

CAPE MAY, NJ

*A Vacation Destination where you
make memories that last a lifetime!*



VACATIONCAPEMAY.COM

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YOU KNOW the Jersey Shore, but do you know the Jersey Cape? It's a place that's real...
and really charming. Filled with authentically charming attractions like our famous free zoo!
An area surrounded by quaint small towns, beautiful beaches and bustling boardwalks.
Escape the everyday & pursue your passions at escapetothejerseycape.com or 800.227.2297



#escapetheeveryday

Escape

TO THE JERSEY CAPE



WELCOME LETTER

Ideas to itinerary



THE 2024 SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY VACATIONER is your passport to unlock the treasures of Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties. Inside, you will find a curated collection of recommendations, insights and local wisdom designed to enhance your stay. Welcome to a place that is real – and a place where you can pursue your passions. Discover a calendar of events that spans every season from spring, summer days on nearly 60 miles of pristine beaches along the Atlantic Ocean, and into fall, which for many, including us by the way, is our favorite season. Even those chilly days of winter around a fire pit at a local winery or holiday parades and concerts, are ways, all year long, to pursue your passion in New Jersey's Southern Shore.

As you venture into the heart of Atlantic County, you'll be greeted by the dynamic energy of Atlantic City, a world-renowned destination that seamlessly blends entertainment, glamor, and beach life. Stroll the iconic Boardwalk, adorned with glitzy lights and energy from world class casinos, visit historic Steel Pier and ride The Wheel standing 227 feet tall, sunbathe on the beach, and try your luck at the casinos.

Moving southward, the historic landmark City of Cape May awaits with its timeless elegance and Victorian charm. As you stroll along the streets lined with impeccably preserved Victorian homes and historic B&Bs, you'll feel transported to an era of refined grace. Explore the Cape May Lighthouse, meander through the Washington Street Mall, and savor the flavors of local cuisine in quaint eateries.

Find your inner child on the iconic Boardwalks of Ocean City and the Wildwoods. Enjoy reeling and spinning amusements, lively waterparks, retro arcades, fun foods and shops selling beachwear, accessories, jewelry, sweet treats, and more. A visit to these vibrant wooded walkways overlooking the pristine beachfronts is a vacation favorite for every family member.

A visit to Avalon, Stone Harbor and Sea Isle City offers the visitor an experience that captures a timeless beach experience. Avalon is relaxed, while Stone Harbor's 96th Street shopping mecca is a must for any itinerary, and Sea Isle City's family-friendly vibe makes the destination the choice of many.

For nature enthusiasts, Cumberland County beckons with its diverse landscapes and outdoor adventures. Explore the tranquility of the Delaware Bayshore, where migratory birds fill the skies. The Maurice River Bluffs Nature Preserve provides an immersive experience in the beauty of the region, with hiking trails that lead to panoramic vistas. And the rich agricultural heritage of Cumberland County is discovered in farm-fresh produce and local farm markets.

Whether you see the thrill of adventure, the serenity of nature, or the cultural richness of our communities as you flip through the pages, envision your journey taking shape and create an itinerary to help you escape the everyday. •

Vacationer

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Cape May & Cumberland Counties.
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Bruce Willis Welcome Center

The Official Welcome Center at NJ's
Southern Shore. Need more information?
Pick up a guide book, a map, or brochures.
Located at Mile Marker 18.3 N/S on the
Garden State Parkway. 609-624-0918

Other Welcome Centers

New Jersey Tourist & Travel Service at the
Farley Service Plaza is located at milepost
21.3 on the Atlantic City Expressway

Cumberland Fresh!

Fresh from the fields – fresh from the waters of Cumberland County, New Jersey



Cumberland County is THE agricultural powerhouse of the Garden State! With nearly 65,000 acres spread over more than 580 farms the fields of the county produce every imaginable agricultural commodity. Neighborhood farmstands abound in every corner and Cumberland County ranks first in the state in the production of everything from beets, cabbage and kale to okra, parsley and nectarines.

Tempt your tastebuds and explore the many delicious and fresh offerings from Cumberland County!



CumberlandCountyNJ.gov • explorecumberlandnj.com

escape the everyday

More Fun, More Excitement, More Memories



Be driven to your destination in Retro Style:

While some people fantasize about riding in luxurious cars, Amy Russo Coleman had a different vision. Coleman thought it would be amazing to have a vintage car service, like Uber or Lyft, but with classic vehicles. A unique idea since most vintage car owners are too protective of their precious cars to let strangers in them. Coleman, a local woman inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit of her grandparents' who owned Russo's, which opened in Wildwood in 1922, started the business, Retro Rides.

Retro Rides is more than just a car service. It is a nostalgic experience, a trip down memory lane, a blast from the past. People can book Retro Rides for any occasion; from bar hopping to birthday parties; from weddings to movie shoots. Coleman once drove a family to scatter their dad's ashes in Philadelphia in one of their station wagons - an experience that transcended the definition of a job.

Coleman owns three station wagons from the 80s, the signature car of Retro Rides, and all are in mint condition. For those who grew up during the era, the nostalgia associated with these vehicles would be a thrill. According to Coleman, her business was built on people's love for simpler times when they sat in the back seat of such wagons with parents upfront.

To get in touch with Retro Rides, just call Amy! "Being old school and having personal touch points like phone calls for bookings is part of the charm," said Owner Amy Russo Coleman. Call or text Retro Rides at 609-602-2356.

GO BIRDING IN A CELEBRATED, WORLD-CLASS BIRDING DESTINATION:

Cape May is THE location for observing birds in North America, favored by such celebrated naturalists as John Audubon and Tory Peterson. More than 400 different species have been seen on the peninsula during the fall migration, and the area is known for spectacular flights of peregrines, merlins, ospreys and sharp-shinned hawks. Cape May Point is one the premiere places with marked, easy-to-follow trails to help even the novice birder spot ducks, swans, osprey, other shore birds and wildlife. Along the bayside in Cape May and Cumberland counties, birders can enjoy more than a million migrating birds each spring, the second-largest assembled shorebird population in the Western Hemisphere. The World Series of Birding challenges birders to count as many species as possible in a 24-hour period. Nearby, in Cumberland County, bald eagles, great blue herons, osprey and more can be found in Turkey Point, along the Maurice River, and Stow Creek. In Atlantic County, bald eagles soar even in the winter months at Lake Lenape in Mays Landing. Other birding locations – Forsythe Wildlife Refuge, Wharton State Forest, Weymouth Furnace, Gaskill Park, Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area and

Estell Manor Park – are listed in a guide to bird watching in Atlantic County. www.atlanticcountynj.gov, www.njaudubon.org, www.birdcapemay.org

FIND YOUR INNER ARTIST: The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University is a unique and inspiring space that provides opportunities for visitors to learn about, explore, and experience the arts. The Arts Garage is the cornerstone of Atlantic City's Arts District, with art studios, galleries, shops, and a café. The Arts Garage is a hub of creativity housing more than 15 studios and shops where visitors can watch artists at work, ask questions about their creative process, and purchase original artwork. Individual artists who specialize in different mediums such as painting, jewelry making, photography and more occupy the studios. Located in the Noyes Arts Garage, the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey brings to life the African American experience by documenting the struggle of one group of Americans as they carved out their own place in the wider cultural landscape. The museum offers unique permanent collections and limited-time showings. Visitors can stroll through the galleries and shops and enjoy convenient parking in the heart of Atlantic City

adjacent to Tanger Outlets, the Convention Center and Boardwalk Hall. Admission is always FREE. 609-626-3805. www.artsgarageac.com

SHOP, DINE AND STAY IN A COLONIAL VILLAGE: Historic Smithville and Village Green is a charming destination, just minutes from Atlantic City. The village is a quaint colonial village that takes visitors back in time with its cobblestone walkways, footbridges and a beautiful lakefront view. The village is home to 60 specialty shops and seven eateries. The Historic Smithville Inn, once a Historic stagecoach stop, is listed as a National Historic Landmark and the centerpiece of the recreated village. In the summer, families can enjoy paddleboat rides around the lake, lemonade in hand, as their feet propel them through the water providing a different view of the village. The Colonial Inn Bed and Breakfast provides luxurious amenities and it's a quick walk to the Historic Smithville Inn that provides a sophisticated dining experience or enjoy the ambiance of Fred and Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern. The Towne of Historic Smithville and The Village Greene are 15 miles north of Atlantic City, Route 9 and Moss Mill Road; 609-748-8999; www.historicsmithville.com



Birding in Cape May



A.J. Meerwald



The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University



Lake Lenape Beach

HELP FURL THE SAILS ABOARD NEW JERSEY'S TALL SHIP: Help furl the sails aboard New Jersey's Tall Ship, the A.J. Meerwald, and enjoy the scenic Delaware Estuary from the deck. Home ported on the Maurice River in Bivalve, the 115-foot, authentically restored 1928 Delaware Bay Schooner teaches visitors about the rich maritime history and fragile ecosystem of the estuary. Beginning in the spring, the schooner sails from ports around the state with family sails, sunset sails and many other special events and activities. Call 856-785-2060 or visit www.bayshorediscovery.org

ENJOY A DAY IN A MARITIME PARK IN ATLANTIC CITY: Nestled on a protected channel along the back bays, Historic Gardner's Basin on North New Hampshire Avenue in Atlantic City replaces the hustle and bustle of the Boardwalk with a different type of activity. Enjoy a sightseeing cruise, dolphin watching, water cruises, fishing, parasailing and more. Whet your appetite with fresh seafood while enjoying house brews at Back Bay Ale House.

THE ATLANTIC CITY AQUARIUM: Nestled within the picturesque Gardner's Basin in Atlantic City, the aquarium is set to reopen its doors on July 1, 2024. This much-anticipated event follows extensive renovations, both interior and exterior, aimed at revitalizing and upgrading the attraction. Delve into a dynamic underwater realm, featuring an impressive array of live exhibits with over 100 fish species and marine creatures in eight meticulously designed tanks and a grand total of 29,000 gallons of water.

Whether you're a wide-eyed child or a passionate marine aficionado, the Atlantic City Aquarium is a vibrant center of learning. Immerse yourself in the intricate ocean ecosystems, marvel at the vivid coral reefs, and encounter captivating creatures up close. From playful seahorses to majestic rays, each exhibit

weaves a compelling narrative of marine biodiversity.

Dive into interactive displays that engage your senses. Touch pools allow you to feel the texture of starfish and sea anemones, fostering a deeper connection with the marine environment. Knowledgeable staff members are on hand to answer questions and share fascinating facts.

