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# Northeastern GroupTour magazine

SUMMER 2012

A photograph of a man and a woman in a green canoe on a river. The woman is in the front, wearing a white shirt and a dark vest, holding a black paddle. The man is in the back, wearing a blue plaid shirt and a dark vest, holding a green and white paddle. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a river with green trees and a white fence.

Let the  
waters  
flow

North America's great  
rivers provide heart and  
backbone to adventures

Wet and wild (or mild)

River-based experiences add a splash

Ohio River

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St. Lawrence  
Seaway

---

Hudson River

# Tip of Cape Cod

Provincetown's pride embraces arts and culture

The first landing site of the Pilgrims, Provincetown is located at the outermost tip of Cape Cod.

Provincetown's reputation as the oldest art colony in the U.S. began when painter Charles Webster Hawthorne arrived in 1899. He founded the Cape Cod School of Art, where he taught painting for the following 30 summers.

The Provincetown Art Association and Museum houses one of the most important 20th-century American art collections.

Nearby Commercial Street is lined with privately-owned art galleries. Gallery strolls are held every Friday night during the summer, the open houses allowing enthusiasts to browse and meet artists and gallery owners.

The Pilgrim Monument commemorates the first landing of the Mayflower Pilgrims in 1620 in Provincetown Harbor where they wrote and signed the Mayflower Compact, the first written declaration of a democratic commonwealth.



A National Park Service ranger leads a group hike at Cape Cod National Seashore near Truro.

At 252 feet, 7½ inches tall, Pilgrim Monument is the tallest all-granite structure in the U.S. Its interior has recently been renovated.

Dolphin Fleet Whale Watching offers excursions to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and whale sightings.

Writer Henry David Thoreau heralded the natural beauty of the pristine shoreline

of the Outer Cape in the 1800s. The area became a nationally protected landmark in 1961 when President John F. Kennedy signed a bill authorizing the establishment of the Cape Cod National Seashore to "preserve the natural and historic values of a portion of Cape Cod for the inspiration and enjoyment of people all over the United States."

Cape Cod National Seashore provides 18 miles of sand that offers relaxing and scenic landscapes, gentle surf and the occasional whale sighting. Don't miss out on Provincetown's famous sunsets — one of the few places to see the sun setting over the Atlantic Ocean.

Provincetown's gay and lesbian presence began to flourish in the 1920s and 1930s, as artists, writers, playwrights, poets, novelists, journalists, socialists, radicals and dilettantes began to summer in the town.

Many gay and lesbian summer regulars became permanent residents, with the 1970s marking Provincetown's rise as a

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gay and lesbian center. With gay marriage legalized in Massachusetts in 2004, with Provincetown has become prime for wedding ceremonies for same-sex couples.

The 14th annual Provincetown International Film Festival is June 13 to 17, featuring a lineup of more than 50 films, documentaries and shorts.

From June 21 to 24 is Provincetown Portuguese Festival, which began in 1947 as the Blessing of the Fishing Fleet to pay homage to the town's patron St. Peter. The festival has expanded into a celebration of vibrant Portuguese heritage with traditional food, games, music, dance and art.

Provincetown Whale Week (July 23 to 28) features a build-your-own boat paddle race, arts and crafts, talks and sunset whale cruises. The event culminates with Party on the Pier, an evening of music and food on the MacMillan Pier.

The Family Equality Council sponsors picnics, clambakes, activities, unity and pride parades. Family Pride Week is July 28 to Aug. 4. Events are open to all families. The council celebrates diversity and promotes community building for same-sex parents raising children.

The eighth annual Provincetown Jazz Festival runs Aug. 11 and Aug. 13.

Provincetown Business Guild's Carnival Week is Aug. 12 to 18. This year's theme is Ptown, A Space Odyssey, with events including music, karaoke, drag king and queen competitions, Gay Pride Parade (Aug. 16), art exhibits and cruises.

The Great Provincetown Schooner Regatta is Sept. 1 to 8, with schooner races, art exhibitions, cookouts, films, tours, parties and award ceremonies during Harbor Week.

Provincetown Tourism Office  
(508) 487-7000  
[www.provincetowntourismoffice.org](http://www.provincetowntourismoffice.org)

Cape Cod National Seashore  
(508) 771-2144  
[www.nps.gov/caco/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/caco/index.htm)

Dolphin Fleet Whale Watching  
(800) 826-9300  
[www.whalewatch.com](http://www.whalewatch.com)

Pilgrim Monument  
and Provincetown Museum  
(508) 487-1310  
<http://pilgrim-monument.org>

Provincetown Art Association and Museum  
(508) 487-1750  
[www.paam.org](http://www.paam.org)



Carnival Week is Aug. 12 to 18 in Provincetown.

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