



Great Point Lighthouse

**Some Places to go
for Ecological Exploration/ Birding
on Nantucket**

**Courtesy of
Nantucket Visitor Services
25 Federal Street
Nantucket, MA 02554**

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Some Places to go for Ecological Exploration on Nantucket

Town

1) The Lily Pond

Bounded by Lily, North Liberty and West Chester Streets, the Lily Pond has 5.7 acres of boardwalks and trails that allow you to view cattails, other forms of flora and fauna and many birds. It is an oasis in the middle of a busy town. The main entrance is located near 17 North Liberty Street.

2) Coffin Park

Recently built along Cliff Road, Coffin Park has a boardwalk that takes you into a dense jungle of shrubs, hedges and magnificent flowers, all of which are indigenous to Nantucket. Entrance is just before 50 Cliff Road.

3) Bird Sanctuary

For more than 30 years, this little park has become almost lost and forgotten among the development along North Beach Street. The entrance is just beyond the Stone Barn. A long narrow path opens up into a ¼ acre field that is home to many birds. If you are lucky, you might here the squawk of a Ring Necked Pheasant.

4) The Creeks

Located at the end of Washington Street extension, one can access the creeks by a narrow beach that leads to a wider sandy area. To the right and at the end is a Saltmarsh bisected with many creeks small and large. At far end of the sandy spit, one can see much of the harbor, Town and Monomoy. At low tide, it is possible to cross over to the beaches of Monomoy. In addition to seagulls, one can spot ducks, egrets and herons. Be careful as a fiddler crab could pop out of its hole and scurry past you.

Out of Town

5) Mizzenmast Walking Trail - End of Mizzenmast Lane

Located at the end of Mizzenmast lane, this 2 mile trail takes you along a path that passes on the west side of Miacomet Pond. Half way out, the path merges with West Miacomet Road. Both trail and road end at the ocean and Miacomet beach.

6) Tupency Links - Cliff Road

This former golf course is a favorite place to walk the dog or fly a kite. Look for the grey water tower. To get there, drive out Cliff Road, just before the tower you will see the open space. At the far end is a parking lot bounded by a split rail fence and a turnstile to let you onto the fields.

7) Sanford Farm/ Ram Pasture - Madaket Road

Acres upon acres of walking trails. one can walk 3 miles to the ocean or just walk a shorter 1 mile loop. Hummock Pond runs along the east side. Markers scattered thru the area point our geological and other scientific information. There are Osprey nests and many other places to spot birds. To get there, drive out Madaket Road, just before the Cliff Road/ Eel Point Road intersections is a small parking lot on the south side of Madaket Road. It is bounded by a split rail fence and a turnstile to let you into the area.

If the parking lot is full, there is a smaller lot further west on Madaket Road opposite the entrance to Swift Rock Road.

8) Altar Rock and the Moors - Access from Polpis Road across from Quaise Road entrance. After an 1/8th mile, if you see a strange looking building on a hill straight ahead, you are on the right path. That building is a radio beacon for the airport. Continue on the dirt road. Just before the beacon, turn left and go up a hill. Be careful as you can drive right past Altar Rock. It is small and located on the SW side of the hill. Here you can see all across the island; Town, the Airport, Sconset and Great Point, among others.

You are 108 feet above sea level. It is the second highest point. Folger Hill nearby to the East is higher at 109 feet.

One can travel around the many dirt roads and visit places including Gibbs Pond which feeds the Milestone Cranberry Bog to the southwest.

9) Coatue, Coskata and Great Point - Wauwinet

Located on the northeast side of the island, this sandy barrier is accessible only by boat or 4-wheel drive. If you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle, you must purchase an Over Sand Permit at the Wauwinet Gate House at the end of the paved part of the road. Coatue, Coskata and Great Point are great places to view indigenous flora and fauna as well as many species of birds.

From Mid-May to mid-October, the Trustees of Reservation which manages the region for the Conservation Foundation, the US Coast Guard, among others, offers a 3.5 hour guided tour. This is the only way one can go inside the lighthouse at Great Point.

10 Sconset Bluff Walk/ Sankaty Light - 'Sconset

Beginning at the north end of Front Street in Sconset center, the 1½ mile Bluff Walk wends its way north towards Sankaty Head Light. The path is a public way even though you are walking through many back yards. The beach and the Atlantic Ocean are to your right. Please note that unless otherwise posted, most stairways down to the beach are private. The Bluff Walk used to go all the way to the lighthouse, but due to erosion over that last 20 years, the northern terminus now ends roughly 1/2 of a mile short of the red and white striped beacon at 65-67 Baxter Road. Once on Baxter Road continue north to the lighthouse. *(Be sure to also download the 'Sconset Map)*