

featured destination



Nantucket, MA

A Modern Seafaring Treasure

"Two thirds of this terraqueous globe are the Nantucketer's. For the sea is his; he owns it, as Emperors own empires." As Herman Melville writes in *Moby Dick*, the sea and Nantucket have an intertwined past – formerly the largest whaling port in the world, the island is now a home port for a small fishing industry and a major attraction for recreational boaters. With its charming character, pristine beauty, and a quaint community that ebbs and flows with the seasons, it is no wonder that seafarers throughout history have found solace in Nantucket's water and on its shores.

Nantucket is located 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, naturally providing a peaceful hub for those looking to escape the bustle of the Cape and the Eastern Seaboard. With a 240 slip, full-service marina, the Nantucket Boat Basin is a welcoming accommodation for seasoned and novice boaters alike. The Boat Basin offers standard amenities such as fuel dock service, access to potable water, and ample power supply. Should the need arise to reconnect with the mainland, phone hookups and slip-side cable television are available as well as high-speed Internet access throughout the Boat Basin. Laptops are also provided for guest use in the Concierge Office.

The Nantucket Boat Basin brings a new sense of luxury to traditional marina life with the easily accessible Concierge Service. This service allows guests of the Boat Basin to experience the full spectrum that Nantucket has to offer: rent bikes and scooters to explore the island, arrange for fishing, sailing, or airplane charters, or snag restaurant reservations (which can be tricky to secure in the high season!). For a more relaxed option, the Concierge Service offers spa services onboard or the White Elephant Spa just down the road. Guests of the Boat Basin can take advantage of the spring mid-day special which offers a massage, facial, and a foot or hand paraffin treatment.

Guests who do decide to step foot on the island will be thrilled to have landed on Nantucket. With an abundance of shops, galleries, restaurants, and cultural events, there is never a dull time to visit the island. Antique stores and art galleries line the streets of the historic downtown. Cavalier Gallery, Nantucket's largest gallery, represents the finest in contemporary paintings, sculpture and photography, while the Scrimshander Gallery houses over 350 carvings and plaques, lightship basket-tops, collector whales' teeth, and ship models. The newly-renovated Whaling Museum gives a glimpse into Nantucket's fascinating history as a whaling port, complete with a 46-foot long skeleton of a sperm whale that washed ashore.



Outside of the town's cobbled streets, Nantucket offers some of the most beautiful landscape in the country. Nearly 40 percent of the island is protected conservation land, and several areas, habitats and natural groups of plants and animals, are rare to this region and even the world. The Cranberry Bog totals 105 acres of marsh, forty of which are being actively cultivated. Additionally, there are over eighty miles of breathtaking, crowd-free beach encircling Nantucket, ensuring a relaxing beach experience for all. Kayaking, surfing, and surfcasting are all very popular activities in these waters. Most beaches are accessible by scenic bike ride, short walk, or an even shorter car-ride.

Sunset is the perfect time to discover the more culinary side of the island. TOPPER'S at The Wauwinet stands out as the highest-rated hotel restaurant in Massachusetts by Zagat Survey. Its graceful deck is the preferred spot to watch the sun sink below the horizon over cocktails, before stepping into the dining room for a true feast. Nantucket Boat Basin guests can reach TOPPER'S aboard The Wauwinet Lady, which departs from Straight Wharf each evening from July-September.

While The Wauwinet is about nine miles from downtown, there are also plenty of options just steps from the Boat Basin. For a casual sunset dinner overlooking Nantucket Harbor, one

cannot pass on the Brant Point Grill at the White Elephant. The newly added raw bar, BPG Oyster Co., offers a creative twist to the old world oyster bar with fresh catches of the day, various combinations of delectable lobster dishes, and of course, oysters. For casual dining dockside, try Slip 14. It's the perfect spot to savor local seafood and summer fare while enjoying lunch, cocktails, or dinner.

While boaters abide by their own calendars, Nantucket has plenty of "off-season" activities that make the trip very worthwhile outside of the high summer season. In April, the Daffodil Festival heralds in spring with a parade of antique cars, each decorated with hundreds of daffodils, and the Nantucket Wine Festival in May brings in over 150 of the world's greatest wineries, held at the Nantucket Yacht Club. The Nantucket Film Festival in June offers late night storytelling by the likes of Steve Martin and Jim Carrey, or moonlit screenings on Children's Beach.

Be sure to pick up a copy of *Moby Dick* from Mitchell's Book Corner on Main Street before heading off to sea, the perfect memento for the ocean-bound traveler. [ml](#)