

# Lower Cape

## Harwich

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$481,787

Population: 12,386

Tax Rate: \$6.60

Villages: Harwich, Harwich Port, South Harwich, East Harwich, West Harwich

The town of Harwich, originally known as Satuket, was settled around 1665 and incorporated in 1694. The first resort hotel opened in 1880 and both the cranberry and the tourist industries remain substantial parts of Harwich's economy. With its three large protected harbors, Allen, Wychmere and Saquatucket harbors, all with access to Nantucket Sound, Harwich provides a perfect location for boaters. Beach goers will find plenty of sandy beaches, both on the warm Nantucket Sound waters and the many freshwater ponds peppered throughout the town. The largest freshwater pond on the Cape, Long Pond, is located between Harwich and Brewster and is 743 acres. Harwich also offers golf, charter fishing, and bike trails. Harwich is famous for its world class Cranberry Harvest Festival, which takes place every September. The festival features rides, arts and crafts booths, great food, a parade and a fantastic, don't miss fireworks display on the final night.

## **Points of Interest**

- *Brooks Academy and Park* - Originally constructed as a Seminary in 1804, this building is now the Harwich Historical Society Museum. It features many fascinating regional Native American artifacts. These, along with Sandwich glass, vintage photos, documents and magazines, make the museum an important historic collection. Brooks Park, home of the Cape Baseball League's Harwich Mariners, also hosts numerous town band concerts and craft fairs throughout the season. Both are located on Route 39.
- *Cranberry Bogs* - For more than 127 years, Harwich has lead Southeastern Massachusetts in the harvesting of cranberries. Scattered throughout the town, these bogs are always a spectacle. In the winter, they flood over and are often used for ice-skating. In September the town celebrates this heritage with its annual Cranberry Harvest Festival. Events include parades, a craft fair, concerts and fireworks.
- *1812 Cannons* - Guarding the outskirts of beautiful Brooks Park, these cannons were originally used in the War of 1812. Located on Route 39.
- *Harwich Junior Theatre* - This playhouse holds professionally taught workshops in theatrics and music. Although its productions are geared towards children, they draw audiences of all ages. Located on Route 28 in West Harwich.
- *Old Powder House* - Located across the street from Brooks Academy on Route 39, this munitions structure was moved from where it stored gunpowder for weaponry during the Revolutionary War and War of 1812.
- *Brooks Free Library* - A walk through this library's doors reveals objects d'art and bookcases of historical literature and documents. There are also regular rotating exhibits donated by the Friends of the Brooks Free Library. Located on Route 39.

- *Wychmere Harbor* - Surrounded by marshlands and elegant drinking/dining establishments, this inlet moors boats of all varieties. A great place to view the windswept waters of Nantucket Sound. Located off Route 28.

**Beaches:**

- Red River Beach
- Bank Street Beach
- Pleasant Road beach
- Grey Neck Beach
- Earle Road Beach
- Atlantic Street Beach

**Golf Courses:**

Cranberry Valley Golf Course 508-430-7560

Harwichport Golf Club 508-432--0250

**Brewster**

Population: 10,094

Tax Rate: \$7.29

Villages: Brewster, South Brewster, West Brewster, East Brewster

Known as a quaint and quiet town located on Cape Cod Bay, Brewster was once made home by many wealthy sea captains. Many of the homes built by the sea captains still stand today and serve as bed and breakfasts and inns. Brewster was incorporated in 1803 when it was separated from Harwich. Brewster offers a wide array of art galleries, antique shops, and restaurants, especially along Route 6A, to keep visitors busy. In fact Brewster's current year-round population of about 10,094 grows to about 20,000 in the summer season as visitors come to sample the diversions of the town. One of the most picturesque local sites is the weathered, wood-shingled Old Brewster Mill and waterwheel, a restored 19<sup>th</sup> Century gristmill. Upstairs in this landmark are exhibits of old mill equipment and a 100-year-old loom. During operating hours, lessons are given in both grinding corn and weaving. Afterwards, don't forget to walk across the street to the Stony Brook Herring Run, where thousands of alewives swim upstream to spawn in freshwater ponds every spring. Brewster is also home to 1,964-acre Nickerson State Park, one of the busiest state parks in Massachusetts, with miles of bike trails, several ponds and camping and picnic areas. Once the private estate of Nickerson family, this land was donated to the state in 1934.

