

Provincetown  
Business Guild

# PROVINCETOWN

The **LEBTO**+ Guide To Good Times



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2020



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# Welcome to PROVINCETOWN

## THE TRAVEL DESTINATION FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Is there such a thing as palpable queer energy? There is in Provincetown. You can feel it the moment the ferry docks at MacMillan Pier, when approaching the Ptown exits off Route 6, and strolling down the most fabulous main street in the world, Commercial Street. The vibrancy of this place is felt as soon as you check into one of the many LGBTQ+-owned and operated hotels, inns, or bed & breakfasts, while relaxing on one of Provincetown's extraordinary beaches or taking in a stunning sunset. Provincetown has been an LGBTQ+ safe haven and a welcoming community of tolerance, diversity, and creativity for over a century. This is just one reason why Provincetown is *THE* travel destination for the LGBTQ+ community. In Provincetown, visitors can be whoever they want to be, and this magical place offers the space to discover exactly what that means. The ethos of Ptown is built upon the freedom to walk down the street in speedos, six-inch heels, and a faux fur coat; thigh-high boots and a three-foot-tall purple wig, or your most comfortable onesie, only to be met with smiles, applause, and a healthy amount of passersby encouraging your self expression with exclamations of "YAAAASS!"

Whether it's your first visit or you've been coming to Provincetown for decades, on behalf of the hundreds of Provincetown Business Guild (PBG) members, we're thrilled you're here and promise you an unforgettable experience.

Provincetown has long been celebrated as one of the most vibrantly LGBTQ+ towns in the nation, measured not just in numbers but in spirit. But we cannot take this for granted. In a time of repeated attacks on our civil rights and our existence, it is more important than ever that our community and allies unite to protect our freedoms.

If you're visiting from a place where you do not feel safe, where anti-LGBTQ+ legislation is on the ballot, or your civil rights are being taken away, know that the community of Provincetown is wrapping its arms around you and that *you are not alone*. Let Ptown be that queer oasis in the desert, your escape from the barrage of frightening headlines and executive orders. We also hope our town inspires you to return home empowered to effect change in your own way. Let this visit be a catalyst for volunteering with a grassroots organization, getting involved in local advocacy, running for

office, supporting LGBTQ+ spaces, contributing to queer-led nonprofits, or showing up for events like Pride festivals, drag storytimes, or your local queer film festival.

A pioneer of the LGBTQ+ rights movement, Marsha P. Johnson, said, "No pride for some of us without liberation for all of us." Her words remain a rallying cry for inclusive activism in every corner of the country.

Thank you for visiting our very queer corner of the country. May that palpable queer energy invigorate you and be a balm for the present and the future.



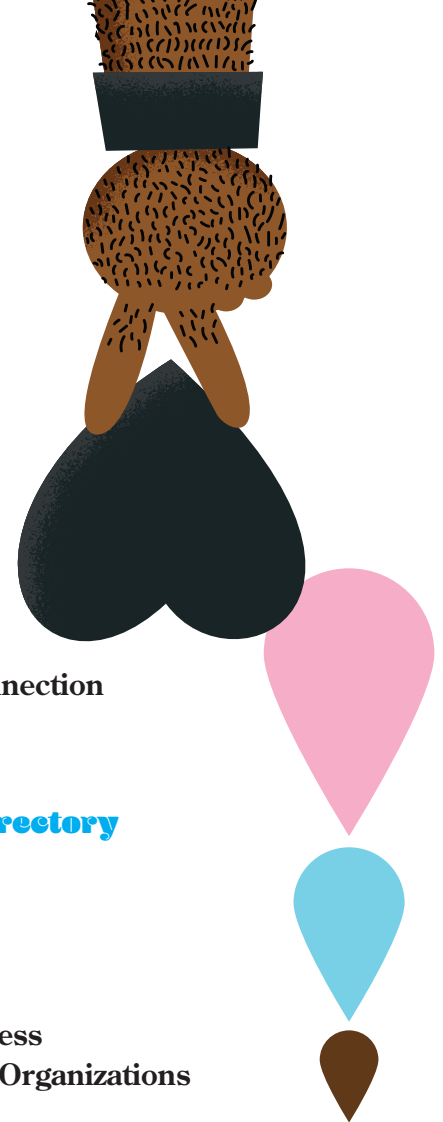
(L-R): Carmen da Silva, Rachael Brister, Mike Akerman

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# 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## April

18-20 | 420 WEEKEND

IG: @420honeyptown

21-27 | LESBIAN VISIBILITY WEEK

[lesbianvisibilityweekptown.com](http://lesbianvisibilityweekptown.com)

## May

8-11 | 1ST ANNUAL OUTSIDERS  
FESTIVAL

[campbprovincetown.com](http://campbprovincetown.com)

12-JUNE 14 | TWENTY SUMMERS

[20summers.org](http://20summers.org)

16 | FAST FERRY SERVICE BEGINS

[ptown.org/ferries](http://ptown.org/ferries)

16-18 | SINGLE WOMEN'S WEEKEND

[provincetownforwomen.com](http://provincetownforwomen.com)

17-18 | MONUMENTAL YARD SALE

[ptown.org](http://ptown.org)

22-26 | MEMDAY WEEKEND  
WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

[lesbiannightlife.com/memdayptown](http://lesbiannightlife.com/memdayptown)

## June

2-8 | PROVINCETOWN CABARETFEST  
- THE GOLDEN ERA OF NIGHT  
CLUBS

[provincetowncabaretfest.com](http://provincetowncabaretfest.com)

5-8 | WOMXN OF COLOR WEEKEND

[womenofcolorweekend.org](http://womenofcolorweekend.org)

## 6-8 | PRIDE WEEKEND

[ptown.org/pride](http://ptown.org/pride)

## 8 | FEET OVER FRONT STREET 5K RUN & WALK - PRIDE EDITION

[ptown.org](http://ptown.org)

11-15 | PROVINCETOWN  
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

[ptownfilm.org](http://ptownfilm.org)

18-23 | FROLIC - MEN OF  
COLOR WEEKEND

[wearefrolic.com](http://wearefrolic.com)

19-21 | JUNETEENTH - A COMMUNITY  
CELEBRATION AND COOKOUT

[juneteenthptown.com](http://juneteenthptown.com)

27-29 | PROVINCETOWN  
PORTUGUESE FESTIVAL

[provincetownportuguesefestival.com](http://provincetownportuguesefestival.com)

## July

JUNE 28-6 | REVOLUTION:  
INDEPENDENCE WEEK

[onlyatthecrown.com](http://onlyatthecrown.com)

4 | INDEPENDENCE DAY  
PARADE & FIREWORKS

[ptown.org](http://ptown.org)

5-11 | PROUDER TOGETHER

[proudertogether.org](http://proudertogether.org)

## 12-19 | 25TH ANNUAL BEAR WEEK

[ptown.org/bears](http://ptown.org/bears)

20 | ASGCC PTOWN 5K

[asgcc.org](http://asgcc.org)

23-26 | GIRL SPLASH

[provincetownforwomen.com](http://provincetownforwomen.com)

27- AUG 2 | FAMILY WEEK

[ptownfamilyweek.com](http://ptownfamilyweek.com)

## August

6 | JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

12 | PROVINCETOWN JAZZ FESTIVAL

[provincetownjazzfestival.org](http://provincetownjazzfestival.org)

## 16-24 | 47TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL WEEK

[ptown.org/carnival](http://ptown.org/carnival)

## 17 | FEET OVER FRONT STREET 5K RUN & WALK - CARNIVAL EDITION

[ptown.org](http://ptown.org)

## 21 | 47TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL PARADE

[ptown.org/carnival](http://ptown.org/carnival)

29 | ANNUAL JOCKSTRAP BIKE RIDE

[ptownbrewco.com](http://ptownbrewco.com)

## September

6 | PROVINCETOWN SWIM FOR LIFE  
AND ANNUAL FLOTILLA

[swim4life.org](http://swim4life.org)

11-14 | NATIONAL GAY PILOTS  
ASSOCIATION - CAPE COD CLASSIC

[ngpa.org](http://ngpa.org)

12-14 | YANKEE LAMBDA  
LGBTQ CAR CLUB SHOW

[yankeelcc.com](http://yankeelcc.com)

19-21 | PROVINCETOWN BOOK  
FESTIVAL

[provincetownbookfestival.org](http://provincetownbookfestival.org)

19-22 | INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S  
FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

[iwoffa.com](http://iwoffa.com)

24-28 | 20TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE  
WILLIAMS THEATER FESTIVAL

[twptown.org](http://twptown.org)

27 | PET PARADE & PET TEA

[casasanimalshelter.org](http://casasanimalshelter.org)

## October

2-6 | MATES LEATHER WEEKEND  
XXVIII

[matesleatherweekend.com](http://matesleatherweekend.com)

11-13 | MONUMENTAL YARD SALE

[ptown.org](http://ptown.org)

13-19 | WOMEN'S WEEK

[womensweekprovincetown.com](http://womensweekprovincetown.com)

19-26 | TRANSWEEK

[transweek.org](http://transweek.org)

30 - NOV 2 | HALLOWEEN WEEKEND  
AND SPOOKY BEAR

[ptown.org/halloween](http://ptown.org/halloween)

## November

5-9 | PROVINCETOWN FOOD & WINE  
FESTIVAL

[ptownfoodandwinefestival.com](http://ptownfoodandwinefestival.com)

21-23 | MR. NEW ENGLAND LEATHER  
[mr-nel.com](http://mr-nel.com)

21-DEC 31 | THE CANTEEN HOLIDAY  
MARKET

[canteenholidaymarket.com](http://canteenholidaymarket.com)

26 | LIGHTING OF THE PILGRIM  
MONUMENT

[pilgrim-monument.org](http://pilgrim-monument.org)

28 - 30 | THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

[ptown.org/thanksgiving](http://ptown.org/thanksgiving)

28 | 'PINK' FRIDAY - QUEER BUSINESS  
SHOPATHON

[ptown.org/pinkfriday](http://ptown.org/pinkfriday)

29 | LIGHTING OF THE  
LOBSTER POT TREE

[facebook.com/provincetownlobsterpottree](http://facebook.com/provincetownlobsterpottree)