At the Atlantic City Aquarium, learn about endangered species, sustainable practices, and the importance of protecting our oceans. Through education and awareness, the Aquarium inspires visitors to become stewards of the sea. Free onsite parking ensures convenient access. For school buses and motor coaches, designated parking areas are available for visiting groups. 800 North New Hampshire Avenue. 609-348-2880. www.acnj.gov/pages/acaquarium

SPEND A DAY ON THE REGION'S OTHER BEACHES: Most visitors to New Jersey's Southern Shore Region know that from Brigantine in Atlantic County south to Cape May Point in Cape May County, there are roughly 60 miles of pristine beaches that abut the Atlantic Ocean. Each of the seaside resorts has characteristics that make it a favorite among beachgoers. What many people fail to realize is that the Southern Shore Region has many more miles of beaches! They just don't border the Atlantic Ocean. Many of the southern communities in Cumberland County are along the Delaware Bay. Most of these beach areas on the Delaware Bay and also the many pristine inland lakes and rivers are perfect for observing wildlife, hiking, or just relaxing. www.escapetothejerseycap.com

TAKE A CHANCE AND ROLL THE DICE: Atlantic City's casinos are built to entertain, enticing guests with the thrill of gaming, luxury and diverse experiences. The city's iconic Boardwalk is adorned with such world-class casino properties as Ocean, Hard

Rock, Resorts, Caesars, Ballys and Tropicana, and on the bayside of the island, Borgata, Harrah's and Golden Nugget, which redefine opulence, and offer an extensive array of gaming options, such as rows of cutting-edge slot machines, card tables hosting thrilling rounds of poker or blackjack, and roulette. Beyond the gaming floors, guests are treated to a lavish retreat. Upscale accommodations, spa retreats, and gourmet dining restaurants ensure a luxurious stay. Entertainment takes center stage, with theaters hosting live performances, comedy shows and concerts. Atlantic City's casinos also extend their allure beyond traditional gaming. Resort-style pools, vibrant nightlife, shopping boutiques and chef-helmed restaurants contribute to the excitement and unforgettable escape on the shores of Atlantic City. www.atlanticcitynj.com

LAND ON THE ORANGE LOOP! Steps off the world-famous Atlantic City Boardwalk you'll find the Orange Loop – three beach blocks of one-of-a-kind restaurants, bars, live music, coffee, yoga and more. The Orange Loop borrows its name from the board game, Monopoly. Starting with the beach block of Tennessee Avenue and expanding into St. James Place and New York avenues, you'll find the best of the new Atlantic City here. www.visitorangeloop.com

CHECK OUT A GOOD BOOK: The county library system is the information center for Atlantic County. There are 10 branch libraries located throughout Atlantic County and each has computerized public access catalog to over 500,000 books and audio-visual items. In addition to community activities at the libraries, there is Wi-Fi access, and books-by-mail.

Looking for a rainy-day activity or just a change of pace from sun and sand? Head to the library – of course nothing says you can't take the latest best seller or a spine-tingling mystery by your favorite author to the beach with you. Do your school-aged children have



Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey

mostly indoor facility has a retractable roof ensuring it's always a tropical paradise. 609-964-7663. www.islandwaterparkac.com

TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME: The Cumberland County Historical Society operates six museums on Ye Greate Street in Greenwich. The Warren and Reba Lummis Library is a genealogical and historical library containing resource and genealogical materials. The John DuBois Maritime Museum houses a large collection of Southern New Jersey maritime artifacts, and the Gibbon House, built in 1730, is furnished with items from the 18th and 19th centuries. Also on the grounds are the Barn Museum, featuring 19th century agricultural artifacts and the 1650 Swedish Granary. The Alan Carman Museum of Prehistory from Cumberland County houses Native American artifacts from the local area. All museums are free; for information call 856-455-8580; www.cchistsoc.org or follow them on Facebook.

TAKE A RIDE ON A "WHEELY" BIG ATTRACTION: Atlantic City's famous Steel Pier is the centerpiece of family entertainment on the city's great wooden way. Diving horses and human cannonballs were all the rage when Steel Pier opened in 1898. Steel Pier quickly became known for showcasing the world's top entertainers, delighting thousands of visitors each day with top names and novelty acts. Today, kids of all ages enjoy the amusements and thrill rides, and most recently the addition of an amazing Observation Wheel – 220 feet high with 40 temperature-controlled gondolas offering panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Atlantic City skyline. Each gondola can comfortably hold six passengers with a total capacity of 240 passengers. Fun fact: The wheel has 14,500 lights that help to brighten the skies of Atlantic City. 866-386-6659. www.steelpier.com

BOOK A GHOST TOUR DURING THE SPOOKIEST TIME OF YEAR IN CAPE MAY: Years back, the imposing but dilapidated mansion on Washington Street in Cape May looked like the Addams family might live there – Morticia sitting on the rickety porch with Uncle Fester peeking through a broken window. No one doubted that the Emlen Physick House was haunted. How could it not be after decades of neglect from its early days as the most beautiful house in town? The house survived, as did the spirits and ghosts of the Physick family. Restored to its 19th century splendor, the Physick Estate retains vestiges of its haunted past and capitalizes on that reputation with spooky, fun Halloween events that the Addams family would enjoy, as well as visitors this time of year. Check out the trolley tours – Ghosts of Cape May Tours, Ghosts of the Lighthouse and others – or wander around Scarecrow Alley on the grounds of the estate lined with funny, creative, spooky (but not too scary) scarecrows. www.capemaymac.org

CELEBRATE WITH FIREWORKS EVERY FRIDAY IN THE SUMMER: Celebrate Independence Day on the Wildwoods Boardwalk with a fireworks spectacular, synchronized to patriotic music at 10 PM. Launched from Pine Avenue and beach, the fireworks are visible from anywhere on the Boardwalk. Kick off the weekend every Friday with fireworks on the Boardwalk at 10 p.m. (rain date Sunday evening). Call 609-523-1602 or visit www.dooww.com

THE HARRIET TUBMAN MUSEUM OF NEW JERSEY

When you go the Harriet Tubman Museum in Cape May, you can learn about the role Cape May played in the Underground Railroad and about Harriet Tubman's presence here in Cape May. Tubman lived and worked in Cape May in the 1850s to raise funds to free slaves,

and was a famed Underground Railroad conductor. The museum is located in the former Macedonia Baptist Church on Lafayette Street and both sites are on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. The museum building is located on a block that anti-slavery activists called home in Cape May. Lafayette Street and Franklin Street became a center of abolitionist activity in Cape May around 1846. The museum offers guided and self-guided tours Wednesdays through Sundays. www.harriettubmanmuseum.org

SHOP, DINE & BROWSE ON THIRD FRIDAYS: The Glasstown Arts District on High Street in Millville is home to art galleries, several upscale restaurants and unique shops. The 19th – and early 20th-century buildings and homes provide a rich architectural backdrop to promote the arts. Find more information at www.glasstownartsdistrict.com The Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts displays creative work from Southern New Jersey artists and nearby metropolitan centers. Don't miss Third Friday Fun each month with informal receptions for the public to meet featured artists. Third Fridays in downtown Millville are exciting with visitors enjoying the Glasstown Arts District, dinner, and an evening in one of the area's nightspots. www.rrcarts.com

BEYOND THE ZOO: Visit the Freedom Farm Animal Rescue, a sanctuary that is dedicated to the preservation and protection of animals in need. Witness the transformative power of compassion as rescued animals find refuge and rehabilitation in a safe haven. From rescued farm animals to other wildlife, every creature at Freedom Farm has a tale of resilience and hope to share. Every Saturday, this sanctuary opens its gates to welcome visitors into a world of healing and hope for farm animals in need. www.freedomfarmanimalrescue.org



Island Waterpark at the Showboat Hotel



The Gibbon House in Greenwich

a summer reading list before they head back to school? The library has whatever is on their list. There are more than books at the library, such as classes, special events, and technology assistance – you name it. www.atlanticlibrary.org

TEE OFF ON GOLF COURSES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE REGION: Cape May County offers a picturesque backdrop for golf enthusiasts, with its lush green courses and coastal charm. Tee off with the Intercoastal Waterway as your backdrop or amidst the serene wetlands, experiencing a unique blend of nature and sport. Golf courses like Shore Gate Golf Club and Cape May National Golf Club provide challenging layouts amid scenic landscapes. Get more information at www.escapetothejerseycap.com

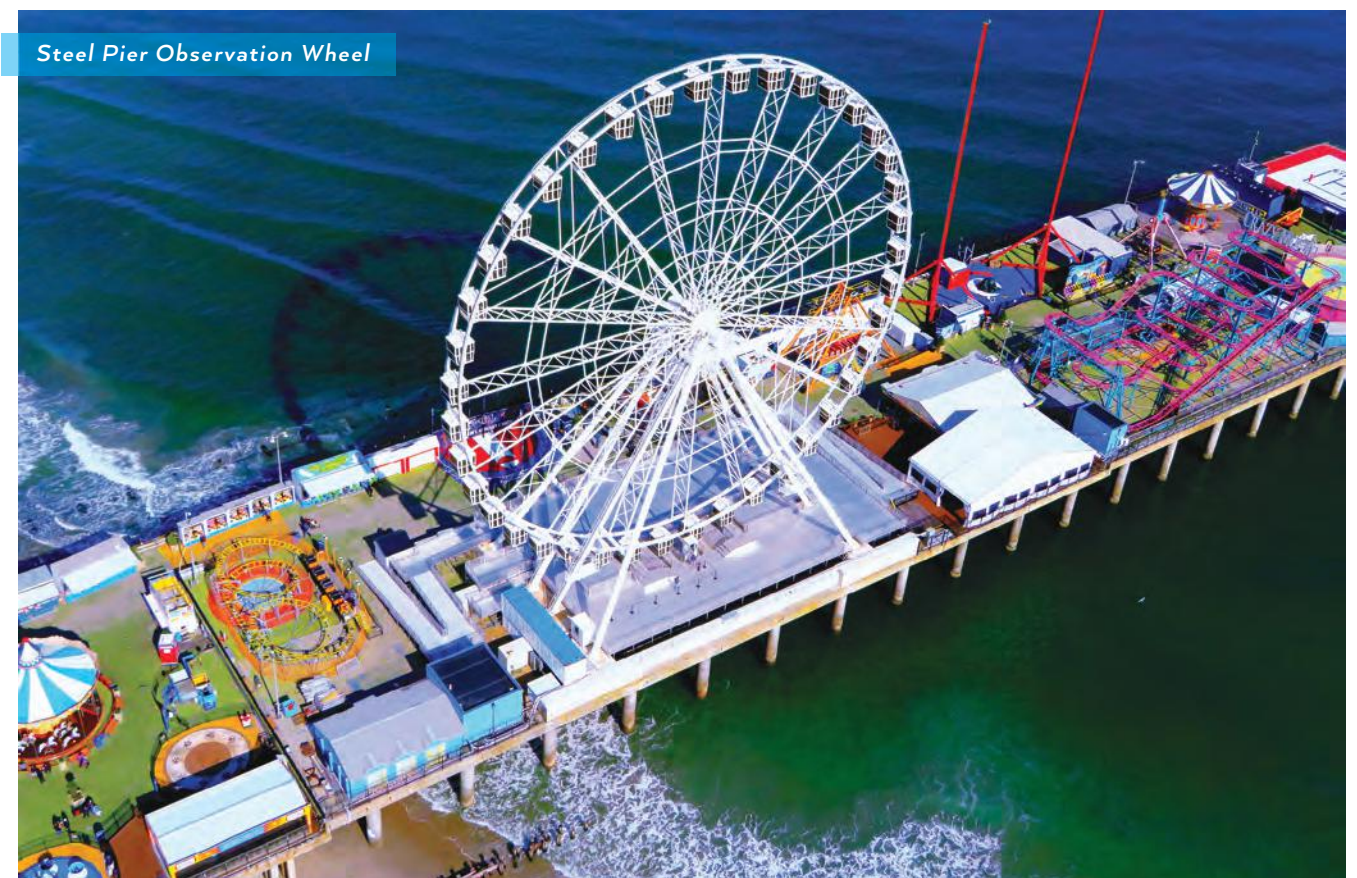
In Atlantic County, immerse yourself in verdant

landscapes, where well-manicured fairways seamlessly merge with coastal vistas. Atlantic City's skyline looms beyond the finishing hole at some courses, while others are set in secluded wetland or rich, green inland areas. Experience the allure of courses like Ballamor Golf Club and Twisted Dune Golf Club. Mark your calendars for the Shoprite LPGA Tour stop at Seaview Marriott in Galloway, June 7 to 9 in 2024 in Atlantic County. Visit www.atlanticcitynj.com

Tee off in Cumberland County amid the scenic beauty of the region, where lush landscapes and diverse courses with well-tended fairways complement the natural charm. Golf courses such as Centerton Golf Club and Running Deer Golf Club provide challenges for players of all skill levels. Did you hear the news? Los Angeles Angels and former Millville resident Mike Trout has teamed up with golf legend Tiger

Woods to build a course in Vineland. Stay tuned for details about Trout National – The Reserve. www.cumberlandcountynj.gov. In Vineland don't miss Eastlyn Golf Course who recently redesigned their old 18 hole executive course into a 9 hole pro style course. www.eastlyngolf.com

SLIP, SLIDE, DINE AND RELAX IN A TROPICAL PARADISE: Recently opened Island Waterpark located at the Showboat Hotel on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City is a year-round tropical paradise. The waterpark offers an exciting experience for families offering 11 thrilling waterslides, a lazy river, a wave and surf simulator and an adventure pool. The waterpark also offers four fantastic restaurants and three lively bars. Paradise Adult Island is sure to please the 21-and-over crowd. The 120,000 sq. ft.



