



CAPE COD CERTIFIED

VISITING CAPE COD

A Perfect Day in Harwich, Cape Cod: Cranberry Bogs, Nantucket Ferry & South Beach

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



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Most people drive straight through Harwich on their way somewhere louder. That's their loss. This mid-Cape town on the Nantucket Sound shore has the Nantucket Fast Ferry, some of the Cape's most iconic harbor scenery at Wychmere, serious cranberry bog country, and a South Shore beach that doesn't require arriving at 7am to find a parking spot.

Morning: Wychmere Harbor and the Rail Trail

Start early at Wychmere Harbor, off Route 28 in Harwich Port — one of the most photographed harbors on Cape Cod. The light here in the morning catches the masts of the moored sailboats in a way that photographers plan trips around.

After breakfast, get onto the [Cape Cod Rail Trail](#). The section between Harwich and Brewster passes through pitch pine and oak woods with cranberry bogs tucked alongside the path.

Midday: Red River Beach and Nantucket Sound

[Red River Beach](#) is Harwich's anchor on the Nantucket Sound. The Sound water is significantly warmer than the Atlantic ocean beaches to the north. Parking here requires either a resident sticker or payment at the lot — get there before 10am in July and August.

If Red River is packed, [Pleasant Road Beach](#) just down the shore is a smaller, slightly quieter alternative that locals often prefer.

Afternoon: The Nantucket Fast Ferry or the Harbors

The [Freedom Cruise Line](#) fast ferry departs from Saquatucket Harbor in Harwich Port and reaches Nantucket in about 65 minutes. Book in advance; this is a seasonal service and the boats fill up, especially in summer.

If a ferry day-trip isn't in the cards, spend the afternoon at Allen Harbor or Saquatucket Harbor instead. Both have working charter fishing fleets.

Evening: Sunset on the Bay Side and Dinner in Harwich Port

For sunset, drive or walk back toward Wychmere Harbor in the early evening and find a spot on the pier. The harbor fills with golden light and the working boats settle in for the night.

Practical Notes

- **Parking at Red River Beach and Pleasant Road Beach:** paid lots or resident sticker required in season; arrive before 10am on summer weekends.
- **Nantucket Ferry:** Freedom Cruise Line operates seasonally — book well ahead in July and August.
- **Best season:** July and August for the beach and ferry; late September and October for the Cranberry Harvest Festival.
- Explore the full [Harwich Town Directory](#).

Certified Local Businesses in Harwich

Cape Cod Certified recommends these verified local spots:

- **Royal Smoke Shop** — 5★ (9 Google reviews)
- **The Seal Pub & Cafe** — 4.5★ (250 Google reviews)

◆ THINGS TO DO

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