



Favorite Cruising spots in Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound

Cuttyhunk Island—typically a 1.5 hour sail on a close reach; a tiny island and crowded anchorage but a **fun and very popular** place to stop and walk around, stop for lunch or stay overnight. Inner Harbor is well-protected with both moorings and small anchorage available. Moorings also available along beach outside of breakwater between harbor and Nashawena, and good holding ground for anchoring outside of breakwater if anchorage is full. **Lovely view of Elizabeth Island chain from top of hill.** There is a market on the way up the hill from the main dock on your left. Also a store with Cuttyhunk “stuff” on the right after the dock. Also a tiny shack to the left which has AMAZING clothing and jewelry—bring cash! Fun local pizza called SOPRANO’s (“pizza to die for”). The best kept secret is “Cuttyhunk Fishing Club” which serves THE BEST breakfast al fresco on their porch on a hill overlooking the Elizabeth Islands and Martha’s Vineyard.



Quick's Hole—The safest passage between Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound. Quicks is nestled between Pasque and Nashawena Islands (two more Elizabeth Islands) and as such is normally protected from wind and seas. There's a lovely white sand beach with dunes and lots of good anchorage fairly close up. Great lunch spot. The beach can be closed at random by the owners of Naushon Island however.

Lambert's Cove on North side of Martha's Vineyard on Vineyard Sound side. Nice beach with dunes for a swim and picnic lunch in normal SW wind. Day anchorage only.

Lake Tashmoo *only approachable at mid-high tide and only if your vessel draws 4' or less!!* If the above qualifies you, this is a lovely peaceful “lake-like” setting from which you can walk to

Vineyard Haven while avoiding hustle and bustle of the more busy and commercial Harbor of Vineyard Haven. Note: approach entrance way to the left of the jetty and take a dog leg right and left again at the last minute (there is a very shoal spot just in front of the entrance.) Ditto on exiting (opposite of course)



Vineyard Haven is large and accessible and perfectly fine if you need to stop. The town is dry (no alcohol) but lots of fun and a few nice low-key restaurants (the famous **Black Dog**) and quaint stores. 2 great bike rental shops with access to nice bike trails out to West Chop, Tisbury and Edgartown. The negative is that ferries come in and out all day and night which can make for a busy and wavy anchorage. You have to pick your spot, preferably inside the seawall or tucked up close to it. Moorings available from Vineyard Haven Harbormaster, VH Yacht Club, and MV Shipyard all on 68 or 72.

Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard. One of my favorite spots. Easily visible by Cape Poge Lighthouse and a long entrance by lovely beaches and an array of very yachty yachts. You can reserve a mooring in advance (\$30 per night) by calling the Town Harbormaster's Office at (508) 627-4746. Oldport is the launch service now (\$2 pp each way), or dinghy to Edgartown Marine where Atlantic Café is to the left of the Edgartown Yacht Club. Fantastic restaurant. Please note that there is now a cut in what was the barrier beach allowing the sea into Edgartown Harbor from Katama Bay and there is a bit of current running through the harbor now which was the case in the past. So anchoring in Katama Bay is no longer as good an option. You can still dinghy over to the barrier beach and enjoy total privacy with the same great waves and sand you find at South Beach. **Allow at least 2 days on the Vineyard**—Great bike paths—good bike rentals, explore Gay Head cliffs, beautiful white, sandy South Beach—big breakers for bodysurfing.

You can take a ride in a classic bi-plane out at Katama (or watch- the restaurant there is classic for breakfast or lunch) or go parasailing out of Oak Bluffs. Great folk music at Wintertide Coffeehouse or R & B normally at Hot Tin Roof. Many great restaurants. Try Seafood Shanty in Edgartown for low key waterfront seafood dinner or just go up to the upstairs outdoor patio for a drink/lunch and watch boats coming and going from the Harbor. The Atlantic is a favorite-fun and top notch food and service. Wonderful raw bar items there and the best Bloody Marys! . Try breakfast at Garden of Flowers Café.

Oak Bluffs is on the tacky and crowded side (a ferry terminal) but definitely worth a visit if you have kids. Riding the classic carousel is a must as is walking around the gingerbread houses. There are lots of great restaurants and bars along the Wharf and also a very good bike shop. Some great concerts at the green.

Nantucket Harbor (about 4 hours' sail from Edgartown with a Sou'West breeze and a FAIR TIDE. Considerable currents in Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds that greatly impact sailing time to either of those islands) Also shoals. **Spend at least two days on Nantucket.** Biking or roller blading (long wide dedicated bike paths), gorgeous beaches, fishing, shopping. Great restaurants.



