

Lighthouse Sunrises, Lobster Rolls & a Ferry to the Vineyard — A 3-Day Cape Cod Road Trip

A 3-day loop around the Cape's elbow and its most storied island: an 1839 sea captain's inn in Chatham, a passenger ferry across Nantucket Sound to Martha's Vineyard's gingerbread cottages, and a final run up Route 6 to Provincetown's dunes and lighthouse views — with real inns, ferry schedules, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

3 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

June–September

Warm 70–80°F days, full ferry schedules to the islands, and lighthouses open for climbing; early September brings fewer crowds with the water still warm.

FROM

Dinner: The Chatham Squire

~\$45/person · no reservations, expect a wait

A Chatham institution since 1968, split between a raw bar, a dining room, and a tavern that fills with locals by 6pm — the lobster roll and the chowder are both the real thing. Put your name in and walk Main Street's boutiques while you wait.

The Chatham Squire · <https://www.thesquire.com>

DAY 2

Ferry Day — Oak Bluffs to Edgartown

Leave the car at the harbor and take the ferry across Nantucket Sound to Martha's Vineyard, trading lighthouses for gingerbread cottages and a night on the island.

Hy-Line Cruises: Hyannis to Oak Bluffs

~1 hour · ~\$97 round-trip adult

Passenger-only high-speed ferries run several times a day from Ocean Street Dock in Hyannis, a 30-minute drive from Chatham — park at the dock's lot for the day. No car-reservation headaches; this is the easiest way onto the Vineyard for an overnight.

Hy-Line Cruises · <https://www.hylinecruises.com>

Oak Bluffs Gingerbread Cottages & Flying Horses Carousel

Free to walk · \$3/carousel ride

More than 300 candy-colored Victorian cottages, some barely bigger than a garden shed, packed onto a few blocks around the Methodist Campground. The Flying Horses Carousel next door has been hand-carved and spinning since 1876 — America's oldest platform carousel still running.

Check-In: Harbor View Hotel

1 night · from \$459/night

A grand 1891 waterfront hotel facing Edgartown Lighthouse across the harbor, with a wraparound porch built for watching the sunset with a drink in hand. It's a short trolley or taxi ride from the Oak Bluffs ferry dock.

Harbor View Hotel · <https://www.harborviewhotel.com>

Dinner: The Port Hunter

~\$50/person · reservations recommended

A reclaimed-wood dining room a block off Edgartown's harbor, serving raw bar towers and a lobster roll that swaps mayo for drawn butter. Live music most nights keeps the bar loud and the dining room lively past 9pm.

The Port Hunter · <https://www.theporthunter.com>

A morning ferry back to the mainland, then the full length of Route 6 to Provincetown, the Cape's northern tip and its most eccentric town.

Ferry Back: Oak Bluffs to Hyannis

~1 hour · included in round-trip ticket

Catch a mid-morning departure to leave time for the drive north — the Vineyard's ferries run on the hour during summer, so there's no need to rush breakfast at the hotel.

Self-Drive: Hyannis to Provincetown

~1 hour · via Route 6

The highway narrows to two lanes past Wellfleet, with the Cape Cod National Seashore's dunes and pitch pine forest pressing in on both sides. Stop at the Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham for a proper look at the seashore before Provincetown.

Race Point Beach & Cape Cod National Seashore

\$25/day parking

A wide, wild Atlantic beach at the very tip of the Cape, backed by grass-covered dunes and known for regular seal and whale sightings just offshore. It's the least crowded of the National Seashore beaches and worth the detour even for twenty minutes.

Cape Cod National Seashore · <https://www.nps.gov/caco>

Pilgrim Monument & Land's End

~1 hour · \$18 adult monument entry

A 252-foot granite tower climbing over Provincetown's rooftops, with a 360-degree view stretching from Long Point Light to the dunes of Truro on a clear day. Finish with a walk out toward Land's End at the harbor's edge before the drive home.

Pilgrim Monument & Provincetown Museum · <https://www.pilgrim-monument.org>