## December

1 | WORLD AIDS DAY

[asgcc.org](http://asgcc.org)

## 5-7 | HOLLY FOLLY

[ptown.org/hollyfolly](http://ptown.org/hollyfolly)

6 | "SOUPER SATURDAY"  
FUNDRAISER

[skipfood.org](http://skipfood.org)

## 31-JAN 4 | FIRST LIGHT NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

[ptown.org/firstlight](http://ptown.org/firstlight)

## January 2026

1 | 10TH ANNUAL PROVINCETOWN  
POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

[ptown.org/firstlight](http://ptown.org/firstlight)

## February 2026

13-16 | VALENTINE'S WEEKEND

[ptown.org/valentines](http://ptown.org/valentines)

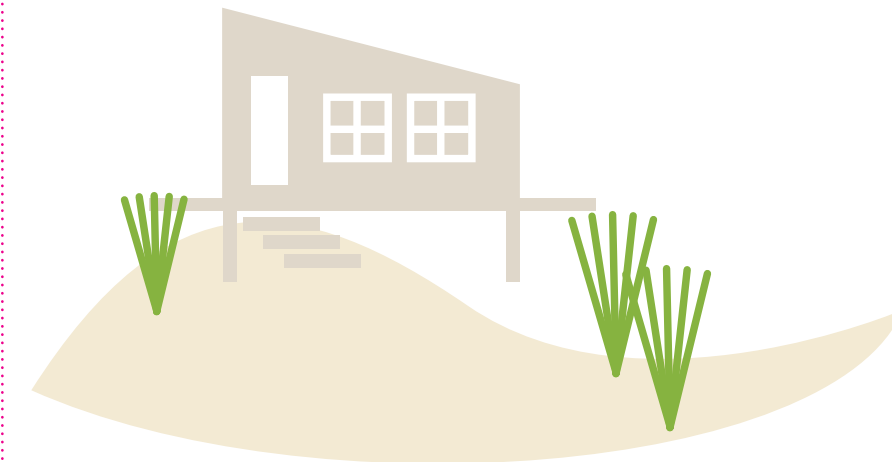
20-22 | SNOWBOUND LEATHER  
WEEKEND XVII

[matesleatherweekend.com/snowbound](http://matesleatherweekend.com/snowbound)

## March 2026

6-8 | 'OUT OF HIBERNATION' - A  
WINTER BEAR WEEKEND

[ursamen.org](http://ursamen.org)







# PROVINCETOWN

## pride center

**The Provincetown Pride Center is a non-profit organization that celebrates Provincetown's LGBTQ+ history and its contributions to the national gay rights narrative while simultaneously connecting Provincetown to the global queer community of today.**



2025 Events,  
Exhibitions & More!

We accomplish this through the curation of events & art exhibitions focused on queer storytelling, the generation of LGBTQ+ resources for Provincetown visitors, and providing space for PBG & community members to gather.

**Find out more at [Ptown.org/PrideCenter](https://Ptown.org/PrideCenter) or by visiting us at 115 Bradford St.**



### PROVINCETOWN:

## Out and Proud Then and Now



It's one of, if not the most common question about Provincetown. How did it come to have such a large LGBTQ+ population as well as become an important locale in LGBTQ+ history, culture, and politics? In short, why is Provincetown so gay? That's rather a long story. Provincetown has had a rebellious streak from the beginning. In the early 1700s, the law in the Massachusetts Bay colony required all towns to have a minister. Provincetown refused. From then on, the town at the tip of the Cape not only embraced an anti-authoritarian culture but also became a refuge for outsiders. However, the modern understanding of Provincetown as a special place for the LGBTQ+ community began in 1899 when Charles Hawthorne founded the Cape Cod School of Art, giving birth to the Provincetown art colony. His school

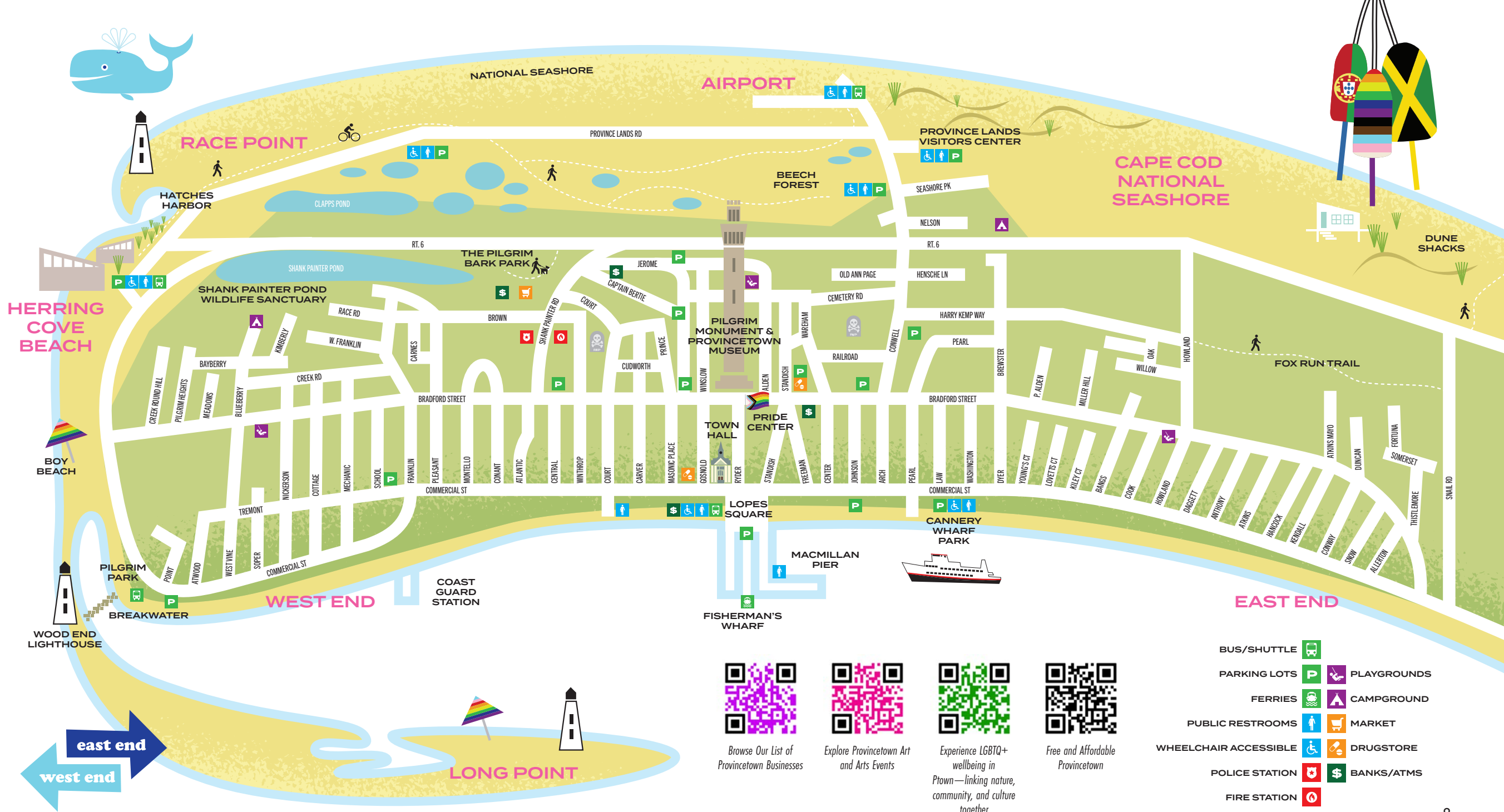
opened a pipeline between Provincetown and New York City, and in particular, Greenwich Village. The local population, particularly the women of Provincetown, opened their homes to these students to make a little extra money. Over the next two decades, Provincetown welcomed not only thousands of artists, but also writers, actors and left-wing political radicals with new ideas on gender, racial equality, artistic expression and sexuality. These ideas were met by a local population that was already pushed to the fringes of American society, not only because the town itself was populated by outsiders for generations, but that the large working-class Portuguese community was facing discrimination on many fronts in the region. So began a symbiotic relationship that included a well-established LGBTQ+ community by the 1920s as well as a significant portion of the straight population as friends and allies. As news spread throughout the LGBTQ community nationwide that Provincetown was a place of relative freedom and acceptance, the town's gay population, as well as visitors, grew exponentially. So, too, began a growing backlash from more conservative elements in Provincetown as they examined ways to try and stop the influx of LGBTQ+ people. Clearly those efforts failed. Starting in the 1950s various businesses and entertainers

began to tip toe out of the closet so that by the Stonewall Riots of 1969 the town exploded with activism and visible queer expressions of art, culture, and politics leading to Provincetown earning a worldwide reputation as a LGBTQ+ safe haven. The 1970s would be a period of tremendous change. While the decade began with a concerted anti-gay backlash from town government, by the dawn of the 1980s, Town Hall was hosting sold out drag shows and one of the first performances by the disco phenomenon, the Village People. Provincetown has since continued to be synonymous with LGBTQ+ pride and stands as a supportive safe haven where all are welcome to be themselves.





# PROVINCETOWN





# Varla & Dina & Thirsty & Tina & Todd

& So Much More

SUMMER 2025  
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THE  
**BEACH**  
*Club*

The Beach Club at The Crown  
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vibes.



From the boys and beats of  
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BearMania's **POOL INTENTIONS**  
to our **AHOY! Bear Beach Party** -  
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**PINK PONY BEACH CLUB**, is where you belong!

Make sure to grab your tickets for  
**Broadway on The Beach** or catch a classic summer  
blockbuster at our weekly **'Dive-In Movie Theatre'**



**PROVINCETOWN**  
BREWING CO.



Since opening in 2019, **Provincetown Brewing Co.** has quickly become a  
beloved staple in the Provincetown community, offering high-quality craft  
beer in an inviting space that fosters a unique, shared experience for both  
locals and visitors.

