

Olde Cape Cod Discovery Trail

YARMOUTH

*Journey to the past,
discover the future!*



*Experience the essence
of Cape Cod's natural
beauty and historic
charms thru the lives of
the people who survived
on the bounty of the land
and sea and built this
special place.*



Become a Cape Coddier at heart!
yarmouthcapecod.com

Welcome to Yarmouth!

Bring your imagination and be transported in time at a farm, a Native American memorial, museums, churches, and historic homes that offer new experiences today.

You'll marvel at the character of the people who were intimately connected to our land and sea as they created our three distinct villages of Yarmouth Port, South Yarmouth, and West Yarmouth.

See some highlights here, open the fold for a **Map** and more sites, follow the numbers for a chronological journey, or visit each color-coded area for the unique lifestyle of an era.

Check sites for their open hours. Set your GPS and find nearby restaurants, shops, and lodging. Visit yarmouthcapecod.com for info on walking trails, special events, and the largest Sand Sculpture Trail in the country!

Yarmouth captures the spirit of Cape Cod!

Yarmouth has 22 ponds carved by glaciers thousands of years ago.



THE EARLY DAYS OF THE SETTLERS

1600s

Yarmouth was settled on the bayside in 1639 by farmers who discovered what Native Americans had known for 10,000 years: They followed the tribes' path, now Rte. 6A in Yarmouth Port, and found lands rich in fish, game & marsh hay.

- Archeological digs have discovered artifacts from 10,000 years ago at the Taylor Bray Farm.
- See how Robert & Ruth Taylor's 1639 farmhouse evolved through generations.
- Early settlers visit their graves to tell you about their lives.
- Walk the boardwalk along the marsh at Bass Hole/Gray's Beach!



The Wampanoag name for Yarmouth was Mattacheese, "old lands by the border of water."



BUSINESS DEVELOPS ALONG BASS RIVER

1700s – 1800s

Bass River was central to the indigenous tribes and to the Quakers who developed “Quaker Town” here. As you explore this South Yarmouth area, enjoy stunning views of the river & Nantucket Sound.

- Mills were vital to life & a man’s wealth was measured by how much corn he kept in his crib. Judah Baker Windmill has been authentically restored by the Town for you to tour. Check for times.
- Visit Indian Memorial to learn more about the Indigenous peoples of Yarmouth.



- The village’s early bank is now a vibrant Cultural Center for arts and entertainment.

Wilbur Park, past the golf course on Highbank Road, is the site of the State’s first fishing pier built with revenue from saltwater fishing licenses.

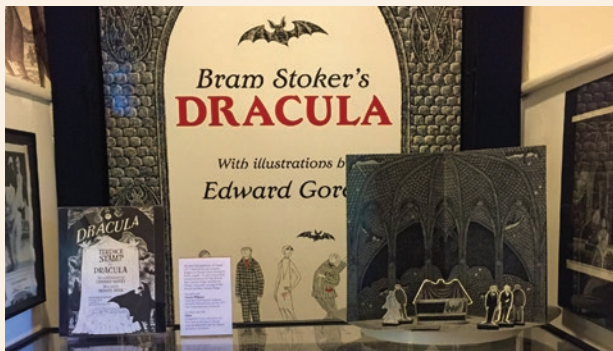
THE THRIVING VILLAGE

1800s

Yarmouth Port has one of the most beautifully preserved areas on the Cape! See charming shops, inns, restaurants, churches & more than 50 homes once owned by sea captains who sailed the famous Clipper Ships during The Golden Age of Sail.

- The Captain Bangs Hallet House Museum takes you inside the life of a sea captain and his wife Anna.
- The amazing Weeping Beech Tree behind the house is 70 ft. wide x 60 ft. high!
- Captain Asa Eldridge set the record for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic in the RED JACKET Clipper Ship in 1854.
- It’s fun for the whole family to visit the Edward Gorey House and discover this famous and quirky artist and author.

Yarmouth originally extended from Cummaquid to Orleans.



THE EARLY DAYS OF THE SETTLERS

1600s

One of the oldest towns, founded in 1639, when farmers settled along the bay. Imagine the bay as a lively hub for fishing & trade back then, though you're more likely to see kayakers & osprey here today.

