



CAPE COD CERTIFIED

VISITING CAPE COD

A Perfect Day in Yarmouth, Cape Cod: Sound Beaches, Bass River & Village Strolls

A free field guide from the people who actually live here.



CapeCodCertified.com/guides/perfect-day-yarmouth-cape-cod

Yarmouth does not announce itself the way Chatham does, and that is exactly the point. While summer crowds pile into the more famous towns, Yarmouth quietly holds two shorelines, one of the best-preserved historic streetscapes on the entire Cape, and a marsh boardwalk that most visitors drive straight past on Route 28. A day here rewards the curious.

Morning: Walk Route 6A Through Yarmouthport Village

Start on the north side, in Yarmouthport, where Route 6A — the Old King's Highway — runs beneath a canopy of old maples past houses that predate the Revolution. This is one of the most intact historic corridors in Massachusetts, and on a quiet summer morning it feels genuinely unhurried.

Park near the village center and walk. Your first stop should be the [Edward Gorey House](#) on Strawberry Lane, a small museum inside the actual home of the famously eccentric artist and author. If you grew up with his scratchy, darkly funny illustrations, stepping inside is a particular pleasure. Check hours before you go — the museum is typically open Thursday through Sunday in season.

A few minutes' walk up 6A, Hallet's Store has been operating in some form since 1889. The soda fountain is the draw — old-school ice cream and egg creams in a room that looks like it should be in a photograph. Hours vary by year and season, so check ahead, but if it is open, sit down.

The Chase Garden Creek Trail begins just off 6A and threads through a quiet stretch of salt marsh. It is short — under a mile — but the birding is good and it offers a sense of what this landscape looked like before the motels arrived on Route 28. [Explore the Chase Garden Creek Trail](#) if you want to stretch your legs before the beach.

Midday: Gray's Beach Boardwalk and the Tidal Flats

Gray's Beach, tucked off Centre Street on the bay side of Yarmouthport, has one of the longer boardwalks over tidal marsh on the mid-Cape. The boardwalk extends out over the flats, and at low tide you can walk out a considerable distance onto sand that was underwater an hour before. The water here faces Cape Cod Bay, which means you are watching the sunset direction — come back later if you want that — but at midday the light off the marsh grass is its own thing.

Timing matters here. The flats drain fast and fully, so check a tide chart before you go. Low tide or the two hours around it give you the best walking. High tide, the water comes up close to the boardwalk itself. Both are worth seeing, just for different reasons. [Visit the Gray's Beach page](#) for current conditions and parking details.

Parking is free in the small lot off Centre Street. It fills by mid-morning on summer weekends.

Afternoon: Bass River Beach and a [kayaking](#) on the Water

Cross to the south side of town and things shift immediately. Route 28 is commercial and loud, but push through it. Bass River Beach, on Nantucket Sound, is what families come to Yarmouth for. The Sound runs warmer than the ocean side — by mid-July the water temperature is genuinely inviting — and the beach itself is broad enough that it absorbs a crowd without feeling crushed.

[Bass River Beach](#) has paid parking in season. Arrive before noon on a peak summer weekend if you want a spot.

Bass River itself, which separates Yarmouth from Dennis to the east, is one of the better flatwater paddling routes on the mid-Cape. Kayak and canoe rentals are available from outfitters in the area — check hours and availability before you go, as smaller operations keep their own schedules. The river runs north past salt marsh and under the old Route 28 bridge; you can paddle it for a couple of hours without repeating yourself. Fishing is good here too, especially for striped bass in the evening.

Smugglers Beach, also on the Sound side in West Yarmouth, is another option if Bass River Beach feels too busy. It tends to draw a slightly younger crowd and has its own parking lot off South Shore Drive.

Evening: Sunset Over the Bay and Dinner Near 6A

For sunset, return to the north side. The bay-facing shore at Gray's Beach turns west at the right angle to catch the sun going down over the water — one of the cleaner sunset views on the mid-Cape without driving to the outer towns. Bring something to sit on and arrive about thirty minutes before sunset. In July, that means somewhere around 8 p.m.

For dinner, the 6A corridor and its side streets have a handful of restaurants that change names and formats over the years — check current options in [Yarmouth's town directory](#) before you go, since the mid-Cape dining scene shifts season to season. The village center in Yarmouthport and the area near Hallet's have historically supported small, owner-operated spots that are worth seeking out over the chain options on Route 28.

Practical Notes

- **Parking:** Gray's Beach (Centre Street) is free but small — arrive by 9 a.m. on summer weekends. Bass River Beach has a paid lot in season. Hallet's and the 6A village center have street parking.
- **Tides:** Gray's Beach boardwalk and the Bass River are both tide-dependent. Download a free tide chart app or check NOAA before you build your day around either.
- **Best season:** July and August for warm Sound water. September is excellent for the 6A village and trails — cooler, quieter, and the marsh grass turns gold.
- **Edward Gorey House:** Typically Thursday through Sunday in season; hours shift, so verify before making it the anchor of your morning.
- **Hallet's Store:** Summer-only, hours vary. Worth a quick check online the morning you plan to visit.
- **Sun orientation:** Sunrise is over the Sound (south/east-facing beaches). Sunset is over Cape Cod Bay — Gray's Beach boardwalk is your best bet for the view.
- **What to bring:** Tidal flats are sandy and flat but can be slippery near the grass line; water shoes are useful. Sunscreen is essential on open marsh boardwalks with no shade.

◆ THINGS TO DO

Make a day of it

Bookable experiences that pair perfectly with this guide. Scan any code to reserve.

BOOK · VARIES

Kayak, SUP & Pedal Boat Rentals

Cape Cod Waterways · Dennis

A hand-picked Cape Cod experience to pair with this guide — book direct.



Scan to book

BOOK · ~\$60

Kayak & SUP Rentals + Bass River Tour

Inland Sea Kayak & SUP · Dennis

A hand-picked Cape Cod experience to pair with this guide — book direct.



Scan to book

BOOK · FROM \$37/PERSON

Kayak & Paddleboard Rentals — Mashpee

RideAway Adventures · Mashpee

A hand-picked Cape Cod experience to pair with this guide — book direct.



Scan to book



Headed to the Cape with friends? Share this guide.

Every share helps a real local business get found — and keeps Cape Cod guides free. Scan to send it along.

[Explore Yarmouth Businesses →](#)



Cape Cod Certified · capecodcertified.com/guides/perfect-day-yarmouth-cape-cod · Real guides, real local knowledge. Verify seasonal details before you go.



FOR CAPE COD BUSINESSES

This is what being Cape Cod Certified looks like.

You just read a guide that travelers and locals download, keep, and share. The businesses inside it were chosen on merit — real vetting, real local knowledge, never pay-to-play.

Own a Cape Cod business? Get Certified and earn your place in guides like this one — in front of the exact people planning their trip and their spend.



Get Certified → capecodcertified.com/join