



HI USA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hostelling International USA (HI USA) Announces Closure of HI Nantucket Hostel and HI Eastham Hostel due to Coronavirus-related Financial Impacts

Organization Will Continue to Operate HI Boston and Other Cape Cod Properties

Silver Spring, MD, August 21, 2020 - Hostelling International USA ([HI USA](#)) is a nonprofit, member organization founded on an enduring belief in the power of travel to foster a deeper understanding of people, places, and the world. As the largest hostel network in the USA, HI USA welcomes travelers from around the country and the world. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic and travel restrictions have created serious financial challenges for the organization, similar to what many other lodging, restaurant and venue operators have experienced. There are also new requirements to protect guests and staff that create operational hurdles. Adapting some of their hostels, particularly those that are seasonal and historic properties, to these new conditions would be extremely challenging. After an intense review of each of their hostel's operating models and finances, HI USA and its governing board determined that several were no longer feasible to continue operating. They have thus made the difficult decision to close select properties, including their HI Nantucket Hostel property, known to locals as "The Star of the Sea," and their HI Eastham Hostel on Cape Cod.

"The decision to close any of our hostels is not one we take lightly," said Russ Hedge, CEO of HI USA. "With most of our hostels closed for the past several months and the continued uncertainty surrounding the economy and coronavirus pandemic, it was not financially viable to continue operating our Nantucket or Eastham properties. We know that both have been among our guests' favorite locations and we are deeply saddened to close their doors and say goodbye to our long-time guests."

Although HI USA is closing these two properties, the organization remains entrenched in the region, with their [HI Boston Hostel](#) (reopening on September 10) and two other Cape Cod seasonal hostels: [HI Hyannis Hostel](#) and [HI Truro Hostel](#), both of which are expected to reopen for summer 2021. HI USA also has an affiliate property in Harvard, [HI Friendly Crossways](#), which is currently hosting small groups. HI USA will reopen their hostels with a commitment to health and enhanced safety through their "[Let's Stay Safe, Together](#)" program. Hostels will also be following all state and local COVID-19 guidelines.

About HI Nantucket Hostel

The buildings used by HI Nantucket Hostel formerly comprised the Surfside Life-Saving Station. The property includes four structures: the former life-saving station main building, lofted stables, storage bin and coal bin; all later converted for hostel occupancy. Built in 1874, the main building, known as the Star of the Sea, is the oldest of the 279 life-saving stations constructed in the U.S. to remain on its original foundations. The life-saving station was in operation until 1921, then subsequently maintained by the Coast Guard and the Navy until after World War II, when it was then turned over to the town for use as a community center. In 1963 the town approached

American Youth Hostels (operating as HI USA) to purchase and develop the property. In 1966 the property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

HI Nantucket Hostel's historic buildings at 31 Western Avenue are now for sale with the help of local real estate broker Mary Taaffe and Maury People Sotheby's.

About HI Eastham Hostel

The rustic cottage colony features quaint sleeping cabins surrounding a main building. Known as an alternative to camping, HI Eastham Hostel, located mid-Cape at 75 Goody Hallett Drive, is located in a wooded setting near the Cape Cod Rail Trail and beaches.

For more information about HI USA and its hostels, visit www.hiusa.org or @hiusa. For information about the sale of HI Nantucket Hostel, please contact Mary Taaffe at (508) 228-1881 or mary@maurypeople.com.

About HI USA

Hostelling International USA (HI USA) is a nonprofit, member organization founded on an enduring belief in the power of travel to foster a deeper understanding of people, places, and the world. HI USA promotes a dynamic community of global citizens who have the wisdom and humanity to actively make the world a better place. As the nation's leading hostel brand, HI USA hosted more than 1 million overnight stays in 2019, with guests from more than 100 countries. For over 80 years, HI USA has provided a network of affordable hostels in converted mansions, reinvented lighthouses, and historic urban buildings across the country. Visit www.hiusa.org for more information. HI USA is part of Hostelling International (HI), a collection of hostels in nearly 90 countries, whose roots stretch back to the beginning of the hostelling movement more than 100 years ago. The HI brand is a seal of approval recognized around the world.

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