You can call ahead and reserve a slip from Nantucket Boat Basin at (508) 228-1333. You can reserve a mooring from Nantucket Moorings with a Mastercard or Visa at (508) 228-4472.

There is a 2-day minimum (\$45 per night = \$90). Deposits are non-refundable. If you need to change the date, change must be made one full day prior or you will forfeit \$90 deposit. You can call in for a last minute reservation by VHF—they monitor Channel 68.

Hyannis, Osterville, Waquoit Bay, and Falmouth are popular stops on **Cape Cod** but sailing into Cape anchorages is really tricky especially on windy days. Please refer to your cruising guide for local knowledge re: all Cape anchorages. My knowledge of this area is completely limited. Water depth is an issue in many harbor entrances on the Cape.

Hadley's Harbor on Naushon Island (on the Buzzard's Bay side of Wood's Hole Passage. Quaint, lovely, quiet with horses grazing along the shore; Excellent hole to duck high winds; beautiful inlets to explore by dinghy. It's a private island however—going ashore is a no no except for Bull Island which has a nice little trail but a deer tick problem. Great place to wait for favorable tide through Woods' Hole (only if you have written permission to enter Wood's Hole Passage at slack tide.)

Quisset Harbor (also on the Buzzard's Bay side of Cape Cod near (just NE of) Wood's Hole Passage) A lovely spot, quiet, secluded, no services—just peaceful, small beach, nice hike out to “the knob”. You can get an Uber or cab from here into Falmouth or Wood's Hole. The other place to wait for a favorable slack tide through Woods' Hole (only if you have written permission to enter Wood's Hole Passage.)

Red Brook Harbor, Cataumet MA (Kingman Marine Center and Parker's Boatyard for services and restaurant. Good spot the night before you have to be back at Onset Marion or Mattapoisett . 2 excellent full service boat yards (Kingman and Parkers), and the Chart Room is a lot of fun - bustling restaurant and social gathering place. **Make reservations now** (508) 563-5350.

Marion (Sippican Harbor) **Mattapoisett** and **Padanaram**, So. Dartmouth Apponagansett Bay) are all wonderful, quaint small New England spots to visit and have dinner. In Mattapoisett try the classic Irish tavern The Kinsale Inn where all meals are served and there is often live music (good live music!). In Padanaram try the Sail Loft (waterfront) the The Black Bass and Little Moss. The new Farm & Coast market is terrific.



Marion is a well-protected anchorage in most all weather conditions, although there's not much room—call ahead for mooring to Burr Brothers or Barden's Boatyards. Mattapoisett and Padanaram are fine except in a Southeasterly wind in which case they are both quite open to the weather and roly conditions (especially Mattapoisett). Call Mattapoisett Boatyard for Mattapoisett Moorings and New Bedford Yacht Club for moorings in Padanaram harbor (or call me if you're in a jam for a mooring).

New Bedford/Fairhaven has an anchorage behind a large Hurricane Barrier Sea wall for protection in truly horrid weather. It is FULL of history: Cobblestone streets, the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the Seaman's Bethel. The seaport has good moorings and launch service to either Pope's Island Marina or the Town Landing. There are WONDERFUL restaurants there. Some of my favorites are CORK (a tapas restaurant) and Freestone's.

Call to discuss itineraries for other areas! We wish you fair winds and smooth seas! But don't blame us if the weather doesn't cooperate. Remember this is New England. "...If you don't like the weather just wait five minutes..." . We do our best, but don't always get the weather we order for our clients!

Happy Sailing!

****Important Cautionary note about Wood's Hole & Wood's Hole Passage**** *If and only if you have been given rare written permission to use Wood's Hole as a passage from Buzzard's Bay to Vineyard Sound or vice versa: I cannot stress enough the amount of respect you need to give this tricky passage. It is narrow and winding and the buoys are confusing. There is no room for mistakes as there are rocks on either side of the channel. The current at even mid-strength Ebb & Flood is extremely fast and manipulative. There is usually traffic going both ways to have to deal with, some of whom clearly do not know the rules of the road. On the Vineyard Sound side there are ferries coming out of Great Harbor channel crossing the passage coming or going into the terminal who have no interest in moving one inch from their path. Under no circumstances should you attempt passage if there is fog or low visibility of any kind. **SLACK TIDE** or close to it with the tide **slightly against you** (which gives you more control than if it's carrying you forward) is the only time to negotiate this passage. You need to have at least 3 people who have studied the chart carefully prior and have one on binoculars identifying and calling each buoy, one with eyes glued to the chart and one at the helm concentrating only on where the bow and stern of the boat are in relation to the buoy line at all times.*

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