

2007 Nantucket Summer Beach Guide

Continued from page 23

SCHNEIDY'S



ROB BENCHLEY/The Independent

Surfer slang derived from the name of the owners of a nearby cottage, Schneidy's, until the word got out, used to be a surf break for locals to escape to when the more popular summer surfer haunts filled up.

- Location: At the south end of Austin Locke Way
- Best for: Surfing, sunbathing and watching the aforementioned
- Why it's cool: Sometimes not having to languish so long in the line-up to catch a wave
- Conditions: Southwest winds, H2O: 65°-70°, air: 60°-85°, occasional fog, heavy surf
- Facilities: None
- Access: On foot from parking area
- NRTA: N/A
- Lifeguards: No
- Dangers: Strong rip currents, deep water, heavy surf, man of war jellyfish
- Local wisdom: Find your own break away from this now-crowded beach

'SCONSET BEACH

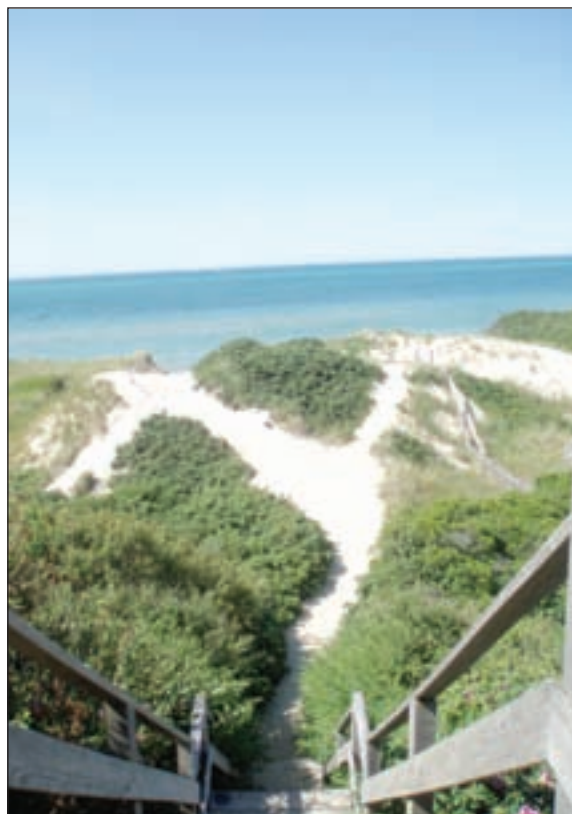


ROB BENCHLEY/The Independent

Nothing but ocean between you and Portugal, 'Sconset Beach is ideal for those on a tour of Nantucket needing an island daytrip destination or a halfway point respite. The Village of 'Sconset has a general store, post office, public restrooms, four restaurants and a liquor store, everything you need for day at the beach within walking distance.

- Location: Bottom south end of Gully Road, 'Sconset
- Best for: Families, weekenders, fishing, stargazing
- Why it's cool: Lunch or ice cream after a long bike or bus ride followed by a cool dip in the Atlantic
- Conditions: Southwest winds, H2O: 65°-70°, air: 60°-85°, fog mornings and late afternoon into evenings
- Facilities: Parking, swing set, bike racks, pay phone, public restrooms, food and beverages
- Access: Walk from parking lot or village
- NRTA: 'Sconset via Milestone Road; Main Street rotary stop
- Lifeguards: Yes
- Dangers: Strong rip currents, deep water, man of war jellyfish
- Local wisdom: The Summer House pool has a bar with a light lunch menu just steps to the south

STEPS BEACH



PETER. B. BRACE/The Independent

Who wouldn't love this beach? Amazing views of Nantucket Sound and the comings and goings of all manner of boats and ships, and you get them in between huge Cliff "cottages" overlooking the water.

- Location: At the west end of Lincoln Avenue, look for the chain-link fence
- Best for: Everyone who loves sunsets, skinny dipping at night and climbing stairs
- Why it's cool: Killer views of Nantucket Sound and the harbor at the top of 41 steps
- Conditions: Generally calm water, H2O: 70-75 degrees, air: 60°-85°, colder when wind is north or east, occasional fog
- Facilities: None
- Access: On foot from parking spaces
- NRTA: Jetties Beach Route, Jetties Beach stop
- Lifeguards: No
- Dangers: Splinters from the steps, limited parking,
- Local wisdom: Go swimming at night in late August through mid-September to experience the bioluminescent but harmless jellyfish flashing greenish blue that Nantucketers refer to as the "phosphorescence"

SURFSIDE



ROB BENCHLEY/The Independent

(INCLUDES FISHERMEN'S & NOBASIDE)

One beach with three names depending on where you spread your towel, Surfside is a beach in the classic sense of the word. A mixture of families, couples and many, many young singles, Surfside evolves into Fishermen's Beach heading east and beyond that, into what islanders call Nobaside, these last two being less crowded.

- Location: At the south end of Surfside Road and the bike path
- Best for: All beachgoers, early morning and evening fishing, people watching, sunsets and beachcombing
- Why it's cool: Everything you need is right there

- Conditions: Southwest winds, H2O: 65°-70°, air: 60°-85°, occasional fog, heavy surf
- Facilities: Bathhouse, concession stand, pay phone, bike racks and parking
- Access: On foot from parking lot, vehicles with town beach sticker after 5 p.m.
- NRTA: Surfside Beach Route; Surfside stop
- Lifeguards: Yes, with frequent police ATV patrols
- Dangers: Man of war jellyfish, rip currents, pounding surf
- Local wisdom: Some say the best cheeseburger on the island is made here

WATER TOWER BEACH



PETER. B. BRACE/The Independent

So-called because the town's water tower is visible on your way to this sublime spot on the North Shore along Washing Pond Road. It's a beach much like Dionis and 40th Pole but without beach drivers.

- Location: At the end of Washing Pond Road.
- Best for: Families and all beachgoers
- Why it's cool: Within biking distance of town
- Conditions: Generally calm water, H2O: 70-75 degrees, air: 60°-85°, colder when wind is north or east, occasional fog
- Facilities: None
- Access: On foot from the parking lot
- NRTA: Madaket Route; Crooked Lane stop
- Lifeguards: No
- Dangers: Limited parking, deep sand in parking area and speeding Jet-Skis very close to shore
- Local wisdom: Pick up lunch at Something Natural on your way. ■

DR. BEACH'S TOP TEN U.S. BEACHES FOR 2007

Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, who is the director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University in Miami, Fla., does studies of the shore and its environmental matters, and has provided expert testimony to the U.S. Congress on at least 10 occasions, according to his Web site, www.drbeach.org/.

Using his moniker, "Dr. Beach," Leatherman ranks the top 10 beaches in the U.S. each year. Below is this year's list. Dr. Beach said that, having been to Nantucket a number of times, the island has wonderful beaches, but that aside from not being able to put all beaches on the list, a major reason for his decision to omit Nantucket from his list is because of how tough it is just to get to the island.

1. Ocracoke Lifeguarded Beach, Outer Banks, N.C.
2. Caladesi Island State Park, Clearwater, Fla.
3. Coopers Beach, Southampton, N.Y.
4. Hanalei Beach, Kauai, Hawaii
5. Coast Guard Beach, Cape Cod, Mass.
6. Hamoa Beach, Maui, Hawaii
7. Main Beach, East Hampton, N.Y.
8. Coronado Beach, San Diego, Calif.
9. Lighthouse Point Park, Daytona Beach, Fla.
10. Siesta Beach, Sarasota, Fla.