Nantucket Beach Map 2020 | Rules & Regulations

Town of Nantucket
16 Broad Street, Nantucket, MA 02554 (508) 228–7255

Rules and Regulations

Our beaches are a fragile environment to be used with respect!

Please carefully read these regulations governing the use of a motor vehicle on Nantucket beaches. All drivers of motor vehicles issued a beach permit are responsible for understanding and abiding by these rules. **Failure to comply with any of these regulations may result in immediate revocation of the permit sticker and imposition of a fine up to $300.00.**

1. **Vehicles may access designated beach driving areas ONLY and must have a valid town issued beach permit sticker on the back and front bumpers of the vehicle.** The permit is **only** valid for the vehicle bearing the license plate number indicated on the permit sticker and is not transferable to another person or vehicle. This brochure must be in the vehicle when on the beach.
2. **All vehicles must be four-wheel drive, properly registered, and operated by a licensed driver.**
3. **Access the beach at designated points of entry ONLY.** Over the past few years many unauthorized vehicle pathways have been created over the dunes. These paths are increasing in number each year, damaging Nantucket's Barrier Dune system. The map on the reverse side shows the authorized access points clearly, and they are marked at the beach with clear signage. **Vehicles must enter the beach only at these marked access points.** Your compliance in using only these designated access points is of crucial importance in assuring that damaged dunes rebuild as well as in protecting the privilege of continued vehicle access to the beach.
4. **Do not drive on dunes, beach grass, Tidal flats, Marshes, or in designated bird nesting areas.** Destruction of the dunes leads to erosion of the entire beach. Beach dunes offer the first line of defense against wave action. If dunes are destroyed or breached, then what lies behind them becomes vulnerable to the elements.
5. **Pedestrians have the right-of-way.** Please be courteous to people sitting or walking on the beach.
6. **Do not exceed 20 MPH at any time and 5 MPH within 100 yards of a pedestrian.** Vehicles with the water at their right always have the right of way.
7. **Each vehicle shall be equipped with a shovel, jack and jack board, spare tire, and a tire pressure gauge.** Other recommended equipment: tow rope, porta-potty, fire extinguisher, cell phone, and trash bags. **Before going onto the beach, all drivers must air down vehicle tires to 12 to 15 p.s.i.** Driving is easier and chances of getting stuck in the sand are reduced. Stay in established tracks. Only standard road tire tread is allowed. A full size spare is mandatory.
8. **Ruts or holes caused by digging out stuck vehicles must be filled in and all debris removed.** The same applies to holes dug by beachgoers.
9. **Vehicles must not drive or park on or in dunes or anywhere they might interfere with the flow of traffic. Observe color-coded boundary markers at dune line.**
10. **Fires on any beach are prohibited without a permit**. Permits and the rules and regulations pertaining to fires on the beach can be obtained at the Nantucket Fire Department. **There shall be no bonfires or wood fires of any type anywhere on the island.** Permits are for charcoal grills or gas grills only.
11. **Gatherings of 15 or more unrelated persons, any commercial activity on any beach including nighttime activity requires a permit that can be obtained from the Board of Selectmen's Office.**
12. **Dogs are not permitted on beaches where lifeguards or endangered species habitat are present. Dogs must be leashed on all beaches at all times.** Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.
13. **Permits expire on December 31st regardless of date issued.**
14. **Beach access may be limited due to shore line erosion, bird nesting, private posting, overcrowding, and seasonal conditions. Kites are prohibited near nesting areas and in the immediate vicinity of the airport.**
15. **Carry out what you carry in–don't leave trash on the beach.** Please take trash bags with you to the beach.
16. **The use of the beach or the dunes as a toilet will not be tolerated. Only public beaches at Surfside, Jetties, Dionis, and Children's Beach have sanitary facilities. Please take this into account when planning your outing.** We recommend the use of a porta-potty.
17. **Do not drive or park on life-guarded beaches between the hours of 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
18. **Beaches are closed to vehicles except for active fishing between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.**
19. **MOST beaches on Nantucket are privately owned.** Although most owners have been very generous in allowing the public to use their beaches, your cooperation and respect for private property rights is crucial to keeping all of Nantucket's beaches open to the public.
20. **Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis**, make sure you set up in a way that allows for at least 6' of seperation between your group and the next group.

Thank you in advance

Environmental Statement

Nantucket's beaches are a treasure for residents and visitors alike to enjoy. Beach vehicle drivers must help ensure that Nantucket's fragile ecosystem remains healthy and strong by following the rules and regulations in this brochure. Your cooperation in protecting this resource is required for continued vehicle access.

Private Property

Please be aware that "private tidelands" is generally defined as that portion of the beach between historic high and historic low water and is usually private property, but may be used by the public for the purposes of navigation, fishing and fowling and of passing over and through the water.

This brochure must be in the vehicle when on the beach and permit must be visibly posted.

Beach Driving Don'ts

Don't drive or park on the dunes or beach grass.

Don't park below the high water mark.

Don't make new access points.