This summer, **The Crown & Anchor** is proud to be partnering with the **PBC**  
by transforming the Crown & Anchor's restaurant space and introducing  
the **"QueerGarten"**. This exciting merger blends PBC's exceptional craft  
beer and vibrant atmosphere with the Crown & Anchor's iconic legacy  
while continuing to celebrate Provincetown's LGBTQIA+ community and its  
rich diversity.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT: [WWW.ONLYATTHECROWN.COM](http://WWW.ONLYATTHECROWN.COM)





# CHEAP THRILLS IN Provincetown



It may be more challenging to afford the price of eggs right now, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the best kept secrets and cheap thrills of Provincetown. There are plenty of free and affordable activities, theater, dining, art, and exploration to enjoy year-round. Here are a few of must-try favorites.

*Please check individual business websites for updates, as business hours, offerings, and pricing may change.*

## Art & Theater

### Art Gallery Strolls & Feminist Stoop Readings

Friday nights in town are abuzz with late night activity, but especially in the East End, where the **Provincetown Art Association & Museum's (PAAM)** entry is free from 5-8pm. Many galleries often keep their doors open later into the evening on Fridays as well, inviting

you in with lively receptions and wine tastings. **Womencrafts** hosts Feminist Stoop Readings on Friday nights as well. For additional art events visit **Provincetown Art Gallery Association** and the **Provincetown Arts Society**.

### Cody Plays

This community-driven theatre production calls the **Gifford House** home and offers a donation-based entry for their monthly Monday night shows.

### Fine Art Works Center

**The Fine Art Works Center** hosts a variety of free, year-round, public programming, including Fellow Fridays, poetry readings, open mic nights, artist talks, and more.

### Self-Guided Public Art Tour

Take a wander down the pier to view the **Provincetown Public Art Foundation's** newest murals and go exploring

for additional pieces they've recently commissioned around town.

### Twenty Summers

**Twenty Summers** is a month-long festival in late Spring featuring a series of free and low-cost performances, installations, conversations, and workshops held in the Hawthorne Barn.

## Dining

### Breakfast

Start your day right at **Bagel Hound**, **Joe's Coffee**, or the **Portuguese Bakery**, where you can still walk away with a breakfast sandwich for less than \$8.

### All Day

You'll be hard pressed to find a better deal any time of day than at **Bay Cafe!** Their wallet-friendly \$10 menus are available for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including omelettes, French toast,

cheeseburger sliders, veggie potstickers, French dips, and more!

### Lunch & Picnic Fare

For a bougie lunch, treat yourself to **Vorelli's** Kobe-style Wagyu beef burger for just \$18.95 or pack a beach picnic on a dime with tasty salads, sandwiches, and snacks from **Angel Foods**, **East End Market**, **Far Land Provisions**, and **Salty Market**.

### Seafood Happy Hour

For a great deal on bivalves, don't miss **Mac's Seafood**, **Red Inn**, and **Victor's**. All three local hotspots offer seafood-focused happy hours, including options like half-priced oysters, shrimp, and clams.

### Dinner

Delicious fine dining for less can be enjoyed at **Victor's** on prix-fixe Mondays for just \$28 or any day of the week at **Fanizzi's** with a view! Fanizzi's Early Bird Dinners are served daily between 4:30-5:30pm for just \$20.99 and include options like fresh mussels over linguine, pan-seared salmon, and steak tips. Thursday nights are for 'All You Can Eat Fish & Chips' at **Mac's Seafood** from 4-8:30pm for a mere \$20.99.

## Entertainment & Activities

### Free Hidden Treasures

Two of the most unique hidden treasures of Provincetown include a half-scale replica of the **Rose Dorothea Schooner** built inside the **Provincetown Library**

and available to enjoy for free during Library hours. In addition, you'll want to visit the off-the-beaten-path **Spinnaker Exhibit**. This impressive exhibit features a fully preserved skeleton of an 11-year old humpback whale, housed at the **Center for Coastal Studies**, open to the public Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 1-4pm or by appointment.

### History With A View

The **Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum (PMPM)** offers a great, low-cost cost and family-friendly attraction. The lobby museum is always free and features an exhibit on the complicated relationship between the Indigenous Wampanoag and the Mayflower Pilgrims, as well as an anecdotal LGBTQ+ history of the last century of Provincetown. Entry to the Monument itself is \$20, \$16 for Seniors, Veterans & Active Duty, and children (13-17). Children (4-12) are \$9, and a special adult joint package ticket is \$30, which includes entry to the PMPM and PAAM.

### Live Shows & Karaoke

Many live shows sans cover charge can be found year-round and all over town in popular venues like **Tin Pan Alley**, the **Post Office Cabaret**, **Piano Bar** at the **Crown & Anchor**, and no visit to Provincetown is complete without a visit to Drag Queen Karaoke at the **Governor Bradford**.

## Outdoor Adventures

### Bike Trails & Beaches

Biking and hiking trails abound in the **National Seashore** and offer some of

the most spectacular coastal views and nature trails on Cape. Borrow or rent a bike from **Coast Provincetown** or **Ptown Bikes** and take the afternoon to explore everything from Boy Beach to the Beech Forest and Herring Cove to Race Point.

### Hiking & Lighthouses

The Provincetown Causeway, or the **'Breakwater'** as it is more commonly called by locals, is a must-visit attraction on the West End. You'll find the Breakwater rock wall jetting out into the bay from across **First Landing Park**, a site commemorating the arrival of the Pilgrims on the Cape in 1620. This causeway is just over a mile from the West End to the Wood End Lighthouse, and with no shade covering, this slightly challenging hike is best enjoyed with sunscreen protection, a water bottle, and proper footwear. Should you prefer to take in the views from a less strenuous vantage point, hop aboard the Long Point Shuttle operated by **Flyer's Boat Rental** for \$25 per person round-trip (cash only).

### Sunrises & Sunsets to Remember

Provincetown's sunrises and sunsets are arguably among the most spectacular in the world. Why not enjoy them from a paddle board or kayak? **Coyote Kayak** offers incredible guided tours at all times of day, including a Salt Marsh Eco tour, Boy Beach Paddle, and daytime rentals starting at just \$30.



FIVE YEARS OF  
**JUNETEENTH**  
IN  
**PROVINCETOWN**

When Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth National Independence Day, became a federally recognized national holiday in 2021, Provincetown quickly embraced the celebration. Juneteenth, a combination of June and nineteenth referring to the date of the holiday, is a celebration of the full implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation when union soldiers informed enslaved people in Galveston, Texas that they were free, two and half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the decree, effectively ending slavery in America. Now in its 5th year, the centerpiece of Provincetown's Juneteenth celebration is a community cookout on the lawn of the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House

open to all. But Provincetown continually explores the intersectionality of identity and community. As such, Provincetown's Juneteenth celebration incorporates the art colony, entertainment scene, and the LGBTQ+ community as well as the Jamaican population of the Outer Cape. Past celebrations have included concerts

featuring James Jackson Jr., star of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *A Strange Loop*, beloved local drag queens, a queer BIPOC art show, and an exhibit featuring aspects of Provincetown's Black history and its legacy of Black artists and notable people who've made their mark in town like boxer Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Grace Jones, actress and comedian LaWanda Page, and drag artists like Sahdji and Bobbie Callicoatte.

While not official events of Provincetown's Juneteenth celebrations, the town is also host to Frolic (formerly Men of Melanin Magic), which will coincide with Juneteenth this year. This event welcomes queer men of color and their allies to Provincetown for a weekend of fun, community, and inclusivity. With a large Jamaican population, Juneteenth in Provincetown has a bit of a Caribbean flair, with Jamaican food and music playing a significant role in the celebration. And just as the Juneteenth celebration has become part of the Provincetown calendar, so too has Jamaican Independence Day, August 6, with its own community festival held in the Bas Relief Park behind Town Hall, featuring music, food, games, and plenty of good-time vibes.





Apparel & Retail

ADAM'S NEST  
379A Commercial St.  
adamsnest.com | @adamsnest  
508-487-6600

ANCHOR2ANCHOR  
296 Commercial St.  
anchor2anchor.com  
@anchortwoanchor  
508-419-6634

APRÈS-SURF  
322 Commercial St.  
apressurfshop.com  
@apressurfshop  
508-413-9737

ARCADIA  
131 Commercial St.  
arcadiaptown.com  
@arcadiaptown  
774-538-6046

BLACK DOG GENERAL  
STORE  
315 Commercial St.  
theblackdog.com  
@theblackdogmv  
508-487-8776

BOARD STIFF  
PROVINCETOWN  
273 Commercial St.  
x-wear.com | @xwear\_capecod  
508-487-2406

BOTANICA  
374 Commercial St. Unit 1  
botanica-pt.com  
@botanicaprovincetown  
508-413-9580

B.XCLUSIVE  
284 Commercial St.  
breadandfireworks.com  
@bxclusive284  
508-487-0088

CLOVE & CREEK  
353 Commercial St.  
cloveandcreek.com  
@cloveandcreek

COCONUTS  
SUNGLASSES  
294 Commercial St.  
americansunglass.com  
@coconutsptown  
508-487-2408

COFFEY MEN  
173 Commercial St.  
coffeymen.com  
@coffeymenclothingnew

CONWELL HOME  
CENTER - ACE  
21 Conwell St.  
conwellhomecenter.com  
508-487-0150

D. FLAX, INC.  
214 Commercial St.  
dflax.com | @dflaxstore  
508-487-4256

EAST END BOOKS  
PTOWN  
389 Commercial St.  
eastendbooksptown.com  
@eastendbooksptown  
508-413-9059

FULL KIT GEAR  
192 Commercial St.  
fullkit.com | @fullkitgear  
508-413-9676

GO FISH  
371 Commercial St.  
508-487-2992

HOUSE OF LA RUE  
207 Commercial St.  
houseoflarue.com  
@houseoflarueptown  
508-487-1969

HRC ACTION  
CENTER & STORE  
205 Commercial St.  
hrc.org | @hrcnewengland  
508-487-7736

KIDSTUFF  
381 Commercial St.  
kidstuffptown.com  
@kidstuff\_ptown  
508-487-0714

PAWS & WHISKERS  
306 Commercial St.  
508-487-3441

PLUSH PROVINCETOWN  
364 Commercial St.  
plushptown.com  
@plushprovincetown  
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@cape\_school\_of\_art  
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@coyotekayaks  
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508-487-9960

