



Even though you may best be described as a "homebody", surely you've had the experience of finding yourself in unfamiliar territory, a place you know you've never been before, that somehow reminds you of another place that's very familiar to you.

Similarities between certain widely separated places are apparent just as differences are.

If Connecticut towns of Stonington, Essex and Washington Depot are familiar to you, for instance, and you were to find yourself in Manchester or Bennington, Vermont, or Marblehead, Yarmouth Port, Old Deerfield or Edgartown, Massachusetts, you'd know immediately there's something of a sameness to them all.

Although some of these are waterfront towns located on rivers, bays or sounds, others have grown up far from sea-lanes and nestle among the foothills of the Berkshires, in the Green Mountains, and some stand on level plain.

It's not the terrain, then, that's typical of these places. It's the architecture of the Eighteenth Century houses standing on either side of the broad avenues leading from one end of town to the other.

Sometimes it is the terrain that makes us think we may have been, quite unexpectedly, transported to another part of the world in the wink of an eye.

If you've driven the coastal road along the Mediterranean from Rome, north to Genoa, Italy, and were to find yourself riding the coastal road from San Francisco to California's Monterey Peninsula, you might notice a similarity in the mountain formation en route.

There are differences, of course; that's one of the pleasures of travel: seeing the differences as well as the likenesses. Travelers in the English countryside, south of London, particularly in Kent, often are reminded of New England and especially Cape Cod.

While it's well-nigh impossible to point to any one view of Cape Cod and properly call it the one most typical, there's something about many quite different ones that may seem uniquely to typify the Cape. What place or scene seems most "typical" to you?

A beach perhaps? A beach like Sandy Neck? Like Craigville? Or like Nauset? A beach in summer, thick with sunbathers? A beach in winter, piled high with tumbled ice?

Perhaps you've chosen an overview from a hilltop: from Shoot Flying, with the bay at the north, Wequaquet Lake and Nantucket Sound to the south? Or from Scargo Hill in Dennis with the jewel of Scargo Lake at your feet and the long arm of the Cape stretching up towards Provincetown? Or from Scorton with the Great Barnstable Marshes spread as level as an emerald carpet to the dunes' edges rearing against the sky?

Perhaps you chose a busy marine waterfront: Woods Hole, Barnstable Harbor, Provincetown Harbor, Rock Harbor in Orleans, Lewis Bay in Hyannis, or the Crosby shops at Osterville. Maybe the picture flashing into your mind was a lake-front, one of the more than three hundred on the Cape, surrounded by gentle hills, well-wooded with pine and oak growth.

Or did you pick a small-farm neighborhood in West Barnstable, Eastham or Dennis? Do you feel a typical scene is a writhing river, its headwaters in the ponds, snaking its way to the south shore through marshes and swamps?

Was a fine village green, like Falmouth's, pictured in response to the question? The center of Sandwich? The arching elms of Centerville's Main Street?

What's typical? All are, of course; one of the Cape's greatest charms is its variety. The tourist or the year-rounder can satisfy his wish to see different scenery simply by altering his path and taking one road rather than another.

or serenity drive along Route 28. To appreciate it most, take Route 28 east from Hyannis to South Yarmouth, and then cross the Cape and come back up on the north side. The contrast is emphasized if this trip is made in the same afternoon.

For marine waterfront scenery, Wychmere Harbor in Harwich is a favorite of many, just as Quamisset Harbor is with many more. Cotuit Harbor has its admirers as do Megansett and Pocasset, Wild and Phinneys in Bourne, Green in Falmouth, Stage in Chatham, Pleasant Bay and Town Cove in Orleans, and Chequesett at Wellfleet.

The words Cape Cod may conjure up for you the old water mill at Brewster, for me the herring run in Mashpee, for someone else the wind mill at Eastham or stone walls twisting through pastures.

It could be the dunes or the marshes; it could be the thundering seas on the backside of the Lower Cape as they roll ashore and smash with shuddering force on the outer beach.

Whatever we find here, whatever is special for each of us, can be found somewhere else in the world, as well. If it's a mill that has meaning, you'll find them in Holland, Portugal and on Mykonos, a Greek Island in the Aegean Sea. If boats and boat building shops spell the Cape for you, they abound in Bangkok where much local commerce is conducted over gunwales, and where some families live all their lives aboard sampans, their floating homes.

If long views of water and land from hilltops always make you think of the Cape, a trip to Cape Breton Island will fill you with joy, and you'll find similar pleasures in Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

If a busy harbor brings to mind happy hours on Cape Cod, Portofino on the Italian Riviera will delight you as much as any safe harbor you can find here at home. Should small neat farms remind you

of the Cape, you'll feel at home in Britain, the Netherlands, and Japan, among other places.

Where in the world can you go that's completely different from Cape Cod? Ah, there are those places, too, for Cape Cod lacks many things found in other parts. These places may offer rearing mountains or skyscrapers, sheer rocky cliffs plunging to the sea or volcanos, rainy seasons or cities of teeming millions, extremes of temperature or limestone caverns, rice paddies or coral reefs, cultural relics of lost civilizations thousands of years old, or a myriad of other things — many of them no more than details combining to make foreign countries as fascinating and different as the Cape is familiar and dear.

Wherever you find yourself on this old globe, you'll discover one thing that's as homey as your bedroom slippers. Families: men and women and their children, people with feelings for others, opinions about what's going on around them and how it will affect their lives and change their ways.

Wherever you are, in familiar territory or in a strange land, there'll be people who'll remind you of someone you know at home. Of all the things that seem to share a sameness, nothing will be more alike than the people, no matter how different they may appear on the surface.

And of all the satisfactions and educational values of travel, the most rewarding is coming to know the people and developing an understanding of them as individuals.

Bon Voyage!