

# New England Travel

CAPE COD



Woods Hole Inn



Pie in the Sky



A bite at Quicks Hole Tavern



Quicks Hole Tavern

FALMOUTH

## Well-kept Woods Hole

By Jaci Conry  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

As a destination, Woods Hole somehow slips under the radar. An utterly majestic locale, the tiny haven lies at the extreme Southwest corner of Cape Cod and encompasses just over 2 square miles.

One of Falmouth's eight villages, Woods Hole, the terminus for the Steamship Authority's ferry service to Martha's Vineyard, is typically viewed as a stopover. In the summer, the tiny village swells with travelers loaded up with gear en route to the island. While they might grab a quick lunch or an ice cream cone before they head to the ferry staging area, few take the time to pause and absorb the authenticity of the enclave.

Woods Hole was a whaling port in the early 1800s. In 1859, the village became home to the Pacific Guano Company, which produced fertilizer from guano imported from the islands of the Pacific Ocean. After the firm went bankrupt on the verge of the 20th century, the peninsula on which the factory was located was transformed into Penzance Point, where sprawling summer estates were developed for wealthy Bostonians and New Yorkers.

It can be said that Woods Hole is shrouded

in time. Today, Water Street, the main drag, is lined with 19th- and early-20th-century weathered shingle-clad structures that peer out at the small enclosed harbor, Eel Pond, where the array of vessels is dominated by time-worn skiffs and cherished sailboats. The gateway to the open water is via a drawbridge that causes pedestrians and cars to halt when it goes up every 30 minutes, which forces the pace to be constantly slow. You simply cannot be in a hurry in this place, and that's part of its charm.

The pristine nature of the setting evokes serenity. The scent of the ocean is ever present, the sounds of sea birds mingle with the melodies of guitarists who often strum on the steps of Community Hall.

Locals have worked hard to protect Woods Hole's bucolic appeal. In the 1990s, when a McDonald's nearly opened across from the Steamship Authority, villagers were incensed and a strong movement rallied to block the fast-food chain. "Keep Woods Hole Franchise Free" was the theme of the annual Fourth of July parade that year. Needless to say, McDonald's never made it to Woods Hole.

In the 1990s, I spent summers in my teens and early 20s in Woods Hole. I held every job imaginable, slowly moving up the ranks from "salad girl" to the coveted positions of a Saturday night waitress at the venerable **Landfall** (9 Luscombe Ave., [www.landfallwoodshole.com](http://www.landfallwoodshole.com)), a waterfront restaurant that's been in the same family since opening in 1946. Crafted of wood salvaged from ship wrecks and windows rescued before local

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HYANNIS

## Waves of fun at the Cape Codder

By Linda Clarke  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

HYANNIS — It is the weekend before the big July Fourth holiday jamboree and guests at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa in Hyannis are already making like the party is on: messing around in the wave pool with the kids (or without), drinking and eating on the outdoor deck, or just sitting on the adjacent shubbery-edged lawn and listening to a local band play hazy, lazy Eagles covers.

Just feet away from this slice of idyllic Cape Cod summer life, tucked away behind recently built walls, workmen are busy in relative secret, laboring away on what will be the Codder's Indoor Water Park. The infrastructure is all there: a lighthouse in miniature takes center stage, a whale awaits a coat of paint, a ship peeps out from under some tarps, and two big body slide tubes snake through, around, and over these maritime icons. It was so close to being completed before the Fourth, but makes its debut this month with plenty of summer vacation time left.

The Indoor Water Park extends the Codder's much-loved wave pool, which was built in 2000, shortly after Catania Hospitality bought the property, which was formerly a Sheraton Four Points hotel. The wave pool's 2-foot waves, 50- and 80-foot water slides, and 24-person whirlpool are now joined by two 160-foot slides, and an extra 20,000 square feet for a total of 30,000 square feet of splashing fun.

"There are a lot of water parks and they keep getting bigger and bigger," says Bill Catania, president of Catania Hospitality Group. "At 10,000 square feet, the wave pool was pretty small in comparison. It limited

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A nautical-themed room at the Cape Codder.

DENNIS

## Summer theater enjoys spotlight

By Ellen Albanese  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

DENNIS — The pine-paneled lobby of the picturesque Cape Playhouse is filled with old photographs and mementos of theater days gone by — Henry and Jane Fonda perched on a fence on the grounds, flashy cars from the early '60s parked on the lawn, Shirley Booth's 1953 Oscar. One of the first summer theaters on Cape Cod, the playhouse is marking its 90th anniversary season.