**Points of Interest**

- *Nickerson State Park* - In the summer, this 1,964-acre park fills up quickly with campers swimming, fishing, boating and hiking during the summer. The winter offers cross-country skiing and ice skating on its five frozen lakes. Reservations are required in-season. Truly an ideal destination for outdoor enthusiasts.
- *Bassett Wild Animal Farm* - This small family zoo offers enough wildlife to enchant just about any age visitor. It features both common and exotic birds and

animals. There are plenty of exciting events for the whole family: hayrides, a petting zoo and a large gift shop. Located off Tubman Road near Route 6A.

- *Paine's Creek Beach* - Inlets and coves cut into the wide beach on this shoreline. Paine's Creek is the home to some interesting wildlife including rare birds and horseshoe crabs. Located at Paine's Creek near Route 6A.
- *Museum of Natural History* - Leave only footprints as you walk through these protected paths lined with salt marsh grass behind the Museum. This is a center for the study and research of Cape Cod's diverse ecology. Offering lectures and tours, guides lead visitors down nature paths to catch a glimpse of the Cape's intriguing flora and fauna. Located on Route 6A.
- *New England Fire & History Museum* - This old blacksmith shop and apothecary was built in the 1700s. It was designed to be an exact replica of Ben Franklin's Union House in Philadelphia. The edifice is now a museum housing the largest collection of firefighting equipment and nostalgia in the world. Among the exhibits is a diorama of the Chicago fire of 1871. It also offers a gift shop and picnic facilities. Located on Route 6A.

## Beaches

- Breakwater Landing Beach
- Crosby Landing Beach
- Ellis Landing Beach
- Linell's Landing Beach
- Paine's Creek Beach
- Point of Rocks Beach
- Robbins Hill Beach
- Saint's Landing Beach

## Golf Courses:

Captain's Golf Course 508-896-5100

Ocean Edge Golf Course 508-896-5911

## Chatham

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$746,103

Population: 6,625

Tax rate: \$4.50

Villages: Chatham, North Chatham, South Chatham, West Chatham, Chatham Port

Chatham, originally named Monomoyick, was incorporated in 1712 and named after the Earl of Chatham. Located at the "elbow" of the Cape, Chatham borders both the Atlantic Ocean and Nantucket Sound. Pleasant Bay and Stage Harbor are two well-known havens for boaters, beach goers and fishermen. Chatham is well known for its quaint Main Street area, where visitors can browse the shops and enjoy fine cuisine at the numerous restaurants along this stretch. Every Friday evening in July and August, the town holds band concerts at Kate Gould Park on Main Street. This is a great family event and hundreds attend regularly to hear this famous band play. A scenic spot for local color is the Chatham Fish Pier. This pier is town-operated for small craft

fishermen. Most of the catch is shipped directly to local restaurants, but fish can still be purchased right from the docks. Commercial fishing and shell fishing are important industries to Chatham and bring in million of dollars to the local economy. Chatham Light offers the town's best ocean views. Built originally in 1808 and then rebuilt in 1878, it stands next to the Coast Guard Station at North Beach. From here you can survey the break along the barrier beach just offshore that occurred in 1987. Monomoy Island is a famous wildlife sanctuary and offers some of the best bird watching on the east coast. Seal and bird watching tours are available out of Stage Harbor, Outermost Marina, the National Wildlife Refuge on Morris Island and from the Chatham Fish Pier.