For yet another truly unique animal encounter, look no further than the enchanting world of the Meadow's Edge Alpaca Farm. Nestled near the Delaware Bay in South Jersey, this hidden gem offers an unforgettable experience with these gentle and curious creatures. Get up close and personal with alpacas as you learn about their care, behavior, and significance in agriculture. The farm also hosts special events and crafts and activities. www.facebook.com/p/Meadows-Edge-Alpaca-Ranch-100067010780137/

TEST YOUR DRIVING SKILL AND FIND YOUR INNER RACE CAR DRIVER: New Jersey Motorsports Park is a road course "Motorsports Entertainment Complex" in Millville. The park is spread across 500 acres and is conveniently located about one hour away from Philadelphia and two hours from New York City. It offers diverse and dynamic attractions both on and off-track. The park includes two world-class road courses, Thunderbolt and Lightning. Thunderbolt Raceway features 2.25 miles of asphalt, 12 challenging turns, a one half mile straightway and approximately 40 acres of full service paddock space. The 1.9-mile northern circuit is known as Lightning Raceway. This 10-corner circuit is fast and challenging, featuring some of the most interesting and dramatic corners and elevation changes in the park. The 20-acre paddock area has a four-acre skid pad and autocross area. Tempest Raceway, one of the top outdoor karting complexes in the U.S., is a 1.1-mile world-class karting facility that features eight dramatic configurations, many of which can be run simultaneously. Call 856-327-8000 or visit www.njmp.com

VISIT A PLACE WHERE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES GATHER: A "museum" in the recently added category is the Cape May Point Science Center. The facility, which has served as a hotel, hospital, and retreat for Catholic nuns, has been

preserved as a science center dedicated to protection and conservation of the unique surroundings. At New Jersey's southernmost point, the center sits in the middle of the Atlantic flyway, a renowned ecological intersection of marine, insect, and avian species. Within a few square miles, you can experience the beauty and wonder of the world's biggest butterfly migration, the largest concentration of one of the world's oldest creatures, horseshoe crabs, and critical habitat of migratory and predatory birds, including raptors, hawks, owls, and eagles.

At the center, learn about raptor tracking, how the Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphin is studied, and how the prehistoric horseshoe crabs are tracked. Visitors can tour one of the most historic buildings in the state, a majestic, 38,000-square-foot Victorian building which has served many purposes, including its critical refuge for enslaved people seeking freedom after crossing the water from Delaware. In 1909, it became St. Mary by the Sea, the summer retreat for the Sisters of St. Joseph. In the 1940s, 600 U.S. soldiers serving in World War II sheltered there, protecting ships and South Jersey from German submarines. The center offers tours daily in July and August, and hosts an expanding series of events, including stargazing nights, concerts, Tai Chi, yoga, nature journaling, and art workshops. Visit www.capemaypointsciencecenter.org

READY, SET, EXPERIENCE YOUR HALLMARK CHRISTMAS MOMENTS: The holidays always start the third week in November in Cape May, and it's no surprise to anyone who loves this seaside town that Travel + Leisure named Cape May one of 25 Best Christmas Towns in the USA. The Washington Street Mall hosts Hospitality Nights, Congress Hall transforms into a winter wonderland and street after street boasts beautiful Victorian buildings decked out in lights, greenery, bows and more. Sip wassail,

hop aboard the Holly Trolley, take tea with Mrs. Claus, or stop by the Physick Estate, lavishly decorated in true Victorian style. Learn more about the holiday traditions of the Victorian era of the 1890s, experience a Dickens Christmas extravaganza, and enjoy a Lamplighter Christmas tour or the annual Christmas Candlelight House Tour. In between there are concerts, performances at Cape May Stage and the East Lynne Theater Company, food and wine events, craft fairs and so much more for the merriest of holiday seasons. For information about tours: 609-884-5404. 800-275-4278. www.capemaymac.org or accommodations and special event information: 609-884-5508. www.capemaychamber.com

CELEBRATE THE WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS IN ONE PLACE: The sports enthusiasts will enjoy the All Sports Museum of Southern New Jersey in Bridgeton. Originally a place to honor local athletes, the museum now honors sports persons in good standing who have a documented connection to Southern New Jersey by birth, education, residency, profession, or affiliation. The Museum houses displays of Willie Mays' 1960 Gold Glove Award, Harry Gamble's Bert Bell Award Trophy, Leon "Goose" Goslin's personal collection, a Mike Trout memorabilia display, Brad Lidge's All Star Game Jersey and 2008 game-used glove, Johnny "Johnny Hockey" Gaudreau memorabilia, Cincinnati Reds' scouts Joe and Rex Bowen's 1970's era "Big Red Machine" commemorative bat collection. In addition the museum's collection includes Lydell Mitchell's game-used uniform and equipment and many hundreds of prominent donated items, which comprise an incredible amount of diverse sports history and highlighting the careers of exceptional athletes, coaches, teams, media professionals and contributors. Find the museum at 8 Richie Kates Sr. Way, Bridgeton, or visit www.allsportsmuseumofsnj.org



Lucy the Elephant

STEP INSIDE THE BELLY OF A BIG, GRAY ELEPHANT: Lucy the Elephant is a six-story elephant-shaped example of novelty architecture, constructed of wood and clad in tin in 1881 by real estate developer James Lafferty as a gimmick to attract potential buyers to his land holdings along the coast of South Atlantic City. Located in Margate, Lucy stands six stories tall, weighs over 90 tons and is made up of more than a million pieces of wood. Eventually, a popular hotel business was built around Lucy. Presidents and royalty came from around the world to stay at the neighboring Elephant Hotel and climb the stairs to Lucy's howdah. Lucy was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. government as the oldest surviving example of a unique form of "zoomorphic" architecture, and the oldest "roadside" attraction in America. Today, she stands as the most popular non-gaming attraction in the greater Atlantic City region. No legend along New Jersey's Southern Shore matches the sight of the 65-foot high wooden elephant looking out to sea and that spectacle, according to historians, made many seamen aboard tramp ships swear off their rum rations for days! 609-823-6473; www.lucytheelephant.org

LUCKY SNAKE ARCADE & SPORT BAR AT SHOWBOAT: Considered to be the largest arcade in the world, it is a haven of entertainment spanning 85,000 square feet starting with the world's largest crane game. Imagine a colossal crane game where you can try your luck at grabbing prizes. It's a sight to behold! Relive nostalgia with a variety of classic arcade games spanning decades from the 80s to today. From Pac-Man to pinball, there's something for everyone. Step into immersive virtual worlds and experience gaming like never before with the latest virtual reality games. The arcade also includes a go-kart center so that you can race your way around the track

with friends; no prior experience is required. Whether you're a gaming enthusiast or just looking for a fun time, the Lucky Snake Arcade has something exciting for everyone! 801 Boardwalk. www.theluckysnake.com

TAKE A STROLL ON THE RIVERFRONTS IN BRIDGETON & MILLVILLE: The beautiful Cohansey River runs through the Bridgeton City Park and is the site of many of the city's special events throughout the year. In Millville, the Maurice River is a perfect accent to the Glasstown Arts District with a beautiful 700-foot river walk for pedestrians to enjoy the water and Captain Buck Riverfront Park, which is a great spot for picnics. Visit www.cityofbridgeton.com, www.millville-nj.com

BE PART OF THE LARGEST BOAT PARADE IN THE WORLD: Considered one of the largest boat parades in the world and definitely living up to its reputation, Ocean City's Night in Venice does not disappoint. Mark your calendars for July 20, 2024. The Night in Venice boat parade attracts tens of thousands of visitors who line the bayside in Ocean City to cheer as hundreds of beautifully-decorated boats float by the Longport Bridge and head south to Tennessee Avenue along the bay. Find more information at 800-BEACHNJ. www.ocnj.us

SPRING INTO SUMMER IN AVALON: Avalon's "Spring into Summer" event promises four weekends filled with diverse experiences and entertainment for all ages. From the vibrant rhythms of Arts and Music to the exploration of the natural world during Explore Nature, each weekend offers a unique theme designed to captivate and inspire. Families can bond over exciting activities like sports figure meet and greets and sand sculpture demonstrations during the Family Fun weekend,

while the Summer Solstice weekend invites attendees to celebrate the longest day of the year with live music, beach walks, and historical tours. With a rich tapestry of events spanning June, Avalon welcomes visitors to embrace the transition from spring to summer with joy, creativity, and community spirit. For learn more about the exciting lineup of Avalon's "Spring into Summer" events, explore all the details at www.visitavalonnj.com

KISS ME I'M IRISH: Everyone is Irish - on and around March 17th - wear your green to parades and festivities in North Wildwood and Sea Isle City. Or head to Atlantic City Boardwalk for one of the region's oldest parades and then head over to the famous Irish Pub for a glass of Harp, Bass, Killian's, Murphy's or Yuengling on draft. Dating back to the 19th century, the pub was a speakeasy in the days of prohibition; these days, the pub invites patrons to experience a taste of old Atlantic City as depicted on the HBO series "Boardwalk Empire." At Carneys in Cape May, Kegs and Eggs are on the menu and brave partakers "give it a lash" in St. Paddy's Day Polar Plunge and 5K. Or head to Millville and visit the Old Oar House Irish Pub, an Irish-themed bar & grill offering American fare, karaoke, live bands & an all season outdoor beer garden.

ENTER A FISHING CONTEST AND TELL A WINNING FISH STORY: Just in case you hook one for the record books, the Cape May County Fishing Contest runs from January through December and is open to anyone catching one of 30 recognized species of fish in Cape May County waters. Anglers can fish in the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay off Cape May County, inland waterways and the bays around the county. There is no fee and no pre-registration. Rules, regulations at www.thejerseycape.com



New Jersey Motorsports Park

BEACH

/bēCH/



NOUN: A strip of land covered with sand, pebbles, or small stones at the edge of a body of water, especially by the ocean between high – and low-water marks.

