

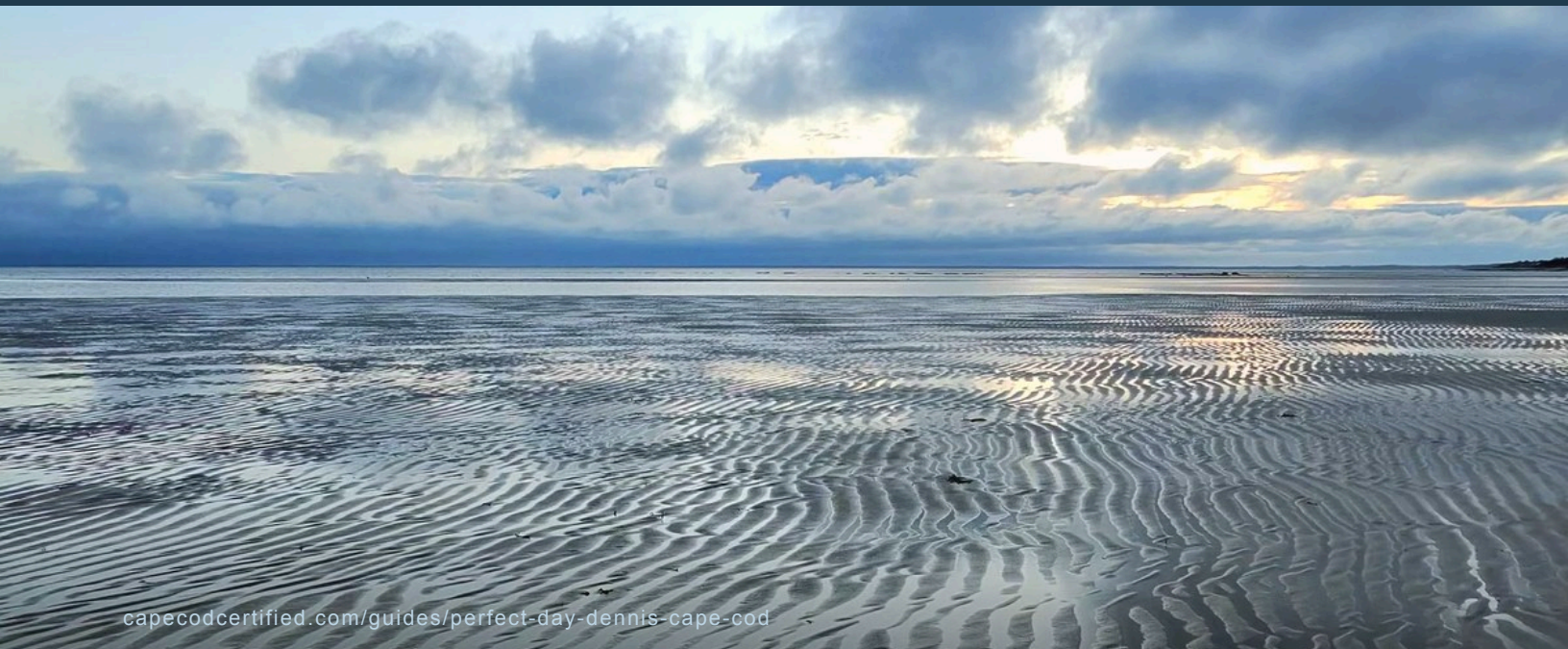


CAPE COD CERTIFIED

VISITING CAPE COD

A Perfect Day in Dennis, Cape Cod: Cape Playhouse, Scargo Hill & Village Life

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



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Dennis does something most Cape towns don't manage: it runs the whole spectrum in a single day. You can climb the highest point on the mid-Cape for a view that stretches from the Bay to the Sound, swim a spring-fed freshwater lake, browse one of the finest stretches of antique shops and old Cape architecture anywhere on Route 6A, and catch a live performance at the oldest professional summer theater in the country — all before sunset turns Sesuit Harbor pink.

Morning: Scargo Hill and the Lake Below It

Start early at Scargo Hill, off Route 6A on Scargo Hill Road. The fire tower at the top is the highest point on the mid-Cape, and on a clear morning the 360-degree view earns the short walk up the stairs: Cape Cod Bay to the north, the Atlantic glinting to the south and east, Provincetown visible on a good day.

Scargo Lake sits directly below the hill and is one of the best freshwater swimming spots in the region. The water is clean, the bottom is sandy, and there's a small beach with a gradual entry that works well for families with young kids.

Midday: Route 6A and the Cape Playhouse

Work your way west along [Route 6A through Dennis](#) before the afternoon crowds settle in. The Cape Museum of Fine Arts sits on the grounds of the Cape Playhouse and is worth a stop.

The Cape Playhouse itself, founded in 1927, holds the title of oldest continuously operating professional summer theater in the United States. Bette Davis worked here early in her career. Check the current season calendar before you go, as shows sell out.

Afternoon: West Dennis Beach and Dennisport

Head south to [West Dennis Beach](#), one of the longest beaches on the south shore of the Cape. It fronts Nantucket Sound, which means the water runs warmer than the Atlantic-facing beaches. Parking is in a large lot with a fee in season; get there before early afternoon.

Evening: Sesuit Harbor Sunset

For the end of the day, drive back north to Sesuit Harbor on the Bay side. The harbor is a working marina — lobster boats, [fishing charter](#), small sailboats — and the breakwater and dock area face west across Cape Cod Bay. This is a sunset spot.

Practical Notes

- **Parking at Scargo Hill:** Small free lot off Scargo Hill Road. Go early.
- **West Dennis Beach parking:** Paid lot in season. Fills by mid-morning on summer weekends.
- **Cape Playhouse tickets:** Book in advance for summer performances.
- **Best season:** Late June through early September for beach access and the Cape Playhouse season.
- **Rail Trail:** The [Cape Cod Rail Trail](#) passes through Dennis.

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