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pametclub.com  
@pametharborclub  
508-349-3772

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### PILGRIM MONUMENT & PROVINCETOWN MUSEUM (PMPM)

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SanctumParanormal.com  
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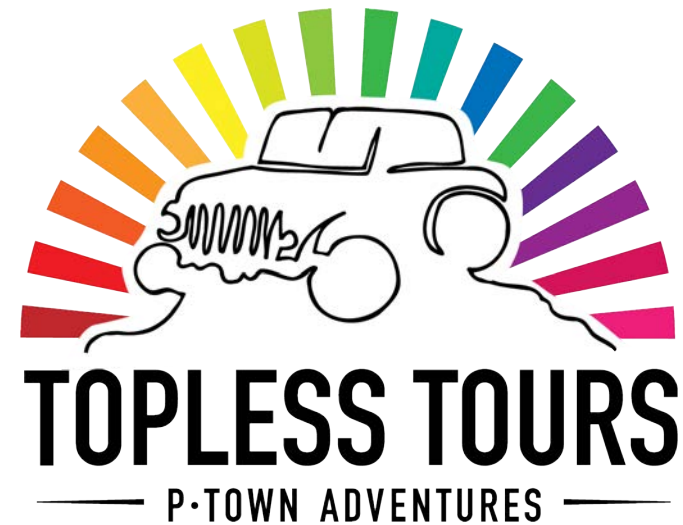
toplesstoursptown.com  
@toplesstoursptown  
508-514-1543

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truroclayworks.com  
@truroclayworks

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### INTERVIEW WITH THE ARTIST:

## CELESTE HANLON

Celeste, we are so excited to feature your artwork on the cover of this year's LGBTQ+ Guide to Good Times. Could you tell us a bit about yourself and where you grew up?

*I grew up in Greenwich Village, where my mother owned a vintage clothing store for 40 years—O Mistress Mine. I spent every afternoon after school there in the early 1970s. I watched her and the seamstresses create and have fun sewing jean skirts and blouses made from the fabric of vintage dresses. Her customers were very colorful and unique. I learned so much about the history of fashion and have come to love everything vintage. This experience really influenced my aesthetic and who I am today.*

**What first brought you to Provincetown?**

*My college friends from UMass Amherst came to Provincetown every summer to work, so I went with them and got a job at what was then Cafe Blase, now the Patio. But my first memory of Provincetown was in 1969. [My family and I] drove up from NYC in my parents' Dodge Dart. I remember the tiny streets were packed. My parents had me sit for a caricature drawing of me with ice cream. Years later, at 20, I got my first small apartment on Court Street.*

**Who has most influenced your art and how?**

*My mother. Growing up around a vibrant, diverse community where my mother owned a vintage clothing store, simply being in that environment influenced my aesthetic. I often make nostalgic images, brightly colored, using vintage fabric and juvenile in style. I am very interested in how things look from being decayed, aged, and worn.*

*Also, the 15 years of teaching Kindergarteners ~ who taught me to have no fear, to just draw what you see, and as far as artists influences- it's a long list but I love Diane Arbus, Lisette Model, Andy Warhol, and Ben Shawn!*

**How would you describe your work?**

*My partner used to say that my work was interesting to take in because it's not "right". I don't think he was wrong about that!! There's always something a "little off", but in a good way.*

**What types of mediums do you enjoy working in?**

*I work with embroidery, printmaking, painting, drawing, and sculpture. I also make Barbie Bulbs, Christmas Ornaments with Barbie Doll heads on themed wreaths. I consider them mini-sculptures.*

**And what are Shack Plaques?**

*They're small wooden stenciled paintings that I make with images of my favorite old school suntan and beauty products, Old*

*Spice, Coppertone, Bain de Soleil, etc., and occasionally some canned goods and spices, but Bain de Soleil is my all-time favorite product and most popular Shack Plaque. I loved everything about the "suntan", especially the smell and the fact that it's only SPF 4!*

**Where can visitors find more of your work this year?**

*I recently participated in the Winter Windows project, where a few of my pieces will be featured in the windows of the Ptown Bike Shop every winter. I'm also participating in the collage show titled 'Heresy: A Scrapbook of Rebellion' as part of Camp Provincetown's First Annual Outsiders Art Festival from April 30 - May 12, 2025, and I have a show at The Commons this summer from June 25 - July 7, 2025.*

*Learn more about where to find Celeste Hanlon's work at [@celestehanlonart](https://www.instagram.com/celestehanlonart).*







RURAL  
MODERNIST

**Rural Modernist** is the work of illustrator and graphic designer **Jason O'Malley**. He designed and illustrated the guide you're holding in your hot little hands right now. He makes bespoke **wallpaper, art, and merch** in his **Kingston, NY** art studio in the heart of the Hudson Valley. His colorful creations combine his many obsessions and influences: illustration, typography, graphic design, pop culture, humor, film, camp, and queer identity.



RURALMODERNIST.COM

25 YEARS OF BEAR WEEK  
IN PROVINCETOWN:

# HAIR, HEART & HISTORY

Twenty-five years ago, Provincetown found itself in a hairy situation. Long a crucible for LGBTQ+ thought and culture, Provincetown has welcomed all kinds of queer subcultures to its shores over the years. In 2001, Provincetown hosted the very first Bear Week, the annual mid-July hirsute bacchanalia that celebrates the Bear community. While the Bear identity and subsequent culture began in San Francisco in the 1980s, it was in Provincetown that the most famous gathering began with a small group of Bears visiting town for a week at the invitation of John Burrows, the late founder of Bear Week and Ptown Bears. By its tenth anniversary, Bear Week attracted thousands of revelers from around the world, making it the premier

Bear event, a reputation that continues to this day.

Founded on the ideals of inclusivity, body positivity, sexual freedom, and community, Bear Week is more than just a good time. Bear Week revels in the come-as-you-are vibe of Provincetown, and as such, the Bears have a beloved reputation in town, reaching out beyond just its attendees and forming deep bonds with locals and other visitors alike. Arguably the largest event after Provincetown's famed Carnival in August, Bear Week offers everything from late-night parties to Bear-specific entertainment and drag shows to cozy lounge meetups and fine dining. Bear Week in Provincetown has cracked the mainstream, too,

becoming the topic of feature films and documentaries, books, countless news stories, and it's even been the inspiration for several songs. But most of all, Bear Week is about celebration, lifting each other up, and creating a space where everyone is welcome.

PROVINCETOWN  
BEARS





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@gifford.house  
508-487-0688

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@ptownbrewingco  
508-413-9076

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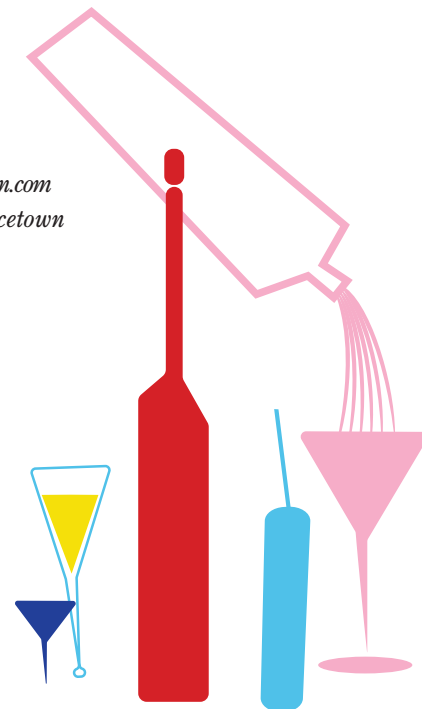
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# BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

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# WHAT'S **NEW** TO EXPLORE IN **Provincetown**

## **Please Welcome to the Stage**

The nonprofit, **Camp Provincetown**, will host its first annual Outsiders Festival this May, celebrating the “outsiders and misfit leaders” of Provincetown, while production companies, **ANKH Management** and **Rainbow Entertainment Group** will be serving up several exciting new live events at the **Art House** this season. **Provincetown Recording Studio** is home to several locally-produced podcasts including **The Circle**, a podcast that provides a space for queer men to explore embodiment and personal growth and **Queer Times** (QT), a weekly pod hosted by local celebs, Kristen Becker and Harrison Fish.

Looking to host a dinner party but don't want to do any of the planning, meal prep, or cooking, or are you ready to become a trained sous chef with the assistance of a professional? Chef

Christina Scifo's **Baedega** is the answer to both!

Mixologist extraordinaire, Ben Weihbrecht, of Nor'East Beer Garden fame, with Sean Gardner and Rebecca Orchant of Pop+Dutch, are the team behind one of the most anticipated business openings of the summer, **Ladyslipper**. Expect the most creative and well-balanced cocktails and mocktails served alongside a selection of snacks and desserts in a quirky space that feels like your favorite aunt's living room.

**Ptown Blooms** is bringing a unique flower shop experience to Ptown with floral arrangements, a tea shop, and an art gallery conveniently located by the Pier. Meanwhile, Commercial Street's newest retail shops of the summer include **SAULT New England** and **The White Hare Home & Holiday**. Need help finding a good local dogwalker, a recommended plumber, assistance

booking your week-long Ptown getaway, or winterizing your second home? **Monument Concierge** is all you need!

## **New(ish) & Improved**

Many businesses are expanding services or changing locations this year, including our beloved **Provincetown Brewing Co**, which will be moving from its Bradford Street beginnings to Commercial Street's largest entertainment complex, the Crown & Anchor. The **Sanctum Paranormal Tours, Museum & Shop** will not only offer year-round cemetery tours but a Paranormal Museum as well as on-site psychics, tarot card readings, and seances. **The Black Dog's** Provincetown outpost has moved down the street to its new home on the corner of Commercial and Lopes Square, and on the opposite end of Lopes Square, you'll find **Luke's Lobster**. Their waterfront views alone are enough to draw folks to Luke's, but their full liquor license,

brand new horseshoe bar, and ability to offer live entertainment and DJs are sure to bring in the masses year-round.