Theater has a long and proud history on Cape Cod. It has been 100 years since the Provincetown Players staged the first production of a Eugene O'Neill play, an event widely considered the birth of modern American theater, notes David Kaplan, executive director of the Cape Cod Theater Coalition. While many of the coalition's 26 member theaters offer year-round programming, there's a definite burst of theatrical energy in

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Outdoor stage of Cape Rep Theatre in Brewster.

# Take it slow in Woods Hole

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buildings were razed, with buoys and other nautical treasures strung from the ceiling, both the dining room and the classic seafood menu have been relatively unchanged for decades, which has earned the place a loyal clientele. After dinner, the restaurant has a laid-back bar scene where patrons gather around the fire-pit on the back patio; there's also a small deck in the front of the restaurant where you can dangle your feet in the ocean while sipping a cocktail.

Woods Hole is a prime spot for oceanic research and is home to several famous marine science institutions including the Marine Biological Laboratory, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and the **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution** — the largest such research institution in the country. Collectively, these institutions occupy about 170 buildings in town. WHOI (15 School St., www.whoi.edu) has an exhibit center open to the public where visitors may learn about the institution's research, vessels, and tools. Most compelling is the story behind the discovery of the wreck of the famed Titanic, by WHOI scientists in the 1980s. During the summer, volunteers guide visitors on walking tours through the institu-



JACI CONRY FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Above: Boats, docked and anchored at Woods Hole. Right: One of the 14 rooms in the Woods Hole Inn.

tion's dock area and other restricted facilities.

With a population of less than 1,000 residents, for decades, Woods Hole was largely the domain of commercial fishermen and scientists. But in recent years, it's also morphed into a burgeoning locale that offers travelers much to enjoy.

The dining scene, in particular, has considerably evolved. Most notable is **Quicks Hole Tavern** (29 Railroad Ave., www.quicksholewickedfresh.com), located in the ample shingle-clad structure directly across from the ferry that once housed the notorious Leaside — a 50-year-old water-



ing hole that had seen better days. When it opened two years ago, the tavern brought a much needed infusion of contemporary fare to the area. With emphasis on fresh ingredients, small plates are complemented by entrees featuring innovative twists: corn nut crusted sea scallops with summer vegetable succotash; filet mignon and

tempura fried lobster. To start, the pig candy: crispy pork belly with peach habanero glaze is a must and all meals should end with a bag of the restaurant's signature doughnuts.

A few doors down, **Quicks Hole Taqueria** (6 Luscombe Ave., www.quicksholewickedfresh.com) is more casual with counter service. The menu is a

# Resort is set to make an even bigger splash

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us in that market. You have to keep up with the times," he said of the decision to expand.

Separated by an existing wall, the wave pool, which remained open during construction, is united with the new space by ground level entrances and, cleverly, via the wave pool's ship's hull, which was extended into a whole ship that sits between the two areas.

The water park adds a new café, the two-tier Gazebo, serving snacks and beverages, including a full bar. There's also a separate water play area for toddlers and younger children, complete with a smaller slide, a mini pirate ship with water canons, and a dumping bucket.

"It's fenced in for safety. It's a mini-park within the water park," adds Catania.

Accessed by steps inside the lighthouse, the thrill ride through water slides is a focus for bigger folks. For a more chill ride, however, there's the option of grabbing a tube and floating through the park on the 300-foot-long Lazy River, passing waterfalls and around the ship. Chill, that is, until automated special effects turn the river stormy.

"You'll be floating around and then thunder and lightning starts, and it rains. The Lazy River turns into an action ride," Catania says. "The humpback whale also spouts water every once in a while. And at night, LED lighting transforms the



CAPE CODDER

place. It looks really cool."

But Catania went beyond the fun factor in creating the new water park: In addition to filtration and chlorine, it has the same high intensity ultraviolet light system used in the indoor wave pool and Rainbow Falls heated outdoor pool. Though not required by state or

local laws, the system is an added tool to destroy bacteria and bugs in the water.

The water park, which replaces a volleyball court and a grassy play area, has a retractable, clear roof, which makes the park weatherproof and therefore year-round, a very important factor in attracting off-

**Cape Codder's new Indoor Water Park will feature a retractable roof.**

season visitors. "In the cold months, it will be a great addition, especially for people who don't have the time or don't want the expense of going somewhere hot in the winter. In summer, it's outdoors; in winter, it's indoor."

Hotel guests have unlimited free entry to the water park, of course, but a limited amount of day passes are for sale, allowing non-hotel guests to use the park, too. For safety, guests must be at least 42 inches tall to use the slides.

