

Outer Cape

Wellfleet

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$485,507

Population: 2,749

Tax Rate: \$4.84

Villages: Wellfleet, South Wellfleet

Previously called Billingsgate, Wellfleet was separated from Eastham and incorporated in 1763. The name was thought to have come from "whale fleet," reflecting Wellfleet's main economic resource during the days before the Revolution or from the Wallfleet oyster beds of England. Whaling was halted because of the blockading of Wellfleet Harbor and after the war commercial fishing became the business of Wellfleet citizens. These days if one were to mention Wellfleet in conversation, the famous Wellfleet oyster is probably associated as they are world renown as some of the best oysters you can find. Wellfleet was first introduced to the tourist industry by banana importer, Lorenzo Dow Baker, who built the Chequessett Inn on Mercantile Wharf around 1885. In present day during the summer, the population swells to an estimated 17,000 persons enjoying the town's miles of ocean and bay-side beaches; numerous beautiful, clear, spring-fed, ponds; many fine art galleries, shops and restaurants; and the magnificent Wellfleet Harbor offering a constantly changing panorama of sail boats, motor yachts, sport fishing boats and trawlers. An extremely diverse community with an intriguing history of an extraordinary nautical atmosphere, the friendly charm of the Central Village provides the pedestrian with a vast array of browsing, dining, picture-taking and sightseeing opportunities within a relatively short walk. Through the years, Wellfleet has gained a reputation as the Cape's "art gallery town" with this large concentration of artistic exhibits and talent. For the nature lovers the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, with 1,000 acres of moors, salt marshes, sandy beaches and woods, is a popular nature area protected by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Points of Interest

- *Marconi Wireless Station* - Communications history was made here less than a century ago. A memorial honors Guglielmo Marconi and his wireless telegraph invention. In 1901, he tried unsuccessfully to transmit a wireless message across the Atlantic. Finally succeeding on January 18, 1903, he sent the results of the America's Cup to Wales, England. Located on Lecount Hollow Road off Route 6.
- *Samuel Rider House* - Samuel Rider, a church deacon, in the mid-1700s, built this 18th Century farmhouse. Now operated by the Wellfleet Historical Society, it has been completely restored as a historical landmark. The homestead also features seasonal exhibits. Located on Gull Pond Road off Route 6.
- *Uncle Tim's Bridge* - Surrounded by natural scenery, this wooden boardwalk follows a marsh before opening up to a small tree-covered hill. A hidden treasure - perfect for picnics or for a quiet getaway. Located on Commercial Street.
- *Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary* - Consisting of pine groves and salt marshes, this 650-acre reserve is home to many indigenous Cape Cod birds. The Massachusetts Audubon Society offers guided tours of the area. Located just off Route 6.

- *Historical Society Museum* - Antique maps, flags, firearms, documents, photographs and clothing comprise this museum's exhibits. Also featured here are vintage quarterboards and miscellaneous marine apparatus. Here visitors can gain real insight into 18th Century Wellfleet life. Exhibits change monthly. Located on Main Street off Route 6.
- *Wellfleet Pier* - This pier has various shops and ice cream parlors next to its parking lot. Numerous boats and fishing vessels line the wooden structure's moorings. Many evening events are held here, including town band concerts. Take Main Street to Commercial Street to Kendrick Avenue to Chequessett Knolls Dr. and follow to the end.
- *First Congregational Church* - The perfect church for a traditional wedding. Mahogany wood accents its interior, and a Tiffany stained-glass window illuminates Sunday morning services. The church clock is the only one in the world keeping ship's time. Located on Main Street off Route 6.

Beaches

- Cahoon Hollow Beach
- Marconi Beach
- White Crest Beach
- Duck Harbor Beach
- Duck Pond Beach
- Great Pond Beach
- Gull Pond Beach
- Higgins Pond Beach
- Indian Neck Beach
- LeCount Hollow Beach
- Long Pond Beach
- Mayo Beach
- Newcomb Hollow Beach

Golf Courses

Chequessett Yacht and Country Club 508-349-3704

Truro

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$744,579

Population: 2,087

Tax Rate: \$5.92

Villages: Truro, North Truro, South Truro

Truro missed its chance at immortality when the little band of Pilgrims from the Mayflower decided not to stay in the rolling hills and moors that might have reminded some of them of home and to follow Captain Myles Standish to the area across the bay that became Plymouth. Although the Pilgrims didn't stay in Truro after a brief exploration that convinced many that they should, it was a find of seed corn, ten bushels, stored by the Pamet Indians on what is now known as Corn Hill, that helped to sustain them the following year. Settlers did not come back until two decades later, when the land now known as Pamet was part of a large tract granted to Thomas Prence and other proprietors of Nauset. In 1689 the Pamet Proprietors negotiated purchases of land from the Pamet Indians. In 1705 Pamet was established changed its name to Dangerfield. In 1709 Dangerfield separated from Eastham, incorporated as a town and changed its name to Truro.

Today, three quarters of Truro is in the National Seashore and Truro remains a quiet town. There are fine beaches, both on bay and by the ocean under spectacular dunes. Truro possesses beautiful beaches on Cape Cod Bay and some of the most magnificent beaches on the Atlantic Ocean. A source of inspiration to artists and beachcombers alike, Truro's beaches, dunes and landscape of rolling hills are an attraction to tourists and vacationers. Highland Light, moved back last summer from its precarious perch on the eroding cliffs (the power of the Atlantic Ocean is awesome), still sweeps its beam over all the hills and valleys of Truro, a revolution every minute reminding all of Truro's seafaring past as its life saving light flashes miles out to sea.