VERB: Run or haul up (a boat or ship) on to a beach.

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE: “I love the Jersey Shore! We beach in Longport.”

“Oh, I spent a lot of time there when I was in college. My family beaches in Avalon.”

Depending on a variety of factors that

may include proximity to restaurants and bars, remoteness, sports facilities, distance from street end to the water, or simply family tradition, repeat visitors to New Jersey’s Southern Shore oceanfront communities usually have a go-to resort in which they beach. That’s not to say visitors can’t beach in a different resort every day, because that is a wonderful option for those looking for all the region has to offer.

From Cape May Point in the south up to Brigantine, just north of Atlantic City, the

beaches are watched over by well-trained lifeguards who protect swimmers (and non-swimmers!) during regular beach hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day and beyond. Further safeguarding the public health, all of the state’s beaches are tested weekly to ensure bathers are swimming in unpolluted water.

Some beaches (the Wildwoods, Strathmere, and Atlantic City) charge no fee for use, but all other municipal beaches on the Atlantic Ocean require the purchase of beach tags. Many accommodations will provide beach tags for their guests, but even without that nicety, beach tags are reasonably priced at about \$30 for the season and less than \$20 for weekly tags. Tags are usually required for people 12 years of age and older. Beach tags may be purchased at local visitor information centers, municipal halls, booths at particular streets, at beach entrances, or even from the people checking for tags.

While most beaching people have a regular beach routine – pack the cooler, put lotion on the kids, grab the beach chairs and umbrella – beachfront resorts have concessions from which beachgoers can rent chairs, umbrellas, boogie and surf boards, or even cabanas, and purchase treats such as ice cream or iced coffee for cooling off



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under the hot sun.

In some of the resorts where the beach is expansive (think Wildwood and Wildwood Crest), there is usually a tram service provided to the elderly and disabled. A phone call to the local beach patrol headquarters is all it takes to arrange for a beach transport down to the water's edge.

Surf chairs are also available in most resorts. For this information and other resources available to individuals with disabilities or mobility challenges looking to enjoy the beaches, you can refer to the Beach Accessibility guides available in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Both guides offer information about accessible amenities, such as ramps, mats, beach wheelchairs, restrooms, parking lots and more.

Atlantic County: <https://tinyurl.com/yk6zdtv8>
Cape May County: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3vdcf6>

If beaching for you includes hanging ten, most municipalities have designated surfing beaches. Boogie boarding is allowed on all beaches.

No matter where you choose to beach or how you plan to spend your day beaching, remember a few of these pearls of wisdom that locals abide by:

- Know when high tide is so you don't have to keep moving your stuff.
- Swim only at beaches protected by lifeguards.
- Never, ever feed the seagulls.
- Leave behind only your footprints in the sand. •

CAPE MAY COUNTY SURFING BEACHES

Cape May Point: Pearl Street Beach, St. Peter's Beach.

Cape May: Poverty Beach, The Cove, Gurney Street, South Queen Street.

Diamond Beach: All accessible streets.

Wildwood Crest: Aster Road, Rambler Road, and Hollywood Avenue (from 10 a.m. to noon daily).

Wildwood: Andrews Avenue.

North Wildwood: Second Avenue, 15th and 26th avenues (depending on beach replenishment projects).

Stone Harbor: 81st Street, 110th Street and 111th Street (Nun's Beach).

Avalon: 2th Street, 16th-17th streets, 20th Street, 30th Street, 63rd Street.

Sea Isle City: 26th, 37th, 42nd, 48th, 53rd, 63rd, 74th and 82nd streets.

Strathmere: Sumner Avenue.

Ocean City: Many beaches allow surfing. Even/odd streets are designated beaches..

ATLANTIC COUNTY SURFING BEACHES

Longport: 32nd Street

Margate: Margate Pier at S. Essex Avenue.

Ventnor: Ventnor Pier at S. Cambridge Avenue.

Atlantic City: Crystal Beach, Delaware, Raleigh, and States avenues.

Brigantine: 12th Street North, 10th Street South, north of the South End Jetty, south of Sandy Lane bathing area.



INDULGE IN AVALON 2024 AVALON, NJ



- NEW** ART ON DUNE..... June 1
- NEW** SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL.... June 22
- END-OF-SUMMER SHOP HOP... September 6-8
- ARTS & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL October 12
- FESTIVE FRIDAY..... November 29
- SNOWFEST SATURDAY..... November 30



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For more 2024 events and announcements, please visit
avalonboro.net and visitavalonnj.com



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BAYSHORE & OTHER BEACHES

There's much more to explore beyond the oceanfront



MOST VISITORS to New Jersey's Southern Shore Region know that from Brigantine in Atlantic County south to Cape May Point in Cape May County, there are roughly sixty miles of pristine beaches that abut the Atlantic Ocean. What many people fail to realize is that the Southern Shore Region has many more miles of beaches! They just don't border the Atlantic Ocean.

Many of the southern communities in Cumberland County are along the Delaware Bay. For instance, the bay community of Maurice River is home to **Moore's Beach** and **Thompson's Beach**, two remote beaches that provide scenic vistas of the Delaware Bay. There's also a beach area at the **East Point Lighthouse**, an 1849 light at the confluence of the Maurice River and Delaware Bay.

Just north is **Fortescue Beach**, a stretch of unspoiled sand accessible from New Jersey Avenue in Fortescue. Fortescue is renowned for its beach fishing and was known for many years as the "weakfish capital of the world".

In the northern part of the bayside, in Downe Township, is **Gandy's Beach**, named for a former oyster fisherman, and managed by the Nature Conservancy. Nearby is **Money Island**, a shrinking beach community that is home to many aquaculture businesses.

Most of the beach areas on the Delaware Bay side of New Jersey's Southern Shore Region are perfect for observing wildlife, hiking, or just relaxing. A word to the wise:

be prepared for greenhead flies in these areas. It's nature; bugs happen.

Inland, one of Cumberland County's most popular waterside areas is **Union Lake** in Millville, with a 5,000-acre man-made lake that is a favorite with boating and kayaking enthusiasts. The beach area is beautiful, but swimming is prohibited.

Another nearby lake facility is **Lake Lenape**, which is divided into East and West facilities. Boating, kayaking, fishing, and other outdoor activities are popular here. Discover the tranquil charm of **The Cove at Lake Lenape** for your next beach retreat. It offers a peaceful and secure environment ideal for families. The Cove provides a host of facilities including restrooms with showers, picnic spots, and boat ramps.

And while many people associate Atlantic and Cape May counties with spectacular Atlantic Coast beaches, they may not realize just how many beaches exist along the bayside or the Intracoastal Waterway.

Sunset Beach is an extension of Cape May, just north of Cape May Point. It's home to the "sunken ship," the USS *Atlantis*, which was one of 12 concrete ships constructed during World War I. The *Atlantis* was towed to Cape May with the intent to make it a ferry landing facility, but in 1926 she broke free of her moorings and has rested in the Delaware Bay ever since. The beach at the end of Sunset Boulevard is great for relaxing

in the sand and collecting "Cape May Diamonds," which are quartz stones polished from their long journey from the upper Delaware River. The diamonds can also be found along Higbee Beach, just north of Sunset Beach. The Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area is a beautiful, pristine 1,100-acre bayside location, accessible from New England Road in Lower Township.

Across the canal from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry is the **David Douglas Memorial Park**, with a small, lovely beach that is truly a hidden gem. Lower Township has magnificent beaches from the canal north to Del Haven in Middle Township. Most of these beaches are accessible from street ends, including **Sunray Beach** and **Miami Beach**. A word of caution about these bayside beaches: very few are protected, so swimming is discouraged.

Norbury's Landing, in Del Haven, Middle Township, is a popular spot among birders and wildlife aficionados. Likewise, Pierce's Point, Bay Cove Beach, Kimble's Beach, Cook's Beach, and Reed's Beach, all in Middle Township, are favorites with wildlife enthusiasts.

In Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County, **Lake Park** is a favored relaxation site, with boating, swimming and fishing available. Admission badges are required to use the facilities, but daily rates are reasonable.

Closer to the ocean, but west of the barrier island of Longport, Atlantic County, is **Malibu Beach** Wildlife Management Area, a beautiful undeveloped area that is a must-do for people with dogs (who must be on leashes).

A few miles south is **Somers Point**, which is considered part of the mainland, but serves as the gateway to Ocean City. Somers Point has Municipal Beach Park, just off Bay Avenue, which is staffed by lifeguards, so swimming is allowed.

The Great Egg Harbor Bay, which is traversed by the Garden State Parkway in Cape May County, is home to the **Beesley's Point** Beach in Upper Township. Visitors need to use Route 9 (just off Exit 25 on the Parkway) to get to this popular swimming and recreational boating destination.

While there's nothing like the sixty miles of beaches New Jersey's Southern Shore proudly invites visitors to enjoy, taking a walk on the bayside to explore the less-taken paths and beaches is definitely worth the trip! •

BOARDWALKS & PROMENADES

Saltwater Taffy, Rolling Chairs and Tram Cars



THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS that are synonymous with the Garden State's Southern Shore Region, but none of them screams "summer" louder than the area's boardwalks. These grand structures – often imitated, never truly copied – symbolize the joyous, carefree, exciting experiences that come with a visit to the Jersey Shore as much as saltwater taffy, seagulls, and pizza.

Many people believe boardwalks were so named because they are usually constructed of wooden boards, and people walk on them. While those facts may be true, it is not the reason the walkways are called "boardwalks." America's first boardwalk, constructed in 1870 in Atlantic City, was conceived of by a railroad conductor named Alexander Boardman. Mr. Boardman came up with the idea of a raised structure to keep the sand out of railroad cars and hotels in the resort. His last name has since been tied to the area's boardwalks that now house amusement piers, shops, and arcades.

That first boardwalk was just ten feet wide, and connected Atlantic City's beach with the town. It was temporary, and taken up during the winter, when fewer people use the beach. Over the past century, the city's famous walkway grew to be recognized by people the world over because of the popularity of the Monopoly board game. Few people have escaped the board game stress of rolling the dice and hoping to get

past Boardwalk or Park Place with hotels.

Atlantic City's boardwalk still stands, although there have been several versions of the historic landmark thanks to coastal storms and renovations. For more than 150 years Atlantic City's wooden walkway has served as the backdrop for many motion pictures, the resort's parades (including Miss

America), the fabled casinos, thrilling amusement rides on Steel Pier, rolling chairs, and untold memories. Atlantic City's boardwalk is four miles long, with another 1.5 miles extending south into Ventnor. There, the structure stretches down to Fredericksburg Avenue.

Not every resort in the Southern Shore



has a boardwalk. Some spots have promenades, which are typically paved pathways closed to vehicular traffic and running parallel to the beach. Promenades and boardwalks are popular among the bicycling set, particularly during the morning hours. Most resorts have bike rental businesses near the promenades or boardwalks, for early morning bicycle rides.

In Brigantine, the Promenade, also called the Seawall, is a coastal attraction that offers breathtaking views of the ocean and a serene environment. Constructed in 1995, it serves as Brigantine's boardwalk, providing visitors with scenic vistas of pristine sandy beaches and the Atlantic Ocean. Whether you choose to stroll, jog, or bike along this picturesque pathway, you'll be enveloped by the refreshing sea breeze and the natural beauty that surrounds you. Additionally, the promenade conveniently features access points to the beach, allowing you to seamlessly transition from the boardwalk to the sandy shores.