Opening May 1st, **A Salted Buttery**, formerly Connie's Bakery, promises a “Revolution of Brunch” with veg-an-friendly options and a late-night menu, while **The Mews** returns to its brand new building at 429 Commercial Street, as **Helltown Kitchen** jumps in as the newest pop-up restaurant at **The Waterford Inn**.

There are many reasons to visit the newly renovated **Provincetown Inn** this year, including a brand new barbershop, poolside cabanas, a satellite location of **Anchor2Anchor**, the revived West End Lounge with live music weekly, and a brand new 400-seat theater that will be host to several live events all summer long, including SHOWGIRLS.

**The Wellness Lab**, formerly Helltown Aesthetics, has found a new brick-and-mortar home across from the Crown & Anchor and will be expanding their services from hydration therapy, skin therapy, and botox to body sculpting,

hair restoration, sexual wellness, and much more.

## **Hop, Skip & A Jump**

Dying to get to Ptown but not a fan of driving? **The Queen Line** is here to serve! With premium leather seats, ample legroom, an onboard bathroom, complimentary snacks, and nonalcoholic beverages, this new private luxury coach provides all the comfort and convenience to get you from New York City or Boston to your favorite LGBTQ+ travel destination!

**East End Books'** incredible selections can now be enjoyed year-round at their new Boston Seaport location near the Institute of Contemporary Art and the **Bay State Cruise Co** ferry terminal. Their Provincetown locale will continue to offer a variety of special events and readings on their back deck, and this year those back deck views will overlook the brand new **Cannery Wharf Park** with a spacious grassy knoll, bench swings, and plentiful bike parking.

Nestled in the woods, **Truro Clay Works** is a newly built ceramic studio

offering an inspiring environment for makers of all levels and single session classes that are accessible to locals and visitors alike.

This winter, **Mean Burgers Ptown** expanded to Wellfleet as a pop-up that will now remain a year-round destination with ample outdoor seating for their delicious burgers, buttermilk fried hot chicken sandwich, ripe plantains, and loaded tots.

## **Hidden Gems**

As one of the oldest art colonies in the country, Provincetown offers an impressive number of art exhibits and events year-round. **The Provincetown Arts Society** is host to many unique events, including concerts, visiting-chef dinners, an outdoor film series, and live-in artists' residencies within the Mary Heaton Vorse House, designed by Ken Fulk.

Hidden in plain sight, **Vorelli's** is an absolute Ptown gem. Do not miss their Kobe-style Wagyu beef burger with Boursin cheese, sauteed onions, and bacon, and their famous Bloody Mary for only \$10.





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gmail.com

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coastalcommunitycapital.org  
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SINGLE WOMEN'S WKND (May)	GIRL SPLASH (July) SUMMER WEEK FOR WOMEN
MEMORIAL DAY WKND	WOMEN'S WEEK (October)



**WOMXN OF COLOR WEEKEND**

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# Community & Support Organizations

<b>PROVINCETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 20 Shank Painter Rd. <a href="http://provincetownumc.org">provincetownumc.org</a> 508-487-4925	<b>SUMMER OF SASS</b> 210 Bradford St. <a href="http://summerofsass.org">summerofsass.org</a> @summerofsass	<b>UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MEETING HOUSE</b> 236 Commercial St. <a href="http://uumh.org">uumh.org</a>   @uumhprovincetown 508-487-9344
<b>SOUP KITCHEN IN PROVINCETOWN</b> 20 Shank Painter Rd. <a href="http://skipfood.org">skipfood.org</a> 508-487-8331	<b>TRURO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b> 2 Head of the Meadow Rd., N. Truro <a href="http://trurochamberofcommerce.com">trurochamberofcommerce.com</a> @truro.chamber 508-487-1288	<b>WOMR-FM</b> 494 Commercial St. <a href="http://womr.org">womr.org</a>   @womrwmr 508-487-2619



# Event Organizers

<b>ANKH MANAGEMENT</b> <a href="http://Ankhunlimited.square.site">Ankhunlimited.square.site</a> @scarlett.strauss <a href="mailto:Ankhmanagementunlimited@gmail.com">Ankhmanagementunlimited@gmail.com</a>	<b>MARK CORTALE PRESENTS</b> <a href="http://markcortalepresents.com">markcortalepresents.com</a> @markcortaleproductions <a href="mailto:markcortale@gmail.com">markcortale@gmail.com</a>	<b>PROVINCETOWN FOR WOMEN</b> <a href="http://provincetownforwomen.com">provincetownforwomen.com</a> @ptown4women <a href="mailto:info@ProvincetownForWomen.com">info@ProvincetownForWomen.com</a>	<b>RAFANELLI EVENTS</b> <a href="http://rafanellievents.com">rafanellievents.com</a> @rafanellievents <a href="mailto:eventinquiries@rafanellievents.com">eventinquiries@rafanellievents.com</a>
<b>BABES &amp; BOIS</b> <a href="http://babesandbois.com">babesandbois.com</a> @babesandbois <a href="mailto:babesandbois@gmail.com">babesandbois@gmail.com</a>	<b>OLDTIMERS</b> <a href="http://capecodoldtimers.com">capecodoldtimers.com</a> @capecodoldtimers	<b>PROVINCETOWN HISTORICAL CELEBRATIONS</b> <a href="http://provincetownportuguese festival.com">provincetownportuguese festival.com</a> <a href="mailto:provincetownportuguese festival@gmail.com">provincetownportuguese festival@gmail.com</a>	<b>RAINBOW ENTERTAINMENT GROUP</b> <a href="http://rainboweg.com">rainboweg.com</a> @rainbowentertainmentgroup <a href="mailto:richy@rainboweg.com">richy@rainboweg.com</a>
<b>CAMP PROVINCETOWN</b> <a href="http://campprovincetown.com">campprovincetown.com</a> @campprovincetownma <a href="mailto:sedgwickx@gmail.com">sedgwickx@gmail.com</a>	<b>PROVINCETOWN BEARS</b> <a href="http://ptownbears.events">ptownbears.events</a> @bearsptown <a href="mailto:bearsptown@gmail.com">bearsptown@gmail.com</a>	<b>PROVINCETOWN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL</b> <a href="http://provincetownfilm.org/festival">provincetownfilm.org/festival</a> @ptownfilm <a href="mailto:info@ptownfilm.org">info@ptownfilm.org</a>	<b>TRANSWEEK</b> <a href="http://transweek.org">transweek.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@fantasiafair.org">info@fantasiafair.org</a>
<b>FROLIC WEEKEND</b> <a href="http://www.wearefrolic.com">www.wearefrolic.com</a> @wearefrolic <a href="mailto:hi@wearefrolic.com">hi@wearefrolic.com</a>	<b>PROVINCETOWN FOOD &amp; WINE FESTIVAL</b> <a href="http://ptownfoodandwinefestival.com">ptownfoodandwinefestival.com</a> @ptownfufestival <a href="mailto:ptownfoodandwinefestival@gmail.com">ptownfoodandwinefestival@gmail.com</a>	<b>WOMXN OF COLOR WEEKEND (WOCW)</b> <a href="http://womxnofcolorweekend.com">womxnofcolorweekend.com</a> @wocweekend <a href="mailto:info@wocw.org">info@wocw.org</a>	



# PROVINCETOWN QUEER HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

This list is far from exhaustive; it's provided to offer some highlights of our LGBTQ+ experience in Provincetown.

**1899:** Charles Hawthorne opens the Cape Cod School of Art, beginning the Provincetown art colony, which brings thousands to town over the next two decades from New York City's Greenwich Village, including early LGBTQ activists.

**1952:** Philip "Phil" Baiona, sometimes known by his drag name Bella Baiona, opens Weathering Heights on Shank Painter Road, which openly caters and advertises to the LGBTQ community, becoming the first bar to do so in Provincetown.



**1970:** LGBTQ activists hold a Labor Day Solidarity March to honor the one-year anniversary of Stonewall, despite being denied a parade permit by the town.

**1976:** Womencrafts opens. It remains one of the few feminist bookshops in the country as well as an important resource for queer women as well as a center for organizing and activism.

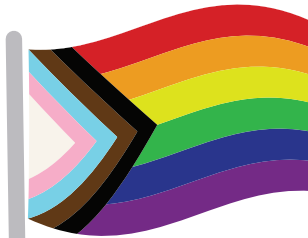


**1983:** The Provincetown AIDS Support Group is founded. The entire Provincetown community, regardless of sexuality or gender, bands together to fight not just the epidemic, but bigotry and stigma. Now the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, it is one of the oldest HIV/AIDS organizations in the country, serving all of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket.



**1990:** The Spiritus Riot occurs over Labor Day weekend in protest of the arrest of beloved drag queen Vanilla as well as an expression of anger over police harassment of the LGBTQ community and inaction over a rise in hate crimes. Soon after, the Provincetown Police Department begins reforms, including hiring LGBTQ officers and utilizing a community policing model.

**2010:** The United States Census Bureau releases data that shows Provincetown has the highest rate of same sex couples of any municipality in the country. Anecdotally, Provincetown is widely referred to in the media as the "gayest town in America."



**1940:** The Provincetown Advocate, then the town's newspaper of record, prints the word homosexual for the first time. The New York Times would not do so until 1967.

**1963:** Early gay rights activist Prescott Townsend completes Gangway, a ramshackled, hand-built home in the far West End of town. Townsend, who began his activism in Boston in the late 1930s, operated his home as a Bohemian flop house giving a place to crash to such people as poet and actor Rene Ricard, queer playwright Charles Ludlam, Mink Stole and John Waters.

**1975:** The first Fantasia Fair is held. Now known as Trans Week, it is the oldest continual transgender event in the world and a pioneer in transgender activism.

**1978:** The Provincetown Business Guild is founded, making it one of the oldest LGBTQ+ business associations in the country. That same year, the PBG presents the very first Carnival, now the town's signature event and the largest event on Cape Cod.

**1985:** Frustrated by the Cape Cod National Seashore's policy of not allowing women to go topless, activists begin frequent bare-breasted protests at Herring Cove Beach.

**2004:** On May 17, marriage equality comes to Massachusetts. Provincetown welcomes hundreds that day and in turn annoys then-Governor Mitt Romney when the town refuses to enforce a ban on those from out of state seeking marriage licenses, resulting in the town making headlines around the world.

