cultural Coast Regions: Cape Cod

Visit Cape Cod's 560 miles of seacoast, which terminates where the *Mayflower* Pilgrims first stepped foot in the New World in Provincetown, at the very tip of the 77-mile Cape Cod peninsula. Renown for its magnificent beaches, the Cape Cod National Seashore, 15 distinctive towns, nearly 100 museums and hundreds and hundreds of cultural sights, attractions and galleries, the Cape is one of America's most recognizable and popular resorts, drawing millions of visitors every year. It was playground to JFK and home to his Hyannis Port 'summer White House' during his administration.

Every visit to Cape Cod will be too short, but should include visits to the renowned Heritage Museums & Gardens, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole Science Aquarium, JFK Hyannis Museum, Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum and Provincetown Art Association & Museum. Partake in unforgettable activities like kayaking the Cape's marshes, lakes, bays and inlets; go on a whale watch excursion, Cape Cod Duckmobiles excursion on an amphibious vessel, a seal watching tour or walk or hike the Cape's seemingly endless walking paths, through every town, connected by Cape Cod Pathways' network of interconnected walking trails. Take your bicycle and meander along more than 100 dedicated miles of cycling trails, including the granddaddy of them all, Cape Cod Rail Trail. In Hyannis, visit the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum on Main Street, take a Hyannis Harbor Cruise and view the renowned Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port from the water or stroll along Hyannis' exciting and colorful mile-long Main Street, with boutiques and shops and wide array of restaurants.

In every town, visitors will find historic home sites, museums (more than 80 in all) and an incredible variety of artists, artisans and crafts people. There are painters and potters, scrimshanders and jewelers, weavers and glass blowers in all sizes and colors. Meet the artists and see the studios which inspire their work surrounded by the greater Cape, which inspires their very lives. A leisurely drive or bike ride the length of the Old King's Highway, Route 6A, is a must for every Cape Cod visitor. This longest contiguous historic district in America takes in a half dozen towns and meanders along the Cape's north side, along the spine on Cape Cod Bay. Each of the Cape's 15 towns is distinctively different, distinguished by a culture and style all its own. There are four centuries of architecture along the peninsula, but perhaps the best recognized is the Cape Cod style house. These wooden shingled homes, many of which hail from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, are perhaps one of the Cape's most prolific contributions to the world of architecture.

No trip to the Cape is complete without a visit to Provincetown, the oldest continuously operating artists' colony in America. Here land, water and talent have met to inspire some of America's greatest artists, authors and playwrights. While here, take a whale watch excursion from MacMillan Wharf or a dune tour, on which passengers view the indescribable landscape, mammoth dunes and even the famous dune shacks where so many of America's artists were inspired in their crafts. Walk along the main thoroughfare, Commercial Street, and peek into dozens and dozens of galleries and arty spaces where talented artists, potters and craft people, leather workers and a constellation of talent of every description ply their respective crafts. The Provincetown Theater, in its new incarnation on Bradford Street, is at the nexus of legitimate theater in the town where Eugene O'Neill launched his career. Walk to the top of the 252-foot Pilgrim Monument, tallest all-granite monument in the nation. From the summit, the view across Cape Cod Bay and the Outer Cape is nothing short of spectacular.

The world-famous Cape Cod Baseball League, with ten teams, plays games across the Cape for enthusiastic summer crowds. This premier amateur baseball league in the nation since 1885 commences play mid-June and all games are free to the public. Many major league players had their starts in one of the Cape Cod Baseball League's teams.