Ocean City's boardwalk is just under three miles in length, lining the beach from the inlet to 27th Street. Like the area's other boardwalks and promenades, this walkway is a destination in itself, with thrilling rides, water parks, movie theaters, restaurants, and arcades. Two "must-do's" for most families are Gillian's Wonderland Pier and Playland's Castaway Cove, with entertainment the entire family will enjoy.

Sea Isle City has a 1.5-mile promenade running from 29th to 57th streets that has eateries, arcades, and shops lining it. Avalon has a half-mile boardwalk that is great for morning bike rides and walks. There is an arcade, pizzeria, ice cream shop, and recreational facilities that front the walkway.

Farther south, in the Wildwoods, is another storied walkway. The Wildwoods Boardwalk is home to Morey's Amusement Piers and beachfront waterparks, Splash Zone Waterpark, a huge, state-of-the-art convention center, a swimming pier, many eateries, arcades, shops, and games of chance. Originated about thirty years after Atlantic City Boardwalk, the walkway that

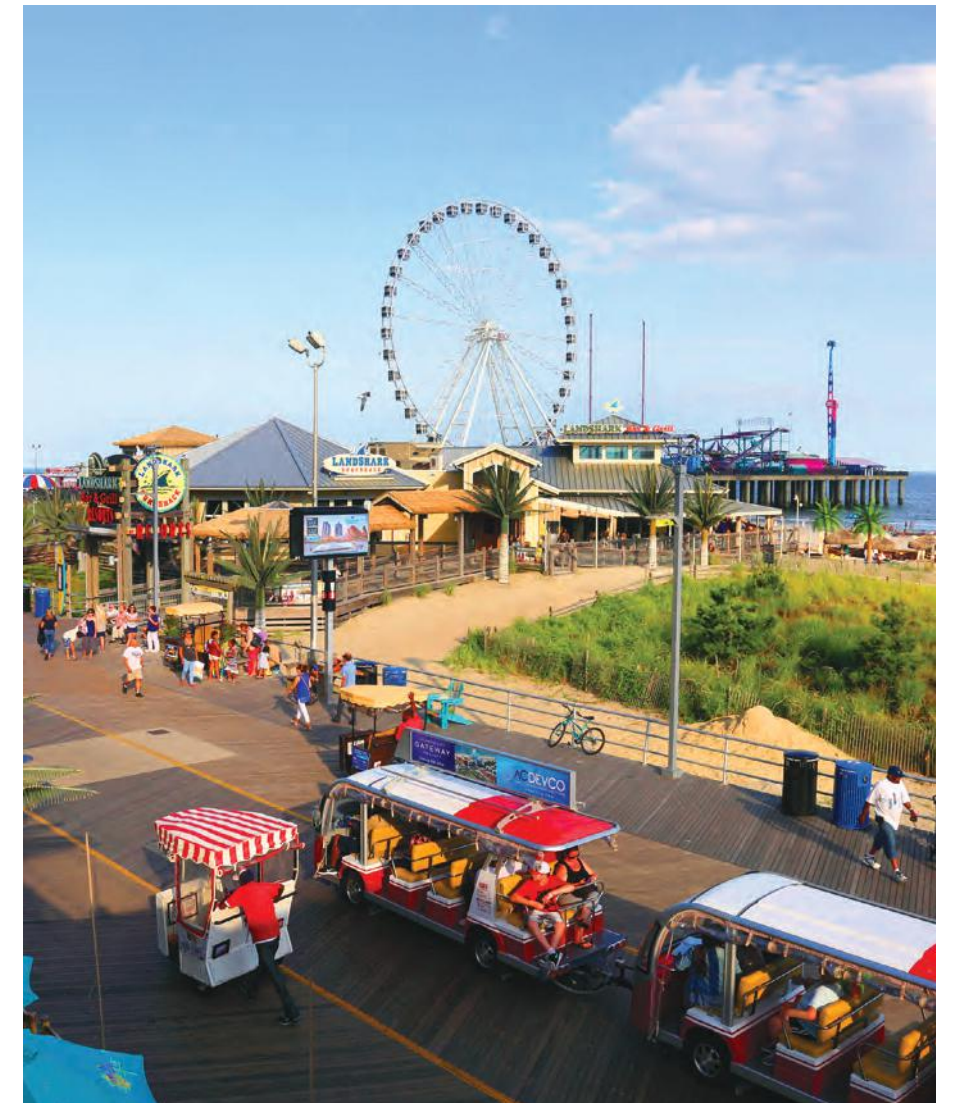
runs from 15th Avenue in North Wildwood down to Cresse Avenue at the border of Wildwood Crest is known for its honky-tonk atmosphere and boasting more rides than Disneyland. And, similar to Atlantic City's rolling chairs to move visitors along, The Wildwoods have their renowned Tram Cars that have been cruising along the two-mile walkway for more than 75 years.

Finally, Cape May, America's First Seaside Resort, has a promenade that stretches about 1.5 miles. There are some shops, arcades, and restaurants that line the beachside walkway that runs from Sunset Pavilion near

Second Street to Madison Avenue. At the center of the promenade is Cape May Convention Center, which hosts many shows and other events throughout the year.

Last year, Cape May installed six new arches over the Promenade, a nod to the appearance of the walkway of a century ago, and taking visitors on a stroll back in time. In the early 1900s there were a dozen or so arches along the Promenade, but weathering from massive coastal storms took its toll and the arches were dismantled in the 1940s. The new arches were constructed to meet the historical specifications of the original arches, but made with more durable materials.

No trip to New Jersey's Southern Shore Region is complete without time spent strolling, biking, or riding along the area's boardwalks and promenades. Thanks to Alexander Boardman and his dislike of sand in his railroad cars, these magical places are where generation after generation of families make memories to last a lifetime. •



THE BOARDWALK PRESERVATION FUND

The State of New Jersey has earmarked \$100 million in grants to support crucial repairs and upgrades to boardwalks and promenades along the Jersey Shore. The Boardwalk Preservation Fund aims to preserve the health, vibrancy, and resilience of these beloved wooden main streets. Atlantic and Cape May counties are among the recipients, specifically Atlantic City, Ventnor City, Brigantine, the Wildwoods, Cape May, Ocean City, Sea Isle City and Cape May. So, the next time you're strolling, biking, or enjoying the ocean views, know these iconic wooden walkways and promenades will continue to be cared for as cherished destinations for generations to come! •

LIGHTHOUSES

Southern Shore lighthouses preserve maritime history



Atlantic City Lighthouse

ONCE UPON A TIME, along the pristine shores of New Jersey's Southern Shore, a quartet of sentinel towers emerged, each with its unique tale woven into the maritime history of Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties. These lighthouses, standing proudly against the coastal winds, have guided sailors, witnessed shipwrecks, and held steadfast through the centuries, becoming more than beacons – they are living monuments to a bygone era.

Absecon Lighthouse: The journey begins in Atlantic County, where the Absecon Lighthouse rises as the tallest lighthouse in the state at 171 feet tall. Dating back to 1857, making it the oldest, Absecon has weathered the storm of time. As you climb the 228 spiraling steps, they trace the footsteps of keepers who, for generations, tended to the flickering flame atop this historic tower. Absecon's light, the original first-order Fresnel Lens, has guided countless vessels, including those navigating the treacherous waters off the Jersey coast during the Civil War. The panoramic view from the top provides a mesmerizing spectacle. Restoration efforts in the late 20th century ensured that this cultural landmark would continue to illuminate the Atlantic County shoreline for generations to come. www.abseconlighthouse.org

Hereford Inlet Lighthouse: As this maritime journey continues, you'll find yourself in Cape May County. Built in 1874, Hereford Inlet

Lighthouse is the only lighthouse of its kind on the East Coast and only one of three in the nation. The residential Stick-Style building was both the keeper's house and the light tower in one structure. Considered a harbor light, it marked the entrance to Hereford Inlet. After a severe storm undermined the building's foundation, it was moved in 1913 about 150 feet west to where it sits today. The interior of the building is furnished with period antiques and educational displays. www.herefordinletlighthouse.com

Cape May Lighthouse: Cape May County is home to the iconic Cape May Lighthouse. Perched at the southernmost tip of the state,

this elegant structure has been a guiding light since 1859. Nestled within Cape May Point State Park, the lighthouse beckons visitors to explore its rich history and ascend its 199 steps.

The lens at the top of Cape May Lighthouse, a first-order Fresnel lens, has cast its radiant beam across the Delaware Bay for over a century. Cape May Lighthouse not only serves as a maritime beacon but also as an educational hub. Visitors learn about the unique ecosystem surrounding the lighthouse, the migratory patterns of birds, and the maritime lore that permeates the charming resort of Cape May.

On clear days, the view extends to Cape May, Wildwood and as far as Delaware. Within immediate view is **Battery 223**, a harbor defense battery originally built during World War II. This convergence of nature and history makes Cape May Lighthouse a must-visit destination for those seeking a deeper understanding of New Jersey's coastal heritage. www.capemaymac.org

East Point Lighthouse: The maritime odyssey brings light enthusiasts to Cumberland County, where the tranquil shores of the Maurice River cradle the second oldest lighthouse in New Jersey. Built in 1849, East Point Lighthouse served as a guiding light for vessels navigating the waters of the Delaware Bay. Surrounded by salt marshes and nestled amid the whispers of coastal winds, the lighthouse has witnessed the changing tides of the region's maritime industries, from oyster harvesting to the heyday of shipping. www.eastpointlight.com

Visitors to New Jersey's Southern Shore



Hereford Inlet Lighthouse

can immerse themselves in the history of the area by exploring exhibits that showcase the vital role that life-saving stations played in the maritime history in Stone Harbor and Ocean City. Life-saving stations were deemed necessary in the mid-1800s to deal with shipwrecks along the coast. One of 45 such facilities in the Garden State was built in Ocean City in 1885.

Tatham Life Saving Station: Built in 1895, it is the oldest building in Stone Harbor and has been in continuous service to the county as an American Legion Post and a museum, honoring the history of the life saving service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the military.

The Ocean City Life Saving Station: Dating from 1886, it was one of 45 stations along the New Jersey coast before the modern-day Coast Guard was formed in 1915. Today, the station is the only surviving example of the four 1882-Type stations built in New Jersey, and one of six surviving buildings of this type built between 1882 and 1891. Over the years this station has faced disrepair and demolition, but local efforts have saved the structure.

Both the Tatham and Ocean City life saving stations are listed on The National Register of Historic Places, as are East Point, Cape May, Absecon and Hereford Inlet lighthouses. •

THE 25th LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE

The New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge was first organized by the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. In 1998, Rick Weber, a NJLHS member, while guiding tours at Sandy Hook Light, realized many people wanted to see other lights, but rarely had a chance due to limited openings. New Jersey is somewhat unique because its ten land-based lighthouses are only 40 to 50 miles apart and fairly accessible. During the first 10 years, the Challenge was sponsored and organized by the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. They handled the advertising, souvenirs, and provided staffing at the sites by NJLHS volunteers. The Challenge became not only an opportunity for people to enjoy the drive and learn about lighthouses but it gave the individual lighthouses a financial boost. Over the years, in order to keep the Challenge challenging, more sites were added to the original ten, including additional lights, lifesaving stations and related museums.

