



Beach cottages near Sconset's town center are spaced closely together and often have climbing rose bushes and colorful hydrangea bushes in their pocket gardens.



Hydrangea bushes are in full bloom in August all over the island and are especially decorative in gardens like this.



Summer House is a collection of beach cottages in Sconset on Nantucket's east end that maintain their original exteriors like this one.



Nantucket's Sankaty Lighthouse was once known as New England's most powerful light.



Beach cottages like this one are typical in the small town of Sconset on the east side of Nantucket.

NANTUCKET CONTINUED FROM D8

While we were on the island, we were able to experience the Nantucket Garden Club's annual home and garden tour of historic homes and spectacular gardens up and down Main Street. We also toured the 1809 Unitarian Meeting House and enjoyed dinner at Todd English's Figs located at 29 Fair, the oldest restaurant on the island dating from 1709.

## Hydrangea bushes are bursting with colorful blooms and rose bushes are in full bloom.

**Siasconset**

On the eastern side of the island, away from the hustle and bustle of the harbor, is Siasconset where we stayed at Summer House, a collection of 18 shingled, authentic one or two-room cottages, scattered across a rose-bush-filled property. Siasconset was settled as a fishing village in the 17th century. One of the older fishing shacks, known as "Auld Lang Syne" is believed to date from the 1670s. Other cottages date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Many of them resemble hobbit-like dwellings with small windows and doors, gray shingle facades, and rooftop trellises—all close together (too close if you're watching TV) but separated by well-organized front yards and white picket fences.

In 1877, Edward Underhill from Wolcott, N.Y., bought land in the village and constructed cottages in the fashion of the original fishing shacks and then rented them to summer tourists. Broadway talent took up residence during the summer months to perform at the Casino Theatre.

Eventually, Nantucket became what it is today, a destination island full of things to discover, but also a place to relax.

Siasconset's center of town has a post office, a café, a restaurant, and a grocery store that serves up ice cream, cookies, dry goods, wine, and a few comestibles. Another noteworthy establishment is the Casino, which is a tennis club and also a venue for movies, lectures, performances, and dance classes—an unofficial community center. A few minutes on foot and you arrive at the beach near the Summer House cottages, which is open to the public, although hotel guests have beach chair and umbrella privileges. The beach is wide and long, but the surf can be choppy.

The best part of our stay was being able to stroll the neat-pebbled walkways amid the pristinely preserved fishing cottages in the early morning and again at sunset before dinner. Longer walks took us to larger mansions overlooking the bluffs. Nearly 50 percent of the island is preserved so there are

huge areas of natural vegetation.

Even though August is the island's highest season, it's a month that's loaded with colorful images. Hydrangea bushes are bursting with colorful blooms and rose bushes are in full bloom not only in gardens, but also on rooftop trellises, which is a gardening trick that seems so natural for Nantucket. All this adds a distinctive flair and flash of color to the stoic gray shingle facades.

Nantucket is both picturesque and wild. It is a vulnerable little landmass to both the elements and the expansion interests of the ultra-wealthy. Though just as the pioneering spirit of sailors and fishermen have stuck it out for over three centuries, the efforts of groups such as the Historical Society will continue to preserve Nantucket's past and shape its future.

*Isabelle Kellogg is a writer and public relations consultant in the luxury sector, with a passion for diamonds, jewelry, watches, and other luxury products, including travel.*

## ■ GEOGRAPHY GURU

**Puzzle 432**

**SUPERHERO LANDFORMS:** Match the North American capes listed below with their location.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Cabo San Lucas | Baja California Sur, Mexico                                 |
| Cape Canaveral | Florida   |
| Cape Columbia  | Greenland's southernmost point                              |
| Cape Farewell  | Newfoundland, Canada's easternmost point                    |
| Cape Flattery  | Nunavut, Canada's northernmost point                        |
| Cape Spear     | Washington, farthest northwest point of the lower 48 states |

READ THE EPOCH TIMES NEXT WEEK FOR THE ANSWER!

**Answer for puzzle 431**

**WHAT NATION AM I?** I am the ninth-largest nation in the world. I am landlocked, although three of the largest 15 lakes in the world are within or on my borders. Each of the three lakes is a salt lake, and each has the word "sea" in its name. My 17.3 million people spend tenses. Astana is my capital, Almaty my largest city. My neighbors include Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. I am KAZAKHSTAN.

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