

2025 CALENDAR OF **EVENTS**

April

18-20 | 420 WEEKEND
IG: @420honeyptown
21-27 | LESBIAN VISIBILITY WEEK
lesbianvisibilityweekptown.com

May

8-11 | 1ST ANNUAL OUTSIDERS FESTIVAL
campptown.com
12-JUNE 14 | TWENTY SUMMERS
20summers.org
16 | FAST FERRY SERVICE BEGINS
ptown.org/ferris
16-18 | SINGLE WOMEN'S WEEKEND
provincetownforwomen.com
17-18 | MONUMENTAL YARD SALE
ptown.org
22-26 | MEMDAY WEEKEND WOMEN'S
FESTIVAL
lesbianhighlife.com/memdayptown

June

2-8 | PROVINCETOWN CABARETFEST -
THE GOLDEN ERA OF NIGHT CLUBS
provincetowncabaretfest.com
5-8 | WOMXN OF COLOR WEEKEND
womenofcolorweekend.org
6-8 | PRIDE WEEKEND
ptown.org/pride
8 | FEET OVER FRONT STREET 5K
RUN & WALK - PRIDE EDITION
ptown.org
11-15 | PROVINCETOWN INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ptownfilm.org
18-23 | FROLIC - MEN OF
COLOR WEEKEND
wearefrolic.com

14-21 | JUNETEENTH - A COMMUNITY
CELEBRATION AND COOKOUT
june15thptown.com
27-29 | PROVINCETOWN PORTUGUESE
FESTIVAL
provincetownportugueseFestival.com

July

JUNE 28-6 | REVOLUTION:
INDEPENDENCE WEEK
onlyathecrown.com
4 | INDEPENDENCE DAY
PARADE & FIREWORKS
ptown.org
5-11 | PROUDER TOGETHER
prouder2gether.org
12-19 | 25TH ANNUAL
BEAR WEEK
ptown.org/bears
20 | ASGCC PTOWN 5K
asgcc.org
23-26 | GIRL SPLASH
provincetownforwomen.com
27- AUG 2 | FAMILY WEEK
ptownfamilyweek.com

August

6 | JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY
12 | PROVINCETOWN JAZZ FESTIVAL
provincetownjazzfestival.org
16-24 | 47TH ANNUAL
CARNIVAL WEEK
ptown.org/carnival
17 | FEET OVER FRONT STREET 5K
RUN & WALK - CARNIVAL EDITION
ptown.org/carnival
21 | 47TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL PARADE
ptown.org
29 | ANNUAL JOCKSTRAP BIKE RIDE
ptownbrewco.com

September

6 | PROVINCETOWN SWIM FOR LIFE AND
ANNUAL FLOTILLA
swim4life.org
11-14 | NATIONAL GAY PILOTS ASSOCIATION -
CAPE COD CLASSIC
ngpa.org
12-14 | YANKEE LAMBDA
LGBTQ CAR CLUB SHOW
yankeelccc.com
19-21 | PROVINCETOWN BOOK FESTIVAL
provincetownbookfestival.org
19-22 | INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FLAG
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
iwffla.com
24-28 | 20TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
THEATER FESTIVAL
twptown.org
27 | PET PARADE & PET TEA
casasanimalsshelter.org

October

2-6 | MATES LEATHER WEEKEND XXVIII
matesleatherweekend.com
11-13 | MONUMENTAL YARD SALE
ptown.org
13-19 | WOMEN'S WEEK
womensweekprovincetown.com
19-26 | TRANSWEEK
transweek.org
30 - NOV 2 | HALLOWEEN WEEKEND &
SPOOKY BEAR
ptown.org/halloween

November

5-9 | PROVINCETOWN FOOD & WINE
FESTIVAL
ptownfoodandwinefestival.com
21-23 | MR. NEW ENGLAND LEATHER
mr-nel.com

21-DEC 31 | THE CANTEN HOLIDAY MARKET
cantenholidaymarket.com
26 | LIGHTING OF THE PILGRIM MONUMENT
pilgrim-monument.org
28 - 30 | THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
ptown.org/thanksgiving
28 | 'PINK' FRIDAY - QUEER BUSINESS
SHOPATHON
ptown.org/pinkfriday
29 | LIGHTING OF THE LOBSTER POT TREE
facebook.com/provincetownlobsterpotree

