



CAPE COD CERTIFIED

LIVING ON CAPE COD

Open All Winter: 50+ Cape Cod Restaurants, Shops & Services That Don't Close After Labor Day

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



capecodcertified.com/guides/open-all-winter-cape-cod-year-round-guide

Every Columbus Day weekend, the same email lands in our inbox: “We’re booking a trip in February — is anything actually *open*?” The Cape’s reputation as a summer-only peninsula is the most stubborn misconception we deal with. It’s also wrong by a factor of about 50.

Yes, the lobster shacks on Route 6A board up by mid-October. The Wellfleet Drive-In, Liam’s at Nauset, Sundae School, Arnold’s — those are seasonal businesses by design and they’re not coming back until Mother’s Day. But the *working Cape* — the one where 213,000 year-round residents actually live, shop, eat, and get their cars inspected — never closes. Most visitors just never see it because they only come in July.

Here’s the working list, organized by what you’ll actually need on a Tuesday in February.

The Three Towns That Stay Genuinely Busy Off-Season

If you’re coming for a winter weekend and want the highest density of “lights on” options, pick lodging in one of these three:

- **Hyannis** — The Cape’s only true year-round downtown. Main Street is full, the mall is open, and you can land at HYA and Uber to dinner. This is where the working Cape lives.
- **Falmouth** — Walking-distance restaurants and bookstores, plus ferry traffic to the Islands keeps Woods Hole busier than you’d expect.
- **Orleans** — The Lower Cape’s year-round hub. From here, Wellfleet, Eastham, and Brewster are all 15 minutes away when something specific is open.

Skip **Provincetown, Wellfleet center, and Chatham village** if you’re optimizing for open doors. They all have year-round anchors, but the ratio of dark storefronts in January will depress you.

Where to Eat: 30 Restaurants Open Year-Round

This is the question we get asked most. Below is the working list — places we’ve personally confirmed are open through winter as of the 2026 season, with rough price ranges and what they’re actually good at.

Restaurant	Town	Avg. Entrée	Best For	Winter Hours
Land Ho!	Orleans	\$18–\$28	Pub fare, chowder, locals	Daily 11:30a–9p
The Optimist Cafe	Yarmouth Port	\$14–\$22	Breakfast/lunch, gluten-free	Wed–Sun 8a–2p
Brazilian Grill	Hyannis	\$42 fixed	Rodízio, all-you-can-eat	Daily 4p–10p
Naked Oyster	Hyannis	\$28–\$42	Oysters from their own grant	Tue–Sat 5p–9p
Embargo	Hyannis	\$24–\$36	Tapas, late kitchen	Daily 5p–11p
Pain D’Avignon	Hyannis	\$26–\$38	French bakery + bistro	Daily 7a–9p
Spanky’s Clam Shack	Hyannis Harbor	\$18–\$32	Fried seafood, harbor view	Daily 11:30a–9p
Captain Parker’s Pub	West Yarmouth	\$16–\$28	Award-winning chowder	Daily 11:30a–9p
The Wicked Restaurant	Mashpee	\$22–\$38	Wood-fired pizza, wine	Tue–Sun 4p–10p
Bleu	Mashpee Commons	\$26–\$40	French, special occasion	Tue–Sat 5p–9p

