

# Like Nowhere Else

By Michelle Haynes



Art's Dune Tours, circa 1946



Photos: Gary Patronek

Before you decide to take off on your own to traverse the Provincetown dunes, take advantage of the only guided motorized tour with Art's Dune Tours. These guides truly know the "dune story" and it is quite the tale. You can also take advantage of their many specials including a sunset feast of lobster or chicken enjoyed at the edge of the Atlantic or an afternoon kayak.



This piece of driftwood marks THE only "street marker" in the dunes. If you get lost, go here.

The year is 1946. Maternity wards are busy with the dawn of the baby boom, new homes average \$5,600 and Americans are spending 15 cents a gallon to fill their gas tanks. That same year, Art Costa, a member of the Portuguese community in the tiny Cape Cod town of Provincetown, Massachusetts, looks at his ten-year-old Ford "Woody" station wagon, and at the towering sand dunes bordering the town and forms a plan.

Seventy years later Art's Dune Tours continues to flourish and the little boy who tagged along on his Dad's truck now runs the only dune tour operation in Provincetown. "It never gets old for me," says Rob Costa, "I love sharing the wonder of the dunes that stretch as far as the eye can see. Visitors are always amazed at what we have out here, the vistas of wispy beach grass, dark green pine trees and deep red beach plums nestled in hollows ending at the Atlantic Ocean. We always take time to point out the dune shacks, inspiration for a number of famous artists and writers including Eugene O'Neill and Tennessee Williams."



Photo courtesy of Art's Dune Tours



You never know who you will meet in the dunes. Taking the tour is Secretary of State John Kerry with dune tour owner Rob Costa (next to the Secretary) and his husband-to-be Rob Papa



Photo: Rob Costa

Costa has taken his father's tours a lot further offering clam bakes, sunset tours with a champagne toast and a number of special excursions including something he calls *Land 'N Lake*, a half-day in the dunes coupled with kayaking on a spectacular nearby lake.

This time of year Provincetown is hopping with packed streets and nonstop entertainment but to really appreciate the extraordinary singularity of this magical town, do not miss an opportunity to stop the world in one of the most beautiful settings imaginable.

[artsdunetours.com](http://artsdunetours.com)