Points of Interest

- *Highland House* - Built at the turn of the century as an inn, this now operates as the Truro Historical Museum. The structure contains a collection of 17th Century antiques, period firearms, shipwreck pieces and fishing/whaling implements. Located on High Land Light Road.
- *Bell Church* - A meetinghouse built in 1827 and named after the Revere bell in its steeple, this church still holds Sunday services. Its windows are made from Sandwich glass. Located on Meeting House Road off Route 6.
- *Jenny Lind Tower* - Originally a railroad depot tower in Fitchburg, it is famous for a concert performed by "Swedish Nightingale" Jenny Lind in 1850. When an angry mob formed outside a concert hall after promoters oversold the Lind concert, she climbed the tower and sang to them for free. When the Fitchburg Depot was demolished in 1927, this tower was moved to Truro. It now sits beside the Highland Light Beach parking lot.
- *Old North Cemetery* - Some of Truro's first inhabitants were laid to rest here on the "Hill of Storms." It also marks the location of the town's original meetinghouse and Congregational church. After residents decided these buildings were too far away, a new church was built in 1827 at Truro center and the meetinghouse moved closer. The cemetery still remains with tombstones dating back into the 1700s. Located on Aldrich Road off Route 6.

Beaches

- Ballston Beach
- Corn Hill Beach
- Fisher Beach
- Great Hollow Beach
- Head of The Meadow Beach
- Longnook Beach
- Ryder Road Beach
- High Head Beach
- Pond Village Beach
- Beach Point Beach
- Coast Guard Beach
- Pilgrim beach

Golf Courses

Highland Golf Course 508-487-9201

Provincetown

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$619,862

Population: 3,561

Tax Rate: \$6.30

Villages: None

Provincetown, situated at the tip of Cape Cod, was first visited by the Mayflower passengers on November 21, 1620. The Pilgrims, drafted and signed the Mayflower Compact, the document considered to be the foundation of democratic government in the United States, while moored in Provincetown Harbor. Provincetown was incorporated in 1727 and by the War of 1812 Provincetown had a thousand residents. During the war these residents remained neutral and after the war, as whaling activities grew, whaling captains, replenishing their crews in the Cape Verdes and Azores brought Portuguese to Provincetown. As the whaling phased out, Provincetown became a center for the Portuguese fishermen whose descendants are part of the backbone of Provincetown's economy today. While fishing continues to represent a major part of life in Provincetown, today there is another side to Provincetown, which began at the turn of the 20th century when Charles Hawthorne established an art school. As an art colony Provincetown flourished and in 1915 when the Provincetown Players was established, it became a mecca for theater. Eugene O'Neill joined the players in 1916. Art, theater and fishing still exist side by side in Provincetown. As do alternative lifestyles. As a place to visit Provincetown is popular for many reasons. Want to go whale watching? The MacMillan Wharf is the place to start. Want to people watch? The human parade up and down bustling Commercial Street is an endless opportunity to satisfy the urge. Want to climb higher than anywhere else on Cape Cod and then indulge in some history? Climb the Pilgrim Monument, rising 252 feet above the 100-foot hill it sits on. Its cornerstone was laid in 1907 as President Teddy Roosevelt looked on and President Taft attended its dedication in 1910. For all the details and more of Provincetown's history, the excellent Provincetown Museum is at the base of the monument.

Points of Interest

- *Race Point* - Henry David Thoreau once wrote about Race Point, "here a man may stand and put all of America behind him." No matter what direction you face at the point, the sky, water and sandy beaches are always scenic. Take Route 6 to Race Point Road.
- *Pilgrim Monument* - On a clear day, visitors can catch a glimpse of the Boston skyline from the top of this 252-foot memorial to the Pilgrims. They landed here in 1620 before sailing onto Plymouth. The Italian-designed Monument is the tallest all-granite edifice in the nation, modeled after the Torre del Magnia tower in Siena, Italy. Located on High Pole Hill.
- *Herring Cove Beach* - Adjacent to Race Point, the ocean view at Herring Cove gives the illusion that the Earth ends at the horizon. This beach also offers plenty of multi-use trails. Located on Province Land Road.
- *Provincetown Museum* - Stepping into this museum brings visitors back to the 17th century. The building offers a large-scale replica of the Mayflower. Ship passengers' diaries and the signing of the Mayflower Compact are also exhibited. It also holds an eclectic collection of early fishing, whaling and town artifacts including P'town's oldest fire engine. Located on High Pole Hill.

- *Provincetown Olde Cemetery* - A plaque honors four passengers who died aboard the Mayflower during its brief stay at Provincetown Harbor in 1620 in this cemetery.
- *Seth Nickerson House* - This home was built around 250 years ago from the wreckage of wooden fishing and whaling vessels by a shipbuilder. The structure is one of the oldest in town and exemplifies colonial architecture. Antiques and rarities fill its nine rooms.
- *Heritage Museum* - Housing the largest fishing schooner replica in the world on the second floor, the Rose Dorothea, this museum is well maintained and operated by a dedicated volunteer staff. Vintage paintings, handmade furniture and turn-of-the-century photographs also decorate its ground floor. Located on Commercial Street.
- *Beech Forest Trail* - This mile-long trail snakes its way through some of the most scenic sand dunes on the Cape. The trail begins by winding through cool beech forests, past freshwater ponds and, finally, opening up to the desert-like dunes.

Beaches

- Herring Cove Beach
- Race Point Beach