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First Night Provincetown New Years Eve

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



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New Year's Eve in Provincetown is unlike anything else on the East Coast. There is no corporate sponsorship banner. There is no jumbotron. Instead, there is a town at the tip of Cape Cod — nine miles of sand out into the Atlantic — lit by gallery windows, filled with live music spilling out of century-old churches, and anchored by a harbor that turns silver-black in December. This is First Night Provincetown.

What Is First Night Provincetown?

First Night is a community-wide New Year's Eve arts and performance celebration. Instead of a single ticketed party, the entire town becomes the venue. Dozens of local artists, musicians, dancers, comedians, and performers fan out across P-town's galleries, theaters, churches, restaurants, and public spaces from mid-afternoon straight through to midnight. One button gets you into all of it.

How the Button System Works

The First Night button is your all-access pass to the entire event. Purchase it at local shops, galleries, and the Chamber of Commerce in the days leading up to December 31st. Wear it visibly throughout the evening — venue hosts check for the button at the door.

What the button gets you: - Entry to all official First Night performance venues - Multiple performances per venue across the afternoon and night - Access to visual art installations and gallery exhibits - Entry to the midnight celebration for the countdown and fireworks

The Midnight Countdown and Fireworks

By 11:00 PM, the town begins gravitating toward the harbor. The midnight celebration centers around the MacMillan Pier area and the harbor waterfront, where Provincetown's First Night fireworks launch over the water at midnight.

There is something genuinely moving about watching fireworks over Provincetown Harbor in winter. The crowd is small enough that you can see faces. The town is quiet enough that you can hear the explosions echo off the water.

Be near MacMillan Pier by 11:30 PM for the countdown and fireworks.

Where to Stay

This is the most important planning detail: **most Provincetown guesthouses, inns, and hotels close for the winter.** Late December is deep off-season. The handful of properties that remain open fill up early.

Booking window: Book as soon as reservations open — ideally September or October.

Getting There in December

No ferry service in late December. Driving is your only option via Route 6. Parking in December is actually manageable — the summer scarcity does not apply.

What to Wear

- A genuine winter coat — insulated and wind-resistant
 - Thermal base layers
 - Warm hat that covers your ears
 - Scarf or neck gaiter (critical for the midnight countdown)
 - Insulated gloves
 - Waterproof boots
 - Hand warmers
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Planning Checklist

- **Book lodging** — September or October
- **Reserve NYE dinner** — contact restaurants directly in October/November
- **Purchase First Night button** — available in the days before December 31st
- **Download the performance schedule** — published by the Provincetown Business Guild in December
- **Pack winter layers**
- **Be near MacMillan Pier by 11:30 PM**

For current First Night dates, button pricing, and performance schedules, check the Provincetown Business Guild at provincetown.com.

◆ THINGS TO DO

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