

Mid-Cape

Dennis

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$383,340

Population: 15,973

Tax Rate: \$4.87

Villages: Dennis, Dennisport, East Dennis, South Dennis, West Dennis

Dennis, named an All American Town in 1978, combines its traditional New England heritage with modern day conveniences. The villages of East Dennis, Dennis and South Dennis feature scenic historic districts hailing back to whaling days, while tranquil tree-lined streets meander through Dennisport and West Dennis. Sixteen inviting beaches lie on the warm waters of Nantucket Sound to the south and on the crisp refreshing waters of Cape Cod Bay to the north. Numerous recreation trails offer healthful relaxation, and well-developed business districts throughout the villages provide ample goods and services. Residents of Dennis feel a sense of pride in their home by the sea. The quiet little town, incorporated in 1793, was named for Josiah Dennis, a favorite minister. The town was involved in the maritime activities of the 1800's and was full of the amazing tales of clipper ship adventures. As the twentieth century approached and the glory days of sea captains faded, Dennis residents turned to commercial fishing and land-based industries. Dennis comes into its own during the summer months, with special events every week. Home to the nation's oldest summer theater, the Cape Playhouse, Dennis offers varied summer activities, with arts and craft shows, concerts on the village green and Dennis Festival Days, held in August, which celebrate the friendly heritage of this All American New England town.

Points of Interest

- *West Dennis Beach* - West Dennis Beach draws huge crowds in the summer and, appropriately, its parking lot holds some 1,600 cars. This area is popular with swimmers, sunbathers and families who come to enjoy the warm waters of Nantucket Sound. Located off Lighthouse Road.
- *Cape Playhouse and Cinema* - Established in 1927, this is the oldest summer theater in the United States. Movie stars like Bette Davis, Henry Fonda and Gregory Peck have all performed here. Also on the grounds are a gift shop, snack bar. Nearby is the Cape Cinema, which plays eclectic, foreign and art nouveau films throughout the summer. Located on Route 6A.
- *Scargo Lake and Tower* - Set on a steep hill, this 28-foot stone tower looks over the ocean to the north, Boston to the west and Provincetown to the east. Legend has it that the Indian Princess Scargo's father, the tribal chief, had squaws and children dig a pond an arrow's flight wide to save a fish given to her by a brave from a neighboring tribe. The excavated soil piled beside the lake formed Scargo Hill. Located on Scargo Hill Road off Route 6A.
- *Josiah Dennis Manse* - The Dennis Historical Society named this building after its original owner, Rev. Josiah Dennis (also the town's namesake). Located on Nobscusset Rd., the restored home stores the Reverend's writing desk,

manuscripts and books. It is also filled with other exhibits including precious antiques.

- *Chapin Beach* - With rolling dunes, much of Chapin Beach is secluded enough for quiet relaxation. Its desert-like tidal flats also allow long walks for the adventurous. Located at the end of Chapin Beach Road.
- *Sesuit Harbor* - Always filled with summer boat traffic, this harbor is home to several fishing charters leaving for daily excursions on Cape Cod Bay. It also boasts a full-service marina. From Route 6A take Bridge St. to Sesuit Neck Rd. and follow it towards the marina.
- *Johnny Kelly Recreation Area* - A 1 ½-mile stretch of multi-use trails canopied by pine trees wraps around this park filled with barbecue pits, a pavilion, playground, four basketball courts, two baseball fields and a soccer field. Named for Dennis resident Johnny Kelly, a multiple winner of the Boston Marathon, it is constantly used by people enjoying summer activities like softball, picnics, etc. Located on the corner of Old Bass River and Access Roads off Route 6.
- *Mayflower, Bayview, Corporation & Cold Storage Beaches* - some of the best bayside beaches lie on the Dennis shoreline. All divided by private property, these beaches are very popular with tourists. Summer water temperatures are refreshingly cool, and their tidal flats are ideal for beach sports such as volleyball or frisbee. All are located off Route 6A within a five-mile radius of each other.

Beaches

- Chapin Memorial Beach
- Corporation Beach
- Glendon Road Beach
- Haigis Beach
- Horsefoot Path Beach
- Howes Street Beach
- Inman Road Beach
- Mayflower Beach
- Raycroft Parking Beach
- Sea Street Beach (northside)
- Sea Street Beach (southside)
- South Village Road Beach
- West Dennis Beach