**2021:** Provincetown's response to a COVID-19 outbreak garners national attention and praise as the muscle memory of lessons from the HIV and AIDS crisis were quickly put into action, shutting down the spread.



## Historic Bday Slays!

**5** Years of Provincetown's Juneteenth Celebration (June 19-22, 2025), **10** Years of our annual Polar Plunge fundraiser on January 1, 2026 for the Center for Coastal Studies & **25** Years of Bear Week - a celebration in the gay community where the town fills up with 'Bears,' or burly hairy men--and those who appreciate them. This annual event attracts folks from all over the world! Plan ahead for the **50** Year Anniversary celebration of Womencrafts in March 2026!



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**JUNE 2026**

**FROLIC**  
WEEKEND



## PROVINCETOWN'S 47TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL:

# SUMMER CAMP!

The Provincetown Business Guild was founded in 1978 and established the first Carnival Parade that same year as a direct invitation to the LGBTQ+ population to celebrate themselves through creativity, expression, and community. Carnival has since evolved into the largest single event on Cape Cod, drawing nearly 60,000 visitors to Provincetown in a single day, and is now seen as Ptown's signature event and theme week.

### Provincetown's 47th Annual Carnival Parade: Summer Camp!

Carnival week will run from August 16-23, 2025 with this year's parade falling on Thursday, August 21. In anticipation of the crowds, we highly recommend day trippers arrive early in the day and stake out a great viewing spot from the sidewalks of Commercial Street with a lawn chair or from the vantage point of several local cafes, restaurants, and watering holes with a Commercial Street patio view.

This year's theme: Summer Camp! will not only be a chance for participants and revelers to celebrate the outdoors, camping-themed costumes and the beauty of Provincetown's National Seashore but an opportunity to go all in on an even higher level of "camp" that we have come to expect from so many of our talented performers here in town and those visiting us from all over the world!

One very special

visitor this Carnival is coming to us all the way from the beautiful state of Oregon, Ms. Pattie Gonial! This will mark Pattie's very first performance in Provincetown, alongside an amazing cast of her closest queer family for a stop on her nation-wide tour, "SAVE HER!" Pattie's headlining Town Hall performance titled "It's Camp!" will be Wednesday, August 20, and is sure to be a sell-out success, so grab your tickets early!

Be sure to check out the full list of events and offerings at [ptown.org/carnival](http://ptown.org/carnival)

### Camping It Up With Josh Wilmoth

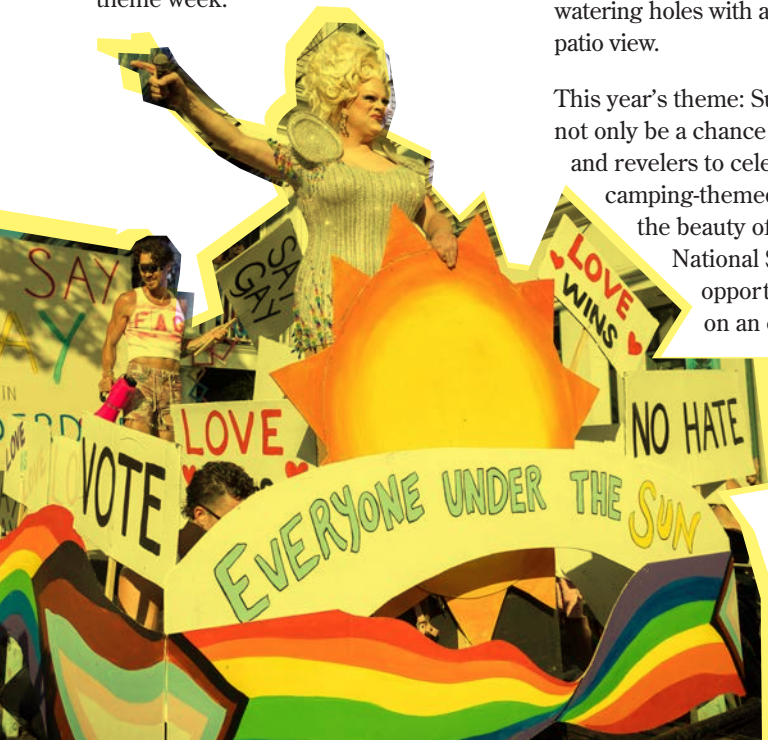
This year's Carnival poster will be created by local artist, Josh Wilmoth, whose works have long been one of the most defining elements of Carnival in Provincetown. Josh's commissioned pieces have been seen decorating the storefronts of Bxclusive, Grab'n'Go, Cafe Heaven, and Spiritus as well as the large-scale Carnival decor of *Best Dressed Businesses* like Queen Vic Guesthouse and Tea Dance's home, the Boatslip Resort. His colorful works often create an emotional impact and a bold and whimsical narrative of the world around us. This year's theme will certainly be brought to life with Josh's signature vibrancy. "I love to encourage locals to



band together and celebrate all week long by dressing up the exterior of their businesses."

### Calling All Volunteers!

Did you know that producing the Carnival Parade takes nearly 120 volunteers? As the saying goes: It takes a village! Since 1978, the not-for-profit Provincetown Business Guild has been producing events for the betterment of our community. The planning, promotion, and production of these events requires a tremendous amount of coordination and cooperation from our small team. By volunteering with the PBG, you can help to make events like Carnival happen, while meeting new friends and experiencing great events for free! Share your information with us at [ptown.org/volunteer](http://ptown.org/volunteer).







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## Dining

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@1620brewhouse  
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**BAY CAFE**  
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baysidebetsys.com  
508-487-6566

**BUBALA'S BY THE BAY**  
185 Commercial St.  
bubalas.com  
@bubalasbythebay  
508-487-0773

**THE CANTEEN**  
225 Commercial St.  
thecanteenptown.com  
@thecanteenptown  
508-487-3800

**CROWNE POINTE RESTAURANT**  
82 Bradford St.  
crownepointe.com  
@crownepointeptown  
508-487-6767

**FANIZZI'S RESTAURANT**  
539 Commercial St.  
fanizzisrestaurant.com  
@paulfanizzi  
508-487-1964

**GOVERNOR BRADFORD RESTAURANT**  
312 Commercial St.  
thegovbradford.com  
@governorbradfordptown  
508-487-2781

**GRAND CENTRAL**  
5 Masonic Place  
grandcentral.us.to  
@grandcentralptown  
508-487-7599

**JIMMY'S HIDEAWAY**  
179 Commercial St.  
jimmyshideaway.com  
@jimmyshideaway  
508-487-1011

**LIZ'S CAFE**  
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lizscafeptown.com | @lizs.cafe  
508-413-9131

**LOBSTER POT**  
321 Commercial St.  
ptownlobsterpot.com  
@lobsterpotptown  
508-487-0842

**LOCAL 186**  
186 Commercial St.  
local186.com | @local186  
508-487-7555

**LUKE'S LOBSTER**  
317 Commercial St.  
lukeslobster.com | @lukeslobster  
207-831-4384

**MAC'S FISH HOUSE PROVINCETOWN**  
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macsseafood.com  
@macsseafood  
508-487-6227

**MEWS RESTAURANT & CAFÉ**  
429 Commercial St.  
mewsptown.com  
@mewsrestaurant  
508-487-1500

**MEZZETERRANEAN**  
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mezzeptown.com  
@mezzeptown  
508-487-0600

**OCEAN 193**  
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@ocean193restaurant  
ocean193.com  
508-487-1527

**PATIO**  
328 Commercial St.  
ptownpatio.com  
@patio\_ptown  
508-487-4003



## Glossary



Provincetown has such a unique and distinctive culture and flair. At times it can seem like it also has its own language! Perhaps it does. Here's a list of common slang and colloquialisms native to Provincetown to better understand life at the end of the Cape.

**Augustitis** – The first recorded use of this word dates back to the 1940s. For those that live and work in Provincetown, it refers to the summer stress experienced by locals who put in long hours. The condition is not fatal; it's nothing a daytrip to the beach can't cure.

**Barking** – The practice of "barking" is the old-school promotion of a live show. Come late afternoon in Town, comedians, drag queens, musicians, and others hit Commercial Street to "bark" for their shows and pass out flyers. If you're not interested in taking a flier, a smile and a "no thanks" is appreciated.

**Boy Beach** – Dating back to the 1950s, this is the longstanding nickname for the far-flung part of Herring Cove Beach that attracts many gay men, and now a growing number of the LGBTQ+ family. Though not technically allowed within the Cape Cod National Seashore, it is Provincetown's de facto nude beach.



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@pocafecabaret  
508-487-0008

