



CAPE COD CERTIFIED

VISITING CAPE COD

A Perfect Day in Brewster, Cape Cod: Tidal Flats, Nickerson State Park & Village Shops

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



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Brewster is where Cape Cod Bay does something you won't see anywhere else on the Cape: at low tide, the water pulls back more than a mile, leaving behind a flat, warm-water maze of tidal pools, sandbars, and hermit crabs stretching nearly to the horizon. Plan your entire day around the tide table.

Morning: Route 6A and the Brewster Store

Start on [Route 6A](#) before the antique shops fill up. The [Brewster Store](#) has been open since 1866 and still works as a general store, penny-candy counter and all. Grab coffee, pick up something small for the road.

Midday: The Tidal Flats

Check the tide table before you leave home. You want to arrive at a bayside beach roughly 90 minutes before low tide.

[Breakwater Beach](#), [Linnell Landing](#), and [Paines Creek Beach](#) are all reliable access points. Bring water shoes. The pools warm up in the sun and by low tide the water temperature in a shallow pool can feel closer to bathwater than ocean. Bring sunscreen, a hat, and something to carry water in — there is no shade on the flats.

Parking at the town beaches requires a Brewster resident sticker in peak season, or an out-of-town fee.

Afternoon: Nickerson State Park and the Cape Cod Rail Trail

[Nickerson State Park](#) covers 1,900 acres and holds eight spring-fed kettle ponds left behind by glaciers — it is the largest state park on the Cape. Flax Pond and Cliff Pond inside the park both have designated swimming areas. The [Cape Cod Rail Trail](#) cuts directly through the park.

The [Cape Cod Museum of Natural History](#) sits right on Route 6A and has solid exhibits on local ecology.

Evening: Dinner and a Bay Sunset

Brewster's dining options are clustered along Route 6A and are mostly small, independent, and summer-seasonal. For a sunset, any of the bayside beaches will work — Brewster faces west across Cape Cod Bay, which means the sunsets here are over the water.

Practical Notes

- **Tides are everything.** Build your beach time around low tide. Check tides.net before you arrive.
- **Parking at town beaches** requires either a resident sticker or payment. Summer lots fill before 10am on weekends.
- **Best season:** Late June through early September for beach access.
- For full town information, visit the [Brewster Town Directory](#).

◆ THINGS TO DO

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