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## Falmouth, Cape Cod: Story Abstracts

**Falmouth Family Vacations:** Falmouth, Cape Cod—a family ‘escape on the Cape’—likely provides more recreation, sights and attractions, activities, performances and lodging options than any other Cape town. The Cape’s second largest town offers a 68-mile seacoast and 12 miles of public beaches, with more than 1,000 acres of conservation land for hiking and exploration, a magnificent four-mile cycling path, seagoing excursions, nearby whale watching, wind and wave surfing and kayaking. For days when the family’s gotten too much sun or on rainy days, there are dozens and dozens of indoor activities, including some pretty fascinating museums in Woods Hole and Falmouth Village. Add to this a wide array of lodging options, from house rentals and motels to full-service ocean-front resorts, and there is no need to leave at all (except when vacation is over).

**Couples Love Falmouth:** Imagine a traditional New England wedding in Falmouth as just the start of an unforgettably romantic visit. This seaside resort is one of those towns simply perfect for an unforgettable honeymoon or for stealing a weekend away alone. Walking along Buzzards Bay, taking in a fiery sunset, sets the stage for an exciting night on the town. Once the night sky fills with stars, dine at one of the dozens of romantic restaurants along one of the eight villages’ main streets or byways. Cycling along an untrammelled path or lane to an obscure and deserted spot is the perfect way to while away an afternoon. Outdoor concerts during the summer months, strolls along Main Street, midnight beach walks, or drive along the shore to Nobska Light are all the stuff of which memories are made. Distinctive country inns and bed & breakfasts make an ideal place to hide from telephones, computers and the wider world (but, for those who must remain connected, many offer all the amenities needed to stay in touch, if you must).

**Falmouth’s Cornucopia of Arts, Culture and Entertainment:** For cultural tourists, Falmouth offers one of the best collections of arts and cultural assets in southeastern Massachusetts. In addition to the award-winning art galleries, museums and historical sites, such as Julia Wood House, Bourne Farm and Woods Hole Historic

Museum's three period structures, there are nearly a half dozen theater, chamber music, dance troupes and other performing art venues. Summer's Woods Hole Film Festival is widely acclaimed as one of the nation's finest festivals celebrating independent filmmakers. July's Falmouth Arts & Crafts Festival showcases the outstanding work of artists, artisans, potters, sculptors and crafters from the region. In addition, those interested in artistic instruction can partake of classes at Cape Cod Conservatory. Now let's talk about Woods Hole. This timeless seaport provides at least one whole day of exciting entertainment with visits to its major scientific museums and aquarium.

**Falmouth—Every Visit Too Short:** Every visitor to Falmouth rues heading home. Because of the town's incomparable selection of sights, attractions, activities, recreation, scenic beauty, golf courses, museums, historic sights, conservation lands, beaches, sporting events, shopping, events, theatrical and musical performances every visit will be far too short. Falmouth is a perfect size for the 'all-inclusive' Cape getaway. One can remain in town for weeks without ever needing to leave for virtually anything. The best way to get the all-around flavor of Cape Cod's second largest town is to plan wisely, or take in the town village by village. Of course, history buffs, fishermen, shoppers, and golfers will all have their own obsessions to satisfy. But there are as many themes to a Falmouth visit as there are days in any one visit.

**Eat Your Way Through Falmouth:** Warning ... Falmouth is not a destination for dieters (unless they have a lot of willpower). After all, how can one dine on fresh-from-the-ocean steamers, crab or lobster without a bowl of drawn butter? Or how can hungry visitors dare walk along Main Street, Falmouth Village (called 'restaurant row' by locals), and the air redolent of dozens of tantalizing entrées without succumbing? With at least 50 dining establishments in Falmouth, it is a simple matter to literally 'eat your way' through this charming seaside town. There is a very diverse collection of restaurants in Falmouth—many are clustered along the main byways of Falmouth and Woods Hole—but there are also those worth seeking out in the other villages. Fine dining, clam shacks, continental, ethnic dining, BBQ, seafood shacks and restaurants, Italian, Irish ... take a turn around Falmouth's eight villages. It is unlikely anyone will leave town hungry!

**Eco Tours of Falmouth:** With more than 3,500 acres of dedicated conservation land, Falmouth is an ideal destination for ecologically-minded travelers. Hikers, photographers and artists will revel in Falmouth's 'outback' in all seasons. Bird watchers, naturalists and walkers can trek through its ancient forests and highlands. Falmouth has some of Cape Cod's highest elevations within its conservation lands. All visitors can find their own peace—and piece— of Falmouth to revel in and explore. In addition to Waquoit Bay Estuarine Research Reserve's 2,500 acres of coastal wetlands, beach and Washburn Island, there are nearly a dozen additional tracts of pristine and idyllic conservation areas for any outdoor activity. So, pack your hiking shoes, binoculars, camera and other equipment and head to Falmouth, where it is a simple matter to get lost and take a hike!

**Something Fishy about Woods Hole:** Woods Hole, part seaport, part science community and a completely captivating village, is home to several internationally renowned marine, biomedical and environmental research institutions. The village is cheerfully overrun by thousands of national and international visitors—tourists, students and scientists—making it one of Cape Cod’s most visited spots. And small wonder. An impressive array of prestigious and vital research facilities offers regular tours. With Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (now exhibiting “Titanic Lost and Found,” dedicated to the undersea discovery of this historic vessel), Marine Biological Laboratory and Woods Hole Science Aquarium (part of the National Marine Fisheries Service), are a few of Woods Hole’s top attractions. Families, students and visitors of every kind will want to spend at least a day here. And then there are Quissett Harbor, Spohr Garden, Woods Hole Historical Museum, the waterfront and a bevy of fascinating nooks and crannies with shops, restaurants and galleries to explore.

**Falmouth’s ‘Other’ Seasons:** When people think Cape Cod, they automatically think ‘summer.’ And the Cape in summer is glorious. But, unlike some Cape towns, which all but close up when the leaves start falling and cranberry bogs are afloat with crimson, Falmouth merely turns its autumn and winter cheeks. The warm waters of Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound remain comfortable for swimming into October. The town’s muted palette of color—ochre, scarlet, sienna—welcomes autumn visitors along with quiet season getaway packages, lodging and dining specials, great shopping, the welcoming aroma of wood fires, secluded and deserted ribbons of beach and an evening light which is the all-time favorite of photographers and artists. Thanksgiving and the arrival of the holidays—heralded by a weekend-long celebration, Holidays by the Sea—are wondrous times to visit Falmouth—your escape on the Cape. And winter and spring serenity will surprise and delight. Falmouth is open for business—and for your pleasure—all year.

**Falmouth’s ‘Eight-Day Week:’** Falmouth likes to thumb its nose at the traditional seven-day vacation. Rather, those in the know prefer to offer the ‘eight-day’ week for Falmouth visitors. One day for each of Falmouth’s eight villages. Each is worthy of at least one day’s exploration! Waquoit Bay Estuarine Research Reserve (including Washburn Island) comprises 2,500 acres. One could easily spend an entire day in Waquoit Village. East Falmouth’s scenic Maravista Peninsula, Great Pond and beautiful Menauhant Beach will vie for one’s attention. Drive along Davisville Road—the quintessential New England tableaux can be found here. Falmouth’s Village Green, its Museums on the Green and Main Street alone will fill an entire day. Hurry up and take in Falmouth Harbor, Surf Drive Beach and its diverse selection of shops and boutiques. And there are still five more villages—Teaticket, North and West Falmouth and Woods Hole (alone worthy of several days’ visit)—chock full of things to do and see. Your desk will still be there Tuesday morning!