Fee Schedule

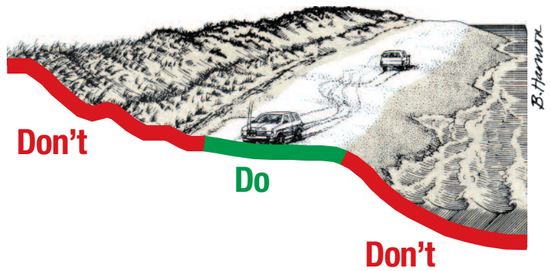
Vehicles Registered On-island	**$50.00** *(between Jan 1–Dec 31)*
Vehicles Registered Off-Island	**$100.00** *(between Jan 1–June 30)*
	$150.00 *(between July 1–Sept. 30)*
	$100.00 *(between Oct 1–Dec. 31)*

Important Phone Numbers & Web Addresses

Nantucket Police & Fire Department *(emergency)*	**911**
Nantucket Police Department *(non emergency)*	**(508) 228–1212**
Nantucket Fire Department *(non emergency)*	**(508) 228–2324**
Beach Hotline/ Marine Dept	**(508) 228–7261**
Natural Resources Department	**(508) 228–7230**
Coast Guard	**(508) 228–0388**
Environmental Police	**(800) 632–8075**
Marine Mammal Stranding Team *(via Police)*	**(508) 228–1212**

For online beach information visit:
www.nantucket-ma.gov

Where to Drive on the Beach



PLEASE RESPECT OUR FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT.

Nantucket Beach Map 2020

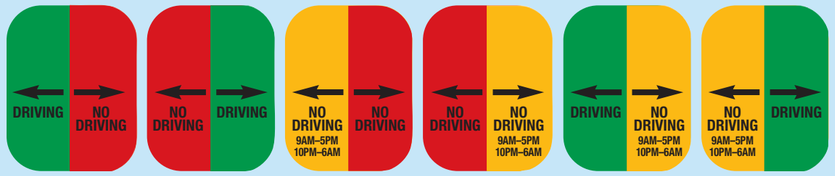
Most beaches are private, please be respectful towards these properties and the rights of private property owners who have generously allowed public access.

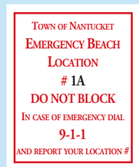
Key

Beach Driving Permitted only as shown on this map

- Beach driving **permitted 6 a.m.–10 p.m.** unless otherwise posted
- Beach driving **prohibited** 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and 10 p.m.–6 a.m., 6/1–9/15 unless otherwise posted
- Beach driving **prohibited** at any time year-round
- Beach driving **prohibited** 6/1–9/15 unless otherwise posted
  Most of the south and east shore is badly eroded and impassable year round
  - Active surf fishermen are permitted to drive on all green and yellow beaches from 10 p.m.–6 a.m. unless otherwise posted.
- Off-Beach Parking Available
- Vehicle Access Point
  Access may be limited on all beaches, check area postings
- Restrooms
- Lifeguard on duty 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Seasonally
- #1A Emergency Location Signs indicate beach location in case of emergency. They are not to be confused with Beach Access Signs.

Beach Driving Signs: Please note the posted signs delineating the driving areas and emergency location #s.

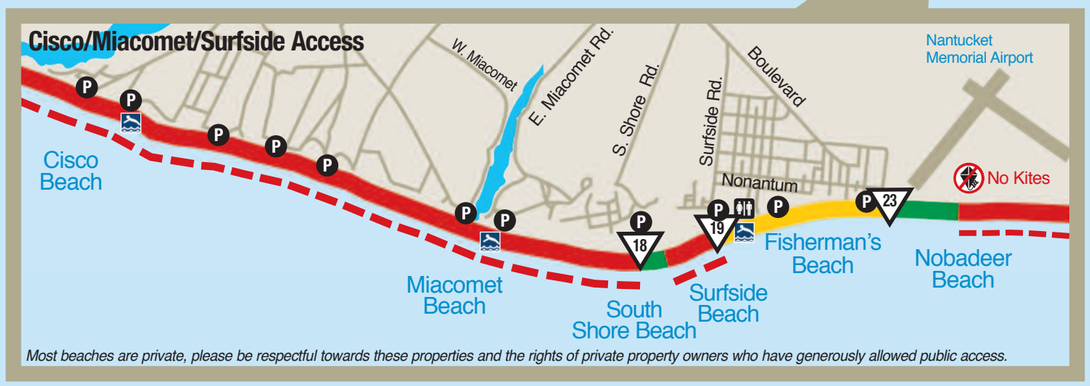




Emergency Location Signs: Indicate your location on the beach

Great Point & Coatue Wildlife Refuges
Vehicle access by separate permit issued at Wauwinet Gate House ***only.***
Access not controlled by the Town of Nantucket.

Gate House
Wauwinet
Quidnet
Coatue
Pocomo Rd.
Wauwinet Rd.
Squam Rd.
Quidnet Rd.
Jetties Beach
Dionis Beach
40th Pole
Eel Point
Esther's Island
Eel Point Rd.
Washing Pond Rd.
Cliff Road
Madaket Rd.
Madaket Road
Town
Children's Beach
Monomoy Rd.
Polpis Road
Rotary
Madaket Beach
Barrett Farm Rd.
Red Barn Rd.
Hummock Pond Rd.
Hooper Farm Rd.
Fairgrounds Rd.
Old South Rd.
New South Rd.
Milestone Road
Russell's Way
Tom Nevers Road
'Sconset Beach
W. Miacomet
E. Miacomet Rd.
S. Shore Rd.
Surfside Rd.
Boulevard
Macy Ln.
Nantucket Memorial Airport
No Kites
Low Beach
Cisco Beach
Miacomet Beach
South Shore Beach
Surfside Beach
Fishermen's Beach
Nobadeer Beach



LOW & SLOW
TIRE PRESSURE **SPEED**
It's the only way to go!

Produced by BMAC.

Please read all rules and regulations on back of map.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT.