



New England Islands Cruise 2026





Dear Fellow Cruise Participants,

I personally want to welcome all the cruise participants in the CCA's New England Islands Cruise. While Newport to Nantucket is a well-travelled "route," the cruise organizers under the leadership of Ray Cullum have put together a sensational itinerary with many wonderful events and anchorages.

One of the perks of being Vice Commodore last year was getting to choose at least one cruise for my term as Commodore. As Commodore, one of the themes I am pursuing is "participation and engagement" and while I have enjoyed many CCA cruises in far off places, I thought we might benefit from a cruise right here in our own back yard to see how many "local" members might unfurl their sails and join this cruise of a truly historic region. I am happy to say we have a robust armada of 48 boats and 125 sailors; Ray, you have done a masterful job! Josie and I, aboard *Bonnie Rye*, look forward to meeting everyone and expanding our growing circle of friends in CCA.

We start here in **Newport**, one of the most renowned U.S. sailing capitals and home to the America's Cup races for much of the 20th century. In the 17th-18th centuries, it was a major seaport and gateway for many ships arriving in America. Providence became the commercial capital of Rhode Island with the 19th century advent of railroads, and Newport (already a major U.S. Naval base) became the playground for the rich who built immense mansions. Leisure and sailing are the mainstay of Newport's current economy.

We make way eastward visiting other important ports which still reflect their historic characters. **Cuttyhunk** welcomed its first visitor, Bartholemew Gosnold in 1602, and hasn't changed that much since. The Raw Bar Party in Cuttyhunk will be a high point of the cruise!

From there we head to **Martha's Vineyard** and **Nantucket**. We'll have ample time to explore each locale's varied attractions, museums, galleries, shops and dining. Nantucket is in a world of its own. For some sailing to Nantucket will be a reminder of the joys of blue water sailing because there is a moment in Nantucket Sound when you can't see land! The distinguished author and Nantucket resident, Nathaniel Philbrick, joins us to discuss his works.

We then sail northwest to **New Bedford** with time to visit the many harbors *en route* such as Vineyard Haven, Hyannis, Hadley's Harbor, or Tarpaulin Cove. The New Bedford Whaling Museum has few rivals and will be a wonderful venue for our closing dinner.

I hope you enjoy this little slice of America and refresh your memory of its important history. Josie and I look forward to sharing it with you during our cruise and thank Ray Cullum and his outstanding committee members for organizing this wonderful cruise.

Fair winds,

Chace

Chace Anderson
Commodore



Welcome to the 2026 CCA New England Islands Cruise

On behalf of the entire Cruise Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 CCA New England Islands Cruise. This special event brings together CCA members from across the country to experience the beauty, history, and maritime traditions of the islands and coastal communities of southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island during one of the most enjoyable times of the year.

As summer crowds fade and autumn begins to paint the landscape with its subtle colors, we will explore a collection of destinations that are each unique in character and charm. From the bustling port of Newport, followed by the quiet anchorage of Cuttyhunk to the picturesque streets of Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard, and from the incomparable island of Nantucket to the historic seaport of New Bedford, every stop offers its own opportunities for discovery, fellowship, and enjoyment.

Our Cruise Committee has planned a wide variety of activities and events designed to showcase the rich maritime heritage, natural beauty, and local culture of each destination. Whether you prefer exploring ashore, sharing stories with fellow cruisers, enjoying local cuisine, or simply taking in the sights from your cockpit, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

The cruise concludes in the active port of New Bedford, the number one fishing port in North America, a city whose history is inseparably linked to America's maritime past. There, we will gather for our grand finale dinner at the renowned New Bedford Whaling Museum, one of the finest maritime museums in the United States. It is a fitting setting to celebrate our voyage together and reflect on the experiences and friendships that make cruising with the CCA so special.

Most importantly, this cruise is about camaraderie and engagement. I look forward to reconnecting with old friends, welcoming new ones, and sharing the adventure as we cruise these wonderful waters together at the end of September.

Fair winds and following seas,

Ray Cullum

Chairman, 2026 CCA New England Islands Cruise
The Cruising Club of America

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CCA New England Islands Cruise at a Glance

Tuesday, September 22 – Fleet Assembles at Newport

- 1630-1900 Check-in/Opening Cocktail Party at Sail Newport
- Pick up your cruise bag and crew name tags. If you are unable to attend check-in, please advise Cruise Chair Ray Cullum to make alternative arrangements.
 - Wine and beer bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Wednesday, September 23 – Newport Layday

- 0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69
- At Will Explore Newport: We recommend the CCA Library @ IYRS, Seamen's Church Institute, the Sailing Hall of Fame, the Audrain Auto Museum, the Tennis Hall of Fame, the Mansions, and everything else!

Thursday, September 24 – Cuttyhunk

- 0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69
- 0900 Passage to Cuttyhunk
- 1700-1930 Raw Bar Party & CCA Rum Keg at Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms (rain date: Friday)
BYOB and Bring and appetizer to share.

Friday, September 25 – Cuttyhunk Layday

- 0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69
Dress Ship for Cuttyhunk Layday
- 1100 Cuttyhunk Historical Museum Tour
Gosnold Monument
- 1700-1930 Meet & Greet Yacht Mingle
- At will Dinner (on own)

Saturday, September 26 – Captain's Choice

- 0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69
- At will Depart for Captain's Choice ports: We recommend Hadley Harbor, Quissett, Great Harbor (Woods Hole), Menemsha, or Vineyard Haven

Sunday, September 27– Martha's Vineyard

- At will Passage to Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard

Monday, September 28 – Martha’s Vineyard Layday

TBD Gannon & Benjamin Marine Railway Private Tour
3 tours: 9:30, 11:00 & 2:00 Sign-up required.

1700 - 2000 Cocktails & Lobster Bake at Edgartown Yacht Club
Cash Bar

Tuesday, September 29 – Captain’s Choice

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69

At will Depart for Captain’s Choice ports: We recommend Hyannis, Cotuit Bay

Wednesday, September 30 – Nantucket

At will Depart for Nantucket

1700-1900 Cocktail Party at the Nantucket Yacht Club

Thursday, October 1 – Nantucket Layday

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69

1630 Presentation by Nathaniel Philbrick on *Heart of the Sea*
Friends Meeting House, 7 Fair Street

Friday, October 2 – Captain’s Choice

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69

At will Depart for Captain’s Choice ports: We recommend Martha’s Vineyard Harbors,
Hadley Harbor, Quissett, Padanaram Harbor

Saturday, October 3 – New Bedford

At will Passage to New Bedford

1800 Closing Dinner at the New Bedford Whaling Museum

- Sit down dinner in the Harbor View Room.
- Open wine and beer bar.
- Smart casual attire – Jacket, tie optional.

Sunday, October 4 – Fleet Disbands from New Bedford

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69
Any final announcements or questions from the fleet

Layday to enjoy New Bedford if you so desire

At will Disband

Cruise Essentials

Communications

Starting on Wednesday, September 23 there will be a brief morning net (VHF radio call) at 0805 am on VHF CH 69, allowing time for setting morning colors at 0800. Members of the Cruise Committee will host the net to keep the fleet advised of current or changed plans and provide any information that they deem to be important. This will also be a time for other members of the fleet to ask any questions they might have or communicate with the fleet.

The New England Islands Cruise WhatsApp group will be available 24/7 for fleet communications

Cruise participants are particularly requested to maintain watch on VHF 16 on transit.

Recall key VHF channels are

- VHF 9 – Boater Calling
- VHF 12, 14 – Port operations / Vessel Traffic Safety
- VHF 13 – Ship-to-ship
- VHF 16 – Hailing / Distress
- VHF 22A – USCG working channel (likely switch-to after hail on VHF 16)
- VHF 69 – Non-commercial (Morning Net will be on this channel)

Cruise Chair Ray Cullum can be reached via WhatsApp, or at raycullum1@gmail.com or cell 508-740-8444.

Personal dinghy

In most locations, launch service will be available with the exception of Cuttyhunk where a dinghy for transport ashore is a must. All locations do have dinghy docks available if that is your preferred mode of travel.

Trash & Pump Out

All Rhode Island & Massachusetts waters out to 3 nm are no-discharge zones (NDZs). The Cruise route will be almost exclusively within no-discharge zones, even on transit to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. No head waste, whether treated or not, is to be discharged. Also, please discard trash at appropriate marina trash facilities, not overloading street garbage cans

in the ports we visit. Interactive maps of pump-out facilities are available at [Mass Clean Vessel Pumpout Map](#)¹ or [Google Pumpout Map](#)². (Best site)

Flag Etiquette on a CCA Cruise

The **CCA Yearbook** is worth reviewing, as its first sentence reads “Flags shall be flown properly or not at all.”

The CCA burgee shall be displayed at the mainmast truck of sloops and cutters; at the bow staff of single-mast power yachts; at the foremost truck of schooners and multi-masted power yachts. If your yacht cannot accommodate flying the burgee at the masthead, a “member aboard” flag may be flown at the starboard spreader unless national honor colors are being displayed, in which case at the port spreader. The burgee or member flag can be flown both day and night. Advice on rigging a pigstick at the truck is available at <https://cruisingclub.org/article/pigstick>.

The yacht’s ensign should be displayed promptly from 0800 hours until sunset or, if earlier, 2100 hours - a bugle and/or gun reminder may be provided. Remove the ensign earlier if you will not be able to remove it promptly at sunset or 2100 hours. This is the local custom in many of the areas in which we cruise, too (although perhaps not rigorously observed) - we can be good guests by observing it.

Friday September 25 is our Cuttyhunk Layday. Yachts of the fleet are encouraged to dress ship for the day. A fleet photo will be taken from Cuttyhunk Heights late morning. Sunset that evening is at 1836, but it is recommended that you strike colors prior to then if you are disembarking for dinner and may not return in time for colors.

Burgees and Member Flags can be purchased from [The Sailbag Lady CCA store](#)³.

Registration, Events & Name Tags

Cruise registration will begin a half hour prior to the opening reception at Sail Newport, at which each yacht will receive name tags, the cruise bag, the printed version of this Cruise Guide, and any other materials to be distributed. Those not able to join the cruise until later will receive these from the Cruise Chair separately.

¹ <https://mass-eoea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=81a8608be09e48cfb364df4b508d0587>

²

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=110824023891825426300.00044867ca5d82e52994d&ll=41.93089,-70.548706&spn=1.900213,3.713379&t=h&z=8>

³ <https://sailbaglady.com/cruising-club/>

Please note that we have planned events based on the headcounts each captain has set for each event. We likely will not be able to accommodate late changes to the headcounts you have provided, but you may ask Cruise Chair Ray Cullum.

One last thing on cruise essentials...make sure you have a flashlight each evening as the evening events will be concluding after sunset

Cruise Meteorologist's Memorandum: by Jennifer Francis, PhD

Weather at the **end of** September in our cruising grounds can vary widely. You can have warm days, with especially cool evening temperatures. **The proper selection of clothing is essential.**

- **Daytime temperatures:** 65–72°F (18–22°C)
- **Nighttime temperatures:** 50–58°F (10–14°C)
- **Water temperatures:** 63–67°F (17–19°C), near their warmest after the summer
- **Humidity:** Noticeably lower than July and August, making it feel comfortable
- **Rain:** Periodic cold fronts can bring a day of rain, but many days are dry and clear
- **Visibility:** Often excellent, with crisp autumn air

For **boaters**, the weather is often ideal:

- Southwest winds of **10–15 knots** remain common, providing pleasant sailing conditions.
- Cold fronts passing every few days can temporarily shift winds to the **northwest or northeast** at **15–25 knots**, followed by cooler, drier air.
- Morning fog becomes less frequent than in midsummer but can still occur after warm, humid periods.
- Seas in Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound are generally moderate, though strong southwest winds can produce a steep chop, especially against tidal currents.

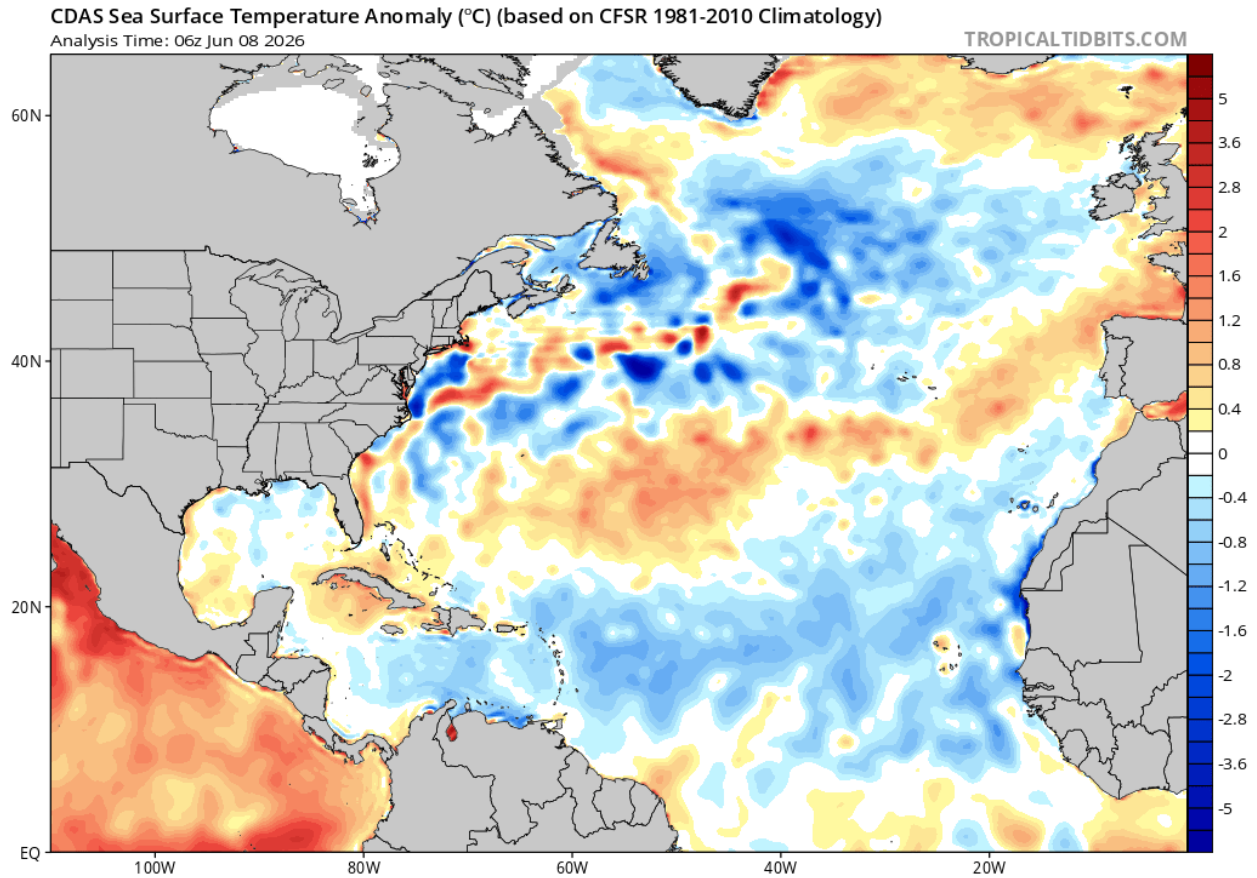
Late September is also the beginning of the **Atlantic hurricane season's climatological peak**, so while direct impacts in Massachusetts are uncommon, tropical systems can occasionally bring several days of strong winds, heavy rain, and rough seas.

Our cruise meteorologist, Jennifer Francis, will keep the fleet advised of changing conditions and any weather conditions that need to be considered.

September/October 2026 Tropical Outlook for CCA New England Cruise (8 June 2026)

The Atlantic hurricane season is shaping up to be quieter than normal, owing mainly to the developing El Niño in the equatorial Pacific. The El Niño phase of ENSO tends to create additional shear in the atmosphere over the tropical Atlantic – winds at different levels with

differing speeds and/or directions – that typically inhibits the formation and maintenance of tropical storms. Enhancing that influence is the presence of cooler-than-normal sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) across much of the tropical Atlantic (see SST anomalies in figure below), which combined with El Niño, accelerate the trade winds. Strong trades also tend to inhibit the formation of tropical storms.



Although SST patterns tend to be slow to change -- weeks or longer -- we'll have to keep an eye on their evolution in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic seaboard, along with other factors that can influence the likelihood of storm development. Right now the SST anomalies in the western Atlantic are a mixed bag, so any storm that forms in this area will likely meet with fairly hospitable conditions. I will update the situation as our cruise date approaches.

In summary, the outlook for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season is looking about as favorable as it gets, but it only takes one storm to cause a big ruckus.

Fleet Surgeon's Memorandum: by Jeffrey Wisch, MD

Medical emergency: If you have a medical emergency or need, contact the Fleet Surgeon, **Dr. Jeffrey Wisch**, at **781-856-6412**.

Dial 911 in dire emergencies when at dock or ashore.

When a medical emergency occurs while at anchor or on a mooring, contact the **Coast Guard on channel 16**. They will arrange appropriate transportation to a medical facility (Please see list of medical facilities below).

Although there will be medical professionals on the cruise, these individuals are advisory to the Cruise leaders only. They may help in triaging; however, they are not expected to be rendering care unless they choose to act in a "Good Samaritan" manner. The Cruise leaders can be contacted for a list of the medical professionals on the Cruise. Each individual needs to be responsible for their own pharmaceuticals and potential health care during the cruise. As outlined in the Medical and Emergency Procedure Information, the Coast Guard or 911 will coordinate and assemble water, land, and air transportation services as required. Cruise members might also consider commercial medical evacuation insurance policies to supplement available local medical resources.

- It is recommended that cruise participants provide their Captain or Medical Officer with a health form that includes their medical problems, medications, medication allergies as well as their primary care physician's contact information, to be available in an emergency.
Food allergies may also be of particular importance to the Cruise Leaders.
- Make sure you bring extra medications that you are taking in the event of loss or unforeseen delays in your trip. It is recommended that these medications remain in the original bottles so that prescription information is readily available.
- Each vessel should have a complete first-aid kit, which can be purchased commercially. As part of each boat's cruise preparation, a Medical Officer should be identified who is familiar with the contents and use of the medical kit. All crew members should also know where the medical kit is located.
- Please consult your primary care physician regarding any question you may have concerning your own personal health care issues and travel prior to the trip and make sure you are up to date with your tetanus booster and vaccinations.
- Ticks: The Cape and the Islands are high risk areas for tickborne diseases. There are many tick-related illnesses which can be very dangerous and potentially life threatening if not dealt with properly. Most recently Alpha-gal syndrome, related to a certain tick bite, has been discovered and can cause a potentially life-threatening allergy to red meat, dairy and other products. To mitigate the risk of tick-borne disease one should avoid tall grass,

wooded and bushy areas. Remember to take appropriate precautions and bring tick repellent while hiking.

- Do not forget to bring sunscreen and UV protective clothing.
- If you are prone to seasickness, bring medications that work for you and if unsure try them before the cruise. Detailed information regarding seasickness is available at <https://cruisingclub.org/article/seasickness-prepare-it-treat-it>

Ticks

Always check for ticks when returning to your boat.

For information:

- https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/pdfs/FS_TickBite-508.pdf
- <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/about/index.html>
- Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#)⁴ containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone.

[EPA's helpful search tool](#)⁵ can help you find the product that best suits your needs. Always follow product instructions. Do not use products containing OLE or PMD on children under 3 years old.

Medical Facilities

Cuttyhunk: There are no medical facilities on-island. Dial 911 for life-threatening emergencies; your call will be routed to the appropriate emergency communications dispatcher. For severe medical emergencies, emergency responders rely on calling for a Boston Medflight or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to evacuate the patient to a mainland hospital. For non-life-threatening emergencies or immediate police and harbor matters, you can contact the Cuttyhunk Police / Harbormaster's Office directly at 508-994-0717

- **Falmouth Hospital, Falmouth Hospital**, 100 Ter Heun Drive, Falmouth, MA, (508) 548-5300
- **Martha's Vineyard Hospital**, 1 Hospital Road, Oak Bluffs, MA, (508) 693-0410
- **Nantucket Cottage Hospital**, 57 Prospect St, Nantucket, MA, (508) 825-8100
- **Newport Hospital**, 20 Powel Avenue, Newport, RI, (401) 846-6400
- **Saint Lukes Hospital**, 101 Page St, New Bedford, MA, (508) 997-1515

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you>

Coast Guard/911 for Emergencies at Sea

If an emergency arises while distant from shore, hail USCG on VHF 16, or by phone via 911 or direct emergency lines for **Sector SE New England, (866) 819-9128, in Woods Hole** or one of the following USCG Stations proximate to your location.

- USCG Station Castle Hill, Newport (401) 846-3676
- USCG Station Woods Hole (508) 457-3277
- USCG Station Menemsha, Martha's Vineyard (206) 815-7158
- USCG Station Brant Point, Nantucket (508) 228-0398
- USCG Station Cape Cod Canal (508) 888-0200

Charts, Pilots, Cruising Guides

The material in this guide is not a comprehensive navigation guide, and the charts included are for general reference but not for navigation. Captains should consult up to date nautical charts and pilot material directly.

In addition, **several** very good guides are available from bookstores and online. A few that are recommended include:

- A Visual Cruising Guide to the Southern New England Coast. Bildner, James L. (*out of print*)
- [Coast Pilot Book Volume 2 \(CPB 2\) Chapters 4-6](#)⁶
- Cruising Guide to the New England Coast, The. Duncan, Robert C. et al. (*out of print*)
- MapTech Chartlet Number 19 (Block Island to Nantucket) Edition 5 – Note that this Chartlet covers our cruising grounds specifically.
- Maptech Embassy Cruising Guide: New England Coast
- Waterway Guide: Northern

Tides & Currents

The waters of southeastern Massachusetts are dominated by strong tidal currents rather than large tidal ranges. For boaters cruising between Buzzards Bay, Woods Hole, Vineyard Sound, Cuttyhunk, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket, understanding the current is often more important than understanding the tide height.

The essential guide for Tides and Currents is the **Eldredge Tide and Pilot Book 2026**.

Alternatively, you can reference [NOAA tide and current predictions](#)⁷ for specific information

⁶ <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/xml2html.html?book=2>

⁷ https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html?gid=1403

about times, directions, and velocities of the current at numerous locations throughout the area.

Buzzards Bay

Buzzards Bay is a relatively shallow body of water connected to the Atlantic through several narrow passages.

Tidal Range

- Typical tidal range is about 3 to 4 feet.
- The range is slightly greater in the northern part of the bay and smaller near the islands.

Currents

- In the open bay, currents are generally modest, often less than 1 knot.
- Currents become significantly stronger near constricted areas such as:
 - o Woods Hole Passage
 - o Quicks Hole
 - o Robinson's Hole (not recommended unless you possess local knowledge)
 - o Canapitsit Channel (not recommended unless you possess local knowledge)

Wind vs. Current

- Southwest winds, common in summer, often create short steep chop against ebb current.
- Buzzards Bay is known for uncomfortable seas when strong SW winds oppose outgoing tide.

Vineyard Sound

Vineyard Sound is the body of water between Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands/Cape Cod.

Tidal Range

- Similar to Buzzards Bay, generally around 2 to 4 feet.
- Water levels are less important than current direction and strength.

Currents

- Vineyard Sound acts as a tidal highway connecting Buzzards Bay with Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic.
- Currents commonly run 1 to 3 knots throughout much of the Sound.
- Near passages and points they can exceed 4 knots.

General Flow

- During flood tide, water generally flows westward toward Buzzards Bay.
- During ebb tide, water generally flows eastward toward Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic.

- Local geography causes many exceptions, eddies, and reversals.

The Major Passages

Woods Hole Passage

- Due to the complexity of navigating Wood Hole Passage, please see the special guidance at the end of this section. If you are chartering, please check with your charter company to ensure they allow you to pass through Woods Hole.

Quicks Hole

- The most popular route for cruising boats between Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound.
- Currents commonly reach 2–4 knots.
- Wider and more forgiving than Woods Hole.
- Slack water provides the easiest transit, especially for slower sailboats.

Robinson's Hole

- Narrower and less forgiving than Quicks Hole.
- Strong currents, overfalls, and eddies.
- Best attempted by skippers familiar with the passage and favorable current.

Practical Cruising Rules

For most recreational cruisers:

1. Plan around current, not tide height.
2. Transit Woods Hole near slack whenever possible.
3. Use Quicks Hole when timing is less critical or conditions are rough.
4. Avoid wind-against-current situations in Buzzards Bay.
5. Expect current differences of several knots between passages only a few miles apart.

Typical Current Strengths

Location	Typical Maximum Current
Open Buzzards Bay	0.5–1 knot
Open Vineyard Sound	1–3 knots
Quicks Hole	2–4 knots
Robinson's Hole	3–4+ knots
Woods Hole Passage	4–6+ knots

For someone cruising the New England Islands route (Newport–Cuttyhunk–Martha's Vineyard–Nantucket), the three current stations worth monitoring before every departure are **Quicks Hole**, **Woods Hole**, and **Vineyard Haven Harbor**, as they often determine the best departure time and can easily add or subtract several knots from your speed over the ground.

Woods Hole Passage – Special Guidance

Woods Hole Passage is one of the most challenging—and rewarding—short passages in New England. Although it is only about a mile long, it connects Buzzards Bay with Vineyard



Sound through a narrow, rocky channel with some of the strongest tidal currents on the East Coast. A well-timed transit is usually straightforward, while poor timing can make it difficult even for experienced boaters.

Note that some yacht charter companies may prohibit transiting Wood's Hole.

If applicable to your vessel, Quick's Hole transit is recommended.

Here are the most important things to know:

1. Time your transit for slack water

This is the single most important factor.

- Currents commonly exceed 4 knots, and can approach 6 knots in places.
- The period of true slack water is often only 15–30 minutes.
- NOAA specifically recommends that mariners unfamiliar with the passage attempt it only at slack water.

As you may remember from our earlier discussion about your September cruise, planning your departure so you reach Woods Hole at or just before slack water makes the transit much easier and more comfortable.

2. Know which direction you're traveling

The channel is marked, but there is one detail that surprises many first-time visitors.

When entering from Buzzards Bay, remember that the aids to navigation are numbered and colored for vessels traveling from Vineyard Sound toward Buzzards Bay, so the lateral marks appear "backwards" compared with your direction of travel (i.e., **Red to port** and **Green to starboard**). This catches many skippers off guard!

3. Stay in the channel

The passage is surrounded by:

- rocky ledges
- submerged boulders
- shoals
- strong cross-currents

Do not cut corners. Follow the marked channel carefully.

4. Watch for cross currents

Even if you're centered in the channel, the current may push the boat sideways.

For example:

- entering from Vineyard Sound, the current may set you toward the east.
 - steering by heading alone often isn't enough; you may need to "crab" into the current.
- Expect your GPS course over ground to differ significantly from your compass heading.

5. Ferries have priority

The Steamship Authority ferries transit Woods Hole frequently.

Keep in mind:

- they are fast,
- they have limited maneuverability in the narrow channel, and
- they maintain schedules.

Monitor VHF 13 & 16, maintain a sharp lookout, and never assume a ferry will alter course for you.

6. Avoid meeting large boats in the narrowest section

If possible:

- wait outside until opposing traffic clears,
- let commercial traffic pass, and
- don't stop in the channel unless absolutely necessary.

7. Wind against current creates steep seas

Even on an otherwise pleasant day:

- a southwest wind against an ebb current, or
- a northeast wind against a flood

can produce short, steep, uncomfortable waves.

The passage can change dramatically within minutes if the wind builds.

8. Use current predictions—not just tide tables

High and low tide are not the same as slack current.

Before departing, check:

- NOAA current predictions,
- NOAA tide station for Woods Hole, and/or
- Eldridge Tide & Pilot.

NOAA provides real-time observations and current predictions for Woods Hole.

9. Have a backup plan

If you arrive early or late:

- anchor in Great Harbor (if appropriate for your draft and conditions),
- wait in Buzzards Bay, or
- wait in Vineyard Sound

rather than forcing the transit against maximum current.

10. Don't let the reputation intimidate you

Thousands of recreational boats transit Woods Hole safely every season.