Restaurant	Town	Avg. Entrée	Best For	Winter Hours
Marshland	Sandwich	\$14–\$24	Diner breakfast, generations of locals	Daily 6a–8p
Beth’s Bakery & Cafe	Sandwich	\$10–\$18	Soup, sandwich, breakfast	Tue–Sun 7a–3p
Pie in the Sky	Woods Hole	\$8–\$14	Coffee, breakfast pizza	Daily 6a–4p
Liam Maguire’s Irish Pub	Falmouth	\$16–\$26	Live music, Guinness	Daily 11:30a–close
The British Beer Co.	Falmouth	\$14–\$24	Beer list, trivia nights	Daily 11:30a–10p
Anejo Mexican Bistro	Falmouth	\$18–\$28	Tequila list, modern Mexican	Tue–Sun 4p–9p
Quarterdeck	Falmouth	\$20–\$32	Old-school pub, locals	Daily 11:30a–9p
Mahoney’s Atlantic Bar & Grill	Orleans	\$24–\$36	Bar menu, wood-fired grill	Daily 4p–10p
The Hot Chocolate Sparrow	Orleans	\$6–\$12	Coffee, sandwiches, gelato	Daily 6a–9p
Cottage Street Bakery	Orleans	\$6–\$14	Dirt bombs, breakfast	Daily 7a–2p
PB Boulangerie Bistro	Wellfleet	\$14 / \$32 (bistro)	The Cape’s best croissants	Thu–Mon
Winslow’s Tavern	Wellfleet	\$26–\$42	Refined date night	Thu–Sun winter
The Squealing Pig	Provincetown	\$16–\$24	Locals’ pub, comfort food	Daily 11:30a–close
Tin Pan Alley	Provincetown	\$22–\$36	Year-round townie favorite	Wed–Sun 5p–9p
Snowy Owl Coffee Roasters	Brewster	\$5–\$12	Best coffee on Cape	Daily 6:30a–5p
Brewster Fish House	Brewster	\$26–\$42	Small dining room — book ahead	Wed–Sun 5p–9p
Cape Cod Beer Taproom	Hyannis	\$0–\$10	Beer, rotating food trucks	Tue–Sun varied
Sea Street Café	Hyannis	\$12–\$22	Breakfast, locals	Daily 6a–2p
Persy’s Place	Hyannis	\$12–\$20	All-day breakfast, huge menu	Daily 7a–2p
Common Ground Cafe	Hyannis	\$10–\$18	Vegan/vegetarian, slow-food	Mon–Sat 8a–3p

That’s 30 confirmed for the 2026 winter. We could add another 20+ pizza places, Chinese restaurants, and chain spots — but the list above is the curated version.

Coffee, Bakeries & Quick Bites — The Off-Season Backbone

If you’re working remotely from a winter rental, these are the spots with reliable Wi-Fi and a real coffee program:

- **Snowy Owl Coffee Roasters** (Brewster + Provincetown) — Roast their own beans. The Brewster shop has the best laptop seating on Cape.
- **Cape Cod Coffee** (Mashpee + Falmouth) — Local roaster, two cafés.
- **Beanstock Coffee Roasters** (Wellfleet) — Open year-round on shorter winter hours.
- **The Daily Brew Coffee Bar** (Cataumet) — Locals’ institution before the bridge.
- **Hot Chocolate Sparrow** (Orleans) — Big space, fast Wi-Fi, late hours.

- **Cottage Street Bakery** (Orleans) — Dirt bombs (a sugar-coated cake doughnut) sell out by 10am.
- **PB Boulangerie** (Wellfleet) — Worth the drive in any season. Closed Tuesday/Wednesday in winter.

Shops Worth a Winter Drive

The independent bookstores are the strongest off-season retail category on the Cape — every one of these is open all winter and most host year-round author events:

- **Titcomb's Bookshop** (Sandwich) — A 50-year-old institution with a strong used section.
- **Eight Cousins Books** (Falmouth) — Best children's selection on the Cape.
- **Yellow Umbrella Books** (Chatham) — Used and new, tight curation.
- **Where the Sidewalk Ends** (Chatham) — Independent, year-round.
- **Books by the Sea** (Osterville) — Smaller but well-curated.
- **Booksmith Musicsmith** (Orleans) — Books, records, gifts.

Other reliable year-round retail: **Snow's Home & Garden** (Orleans), Agway in five locations, **Cape Cod Mall** (Hyannis — Macy's, Target adjacent, plus a real food court), and **Mashpee Commons** — the only outdoor shopping district that stays in full operation through January. Every hardware store in every town is also open.

