

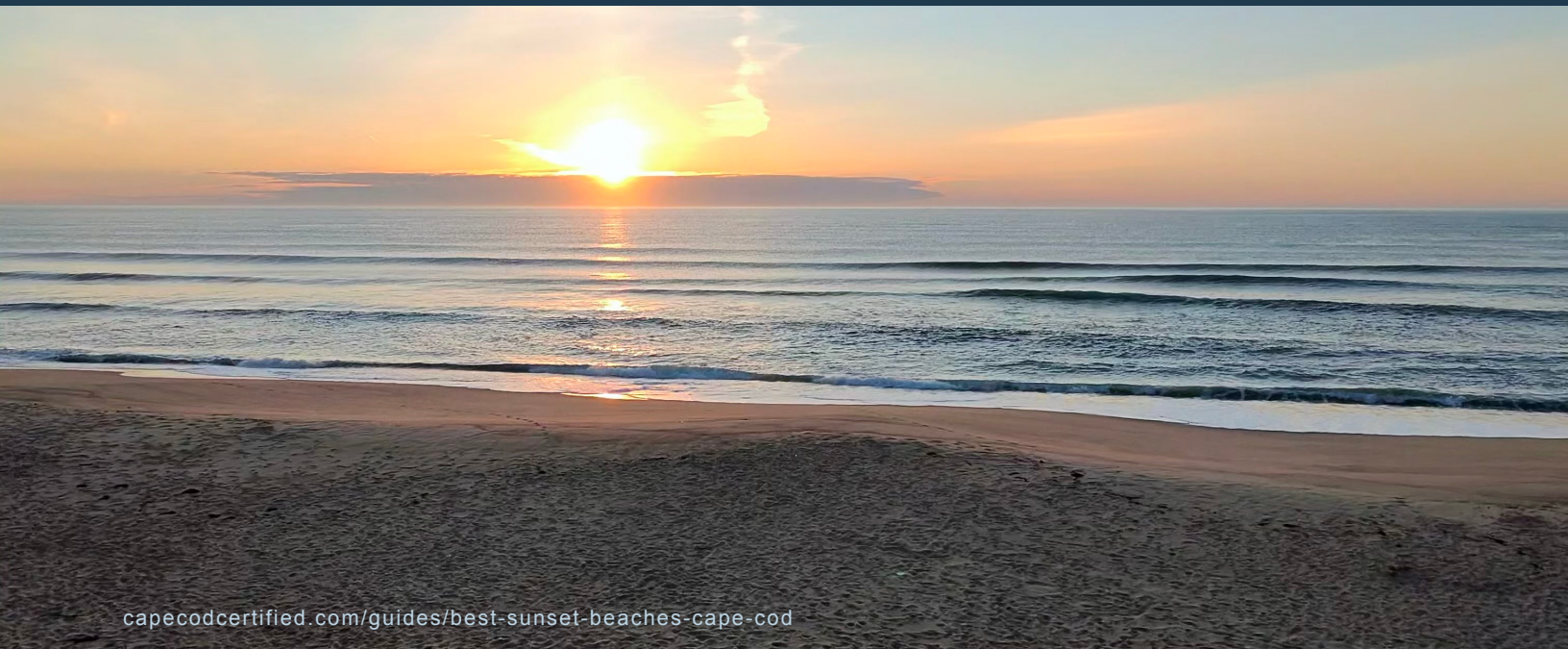


CAPE COD CERTIFIED

VISITING CAPE COD

Best Sunset Beaches on Cape Cod: Where to Watch the Cape Most Beautiful Sunsets

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



capecodcertified.com/guides/best-sunset-beaches-cape-cod

Cape Cod most spectacular sunsets happen on the **bay side**. The Atlantic Ocean faces east — Nauset Beach and Marconi are sunrise territory. The sunsets happen on **Cape Cod Bay, Buzzards Bay, and Nantucket Sound** on the western and northern shores.

Why Sunsets Happen on the Bay Side

Cape Cod bends like an arm flexed at the shoulder. The outside — the Atlantic shore — catches the rising sun. The inside — Cape Cod Bay and Buzzards Bay — faces west and northwest, giving unobstructed views as the sun drops. Peak summer sunsets fall around **8:00–8:30 PM** in July and August. Arrive 30–45 minutes before official sunset for golden hour.

The Best Sunset Beaches

1. Herring Cove Beach — Provincetown

Faces **northwest** at the tip of the Cape — longer sunset window than anywhere else. The sun lingers, painting water in layers of orange and violet. Cape Cod National Seashore — parking fees apply. Walk south from the main lot for quieter compositions.

Best for: Couples, photographers, the most dramatic light the Cape offers.

2. Rock Harbor — Orleans

Most **photographed sunset location** on the Cape. Working harbor with charter fishing boats and weathered pilings creating natural silhouettes. At low tide, exposed flats reflect the sky. Arrive 30 minutes before sunset.

Best for: Photographers, couples, classic Cape Cod images.

3. Chapin Memorial Beach — Dennis

Faces **Cape Cod Bay**. Long stretch, warm water. At low tide the flats extend hundreds of feet. Bring a blanket and stay for blue hour — the sky holds color here for a long time.

Best for: Families, leisurely sunset walks.

4. Corporation Beach — Dennis

Another **Cape Cod Bay** gem. Faces west-northwest, catches long golden light in the final hour before sunset. Good parking, lifeguards during the day.

Best for: Families, swimming days that end with a sunset.

5. Gray Beach / Bass Hole — Yarmouth

Faces north into **Cape Cod Bay**. Long boardwalk over marsh. At golden hour the grasses glow amber. Check tide charts — low tide in late afternoon is ideal.

Best for: Photographers, birdwatchers, couples wanting a quieter scene.

6. Sandy Neck Beach — Barnstable

Long barrier beach on Cape Cod Bay. Wild, undeveloped, miles of open water views. Long enough to find genuine solitude at sunset.

Best for: Sunset walks, families wanting space.

7. Old Silver Beach — Falmouth

Faces **Buzzards Bay**. Consistently warm water, wide sandy beach, full western exposure. One of the most user-friendly sunset beaches on the Cape.

Best for: Families, couples, visitors staying in Falmouth.

8. Chapoquoit Beach — Falmouth

Locals secret facing Buzzards Bay. Same quality sunset as Old Silver, easier parking, fewer crowds after Labor Day.

Best for: Couples, repeat visitors.

Tips for the Best Sunset Experience

Check the time at timeanddate.com. **Arrive early** — lots fill fast at popular spots. **Stay for blue hour** — 20–30 minutes after sunset, the sky transitions from orange to pink to deep blue. **Bring layers** — the bay side gets a breeze at dusk. **For photographers:** Rock Harbor for silhouettes, Gray Beach for tidal flat reflections, Herring Cove for dramatic compositions.

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