



CAPE COD CERTIFIED

VISITING CAPE COD

# Cape Cod Craft Breweries: A Guide to the Cape's Growing Beer Scene

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



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A decade ago, “Cape Cod beer” meant one thing. Today the peninsula has a real, sprawling craft scene — taprooms in old cranberry-country warehouses, beach-town breweries pouring hazy IPAs a sand-dune away from the water, and enough stops to build a genuine brewery trail from the bridges to Provincetown. If your idea of a Cape afternoon includes a flight and a food truck instead of (or after) the beach, this is your guide to doing it right.

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## The lay of the land

Cape breweries cluster loosely by region, which makes it easy to build a trail without driving the whole peninsula:

| Region                                                     | The vibe                                                     | Good to pair with                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Upper Cape (Bourne, Falmouth, Sandwich, Mashpee)           | Easiest to reach off the bridges; mix of established and new | A Falmouth beach day, Shining Sea Bikeway |
| Mid-Cape (Hyannis, Barnstable, Yarmouth, Dennis)           | The most taprooms in one stretch                             | Main Street Hyannis, Cape Cod Rail Trail  |
| Lower/Outer Cape (Chatham, Harwich, Orleans, Provincetown) | Smaller, beachier, seasonal                                  | Nauset beaches, P-town nightlife          |

The **Mid-Cape** has the densest concentration, which makes Hyannis/Yarmouth a smart base for a brewery day.

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## What to expect at a Cape taproom

- **Flights** — the move for first-timers; sample four or five without committing to a pint.
- **Hazy and hoppy IPAs**, but also crisp lagers, sours, and beach-friendly light beers built for a hot afternoon.
- **Food trucks and guest kitchens** rather than full restaurants at many spots — check ahead if you want to eat.
- **Dog- and family-friendly patios** at a lot of the newer breweries.
- **Seasonal hours** — Outer Cape and beach-town taprooms may cut back or close in the off-season; the Upper- and Mid-Cape spots are more reliably year-round.

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## How to build a Cape brewery trail

- **Pick one region, not the whole Cape.** Three or four taprooms in the Mid-Cape beats a white-knuckle drive across the peninsula.
- **Line up a designated driver or rideshare.** Cape distances between taprooms are real, and rideshare thins out fast off-season and late at night — plan it.
- **Go midweek or early** in summer; popular taprooms fill on weekend afternoons.
- **Bring a cooler** — most breweries sell cans and crowlers to go, and Cape-brewed beer is a great souvenir.

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## Beyond beer

The Cape’s fermented scene isn’t just beer anymore — you’ll also find **hard cider, meadery, and a distillery or two** using local ingredients (cranberries show up in surprising places). Several tasting rooms sit close enough to breweries to fold into the same trail.

# The responsible part

Cape roads in summer are crowded, narrow in the villages, and heavily patrolled. **Do not drink and drive.** Build your trail around a sober driver, a rideshare plan, or a bike-and-taproom combo where the distances allow. It's the difference between a great Cape afternoon and a very bad one.

**Don't miss:** a hazy IPA on a brewery patio after a beach day, food truck taco in hand, salt still on your skin. It's become as much a part of the modern Cape Cod summer as the clam shack — and pairing a Certified local brewery with a nearby beach is the ideal lazy Cape afternoon.

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#### Pizza 1 & Subs 2 – East Falmouth

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