December

1 | WORLD AIDS DAY
asgcc.org
5-7 | HOLLY FOLLY
ptown.org/hollyfolly
6 | "SOUPER SATURDAY" FUNDRAISER
skipfood.org
31-JAN 4 | FIRST LIGHT NEW YEAR'S
CELEBRATION
ptown.org/firstlight

January 2026

1 | 10TH ANNUAL PROVINCETOWN
POLAR BEAR PLUNGE
ptown.org/firstlight

February 2026

13-16 | VALENTINE'S WEEKEND
ptown.org/valentines
20-22 | SNOWBOUND LEATHER WEEKEND XVII
matesleatherweekend.com/snowbound

March 2026

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

ABOUT THE
PBG

Founded in 1978, the Provincetown Business Guild (PBG) is a not-for-profit membership organization that promotes Provincetown as THE travel destination for the LGBTQ+ community. The PBG cultivates and elevates the queer identity of Provincetown, drives LGBTQ+ tourism, and supports our local businesses.



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

The PBG is made up of over 300 member businesses, including retail shops, galleries, restaurants, lodging establishments, attractions, professional and nonprofit organizations, nightclubs, and more that support the organization's mission. Our goal is to bring people to Provincetown to stay, eat, shop, and experience the specialness of a destination where they are both celebrated and feel safe being themselves.

One of the ways that the PBG promotes Provincetown is through the production of premier events, like Pride in June, Carnival in August, and Holly Folly & First Light in December, which attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

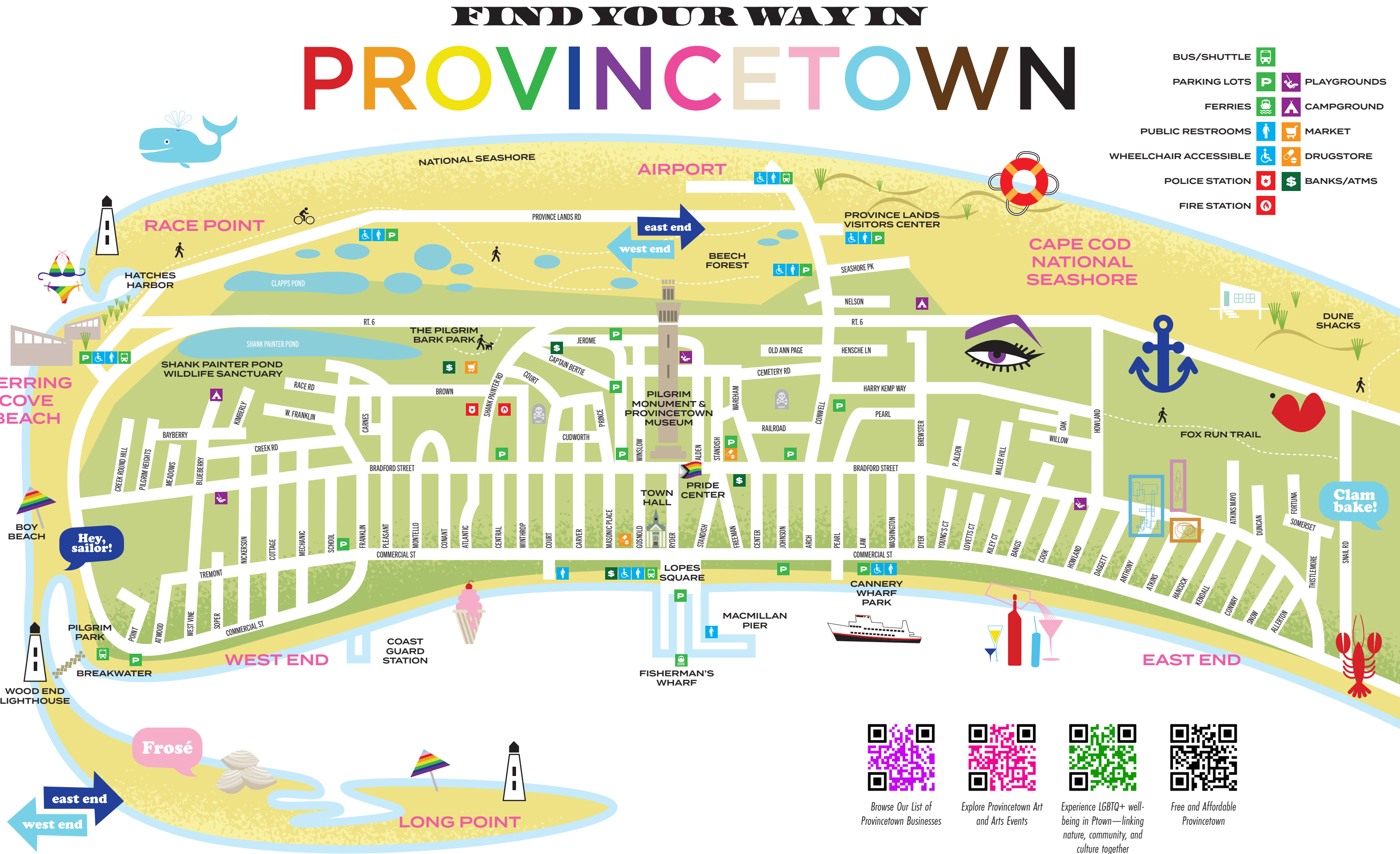
The PBG also oversees the operations of the nonprofit Provincetown Pride Center located at 115 Bradford Street. Learn more, make a donation, volunteer, or reach out to get involved helping spread the word about the magic of LGBTQ+ Provincetown at ptown.org.



