



A Day on Nantucket

In Season

Option 5 (Southwest/ West)

Updated 7/1/21

This route may require a car or bike. Bike paths can take you part of the way. The NRTA Wave bus routes are limited in length with the exception of the Madaket bus.

Travel up Main Street past the stores and the Pacific National Bank at the head of the square. This is the residential part of Main Street. *Don't forget to pick up the self-guided "**Nantucket Historic Walking Tour**" from Visitor Services main office at 25 Federal Street or the Chamber of Commerce located on the 2nd floor of Zero Main Street. This guided walking tour should take about 45 minutes to complete. On the tour is the **Soldier and Sailors (Civil War) Monument**. This monument was built in 1874 to commemorate 73 Nantucketers who died in battle during the American Civil War (1861-65).*

Milk Street intersects on the left of the monument. Go along Milk Street and a block from the monument is the **Maria Mitchell Association** campus at the corner of **Vestal Street**. Maria Mitchell was born on Nantucket in 1818. In 1847 she discovered a comet on the roof of the Pacific National Bank located in the commercial section of Main Street. On the Vestal Street campus, you can visit, the Hinchman House which houses the science collection and library, an observatory and the house where Maria was born. (Maria is pronounced Mah'Ry'ah)

*Be sure to pick up the "**Walking in the Footsteps of Maria Mitchell Tour**" available at the Visitor Services office and at the Maria Mitchell office located at 4 Vestal Street. This tour includes other highlights and information about America's First Woman Astronomer.*

Continue along **Milk Street**. Just opposite the Prospect Hill Cemetery is the twin telescopes of the **Loines Observatory** owned and operated by the MMA. This active observatory is open in the evening 2 days a week in the summer and twice a month in winter.

Down the hill to the southwest, Milk Street merges with **Hummock Pond Road**. Continue southwest on Hummock Pond Road for about 2 miles. **Bartlett Farm Road** is on the left. Just about 500 feet in the grove of trees on the right is the **Cisco Brewery**. This popular location is home to a local beer brewery that also makes wines and spirits. Open daily from 11am-7pm (Sundays 12-6pm), Cisco Brewery hosts local bands playing music in the courtyard and local food trucks in case you get hungry. A complimentary shuttle van is available to take between the Visitor Center and the brewery daily in season (late May-mid-October) every 20 minutes between Noon and 6:30pm.

Bartlett Farm Road turns right and left again. Before the road turns to dirt to your right is **Bartlett Farm**. This farm has been in operation since the 1843. Stop in their marketplace to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers grown on the surrounding farmland. You can also find a deli that makes prepared foods including

sandwiches to go, pies and desserts. An ice cream stand is available outside during the summer season.

Just past Bartlett Farm the road becomes dirt. Continue straight along, go past the radio tower and you will end up at **Ladies Beach**. This beach is not lifeguarded but is popular with the locals and summer residents for its remoteness, dunes and the surf.

FYI: The radio tower is owned by the United States Coast Guard and extends Coast Guard Group Woods Hole's broadcast range out over the ocean.

Continuing along the dirt road towards the west will bring you to **Cisco Beach**. This beach is famed for surfing and the main section is lifeguarded in summer. Just beyond the end of the paved road is Hummock Pond.

There is no direct way to travel towards Madaket unless you walk the 3 miles along the beach. Otherwise you have to backtrack up Hummock Pond Road and Milk Street then take a left on Quaker Road.

At the far end of Quaker Road and the intersection of Upper Main Street and **Madaket Road** (Caton Circle), is the **Quaker Cemetery** located in the field beyond the split rail fence. Quakers disapproved in using gravestones, thus there are a handful of headstones but that does not represent the numbers of people buried here.

Madaket Road heads west about 6 miles towards the western end of the island. About 1.3 miles from Caton Circle and Quaker Road is the **Abiah Folger Franklin Memorial**. Erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1959 to commemorate Abiah Folger who was born on Nantucket in 1667. She married Josiah Franklin. Their eighth child born in Boston in 1706 was named Benjamin.

At the 2 mile mark, there is a parking lot on the left surrounded by a split rail fence. This is the entrance to the Nantucket Conservation Foundation's **Sanford Farm**. Ram Pasture and The Woods. Commonly referred to as Sanford Farm, it is 780 acres and Hummock Pond runs along the eastern boundary. You can walk 3 miles to the ocean (6 miles roundtrip). There is also 1.7 mile loop in case you don't want to venture to the water and back.

Further west on Madaket Road, the Town's Waste and Recycling facility (a/k/a **The Dump**) can be found. Also called the **Madaket Mall** for its Take it or Leave it section, this facility is one of the leaders in the state for recycling.

Just a 1/3 of a mile past the dump is **Long Pond**. Long Pond along with Hummock and Miacomet Ponds are examples of outwash ponds created by glacial runoff when the island was formed by retreating glaciers 12,000 years ago. Madaket Road bends left and goes over **Second Bridge** (The first bridge spans the main pond). This spot is great for catching fish and turtles. Second Bridge spans the **Madaket Ditch** running between the pond and Madaket Harbor. The small canal was originally dug around 1665 by early English settlers and Indians to catch fish.

Madaket Road ends in the section of Nantucket called **Madaket** along with the natural feature of **Madaket Harbor**. The harbor is bounded by **Smith's Point** to the southwest and Tuckernuck Island beyond and Eel Point to the north. **Tuckernuck** has houses but no electrical lines to power it. Some of the homes have generators. Most residents travel back and forth to Madaket by their own boats tying up at Jackson's Point, Barrett's Pier or the Madaket Marine boatyard

In 1659, a group of 12 men landed on the shore to begin settlement of the island. Nantucket island had been discovered in 1602 by Bartholomew Gosnold and

was purchased by Thomas Mayhew in 1641 who then sold part of his interest of the island to others in 1659. Mayhew had used the island to graze sheep from 1641 to 1659.

Near the end of the road is **Millie's Restaurant**. There is also a small general store on the property. The restaurant is open seasonally. The last stop of the NRTA Wave bus Madaket route is just outside the entrance to the parking lot.

Madaket Beach is at the end of the paved road. Smith's Point is just beyond Millie's Bridge on the right. The bridge and the restaurant are named for Mildred "Madaket Millie" Jewett (1907-1990) who lived in a small shack just to the right of the bridge that spans the south end of Hither Creek. She helped the Coast Guard with managing the creek and the surrounding harbor. She was also friends with Fred (Mr.) Rogers who owned a summer home called the Crooked House at the end of Massachusetts Avenue near the entrance to sandy part of Smith's Point.

Madaket Beach is a very popular location to watch the **Sunset**.