Golf Courses

Dennis Pines Golf Course 508-385-8347

Dennis Highlands Golf Course 508-385-8347

Yarmouth

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$318,542

Population: 24,807

Tax Rate: \$6.67

Villages: Yarmouth, South Yarmouth, West Yarmouth, Yarmouth Port, Bass River

Yarmouth originally covered the areas now considered Dennis, Brewster, Chatham and Barnstable. Incorporated in 1639, Yarmouth relied on farming and the maritime industry

for their economic growth. Yarmouth Port and South Yarmouth were extremely active ports during the 1800's which brought a fair amount of wealth to the area, which is reflected in the large historical homes along Route 28 and the Old Main Street area and especially along Route 6A. These days Route 6A and Route 28 offer different worlds in the same town. Route 6A is filled with historic homes, bed and breakfast accommodations, antique shops and small restaurants, while Route 28 offers souvenir shops, motels and hotels, large family restaurants and fast food. Both are catering to Yarmouth's booming tourist industry in their own way, brought on by the building of the railroad in the 1800's. For outdoor enthusiasts, the Yarmouth Historical Society nature trails are among the best on Cape Cod. They wander through local marshes and conservation areas. Maps and trail guides to regional geology, flora and fauna are available at each trail's entrance. The Bass Hole boardwalk crosses the marsh at Gray's Beach, which offers free public parking and facilities. Other walking trails include Horse Pond Trail off Higgins Crowell Road; the Dennis Pond Trails off Willow Street and the 2.4-mile Callery-Darling Trail.

Points of Interest

- *Bass Hole* - This area, once a shipyard in the mid-1800s, comes to life during the summer with visitors. People come to picnic, enjoy the natural beauty and walk down the Cape's longest boardwalk. Nearly 150 years ago, the Bray family built ships here. These vessels used to sail straight into Cape Cod Bay from the inlet. However, due to coastal erosion, weather and time, it is now only accessible by boat or small craft. Located on Gray's Beach at the end of Center Street.
- *Baxter Grist Mill* - This is the only underwater turbine-powered mill on Cape Cod. Originally built in 1710, it was first restored in 1961 and then again in 1989. Currently operational, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Located on Route 28 in West Yarmouth.
- *Indian Burial Ground* - An 18th Century burial plot for Yarmouth Indians, this site features a plaque commemorating their honored dead. The last of these native peoples disappeared from the area around the time of the Civil War. Located next to Long Pond on Memorial Drive.
- *Judah Baker Windmill* - Located on Bass River, this windmill has a rich history. Built in 1791, townspeople used to hoist flags on top of the mill when ships arrived to collect cornmeal supplies. Located on River Street off Route 28.
- *Winslow Crocker House* - This structure was originally built in West Barnstable around 1780. In 1936, Mary Thatcher purchased and moved it to Yarmouth Port for restoration. Visitors to the home can view a variety of antiques, and vintage American furniture. Located on Thatcher Road off Route 6A.
- *Yarmouth Herring Run* - During the spring months of April and May, herring fill these quiet streams that run along the end of Long Pond on Gray Road.
- *Yarmouth Village Pump* - About 112 years ago, townspeople visited this stone trough and manually pumped their own daily or weekly water rations. A true reflection on the pre-mechanized aspect of 19th Century Cape Cod life, it is located on Summer Street off Route 6A.

Beaches

- Bass River Beach
- Parkers River Beach
- Seaview Beach
- Colonial Acres Beach
- Dennis Pond Beach
- Englewood Beach
- Bay View Beach
- Flax Pond Beach
- Gray's Beach
- Long Pond Beach
- Salt Box Beach
- Smugglers Beach
- South Middle Beach
- Windmill Beach
- Sea Gull Beach

Golf Courses

Bayberry Hills 508-394-5597

Bass River Golf Course 508-398-9079

Blue Rock Golf Course 508-398-9295

Kings Way Golf Course 508-362-8870

Barnstable

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$463,099

Population: 41,455

Tax Rate: \$6.61

Villages: Barnstable, West Barnstable, Marstons Mills, Cotuit, Osterville, Centerville, Hyannis, Craigville, Osterville, Hyannis Port, West Hyannis Port

Barnstable, incorporated in 1636, is the largest town on Cape Cod and is made up of seven villages. Each village has unique cultural and historical qualities. Centerville, located on the south side, is primarily residential, includes the Christian Camp Meeting Association and has the beautiful Craigville beach. Osterville is located on the south side, is primarily residential and includes inlets and harbors for fishing and boating. Hyannis is the town's central business and commercial district, which includes town offices and several shopping malls. Hyannis is also a fishing village and its harbor provides steamship access to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Islands. Marstons Mills is primarily residential and is located on Route 28. Cotuit is a village located on a peninsula on the south side, is primarily residential and has several small beaches. West Barnstable is located on the north side, is primarily residential and sparsely populated. Barnstable is located on the north side, which houses the County Complex and has a working harbor and several small beaches.

Hyannis is the commercial center of both Barnstable and the entire Cape. Its major shopping areas include Route 132 and Main Street. Some of the Cape's finest restaurants are also found here. To visitors, Hyannis is best known as the summer home of the Kennedys. The Kennedy Compound, just two miles from Main Street in scenic Hyannis Port, is still a major tourist attraction despite being closed to the public. The John F. Kennedy Memorial fountain is located on Ocean Street. Other famous sites include the John F. Kennedy Museum on Main Street and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church on South Street, where a plaque marks the former president's

pew. Located on Hyannis Harbor near Main Street are the Ocean & Sea Street docks. Ferries embark daily from here on revolving schedules to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Within walking distance are several ocean side parks and beaches. These include Kalmus Park, Veteran's Park, JFK Memorial Park and Aselton Park. For another ocean adventure, take one of the daily whale watching excursions departing from the Marina in Barnstable Harbor. Baleen, Humpback, Finback, Minke and Right whales all feed in the shallow waters of Cape Cod Bay. Along Route 6A in Barnstable Village one can find many unique shops and eateries, adding to the ambiance of the town's gracious historical district. Spanning from Phinney's Lane to the edge of Cummaquid, the district is lined with quaint bed & breakfasts, inns, antique shops and restaurants.