## Points of Interest

- *Monomoy Wilderness Area* - Fragile and breathtaking, this 9-mile strip of land is slowly shrinking from coastal erosion and is protected as a National Wildlife Refuge. Accessible only by boat, it teems with wildlife including dozens of endangered birds. The area is designated primarily for observation and research. However, the Massachusetts Audubon Society does give limited tours. Located offshore at Shore Road.
- *Chatham Light* - This lighthouse guides vessels through the notorious "Chatham fog" that rolls onto the town's shoreline some mornings. Built in 1808, it originally had a full-time keeper. Now the light operates automatically, flashing eight times per minute. Located off Shore Road.
- *Chatham Break* - Created by pounding storm swells and hurricanes over the past decade, the Chatham Break is a growing ocean channel between Nauset Beach and Monomoy Island. Onlookers can see the channel from telescopes mounted at the foot of Chatham Light.
- *Atwood House Museum and Murals Barn* - The Atwood House is one of the oldest homes in Chatham. It holds more than 2,000 artifacts, including colonial antiques and a seacoast shell collection from around the world. A section is also dedicated to local author Joseph C. Lincoln. Located on Stage Harbor Road.
- *Godfrey Grist Mill* - This structure in Chase Park off Grist Mill Dr. still grinds maize into cornmeal on summer days. Built in 1797, the mill is fragile and can only grind corn at certain wind velocities. Wind speed must be at least 20 mph in order to create proper kinetic energy. However, damage can occur if gusts exceed 25 mph.
- *Monomoy Theatre* - This building was leased to Ohio University in 1958 as an educational training site for the Ohio University Players, a college theater troupe who have performed eight shows during the summer annually for 41 years. Located on Main Street.
- *Railroad Museum* - Built in 1887 as the town's rail depot, this well preserved building still houses its original ticket and dispatching offices. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the museum holds outstanding memorabilia of the first commercial U.S. railroad (est. 1826) plus models, photos and engineer equipment. Located on Depot Road off Route 28.
- *Forest Beach* - Gentle waters break ashore as a pine and oak-filled tree line shades beachgoers on top of a wide cliff. A great spot for a family beach day. Limited parking. Located at the end of Forest Beach Road off Route 28.

## Beaches

- Cockle Cove

- Forest Beach Road
- Pleasant Street
- Hardings Beach,
- Ridgevale Beach
- Schoolhouse Pond
- Pleasant Bay (Jackknife)
- Oyster Pond Beach
- South Beach
- Lighthouse Beach

### **Golf Courses**

Chatham Seaside Links 508-945-4774

Eastward Ho Country Club 508-945-0003

### **Orleans**

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$718,963

Population: 6,341

Tax Rate: \$5.12

Villages: Orleans, East Orleans, South Orleans, Rock Harbor

Orleans, formerly part of Eastham, was named after Louis-Philippe de Bourbon, Duke of Orleans and King of France from 1830-1848 and incorporated in 1797. The opening of the Cape Cod National Seashore in 1962 sparked Orleans' transformation into a tourist area. The famous Nauset Beach, with its big waves and steep bluffs, is one of the most visited beaches on Cape Cod and also provides four-wheel access to the outer Cape beaches. Boaters have access to Orleans from Little Pleasant Bay, Nauset Inlet and a large quantity of coves and ponds. Orleans has the advantage of also abutting Cape Cod Bay, with Rock Harbor being a major attraction for visitors interested in taking a fishing trip on a charter boat or just watching the fantastic sunset from the beach or parking lot.

### **Points of Interest**

- *Nauset Beach* - From crashing chilly waves to its soft white sand, Nauset is one the best beaches on the East Coast. A day at Nauset can make a Cape Codder out of anyone. Panoramic ocean views, warm sand and the shrill cry of seagulls all keep visitors returning to this shoreline year after year. Traveling east, take a right on Main Street off Route 28 and follow the signs.
- *Skaket Beach/Rock Harbor* - Calm waters and warm winds accent Skaket Beach as the gentle side of Orleans facing Cape Cod Bay. The beach is long and allows for extended walks on the flats at low tide. Adjacent to this is Rock Harbor, which moors numerous yachts and smaller craft along its granite dock. Located at the end of Rock Harbor Road.
- *Academy Playhouse* - Originally built as a town hall in 1873, this building is now the Academy of Performing Arts Theater. Musicals and comedies are performed throughout the year. Located on Main Street in East Orleans.
- *Eldridge Park* - This park is a postcard of how baseball used to be - green grass, red clay diamond and dedicated fans. Sports Illustrated called Eldridge Park one of the best amateur baseball parks in the world. Many current Major

League players once played here, including Red Sox MVP Mo Vaughn. Located on Route 28.

