

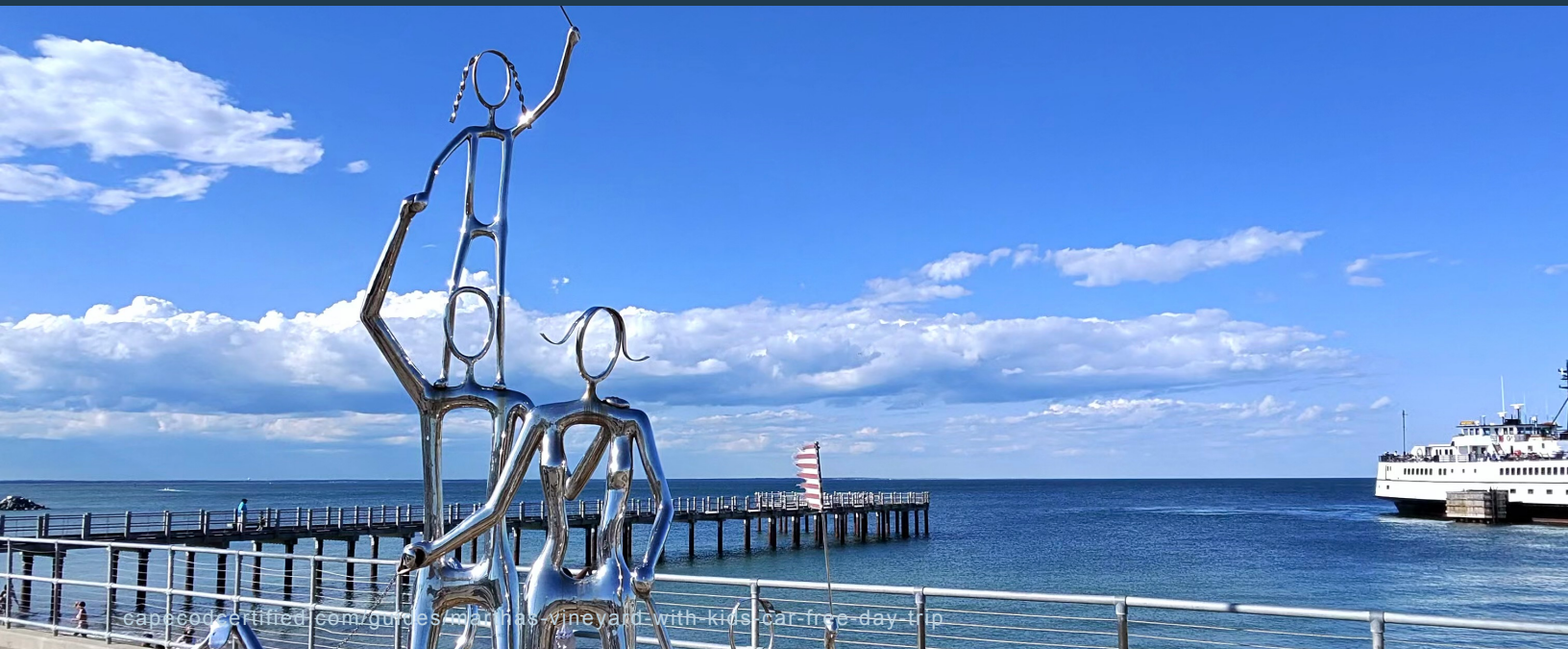


CAPE COD CERTIFIED

CAPE COD DAY TRIPS WITH KIDS

Car-Free Family Day Trip to Martha's Vineyard (Bike + Ferry from Woods Hole)

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



capecodcertified.com/guides/marthas-vineyard-with-kids-car-free-day-trip

Dad-tested, kid-approved. We woke our 5- and 7-year-old at 4:15am, were parked at the Shining Sea Bikeway by 5:15, and biked ~25 miles across two ferry rides to spend a whole day on Martha's Vineyard — no car on the island. Here's the exact plan so you can do it too.

Why go car-free

Island car reservations are expensive and book out; once you're there, traffic and parking are a headache. With bikes, **the getting-there IS the adventure** — and the Vineyard is made for two wheels.

The plan at a glance

- **Park (free):** Shining Sea Bikeway lot, Falmouth.
- **Bike** the Shining Sea Bikeway to Woods Hole (flat, paved, ocean views).
- **First Steamship Authority ferry**, Woods Hole → Vineyard Haven (~45 min). *[verify 2026 first-ferry time + bike fee]*
- **Bring the bikes** on the ferry and explore Vineyard Haven → Oak Bluffs → Edgartown.

Our hour-by-hour

- **4:15am** wake the kids · **5:15am** park & ride the bikeway at first light
- **6:00am** ferry to Vineyard Haven *[verify]*
- Bike to **Oak Bluffs** — breakfast *[business — confirm from visit]*, the gingerbread cottages
- **Beach stop** in Oak Bluffs on the ride to Edgartown — great vibe
- **Edgartown** lunch *[business]*; watch the kids fish off the pier
- **Jaws Bridge** — the famous jump + swim; hang out
- **Dinner** — outdoor venue with live music, raw bar + BBQ, games for the kids *[business]*
- **Mad Martha's** ice cream in Vineyard Haven
- **7:15pm** ferry back to Falmouth · bikeway to the car · **home 9:15pm**, kids asleep

Doing it with little kids (the honest version)

~25 miles is a real day for a 5- and 7-year-old. Know your kids' range — or **rent e-bikes / use a bike trailer**, or do the shorter version below. Go on the **first ferry**: empty roads, cool morning, no crowds.

Pack: water, snacks, swimsuits + towels, sunscreen, bike locks, cash, layers for the morning ferry.

The shorter version

Not ready for 25 miles? Drive to Woods Hole (or the Falmouth bikeway lot), ferry over as **walk-ons**, and **rent bikes on-island** in Vineyard Haven or Oak Bluffs. Same island day, less mileage.

What it costs (*verify current rates*)

Ferry: passenger round-trip + bike fee per person. Parking at the bikeway: free. Food + ice cream extra. [*confirm Steamship Authority 2026 fares*]

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