### PROVINCETOWN PORTUGUESE BAKERY

299 Commercial St.  
provincetownportuguesebakery.com | @porto299m  
508-487-1803

### RED INN RESTAURANT

15 Commercial St.  
theredinn.com  
@theredinnptown  
508-487-7334

### RELISH BAKERY

93 Commercial St.  
ptownrelish.com  
@ptownrelish  
508-487-8077

### A SALTED BUTTERY

205 Commercial St. Unit 2  
@a\_salted\_buttery  
508-487-2167

### TIN PAN ALLEY

269 Commercial St.  
tinpanalleyptown.com  
@tin.pan  
508-487-1648

### VICTOR'S

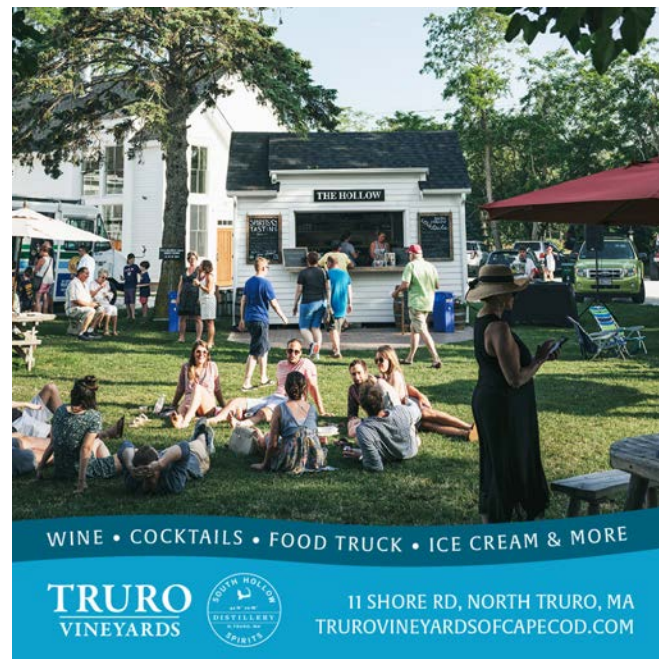
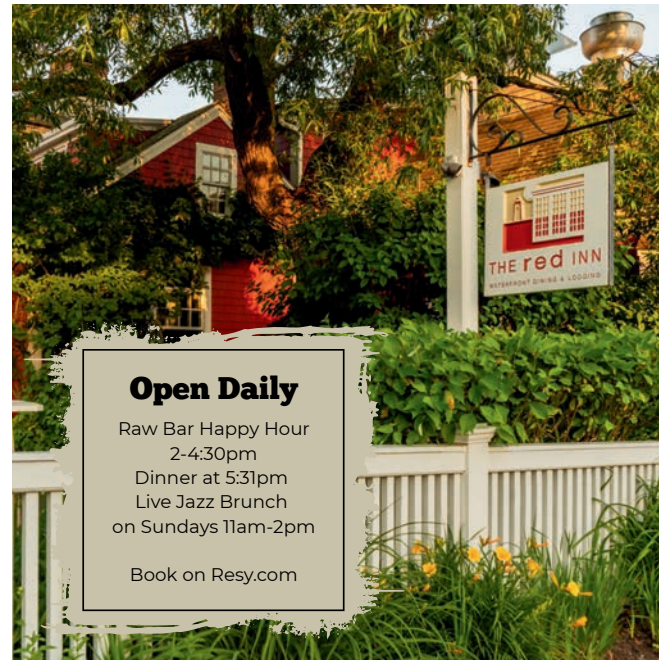
175 Bradford St. Ext.  
victorsptown.com  
@victorsptown  
508-487-1777

### VORELLI'S

226 Commercial St.  
vorellisrestaurant.com  
508-487-2778

### YOLQUERIA

401 1/2 Commercial St.  
yolqueria.com | @yolqueria  
508-487-0880



## Glossary



**Breakwater** – The Provincetown Causeway, or the Breakwater as it is more commonly called by locals, is a must-visit attraction on the West End. Made of large boulders, this causeway stretches out for just over a mile from the West End to the Wood End Lighthouse.

### Cape Cod Geography

**Outer Cape** – Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet & Eastham

**Lower Cape** – Chatham, Orleans, Harwich & Brewster

**Mid Cape** – Dennis, Yarmouth & Barnstable

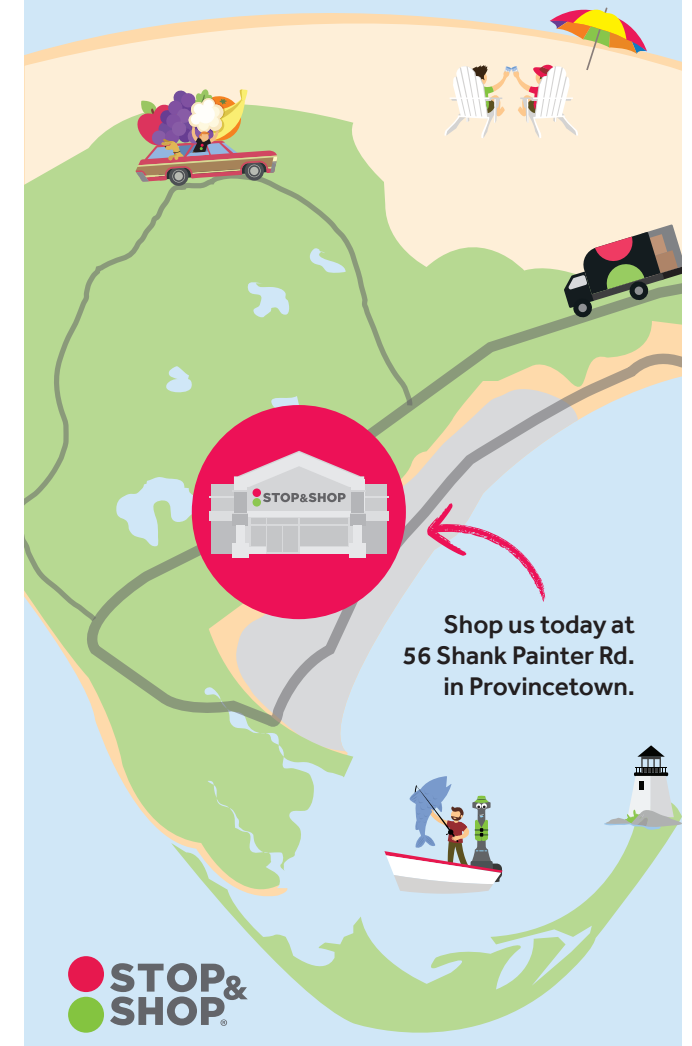
**Upper Cape** – Sandwich, Mashpee, Falmouth & Bourne

**Nice Boy** – A term of endearment coined by mostly Portuguese women in Provincetown to refer to gay men. It was a way these women expressed affection and support to the young men who often boarded in their homes, which led to the important culture of guest houses in Provincetown.

**Sapphic** - Derived from the Greek poet, Sappho, of the Isle of Lesbos, sapphic is often used as an umbrella term to identify LGBTQ+ women and those they experience attraction to, whether they identify as lesbian, bisexual, queer, trans, masc, non-binary or any diverse identity.

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### Glossary

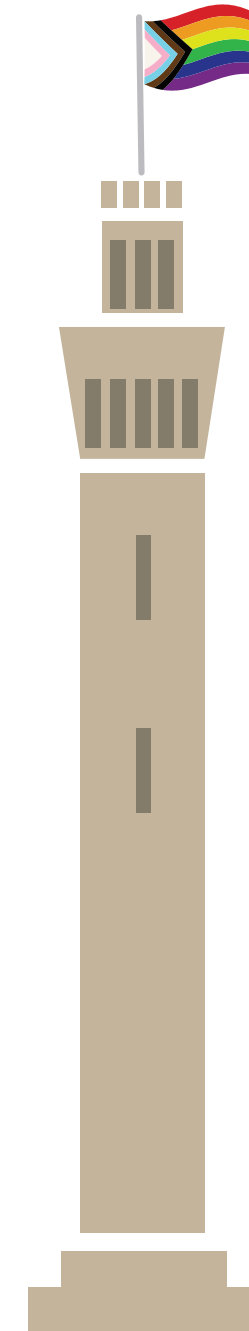
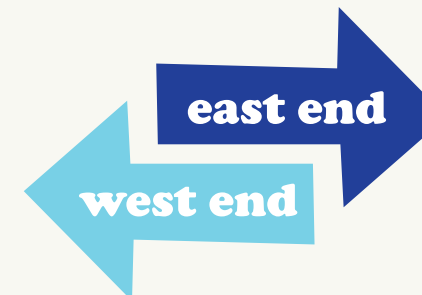


**Tea** – This is the shortened moniker for Tea Dance, the popular afternoon party at the Boatslip that's been a part of Provincetown since the late 1960s. You'll often hear people along Commercial Street exclaim, "See you at Tea!"

**Townie** – Perhaps in some locales, calling someone a "townie" is an insult – but not in Provincetown. Anyone born in Provincetown, usually called a native, is also a townie. How do you become a townie? That's unclear, but when the day arrives you'll know – as a townie usually tells you.

**Washashore** – This is a common term heard all over Cape Cod to describe anyone who wasn't born on the peninsula. A washashore can live on the Cape, or in Provincetown, long enough to become a townie. But if you weren't born on Cape Cod, you will always be a washashore.

**Year-Rounder** - A year-rounder is a person, regardless of being Washashore or Townie, who lives in Ptown throughout the year.





## TRANSWEEK AND BEYOND:

# PROVINCETOWN'S LEGACY OF TRANS INCLUSION



Walk down Commercial Street and you may very well see a bumper sticker that reads “LGBT: The T Is No Longer Silent.” That’s long been the case in Provincetown, where transgender rights, culture, and expression are tightly woven into the fabric of the town. Throughout

the 20th century, many transgender and non-binary people moved to Provincetown for the safety and acceptance found at this remote beach town. But it was in 1975 when a thunderbolt of progress struck Provincetown with the first-ever Fantasia Fair, now TransWeek,

which would go on to become the longest-running transgender event in the world. Held every October, the event was founded by trans activist pioneers Betsy Shaw, Ari Kane, Betty Ann Lind, and Linda Franklin and included The Cherrystones, a Boston-based trans support group. The following year, the Fan Fair, as it was often called, launched the Outreach Institute for Gender Studies. And while the Fair was largely focused on heterosexual men who identified as cross-dressers, and their partners and families, from its inception, it was at the forefront of a variety of aspects of gender diversity. Various workshops and speakers covered everything from makeup to hormone therapy to what is now called gender affirming care. By the 1990s, the Fair attracted attendees from all over the world to Provincetown and grew to embrace the diversity of the transgender and non-binary community with programming that more accurately represented the spectrum of gender identities. Perhaps most importantly, TransWeek built a strong community. No one had to feel alone in their gender journey and could be comforted by the safety of Provincetown, a town that allowed people to be themselves fully.

Other trans events in other parts of the country would be held strictly within the confines of a hotel, a conference center, or a private home. But TransWeek allows connections to be made with cisgender people as well as with the straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, non-binary and queer communities to build further understanding and to work towards becoming a united front for trans acceptance and equality. Attendees of TransWeek frequently share their affection for Provincetown, explaining that there are very few places in the world that fully embrace the trans community for as long as Provincetown has. Simply put, TransWeek is a big part of Provincetown’s past, present, and future.

