

# Upper Cape

## **Bourne**

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$394,670

Population: 16,164

Tax rate: \$7.37

Villages: Cataumet, Sagamore Highlands, Bournedale, Buzzards Bay, Mashnee, Gray Gables, Monument Beach, Pocasset, Sagamore Beach, Sagamore

The Town of Bourne is a medium-sized rural community at the gateway to Cape Cod. Formerly a part of Sandwich, Bourne was incorporated in 1884. With the construction of the Cape Cod Canal, Bourne was split in half connected to the mainland by the Sagamore and Bourne bridges. The Sagamore Bridge is 1,408 feet long and Bourne Bridge 2,384 feet long. Bourne remains the only town to occupy land on both sides of the canal. Aptucxet Trading Post, the first recorded commercial trading site in America, is on the Cape side and has been converted into a museum showcasing 17<sup>th</sup> Century firearms, furniture and cooking utensils. The Victorian train station built for President Grover Cleveland is also exhibited. The nearby Jonathan Bourne Historical Center overlooks the canal, as well. The Massachusetts Military Reservation, consisting of Otis Air National Guard Base, Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, and Camp Edwards Army National Guard and Reserve Training Site, occupies much of the Cape side of Bourne. Every first weekend of August, Otis air base puts on a two-day open house and air show. The Massachusetts Maritime Academy is located on the other side of the canal. The canal is well known for its superb sport fishing, and for carrying ships flying the flags of all nations. The Bourne Scenic Park campground is located beneath the Bourne Bridge and is a perfect vacation location for those seeking to enjoy the canal. Bourne has always been oriented to summer visitors, going back at least to the presidency of Grover Cleveland, who summered here at an estate he called Gray Gables. Bourne has numerous quiet harbors and inlets for boating and bathing, and the shell fishing in the area is particularly enticing. The annual Bourne Scallop Festival, which is held in early September each year, brings visitors from across the nation.

### **Points of Interest**

- *Cape Cod Canal* - The first major Cape Cod landmark tens of thousands of visitors lay eyes on annually. This Natural Historic Civil Engineering Landmark measures 480 feet across, is the widest sea-level canal in the world. Lined with scenic overlooks and multi-use trails on both sides, it is a popular tourist destination. The channel was opened in 1914 and stretches 17.4 miles up the coast. With a shifting tide every 6 hours, it is the only known waterway experiencing 4 daily high tides.
- *Indian Burial Hill* - One of the oldest burial grounds in the region, this hill rises on the mainland side of Bourne. It was the final resting place for many

Wampanoag Indians. The area was closed to burials in 1810 after King Saul was put to rest. Christian Missionaries also dedicated a bronze plaque here in the 1800s to the Cape's Native American population. Located on Bournedale Road off Route 6.

- *Bourne Scenic Park* - This is one of the largest camping areas in the region. Located on the Route 6 scenic drive, this park is nestled between the Cape Cod Canal and local forest lands. It consists of 422 campsites and picnic facilities. It hosts many seasonal activities, as well.
- *Aptucxet Trading Post and Village* - Villagers traveled to this rustic homestead to trade goods and supplies as early as the 17th century. The building, completely reconstructed in the 1920s, still operates as it originally did some 250 years ago. It also features a relic salt operation, Indian artifacts and other exhibits.
- *Bourne Railroad Bridge* - Before this bridge was built in 1934, goods traveling off-Cape were unloaded and stacked on small rafts to cross the canal. The bridge is a single train track and runs 545 feet across the waterway. When raised for boats traveling through the canal, it stands 135 feet high.
- *Herring Run* - This brook fills every spring with alewives splashing their way upstream to spawn in inland fresh water. Years ago, town residents would catch their cache of fish here. The site is now a recreation area with picnic facilities. Located on the scenic drive off Route 6 on Bourne's mainland side.

### **Beaches**

- Monument Beach
- Barlows Landing
- Eutstis Beach
- Gray Gables Beach
- Merriam Beach
- Picture Lake
- Pocasset Beach
- Queen Sewell Pond
- Sagamore Beach
- Southwest Beach
- Squeteague Harbor Beach
- Sunrise Beach
- Tahanto Beach