Services You'll Actually Need

Visitors forget the Cape has a working economy. Everything below operates 12 months:

- **Cape Cod Hospital** (Hyannis) — Full Level III trauma center.
- **Falmouth Hospital** — Second full-service hospital.
- **CCHC Urgent Care** — Hyannis, Falmouth, Mashpee, Sandwich, and Harwich locations.
- **Hyannis Transportation Center** — CCRTA buses + Plymouth & Brockton to Boston, year-round.
- **Cape Air** — Year-round flights from HYA to Boston, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard.
- **The Steamship Authority** — Year-round ferry to Nantucket (from Hyannis) and Martha's Vineyard (from Woods Hole), reduced winter schedule.
- **Stop & Shop, Shaw's, and Trader Joe's (Hyannis)** — All standard year-round grocery hours.

What Actually Does Close

To be fair, here's the honest list of what's *not* open in February so you don't drive there:

- All Outer Cape beach-shack seafood (Arnold's, Mac's Shack, Liam's, PJ's, the Beachcomber)
- Wellfleet Drive-In, Cape Playhouse, Cape Cod Melody Tent
- Most of Provincetown's Commercial Street — estimate 70% closed January through March
- All **whale watch** boats from Provincetown and Barnstable
- Most ice cream stands (Sundae School, Smitty's, Four Seas — though Four Seas does open Valentine's weekend, by tradition)
- Most B&Bs in Chatham, Wellfleet, and downtown Provincetown

Don't-Miss Tips

Call before you drive. Winter hours change weekly, and a restaurant listed as “Wed–Sun” may take an unannounced two-week break in January. Every place on this list publishes current hours on Instagram more reliably than on Google. A 30-second check saves a 45-minute drive.

The Mid-Cape is your safety net. If you’re staying anywhere from Sandwich to Orleans and an Outer Cape plan falls through, Route 132 in Hyannis has 40+ open restaurants within a two-mile stretch. It’s not romantic, but it’s never empty.

Cape Cod’s winter version isn’t a worse summer — it’s a different place, with shorter lines, lower rates, and locals who’ll actually talk to you. The peninsula didn’t shut down. You just need the right list.

♦ 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

Crabapples Restaurant

Falmouth · Restaurant / Food & Drink

A Cape Cod Certified local — restaurant.



Scan to visit

CERTIFIED LOCAL

Graziella's Artisan Pizza Co. — Pocasset

Bourne · Restaurant / Food & Drink

A Cape Cod Certified local — restaurant.



Scan to visit

CERTIFIED LOCAL

Hey Sailor

Mashpee · Restaurant / Food & Drink

A Cape Cod Certified local — restaurant.



Scan to visit

CERTIFIED LOCAL

Eleven Circuit

Oak Bluffs · Restaurant / Food & Drink

A Cape Cod Certified local — restaurant.



Scan to visit

CERTIFIED LOCAL

Fairway Restaurant & Pizzeria

Eastham · Restaurant / Food & Drink

A Cape Cod Certified local — restaurant.



Scan to visit

CERTIFIED LOCAL

Cliffhangers

Aquinnah · Restaurant / Food & Drink

A Cape Cod Certified local — restaurant.



Scan to visit

◆ THINGS TO DO

Make a day of it

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

BOOK

Cape Cod Melody Tent — Live Concert Series

Cape Cod Melody Tent · Hyannis

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



Scan to book

BOOK · FROM \$10/PERSON

Wellfleet Drive-In — Double Feature Nights

Wellfleet Cinemas · Wellfleet

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



Scan to book

BOOK · \$15–\$23

Whydah Pirate Museum

Whydah Pirate Museum · Yarmouth

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



Scan to book



Headed to the Cape with friends? Share this guide.

Every share helps a real local business get found — and keeps Cape Cod guides free. Scan to send it along.

[Join the Cape Cod Insider Community →](#)



Cape Cod Certified · capecodcertified.com/guides/open-all-winter-cape-cod-year-round-guide · Real guides, real local knowledge. Verify seasonal details before you go.



FOR CAPE COD BUSINESSES

This is what being Cape Cod Certified looks like.

You just read a guide that travelers and locals download, keep, and share. The businesses inside it were chosen on merit — real vetting, real local knowledge, never pay-to-play.

Own a Cape Cod business? Get Certified and earn your place in guides like this one — in front of the exact people planning their trip and their spend.



Get Certified → capecodcertified.com/join