The Challenge today is the longest continually running lighthouse challenge in the country. It attracts 1500 to 2000 participants from all over the country (and sometimes from other countries) who take the two-day weekend to visit the lighthouses, lifesaving stations and museum. This year, 2024, the Challenge takes place on October 19th & 20th. Join them and celebrate the 25th Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey. *For more information, visit their website www.lighthousechallengenj.com.* •



East Point Lighthouse

October 19-20, 2024

Our 25th Year!

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A weekend of fun and exploration for all ages.
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www.lighthousechallengenj.com

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CAPE MAY MAC

The Past is the Future



THE IMPRESSIVE Emlen Physick Estate, brought back to its original majesty by dogged determination, is a phoenix risen from the ashes. The Cape May Music Festival, 35 years and going strong, is a gem of a festival featuring classical music, jazz and Americana. A fleet of shiny, comfortable trolleys crisscrosses the historic district, and is a far cry from the tractor that hauled an open-air trolley around town in the 1970s. The restored 1859 **Cape May Lighthouse** opened to the public in 1988 and since then more than 2.5 million people have climbed to the top. The historic World War II lookout tower, **Fire Control Tower No. 23**, part of the Fort Miles fortification in Cape Henlopen, Del., underwent an award-winning restoration.

None of this would have happened if not for the non-profit organization Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture) which helped America's oldest seaside resort reinvent itself.

The renaissance of Cape May is linked to a huge mansion on Washington Street that appeared beyond salvaging around 1970, overgrown and possibly, it was hinted, even haunted. When plans circulated that the building was going to be sold and demolished, a stalwart group of volunteers banded together determined to save – and ultimately – restore the **Emlen Physick Estate**. With the help of volunteers, fundraisers, bond sales and hard work they not only saved the Physick Estate, but revitalized Cape May. In 1976, the entire city was declared a National Historic Landmark, thanks to its 19th century

buildings, one of the largest collections of seaside Victorians in the country. The resort rebloomed, an amazing change from decades earlier when Cape May's charm had faded as seaside places like Newport and Atlantic City eclipsed Cape May's popularity.

Guided tours of the 1879 Physick House Museum provide an in-depth look at Victorian architecture, detailing how the Physick family and their staff lived, worked and spent their leisure time. The 18-room mansion is an architectural gem designed by famed American architect Frank Furness, one of the best examples of Victorian Stick Style architecture in the country. Cape May MAC hosts a variety of trolley tours, walking tours, and golf cart tours around the city with knowledgeable guides who share Cape



May's history and architecture.

But Cape May MAC celebrates more than Victorian history. Each year free **Carroll Gallery** exhibits explore history topics of local interest, including an exhibit that highlights Black history in conjunction with **Center for Community Arts**. Additionally, through a decades-long partnership with the Center for Community Arts and a recent partnership with the **Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey**, visitors can learn about the role Cape May played in the Underground Railroad and about Harriet Tubman's presence there. Both the Harriet Tubman Museum and Macedonia Baptist Church were added to the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail.

In December hundreds of Christmas tours celebrate the season, and the Christmas Candlelight House Tour on three Saturday evenings before Christmas is a highlight, as it has been since 1974, with homes, inns, churches and hotels decorated for the holiday, including the Physick House Museum.

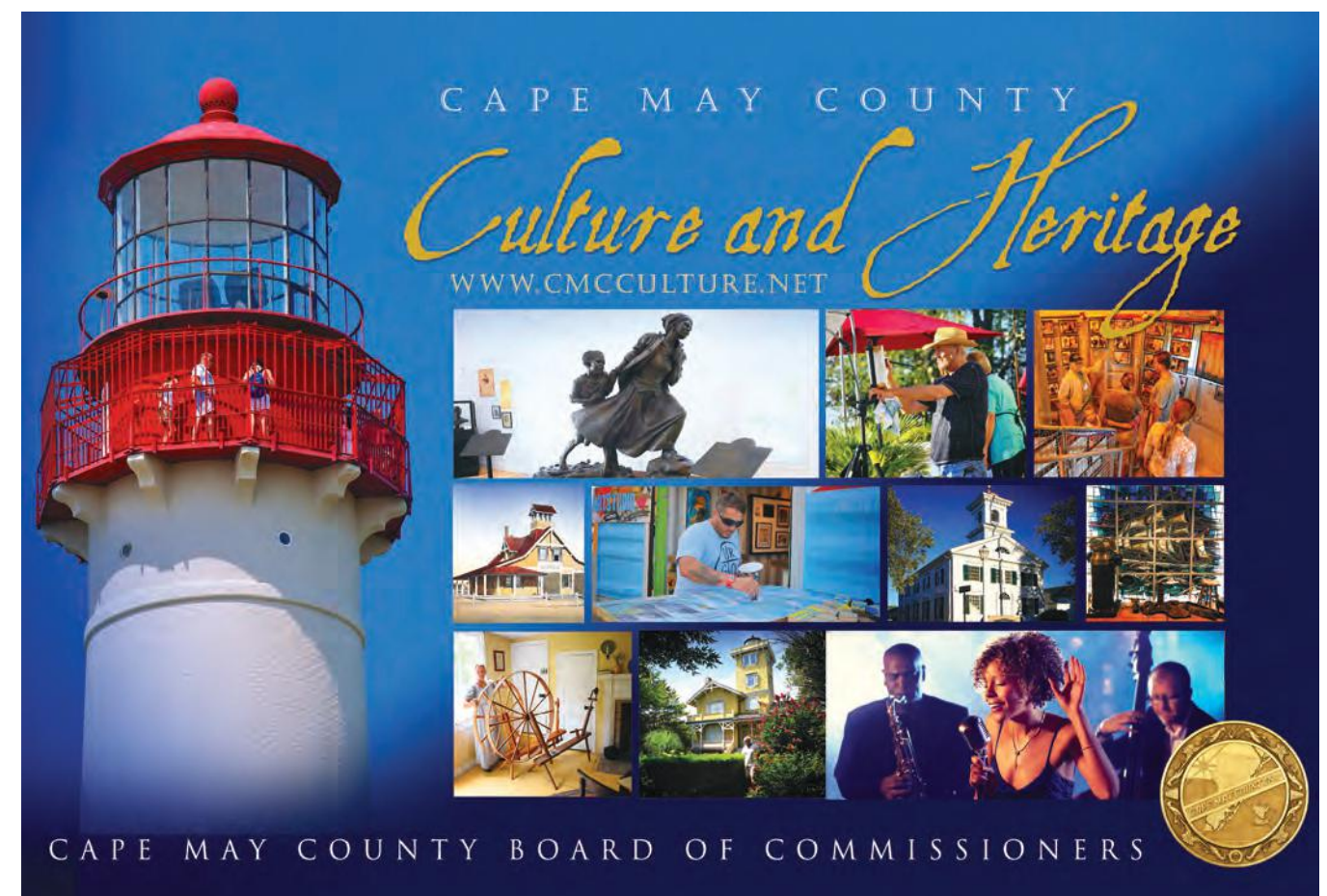
Throughout the year there are crafts shows, concerts, scavenger and treasure hunts, a Harvest Brew Fest, a Lessons of History lecture, Scarecrow Alley, a garden tour, cruises, murder mystery dinners, Sherlock Holmes weekends, Victorian Weekend, ghost tours, boat trips to lighthouses in Delaware Bay, visits to Fisherman's Wharf, two museum shops, food and wine events, Halloween Happenings, a full six weeks of Christmas tours starting the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and plenty of events more popular than Queen Victoria herself.

MAC: 1048 Washington St., Cape May; 609-884-5404; www.capemaymac.org



Cape May MAC celebrates the history and enriches the life of the greater Cape May region. We breathe life into the stories and places of the past and foster unforgettable experiences in the arts, history, and culture.

**FIND OUT MORE
CAPEMAYMAC.ORG**



MUSEUMS

Exploring the Past through Hands on History



Naval Air Station Wildwood

TELL SOMEONE they're going to a museum while on vacation, you'll likely be met with a yawn at best, an eye roll likely, and outright refusal at worst. In the Southern Shore Region, however, museums and history go beyond artwork hanging on a wall or artifacts locked behind glass cases, instead inviting visitors to participate by exploring.

One such "museum" where visitors can learn about coastal life in years gone by is **Historic Cold Spring Village**, just north of Cape May in Lower Township. More than 20 historic buildings (some original, some transported to the site) pepper the 22-acre open-air museum that depicts life in the 1800s: a time before landlines and running water, let alone cell phones and Smart TVs. Village artisans – many of them dressed in period-appropriate attire – provide demonstrations of basket weaving, pottery, tinsmithing, blacksmithing, candlemaking, and woodworking.

If strolling the village finds you working up an appetite, stop in the Village Ice Cream Parlor, in the Ewing-Douglas House, where you'll find a wide variety of ice cream flavors and sodas. Likewise, the Village Bakery, in the 1850 Ezra-Norton building originally from Dias Creek, serves up tempting and delicious confections.

The Grange Restaurant, with a menu that changes daily, is the only building that was

originally located in the village. Built in 1912, it was then Cold Spring Grange #132 and was a meeting place for civic, political, educational, and social endeavors.

Cold Spring Brewery, housed in an 1804 three-bay English-style barn, imported from Upper Township, where it belonged to the Corson family (a family name with a long history in Cape May County), is the only nonprofit brewery out of more than 100 breweries in the state. There are typically more than a dozen varieties of beer on tap, so the adults in the group can enjoy a flight or growler while enjoying the living museum.

Special weekend events include Independence Day, Seafarer's, Ghost Walks, Revolutionary War, or military reenactments.

Enjoy the events and stroll the grounds while the kids pet the farm animals or enjoy a ride on a horse-drawn wagon. *The village is at 720 Route 9, Lower Township. Call 609-898-2300 or visit www.hcsv.org*

One of the area's newer museums is the **Harriet Tubman Museum** in Cape May, dedicated to the courage, persistence, and legacy of the famed Underground Railroad conductor as well as others who played a role in saving African Americans from slavery, such as William Still, father of the Underground Railroad.

Housed in the former Macedonia Baptist Church on Lafayette Street, the museum

focuses on Tubman, who lived and worked in Cape May in the 1850s while raising funds and working to free slaves. Both sites are on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail.

During the summer, from Juneteenth through Sept. 17, the museum has guided and self-guided tours Wednesdays through Sundays. *Visit www.harriettubmanmuseum.org for off-season times and more information.*

Most of the public historical sites and museums in Cape May are curated via Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture), which operates in the Frank Furness-designed Physic Estate. *For more information visit www.CapeMayMAC.org*

Making a 180-degree turn from genteel and quaint Victorian or Civil War eras is the popular **Doo Wop Museum** in Wildwood. Situated in a former 1950's diner (the Surfside, which was dis-assembled then rebuilt in its current location), this museum celebrates everything kitschy for which the Wildwoods came to be known and loved. Neon-bright and oddly angled, mid-century architecture that continues to populate the five-mile-long island is highlighted and explained. Inside the museum, you'll find appliances, furniture, and other artifacts that grandmom (or maybe great grandmom) had, as well as a large collection of neon signs. Tours of the island's Doo Wop motels are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in

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the summer. Visit www.doowopusa.org

The Cape May County Historical Museum in the John Holmes House, one of the oldest structures in the county (c. 1755), displays furnishings, costumes, tools as well as decorative and practical objects from the 17th to 20th centuries. Period rooms include an 18th-century kitchen and bedroom with its collection of samplers, the pre-1820 dining room and the Victorian sitting room along with the Doctor's Room, the Military Room, the Native American Room and maritime exhibits of swords, guns, uniforms, and other memorabilia from the Revolutionary War through the Gulf War. The vintage 1800s barn houses an assortment of authentic carriages, including a stagecoach. *The museum is found at 540 Route 9, Cape May Court House; 609-465-3535; www.cmcmmuseum.org*

Ocean City's Bayside Center is an activities and education facility operated by the City of Ocean and dedicated to the environmental and cultural aspects of Ocean City's bayfront along the Great Egg Harbor Bay. Located on the grounds of an historical home on the bay, the Bayside Center is a perfect location to learn about the our seashore environment through an array of exhibits, displays, and



Historic Cold Spring Village

information or to simply enjoy the bay for its views, wildlife, or water recreation.

