

How to See the Island in One Day Off-Season 2017-2018

The best way to tour the Island in one day is outlined below. Please be sure to set aside at least 8 hours in order to see everything without rushing. The following itinerary takes you from your arrival port of Vineyard Haven to Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, then rural Up-Island (West Tisbury, Chilmark, Aquinnah), and back down to Vineyard Haven.

Vineyard Haven Arrival: Take Route #13 to Oak Bluffs, which departs hourly at 50 minutes past the hour from October 10th thru April 27th beginning at 7:50am. From October 10th thru January 1st and March 30th thru April 27th there are additional departures at 20 minutes past each hour, starting at 7:20am and going until 4:20pm. Upon arriving at Ocean Park in Oak Bluffs you can disembark and enjoy Circuit Ave (the equivalent of a Main Street) with shops, ice cream parlors, restaurants, an arcade, and is home to America's oldest working carousel, the "Flying Horses". Please note that during the off-season many of the shops and restaurants are closed, as is the arcade and carousel. A short walk from Circuit Ave is the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, consisting of hundreds of colorful Victorian gingerbread cottages; it's surely something the whole family will enjoy. If you do not wish to see Oak Bluffs now, you can stay on Route #13 and continue on to Edgartown.

Oak Bluffs to Edgartown: Take Route #13 to from Ocean Park to Church Street in Edgartown, which departs hourly at 2 minutes past the hour from October 10th thru April 27th beginning at 8:02am. From October 10th thru January 1st and March 30th thru April 27th there are additional departures at 32 minutes past each hour, starting at 7:32am and going until 4:32pm. In order to have enough time to get up-Island, the 12:02pm departure would be a good choice. Upon arrival at Church Street, it's a very short walk to Main Street which offers a variety of up-scale boutiques and restaurants, as well as the harbor. The Edgartown Lighthouse is about a ten minute walk from Church Street. Again, please be cautioned that many shops and restaurants are closed during the off-season.

From Edgartown to Up-Island: Take Route #6 from Church Street at 2:00pm or 3:30pm to the West Tisbury Town Hall. Transfer to the Route #5 for the Gay Head Cliffs and Lighthouse. Your arrival time would be 2:44pm or 4:14pm, respectively. This bus will depart to go back to West Tisbury at 2:48pm, 4:18pm and 5:48pm. There is nothing open at the Cliffs this time of year, so you may just want to enjoy the view for a few minutes and head back down-Island on the same bus you arrived on.

If you chose not to go up-Island, you can head back to Vineyard Haven via the Route #1 from Church Street.

Up-Island to Vineyard Haven: Get back on the Route #5 for West Tisbury - stay on this bus, as it will become the Route #3 for the Vineyard Haven Steamship Authority. Main Street is a short walk from the bus stop, and offers dining and shopping. To check ferry schedules, go to www.steamshipauthority.com.

When visiting for the day, a One Day Pass for \$8.00 (\$5.00 for seniors 65+) is the most cost effective way to see the Island. This pass allows unlimited rides on all routes for the entire calendar day! Please visit our website at www.vineyardtransit.com, or check us out on Facebook and Twitter (@VTA_MV)!