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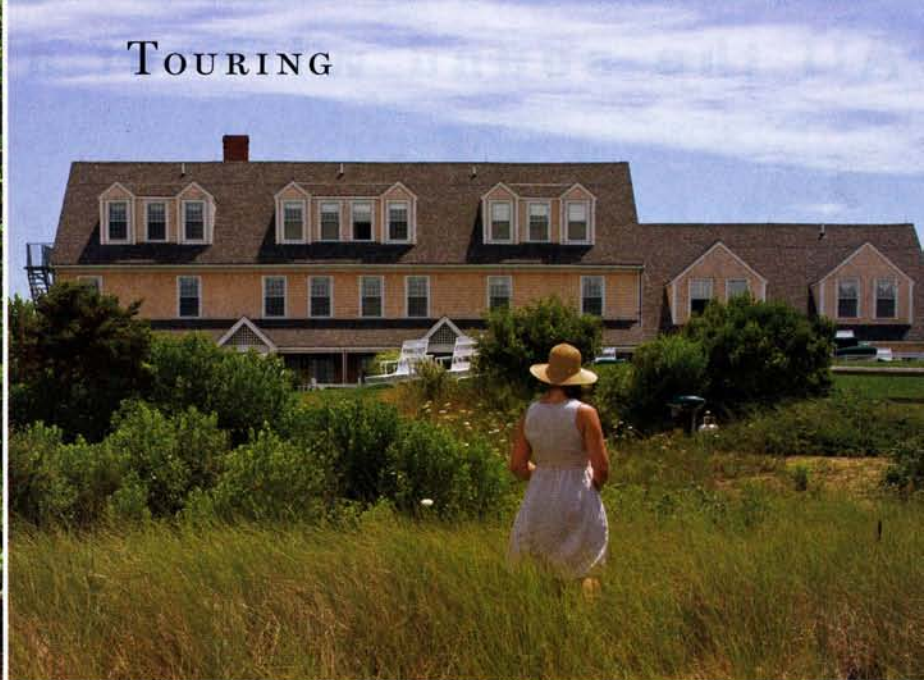


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## The Charming Inns of Nantucket

**O**n this prepossessing New England island, every building appears as though it were created expressly for a storybook, and the hotels, inns, and bed-and-breakfasts are no exception. From quaint shingled cottages to sprawling clapboard guesthouses, each one has a personality all its own. PHOTOGRAPHY KATE SEARS

*The Nantucket air is fragrant with the scent of roses and a salty tang that reminds visitors that the pristine beach is just steps away, below the bluff and past the dunes. Top right: The Wauwinet hotel blends an idyllic, traditional New England setting with luxury amenities. Opposite: Set in the historic and enchanting Siasconset village, the beautiful Summer House Cottages are decorated in classic English-cottage style.*





# TOURING



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Thirty miles off the coast of Cape Cod is a place where time seems to stand still. From its cobblestone streets to the silvery cedar-shingled houses and archetypal lighthouses, the Old-World charm of Nantucket seems endless. With no stoplights and very few cars, today's island still resembles the one Herman Melville described 150 years ago in his classic novel *Moby-Dick*: "Nantucket! Take out your map and look at it. See what a real corner of the world it occupies; how it stands there, away off shore..." The insular 3½- by 14-mile island offers a slow-paced, quiet escape from everyday life, and the inns there echo the local standard of relaxation and charm.

The White Elephant hotel was originally an assemblage of old houses and buildings that Nantucket resident Elizabeth Temple Ludwig began acquiring in 1917 on a prime spot near the beach. She dreamed of transforming the property into a harborside hotel, but friends did not share her vision and jokingly referred to the structure as an "unattractive white elephant of a building." Thus, the unofficial name stuck. In the 1960s, the property was renovated and eventually evolved into a spacious inn with fifty-three light-filled guest rooms and suites, most with working fireplaces and water views, as well as eleven garden cottages.



*Thoughtful touches at the White Elephant hotel, such as harbor-view wicker chairs for lounging and nightly turn-down service that includes a box of chocolates, let guests know that their comfort is of utmost importance. Hedges brimming with colorful flowers, perfectly manicured lawns, and hydrangea bushes with melon-size blooms surround the inn with color and life.*





*“Nantucket! Take out  
your map and look at it.  
See what a real corner  
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how it stands there,  
away off shore....”*

—HERMAN MELVILLE

# TOURING

The hotel's goal of refined luxury is apparent in every corner, from the guest rooms with their airy nautical décor and exquisite hand-embroidered sheets to the rich walnut furnishings in the lobby and the stately library, where cheeses and port are offered to guests each afternoon.

At The Wauwinet, guest rooms and three beachside cottages are individually decorated with antique pine, cheery chintz, Pratesi 400-thread-count bed linens, and an abundance of fresh Nantucket wildflowers. Although the furnishings and amenities are grand, the atmosphere of the inn is comfortable and relaxed. Guests can enjoy two private beaches; kayaks, sailboats, and bicycles; freshly squeezed lemonade served daily in the library; and even fleece blankets at the ready for comfortable sunset viewing on chilly evenings.

In the heart of Nantucket's downtown area is The Pineapple Inn. Originally built as a home for prominent nineteenth-century whaling captain Uriah Russell, the building has been completely restored as a grand traditional inn featuring four-poster canopy beds

with goose-down comforters, handmade carpets, and antiques and artwork. Daily breakfast on The Pineapple Inn's brick courtyard includes steaming cups of cappuccino and flaky homemade pastries—a favorite of the inn's devotees.

In the picturesque seaside village of Siasconset, called "Sconset" by locals, the Summer House Cottages provides an enchanting place to rest your head. Covered in climbing roses and decorated with a nod to classic English-country style, the cottages have a cozy home-away-from-home feel.

Offering a true refuge from the hectic pace of modern life, Nantucket is a summer-perfect destination, and the inns there impart a taste of years past, peaceful relaxation, and characteristic island charm.