Summer band concerts in Chatham and Falmouth are very popular with visitors and residents and summer concerts, such as Pops by the Sea (Hyannis), Pops Goes the Summer (Falmouth) and Pops in the Park (Orleans) highlight the summer season. Hyannis' Cape Cod Melody Tent, offering true 'theater in the round' brings many world-renowned performers to the Cape. Everyone at the Melody Tent has a great seat given its size and configuration and many groups and performers return annually to sell-out crowds. There is also the venerable Cape Playhouse in Dennis, where Bettie Davis was once an usherette. This

landmark, oldest continuously operating professional summer theater in the country, was founded in 1927. The former Nobscusset (Unitarian) Meetinghouse was moved then transformed—after several incarnations as livery stable, smithy, barn, slaughterhouse, and garage—on a 3½ acre lot into a theater which opened on July 4, 1927 with Basil Rathbone performing in *The Guardsman*. Cape Cinema, on the grounds of the Cape Playhouse, was commissioned to replicate the facade of Centerville’s Congregational Church. The architect added a 6,400 square-foot Art Deco ceiling mural of *Prometheus* to the 92-seat interior. The Cinema opened July 1, 1930, world-premiering *The Wizard of Oz*. A seasonal program of independent and genre films are shown here and home-baked goodies, gourmet coffee and chocolates round out this cinematic experience for less than its high-tech mall counterparts.

Within the 43,000-acre Cape Cod National Seashore millions and millions of visitors and residents find refuge. Its ocean and Bay beaches are also refuges for more than 250 species of birds and an almost endless procession of wildlife and flora. On the ocean side, deep clefts in the dune faces are the remainders of the erosion caused by winter storms, the infamous ‘Nor’easters.’ But, these dramatic reminders are also reminders of how very fragile the Cape’s geography, wildlife and ecology are. “Leave only footprints” are the bywords here. Along Cape Cod Bay, locals and visitors applaud low tide, which reveal the ‘flats.’ During low tide, beach strollers and hikers can walk, in ankle-deep water, out into Cape Cod Bay a mile or farther exploring the bejeweled Bay floor and its sea life. Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge and other natural preserves Cape-wide are particularly fertile spots to delve deeply into the beauty, serenity and natural wonders of Cape Cod.

May’s Cape Maritime Days, a month-long Cape-wide celebration, pays homage to the region’s rich maritime traditions and includes lighthouse and walking tours, maritime art exhibits, kayak excursions, harbor cruises and the Cape Cod Maritime History Symposium. The Cape offers a lively events calendar throughout its 15 towns and includes both one-day and month-long festivals and events such as the Falmouth Road Race, Provincetown International and Woods Hole Film Festivals, Cape Cod Chowder Contest, 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities and parades, First Nights, Christmas Strolls and a host of other activities year round.

With more than 40 golf courses and an endless array of recreational options, make Cape Cod a wonderful region to get out and explore or simply take it all in. Its bucolic and timeless beauty, history, undulating sand dunes, stark contrasts between sand and water enhanced by its 600-mile seacoast, diverse terrain and spectacular wildlife make it one of the most nostalgic and memorable destinations in all America.

One visit to the Cape and all agree: Patti Page was right when she sang “... you’re going to fall in love with Old Cape Cod.”

## Cultural Coast Regions: Nantucket

Nantucket’s history dates from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century when colonists seeking economic freedom formed a partnership with Thomas Mayhew of Martha’s Vineyard to buy the island from the Native American Indians for about 30 British pounds and two beaver hats. As most people know today, that investment compares favorably to the purchase of Manhattan island. Nantucket soon became renowned for its whaling trade and the wealth which it brought to ‘the Grey Lady.’ Along its gas-lit cobblestone streets one can easily imagine the days when whale oil was king and, while the whaling captains were away, sea captains’ wives effectively ran the island from their shops along Petticoat Row, today’s Centre Street. Its prim Quaker homes, shaded lanes, narrow streets, quaint downtown, protected harbor and handsome houses (do not miss Main Street’s ‘Three Bricks’) are a testament to those Halcyon whaling days.

Located about 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, this insular place is often fog-shrouded, thus its moniker ‘the Grey Lady (some people believe this appellation is due to the grey cedar shake shingles on most of the houses while others claim it as a reference to its frequent fogs). Accessible by private boats, scheduled steamship ferries (the only vessels which bring motor vehicles across from Hyannis), high-speed catamarans and scheduled air service, Nantucket truly seems a world away. Some claim that Nantucket Island is not just an island—rather, it is an experience. In some ways, the island is a living museums, a patchwork quilt of New England culture and history. One hamlet not to be missed here is Siasconset (aka S’conset) which, along with Main Street and its environs, have remained almost completely unsullied despite a huge influx of island tourism.

