



CAPE COD CERTIFIED

VISITING CAPE COD

A Perfect Day in West Yarmouth: Warm Water, Bass River, and the South Side Done Right

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



<https://www.visitcapecod.com/guides/guide-west-yarmouth-cape-cod-2018-2019>

The stretch of Route 28 through West Yarmouth isn't anyone's postcard vision of Cape Cod. The mid-century motels, the strip plazas, the traffic on a Tuesday in July — none of that is the draw. What is: Nantucket Sound water that runs five to ten degrees warmer than the Atlantic side, wide sandy beaches built for families, and Bass River winding along the eastern edge.

Morning: Bass River at the Right Tide

Start early on Bass River before the powerboats wake up. The river forms the boundary between West Yarmouth and Dennis, and it's one of the most underrated paddling corridors on the mid-Cape. Rent a [kayaking](#) or [paddleboarding](#) and head upstream toward the Route 28 bridge, then back down toward Bass River Creek and the salt marsh fingers that branch off into the flats.

Tide timing matters here. Paddling out on a falling tide gives you a fast downstream run early, but come back before it drops too far. Check the tide chart for Yarmouth before you go.

Midday: Sea Gull Beach

For a beach that earns its reputation, [Sea Gull Beach](#) is the move. It sits at the end of South Sea Avenue, off Route 28, facing Nantucket Sound — which means the water is warmer and the waves are gentler than the National Seashore beaches on the Atlantic side. Pack lunch — there's not much at the beach itself.

Parking: paid lot, cash and card both accepted. Arrive before 10 a.m. if you're coming on a weekend in July or August.

Afternoon: Parker's River Beach and a Walk

[Parker's River Beach](#) is a shorter, quieter alternative to Sea Gull — same Sound water, slightly less crowded, with a tidal creek at the western end that kids tend to gravitate toward at low tide.

Evening: Dinner on Route 28

Route 28 through West Yarmouth has been in a slow redevelopment for years. The honest local advice: don't lock in a plan before you arrive. What hasn't changed: if you want fried clams, a lobster roll, or steamers within five minutes of your motel, you're in the right zip code.

Sunset here faces west across Nantucket Sound — Sea Gull Beach at 7:30 p.m. on a clear evening in late June, after the crowds have thinned, is the version of West Yarmouth worth remembering.

Practical Notes

Getting there: West Yarmouth is on Route 28, roughly mid-Cape. From the Sagamore Bridge, it's about 25 minutes without traffic.

Parking: Sea Gull Beach and Parker's River Beach both have paid lots. Arrive before 10 a.m. on weekends in peak season.

For families: The Sound side is the right call for young kids. Warmer water, smaller waves, shallower entry.

Certified Local Businesses in West Yarmouth

Cape Cod Certified recommends these verified local spots:

- **Bagels & Beyond** — 4.3★ (572 Google reviews)
- **Hole in One Yarmouth** — 4.4★ (190 Google reviews)

♦ CERTIFIED LOCAL BUSINESSES

Who the locals trust for this

Real, vetted Cape Cod businesses — hand-picked by Cape Cod Certified. No pay-to-play, no fake reviews. Scan any code to find them.

CERTIFIED LOCAL

Hole in One Yarmouth

West Yarmouth · Coffee / Cafe / Bakery

A Cape Cod Certified local — coffee.



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CERTIFIED LOCAL

Mari Nails & Spa

West Yarmouth · Wellness / Spa / Salon

A Cape Cod Certified local — wellness.



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♦ THINGS TO DO

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

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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.



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BOOK · FROM \$37/PERSON

Kayak & Paddleboard Rentals — Mashpee

RideAway Adventures · Mashpee

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



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