The key ingredients are:

- good weather
- slack current
- staying in the marked channel
- keeping clear of ferries
- avoiding distractions

Distances between Ports

Newport Harbor		
	Cuttyhunk	24.2 nm
Cuttyhunk		
	Tarpaulin Cove	7.3 nm
	Menemsha	10.6 nm
	Hadley Harbor	12.6 nm
	Great Harbor, Woods Hole	12.7 nm
	Vineyard Haven	17.9 nm
Edgartown		
	Cuttyhunk	26.3 nm
	Tarpaulin Cove	15.9 nm
	Menemsha	21.3 nm
	Hadley Harbor	14.8 nm
	Great Harbor, Woods Hole	13.7 nm
	Vineyard Haven	9.2 nm
	Cotuit	10.4 nm
	Hyannis	18.1 nm
	Nantucket	25.3 nm
Nantucket		
	Cotuit	25.1 nm
	Hyannis	22.4 nm
	Hadley Harbor	33.2 nm
	Quissett Harbor	34.7 nm
	Padanaram	44.5 nm
	New Bedford	44.7 nm
New Bedford		
	Hadley Harbor	13.5 nm
	Quissett Harbor	12.9 nm
	Padanaram	5.3 nm

Transportation ashore

There are many ferry options for crew joining or departing from Cuttyhunk, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket,

- [Cuttyhunk Ferry](#)⁸ **New Bedford-Cuttyhunk**
- [Steamship Authority](#)⁹ **Woods Hole-Vineyard Haven and Hyannis-Nantucket,**
- [Island Queen Ferry](#)¹⁰ **Falmouth-Oak Bluffs**
- [Seastreak](#)¹¹ **New Bedford-Vineyard Haven & -Nantucket**
- [Hy-Line Cruises](#)¹² **Hyannis-Oak Bluffs and & -Nantucket**
- [Rhode Island Fast Ferry](#)¹³ **Quonset Point (North Kingston, RI) to Oak Bluffs**

Ground connection information including ferry mainland ports includes:

- [Newport Bus & Train Connections](#)¹⁴
- [New Bedford MBTA Rail](#)¹⁵
- [Hyannis and Woods Hole Connections](#)¹⁶
- [Falmouth Connections](#)¹⁷
- [PVD Airport MBTA rail](#)¹⁸ (Uber/Lyft/Taxi to Quonset Point)

On-island public transport includes:

- [Newport Free Trolley](#)¹⁹
- [Vineyard Transit Authority](#)²⁰
- [Nantucket Regional Transit WAVE](#)²¹

⁸ <https://cuttyhunkferryco.com/>

⁹ <https://www.steamshipauthority.com/schedules>

¹⁰ <https://islandqueen.com/>

¹¹ <https://seastreak.com/ferry-routes-and-schedules/between-new-bedford-marthas-vineyard-ma/>

¹² <https://hylinecruises.com/>

¹³ <https://www.fastferry.com/marthas-vineyard-fast-ferry/>

¹⁴ <https://www.discovernewport.org/about-newport/getting-here/bus-and-rail-service/>

¹⁵ <https://www.mbta.com/schedules/CR-NewBedford/line>

¹⁶ https://www.steamshipauthority.com/visitors/travel_connections

¹⁷ <https://islandqueen.com/directions/travel-connections/>

¹⁸ <https://www.mbta.com/schedules/CR-Providence/timetable>

¹⁹ <https://www.discovernewport.org/blog/post/free-trolley/>

²⁰ <https://www.vineyardtransit.com/bus-route-schedules>

²¹ <https://www.nrtawave.com/>

22-23 September: Newport

Committee Port Captains:

Janet Garnier

Igarnier02@gmail.com

(508) 367-3899

Henry Dipietro

hdp1949@gmail.com

(386) 523-6191

Tuesday, 22 September – Arrive at will

1600-1700 Check-in – Pick up cruise bag and name tags

1700-1900 Captain's Meeting and Opening Reception at Sail Newport
Heavy Hors d'oeuvres; Beer, wine and limited mixed drinks
Newport Sailing Center Building, 72 Fort Adams Drive This is an Oldport launch Stop.

Dress: Sailing casual

Wednesday, 23 September

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69

At Will Explore Newport: We recommend the CCA Library @ IYRS, Seamen's Church Institute, the Sailing Hall of Fame, the Audrain Auto Museum, the Tennis Hall of Fame, and everything else!

Thursday, 24 September

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69

At Will Depart for Cuttyhunk



Welcome to Newport! Located in one of the most picturesque harbors on the East Coast next to Rhode Island Sound and Narragansett Bay. Our harbor is filled with classic yachts, including America's Cup 12 Meters, Schooners, and Luxury yachts!

Newport was founded in 1639 on the principals of religious and political freedom. The city rose to become one of the five most critical seaports during the Colonial Era.

From 1776 to 1779 more than half of Newport's population abandoned the city during the British occupation. French troops arrived in Newport a year later under Count de Rochambeau. The Battle of

Yorktown in 1781 all but ended the war. The U.S. Naval War College was established here in 1884 and today is home to more than 42 naval and defense commands and activities.

By the Gilded Age, Newport became a popular summer resort, welcoming America's wealthiest families with names like Vanderbilt, Astor and Wharton. From 1930 to 1983, Newport became synonymous with the America's Cup. Today, Newport maintains its reputation as the Sailing Capital of the World as host of some of racing's most esteemed regattas.

Navigation and Harbor Information

Navigation: Please review [Chapter 6 \(Narragansett Bay\) of the Coast Pilot 2](#)²²

Chart: 13233 Narragansett Bay, Including Newport Harbor

Tides: In general, Newport tides have a 3.5-4 foot range.

Harbormaster:

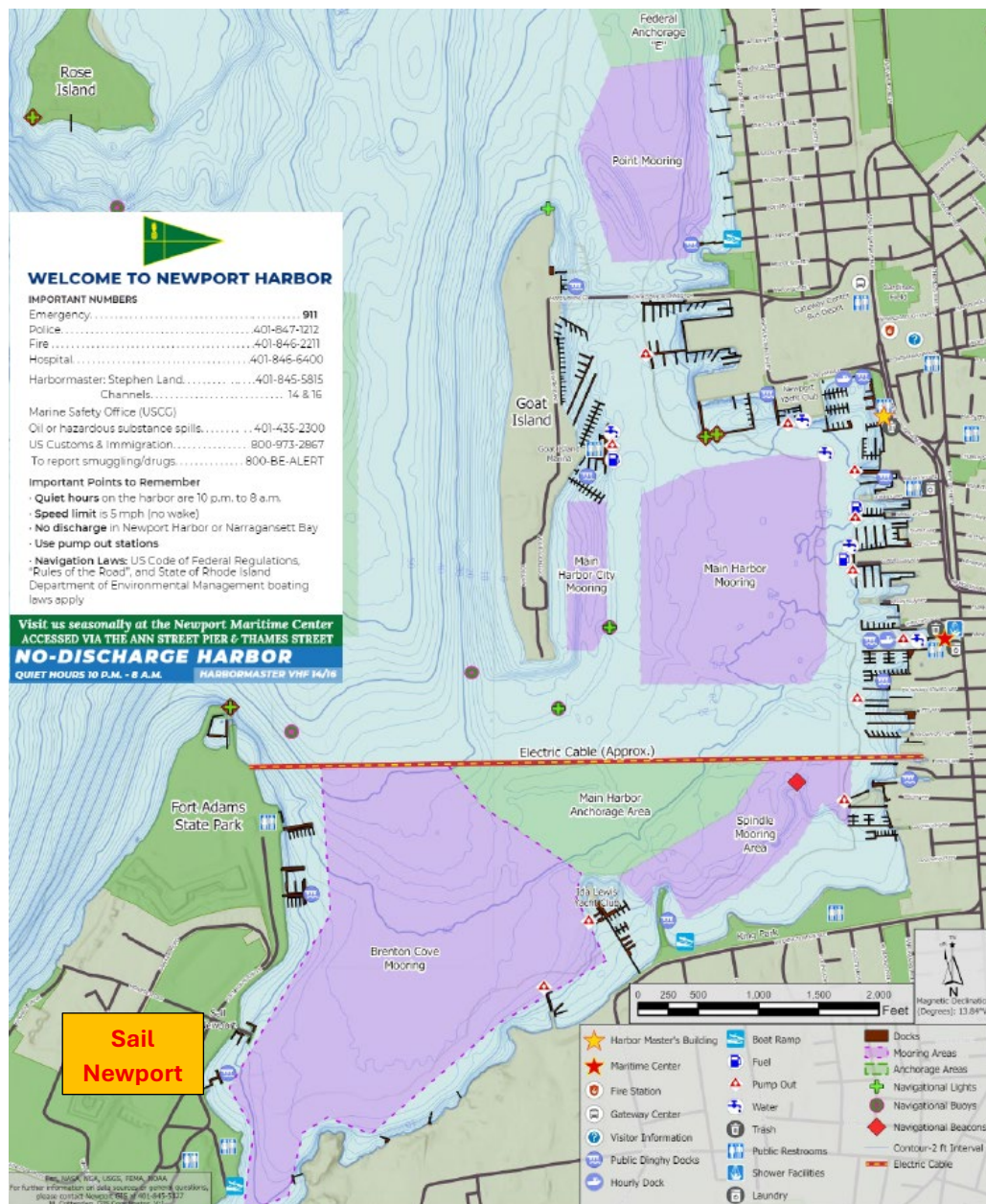
- Stephen C. Land
- VHF 16
- (401) 845-5815
- <https://www.newportri.gov/en-us/city-hall/departments/harbor-master>
- Office at 39 America's Cup Avenue (Pierotti Park Piers)
- Newport Harbor Ordinances
 - Please be advised that a vessel's owner or captain is responsible for the safety of their vessel and complying with all applicable laws and regulations
 - Newport Harbor Ordinances and laws, including the following:
 - Newport Harbor is a NO DISCHARGE ZONE. Fines range from \$500-\$1,000 (Code 46-12-39)
 - The speed limit in the harbor is 5 MPH. The harbor is a NO WAKE ZONE
 - Vessels are prohibited from anchoring in open channels or the mooring fields. The captain of any anchored vessel must stay within proximity of the vessel in case of heavy weather. Also, the captain is responsible for proper ground tackle and anchoring technique.

Anchorage/Moorings/Marinas/Yacht Clubs

- Newport Harbormaster, first-come/first-served, hail on VHF16
- [Sail Newport](#), (401) 266-9885 dockage at Alofsin Piers, Fort Adams at [Dockwa](#)
- [Oldport Marine Services](#), VHF 68, (401) 847-9109, moorings at [Dockwa](#)
- Other dockage/moorings at [Dockwa](#) for Bowen's Wharf, Newport Yachting Center, etc.

²² <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/xml2html.html?book=1>

- Anchorage in the southern section of the harbor for vessels <65' LOA, vessels <65' may use the northern anchorage between Goat Island and the Pell Bridge. See the green anchorage areas indicated on the harbor map below.
- [Ida Lewis Yacht Club](#), VHF 78A, (401) 846-1969, moorings for members & reciprocal guests (**Reciprocal privileges for CCA Members**)
- [New York Yacht Club](#), VHF 74, (401) 846-1000, moorings for members & reciprocal guests
- [Newport Yacht Club](#), VHF 78, (401) 846-9410, dockage for members & transient non-members (**Reciprocal privileges for CCA Members**)
- The map also identifies the Brenton Cove, Spindle, Main Harbor and Point Mooring areas



COURTESY OF NEWPORT MARITIME CENTER

Boatyard services/Repair, etc.:

- [Safe Harbor Newport Shipyard](#), VHF 9, (401) 846-6000, is the closest full shipyard, in Newport Harbor. There are many, many others in Narragansett Bay
- [Oldport Marine](#), VHF 68, (401) 847-9109 ext. 2, provides engine and other services
- West Marine, (401) 341-3580, is at 379 W Main Rd in Middletown

Dinghy access:

- There are [public dinghy docks](#) at Market Square (Bowen's Wharf - #22 on map) and at Spring Wharf (lower Thames Street - # 28 on map)
- Public tie up also available: Stone Pier in King's Park east of Ida Lewis YC; Elm Street Pier north of Goat Island causeway; Newport Shipyard floats ~100 yards south of Goat Island causeway; Long Wharf east of State Fishing Pier; Perrotti Park north side of transient dock (Along Long Wharf); Ann St. Pier south of 41°North Marina, W. Extension St. east side waterfront near IYRS; Sail Newport southwest of Brenton Cove; Fort Adams state docks



Launch Service:

- To request a launch, hail "Oldport Launch" on VHF 68. Check hours with launch driver.
- Club members & guests can hail NYYC Launch "Navette" on VHF 74; Ida Lewis Launch "Aloha" on VHF 78A

Fuel:

- [Newport Yachting Center](#), VHF 9, (800) 653-DOCK
- Goat Island Marina, VHF 9, (401) 849-5655
- [Bannister's Wharf](#), VHF 9, (401) 846-4556. See the [Harbormaster video](#) of the approach to the fuel dock.
- Casey's Marina (Spring Wharf), VHF 9, (401) 849-0281
- Propane refill service from Newport Propane (401) 847-6878

Water: Water is available on the floating Water Dock, which is provided as a courtesy by Oldport Marine and Bannister's Wharf Marina. It is located off Bannister's Wharf and is available to private vessels only. No washdowns, please.

Pump Out Service: Located at the Maritime Center (Ann Street Pier) and at designated points throughout the Harbor. You can also contact the **Pump Out Boat at VHF Channel 09 (401-474-0543)**, which makes daily runs in the mornings.

Amenities:

- The city's [Maritime Center](#) at Ann Street Pier provides Showers, Wi-Fi, coin-op laundry, ice & vending machines, restrooms, trash disposal
- [Micki's Mat](#), (401) 847-5972, Stop & Shop Plaza – 250 Bellevue Avenue, provides laundry services with delivery to marinas
- Stop & Shop, 250 Bellevue Avenue, is the closest full grocery store
- CVS Pharmacy, 181 Bellevue Avenue Shopping Center, (401) 846-7800, is the closest pharmacy
- RIPTA City bus, including free shuttle loop.

Captain's Meeting and Reception

Opening remarks by the CCA Commodore, New England Islands Cruise Chair and other pertinent announcements



Check-in for New England Islands Cruise will begin at 1600 and run through the start of the Opening meeting at 1700. Reception will run until 1900.

Attractions in Newport

Exploring Newport at will, some suggestions include:

The historic [Seaman's Church Institute](#) has been serving mariners for over 105 years. Located at 18 Market Square at Bannister's Wharf, it provides lodging for visiting sailors; a café open to the public, and a chapel for spiritual reflection. (401) 847-4260

Visit the CCA Library and trophy collection at IYRS (International Yacht Restoration School), 449 Thames Street, fourth floor.