But Nantucket today is home to a lot more than an enduring history. Spectacular beaches are just the beginning. A picturesque, picture postcard town and rose-covered cottages are the most popular trappings of this unique island destination. There is an incredible arts movement on Nantucket including visual, performing, fine and culinary arts. The Art Association and other entities offer classes to children and adults year round. For the family, there is a bevy of activities including getting out in the island’s expansive outback on wheels or feet, skimming across the water in sailboats, windsurfing or kayaking or teeing off in one of Nantucket’s three gold courses. Whale and seal watching, fishing or offshore charter sightseeing excursions are wonderful ways to explore coastal Nantucket and the richness of its maritime and seagoing heritage. Or take to one of four main cycling trails traversing almost

the entire island and offering spectacular island scenery and some excellent exercise. So beautiful are these paths that cyclers often do not realize how far they have traveled.

In addition to the gentle beauty, magnificent architecture and cobblestone streets, there are also almost a dozen historical sites and three lighthouses to explore. Included in these are The Whaling Museum, which regales visitors with the lore and history of one of Nantucket's claims to fame—whaling; The Oldest House (Jethro Coffin House), a true antique saltbox on Sunset Hill built in 1686, was one of the biggest wedding gifts ever given, at that time. Visitors should make it a point to visit the Nantucket Life Saving Museum, the original 1874 station built to assist mariners from the island's deadly shoals. The Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association is a museum, birthplace and aquarium. This birthplace of the first American woman astronomer, Maria Mitchell has programs all year. Its nearby Loines Observatory, an astronomical observatory dating from 1908, provides an opportunity for visitors to view the near crystal clear Nantucket heavens through a fine old telescope. Also, there is an outdoor, true-to-scale model of the solar system, other astronomy exhibits and sundial.

Visitors are certain to enjoy April's Daffodil Festival, mid-May's Nantucket Wine Festival, mid-June's Nantucket Film Festival and December's Christmas Stroll, among other popular events.

## Cultural Coast Regions: Martha's Vineyard

The triangular 100-square mile island of Martha's Vineyard, six towns big and New England's largest island at 9 miles by 23 miles long, was formed by glacial action 10,000 years ago. It was playground of President Clinton during his White House years, and has an allure and charm which draws the glitterati from around the globe. Its alluring cliffs at Aquinnah are steeped in Native American Wampanoag lore. Located below the Cape's upper arm, its moors, rolling hills, dunes, beaches, deep forests, ravines and farmland make it one of the most bucolic New England islands. The Vineyard lies a mere seven miles off the Massachusetts coastline and its legendary charm has world-wide appeal. Playground of presidents and celebrities, island residents are not fazed by the glitterati strolling by in stores or on the golf course. This is, as they say, merely the way it is here in this haven for 'the beautiful people.' Larger than its Nantucket cousin, the Vineyard comprises Aquinnah, Chilmark, Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven and West Tisbury. Each town could be its own country, as each is so distinctively and refreshingly different.

Martha's Vineyard was once a supply stop for coastal shipping traffic regularly rounding Cape Cod. The town of Vineyard Haven became a particularly hospitable supply port during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Vineyard Haven, replete with a beautiful harbor, excellent commercial strip and dining options,