### **Golf Courses**

Pocasset Golf Course 508-563-7171

## **Sandwich**

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$379,371

Population: 16,483

Tax Rate: \$10.20

Villages: Sandwich, East Sandwich, South Sandwich, Forestdale

The oldest town on Cape Cod and among the oldest in the United States, Sandwich was settled in 1637 and incorporated soon after in 1639. It is located on both sides of the Cape Cod Canal with

the majority of its population and landmass on the southerly side of the canal. Sandwich is a mostly residential community with a winter population considerably smaller than the population during the warm summer. Residents feel that its charm and uniqueness combined with its ideal location make Sandwich a very attractive place both to live and visit. Sandwich's beaches along Cape Cod Bay stretch for miles and provide a wonderful view on a clear day of the many vessels that pass through on their way to or from the Boston area. Commercial fishermen and lobstermen can be seen daily from the docks at the Sandwich Marina, the only harbor along the canal. Because Sandwich did not have any deepwater harbors similar to other towns, it never developed into a whaling or shipping port, but did become more industrialized than other towns. The Boston and Sandwich Glass Company provided the tables of New England, and the world, with glassware and tableware - at the rate of one hundred thousand pounds a week, turned out by some 500 craftsmen. The guiding spirit behind the glass company, Deming Jarves, was enamored of beautiful glass creations...and spared no expense in bringing some of the finest glassblowers of the world to Sandwich. The town became world-famous for its artglass: some opalescent, other pieces laced with strands of brilliant color, still others so delicate as to rival the finest Venetian examples. Jarves' insistence on quality and beauty even influenced the making of the company's main product, pressed glass. The so-called lace glass has a sheen like silver, and appears to be covered with frosty stars. The Boston and Sandwich was to have another 20 years of life. But by the 1880's the railroads enabled glass companies in the Midwest to ship their goods east. These companies were able to produce glass more cheaply, having all their raw materials at hand. B & G not only had to import fuel, it also, incredibly, had to import sand. The local stuff just wasn't good for making glass. The factory closed in 1888. The oldest glassworks in America, Pairpoint Crystal (est.1837), is open to the public on Route 6A in nearby Sagamore. Other historical sites in town center include the Dexter Grist Mill, built in 1654 and restored in 1961. Fresh mill-ground corn is usually for sale in season. Also close by is the Yesteryears Doll and Miniature Museum. It houses antique dolls from Germany, France, China and other countries. The museum also has a collector's shop. Of special interest to children is the Thornton W. Burgess Museum. It was founded to honor the famous Sandwich author whose storybook characters included Peter Cottontail and Mother West Wind. One mile from the center of town is Sandwich's largest and best-known attraction, Heritage Plantation. The museum houses a number of diverse collections including 35 antique automobiles from before World War II, antique firearms, military miniatures, and Currier & Ives prints. In May, the grounds blossom into a sea of flowering rhododendrons that are an attraction unto themselves. To explore the town's true natural beauty, take the Sandwich Boardwalk, which crosses a creek and marsh through low dunes to Town Neck Beach. Other local beaches include Spring Hill and East Sandwich Beach. Nearby Shawme-Crowell State Forest offers clean, comfortable campsites and RV facilities on a first-come-first-serve basis.

### **Points of Interest**

- *Thornton W. Burgess Museum* - This museum, dedicated to the Sandwich-born author of the children's literary classic 'Peter Rabbit and the Briar Patch,' features memorabilia of his life and legacy. There is also a gift shop on the premises. Located on Water Street.
- *Heritage Plantation* - An extensive representation of early Cape Cod life, there are exhibits here to please all ages. Many of them decorate the meticulously manicured grounds including a 1912 carousel, an 1800s windmill that still grinds corn and a stone-built Shaker Round Barn housing Gary Cooper's 1931 Duesenberg. Nature trails and a picnic area also accent the property. Other exhibits include a collection of 34 pre-WWII automobiles; and military

museum with war miniatures, period firearms and replica flags. Located on the corner of Pine and Grove Streets.

- *Hoxie House* - This landmark is the oldest home in Sandwich and has been restored to its 17th Century appearance. Built in 1675 for Rev. John Smith, it still uses 20 percent of the original timber structure. Located on Water Street off Route 130.
- *Sandwich Glass Museum* - Showcasing glass from around the world, this collection includes over 6,000 examples of 19th Century Boston and Sandwich Glass Company glassware. Everything from vintage jars to vases to blown glass are represented here. The building's windows themselves are also decorative examples and give off kaleidoscope colors on bright days. Located on Main Street in Town Hall Square.
- *Yesteryears Doll Museum* - The First Parish Meetinghouse houses this international collection of children's dolls. The structure, built in 1638, also features a collector's gift shop offering antique dollhouses, toys and miniatures. Located on the corner of Main and River Streets.
- *Green Briar Nature Center & Jam Kitchen* - This conservation center offers nature trails and natural history exhibits, the old-fashioned kitchen still produces jams, jellies and relishes using traditional 19th Century methods. Located on Discovery Hill Road at Route 6A.
- *Shawme-Crowell State Forest* - 280 campsites dot this wooded park featuring a variety of trees and wildlife. Sites are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Most include picnic tables, grills and all have nearby bathroom facilities. Open in the summertime. Winter self-contained units are allowed. Located on Route 130.

