



CAPE COD CERTIFIED

CAPE COD PURSUITS

Cape Cod Golf Courses: Public Courses, Tee Times & When to Go for the Best Value

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



<https://www.cape-cod-certified.com/guides/cape-cod-golf-courses-guide>

Cape Cod has more than a dozen public and semi-private golf courses spread across its 70-mile arm, from wooded inland tracks in Sandwich and Barnstable to a resort layout overlooking Cape Cod Bay in Brewster. The flagship destination for visiting golfers is the Captains Golf Course in Brewster — a 36-hole public complex that ranks among the best-value public golf in New England. But the real insider move, if you have any scheduling flexibility, is to visit in September or October, when the fairways hit peak condition, crowds drop sharply, and green fees often fall below peak summer pricing.

Why Fall Is the Best Time for Cape Cod Golf

The Cape Cod golf season runs April through November, but experienced players know the sweet spot is September through mid-October. After Labor Day, summer visitors leave — but the weather doesn't. September averages daytime highs in the low-to-mid 70s [VERIFY], with stable conditions and dramatically reduced humidity compared to July and August. Tee time availability opens up considerably: walk-on rounds that were impossible in peak summer become routine on weekday mornings, and weekend reservations that required three or four weeks' notice during July can often be booked just a few days out.

Green fees tend to drop after Labor Day as courses shift to shoulder-season rates [VERIFY by course]. Better availability, lower costs, and ideal playing conditions make fall the value play for any golfer planning a Cape trip. Summer golf is still worthwhile — the courses are beautiful and the energy is there — but expect to book three to four weeks ahead for popular courses, arrive early, and pay peak-season rates.

The Captains Golf Course, Brewster — The Cape's Flagship Public Cape Cod Golf Courses

If you play only one facility on Cape Cod, make it the Captains Golf Course. Located in Brewster on the Lower-Mid Cape, Captains operates two full 18-hole layouts: the Port Course and the Starboard Course. Both wind through tall stands of pitch pine and scrub oak — the characteristic tree cover of this stretch of the Cape — giving each course a quiet, removed feel that's harder to find elsewhere on the peninsula.

The Port Course is generally considered the more demanding of the two, with tighter fairways and a handful of exacting par-4s. The Starboard Course is a touch more forgiving off the tee but rewards precise iron play around greens that have genuine character. Playing both in a single day is entirely doable for the committed golfer, and a 36-hole day on the Captains courses is a legitimate Cape Cod golf experience.

Green fees run approximately \$50–80 for 18 holes depending on season and resident status [VERIFY 2026 green fees at captainsgolfcourse.com]. Brewster residents receive a significant discount [VERIFY resident rate].

Reservations are strongly recommended throughout the season and essentially mandatory in summer — book online or call ahead well in advance [VERIFY current booking method].

Captains Golf Course at a glance: - Two 18-hole public courses (Port and Starboard) - Setting: wooded pitch pine, links character on certain holes - Peak green fees: approximately \$50–80 per round [VERIFY] - Location: Brewster, Mid-Lower Cape

Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds Golf Course, Marstons Mills

Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds in Marstons Mills — part of the Town of Barnstable — is a perennial favorite for its combination of accessibility, affordability, and reliable conditioning. The 18-hole public course plays over rolling terrain and is genuinely welcoming to golfers across skill levels. This is not a punishing track, but it isn't a walkover either, and it's the kind of course where you can bring a friend who plays twice a year without sacrificing your own enjoyment.

Green fees are among the most affordable on the Cape [VERIFY current rates at olde-barnstable.com], with Barnstable residents receiving additional discounts [VERIFY]. Walk-ons are often possible outside peak summer, and pace of play tends to be reasonable. Marstons Mills sits squarely in Mid-Cape, making Olde Barnstable a natural stop for visitors based in Hyannis, Centerville, or anywhere in the Barnstable area.

Dennis Pines and Dennis Highlands — Two Courses in One Town

Dennis operates two 18-hole town-owned courses — Dennis Pines and Dennis Highlands — giving it a 36-hole municipal setup that mirrors Brewster's model and makes Dennis a viable golf destination in its own right.

Dennis Pines is the older and more established of the two, with a wooded layout and a classic New England town-course feel. The tree-lined fairways demand some accuracy off the tee, and the greens have enough nuance to challenge mid-handicappers. Dennis Highlands offers a more open layout with better sight lines from the tee — slightly more forgiving and often a better pick for faster play or a round with newer golfers.

Both courses are town-operated, and Dennis residents receive preferred rates [VERIFY current green fees and resident pricing at dennis-golf.com]. In peak season, tee times go quickly — book ahead. Come fall, both courses ease up considerably, and the wooded setting at Dennis Pines in October is genuinely worth seeking out.

Sandwich Hollows Golf Club — Upper Cape Near Heritage Museums

Sandwich Hollows Golf Club is an 18-hole public course in Sandwich, the first town you reach after crossing the Sagamore Bridge from the mainland. Its location near Heritage Museums & Gardens makes it a natural pairing for a day that combines golf with one of the Cape's best cultural institutions.