Sponsored in part by the Tourism Fund

Illustration and design by JASONOMALLEY.COM

**Queer Adventure Guide
& Map to LGBTQ+
PROVINCETOWN**





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coastalstudies.org




adamsnest.com



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AdmiralsLanding.com



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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.

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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 LGBTQ+ activists.

1952: Philip "Phil" Baiona, sometimes known by his drag name Bella Baiona, opens Weathering Heights on Shank Painter Road, which openly caters to 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 that is also 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 the Cape and Islands.

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.

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME VISITORS

Provincetown is, of course, a well-known and beloved vacation destination for the LGBTQ+ community. Both locals and seasoned visitors alike love to welcome newbies; they offer advice, give directions, or cheerfully explain local customs and traditions. Here's a list of tips about Provincetown to get you started!

Provincetown's Gayborhood
One of the many things that makes Provincetown unique is that the whole town is queer-friendly. Most demographic estimations – both scientific and anecdotal – note that the majority of Provincetown is indeed part of the LGBTQ+ community. Acceptance and celebration of diversity abound

everywhere in Provincetown and spill over to neighboring Truro and Wellfleet, too.

The Provincetown Calendar
Provincetown is a great destination any time of the year! The most important thing to know is that everyone is welcome, no matter when you plan your visit. But if you're looking for a specific community or niche event, visit ptown.org to learn more about our theme weeks and see what's happening when.

Nightlife and Last Call
While a small town at heart, Provincetown offers a nightlife with a metropolitan soul. Nightclubs, bars, and cabarets abound along Commercial

drag, comedy, music, or theater throughout Provincetown.

Many evenings on the town end up on the dance floor starting around 10pm. Ptown's last call is usually at 12:45am. Once the bars close, the late-night crowds assemble at Spiritus Pizza, an end-of-the-evening tradition that's been honored for decades in Provincetown. If you're not ready to go home, this is the perfect place to land an invite to a private after-hours party.

Getting Around
Many visitors prefer to leave their cars at home, arriving by plane, bus, or ferry. Provincetown is very bike-friendly; there are many places around town where you can rent a bike.

Other modes of transportation are also available, including pedicabs and taxis and don't forget to hop on the sightseeing trolley! As for getting to the beach, there are shuttle buses that run throughout the day, as well as a boat launch to take you out to Long Point, the very tip of Cape Cod.

A Ptown 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.

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 Code National Seashore, it is Provincetown's de facto nude beach.

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.

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

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