The [National Sailing Museum](#) featuring the International Sailing Hall of Fame is conveniently located at 365 Thames Street above the Newport maritime center at Ann Street. The museum is open from 10 am-5 pm daily. (401) 324-5761

The [Audrain Car Museum](#), 222 Bellevue Avenue features an ever-changing collection of classic and contemporary automobiles on display. is open daily from 10 am-4 pm. (401) 856-4420.

For tennis buffs, there is the [International Tennis Hall of Fame](#), 194 Bellevue Avenue. The museum is open 7 days a week; 10 am-5 pm. (401) 849-3990.

For more information on other things to see and do, go to <https://www.discovernewport.org/>

Thursday-Friday, 24-25 September: Cuttyhunk

Committee Port Captains:

Deb Gayle-Malone

(617) 413-1776

dlgayle01@gmail.com

Mike Malone

(617) 512-7533

MP.Malone@comcast.net

Thursday, September 24 – Fleet departs Newport for Cuttyhunk; Raw Bar Party

0800 Morning Colors at 0800; Radio Net (Broadcast) will be at 0805 on VHF 69.

0900 Passage to Cuttyhunk.

1700 – 1930 **Raw Bar Party @ Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms**, 33 Broadway.

BYOB & please bring appetizer to share.

Weather dependent; rain date Friday, September 25.

Dress: Sailing casual

Friday, September 25 – Cuttyhunk Layday

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net (Broadcast) of the Cruise will be at **0805** on VHF 69.

Dress Ship: Friday will be a layday, so we request you dress ship to celebrate the CCA's start of the cruise. It should be quite the display of the CCA fleet as we will occupy almost all of the harbor moorings. Photos will be taken of the fleet from Cuttyhunk Heights late morning. Any sequence is permitted, but AB2, UJ1, KE3, GH6, IV5, FL4, DM7, PO Third Repeater, RN First Repeater, ST Zero, CX9, WQ8, ZY Second Repeater from bow to stern, draping to the water is the traditional arrangement (see Chapman Boating Etiquette by CCA member Queene Hooper Foster). The US Jack may be flown from the bow when dressing ship.

At will Hiking, exploring the island, rest, relax, beach time

1100 Cuttyhunk Historical Society Museum tour (time pending)

1700 – 1930 Meet and Greet! Dinghy to your assigned yacht and mix and mingle. Random picks will be done at Thursday evening's Raw Bar Party with a number of designated host boats. BYOE and/or arrange for a delivery by Cuttyhunk Shellfish right to the boat. (This day is also the rain date from prior evening, if needed.)

At will Dinner (on own)



Do you ever wish you could hop back in time to experience a less frenetic pace of life? After the hustle and bustle of Newport, escape to the tranquil shores of Cuttyhunk Island, Massachusetts. Cuttyhunk is the southernmost island in the chain of Elizabeths and has two harbors: Cuttyhunk Harbor and Cuttyhunk Pond. A boater's paradise: quaint, quiet, and full of beautiful nature that's untouched by all things commercial, which is its real charm.

Be sure to BYOE (bring your own everything) as we will be visiting off-season with limited amenities, no commercialism, and it's a dry island! The harbor proper lies between Cuttyhunk and Nashawena Island to the east. Cuttyhunk is protected from prevailing southwest and southeast winds.

Visiting Cuttyhunk presents the classic paradox of travel to all remote and uncommercial places: how to appreciate them without undermining the very qualities you came to admire. Gosnold (the municipal name) is a working island town whose residents, both year-round and summer, have chosen to live just outside the patterns of mainland life. – [Boston Sailing Club Cruising Guide: Cuttyhunk](#)

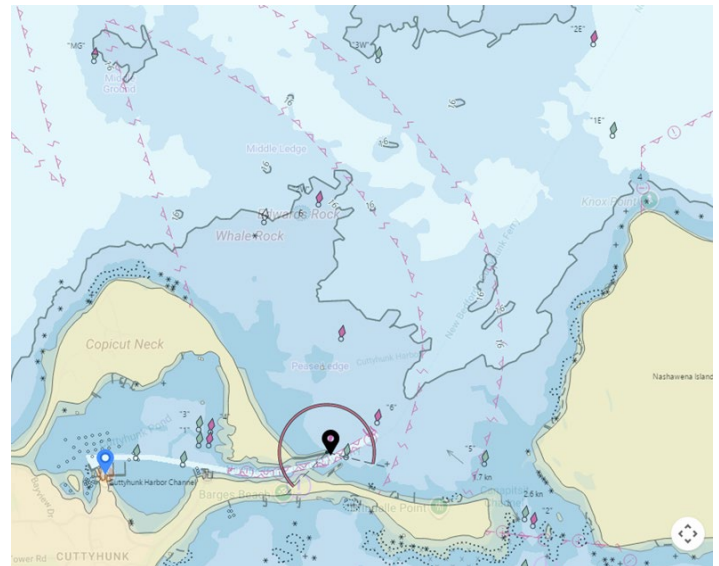
Navigation and Harbor Information

Navigation: Please review [Chapter 5 \(Vineyard Sound and Buzzards Bay\) of the Coast Pilot 2](#)²³

Chart: 13230_5; also 13229 (South Coast of Cape Cod and Buzzards Bay).

Approach: You can approach Cuttyhunk either from the east (Buzzards Bay) or from the west (Rhode Island Sound).

In both cases you pass between Cuttyhunk Island and the smaller Penikese Island to the north. The ledges extend three quarters of a mile south and east from Penikese but they are clearly marked. Coming from the western approach, there is a bit more to avoid specifically Whale Rock and Pease Ledge. Whether coming or going (e.g. to Martha's Vineyard), avoid proceeding through Canapisit Channel as it is narrow, twisty with several unmarked rocks, and not recommended without local knowledge. It is safer to go around Nashawena Island, through Quick's Hole.



²³ <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/xml2html.html?book=1>

Steer towards the Morse (A) buoy that marks the general approach to Cuttyhunk. Following a narrow, dredged channel (11 feet) to the west into the inner harbor, you will find a deep-water basin in Cuttyhunk Pond. (Do not cut the entrance into the harbor as sand accumulates unevenly along the channel edges and you may run aground on the sand...written from experience....) There are moorings in both the inner and outer harbors, both offering protection from prevailing southwest and southeast winds. When the wind is from the north or east, the outer harbor can be a bit sporty.

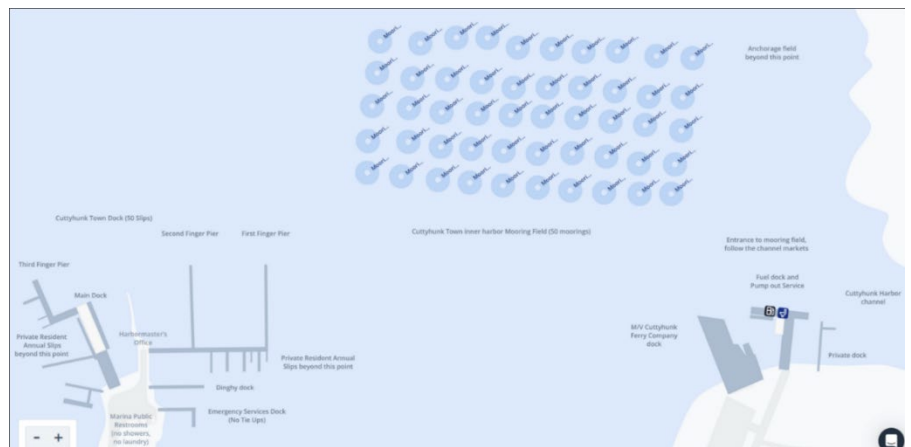
Tides: In general, Cuttyhunk tides have a 3.5-4 foot range.

Harbormaster:

- Assistant Harbormaster and Dockmaster, Maddie Lynch
- (508) 990-7578 or VHF 09; harbormaster@townofgosnold.org
- <https://www.townofgosnold.org/harbor-and-wharf>
- NO Launch Service

Moorings/Services:

- Cuttyhunk Marina (Town Moorings) for inner moorings and dockage, reserve at [Dockwa](#) or contact Harbormaster.



Cuttyhunk Inner Harbor (Rendering, not for Navigation)

- Cuttyhunk Outer Moorings, (508) 802-8633, maintains the outer harbor field north of Red Bell #6, reserve at [Dockwa](#)
- Frog Pond Marine, VHF 72, (508) 992-7530, maintains the outer field south of Red #6, moorings available on a first-come, first-served basis only.
- Dinghy dock is located behind the marina; go in leaving slips to starboard.

Fuel, water & some provisions: Cuttyhunk Fuel & Supply, open 0800-1700. 508-802-8633 (Duane Lynch) or 508-802-8634 (Lexi Lynch)

Pump Out: Free of charge on the Fuel Dock

Food/Dining:

- [Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms](#) offers a floating raw bar on Cuttyhunk Pond and the mooring fields in the harbor. You will find Cuttyhunk Oysters, clams, shrimp, chowder, and quahogs! The Raw Bar will be open on the dock or in the harbor via the Raw Bar Boat!

Call VHF 72 to place an order for delivery right to your vessel (the Raw Bar Boat leaves the dock at 1715)

- On the dock: Cuttyhunk Café, Cuttyhunk Lobster Shack and Ice Cream Shop located at 37 Broadway parking lot.
- Note that the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club Inn and Soprano's both close for the season in August.

Itinerary: Rest, Relaxation, Hikes, and Raw Bar Cocktail Party

Cuttyhunk has a unique magic that just does not exist anywhere else on the mainland. The island offers a variety of activities centered around its natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere for fishing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and exploring the island's coastline. Walk the beaches that surround the island. Come into 'town' to the center of Cuttyhunk, follow the signs to the trail that brings you to the top of the hill. Stop along the walk to enjoy a respite at any one of the numerous picnic benches strategically placed to take in the amazing views of the island. At the top of the hill, look out at Buzzards Bay and Block Island Sound, and enjoy the expanse and splendor of the landscape. The island is known for migratory songbirds and raptors. Cuttyhunk is the only island in the Elizabeths chain available for public access; the other islands are owned by the Forbes family.

Dining options are very limited in the offseason. However, we have arranged a Raw Bar Cocktail Party with Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms (see below) for the first evening on the lawn next to the marina at 33 Broadway, Cuttyhunk. BYOB cocktail party and appetizers to share. (We will monitor the weather and will make a date determination as we get closer.)

Friday's required activities are rest and relaxation! For those interested, Cuttyhunk's roads and trails are easy to navigate and provide lovely venues and views along with some moderate activity. Most of the island shuts down after Labor Day. The Cuttyhunk Historical Museum has made themselves available for a tour of the museum and a chance to learn about the Island's vast history.

At 1700 we will be doing a 'Mix and Mingle' on members' volunteer host boats, that were randomly assigned from the prior evening. This is a fun opportunity to meet people, appreciate and admire boats, and share stories with fellow members. It's also a great opportunity to contact Cuttyhunk Shellfish on Ch. 72, place an order, and have it delivered right to the boat!

Attractions in Cuttyhunk

One of the best things to do in Cuttyhunk is bird watching! In the fall, migratory birds often congregate on Cuttyhunk Island, as it's the last landmass in the bay for southbound birds. As a result, birdwatchers can sometimes spot rare birds, like the painted redstart, in this migration funnel. More common bird sightings on the island include tree swallows, blue jays, the common grackle, and the double-crested cormorant.

A tour of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society Museum on Tower Hill Road can be made available with notice. Exhibits include Hidden Histories: Shipwrecks of the Elizabeth Islands that features stories and objects from maritime accidents between the late 1800s to the mid-1900s. From minor wrecks to major disasters, the material displayed in this exhibition brings voice to those who lived and worked along the seashore and sailed through the waters of the Elizabeth Islands.

Cuttyhunk has a number of pleasant beaches. Church's Beach is located on a narrow, sandy arm between the main island and the section to the north of Cuttyhunk Pond. It has open water and waves to the west and harbor views to the east, and is a wonderful spot for swimming, and paddling.

The west side of Cuttyhunk is a nature preserve with trails open to hiking and bicycling. Three sandy stretches of beach, separated by cliffs and rocky areas, line the shores and stripped-down Coast Guard bunkers from World War II now serve as picnic areas. Be sure to walk up to "Lookout Hill" that served as a naval lookout during WWII where soldiers could watch out for any German submarine activity in the surrounding waters. Nature lovers can explore the trails and watch the local fauna.

History

Cuttyhunk Island was the site of the first English settlement in New England, having been discovered by Bartholomew Gosnold Many in 1602, predating the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock by nearly two decades. (Plymouth, MA was founded in 1620 and obviously had a better marketing team) It was originally home to the Wampanoag tribe and named Poocuoohunkkunnah, often translated as "point of departure" or "land's end". The island was part of the Elizabeth Islands and was incorporated as the town of Gosnold. A monument to Bartholomew Gosnold stands on a small island located in West End Pond that is currently used for shellfish farming.

Cuttyhunk has a long maritime history including its role as a site for US Coast Guard rescue operations. A former Coast Guard lifeboat station on the island was decommissioned in 1964 and is now owned by the town and used for recreation. The Cuttyhunk Fishing Club (now a bed and breakfast) was founded in 1864 by wealthy individuals from New York and Philadelphia who were drawn to the island's reputation for spectacular striped bass fishing. The club provided an exclusive and rustic retreat where they could escape city life and enjoy fertile fishing grounds. Its members utilized unique fishing practices, such as fishing from fixed "stands" on the shore and employing paid "chummers" to attract bass with lobster tails. The anglers would communicate with their city offices using carrier pigeons.

Saturday, 26 September: Captain's Choice from Cuttyhunk to MV

Saturday, September 26

0800 Morning Colors at 0800; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69.

At will Depart Cuttyhunk for Captain's Choice Harbors

Sunday, September 27 – Proceed at will to Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard

If you proceed through Quicks Hole to Vineyard Sound, there are two anchorages you should consider stopping at for a lunch or spending the night assuming the wind is favorable - Menemsha and/or Tarpaulin Cove.