Atlantic County Veterans Museum is in the historic Daniel Estell House that dates to 1832. Home to Rebecca Estell Bourgeois Winston, the first mayor of Estell Manor and the first female mayor in New Jersey, the house was built by her grandfather and later remodeled in the 1920s in the Colonial Revival style. Military uniforms, medals, artifacts, and memorabilia from the Revolutionary War through present-day

conflicts are on display. *189 Route 50 S., Mays Landing; 609-909-7305; www.atlanticcountynj.gov*

Tour the historic oyster shipping sheds at the **Delaware Bay Museum and Folklife Center** – better yet climb aboard the **A. J. Meerwald**, a restored schooner that once dredged for oysters in the bay. Home ported on the Maurice River in Bivalve, the 115-foot, 1928 Delaware Bay Schooner teaches visitors about the rich maritime history and the fragile ecosystem of the estuary. *856-785-2060; www.bayshorecenter.org*

OUR AIR MUSEUMS: MILLVILLE ARMY AIRFIELD & NAVAL AIR STATION WILDWOOD (NASW) AVIATION MUSEUM

For the aviation enthusiasts, Cumberland County's nod to all thing's aviation is the **Millville Army Air Field Museum**. The Millville Airport was dedicated as "America's First Defense Airport" on August 2, 1941, by local, state, and federal officials. In January of 1943, the Millville Army Airfield opened as a gunnery school for fighter pilots. Today, the Millville Army Airfield Museum is dedicated to telling the stories of those who trained and died there, and those who went on to serve our country in World War II, and other wars. Nearly 1,500 pilots received their fighter training in P-47 Thunderbolt and P-40 Warhawk fighter planes in Millville. The museum's exhibits relate the story of the Millville facility's role in national defense, along with a collection of aviation artifacts and photographs. If you are in the region July 20 and 21, be sure to visit the museum for the annual Wheels and Wings Air Show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Visit www.p47millville.org or www.millvilleairshow.com for more information.

Explore the rich history and thrilling exhibits at the **Naval Air Station Wildwood (NASW) Aviation Museum**, housed within the iconic Historic Hangar #1 at Cape May Airport. This family-friendly experience offers a captivating journey through aviation history, boasting a collection of over 26 aircraft, a genuine air traffic control tower, military jeeps, exhibit rooms, and more. Step into the awe-inspiring 92,000 square foot WWII-era double-wide wooden hangar, a testament to the past. Visitors are not just spectators; they become part of the action with interactive elements like climbing a control tower, sitting in a military jeep, exploring a Coast Guard boat, and even entering the cockpit of select aircraft to experience the thrill of being a pilot.

Delve into the backstory of Historic Hangar #1, constructed at Cape May Airport (formerly Naval Air Station Wildwood) as part of the U.S. Military's response to the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. Originally known as Naval Air Station Rio Grande, the name was changed to Wildwood due to frequent mail mishaps to Rio Grande, Texas. Operating from 1943 to 1945 as a divebombing training base, 42 naval aviators perished at the site during training. The museum stands as a tribute to these brave individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The aircraft collection at the museum is diverse and includes iconic pieces such as the F-14 Tomcat, made famous by the 1980s hit film Top Gun, and the F-5 Tiger, which took on the role of a "MiG-28" in the movie. WWII enthusiasts can marvel at the TBM Avenger torpedo bomber, built in Trenton, NJ by General Motors, and a recently restored Grumman F6F Hellcat, renowned as the "ace maker" for its impressive 19 to 1 ratio in shooting down Japanese aircraft.

Exciting news for aviation enthusiasts, as NASW recently acquired an A-7 Corsair II Cockpit Trainer from the National Museum of the United States Navy. This iconic carrier-based subsonic light attack aircraft played a pivotal role in the history of the United States Navy's aviation. The A-7 Corsair II Cockpit Trainer takes center stage, offering visitors a firsthand look at the advanced avionics, controls, and instruments integral to its operational success.

Plan your visit to the NASW Aviation Museum, open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM from April through November, and weekdays from December through March (excluding some holidays). The museum also hosts special events like AirFest, Wings & Things, and Christmas at the Hangar. For more information on hours, events, or the history of NAS Wildwood, visit www.usnasw.org or call 609-886-8787.

Capture a View of America's Past



The Atlantic County Veterans Museum is located in the historic Daniel Estell House, c.1832, listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail as the former home of Rebecca Estell Bourgeois Winston, New Jersey's first female mayor.

Contributions from area residents tell the story of our nation's history on the battlefield and home front, starting with the Revolutionary War through modern day.

Exhibits showcase many personal and military artifacts donated by local veterans and their families.

Artifact donations are accepted by appointment only. Group visits/tours available. Please call or email for further information.



Atlantic County Veterans Museum

189 Boulevard Route 50, Estell Manor, NJ
OPEN THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY • 10-4
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ACCOMMODATIONS

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ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY & CUMBERLAND counties offer a wide range of accommodations for visitors. From bed and breakfast inns made for two or full-service oceanfront hotel suites, and whole house rentals just right for the entire family and Fido, Airbnb's, glitzy casino hotels, boutique hotels, retro-style motels, elegant B&Bs, and flagship chain hotels, the array of accommodations in the region is diverse in size and style.

Atlantic City, known for its vibrant nightlife and casinos, offers luxurious hotels and resorts like Hard Rock and Caesars with oceanfront views. For those seeking a more relaxed atmosphere, charming B&Bs in towns like Smithville provide a quaint experience. Budget-friendly options are also available for wallet-conscious consumers.

In Cape May County, the emphasis is on Victorian charm and seaside tranquility. Cape May is renowned for its well-preserved Victorian architecture, and visitors can stay in elegant B&Bs housed in historic buildings. Beachfront resorts in Cape May such as The



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Grand, Inn of Cape May and the Montreal Inn and Wildwood Crest's Adventurer Inn and Bristol Plaza Resort cater to those looking for a coastal retreat, offering proximity to the pristine beaches that define the area's appeal.

Cumberland County presents a mix of rural and urban accommodations. Vineland and Millville are replete with a selection of modern, flagship brand hotels like Holiday Inn Express, Fairfield Inn and Suites, Hampton Inn, Wingate by Wyndam, and Ramada, while the countryside offers B&Bs and guesthouses surrounded by farmland.

No matter your taste, budget or needs, life takes an unhurried pace at your shore place with amenities that will help you slip away from the everyday. The options are endless, but to help you decide, we have put together a list of some of our favorites.

RENTALS

Looking for a vacation rental in Wildwood or Ocean City NJ? Check out **VRWW** and **VROCNI** for the best selection and the lowest prices when planning a Jersey Shore vacation. Start your search with your vacation dates, the neighborhood of interest and the number of people in your group or family.

Filter the results to show only the rentals that are close to the beach, have pools, are pet friendly or whatever your criteria, and fit for your price range. View the listing details including photos, amenities, rates, availability, interactive location map and reviews.

Once you find that perfect rental, contact the owner or the Realtor in the listing where you will #bookdirect – and save up to 25 percent on fees and taxes that VRBO and Airbnb charge. That's a lot of extra cash that can be used for vacation fun.

Vacationers can also create a free account to save favorites, share with friends and keep track of booking requests and messages to owners. New listings are added every day; if your travel plans are last minute, visit the Special Offers page for cancellations and deals for additional savings. Ready to start a search for the perfect beach rental? Visit **VRWW** at www.VacationRentalsWildwood.com or **VROCNI** at www.VacationRentalsOceancityNJ.com

AVALON

Concord Suites is a modern three-story condo-motel located just one block away from the beach and bay in Avalon. The exterior of the building was renovated in 2023 with a new stacked stone façade, paver decks, and luxurious Polywood sleigh lounge chairs. The outdoor seating area is comfortable and

features tables and chairs, Sunbrella umbrellas, and newly-renovated public bathrooms. The facility is eco-friendly and powered by solar energy. It features two swimming pools – one of which is heated – and both have kiddie pool areas. Four spacious sun decks provide plenty of room to relax around the pool and make memories with friends and family. Each suite has a kitchen complete with a full-size refrigerator, range, and sink, should you decide to cook rather than enjoy the local cuisine at restaurants just a short walk or ride into Avalon or Stone Harbor. The living room includes a queen sofa sleeper, and there is a full-size bathroom and a private bedroom with two queen-size beds.

Amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, daily housekeeping and linen service, free parking, free beach tags for enjoying the beach in Avalon, guest laundry facilities, elevators, and bike racks, to name a few.

The Concord Suites is a great place to stay

for families and friends looking for a relaxing vacation. Discover why so many guests come back year after year to enjoy the suite life in Avalon! 7800 Dune Drive Avalon; 609-368-7800; www.concordsuites.com

CAPE MAY

The Inn of Cape May is a charming Victorian property located in the heart of Cape May's Historic District. The beautifully renovated property combines the best of the past and the present and offers a delightful seaside escape.

Discover unparalleled accommodations, exceptional dining, and warm hospitality, and immerse yourself in the charm and beauty of this historic seaside destination. There's plenty to enjoy in charming Cape May. No matter what time of year, The Inn's team can recommend experiences to fill your vacation itinerary, including boat excursions, historic trolley tours, birding walks, and, of course,

MADISON RESORT SET TO TRANSFORM INTO CAPE MAY COUNTY'S LARGEST RESORT WITH THE ADDITION OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN

Madison Resorts, a leading name in Southern New Jersey resort ownership, is thrilled to announce a significant expansion with the acquisition of the iconic Royal Hawaiian in Wildwood Crest. That property will be combined with the former historic doo-wop style property next door (formerly The Oceanview Motel) to become the largest resort in Cape May County.

Two Towers, One Unforgettable Experience. Madison Resort Wildwood Crest will offer an unparalleled experience for guests. Uniting the two properties into one large resort with two separate towers. This unique configuration will grant guests access to a multitude of amenities across both buildings, including 200+ rooms, three restaurants, two pools, two hot tubs, two fitness centers, five conference rooms, two rooftop event spaces, beachfront weddings, complimentary beach service for guests and pet-friendly accommodations.

Continued Commitment to Entertainment and Fun. Madison Resorts, known for its dynamic approach to hospitality, has a proven track record with the Montreal Beach Resort and Harry's Ocean Bar and Grille in Cape May. Countless live entertainers, special events, wine dinners, and most recently, Harry's was transformed into "Harry's Jingle Bar," which became an Instagram sensation.

Phase one of Madison Resort Wildwood Crest will open in early spring of 2024 with the unveiling of the preservation efforts and renovations of the former doo-wop hotel at Beach Ave. and Rambler Rd. The Royal Hawaiian portion of the plans will open in early summer of 2024. www.madisonresorts.com



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Find your first cup of Joe or your mid-morning pick-me-up at the Coffee Bar which serves up the caffeinated drinks you need to fuel your next activity after a late night or before a long day.