1639 Taylor Bray Farm Explore the span of history here! This bucolic working farm overlooking the marsh was founded by the earliest settlers; archeological findings show Native Americans here 10,000 years ago. See how farmhouses evolved, visit animals & the trail. *108 Bray Farm Rd., taylorbrayfarm.org, 774-251-1869*



Bass Hole/Gray's Beach This was the original town port & shipbuilding center. For extraordinary views & sunsets, walk the boardwalk along the beautiful bay, marsh & osprey nests. Picnic at the small beach or enclosed area. *400 Center St.*



1696 Old Yarmouth Inn Today this early stagecoach stop is a popular watering hole with delicious food year round. *223 Rte. 6A, oldyarmouthinn.com, 508-362-9962*

BUSINESS DEVELOPS ALONG BASS RIVER

1700s—1800s

In 1713, the town set aside an area along the river for Yarmouth's Native American tribes, known as Indian Town. After their numbers declined because of disease & migration, the town leased the lands to members of the Friends Society, the Quakers. Quaker Village became a bustling center of fishing, freighting, ropeworks & saltworks. Today, you'll see many early residences that have been lovingly preserved here.

South of the bridge, the Bass River community transported goods, salt & the grains produced in the mills along the river. From the earliest days, mills ground the corn & wheat that were central to the survival & prosperity of the people.

Step back in time at the Town of Yarmouth's authentically renovated windmill.

1713/1881 Indian Memorial Erected in 1881, a cairn of rocks near Long Pond commemorates the indigenous peoples of this area. Learn more at the site on Indian Memorial Drive & visit Wings Grove Park & Playground nearby. For further info see *Indian Memorial Dr., South Yarmouth*



1808 The Friends Meetinghouse, Schoolhouse and Cemetery A fine example of the simplicity of Quaker architecture is open for special occasions. *58 N. Main St. For info on tours of this historical community, see hsoy.org.*

Packet Landing Park & Marina

Now overlooking Bass River at the bridge, this was the original residential center of the Quaker community. It was once the site of a wharf, a forge & the first town ferry in 1774, used to cross the river to what is now Dennis.



1845 Capt. Farris House B&B The Farris family operated one of the oldest windmills on the Cape. The Farris Windmill, which stood behind the library on Mill Street, is now in the Henry Ford Museum. See an old millstone used as their front step! *308 Old Main St., 508-760-2818*

9



1931 Bass River Savings Bank/Cultural Center of Cape Cod Inside this beautifully preserved bank you'll find a major art & entertainment center where there is always something exciting happening. *307 Old Main St., cultural-center.org, 508-394-7100*



Smuggler's Beach Where you could once see rumrunners unloading liquor, you can now see paragliders and sailboats at this popular beach. *Corner of South St. and S. Shore Dr.*

10



1791 Judah Baker Windmill & Park Go inside to see how the millers ground corn that was transferred to boats along the river for shipping. Enjoy beautiful views of the river & a small beach. *Here you'll also learn about the town's extensive Saltworks along the river & about Crowell's Pier & the breakwater, which was vital for shipping & also useful to the rumrunners of Smuggler's Beach (11) during Prohibition. 89 River St. For hours open with docent tours, call 508-778-1008*

11

THE THRIVING VILLAGE

1800s

Strawberry Lane — The Village Green This historic Yarmouth Common, once a pond where villagers dug clay for bricks, is a good place to start to explore the homes & imagine what life was like in this era.