Menemsha (Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard)

With just one street of small shops, surrounded by beach, dunes, grass, mixed forest and vast saltwater ponds, Menemsha feels seductively like the edge of the world. Residents and visitors alike come here for the unhurried, untucked mood it engenders. The harbor itself is not quite tranquil. The man-made basin is lit up by street lamps, and it's home to countless dedicated fishermen, both recreational and pro. Plus there's a small Coast Guard station. While it may be just as exclusive as any other place on the Vineyard, Menemsha seems determined not to flaunt it. – [Boston Sailing Club Cruising Guide: Menemsha](#)

Menemsha is a small fishing village located in the town of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard. It is on the eastern coast of Menemsha Pond, adjacent to the opening into the Vineyard Sound on the pond's northern end. The village's historic harbor serves as the point of departure for local fishermen, some from multi-generational fishing families, as well as charter boats to the Elizabeth Islands and elsewhere. Besides charter fishing and cruises, other amenities are local shops and restaurants, the public beach adjacent to the harbor and the bicycle ferry across Menemsha Pond to Aquinnah. In the summer months, Menemsha attracts huge crowds especially to view the beautiful sunsets from the beach.

Remarkable scenic hikes can be found here. Like all of Martha's Vineyard, Menemsha Hills was crushed, carved, and shaped by thousands of years of glacial advance and retreat. Today an array of mini-environments comprise a rugged, pleasant landscape: low wetlands, woodland groves leading to a hilltop, wind-blasted coastal plains, a rocky ocean edge, and 308-foot Prospect Hill. The wildlands at [Menemsha Neck](#) are low and salt-blasted. Their bleakness is endearing. Note that the property is inaccessible but for a long beach hike along the Menemsha Pond, which endears in an entirely different way.

Navigation and Harbor Information

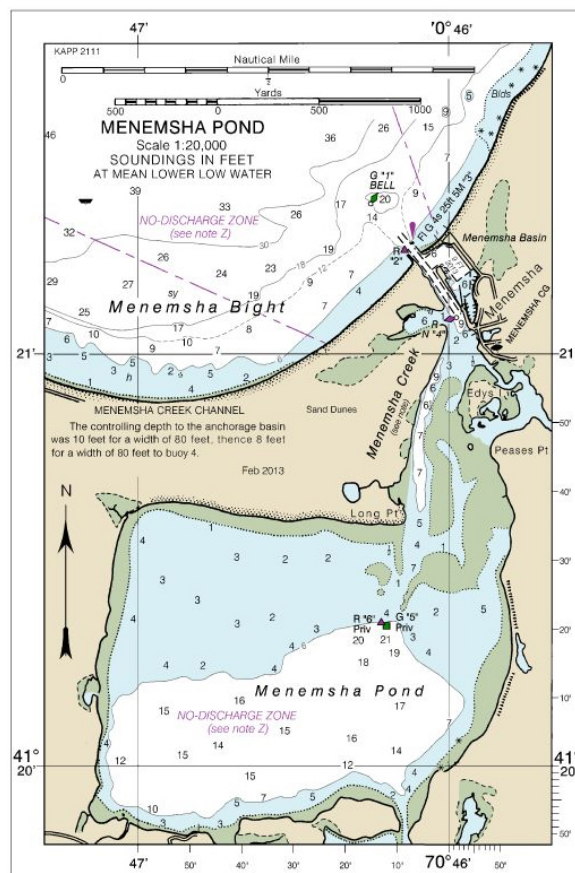
Navigation: Please review [Chapter 5 \(Vineyard Sound and Buzzards Bay\) of the Coast Pilot 2](#)²⁴

Chart: 13233 Martha's Vineyard; Menemsha Pond

Approaches: Menemsha Harbor opens directly onto Vineyard Sound via a narrow-dredged channel between breakwaters. A 25 ft high flashing green sits at the end of the eastern breakwater and there's an (unlit) green bell about 250 yards off the entrance. Current runs hard, but straight, through the entrance, from a knot or two up to 4 or 5, as the expanse of Menemsha Pond drains and fills with the tide. The only tricky part of the entrance is to recognize that there's very little room for boat handling inside the breakwaters and to prepare accordingly. The harbormaster reported depths were 18 feet in the entrance channel and 12 feet in the basin (2005). The mooring basin opens to your left immediately inside the breakwaters. Current in the basin is negligible.²⁵

Harbormaster:

- Ryan D. Rossi
- VHF 9 / 8
- (508) 645-2846
- <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/harbormaster>



Moorings/Dockage/Anchorage: Chilmark Harbormaster, available at [Dockwa](#). Some of the moorings, as well as anchorage are outside the breakwaters in Menemsha Bight. It's protected enough for calm summer weather and the prevailing southwesterly, but any groundswell from the west or chop in the Sound makes it roly. Menemsha Bight is exposed from northeast around to west and goes from uncomfortable to untenable in any significant northerly.

Dinghy Access: Dock in the north corner of the basin, between the slips and breakwater. Note that if you are anchored/moored outside, the current at the entrance to the pond can be strong. Showers & restrooms available.

Fuel/provisions: Fuel, water & limited supplies available at the fuel doc. A general store is located at the head of the harbor.

²⁴ <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/xml2html.html?book=1>

²⁵ <https://bsccruisingguide.com/menemsha/>

Tarpaulin Cove (Naushon Island)

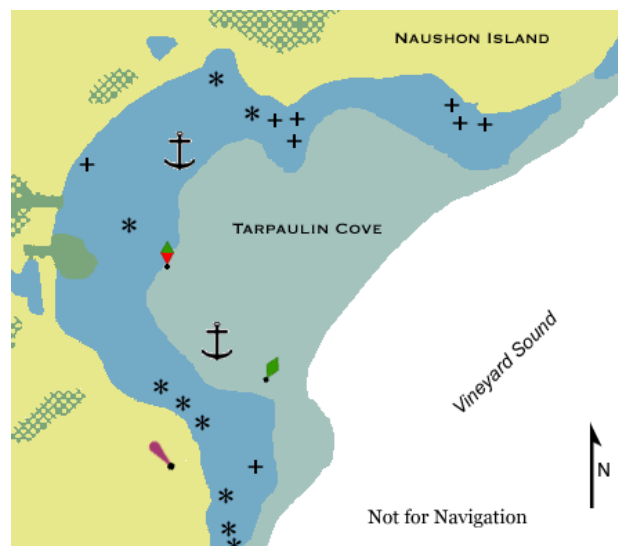
In a sense, Tarpaulin Cove is like a sleepy main street shopping district after the highway came through and by-passed the town. The “highway” here is the Cape Cod Canal, whose opening in 1914 effectively shifted coastwise traffic from the old route through Vineyard Sound and around the Cape to the new route through Buzzards Bay. Before the Canal, traffic through Vineyard Sound was dense enough that Naushon Island warranted a lighthouse, and that a post office was established, with congressional approval, in the late 1800s. Sailors could drop and retrieve mail with just about “drive-thru” convenience. Nowadays the cove, like the rest of the island, is largely uninhabited, the lighthouse is automated and the (relatively) few boats transiting the Sound rarely need a sheltered anchorage to wait for wind or tide. – [Boston Sailing Club Guide: Tarpaulin Cove](#)

Naushon Island is the largest of the Elizabeth Islands, and is privately owned by members of the family of 19th-century industrialist John Murray Forbes, and held in the family’s Naushon Island Trust.

Tarpaulin Cove is a scenic, boat-accessible bay on the eastern shore of the private Naushon Island in Vineyard Sound. Known for its calm, clear waters, it is a popular spot for anchoring, swimming, snorkeling, and viewing the historic 1891 Tarpaulin Cove Light. Historically, the Cove served as a safe harbor for ships waiting out storms and adverse current. Tarpaulin Cove Beach may be visited.

Please Note: As part of the privately owned Naushon Island, visitors **MUST** respect the area, not trespass beyond the beach, and not camp or have fires.

Anchorage: There are no moorings or slips, but there is significant room to anchor in 10-20 feet with sand. The cove well protected from northerlies. With the typical southwesterly, tucking in under lighthouse can be recommended.



TARPAULIN COVE (CHARTLET FROM BSC CRUISING GUIDE)

Sunday-Monday, 27-28 September: Martha's Vineyard

Committee Port Captain: Sandy Vietor
914-282-5752
sandyvietor73@gmail.com

Sunday, 27 September – Arrive at will; no cruise activities planned
Ample opportunity to explore the island

Monday, 28 September – A classic boatyard and lobster bake!

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69

0900, 1100, 1400 **Gannon & Benjamin Marine Railway Private Tours**
9:30, 11:00 & 2:00 Signup Required

Nat Benjamin (BOS/BBP) will provide a private tour for us of the [Gannon & Benjamin Marine Railway](#), a boatyard that specializes in the design, construction, repair, and maintenance of traditionally built wooden boats. Since its founding, Nat has designed over 100 vessels ranging from 8' yacht tenders to the 65' schooner Juno. The boatyard has built over 85 boats and has repaired many more, while nurturing a legion of budding shipwrights. 30A Beach Road, Vineyard Haven

1700 **Lobster Bake at [Edgartown Yacht Club](#).**
1 Dock Street, Edgartown
Cash Bar at 1700, Dinner at 1800.
Dress: Sailing casual

Tuesday, 29 September

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69

At Will Depart for Captain's Choice Harbors

In the age of sail, Vineyard Sound was among the world's busiest sea lanes. Traffic from the whole eastern seaboard passed between the Cape and the Islands en route to Boston or Maine. Samuel Eliot Morison asserts that "On a fine westerly day in the seventeen-nineties, fifty or sixty sail could be seen from any point in this great ocean fairway." [Morison, S.E., Maritime History of Massachusetts, p.162]

When those vessels needed shelter from hard weather or a foul current, Vineyard Haven was an obvious choice – easy to enter and close to their route. George W. Eldridge conceived his still-famous Tide and Pilot Book while selling charts here in the 1870s to the “frequently more than 100 schooners [anchoring] to await a fair current.” [Eldridge, G.W., Tide & Pilot, p 2] Even as late as 1898, the harbor was busy enough that a November gale wrecked over fifty vessels. [Norton, H.F., Martha’s Vineyard] - [Boston Sailing Club Cruising Guide: Vineyard Haven](#)



VINEYARD HAVEN (IMAGE BY MARBLEHEAD POWER SQUADRON, IN COAST PILOT 2)

The three waterways that comprise Tisbury, also known as Vineyard Haven, make up a most fragile aquatic system. In spite of ever-increasing use and misuse by man, the harbor remains an important spawning and feeding ground for several species of edible fish and bait, while the Lagoon and Lake Tashmoo provide an excellent locale for breeding and harvesting shellfish. - [“Welcome to Tisbury” Brochure, Vineyard Haven Harbormaster Website](#)



EDGARTOWN HARBOR (IMAGE BY MARBLEHEAD POWER SQUADRON, IN COAST PILOT 2)

Established in 1671, Edgartown was the Island’s first colonial settlement. Originally built by prosperous whaling captains in the 18th and 19th centuries, the streets of Edgartown are lined with stately white Greek Revival and Federal style houses that have been carefully maintained and lovingly restored... Edgartown was Martha’s Vineyard’s center for whaling activities in the mid-to-late 1800’s, which brought immense wealth and prosperity to the island. - [Edgartown Board of Trade Website](#)

Navigation and Harbor Information

Navigation: Please review [Chapter 5 \(Vineyard Sound and Buzzards Bay\) of the Coast Pilot 2](#)²⁶

Chart: 13238 Marthas Vineyard Eastern Part;

Oak Bluffs Harbor; Vineyard Haven Harbor; Edgartown Harbor

There are two primary harbors on Martha’s Vineyard: Vineyard Haven and Edgartown. Both towns have their own charm as described at the end of this section. Overall Edgartown is a better

²⁶ <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/xml2html.html?book=1>

harbor for those wishing to be on a mooring. The 3 marinas have limited dock space and tend to be very expensive. Also, Vineyard Haven has very limited launch service at this time of year.

Edgartown

Harbor Currents: In January, there was a breach in the barrier beach at the head of the harbor in Katana Bay. This breach changes the direction and timing of currents and tides within the harbor and outer harbor. During times of breaches, which occur periodically, it is very important to observe the currents as you enter the harbor and not rely on websites or printed material.

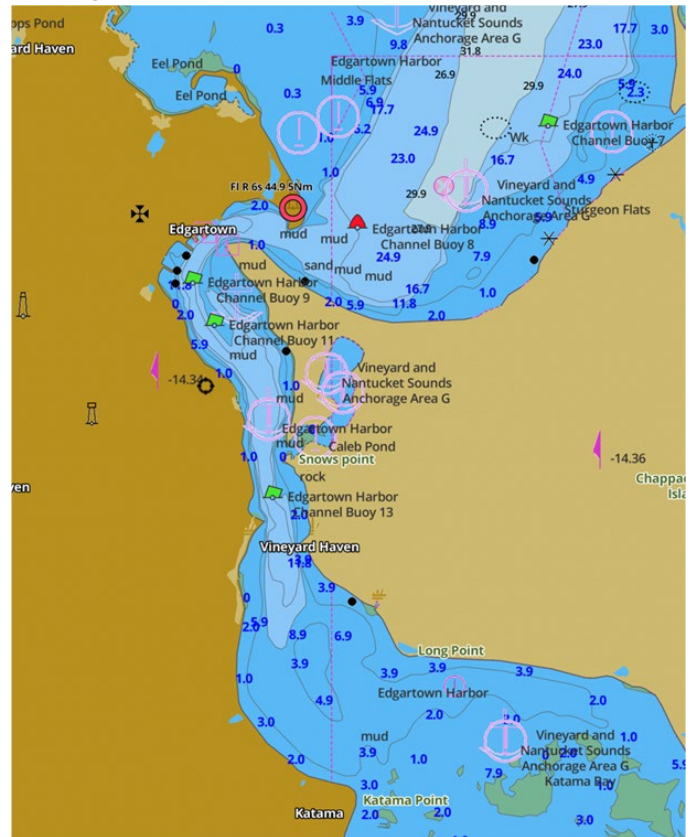
Tides: In general, Edgartown tides have a 1.5-3 foot range.

Approaches: Entering Edgartown Harbor is straightforward. Leave N '8' to starboard and head straight in. Edgartown Harbor Light at the end of North Water Street defines the entrance to the Harbor.

Please be aware that the Chappy Ferry is constantly transiting the harbor at its narrowest point. They have very limited ability to avoid you, so approach carefully. The ferry runs non-stop but is only a two-minute ride each way. Also, mind the current which you will encounter, especially at the narrow neck entering the harbor.

Harbormaster:

- Gary Kovack
- VHF 74
- (508) 627-4746
- <https://www.edgartownharbor.com/>
- Office at North Wharf Fuel Dock, on your starboard as you enter Edgartown Harbor



EDGARTOWN HARBOR (CREDIT)

Anchorage/Moorings/Marinas

- Harbormaster **moorings** and **dockage on North Wharf** are available on their [website](https://www.edgartownharbor.com/) and [Dockwa](https://dockwa.com/), or email reservations@edgartown-ma.us. Include "CCA Cruise" in your reservation request.
- Contact the Edgartown Harbormaster on VHF 74 once past the lighthouse. Check-in time is 1100 & check-out at 1000.
- [Edgartown Yacht Club](#), VHF , (508) 627-4361, 1 Dock Street
- [Harborside Inn](#), VHF 10, (508) 627-4321, 3 S. Water Street Dockage via [Dockwa](https://dockwa.com/).

- [Mad Max Marina](#), VHF 71, (508) 627-7500, 25 Dock Street. Dockage via [Dockwa](#).
- Anchorage is located in the **outer harbor** to the south-side of red nun #8, alongside Chappaquiddick Beach. All sand on the bottom making for easy anchoring.
- The curvature of the Chappy shoreline and bluff protect from our light, prevailing southwest breezes. In the event of inclement weather, the Harbormaster may give permission for boats to anchor down harbor in Katama Bay.
- Service to and from town provided by the launch.

Boatyard services:

- [Safe Harbor Edgartown](#). (508) 627-6500, 33 Herring Creek Road. Boatyard services.

Dinghy access:

- There are town floating dinghy docks on the Southwest side of Edgartown Yacht Club and in front of the Atlantic restaurant. They are denoted by red painted pilings. Have at least an 8-foot bow line so others can land on the float.
- Also, you can tie up to the floating dock at North Wharf (Safe Harbor Marine) to drop off trash, buy ice, and use showers and restrooms. Fuel is also available here.

Launch Service: Launch service is available for all transient moorings as well as to/from the outer harbor anchorage vis Oldport Marine VHF Channel 68

Fuel: North Wharf Fuel, VHF 74. (508) 627-5050. To starboard as one enters the harbor, look for blue travel lift.

Water: Free potable water available on the Water Barge located opposite Green Can #9. Look for a floating dock secured by two blue moorings balls on either side.

Pump Out Service: Free pump out service is provided by the Harbormaster Pumpout Boat daily between 0800-1500. Hail "Edgartown Pump out" on VHF 74.

Medical Care: Martha's Vineyard Hospital, (508) 693-0400, 1 Hospital Road, Oak Bluffs, MA

Ground Transport: The [Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority](#) provides free transport around the island! Check <https://www.vineyardtransit.com/route-maps> for the updated route map.

One of New England's most elegant communities, Edgartown was Martha's Vineyard's first colonial settlement, and it has been the county seat since 1642. The stately white Greek Revival homes built by the whaling captains have been carefully maintained. They make the town a museum-piece community, a seaport village preserved from the early 19th century. Main Street is a picture-book setting with its harbor and waterfront. The tall square-rigged ships that sailed all the world's oceans have passed from the Edgartown scene, but the heritage of those vessels and their captains has continued.



To view and appreciate this town fully, you must walk its streets. North Water Street in particular has a row of captains' houses not equaled anywhere. Study the fanlights and widows-walks by day and stroll the streets after the lamps are lit. South Water Street is dominated by a huge pagoda tree brought from China as a seedling by Captain Thomas Milton in the early days of the 19th century. The house beyond it was that of Captain Valentine Pease, on whose ship Herman Melville, author of Moby Dick, made his only whaling voyage. Many homes in Edgartown predate the whaling era. Most are private residences, but three notable ones serve other needs. Both the Vincent House (built in 1672 and the oldest known house on the Island) and the Thomas Cooke House are now museums. At 34 South Summer Street, you'll find the home built by Benjamin Smith in 1760. It is now the office of the Vineyard Gazette.

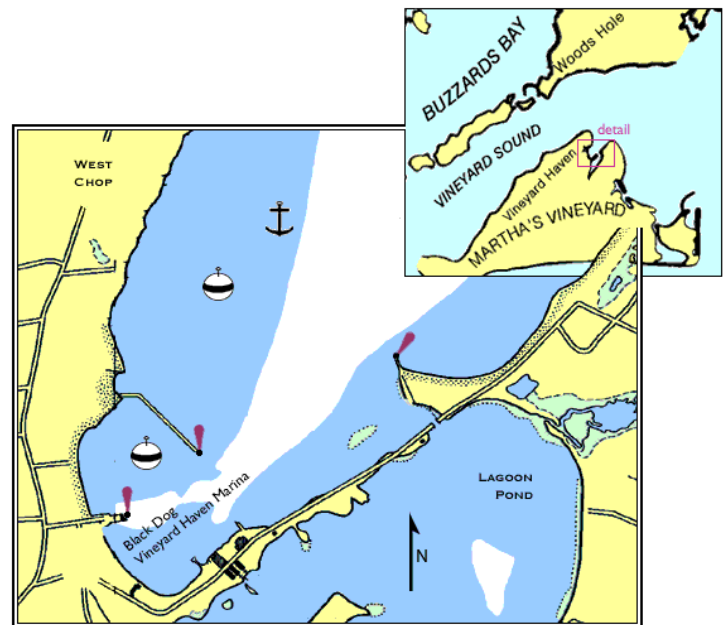
Across from the Gazette is the Federated Church, built in 1828. It still has the old box pews, which are entered through little doors and have narrow seats around three sides. The famous Old Whaling Church with its six massive columns commands Main Street. Built in 1843 at the height of the Whaling Era, the Church was given to the Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust in 1980. It has been transformed into a performing arts center. Next door is the Dr. Daniel Fisher House, built three years before the Old Whaling Church.

There are excellent public beaches in the township of Edgartown. Norton's Point, known as Katama, is a barrier beach providing surf bathing and the opportunity to explore Katama Bay on the other side of the dunes. Wasque and Cape Poge on Chappaquiddick are both unspoiled areas owned and maintained by The Trustees of Reservations. Lighthouse Beach, located off North Water Street near the town center, offers calm water and views of harbor activities. Bend-in-the-Road Beach, part of Joseph Sylvia Beach, has ample parking and is accessible by bicycle trail. Felix Neck is about three miles outside the center of town on Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road. The 200 acres, owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, provide marked trails and a program of wildlife management and conservation education throughout the year.

Vineyard Haven Harbor (Tisbury MA)

Tides: In general, Vineyard Haven tides have a ~2 foot range.

Approaches: The entrance to Vineyard Haven is a mile wide, with deep water right across. Prominent lights mark both of the flanking headlands – East and West Chop. Note that the current rounding West Chop is the strongest of any in Vineyard or Nantucket Sounds, topping 3 knots on a big tide.



VINEYARD HAVEN (CHARTLET FROM BSC CRUISING GUIDE)

Harbormaster:

- Michael Gately
- VHF 9, Working channel VHF 69
- (508) 627-4746
- <https://www.tisbury.ma.gov/186/Harbormaster>

Anchorage/Moorings/Dockage

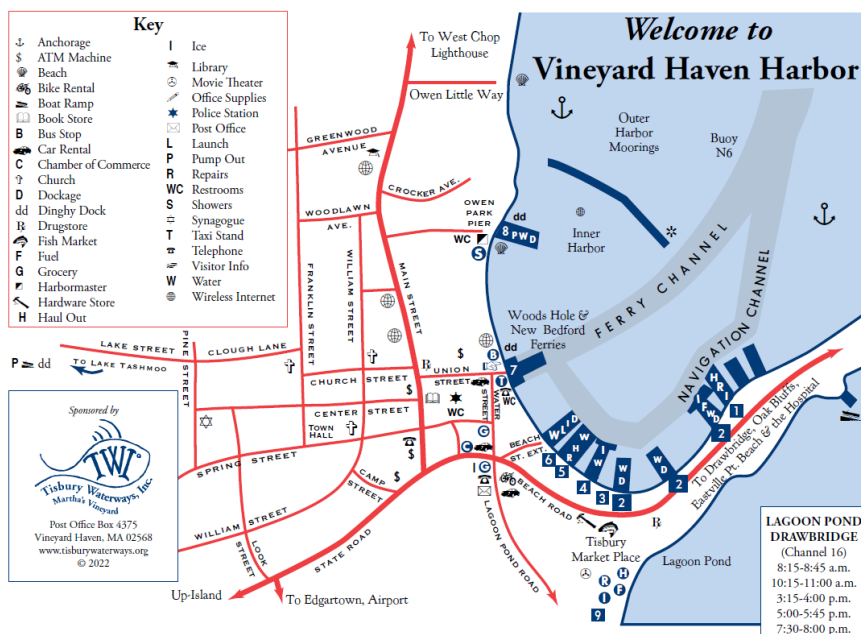
- Town **moorings** are on a first-come/first-serve basis, contact Harbormaster on VHF 9.
- [Gannon & Benjamin](#), VHF 72, (508) 693-4658, 12 moorings at [Dockwa](#).
- [Martha's Vineyard Shipyard](#), VHF 73 / 16 / 9, (508) 693-0400, 164 Beach Road, call for mooring reservations.
- [Safe Harbor Vineyard Haven](#), VHF 68, (508) 693-4174, 100 Lagoon Pond Rd Moorings & dockage via their website or phone.
- [Vineyard Haven Marina](#), VHF 71, (508) 693-0720, 52 Beach Road, Dockage at [Dockwa](#).
- Town Dock at Owen Park. Boats may tie up to the "T" at the end of the dock for up to 15 minutes for loading and unloading at no charge. Consult the harbormaster for a fee schedule. Overnight dockage is only accepted after privately-run marinas are full. No charcoal grills, barbecues or other open fires may be used on the dock or aboard any boat tied up. No generating units on a vessel may be used while the vessel is tied to the dock.

Boatyard Services:

- [Martha's Vineyard Shipyard](#), VHF 73 / 16 / 9, (508) 693-0400, 164 Beach Road, Martha's Vineyard Shipyard
- [Safe Harbor Vineyard Haven](#), VHF 68, (508) 693-4174, 100 Lagoon Pond Rd Moorings & dockage via their website or phone.
- West Marine, (508) 693-2906, 52 Beach Road.

Dinghy access:

- Town Dock at Owen Park or at the at the Steamship Authority (SSA) dinghy dock, on the north side of each of those piers. Dinghies may be beached north of the Owen Park pier, but please do not beach on property marked private.
- The SSA terminal area includes taxi stands, pay phones, public restrooms and the Chamber of Commerce information booth.



VINEYARD HAVEN (MAPLET FROM WELCOME TO TISBURY, HARBORMASTER WEBSITE)

Launch Service: Launch service may be unavailable as it is past the normal service season.

Pump Out Service: Free pump out service is provided by the Harbormaster daily between 0900-1600. Hail "Vineyard Haven Pump out" on VHF 9.

Fuel: Tisbury Wharf Company, VHF 74. (508) 693-9300. 144 Beach Rd To starboard as one enters the harbor, look for blue travel lift.

Medical Care: Martha's Vineyard Hospital, (508) 693-0400, 1 Hospital Road, Oak Bluffs, MA

Ground Transport: The [Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority](https://www.vineyardtransit.com) provides free transport around the island! Check <https://www.vineyardtransit.com/route-maps> for the updated route map.

Excellent shops, fine restaurants, and a beautiful harbor are only a few of the attractions that make Vineyard Haven special to tourists and residents alike. The town that incorporates Vineyard Haven is called Tisbury, after a parish in England near the birthplace of the Island's first governor, Thomas Mayhew. English settlement of the area dates from the mid-1600s, when Mayhew purchased the settlement rights from the Crown. Owen Park, off Main Street (just beyond the shopping district), is named for William Barry Owen, who made his fortune as the owner of the rights to Thomas Edison's "talking machine" (popularly known as the Victrola). Following his death, his widow donated Owen Park to the town. The adjoining beach is a fine place to watch the harbor. Ferries shuttle in and out, providing the Island's year-round connection to the mainland. On the opposite side of Main Street from Owen Park is the Old Schoolhouse Museum. Erected in 1828, this building was once a carpentry shop, a school, and later served as the Congregational Church. In front of the former Museum stands the tall white Liberty Pole, commemorating the daring of three young women who inserted gun powder in the base of the town's liberty pole in 1778 and blew it up to keep it from being used as a spar by a British warship. When the Congregationalists outgrew their little church in 1844, they built a neo-classic building on Spring Street that later became the Unitarian Church and eventually the town hall. Vineyard Haven's municipal building is one of the Island's most handsome architectural legacies of whaling days. It also houses the Katharine Cornell Theatre. The walls of the second story theater are hung with murals depicting the seasons by renowned local artist Stan Murphy.

Just blocks away, The Vineyard Playhouse building on Church Street was built in 1833 as a Methodist meeting house. Today it houses the Island's only year-round professional theater company. When ships were powered by wind and canvas, Vineyard Haven was one of New England's busiest ports because of its strategic location on the sailing routes. Most of the coastwise shipping traveled through Vineyard Sound (13,814 vessels were counted in 1845). Holmes Hole, as this harbor community was called, provided a convenient anchorage. Here a ship and its crew could lay over comfortably to wait out bad weather, pick up provisions, or take on an experienced local pilot who could negotiate the rips and shoals that were the special perils of this sea route. In addition to Owen Park, the town maintains War Veterans' Memorial Park off Causeway Road and visible from the parking area on Beach Street. The park includes playground equipment for young children and playing fields used by local ball teams. There are many scenic places around the town: in addition to Main Street and the harbor, the Tashmoo Lake overlook on State Road, the

nearby Tisbury Water Works, West Chop Lighthouse, and the area around the drawbridge on Beach Road are favorite spots for photographers.

[Attractions in Martha's Vineyard](#)

[Edgartown Harbor Lighthouse](#). Although the original wooden Cape Cod style lighthouse no longer remains, a cast-iron tower replaced it in 1939. Surrounded by beaches, the historic structure managed by the Martha's Vineyard Museum still stands as a testament to ships that passed through the area during whaling times in the 18th and 19th centuries. In season, the lighthouse is open for visitors and the climb to the top provides some beautiful views.

Edgartown, (508) 627-4441

South Beach has huge waves, great sand, and is an overall beautiful place to catch some rays. It was one of the island's filming locations of Steven Spielberg's 1975 blockbuster film, *Jaws*.