### **Beaches**

- East Sandwich Beach
- Scorton Neck Beach
- Scusset Beach
- Snake pond Beach
- Springhill Beach
- Town Neck Beach
- Wakeby Pond Beach
- Wing Park Beach

### **Golf Courses**

Holly ridge Golf Club 508-428-5577

Otis Golf Club (Military) 508-563-2150

Ridge Club 508-428-6800

Round Hill Country Club 508-888-3384

## **Falmouth**

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$440,793

Population: 27,956

Tax Rate: \$7.58

Villages: Falmouth, East Falmouth, North Falmouth, Silver Beach, Teaticket, Waquoit, Woods Hole, Falmouth Heights, Hatchville, Maravista, Quisset, Sippewisset, Waquoit

In 1660, Quaker sympathizers settled in the area, which was to become Falmouth. By 1686, there were enough settlers of all types in the area that it was incorporated as the town of Suckanessett. The name is preserved on the town seal. The town takes its name from Falmouth, England, the homeport of Bartholomew Gosnold, believed to be the first European to arrive in the area. By the 1800's Falmouth was a busy little port serving packet ships in the import-export trade, and whalers chasing the mighty sperm whale. It was a big-money business, this whaling. A pound of ambergris from a sperm whale could fetch \$300 in the 1800s. Commerce was slightly interrupted during the War of 1812. A pesky British brig, HMS Nimrod, undertook to cannonade the town in 1812. Some of the historic houses and buildings in Falmouth boast the odd shattered timber or other evidence of a cannonball hit from this bombardment.

Falmouth has grown rapidly in recent years. However, the town has made a concerted effort to preserve its remaining open spaces. Multi-use trails can be found in Goodwill Park off Route 28, the Ashumet Holly and Wildlife Sanctuary off Route 151 in East Falmouth, and Washburn Island on Waquoit Bay. The 3.3-mile Shining Sea Bikeway begins at Woods Hole Rd. and runs all the way to the Steamship Authority parking lot in Woods Hole. It winds through sections of marshland, forests, lakes and cranberry bogs. Woods Hole, a village of Falmouth, is home to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) (est. 1930), the largest independent oceanographic research institution in the country. Also located here is the National Marine Fisheries Service Aquarium, featuring hands-on displays of crabs, starfish, snails, lobsters and other sea creatures for children. In the summer, the facility also operates an outdoor harbor seal pool. During the summer, Woods Hole overflows with scientists and graduate students from around the world. Tourists also flock to experience this village's unpretentious seaside charm.

## Points of Interest

- *Woods Hole and WHOI* - Woods Hole has a college feel to it, much due to the research facilities located at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI). Along with a bookstore, the village also has craft galleries, restaurants and taverns. WHOI is the one of the most recognized and prestigious marine research facilities in the world. Follow the signs from Route 28 in Falmouth.
- *National Marine Fisheries Aquarium* - This aquarium was founded to protect native Cape Cod sea life. The facility contains 16 display tanks of local ocean life from lobsters to seals. Located on Water Street.
- *Spoehr's Garden* - Botanicals and lush greens abound in this three-acre estate. Wide paths wind throughout the area, allowing visitors to intimately enjoy its various flora. Located on Oyster Pond Rd.
- *Nobska Light* - This lighthouse sits at the easternmost side of Wood's Hole Harbor. The nearby Elizabeth Islands and Martha's Vineyard are well within view of the stone-surrounded landmark. Built in 1828, it is now operated by the Coast Guard.
- *St. Joseph's Bell Tower/St. Mary's Garden* - This large bell tower rings three times a day: 7 AM, noon, and 6 PM. The garden features a myriad of flowers and other plant life. Located on Millford Street in Woods Hole.
- *The Knob* - A narrow outcropping squeezed between a wooded bird sanctuary and rocky overlook of Buzzards Bay. Until now a locals' secret, this spot has just recently caught on with tourists. Located on Quissett Harbor Road.
- *Ashumet Holly Reservation* - A showcase for foliage, flowers and wildlife. This 45-acre Audubon Society Reservation is home to numerous bird species including cardinals, robins and orioles. Located on Ashumet Road off Route 151.

