



A Day on Nantucket

In Season - Option 1

updated 7/26/23

Get some coffee or tea to begin your day.

Nantucket has some great coffee shops. Pick up a newspaper or magazine with your coffee from **The Hub**, **The Handlebar Café** on the Washington Street curve, the tiny **Island Coffee** stand near the Steamship ferry dock or **The Corner Table** just across the street from the Visitor Center on Federal Street, any of these locations have a variety of selections.

Take a driving tour of the island. (1 hour, 15 minutes to 1:45 in length)

Nantucket has several individuals and companies that offer guided driving tours. These tours will take you through the main town and then out to the east side of the island. Highlights usually include development of the Town, Upper Main Street whaling captain's mansions, the old mill, oldest house, the cranberry bogs, 'Sconset village and Sankaty Head lighthouse. We strongly suggest that you call the tours well in advance of your arrival as they are often are sold out the day you would like to take a tour. Tour departure times vary through the day. We suggest taking an early tour so that you have enough time to explore the island. If you can't take a tour in the morning, there are departure options at different times in the afternoon.

Barrett's Tours	508-228-0174
Gail's Tours	508-257-6557
Nantucket Island Tours	508-228-0334
Tony's Tours	508-680-6671
Val's Tours	508-221-7640

After you have finished the tour, you may want to go back and explore some of the places you saw. Nantucket has an extensive public bus system. You can [Ride the Wave](#) back to 'Sconset or explore the mid-island area.

The Westender Tour offered by Nantucket Island Tours. For \$71, this 2.5 hour tour Monday thru Friday will take you to Madaket and stop at Cisco Brewers and Bartlett Farm.

If you can't get enough of Madaket on the Westender Tour or don't want to spend the money, hop on the NRTA Wave bus to Madaket. The bus departs from in front of the Whaling Museum every 30 minutes at the top and bottom of the hour in season. The fare is \$3 each way.

The NRTA Wave bus is a great way to see the island, however, drivers do not point anything out. There is an audio/visual system on each bus that will indicate if there is a historic site/ museum near the stop that is coming up.

Hungry for lunch? (1 hour)

If you in are between tours, museums or bus ride, have a sit-down lunch at one of these nearby locations:

The Brotherhood	23 Broad Street
The Tap Room	29 Broad Street

The Rose and Crown	23 South Water Street
Charlie Noble	15 South Water Street
Or, the Whale	38 Main Street
The Tavern	Harbor Square

In a hurry? The “Broad Street Strip” a collection of take out spots just up from the Steamship ferry dock offers pizza, subs, tacos, burgers and other food to go.

Island History (1 to 3.5 hours)

Before you board the bus to Madaket, you might want to consider visiting the **Whaling Museum** on Broad Street. Overseen by the [Nantucket Historical Association](#), this museum is not just about whaling, but of the history of the island from its geological origins, the native populations, the English colonization, the rise and fall of the whaling industry and ultimately the tourism boom that continues today. Plan on at least 1 to 2 hours to view the collections, visit the roof deck and listen to a gam.

Admission is **\$25** and includes entry to the Hadwen House located at 96 Main Street, Other historic properties including the Oldest House, The Old Mill will be open on a rotating basis during the 2023 summer season.

Guided Walking Tours (1-2.5 hours)

Another way to explore and learn about the Town and Island of Nantucket is to take a guided walking tour. The **NHA has 2 walking tours a day** (late May to mid-October). Departing at 10:30am and again at 1:30pm, this 60 minute long guided walk tells of the development of the town and the whaling era as well as touch on the buildings including renowned Atheneum (Library) which was the first public building erected after the Great Fire of 1846.

Besides the NHA Walking Tour, there are other walking tours offered by private individuals.

Nantucket Walking Tours offered by Bill Jameson has been in operation since 1998. Jameson offers different tour themes throughout the day culminating with the famous **Ghost Walk** in the evening at 8:00pm at the steps of the Pacific National Bank. For more information and tour times, please call Bill at 774-325-8972.

Peter Brace offers **Nantucket Walkabout** guided wilderness adventures and are 2 hour “hikes” focusing on the natural history of the island including its geologic formation. Tours and locations vary by day. Please call 508-422-7466 or go online to <http://walknantucket.com/hike-calendar/> for hike locations and make reservations.

Nantucket Preservation Trust has 3 different walking tours.

Tuesdays @ 3pm - Main Street Walking Tour

NPT’s classic tour provides an overview of Nantucket in its heyday and focuses on the portion of Main Street between the Pacific National Bank and the Civil War Monument. Learn about the street’s development and the area’s early residents and architectural styles, as well as how the houses have come to symbolize the island’s whaling era. Participants in the 75 minute tour will receive a copy of the NPT’s highly acclaimed history, *A Walk Down Main Street*. Tours meet at 11 Centre Street.

Thursdays @ 3pm - ‘Sconset Walking Tour

Join NPT Executive Director Mary Bergman, who shares her knowledge of this unique fishing settlement at the eastern edge of the island. The 75 minute tour focuses on the early “whalehouses” as well as the village’s boom as a seaside resort and actors colony at the end of the 1800s. Tours meet at [1 New Street, ‘Sconset](#).

Due to NPT special events, there will be no tours on August 10, or September 28.

1st and 3rd Thursdays of Month @ 2pm - Codfish Park Walking Tour

Join NPT Executive Director Mary Bergman for a 45-minute stroll through Codfish Park, an important 'Sconset neighborhood where little houses tell big stories. Learn about the evolution of Codfish Park and its important role in Nantucket's Black history and labor history. Tours meet at 1 New Street, 'Sconset. Tours meet at 1 New Street, 'Sconset.

An Amazing Photographic Location (1 hour)

Before you head back to the ferry, be sure to walk to the **Brant Point Lighthouse** at the end of Easton Street. The walk should take no more than 10-15 minutes from downtown. From Broad Street by the Whaling Museum Gift Shop, head North on South Beach Street. At the 4 way stop sign, turn right on **Easton Street**. When you get to a small rotary bounded by a split rail fence, continue down what looks like a dead-end street. You will pass US Coast Guard Station Brant Point on your right. At the end of the street, you will step onto sand and the lighthouse is in front of you. This small lighthouse stands guard at the entrance of **Nantucket Harbor**. You may have seen it as you arrived in the morning. This lighthouse has a long cat-walk attached and is surrounded by a beach. Here, you can see all, types of boats coming and going. If you time it right, you might see not just one, but maybe 2 or 3 ferries arriving or departing at the same time. *Don't forget to throw 2 pennies overboard towards the lighthouse when you depart on the ferry. This will ensure that you will return to Nantucket again someday...* A Great View of the Harbor (1-2 hours)

If you are having a lazy afternoon and have visited the Brant Point Lighthouse, duck into the **Brant Point Grille** at the White Elephant Hotel located at 50 Easton Street. The BPG has mid/ late afternoon bites including Buck a Shuck specials at their raw bar and a great view of Nantucket Harbor.