12

1840 Captain Bangs Hallet House Museum Enter the life of a Sea Captains' family. See how they dressed, dined & decorated. Learn about the Clipper ships. Marvel at the 70 ft. wide Weeping Beech Tree in the back. Pick up a map of the *Captains' Mile* walking tour of Sea Captains homes along Rte. 6A or go to *hsoy.org* for info on this and all events organized by the Historical Society. *11 Strawberry Ln., hsoy.org, 508-362-3021*



14

1730/1860 Compass Rose Inn One of many houses added to over the years that have been preserved as inns today. Its Federal architecture was later influenced by the French fashions of the day. See Captains' Houses that are inns today at *yarmouthcapecod.com*. *277 Rte. 6A, compassrosecapecod.com, 508-362-4348*

13



15

1870/2017 The New Church Enjoy art shows, talks & concerts at this beautifully restored Swedenborgian Church with gothic arches, spectacular frescoes & a historic organ. *266 Rte. 6A, yarmouthportcommon.org, 508-362-6469*



1850 Gorham Cobbler Shop Now the office of the *Historical Society of Old Yarmouth* You can also enter the 50 acres of *Nature Trails* behind the shop & see the 1873 *Kelley Chapel*, available for your events. *229 Rte. 6A, hsoy.org, 508-362-3021*

18



1840/1960 Parnassus Book Service Formerly home of the Knowles General Store across from the Old Yarmouth Inn (4). This is a fun place for some serious book browsing. Find books inside & outside, from new to used to rare, from Africa to Americana and Genealogy. *220 Rte. 6A, parnassusbooks.com, 508-362-6420*

16



1889 Hallet's Store An old-fashioned soda fountain & ice cream parlor run by the family of the original founders who were prominent early settlers. Vintage fixtures, photos & memorabilia will take you back to their earlier time in Yarmouth. *139 Rte. 6A, FB: @hallet1889, 508-362-3362*

1849 The Optimist Café/Capt. Frederick Howes House Enjoy a scrumptious breakfast or lunch at this excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture on picturesque Rte. 6A. This Sea Captain was famous for his invention of the 'topsail rig' & his family's geniality. *134 Rte. 6A, optimistcafe.com, 508-362-1024*



21

1774/1825 Liberty Hill Inn The site of the original Liberty Pole, where the town gathered to support the Revolutionary War. *77 Rte. 6A, libertyhillinn.com, 508-362-3976*



22



1870 First Congregational Church of Yarmouth The 3rd site of the church established with the original settlers, which still holds to the pilgrims' covenant of self-government. *329 Main St., fccyarmouth.org, 508-362-6977. Go east on Rte. 6A to visit the sites of the earliest settlers.*

VACATIONERS FLOCK TO THE SOUND

1800s—Today

Once rural, today Rte. 28 has a range of affordable places to stay & attractions for all ages, including an inflatable water park & adventure miniature golf. Don't miss seeing our newest attraction — a unique museum that transports you to the Age of Piracy of the 1700s!



23

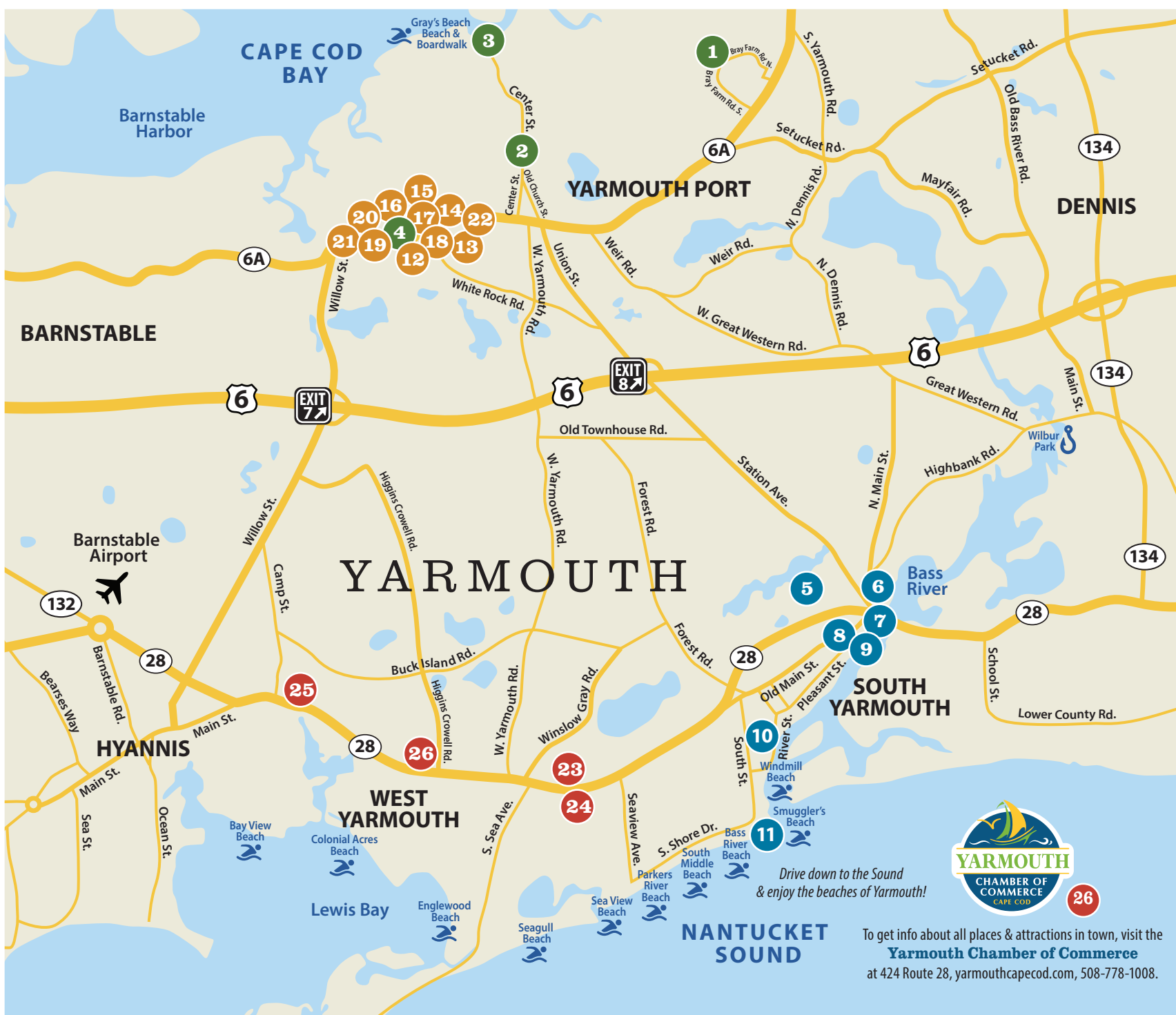
1717/2016 The Whydah Pirate Museum See & touch real pirate treasure from ships captured by the Whydah that sunk off the coast of Wellfleet in 1717. Discovered in 1985, its treasure was brought to Yarmouth, where you can watch ongoing efforts to free artifacts from the encrustations of the sea. See the ship's bell, walk through the galley replica, learn about Captain Sam Bellamy & the life of the pirates & their surprising brotherhood. *674 Rte. 28, discoverpirates.com, 508-534-9571*

Parker's River Across from the Whydah on Rte. 28, the former site of a drive-in movie now hosts music festivals & big events. A park is being developed along the riverside.



25

1710 The Baxter Grist Mill The only surviving turbine water-powered mill on the Cape. The dam & water ladders have recently been restored. Parking is available to see the pond, herring run & swans in season. The Mill is not currently open. *151 Rte. 28 at Mill Pond*



To get info about all places & attractions in town, visit the **Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce** at 424 Route 28, yarmouthcapecod.com, 508-778-1008.



VACATIONERS ARE DRAWN TO NANTUCKET SOUND

1800s—Today

From the early days, most of the land south of the main county road (now Rte. 28) was farmed by just a few families. When the maritime industry declined and the railroad and cars brought summer visitors to the Cape, these lands were developed for summer homes and cottages as tourism grew.

Today, people flock to the beaches and family attractions of West Yarmouth!

- Explore the Age of Piracy and the only authentic pirate treasure in the world at the WHYDAH PIRATE MUSEUM! See amazing lifelike pirates & their treasures brought up from the coast of Cape Cod.
- Yarmouth has many beautiful beaches! Find your favorite at yarmouthcapecod.com/scenic.

As you watch the harbor ferries from Bay View Beach, imagine militiamen fighting to keep the British from landing here in 1813.

Stop at the Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce or go to yarmouthcapecod.com for info on beaches, attractions, lodging & the largest Sand Sculpture Trail in the country!

