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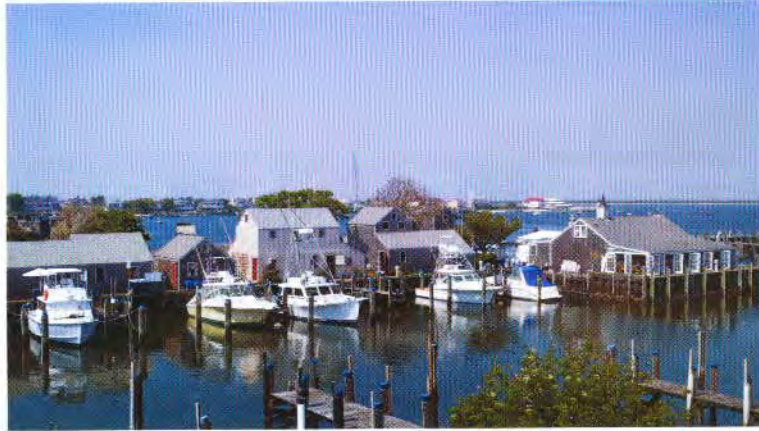
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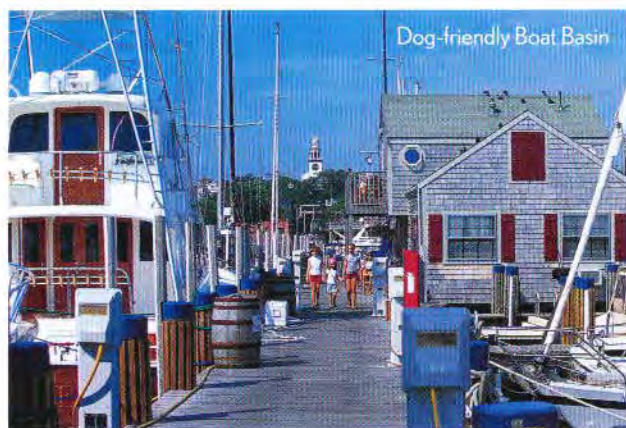
Nantucket Escape

You and your pup will fall in love with this New England retreat

Thirty miles off the shores of Massachusetts, due southeast of Martha's Vineyard, lies the island of Nantucket. Whether you travel there by high-speed ferry (it's an hour's trip from Hyannis) or by plane (the Cape Air flight from Boston takes all of 40 minutes), you're sure to be surrounded by one thing—dogs. After all, Nantucket is a true canine-lover's destination, teeming with pooch-friendly cottages, restaurants that have patio seating for pups and even a boat basin whose official greeters are (what else?) dogs.



The welcome center for the Cottages at Boat Basin, which features special WOOF Cottages for pets and their parents.



Dog-friendly Boat Basin



A room in one of the WOOF Cottages



Cold Noses pet boutique



Brant Point Grill

"This island is filled with dogs," says Ryan Grant, director of hospitality at Nantucket Island Resorts. "Sometimes it seems like everybody here has at least one."

And why wouldn't they? The island's deference to dogs is evidenced everywhere, beginning with its historic downtown area. Here you'll find Boat Basin, a 240-slip, pet-friendly marina. At any given time, the marina's communications manager, Christy Bassett, can be found guiding ships into the harbor as the property's dogs, Roots and Killington, play at her feet. Take a short walk to the head of Swain's Wharf, and you'll find a dog-friendly park in which all the pups can run around. "We really like to welcome pets," Bassett says.

Lining the basin's docks are The Cottages at Boat Basin, including the special WOOF Cottages for pets and their people. These cottages come complete with therapeutic dog beds, bowls and a welcome basket of treats and toys. Human guests, meanwhile, enjoy nicely appointed rooms, full kitchens, vintage fixtures and charming views of the water. The staff at WOOF Cottages can help you spoil your pet by arranging pet-grooming services, a pet massage and sitting or walking services for your pup.

Also in Boat Basin, don't miss Slip 14, a casual restaurant and bar with a large outdoor patio. Dogs can sit at their own table just beyond the patio and hang out with Roots, who is known to frequent the establishment in search of treats. The restaurant's owner, Jonas Baker, is a commercial fisherman, and his fresh catches and inventive menu lure tourists and locals alike.

Just a short walk from the cottages lies the city center, a labyrinth of wide, cobblestone streets flanked by shops, galleries and restaurants. This is where you'll find Cold Noses, an upscale pet boutique that has been around for more than 20 years. The store's signature Bulldog statue greets guests at the front door, and rows of Nantucket-branded dog merchandise line its walls. Want a "Nantucket Red" collar for Fifi? It's right here. What about a lobster-shaped dog biscuit for Max? It's here too. From dog life vests to crab-shaped chew toys, there's something for every Nantucket-loving pooch in this store.

