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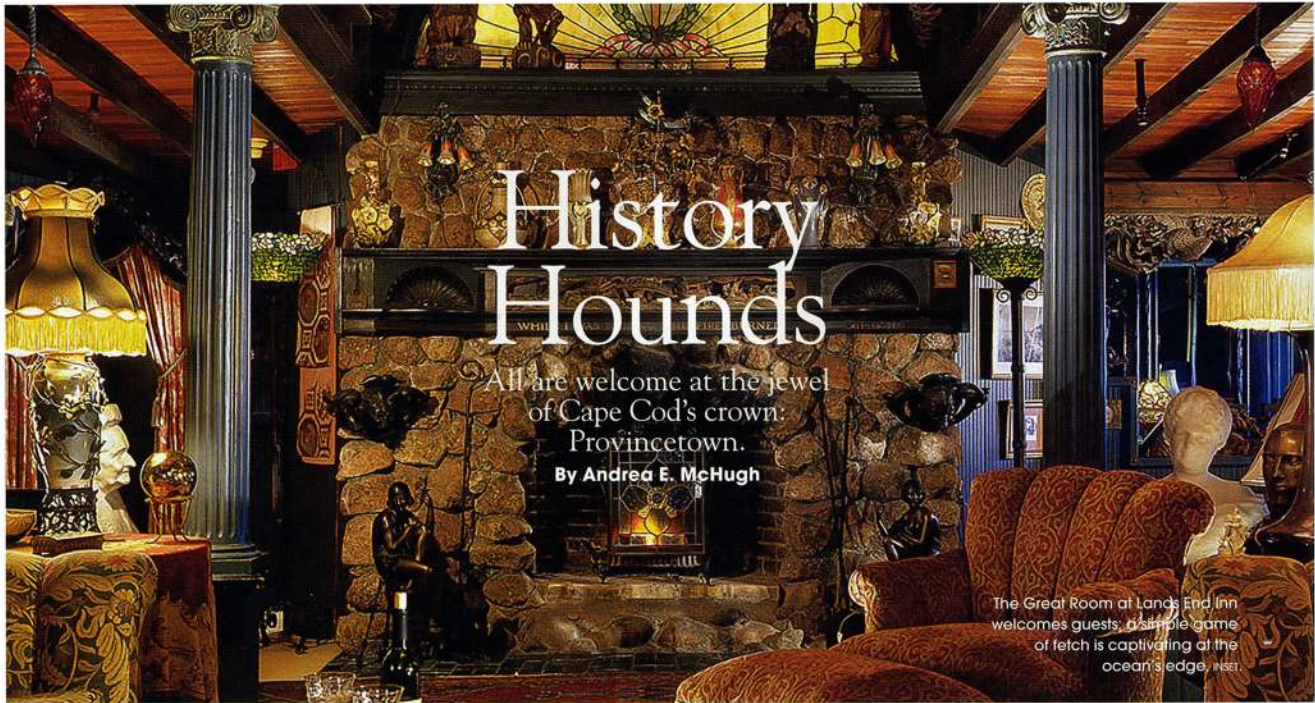
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History Hounds

All are welcome at the jewel of Cape Cod's crown: Provincetown.

By Andrea E. McHugh

The Great Room at Land's End Inn welcomes guests: A simple game of fetch is captivating at the ocean's edge. INSET

When the pilgrims finally landed in Provincetown Harbor, Mass., in 1620, they weren't the only ones eager to disembark the Mayflower. It's reported that at least two dogs sailed to the New World. Today, Provincetown, perched on the northernmost tip of Cape Cod, remains one of coastal New England's most Fido-friendly destinations, with more than 30 pet-friendly locations including lodging, beaches, trails and restaurants.

The newly opened Pilgrim Bark Park is the hub of the Fido-friendly community. Solely supported by volunteers and private donations, the park recently benefited from a performance by comedian and lifelong animal lover, Lily Tomlin. A thriving artist community, the park is peppered with painted benches and dog houses decorated by local talent.

While Provincetown (or "P-town," as it's dubbed) welcomes thousands of visitors year-round, the population swells in the warmer months. Charming inns and bed and breakfasts are commonplace, many offering Fido-friendly accommodations. Boasting panoramic Atlantic views in the town's fashionable West End, the Land's End Inn, built in 1904, dedicates three of its lavish suites to Fido-friendly travelers.

There's a reason why famed naturalist writer Henry David Thoreau came here for solace and inspiration. Home of the famed Cape Cod National Seashore, with more than 40 miles of pristine beaches, leashed Fido is welcome along marked shorelines and roads. Pups who have earned their sea legs should head to Whalers Wharf and visit Venture Athletics Kayak Shop. Here, Fido can hop atop a rented kayak with their human companion to trace Provincetown's picturesque coastline. No visit to this maritime-rich town would be complete without taking to the sea. The Bay Lady II, a traditional gaff rig schooner, welcomes Fido aboard for a leisurely, two-hour sail dictated by the direction of the day's wind.

After working up an appetite, Fido and friends can head to one of many restaurants along bustling Commercial Street. At the Central House of Crown & Anchor, Fido is given free Pilgrim Bark Park dog bowls filled with cool water.

While many inns and businesses are Fido-friendly, furry friends take center stage during P-town's annual Pet Appreciation Event the last weekend of September. Canine agility games, benefits, dances, entertainment and the highlight of the weekend, the Pet Parade down Commercial Street, commences with the Blessing of the Animals. Monies raised benefit the Carrie A. Seaman Animal Shelter, a local no-kill shelter serving lower Cape Cod.

All are welcome at this eclectic, historic and charismatic coastal destination, so make sure to include your most loyal companion on your next visit to Provincetown. **f**

IF YOU GO

GETTING THERE

BAY STATE CRUISES

A 90-minute fast ferry from Boston. (877) PT FERRY; www.baystatecruisecompany.com.

STAY

LAND'S END INN

(508) 487-0706; www.landsendinn.com.

GABRIEL'S AT THE ASHBROOKE INN

(800) 969-2643; www.gabriels.com.

VISIT

PILGRIM DOG PARK

Shank Painter Road and Route 6E; (508) 487-1325; www.provincetowndogpark.org.

CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE PROVINCE LANDS VISITOR'S CENTER

Race Point Road; open daily May 1 through October 31st; (508) 487-1256; www.nps.gov/caco/index.htm.

DINE

WABI DUMPLINGS

206 Commercial Street; (508) 413-3300; www.wabidumplings.com.

FRAPPO 66

214 Commercial Street; (508) 487-9066; www.frappo66.com.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDELL PERRY