Points of Interest

Barnstable

- *Barnstable Comedy Club* - Kurt Vonnegut is just one of this club's famous alumni. Founded in 1922, the group produces three major productions a year and holds many workshops, improvisations and other programs. Located on Main Street (Route 6A).
- *Colonial Courthouse* - This grand white structure was used as the local English Court before the Revolutionary War. Built in 1772, it is now a storehouse for bicentennial memorabilia. Visitors accepted by appointment. Located on Route 6A.
- *Lothrop Hill Cemetery* - Dedicated to Barnstable's founder, John Lothrop, this cemetery has been used since the 1700s. Among the famous graves here is that of the Commander of Old Ironsides from 1844-1846, Captain John "Mad Jack" Percival. The graveyard offers a true look into the town's past. Located on Route 6A.
- *St. Mary's Church Gardens* - A rainbow of flowers blossoms across this grassy knoll dotted with a stream and small wooden bridge. In the spring daffodils, chrysanthemums, lilies, and tulips bloom throughout the grounds. A welcome escape from summer traffic and crowds. Located on Route 6A.
- *Sachem Iyanough's Grave* - A friend to the Pilgrims, Chief Sachem of the Cummaquid Indians helped with hunting and supplies. His grave was discovered here in 1860.
- *Tayser Memorial Museum* - This red brick building houses Barnstable's largest collection of historical relics and artifacts from ship parts to period town photos. Built in 1856 as a private residence, the home was converted into a post office and eventually donated to the town in 1960.
- *West Parish Meetinghouse* - A half-ton bell sways inside the steeple of the oldest Congregational Church in America. This church has stood as an example of elegant Puritan architecture since 1634. The bell, constructed by Paul Revere in 1806, weighs 922 lbs. A five-foot golden rooster weathervane has tracked wind direction since 1723. Located on Route 149 in West Barnstable.

Centerville

- *Craigville Beach* - Craigville is one of the most popular beaches on Cape Cod, and attracts both families and singles. It has soft sand and terrific waters for beach sports and swimming. Beach shops and eateries line the sidewalk

across the street. The perfect spot for a beach day. Located on Craigville Beach Rd. off Route 28.

- *Sunset Hill* - The setting summer sun spills bright pastel colors across the horizon from this scenic vista, offering a great view of the Kennedy Compound. Located at the end of Irving Avenue in Hyannis Port.

Hyannis

- *John F. Kennedy Memorial* - A heavily visited monument paying tribute to the 34th President of the United States. Many local friends and acquaintances fondly remember Kennedy, a longtime resident of Hyannis Port. This fountain pours into a pool honoring his memory, and thousands pay their respects to the fallen humanitarian every year. Located by Lewis Bay off Ocean Street.
- *Hyannis Harbor* - This harbor holds numerous vessels of all types along its weathered docks. The Hy-Line ferry terminal also resides here. Across the street are some of the best taverns, restaurants and hotels in Hyannis. Located on Ocean Street.
- *Main Street* - "Dancing in the streets of Hyannis," the rock band Boston sang about one of the most socially active areas on the Cape. This street is lined with shops, restaurants and nightclubs. Something is always happening on Main Street.

Osterville

- *Crosby Yacht Yard* - a well-known shipyard for more than 175 years, the "Crosby Cat," a type of slick wooden yacht invented by Horace Crosby in 1840, made this site famous. Modern pleasure vessels are still built here during the winter. It also offers ship moorings in the summertime. Located in Osterville at 72 Crosby Circle.
- *Osterville Historical Society Museum* - Housing a large collection of antique colonial furniture, this 11-room museum is a major town attraction. Originally built as a home in 1795 by Captain Jonathan Parker, visitors are welcome here by appointment. Located on West Bay Road.

Beaches

- Covell Beach
- Craigville Beach
- Kalmus Park Beach
- Millway Beach
- Orrin Keyes Beach
- Sandy Neck Beach
- Veterans Park Beach
- Keyes Memorial Beach
- Hathaway's Pond Beach
- Hamblin's Pond Beach

Golf Courses

Cotuit Highground Golf Course 508-428-9863

Cummaquid Golf Club 508-362-2022
Olde Barnstable fairgrounds Golf Course 508-420-1142
Hyannis Golf Club 508-362-2606
Hyannisport Club 508-775-0669
Oyster Harbors Club 508-428-8106
Tara Hyannis 508-775-7775
Wianno Yacht Club 508-428-2232