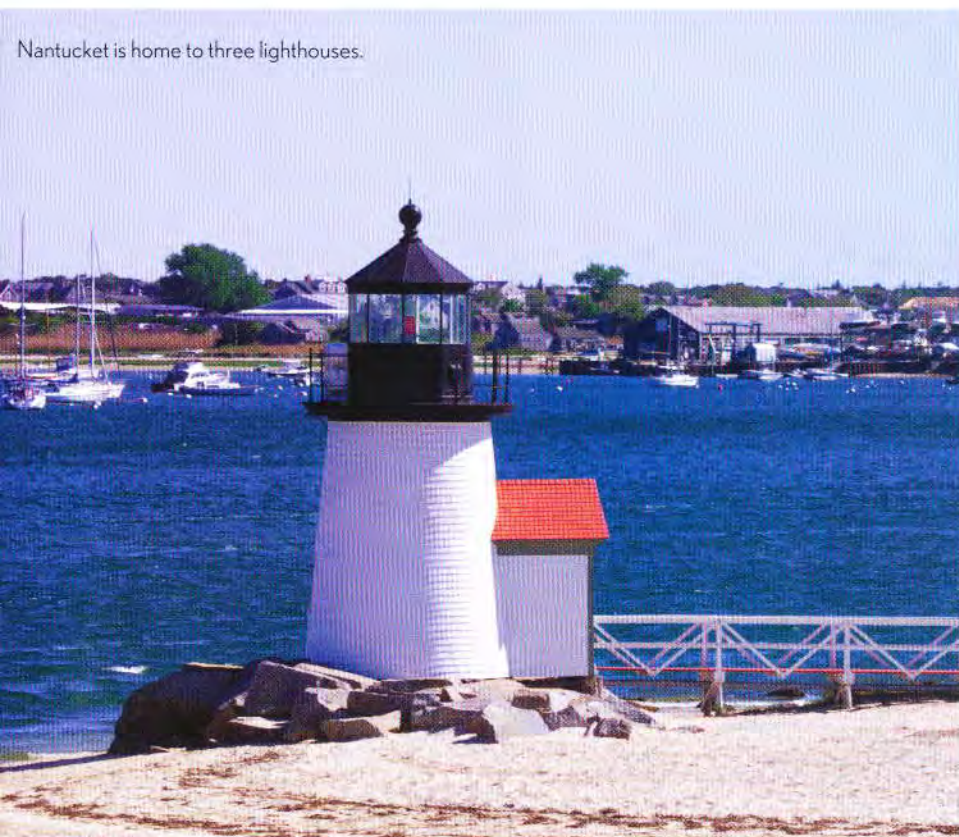
Also in the city center is the Even Keel Café, which offers inexpensive sandwiches, soups and salads, plus ample outdoor seating for pet parents. And don't forget the Nantucket Whaling Museum, which isn't dog-friendly but is still well worth the visit. If you're traveling with kids, they'll stare in awe at the 46-foot sperm whale skeleton, and you'll all be amazed at the sweeping harbor views from the rooftop observation deck.

Of course, the island is much larger than its charming downtown. Discover the rest of its 47 square miles on foot or by bike; the island is crisscrossed by more than 30 miles of paved walkways.

At the end of a long day of exploring, let your pooch rest in his cottage while you enjoy dinner at Brant Point Grill, undoubtedly one of Nantucket's most celebrated restaurants. Situated inside the acclaimed White Elephant Hotel, this restaurant offers beautiful views of the water within a dressy-casual atmosphere. Don't miss the grilled lobster or the homemade desserts like blueberry-peach cobbler.

When you board your ferry or plane for home, your mind will be relaxed, your heart light and your feet tired. But don't count on a quiet nap—after all, you'll likely be surrounded by dozens of barking dogs. 🐾

Nantucket is home to three lighthouses.



Nantucket

GETTING THERE:

AirTran Airways offers 21 flights daily to Boston's Logan International Airport. From there, it's a short, 40-minute flight to Nantucket on Cape Air.

AirTran

www.airtran.com

Cape Air

www.capeair.com

You can also take a high-speed ferry from Hyannis:

www.hy-linecruises.com

STAYING THERE:

WOOF Cottages

www.thecottagesnantucket.com

DINING THERE:

Brant Point Grill

www.whiteelephanthotel.com/restaurant/

Even Keel Café

www.evenkeelcafe.com

Slip 14

www.slip14.com

PLAYING THERE:

Cold Noses Dog Boutique

www.coldnoses.net

Nantucket Boat Basin

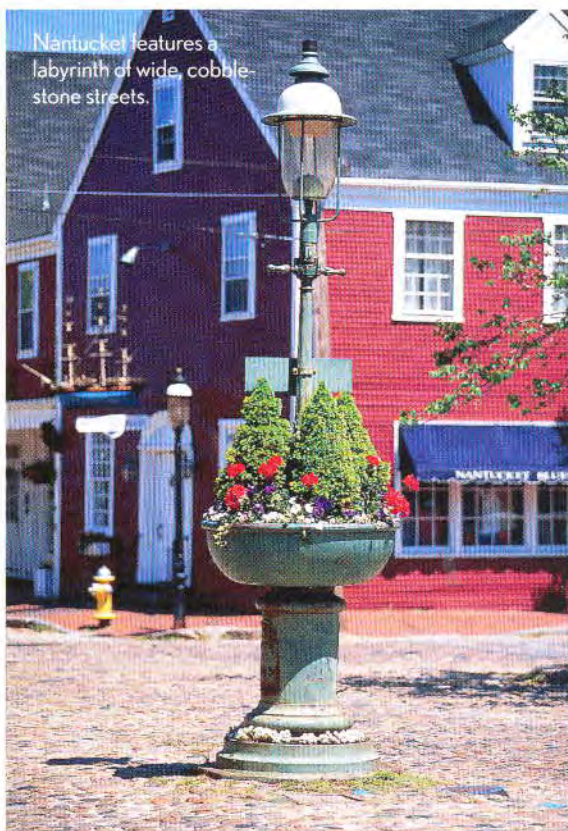
www.nantucketboatbasin.com

Nantucket Whaling Museum

www.nha.org

The island's deference to dogs is evidenced everywhere.

Nantucket features a labyrinth of wide, cobblestone streets.



A pooch cools off at a public water fountain.