- *French Cable Museum* - From just before the turn of the century until 1940 this building served as a cable outpost transmitting international news to France. Now a museum, it exhibits the same antique equipment. Located on Cove Road off Route 28.
- *Old Cemetery* - This cemetery, located on the corner of Main Street and Route 6A, contains plots dating back to the first 17th Century Orleans settlers.
- *Town Cove* - A (literally) hidden town treasure, this tranquil cove moors over 100 vessels at different times of the year. A beautiful scenic area, it is surrounded by affluent homes, yacht clubs and hotels. Located along Route 28 headed towards Chatham.
- *Orleans Elementary School Playground* - This playground, constructed of sturdy pressure-treated wood, offers a fantastic time for kids of all ages. It sports swing sets, slides, and more. Located behind the Elementary School on Eldridge Parkway near on Route 6A.

## **Beaches**

- Nauset Beach
- Pleasant Bay Beach
- Rock Harbor Beach
- Skaket Beach
- Bakers Pond Beach
- Pilgrim Lake Beach

## **Eastham**

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$407,297

Population: 5,543

Tax Rate: \$5.12

Villages: Eastham, North Eastham, South Eastham

Settled in 1644 by Pilgrims dissatisfied by conditions in the Colony of Plymouth, Nauset was incorporated in 1651 and the name changed to Eastham. Eastham is one of the first pages in American history. First Encounter Beach is the site of the first meeting between the Pilgrims and the American Indians. In 1620, Miles Standish led a small band of Pilgrims, from the Mayflower, on a hunting expedition. The Indians, recalling kidnappings by early English slave traders, sent a warning of arrows, which was answered by musket fire before each party fled. Once home to whaling, fishing, salt works, and asparagus farming, Eastham is now best known for its beaches and conservation areas. As Gateway to the National Seashore Park protecting over 27,000 acres of the Outer Cape, and one third of the town of Eastham, both residents and visitors can revere in a land little changed since Thoreau wrote his masterpiece, 'Cape Cod', over one hundred years ago.

## **Points of Interest**

- *Coast Guard Beach Station* - This building sits overlooking the cliffs and shoreline extending from the base of Coast Guard Beach. Originally built in 1905, it was pushed back to the parking lot in 1936 due to excessive dune erosion. The beach is a magnet for summer visitors. Located at the end of Doane Road off Route 6.
- *Nauset Light* - The most photographed lighthouse on Cape Cod, this edifice stands 114 feet above the Atlantic. Surrounded by natural dunes and cliffs covered with wildflowers and shrubbery, its beach is popular for sunbathing and swimming in the summer. Located at the end of Cable Rd. off Route 6.
- *Fort Hill* - An amazing hike and must-see for visitors to the area. The path and boardwalk stretch 1 ½ miles past historical town remnants - old homesteads, stone gateways and orchards. Finally, the trail winds into the most scenic section through salt marshes full of various wildlife. Located on Fort Hill Road off Route 6.
- *First Encounter Beach* - An exploring party of Pilgrims clashed with Nauset Indians at this site in the 1620s. A plaque was erected to commemorate the conflict. Located on Samoset Road.
- *Eastham Windmill* - Located in the center of town just off Route 6, this 319-year-old structure still operates and is the oldest windmill on Cape Cod. Constructed in 1680 at Plymouth, it was moved here in 1793.
- *Doane Homestead* - A plaque remains at this site where a homestead was constructed by some of the first English settlers in Eastham. In the 1600s, the town was known by its Indian name: Nauset. The plot is located off Doane Road near the Salt Pond Visitor Center.
- *Penniman House* - A unique example of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Victorian architecture. Huge whale rib bones mark the entrance to this home built by Whaler Captain Edward Penniman in 1876. Located on the route to Fort Hill.
- *Schoolhouse Museum* - Built in 1869 as the town's school, this building is now operated by the Eastham Historical Society. It holds many of Eastham's most valuable historical documents and relics. Located on Nauset Road off Route 6.
- *Salt Pond Visitor Center* - Gateway to the Cape Cod National Seashore, this complex marks the starting point for many Seashore multi-use trails. It features exhibits including the original Fresnel lens from Nauset Light and scrimshaw artifacts.

## Beaches

- Campground Beach
- Coast Guard Beach
- Cooks Brook Beach
- First Encounter Beach
- Nauset Light Beach
- Sunken Meadow Beach
- Thumpertown Beach
- Great Pond Beach
- Cole Road Beach
- Hatch Beach
- Herring Pond Beach
- Kingsbury Beach
- Silver Spring Beach
- Wiley Park Beach