In addition to the water park, which broke ground last November, the Cape Codder underwent considerable interior renovations over the winter. Some rooms adjacent to the water park were converted into

**Flying Pig Pottery** (410 Woods Hole Road, www.flyingpigpottery.biz) showcases her platters, bowls, and vessels adorned with whimsical mermaids, whales, fish, and turtles.

If you have kids in tow, no trip is complete without a stop at the **Woods Hole Science Aquarium** (166 Water St., aquarium.nefsc.noaa.gov). Seals live in a pool out front and visitors are welcome to stop by daily at 11 a.m. for feeding time. A tour won't take long and it's free. The main level of the nation's oldest marine aquarium has exhibits about sea creatures, marine environments, and endangered species; upstairs there are touch tanks with lobsters, various crabs, sea stars, and quahogs.

If you're planning to spend a night or two in the village, the **Woods Hole Inn** (28 Water St., www.woodsholeinn.com) offers 14 guest rooms and suites in a renovated 19th-century building. Rooms are luxuriously modern and bathrooms are fitted with marble and glass rain showers. Antique architectural details include thick moldings and wide plank wood floors. A private chef comes in daily to prepare breakfast; offerings might include quiche, fresh baked croissants, and savory bread pudding.

You can still plan your trip in time for the annual **Woods Hole Film Festival** (woods holefilmfestival.org), which runs July 30-Aug. 6. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the event, which showcases independent films by emerging filmmakers from all over the world with screenings, workshops, panel discussions, and staged readings.

Jaci Conry can be reached at [jaci@jaciconry.com](mailto:jaci@jaciconry.com).

larger family suites with a kitchenette. One surprise feature in the room is the beautiful aqua blue table, which turns into the cutest Murphy bed: "We wanted an area for dining and playing, but also with the additional bed, the room has the ability to take families of different sizes. It can comfortably sleep six, and we can add a cot."

Draw back the curtains and the room's windows overlook the water park. "It's right there," says Catania. "People can just jump right in — almost."

**CAPE CODDER RESORT AND SPA** Summer rates from \$359, winter from \$169. Water Park: 9 a.m.-9 p.m., daily. Day passes: \$40, \$30 for children under slide height. 1225 Iyannough Road, Hyannis. 866-976-8454. [www.capecodderresort.com](http://www.capecodderresort.com)

Linda Clarke can be reached at [soundz@me.com](mailto:soundz@me.com).

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## Drink in summer scene at Ocean Edge Beach Bar

By **Anthony Flint**  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

**BREWSTER** — When Ocean Edge Resort announced the opening of "the only true hotel beach bar on Cape Cod," our first reaction was that this was an assertion that needed to be thoroughly researched.

Time constraints limited a physical inspection of all possible configurations, but it appears the Beach Bar is indeed a pioneering effort. The 32-seat canopied structure on stilts is right at the dunes doorstep of Bay Pines Beach, overlooking the sea of royal-blue resort-issue umbrellas, and the expanse of the Brewster Flats.

The Beach Bar opened on the Saturday of the July Fourth holiday weekend, instantly populated by both bare-chested bros and families with toddlers in strollers. A young woman regaled friends with a video from her wedding, while two gentlemen discussed a recently completed round of golf. By Monday, there may have been the greatest spike in selfies per capita, this side of Nauset Light.

Bartenders in bright yellow polo shirts played the role of Tom Cruise in "Cocktail," mixing regionally inspired hand-crafted cocktails such as Cape

Cod Cranberry Mojito (cranberry flavored vodka, muddled mint, simple syrup, berries) and the Beach Front Smash (Belvedere Citrus, pineapple, strawberries, lemon juice), along with margaritas made with Patron and a Negroni mixed with Tanqueray.

The draft beer selection, served in 20-ounce plastic cups, is exclusively regional, with Shipyard Summer Ale and Sea Dog Blueberry from Maine, and Harpoon IPA, Harpoon UFO, Jack's Abbey Lager, and Bayzo's Brew from Massachusetts.

For the peckish beachcomber, a succinct menu of chips and salsa, shrimp cocktail, hummus, an all-beef hot dog, chicken Caesar salad, and lobster roll sliders is available. The bar is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week, exclusively for guests of the resort, which recently completed a \$10 million luxury renovation in its 90 guest rooms plus the addition of the Presidential Bay Collection, the accommodations with the closest proximity to the water.

Guests can make themselves comfortable at the bar, or bring their orders to the beach to enjoy in the sun and sand.

The scene is more Yankee  
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