- *Bates House Museum* - Katharine Lee Bates wrote the popular patriotic hymn 'America the Beautiful' in this house. The two-story colonial structure is now home to a Victorian parlor full of vintage books, photos and historically significant documents. Located on Route 28.
- *Friends' Meetinghouse* - Constructed at the beginning of the 1800s, Quakers fleeing religious persecution in Barnstable built this structure. After first moving to Sandwich, they relocated to this final spot. The church is open to the public every Sunday for worship. Located on Route 28 headed towards Woods Hole.
- *Candle House* - This stone block structure, built in 1836, stores candle wax, wicks and scented aromas. It also commemorates the booming whaling industry of years ago with a plaque and historical literature. Located on Water Road.

### **Beaches**

- Bristol Beach
- Chapoquoit Beach
- Falmouth Beach
- Falmouth Heights Beach
- Grew's Pond Beach
- Megansett Beach
- Menahunt Road Beach
- Old Silver Beach
- Stony beach
- Surf Drive Beach
- Wood Neck beach

### **Golf Courses**

Ballymeade Country Club 508-540-4005  
 Cape Cod Country Club 508-563-9842  
 Falmouth Country Club 508-548-3211  
 Paul Harney Golf Club 508-563-3454  
 Woodbriar Golf Course 508-540-1600  
 Woods Hole Golf Club 508-548-0880

### **Mashpee**

Average Residential Sale Price 2003: \$397,150

Population: 8,518

Tax Rate: \$10.00

Villages: South Mashpee, New Seabury, Popponesset

The Town of Mashpee, incorporated in 1870, is the fastest growing municipality in the Commonwealth, and felt by its new and old residents to be one of the most gifted with natural beauty. Along with the Martha's Vineyard Town of Gay Head, it is also unique as one of the remaining homes of the Wampanoag Nation, the Native American tribe that met the Pilgrims at Plymouth. Although now outnumbered by new residents, the Wampanoag continue to play a significant role in defining the character of the community through the town's Indian Museum, the annual July Pow Wow and other ongoing activities of the Tribal Council. With over five miles of sandy beaches on Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds, extensive water frontage on Waquoit and Popponesset Bays, four of the largest freshwater ponds on Cape Cod, the three championship golf courses of New Seabury and Willowbend and numerous other visitor amenities such as the

nationally recognized Mashpee Commons project, Mashpee is a prime resort, seasonal home and retirement community offering both a relaxed pace of life and a complete range of services. With enhancement of its economic base in mind, the town is actively seeking both environmentally friendly industrial and commercial development and increased tourist facilities. As part of that effort the Board of Selectmen has officially embarked on a "green tourism" development project focusing on enhanced access and programming at the town's 1,000-plus acres of conservation lands as well as South Cape Beach State Park, the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and The Trustees of Reservations' Lowell Holly and Mashpee River Reservations. In addition, 2200 acres in Mashpee have been proposed for inclusion in a new National Wildlife Refuge. All of these efforts are intended to insure that the town remains true to its Native American heritage, maintains its economic vitality and protects its natural resources and the sense of tranquility that makes residents feel it is one of the best places in the Commonwealth to live, work and visit.

### **Points of Interest**

- *Wampanoag Indian Museum* - Entering this museum is like traveling back in time before Europeans settled on Cape Cod. The main diorama is a depiction of typical Wampanoag village life, complete with a restored wigwam. Located across from the herring run on Lovells Lane off Route 130.
- *Old Indian Meetinghouse* - Standing beside the edge of a former Wampanoag burial ground, this building stores colorful stitched-block quilts. Every quilt tells a story about a Wampanoag-Mashpee Indian who passed away. Built in 1684, it is the oldest meetinghouse on Cape Cod. The loft is also an exhibit, featuring carvings of tall ships. Located on the corner of Meetinghouse Rd. and Route 28.
- *Annual Indian Powwow* – Native Americans from around the country travel to this event in Mashpee very second week of July. Originally, these events were scheduled for tribal chiefs to convene and discuss important issues. Now the weeklong festival features tribal dance ceremonies, fireworks, crafts and refreshments. A large dinner is held on Saturday and a traditional Cape Cod clambake on Sunday. Check with town hall for exact dates and an events schedule. Located on Route 130.
- *1800s Cemetery* - This cemetery is a tiny plot established in the early 19th century. A closer look reveals unusually decorative headstones covered with handwritten symbols, scenes and inscriptions. Located on Route 130.
- *Lowell Holly Reservation* - Around 130 acres, Harvard University President Abbott Lawrence Lowell created this nature reserve. Picnic areas and scenic trails dot the entire area. An ideal place for a quiet escape. Located off Route 130 at the edge of Mashpee Pond.

### **Beaches**

- Attaquin Park Beach
- John's Pond Beach
- South Cape Beach

### **Golf Courses**

New Seabury Country Club 508-477-9111

Quashnet Valley Country Club 508-477-4412

Willowbend Country Club 508-539-5000