The course offers a fair test that doesn't overwhelm recreational golfers while still providing enough challenge for the more serious player. Sandwich's wooded Upper Cape terrain is on full display here — pitch pine-lined fairways with a quiet feel and less foot traffic than some of the more prominent Cape destinations [VERIFY current green fees, hours, and operation at sandwichhollowsgolf.com].

For visitors arriving from the bridges, Sandwich Hollows is a convenient first-day option before heading deeper into the Cape.

Ocean Edge Resort Golf, Brewster — Bay-Side Resort Play

Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster sits on the Bay side of the Mid-Cape, with the resort's grounds extending toward the water. The golf course is a resort-style layout available to both resort guests and members of the public [VERIFY current public access policy and tee time availability at oceanedge.com].

Playing Ocean Edge pairs naturally with a resort stay — the combination of the course, resort amenities, and Bay-side access makes for a full Cape day. The layout plays over more open terrain than the pine-shrouded tracks at Captains and Dennis Pines, giving it a different visual and strategic character. Green fees for non-resort guests tend

to run on the higher end for Cape Cod [VERIFY current public rates]; resort guests typically receive discounted or included access [VERIFY].

Cape Cod Golf Course Comparison Table

Course	Town	Holes	Character	Approx. Fee	Public Access
Captains — Port	Brewster	18	Wooded/Pine	~\$50–80 [VERIFY]	Yes
Captains — Starboard	Brewster	18	Wooded/Pine	~\$50–80 [VERIFY]	Yes
Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds	Marstons Mills	18	Rolling/Open	Affordable [VERIFY]	Yes
Dennis Pines	Dennis	18	Wooded	[VERIFY]	Yes (town-operated)
Dennis Highlands	Dennis	18	Open	[VERIFY]	Yes (town-operated)
Sandwich Hollows	Sandwich	18	Wooded/Mixed	[VERIFY]	Yes
Ocean Edge Resort	Brewster	18	Resort/Open	Higher [VERIFY]	Public + Resort
Hyannis Golf Course	Hyannis	9	Executive/Walking	[VERIFY]	Yes

Green fees vary by season, day of week, and resident vs. non-resident status. Always verify current rates directly with each course before booking.

Quick Facts: Cape Cod Golf

- **Best time to visit for value:** September and October — shoulder-season rates, top conditions, reduced crowds
- **Peak summer booking:** Reserve 3–4 weeks ahead for Captains and other popular courses
- **Fall walk-ons:** Commonly available on weekdays and some weekends after Labor Day
- **Resident rates:** Town-operated courses (Captains, Dennis, Sandwich Hollows) offer significantly lower rates for local residents; non-residents pay the standard public rate
- **Season:** April through November; most courses close December–March [VERIFY by course]
- **36-hole facilities:** Brewster (Captains Port + Starboard), Dennis (Pines + Highlands)
- **America the Beautiful pass:** Covers National Seashore beach entry — does not apply to golf courses

Make a Day of It: Golf in the Morning, Cape Cod in the Afternoon

The best Cape Cod golf day does not end at the 18th hole. An early tee time at the Captains in Brewster has you finishing by noon, within 15 minutes of Nickerson State Park for a swim in a kettle pond, or a short drive to Coast Guard Beach in Eastham for a National Seashore afternoon. A round at Dennis Pines pairs well with a stop at Corporation Beach on the Bay side afterward. From Sandwich Hollows, Heritage Museums & Gardens or Sandy Neck Beach in Barnstable Harbor make natural afternoon complements.

In fall, this combination is especially good: a crisp morning round under October light filtering through the pines, then a trail walk at Fort Hill in Eastham or a dinner reservation at a restaurant that’s actually possible to get into now that the summer rush has passed.

This is Cape Cod at its best — quality public golf on a course that could hold its own anywhere in New England, then an afternoon doing something you couldn’t do anywhere else.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best public golf course on Cape Cod? The Captains Golf Course in Brewster is widely considered the top public golf destination on Cape Cod. With two full 18-hole courses (Port and Starboard) through pine and oak woodland, consistent conditioning, and competitive public pricing, it offers the most complete public golf experience on the Cape. Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds in Marstons Mills and Dennis Pines in Dennis are strong value alternatives.

When is the best time to visit Cape Cod for golf? September and October offer the best combination of course conditions, value, and tee time availability. After Labor Day, crowds thin dramatically, shoulder-season rates often apply, and the Cape's weather remains ideal — cooler, drier, and lower humidity than summer. Summer golf is available but requires booking 3–4 weeks ahead and paying peak rates.

Do I need to be a resident to play Cape Cod's public golf courses? No — all of the courses listed here are open to non-residents. Residents of towns like Brewster, Dennis, and Barnstable do receive significantly lower rates at their respective town-operated courses. Non-residents pay the standard public rate. Confirm current pricing with each course directly before booking.

How far in advance should I book a tee time in summer? For popular courses like the Captains in Brewster, plan to book three to four weeks ahead during peak summer (late June through Labor Day), especially for weekend rounds. Fall rounds can often be booked three to seven days out, and weekday walk-ons become realistic at most courses. Each course sets its own advance-booking window [VERIFY current policy by course].

Find more Cape Cod golf resources, local guides, and things to do at capecodcertified.com/directory.

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