In addition to TransWeek, Provincetown is notable in transgender history in entertainment. Famed transgender activist and performer Christine Jorgensen came to town, performing frequently at the Pilgrim House, Crown & Anchor, and the Post Office Cabaret. Jorgensen became an international celebrity when she transitioned and traveled from the United States to Denmark in 1952 for what was then called a “sex change.” She used the publicity her transition received to advocate for understanding and acceptance of transgender people. By the 1970, Jorgensen was fully ensconced in the jet set, traveling the world with her cabaret show that told the tale of her transition, mixed with comedy and song, with the evening often ending with her dressed as Wonder Woman. She was always a hit whenever she came to Provincetown, and over the course of her many visits, she became close friends with other LGBTQ+ performers like Divine, Arthur Blake, and Charles Pierce. Provincetown also welcomed trans pioneer and Warhol Factory superstar Holly Woodlawn to town in the late 1970s and early 1980s when she appeared in productions of *The Neon Woman* and *Women Behind Bars* with Divine at the Pilgrim House.

Building on this history, trans visibility and representation are at an all-time high in Provincetown. You’ll see the pink, blue, and white trans pride flag all over town, year-round. With the increased assault on transgender rights, many trans people, as well as families with trans children, are increasingly visiting and in some cases moving to Provincetown to escape anti-trans laws and attitudes spreading throughout the country. And the town is continually looking for ways to be more trans-inclusive.

# TRANSWEEK 2025

Set Sail to New Horizons!



October 19-26  
TransWeek.org  
Provincetown





## Dining: Markets, Coffee, Confections, Wine & Spirits

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bagelhound.com  
@bagelhoundcapecod

### CABOT'S CANDY

276 Commercial St.  
cabotscandy.com  
@cabots\_candy  
508-487-3550

### EAST END MARKET

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eastendmarketplace.com  
@eastendmarketptown  
508-487-2339

### FAR LAND PROVISIONS

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farlandprovisions.com  
@far\_land\_pt  
508-487-0045

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508-487-2766

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@provincetownfudge  
508-487-2850

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@saltymarket.farmstand  
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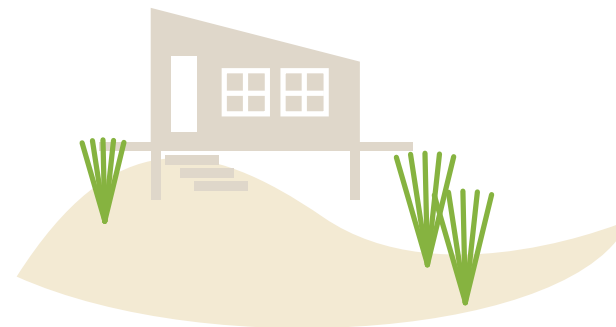
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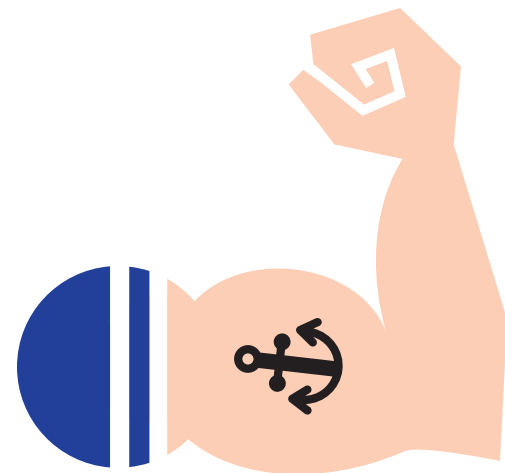
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# WELLTOWN

## EXPERIENCE PROVINCETOWN THROUGH WELLNESS & CONNECTION

In a town known for its exuberant, high-energy events and party-packed summer season, Provincetown is embracing a new side of itself—one grounded in serenity, self-discovery, and community care. “Welltown,” a new initiative from the Provincetown Business Guild (PBG), invites LGBTQ+ visitors to explore the Outer Cape not just as a destination, but as a path toward holistic wellbeing.

While Provincetown is often lovingly nicknamed “Helltown” for its marquee weeks like Carnival, Bear Week, and Girl Splash, Welltown presents a compelling counterbalance. It highlights the quieter, more reflective experiences that make Provincetown equally magnetic—from long walks through the dunes and peaceful whale-watching excursions to rejuvenating yoga sessions and impromptu art strolls down Commercial Street.

The Provincetown Business Guild encourages you to “Find Your Current.” Move at your own pace, tap into what feels right in the moment, and engage more deeply with Provincetown’s natural beauty, cultural offerings, and welcoming spirit. It’s also a clever nod to the PBG’s legacy as a trusted source for what’s current in town—both literally and figuratively.

Welltown organizes the Provincetown experience into three interwoven pathways that together support LGBTQ+ longevity and wellbeing:

- **Wellness** Water-based adventures, land-based excursions, and personal wellness retreats designed to nourish both the body and mind.
- **Kinship** Creating opportunities for connection through chosen family, community engagement, and LGBTQ+ allyship in a town that champions belonging.
- **Culture** Celebrating Provincetown’s distinctive personality through retail shops, live performances, restaurants, galleries, and creative spaces.

In a time when LGBTQ+ rights face

increasing threats across the country, Provincetown remains a sanctuary of inclusion and acceptance. Welltown reflects that spirit—a sanctuary where LGBTQ+ individuals and allies can gather, heal, and feel empowered. Whether you seek connections, solo serenity, or a bit of both, Welltown offers a well-rounded range of experiences to meet every side of you.

Welltown is an invitation to slow down, reconnect, and experience Provincetown not only as a vibrant vacation spot, but also as a place of restoration and joy for LGBTQ+ travelers seeking more than just a party.

*Learn more and plan your stay, [ptown.org/welltown](https://ptown.org/welltown).*





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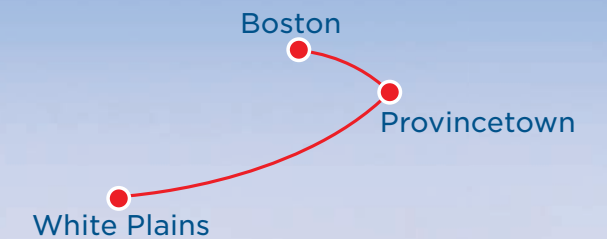
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# CHEERS TO PROVINCETOWN'S HOLIDAY SEASON



## Thanksgiving & 'Pink Friday' Friday, November 28, 2025

**Thanksgiving Weekend** marks the start of the holiday season in Provincetown. Thousands gather from all over with their chosen and bio families to give thanks for our incredibly nurturing community. On Thanksgiving Day, many Provincetown restaurants welcome visitors and locals for a holiday meal from traditional and modern menus.

Traditionally known as Black Friday, the national gift-shopping day after Thanksgiving looks a little different in Ptown. The Provincetown Business Guild offers a unique LGBTQ+ version of that ritual. We call it **Pink Friday** – and this year, it's on Friday, November 28.

Pink Friday highlights the wide range of queer-owned small businesses that pack

Provincetown with one-of-a-kind gifts. What better way for the LGBTQ+ community and our friends to find that perfect holiday gift and support small 'mom & mom' and 'pop & pop' owned businesses here in town?

## Holly Folly December 5-7, 2025

The nation's original LGBTQ+ holiday celebration, **Holly Folly**, first began in

Provincetown in 1997 as an opportunity to gather and celebrate the festive winter season with our chosen family. Today, Holly Folly has become the nation's largest LGBTQ+ holiday festival and draws queer community visitors who travel from far and wide to town. Visitors enjoy festive and fabulous performances, fine dining, and holiday shopping experiences, happily getting lost in the one-of-a-kind, independently owned shops, boutiques, and galleries that line Commercial Street.

Highlights of Holly Folly Weekend include **The Boston Gay Men's Chorus** at Provincetown's Town Hall, **Holly Folly**

**Bingo, the Crown & Anchor's Holly Folly Follies**, as well as additional holiday performances, dance parties, art exhibitions, and more, all across town. Looking for a truly unique shopping experience? Be sure to visit **Canteen's Annual Holiday Market**, which features dozens of makers and artisans offering unique holiday gifts. Stay for a while and savor warm holiday favorites from their beachside kitchen and bar!

In 2024, more than 250 runners joined the **Jingle Bell Run** on the Sunday of Holly Folly to one-horse-open-slay their way down Commercial Street in as little clothing as they dared in a frosty fun-run. Participants will gather again this year to strip down and run through Provincetown to the Lobster Pot Tree!

## First Light December 31, 2025 - January 4, 2025

You'll have the perfect opportunity to ring in the New Year in Provincetown with friends and family during First Light weekend. With the Pilgrim Monument decked out in lights, revelers will fill the streets to celebrate the end of 2025. We offer a number of our signature events during this year-end celebration, including the **Provincetown Library's Light Bright Bike Ride**, the PBG's



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

# 2026



## Provincetown Pride June 5-7, 2026



## Bear Week July 12-18, 2026



## Carnival August 15 - 22, 2026 Carnival Parade August 20, 2026

annual **Ball Drop Bingo**, and the annual **Polar Bear Plunge**.

The Polar Bear Plunge on New Year's Day draws nearly a thousand people to the beach along Provincetown's Harbor for a refreshing dip in the ocean. In 2024, a record 250 plungers participated, raising almost \$25,000 to support the important work of the Center for Coastal Studies. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Polar Bear Plunge.

Afterwards, the crowds continued the New Year's Day party by flocking to the beachside warming station and then on to Harbor Lounge for hot and cold beverages.

Visit [Ptown.org](https://ptown.org) for the full schedule of events happening in Provincetown.



## Provincetown Business Guild

Founded in 1978, the Provincetown Business Guild is a non-profit membership supported organization that works to drive LGBTQ+ tourism to Provincetown and support our local businesses throughout the year - but we can't do it without the support of our community.

Please consider supporting the PBG by doing any of the following:

- *Make a donation to the PBG*
- *Volunteering to support our events*
- *Supporting our artists by underwriting a Carnival Float*
- *Becoming a member of the PBG*

Learn more by visiting [Ptown.org/about](https://ptown.org/about)







**Come Out,**

**Come Out,**

*Wherever You Are*



Everyone is welcome



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# WELLTOWN



Photo by Jeff Krehely

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