

# Cape Cod National Seashore

Ranger-Guided Activities

November 23rd through December 30th, 2007

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

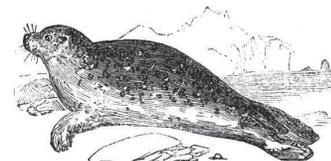


## **SPECIAL MOVIE SHOWING:** Friday November 23, Saturday November 24, & Sunday November 25

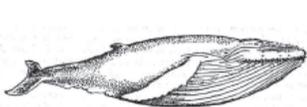
*Desperate Crossing: The Untold Story of the Mayflower* - 1 PM, 2½ hours. This History Channel production is a well-researched, historically-accurate portrayal of the Pilgrims' troubled journey to the new world, their contact with the Wampanoag People, and the founding of Plymouth Colony. This re-creation features dialogue from original source material, vivid high-definition reenactments, and actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company. Free with popcorn and juice served at no charge during a short intermission. Salt Pond Visitor Center, Route 6 at Nauset Road, Eastham.

## **FAMILY PROGRAMS:** Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are free and take place at Salt Pond Visitor Center, Route 6 at Nauset Road, Eastham.

**Saturday, December 1 - TALK: *The Scoop on Seals*** - 2 PM, 45 minutes. Seals and people love to play in the water, but did you ever wonder how seals keep the water from going up their noses, or how they're able to stay under that cold water long after we've turned blue? Come learn the answers to these questions and more as we discuss seals' special adaptations to their watery world.



**Sunday, December 9 - TALK: *Mystery of a Salt Pond*** - 2 PM, 30 minutes. Explore the connection between kettle ponds, salt ponds, and sea level rise. The Salt Pond can tell us the story of past and ongoing geologic events that have shaped the landscape we see from the visitor center. Takes place on the terrace (or indoors in inclement weather).



**Saturday, December 15 - TALK: *From Blowholes to Baleen - All About Whales*** 2 PM, 30 minutes. These giants of the deep have fascinated humans through the ages. Join a ranger and have a whale-of-a-time exploring the natural history of these amazing animals from their ancestral origins, to their special adaptations as marine mammals.

**Saturday, December 22 - ACTIVITY: *After Dark Adventure*** - 5 PM, 1 hour. The winter solstice marks the longest night of the year. Nighttime doesn't have to be "frighttime." Discover how exploring the night without light can be fun and exciting. Meet in the parking area at Coast Guard Beach, Eastham. In case of questionable weather, call (508) 255 - 3421 ext. 0 to confirm. *Dress for winter weather.*

**Wednesday, December 26 - TALK: *Whose Toes are Those?*** - 2 PM, 45 minutes. Discover wildlife living nearby. At this indoor program, learn some tricks for identifying tracks and sign left by local wildlife.



**Sunday, December 30 - TALK: *Are Horseshoe Crabs Crabby?*** - 2 PM, 30 to 45 minutes. They may look menacing, but these mysterious animals are actually quite docile. Their strange looks raise many questions: What kind of animal are they? How long have they lived on earth? How are they important to us? Explore the answers through stories and activities.

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# Be a Junior Ranger!

## What is a Junior Ranger?



*A Junior Ranger is:*  
...a Care-taker  
...an Adventurer  
...a Learner  
...a Seeker  
...a Discoverer  
*A Junior Ranger could be...  
YOU!*

We invite you to become a Cape Cod National Seashore Junior Ranger. You will join a growing group of young people who are interested in the world around them and involved in their nation's history.

## Become a Junior Ranger

If you are between the ages of 5 and 12, you can start the Junior Ranger journey. Just pick up the free Junior Ranger booklet at the visitor center, talk to one of the Rangers at the desk, and you're ready to explore Cape Cod National Seashore! Being a Junior Ranger means you understand how special national parks are and how it is up to all of us to help protect them in the future. We hope you will have fun learning about this park and the many others that also have Junior Ranger programs. For even more fun, when you get home check out the online WebRanger program at [www.nps.gov/webangers](http://www.nps.gov/webangers). Exciting adventures are just a click away!



## SALT POND VISITOR CENTER

OFF ROUTE 6, EASTHAM (508) 255 - 3421

This visitor center is open daily from 9 AM to 4:30 PM except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. It offers magnificent views of Salt Pond, Nauset Marsh, and the Atlantic; an outstanding museum; and park films in the remodeled theater with a new, digital audio-visual system. Staff are on duty to help with trip planning, and there is a well-stocked store offering books, maps, puzzles, games and other interpretive items for sale. Restrooms are available in the parking area. The Nauset Marsh and Buttonbush trails, and the Nauset Bicycle Trail are located nearby.

*During winter months, outdoor sites throughout the seashore such as roads, trails, and beaches, remain open for use, except when weather conditions warrant closing of some roads. Restrooms, however, are closed.*

# WHALE WATCHING IN WINTER?

Most people associate whale watching with warm sunny days and crowded boat trips into the offshore waters of Cape Cod. In fact, there is no better way to observe these magnificent denizens of the sea. However, opportunities do exist to see some whales from shore in winter. Young or non-reproductive whales have no reason to head south to the breeding grounds and instead may end up hanging out in local waters. Sightings from shore, though, like most wildlife watching, are dependent on them coming to us rather than us going to them, and are therefore not a sure thing.



Binoculars

With binoculars, warm clothes, and maybe a whale identification card, head out to some of the ocean and bayside beaches on the Outer Cape and see what you can find. Even if you don't see whales, you might see some of the other interesting wildlife that's abundant in winter: seals, sea ducks, and oceanic birds.

**North Atlantic Right Whale** - Up to 55 feet in length. Cape Cod Bay is one of the few locations in the Gulf of Maine where they are known to congregate. Here in local waters (December - April) they feed mostly on tiny crustaceans near shore, in the eastern parts of Cape Cod Bay. Beaches on both the bayside and ocean in Truro and Provincetown may provide opportunities for right whale sightings. North Atlantic right whales (named because they were the "right" whales to hunt) are the most endangered whales in the world, with approximately 325 still living.

**Fin Whale** - Up to 70 feet in length. Fin whales can be seen year-round in Cape Cod waters, and can sometimes be seen close to shore from the northernmost beaches, such as Herring Cove and Race Point, an area known locally as finback alley. Fin whales are relatively fast, therefore extensive hunting didn't begin until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the advent of modern ships and equipment. Today, population estimates range from 60,000 to 100,000 worldwide.

**Other Whales** - Young humpback whales, pilot whales, dolphins, and porpoises are also found year-round, but with the exception of humpback whales, they are seldom seen near shore unless in a stranding situation.

