

CAPE COD, NEW ENGLAND'S EMERALD GEM

Cape Cod is a magnificent place to visit any time of year. Surrounded by the ocean and the bay and by beaches galore, the Cape's stunning beauty is matched only by its vibrant culture and storied history. Cape hospitality includes the finest lodging and restaurants, plenty of Main Street and boutique shopping, distinctive museums and cultural venues, thrilling outdoor adventures and more. Cape Cod truly has it all.

For many visitors, a perfect place to begin the adventure is the Town of Barnstable, formed in 1639 and a huge part of the Cape's charm and allure. The town is comprised of seven villages, each with its own distinct identity: Barnstable Village, Centerville, Cotuit, Hyannis, Marstons Mills, Osterville and West Barnstable.

How popular is Barnstable? A recent study of more than 200 American cities named Barnstable as the country's happiest place to retire, according to the *Cape Cod Times*.

Barnstable is about to get even more desirable, thanks to two new resort destinations – the Emerald Resort in West Hyannis and Margaritaville Resort on Route 132 - that will draw visitors for years to come.

THE IRISH VILLAGE & EMERALD RESORT

What a perfect name for this gem in West Hyannis, right off the rotary and across from the Cape Cod Melody Tent. Formerly known as the Cape Cod Resort and Conference Center, the property was bought in 2022 by Tomas MacCormaic and Jack Hynes, longtime owners of the popular Irish Village in West Yarmouth.

They renamed the facility the Irish Village and Emerald Resort, perhaps to reflect their own Irish roots. With 232 deluxe guestrooms and suites featuring a patio or balcony, wireless internet access, the Irish Village is a treasure. You can enjoy on-site indoor and outdoor pools, a Jacuzzi and

health club, full service spa and beauty salon, the Irish Village is a perfect place to relax and get rejuvenated.

The Irish Village also has an 18-hole, par 3 golf course, one of 15 private and 27 public golf courses on Cape Cod, according to Cape Cod Chamber Senior VP of Sales Patti Lloyd.

The popular Irish Village, which opened in 1976 as an affordable getaway for working people such as police, fire, union and veteran families, is being replicated at the new location, says co-owner Tommy MacCormaic. The Irish Village's winning combination of great food and drink, live music, friendly wait staff and repeat customers is a big part of the whole experience.

With 30,000 square feet of conference space and 15 meeting rooms, the Irish Village and Emerald Resort is a perfect place for weddings, family reunions, and mid-size conferences as well as a great entertainment venue.

MARGARITAVILLE RESORT CAPE COD

Also in Hyannis, Barnstable heartily welcomes the new Margaritaville Resort Cape Cod, formerly the Cape Codder Resort & Spa. A global lifestyle brand founded in 1977 and inspired by Jimmy Buffett, the Margaritaville Resort will begin welcoming visitors in summer 2024.

Managed by Plymouth-based Linchris, the resort is getting a \$30 million top-to-bottom reimagining that will blend Margaritaville's casual luxury with the natural aesthetic of Hyannis and the beauty of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

"We are extremely excited to share this iconic brand with one of the premier vacation destinations in the United States," said Bob Anderson, president of Linchris. "With the property's opening, we invite visitors to enjoy all the Cape has always had to offer with a twist. Margaritaville Resort Cape Cod will bring an incredible resort experience, a new destination within a destination."

Margaritaville Resort Cape Cod will have 272 rooms and thoughtful features and amenities for visitors of all ages. The resort has an indoor water park, outdoor pool, spa and various entertainment options, including Margaritaville-inspired restaurants and bars such as Landshark Bar & Grill and 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar.

THE CAPE COD IRISH

When it comes to Cape Cod's Irish community, the immediate reference point is America's first family of politics, the Kennedys, who have been vacationing at the famous Kennedy Compound in Hyannisport for nearly a century. Cape Cod was where "President John F. Kennedy could relax and feel at home, even while bearing the weight of the world," notes the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum which keeps JFK's memory alive on Main Street.

The US Census 2022 American Community Survey reported that 26.2% of residents in Barnstable County have Irish ancestry, or more than one in four residents!

The Cape Cod St. Patrick's Parade, held on Saturday, March 9, is a major celebration of Irish pride for thousands who come from across New England. The Cape Cod Chamber calls the parade "the largest and most anticipated

off-season occasion on the Cape, drawing upwards of 45,000 spectators from all over the country."

As part of the parade festivities, the Emerald Resort is hosting a three day Irish Festival on March 8-10, along with live music throughout the month. Other local pubs will join the festivities too, including Bobby Byrne's Pub in Mashpee Common and Hyannis, and the newly opened Auld Triangle Pub on Main Street, Hyannis.

You can find complete tourism information on Cape Cod by visiting capecodchamber.org.