Edgartown, (508) 627-6145

Historic Walking Tours. -The Vineyard Preservation Trust offers private and group tours of the Old Whaling Church and Edgartown's most iconic historic buildings. Edgartown, (508) 627-4440

The Carnegie Heritage Center, located on North Water Street, houses the permanent exhibition, *Living Landmarks*, which illustrates the story of Martha's Vineyard through the lens of the 20 landmarks in the Vineyard Preservation Trust's care. Edgartown, (774) 549-9107

Martha's Vineyard Museum. Founded in 1922 as the Dukes County Historical Society, the Martha's Vineyard Museum, in Vineyard Haven, has a mission of "inspiring people to discover, explore and strengthen their connections to the island." Permanent and changing exhibitions provide great perspective into the area and include *One Island, Many Stories* and *The Challenge of the Sea*, among others. Also on view is a comprehensive collection of objects, photos, paintings, and archival documents. Vineyard Haven, (508) 627-4441

Chappaquiddick Island - on the eastern end of Martha's Vineyard, Chappaquiddick, locally referred to as "Chappy," is a small peninsula and occasional island featuring tranquil beaches and ample options for bicycling, hiking or birding. Visitors are able to access trails and shorelines via the two main roads of Chappaquiddick Road and Pocha Road. The Trustees of Reservations manages the Mytoi Japanese Gardens, Wasque Reservation and Cape Pogue Wildlife Refuge. The 'Ontime' Ferry shuttles passengers between Edgartown (next to Memorial Wharf) and Chappaquiddick.

The annual month-long Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby will be underway during our visit. The weigh station is located in the old EYC Junior Yacht Club building next door to the main Clubhouse. It's open for weighing-in fish early morning and early evening. It's fun to see that day's or night's catches.

Rent a bike and explore Martha's Vineyard by bike. The Vineyard offers miles and miles of bike trails all over the Island. Bike rentals are readily available in both downtown Edgartown and Vineyard Haven. All rent out comfortable hybrid bikes that offer a smooth on- and off-road ride.

Mountain, road, and tandem bikes are available too, as well as accessories like helmets (required for kids 16 and under), bike trailers, and tagalong bikes. It's 5.5 miles round-trip by bike to South Beach, about 14 miles round-trip to Oak Bluffs. Both are beautiful rides. Ask your bike rental company for a map, suggestions and directions.



Martha's Vineyard has no shortage of stunning places to walk and hike. Check out trails including

- The Oaks Bluff Campground [Gingerbread Cottages](#)
- the remarkable sites maintained by [The Trustees of Reservations](#) (The Brickyard and Menemsha Hills in Chilmark; Cape Pogue, Mytoi, and Wasque in Chappy, Long Point Cottage and Wildlife Refuge in West Tisbury, and the FARM Institute in Edgartown)
- the [Sheriffs Meadow Foundation's](#) dozens of trails across the Vineyard, and
- the [Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary](#), about three miles outside the center of town on Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road. Thee 200-acre preserve, owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, provides marked trails and a program of wildlife management and conservation education throughout the year

Tuesday, 29 September: Captain's Choice from MV to Nantucket

Tuesday, 29 September – Fleet departs Martha's Vineyard

0800 Morning Colors at 0800; Radio Net (Broadcast) of the Cruise will be at 0805 on VHF 69.

At will Depart for Captain's Choice Harbors
Cotuit, Hyannis

Wednesday, 30 September – Proceed at will to Nantucket

Cotuit Harbor

Cotuit Harbor is one of Cape Cod's most charming and protected harbors, offering visiting boaters a quiet, traditional New England experience with excellent shelter, scenic surroundings, and easy access to Nantucket Sound. Surrounded by wooded shorelines, historic homes, and a strong sailing tradition, Cotuit provides a peaceful anchorage with moorings, calm waters for kayaking and paddleboarding, and a welcoming village atmosphere. The harbor entrance should be approached carefully by following the marked channel, as shoals surround the entrance and depths can be limited at low tide. First-time visitors are encouraged to enter during daylight and remain mindful of changing conditions, recreational traffic, and summer sailing activity. The harbor is very shallow and suggest caution for any yacht drawing over six feet.

Ashore, Cotuit offers a relaxed Cape Cod experience with local shops, galleries, restaurants, beaches, walking trails, all reachable by dinghy. Fuel and major marine services are limited.

Approaches

Approaching from Nantucket Sound, mariners should carefully identify the entrance channel and follow the marked navigation aids. The approach is straightforward in settled weather but requires close attention because of extensive shoals surrounding the entrance.

Harbormaster's recommendations are:

- Enter during daylight whenever possible if this is your first visit.
- Follow the marked channel precisely—do not cut corners.
- Maintain a slow speed while entering.
- Expect recreational traffic, especially on summer weekends.
- Consult current charts and electronic navigation, but always verify visually.

Depths in portions of the inner harbor are limited, particularly at lower stages of the tide, making tide awareness important for vessels drawing more than about five feet. The harbor is surrounded by sandbars that shift gradually over time, making the marked channel your safest route. Harbor provides a good anchorage.

Hyannis

Hyannis Harbor is one of Cape Cod's premier cruising destinations, offering a deep, well-protected harbor with excellent access to Nantucket Sound and easy passages to Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Buzzards Bay, and the Cape Cod Canal. The harbor is protected by a substantial breakwater and features well-marked federal channels, making entry straightforward in most conditions. Boaters should remain alert for frequent high-speed ferry traffic and busy summer recreational boating, but once inside, they'll find excellent shelter, guest moorings, fuel, pump-out facilities, marine services, and provisions. Its central location and full-service waterfront make Hyannis an ideal stopover for both short visits and extended cruising. Just a short walk from the harbor, downtown Hyannis offers one of the liveliest waterfront communities on Cape Cod. There are a number of marina's in Hyannis and the Hyannis Yacht Club has transient moorings and an excellent restaurant. There is also a good anchorage across the channel from the yacht club behind Egg Island.

Approaches

Approaching from Nantucket Sound, vessels should identify the long stone breakwater that protects the harbor entrance and carefully follow the marked federal channel shown on NOAA Chart 13229. The entrance is wide and generally straightforward during good visibility.

- Stay within the marked channel, particularly if drawing more than 5 feet.
- Maintain a careful watch for high-speed ferries operating to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. These vessels operate on frequent schedules and have limited maneuverability.
- Expect significant recreational traffic during summer weekends.
- Monitor VHF Channel 16 and switch to the Harbormaster's working channel when instructed.
- Strong southwest winds can produce a moderate chop outside the breakwater, while the harbor itself remains relatively protected.

Wednesday, 30 September – Thursday, 1 October: Nantucket

Committee Post Captain:

Alfie Sanford

alfredsanford@comcast.net

(508) 228-4108

Wednesday, 30 September – Nantucket

At will Arrive Nantucket

1700 Cocktail Party at the Nantucket Yacht Club
Dress: Nice Sailing Casual (no jackets)

At Will Dinner on Own

Thursday, October 1 – Nantucket Layday

0800 Morning Colors; Radio Net at 0805 on VHF 69

1630 Presentation by Nathaniel Philbrick on his book *Heart of the Sea*
Friends Meeting House, 7 Fair Street

Nathaniel Philbrick is an American historian and bestselling author best known for bringing maritime history and early American history to life through engaging narrative nonfiction. A former sailor and winner of the prestigious Seymour Medal for maritime history, Philbrick has written acclaimed books that combine meticulous research with compelling storytelling.

His best-known works include *In the Heart of the Sea*, which recounts the tragic loss of the whaleship *Essex* and inspired Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*; *Mayflower*, an award-winning history of the Pilgrims and King Philip's War; and *Valiant Ambition* and *Bunker Hill*, which explore pivotal moments of the American Revolution. Philbrick's writing is praised for making complex historical events accessible while vividly portraying the people and decisions that shaped American history\

Dinner on Own

Nantucket Island is blessed with the finest sailing waters in America. Projecting into the open waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, it offers also the wild waters of Nantucket Shoals, the more protected waters of the Sound, the five-mile Great Harbor protected by Coatue's unique form, estuaries, ponds, inner still harbors and the wonderland of shoals and pools surrounding its western islets. Heed Melville's advice:

"Nantucket! Take out your map and look at it. See what a real corner of the world it occupies; how it stands there, away offshore, more lonely than the Eddystone lighthouse."



Navigation and Harbor Information

Navigation: Please review [Chapter 4 \(Outer Cape Cod and Nantucket Sound\) of the Coast Pilot](#)

²⁷

Charts:

- 13237 Nantucket Sound and Approaches
- 13241 Nantucket Island
- 13242 Nantucket Harbor

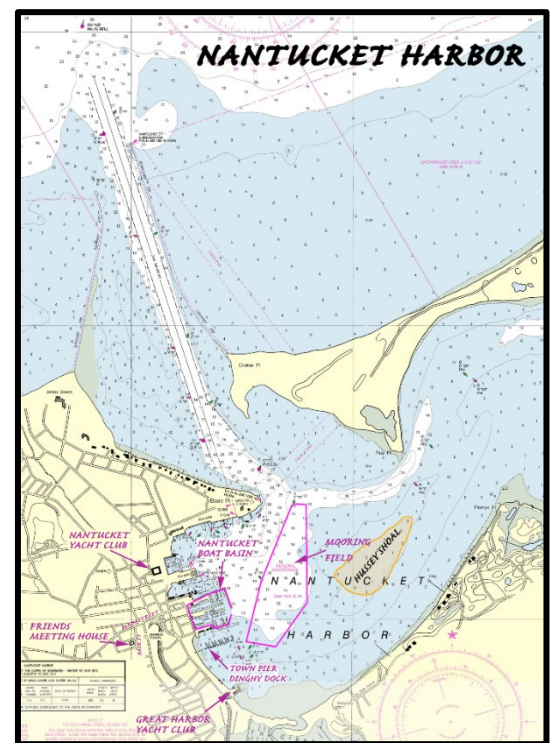
Tides: In general, Nantucket tides have a ~3-foot range.

Harbormaster:

- Sheila Lucey
- VHF 9
- (508) 228-7261
- <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/3026/Harbormaster>
- Office at Town Pier, 34 Washington Street

Anchorage/Moorings/Marinas

- [Nantucket Moorings](#), VHF 68, (508)228-4472, Moorings via [Dockwa](#)
- [Nantucket Boat Basin](#), VHF 9/11, (844) 213-6500, Dockage via [Dockwa](#)
- Anchoring in an open spot within or to the north or east of the mooring field. Be careful to avoid Hussey Shoal which carries but 1 or 2 feet at low tide.
- [Nantucket Yacht Club](#), VHF 66, (508) 228-1400. Does not offer dockage or moorings to non-members.



²⁷ <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/xml2html.html?book=1>

Dinghy access:

- Town Pier, 34 Washington Street. There also are Pumpout, shower, and restroom facilities available here.

Launch Service: [Nantucket Launch Service](#), VHF 68, (508) 221-9007

Fuel: Nantucket Boat Basin

Pump Out Service: Available at the Town Dock and Nantucket Boat Basin

Medical Care: [MGB Nantucket Cottage Hospital](#), (508) 825-8100, 57 Prospect St

Ground Transport: The [Nantucket Regional Transit Authority WAVE](#) shuttle busses provide free rides with extensive routes. There is a downloadable [map](#) and apps are available for iPhones and Android devices.

History

Nantucket's English history beginning in 1641. Settled a generation later, it began its path to fame with the construction of the Wharves around 1703 and the development of the offshore whaling industry. In the process, the Islanders became master mariners, discovered about half the islands of the Pacific Ocean (Capt. James Cook found most of the others), established colonies in New York, Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, England, France, Chile and Hawaii.



The Islanders became wealthy, involved themselves in the arts and politics of our new nation. Nantucket had a good run until the great Fire of 1846. The fire ended serious whaling from Nantucket. So, the islanders left to dig gold in California, build department stores in New York, roast coffee in Seattle, discover oil in Texas and create Shakespeare museums in Washington, DC. They left behind a mostly intact 18th century city for you to enjoy today. (If you wish for more information, please contact [Alfie](#)²⁸ with your post address and he will send you a copy of *Sailing around Nantucket* for more detail).

Nantucket Town is best thought of as a preindustrial city built around and exploiting a valuable harbor. The wharves were built first, speculatively, to expedite a radical new industry, offshore whaling. The venture, being successful, caused commercial and residential buildings to be developed along streets that were inland extensions of the wharves. After 120 years, the population had grown to 9700 and the town was complete, a fully functional "15-minute" city so admired by utopian thinkers today. Ironically, the two white columned Greek Revival houses on upper Main Street were built a few years later, after the fire, in phoenix tradition, but to no avail.

²⁸ AlfredSanford@comcast.net

The town had reached its maximum and declined for over 100 years until it began to be restored by summer people.

The Town is best explored by foot. And if you get the chance, go on to 'Sconset and walk about the really old houses of the 17th century fishing village just to the north of the 'Sconset rotary. The houses (shacks) are exotic and thoroughly explained by H. C. Forman in his book *Early Nantucket and its Whale Houses*, Hastings House, NYC 1966. The book is worth reading and old 'Sconset is worth the trip.

Museums

There are many. Three of particular interest to sailors are:

[Whaling Museum](#) at 13 Broad Street is the principal show place for the Nantucket Historical Association (NHA). The NHA has a very extensive collection which includes Hadwen House, Greater Light, Friends Meeting House (where



Nat Philbrick will speak on October 1). The Main Hall of the Whaling Museum is hung with the skeleton of a sperm whale which stranded on Low Beach near 'Sconset and was cut up with antique tools from the NHA collection.

[Shipwreck and Life Saving Museum](#), 158 Polpis Road involves a short ride into the country which can be accomplished via shuttle from the Visitors center 25 Federal St. Very interesting collection including "beach gear" use to bring ashore crew from some of the many ships stranded on Nantucket's outer shore. An unusual museum in a beautiful setting on Folgers Marsh.

[Maria Mitchell House](#) at 1 Vestal Street. Maria Mitchell, 1818-1889, gained fame discovering a comet and was given a large refractor telescope which she housed in an observatory adjacent to her house. The [Maria Mitchell Association](#) operates a larger, newer telescope in an observatory a few blocks away. The Association presents itself as Nantucket's scientific organization.

Dining

There are many restaurants in Nantucket, many in town close to the waterfront. A good way to find what is available that you might like is to look at the web site <https://nantucket-ma.gov/2755/Open-Restaurants>. It is published by the Town and updated frequently.

