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Travel

We'll have a gay old time

From art to whale watching, visiting Provincetown is a required journey

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Provincetown, Mass., is such a concentrated area of summer energy that it feels more like its own island rather than its actual geographical location — the 18-square miles of land at the tip of Cape Cod. There's also more to the resort town than its famed shops on Commercial Street, which is P-Town's main drag (drag in the literal sense, as the area is known to attract many a drag queen).

How to take in the art
The best place to start your browsing is the Provincetown Art Association and Museum (460 Commercial St., 508-487-1750).



These garage doors painted in the style of Andy Warhol's portrait of Marilyn Monroe are just one small part of Provincetown's thriving arts climate.

Among the current exhibits is the silent auction in the Charles W. Hawthorne room, which features four walls of works by 278 local artists. Next to each piece you can learn where the artist displays more work, which guarantees a more informed exploration of other galleries.

boasts the highest concentration of gay men in the Northeast without going to a drag show. We watched Hedda Lettuce perform a flamboyant version of "Mystery Science 3000" to "Mommy Dearest" at the Art House Theatre (214 Commercial St., 508-487-9222).

Where to eat
Two new restaurants captured our hearts (and stomachs). There is something deliciously voyeuristic about eating on the top deck at The Waterford Inn, Cafe & Tavern (386 Commercial St., 508-487-6400) as you sit above the people-watching parade below. But what's even tastier is the fresh seafood and ambitious cocktail menu. You won't be able to watch tourists at Victor's (175 Bradford St., 508-487-1777), but you will find throngs of locals enjoying delicious dishes.

Where to stay
The White Porch Inn (7 Johnson St., 508-364-2549) is nine rooms of sheer felicity, most of which have spa tubs and fireplaces, and all of which have a nightly invitation to enjoy a glass of wine on the white porch.

What else to see

We highly recommend the Whale Watch on any of the boats in the Dolphin Fleet (307 Commercial St., 508-487-1709). You also can't leave a place that



Hedda Lettuce, one of P-Town's premiere drag queens