is the mercantile hub of the island. Once one of New England's busiest ports, Vineyard Haven is still port of call of many seagoing vessels including the main port for the Steamship Authority's ferries to the mainland (Oak Bluffs is a secondary port for these ferries). Edgartown, the island's oldest European settlement and one of the most elegant towns in the region, was an important whaling center and reminders of this important trade include its Old Whaling Church. Edgartown's remarkable architecture preserves some of the finest examples of period houses throughout all of New England. Chappaquiddick Island, home of remarkably unsullied Cape Pogue and Wasque wilderness areas, is readily accessible aboard the ironically-named 'On-Time Ferry.' Visitors should make it a point to see Mytoi garden, a breathtaking mix of azaleas, irises, dogwood, daffodils, rhododendrons and Japanese maple. The garden's centerpiece, a bucolic pond, is home to koi and goldfish which give it an eerily Japanese feel. Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary's 200+ acres are a wonderful respite from the hustle and bustle nearby. Mayhew Chapel and the Indian Burial Ground, between West Tisbury and Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs' Carpenter Gothic cottages make Martha's Vineyard one of the most charming offshore islands in New England. Aquinnah, formerly named Gay Head, has a large Wampanoag population whose descendants showed early island settlers how to sustain themselves in their new home. These remarkable multi-colored cliffs tell millions of years of geological history and arouse intense interest from scientists, artists and visitors alike. West Tisbury is perhaps the island's most idyllic town and its rolling hills, farms, ponds, steeped church, wind mill and general store evoke everyone's idea of classic New England. Steeped in history, with a cast of characters which includes Miles Standish and Daniel Webster, the town was an island mill site which attracted settlers. Many sea captains owned the town's largest houses here and, today, many of these are still owned by subsequent generations.

Chilmark, with verdant fields and an incomparable coast, is anyone's idea of bucolic New England at its most beautiful. Comprising both a magnificent sea coast and rolling hills one would expect in the Midwest, Chilmark is a glorious town of contrasts. Antique stone walls, charming country roads, farms and magnificent beaches combine into a magical elixir which makes this one of Martha's Vineyard's most captivating towns. Its hamlet of Menemsha, home of the Coast Guard station and the site of the filming of blockbuster movie *Jaws*, evokes the island's fishing heritage. Oak Bluffs, former site of Methodist summer camp meetings, is the town where whimsical and colorfully painted Gothic summer gingerbread cottages replaced family tents of families attending all-day gospel sessions. The town's colorful and exciting Illumination Night, which demarcates summer and autumn seasons, features incredible Japanese lanterns and fireworks. Its Flying Horses Carousel, oldest continuously operating carousel in America, features circa 1876 hand-carved life-like horses which glide along to festive music.

Martha's Vineyard is a treasure trove of art galleries and artists' studios, museums and a distinctive history of people of color, both Native American and African American. Both a summer playground and year round home to celebrities and islanders, the Vineyard is perhaps one of the most recognizable destinations in New England.

## Arts & Artisans Trails Guide

Cape and Island visitors may wish to buy an *Arts & Artisans Trails Guide to Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket*. This wonderful self-guiding publication leads Cape & Islands visitors to more than 200 artist galleries, workshops, crafters studios and other venues where the unique and unusual works of arts and crafts in the region can be seen and purchased. Speak with the artists and craftspeople and enjoy the wit and whimsy of these talented people in the very places they work and display their works of art and crafts. For additional information, visit [www.CapeAndIslandsArtsGuide.com](http://www.CapeAndIslandsArtsGuide.com).

## Culture: The Common Thread

The Massachusetts Cultural Coast, which amalgamates these six regions for visitors, melds these six regions together into a seamless destination without borders, six diverse destinations with a common thread ... the culture and history of the American experience. At the Cultural Coast website, [www.theculturalcoast.org](http://www.theculturalcoast.org), prospective visitors can plan and print a comprehensive itinerary as well as make use of pre-planned themed itineraries. With the on-line itinerary planning tool, visitors can search for events and attractions by region within the Cultural Coast, as well as by theme. There are also pre-built Itineraries based upon some of the more prominent features available in the region. Once assembled, itineraries can be saved, printed and e-mailed to family or friends.

Visitors will find an enduring welcome in each of the six regions comprising the Massachusetts Cultural Coast. For additional information about visiting The Massachusetts Cultural Coast, visit its interactive website at [www.theculturalcoast.org](http://www.theculturalcoast.org).

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