Friday , 2 October: Captain's Choice from Nantucket to New Bedford

Friday, 2 October – Fleet departs Nantucket

0800 Morning Colors at 0800; Radio Net (Broadcast) of the Cruise will be at 0805 on VHF 69.

At will Depart for Captain's Choice Harbors

Saturday, 3 October – Proceed at will to New Bedford

Hadley Harbor

Hadley Harbor is one of the finest natural harbors in New England, nestled among the Elizabeth Islands at the western entrance to Woods Hole. Protected from nearly every wind direction, it offers excellent protection, beautiful scenery, and a peaceful setting that has made it a favorite stop for generations of cruising sailors. The narrow, well-marked entrance requires careful navigation due to surrounding shoals, and boaters planning to transit nearby Woods Hole Passage should time their departure to take advantage of favorable tidal currents, which can exceed 4 knots.

Approaches

Approaching from Buzzards Bay, steer toward the marked entrance between the navigational buoys at the mouth of the harbor. Respect all lateral marks. Once inside, proceed at slow speed and remain within the channel, as ledges and shoals extend from both sides of the entrance. The entrance channel is narrow and winding, and careful attention to charts, aids to navigation, and tide is essential. If approaching from Woods Hole, again respect all lateral marks and proceed carefully.

The transition from the outer harbor into the inner harbor requires particular care. Favor the center of the channel and maintain a proper lookout. Local knowledge, current NOAA charts, and prudent seamanship are highly recommended.

Moorings in the inner harbor are owned by the Forbes Trust and are open to the public at no cost on a first come, first served basis. Anchoring in the outer harbor offers good holding.

Much of the surrounding land belongs to private institutions and residences, and visitors should respect posted restrictions and private property. There are no services available.

Quissett Harbor

Quissett Harbor is one of the most beautiful and well-protected natural harbors on Buzzards Bay, offering visiting boaters a peaceful refuge just north of Woods Hole. Surrounded by wooded hillsides, historic homes, and a long-standing sailing tradition, the harbor provides excellent shelter in nearly all weather conditions while retaining a quiet, residential character. Enter through the well-marked channel, staying within the buoys to avoid surrounding rocks and shoals, and observe the no-wake zone throughout the harbor. Quissett is an ideal stop for cruisers waiting for favorable tides through Woods Hole or seeking a calm overnight anchorage away from the busier ports of Cape Cod.

Approaches

Approaching from Buzzards Bay is straightforward in good visibility, but careful attention to the charted channel is essential.

Landmarks

The most recognizable feature is **The Knob**, a wooded peninsula protecting the north side of the harbor entrance. It is visible from several miles offshore and serves as an excellent visual reference.

The harbor entrance is marked by **Flashing Red Nun "2."** Once inside, follow the marked channel carefully.

Navigation Tips

- Stay in the center of the buoyed channel.
- Observe the **Headway Speed / No Wake** zone immediately upon entering.
- Numerous rocks fringe both sides of the entrance.
- Remain within the channel until reaching the inner harbor.
- The channel carries sufficient depth for most cruising sailboats, but the surrounding shoals are unforgiving.

Moorings can be had through the Quissett Harbor Boatyard on a first come first served basis

Vineyard Haven Harbor

Vineyard Haven Harbor is one of New England's premier natural harbors and the year-round gateway to Martha's Vineyard. Well protected from most wind directions and easily entered through a wide, well-marked channel, it provides an excellent harbor of refuge for cruising sailors, with good holding ground, visitor moorings, fuel, pump-out facilities, marine services, and easy access to shore. Mariners should remain alert for frequent Steamship Authority ferries and commercial traffic, but once inside, they will find a safe, welcoming harbor that has served seafarers since its days as the historic port of Holmes Hole.

Just steps from the waterfront lies the charming village of Vineyard Haven (Tisbury), where visitors can enjoy outstanding restaurants, cafés, galleries, bookstores, and boutique shopping in a relaxed, year-round island community.

Approaches

Approaching from Vineyard Sound, the entrance is broad and easily identified by the prominent East Chop and West Chop headlands. The harbor is accessible in nearly all weather conditions, although prevailing southwest winds can create a moderate sea outside the entrance.

The marked federal channel is straightforward to follow, but keep a sharp lookout for:

- Frequent Steamship Authority ferries entering and departing.
- Commercial fishing vessels with limited maneuverability.
- Recreational traffic, especially during July and August.
- Seasonal mooring fields extending throughout the inner harbor.

Moorings/Dockage is available through a number of local companies. Anchoring is good in the outer harbor in most conditions except for weather out of the north.

Vineyard Haven Harbor is one of New England's premier natural harbors and the year-round gateway to Martha's Vineyard. Well protected from most wind directions and easily entered through a wide, well-marked channel, it provides an excellent harbor of refuge for cruising sailors, with good holding ground, visitor moorings, fuel, pump-out facilities, marine services, and easy access to shore. Mariners should remain alert for frequent Steamship Authority ferries and commercial traffic, but once inside, they will find a safe, welcoming harbor that has served seafarers since its days as the historic port of Holmes Hole.

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Padanaram

Padanaram Harbor, located in the village of South Dartmouth on the western shore of Buzzards Bay, is one of southeastern Massachusetts' most charming and protected cruising destinations. Nestled within Apponagansett Bay, the harbor offers excellent shelter, well-maintained moorings and transient dockage, and easy access to the Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard, Newport, and the Cape Cod Canal. Boaters should follow the well-marked entrance channel carefully, paying close attention to shoals and local aids to navigation, particularly on a first visit or at low tide. Once inside, the harbor is a no-wake zone with a relaxed atmosphere and outstanding facilities for visiting yachts.

The entrance is straightforward but deserves careful attention. The approach is best made in daylight, particularly for first-time visitors, because the entrance channel is surrounded by shoals, ledges, and shallow water areas.

Approach

1. Enter Apponagansett Bay from Buzzards Bay following the marked channel.
2. Give the Padanaram Breakwater and surrounding shoal areas adequate clearance.
3. Follow the channel buoys carefully into the harbor.
4. Maintain a slow speed once inside.

Moorings/Dockage is handled by Dockwa for the [New Bedford Yacht Club](#)²⁹ or the [South Wharf Marina](#)³⁰.

Waterfront Casual Dining Recommendations

- [The Sail Loft](#)³¹– A longtime local favorite known for waterfront atmosphere and seafood-focused dining.
- [Farm & Coast Market](#)³² – A specialty market and café ideal for breakfast, provisions, gourmet items, and picnic supplies.
- [Little Moss](#)³³ – A village dining destination offering a creative local menu.
- [Scuttlebutt](#)³⁴ – A casual stop for food and refreshments.

²⁹ <https://www.nbyc.com/>

³⁰ <https://www.southwharf.com/>

³¹ <https://www.thesailloftdartmouth.com/>

³² <https://farmandcoastmarket.com/>

³³ <https://www.littlemoss.com/>

³⁴ <https://www.scuttlebuttcoffeeco.com/>

Saturday, 3 October: New Bedford

Committee Port Captains:

John Bullard

johnkbullard@gmail.com

(508) 636-3151

Laurie Bullard

starstripe0604@gmail.com

(508) 951-6505

October 3 – New Bedford

At will Explore New Bedford: See Attractions for many great ideas.

1000-1200 Tour of the scalloper F/V Viking Power

1800 Closing Dinner – New Bedford Whaling Museum Harbor View Room

Dress: Smart Casual, Jacket/tie optional

Navigation and Harbor Information

Charts: 13232 New Bedford and Approaches

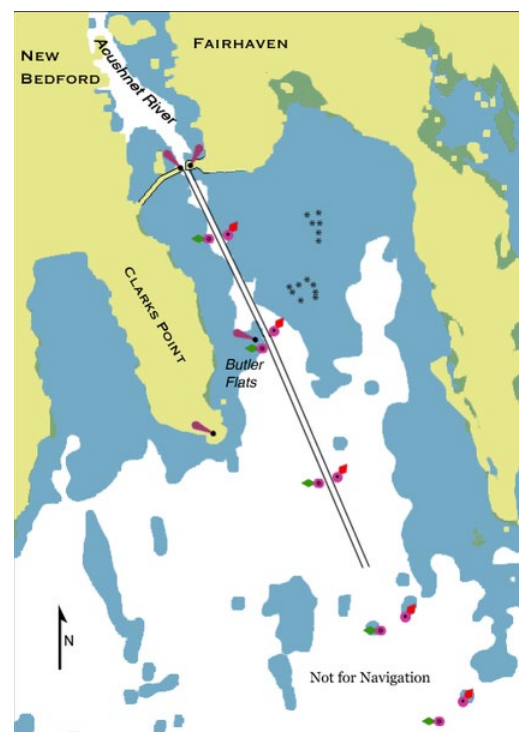
Harbormaster:

- Sgt. Paul Fonseca
- VHF 9/16, Working channel VHF 08/13
- (508) 961-3000
- <https://www.tisbury.ma.gov/186/Harbormaster>
- <http://www.portofnewbedford.org/>

Approaches

The channel into Fairhaven/New Bedford runs for about 4 miles from the open water of Buzzards Bay through a series of disorganized shoals to the Hurricane Barrier at the harbor mouth. It's easy to navigate day or night – straight, well marked and well lit. Especially in the dark, though, keep an eye on the slight cross-channel set.

Traffic in the channel is frequently busy. Commercial fishermen, ferries, whale watchers, boats under sail and boats under power are likely to pass in both directions throughout the day. Smaller vessels with local knowledge will cut in or out of the channel at just about any point. It's not crazy like an outdated interchange on Route 128, but it's a tough place to let your helmsman's attention wander.





The defining feature of Fairhaven/New Bedford harbor is the Hurricane Barrier – or the Dike as it's sometimes called locally – that protects the harbor entrance. It's a 4500 foot long earth and stone structure that stands 20 feet above high tide, with a 150 foot wide gate for boat traffic. Current through the gate does run over a knot, but it's not particularly turbulent and presents no great obstacle to a typical auxiliary sailboat.

The gate is controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers. It's closed whenever storm surge threatens the port, and when astronomically high tides combined with weather make flooding likely. In a typical sailing season the gate may be closed a few times even if there is no significant tropical storm. Closures are announced on channel 16, and there is a system of traffic lights, described in a note on Chart 13230, that gives a 20 minute warning. Routine closures around big high tides may last only 2 or 3 hours; sailors who plan to get inside the dike for a storm, however, should arrive well ahead of both tide and weather.

Anchorage/Moorings/Dockage

- [Pope's Island](#) Marina, VHF 9, (508) 979-1456 – Slips & Moorings reserve at [Pope's Island Dockwa](#). Pope's Island is managed by the New Bedford Port Authority. Showers available.
- [Fairhaven Shipyard](#), 508-999-6266, Dockage and shipyard services.

Launch Service: Hail "New Bedford Launch" on VHF Ch 9 or by phone at 508-989-1328. Serves Pier 3.

Pump Out Service: Free pump out service is provided at Pope's Island Marina

Fuel: Fairhaven Shipyard

Ice, call or visit Crystal Ice or Pope's Island Marina

Attractions

New Bedford has been the top dollar fishing port in the country for well over 20 years. Home to 300-400 commercial fishing boats that harvest ocean scallops, cod, haddock and other groundfish, surf clams and ocean quahogs, lobster, herring, swordfish and tuna, New Bedford has every service that a mariner would need: serious boat yards, ice, marine electronics, fuel, nearby supermarkets, ship supply chandleries, welding, painting... If a boat needs it, New Bedford and Fairhaven provide it.



One of two ports on the East Coast with a hurricane barrier, New Bedford is the safest place to be, should bad weather head our way. While fishing dominates the port, there are moorings and slips for about 2000 yachts with launch service that brings you to easy walking distance to restaurants, a National Park historic district anchored by the world-famous Whaling Museum.

New Bedford Attractions

Visit the many shops in the waterfront historic district, including the Visitor Center for the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

[The Fishing Heritage Center](https://fishingheritagecenter.org/)³⁵, located half a block north of the Whaling Museum at 38 Bethel Street, tells the story of New Bedford's commercial fishing industry through interactive exhibits including a new exhibit exploring the history of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the 200 Mile Limit. A small fee is required.

The [Whaling Museum](https://www.whalingmuseum.org/)³⁶ on Johnny Cake Hill has many exhibits on the history of "Old Dartmouth," from whaling to textiles to the present day, including the largest ship model in the world, a number of skeletons of whales, art work, scrimshaw, glass and furniture befitting the city that was twice the richest city per capita in America. **If you visit on Saturday, tell the desk you are a dinner guest and admittance is complimentary.**

The [Seamen's Bethel](https://seamensbethel.org/)³⁷, built in 1830 by the New Bedford Port Society for "the moral improvement of seamen," is the site where the famous sermon takes place in Moby Dick. Cenotaphs, which are stone markers for mariners who were lost at sea, line the walls, They are evidence of New Bedford's continuous relationship with the sea. It is open at no charge, though donations are welcome. It is open except for Saturday at 2:00, when a wedding is taking place there.



³⁵ <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/>

³⁶ <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/>

³⁷ <https://seamensbethel.org/>

Tour a scallop boat. The late Lars Vinjerud II owned several large, modern orange scallop boats that are tied up to Pier 3 near where the dinghy dock and launch service are located. We have arranged for a tour of [F/V Viking Power](#)³⁸ to be provided on Saturday morning, anytime from 1000 to 1200.



Tour the harbor³⁹ – The tour boat, Acushnet, is owned by the nearby Black Whale restaurant. It is available for one-hour tours on Sunday. It has a capacity of 14 and charges \$25pp, \$23pp for seniors.

1894 Schooner Ernestina/Morrissey⁴⁰ – this famous Gloucester fishing vessel, Arctic exploration vessel and the last sailing vessel to bring immigrants to America was given to us by the newly independent country of Cabo Verde 50 years ago. She is now operated by Massachusetts Maritime Academy and homeported in New Bedford. If there is interest we can arrange a tour.

Restaurants – There are too many restaurants in the immediate vicinity to list them all. You can find a great variety for breakfast, lunch or dinner within a quick stroll of where the launch lands on Pier 3. Talk to the port captains for suggestions. If you are looking for a specific food, you will find it in New Bedford with its almost unending variety of restaurants.

Explore New Bedford⁴¹ has information on art and more. There are numerous art galleries around the city that show some fabulous original artwork by both local and international artists, and there is more to see and do.

³⁸ <https://vikingpower.com/>

³⁹ <https://www.newbedfordharbortours.com/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.ernestina.org/>

⁴¹ <https://explorenewbedford.org/art/>

Fleet Roster

(Will be included when finalized)