Grab a drink and soak in the salty-sea air on The Porch. With comfortable bistro seating and cozy gathering corners, it's the ideal spot to unwind with friends over wine or indulge in a refreshing midday cocktail. *The Inn is located at 7 Ocean Ave., Cape May; 609-884-5555; www.innofcapemay.com*

Experience your "Grand Day at the Beach!" at **The Grand Hotel** in Victorian Cape May. Discover the beachside lifestyle any time of year with oceanfront and ocean-view rooms, the perfect complement for a seaside escape. Choose from rooms that accommodate from two to eight people or check out the two-story townhouse

suites. All rooms are stocked with organic bath amenities, coffee makers, a microwave and other conveniences for the best vacation ever. The "classically casual never stuffy" vibe at The Bar at Hemingway's makes it a great place to enjoy a specialty cocktail like the "Hemingway" named after Ernest himself. *Located at 1045 Beach Ave., Cape May; 609-884-5611 or 800-257-8550; www.grandhotelcapemay.com*

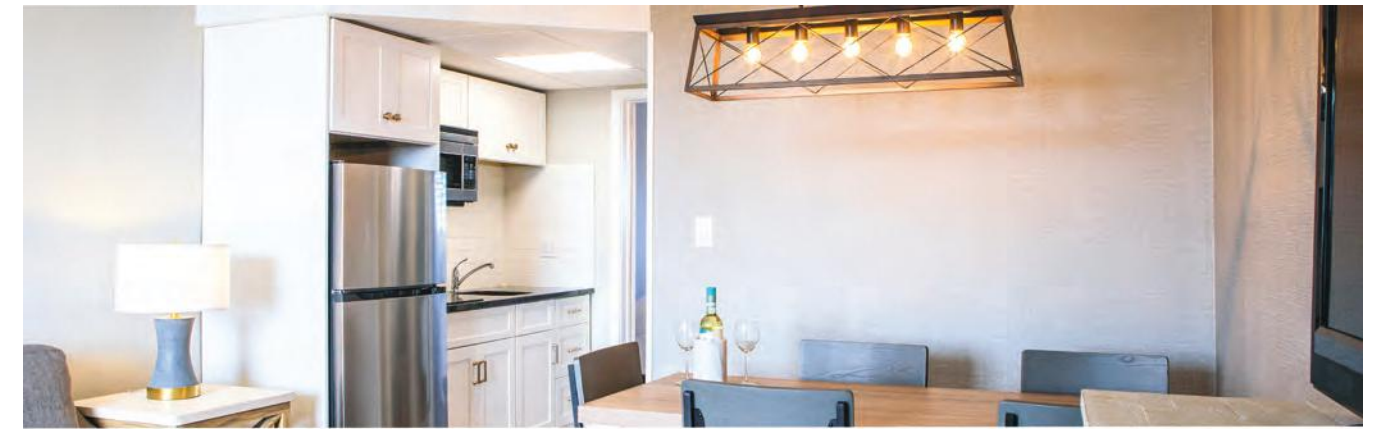
WILDWOOD CREST

Indulge in all that the Wildwoods and its beaches have to offer with a stay at the **Adventurer Oceanfront Inn**, where guests enjoy everything they need to relax and unwind at the beach. Wake up to the sounds of the ocean, watch the sun rise from an Oceanview or oceanfront balconies, enjoy breakfast in the oceanfront restaurant and later bask in the sun at the beach or in the pool area. Walk to the beach, the Boardwalk, waterparks, and the Wildwoods Convention Center with ease. The Adventurer Oceanfront Inn has a complete cardio room, convention/meeting rooms, on-site restaurant, southern exposure outdoor pool and kiddie pool, and free outdoor and garage parking on the premises; everything needed to enjoy a perfect family vacation. The Adventurer

Oceanfront Inn has been awarded Trip Advisor's Traveler's Choice awards several years in a row and is approved by AAA. *Find the Adventurer at 5401 Ocean Ave., Wildwood Crest; 609-729-1200; 800-232-7873; 609-522-0029; www.adventurerinn.com*

The Bristol Plaza Resort Motel in beautiful Wildwood Crest provides guests with the finest accommodations and an uncompromising level of hospitality and service, second to none with a well-earned reputation for quality and service. With a delightful southern exposure, the guestrooms, the swimming pool and the sundecks are bathed in abundant sunshine from late morning until sundown.

Directly on the wide, pristine beach, the Bristol Plaza Resort Motel is the perfect location for your family vacation. Reserve a spacious, contemporary suite overlooking the breathtaking Atlantic Ocean and enjoy everything Wildwood Crest, and the Bristol Plaza, have to offer including some weekend specials with dining options at Hemingway's in The Grand Hotel of Cape May or discounted amusement passes for the world-famous Morey's Piers. *The Bristol Plaza is at 6407 Ocean Ave., Wildwood Crest; 800-433-9731; www.bristolplazamotel.com*



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NESTLED ALONG the iconic Jersey Shore, Atlantic City beckons travelers with its unique blend of seaside charm, exhilarating entertainment, and a lively gaming scene. Renowned for its vibrant boardwalk, world-class casinos, and diverse array of attractions, this East Coast gem offers a memorable vacation experience that transcends the conventional beach getaway. From the glitzy lights of the casinos to the soothing sounds of the ocean waves, Atlantic City is a destination that caters to a wide range of interests, making it an ideal retreat for those seeking both excitement and relaxation.

THE GLITTERING BOARDWALK
 At the heart of Atlantic City's allure lies its legendary boardwalk, a four-mile stretch that serves as the pulse of the city. Stepping onto the boards, visitors are greeted by a sensory explosion of sights, sounds, and aromas. Lined with shops, eateries, and amusement piers, the boardwalk is a microcosm of the city's dynamic energy.

The Steel Pier, an iconic amusement park at the southern end of the boardwalk, beckons thrill-seekers with its towering rides and classic carnival games. Take a ride on the Wheel, a 227-foot tall attraction featuring 40 temperature-controlled gondolas and enjoy

panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and the city skyline.

As the sun sets, the Boardwalk comes alive with neon lights and street performers, creating an enchanting atmosphere. Stroll along the wooden planks, indulge in saltwater taffy from the numerous candy shops, and savor the ocean breeze. The Boardwalk is not just a place to walk; it's a destination in itself, offering a blend of entertainment, culture, and a unique slice of Americana.

GAMING AND ENTERTAINMENT EXTRAVAGANZA
 For those seeking excitement of a different kind, Atlantic City is synonymous with world-class casinos. Nine towering casino resorts dominate the city's skyline, each offering a distinct theme and a myriad of gaming options. From classic table games to state-of-the-art slot machines, the casinos cater to both seasoned gamblers and those looking to try their luck for the first time.

The Boardwalk Empire era may have passed, but the spirit of entertainment is very much alive in the city. Catch a live performance at one of the many entertainment venues, featuring renowned musicians, comedians, and Broadway-style shows. The destination's entertainment calendar is diverse, ensuring

that there's always something happening, whether it's a live concert, a comedy show, or a captivating theatrical production.

CULINARY DELIGHTS
 Atlantic City's culinary scene is a gastronomic journey, with a diverse array of dining options to suit every palate. From upscale seafood restaurants with panoramic ocean views to casual boardwalk eateries serving mouthwatering slices of pizza, the city offers a culinary adventure that reflects its diverse character.

For a taste of Atlantic City's maritime bounty, indulge in the freshest seafood at one of the upscale restaurants along the Boardwalk. Classic Boardwalk fare, such as saltwater taffy, funnel cakes and hot dogs, is perfect for those looking to savor a quick bite while taking in the vibrant atmosphere. The city's culinary landscape is also marked by a fusion of flavors, with restaurants offering everything from Italian and Asian to Latin and Mediterranean cuisine.

RELAXATION BY THE SHORE
 Amidst the glitz and glamor, Atlantic City provides ample opportunities for relaxation along its pristine beaches. The soft, sandy shores stretch for miles, providing a tranquil

escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. Whether you're looking to sunbathe, take a refreshing dip in the ocean, or simply enjoy a leisurely stroll along the shoreline, the beaches offer a serene retreat.

For a unique beach experience, head to the Absecon Lighthouse. At 171 feet, it is the third tallest lighthouse in the United States. Climb the 228 steps to the top for panoramic views of the Atlantic City skyline and the surrounding coastline, providing a picturesque backdrop for a day at the beach.

BEYOND THE BOARDWALK: CULTURAL EXPLORATION

While Atlantic City is often associated with its lively entertainment and gaming scene, the city also boasts a rich cultural heritage waiting to be explored.

For art enthusiasts, the Noyes Arts Garage showcases the work of local artists and craftspeople, providing a unique perspective on the creative spirit of the region. Located in the Noyes Arts Garage, the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey brings to life the African American experience by documenting the struggle of one group of Americans. The museum offers permanent collections and limited-time showings.



Atlantic City is a multifaceted destination that is home to an array of attractions. Beyond the glitzy casinos and vibrant Boardwalk, the city offers a diverse range of experiences, from cultural exploration to culinary delights and relaxation by the shore. Whether you're drawn to the thrill of the gaming tables, the allure of live

entertainment, or the tranquility of the beaches, Atlantic City welcomes visitors with open arms, promising a vacation filled with excitement, exploration, and lasting memories.

Visit www.atlanticcitynj.com to explore local and regional events, attractions, accommodations, and more. Find DO AC on Facebook and Instagram. •



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...in Atlantic City



The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University

For information about the Arts Garage
artsgarageac.com | 609.626.3805



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Escape the Everyday in the Fall, Winter and Holidays



Christmas in Cape May

AS THE WEATHER COOLS DOWN the fall and winter months are the perfect time to escape to your favorite place in New Jersey's Southern Shore. Don't let the cooler weather deter you from visiting. Although it's not summer, there is still plenty to do here. It is the cozy season and many of the businesses have fireplaces and/or fire pits to warm up any get-together. With the beach all to yourself, you can take a leisurely stroll on the sand, enjoy a fresh seafood dinner at your favorite summer hotspot, or simply relax and unwind. Planning your getaway during this time of year has its advantages, including off-season rates that are mostly on the lower end of the price range.

Long overdue for a romantic interlude? The historic landmark City of **Cape May** is the perfect place to get lost in for a day or a few. The charming city has been named one of the most romantic destinations in the mid-Atlantic region by countless magazines. Most likely, the romance-thing has something to do with its gingerbread-laced B&Bs, gas lamps that light up some of the Victorian streets, and intimate, highly-rated restaurants. Take a horse and carriage rides, visit a nearby winery, climb to the top of the iconic lighthouse and have a couples massage at a local spa, and always end with a cocktail for two by the fireplace at the **Brown Room at Congress Hall**.

By November, it's the holiday season! Tis

the season for wassail, shopping, and enjoying your favorite hot weather vacation getaway in a sweater and winter coat.

Don't miss the **Christmas Shop in the Brownstone Emporium at WheatonArts** in Millville, Cumberland County, which has a huge assortment of handcrafted glass items, including icicles and Christmas ornaments. Cumberland County has several other great shopping areas, including historic Bridgeton, the **Cumberland Mall**, and downtown Millville.

Celebrate the holidays in **Greenwich**; a town that is celebrating its own colonial teaburning that occurred 250 years ago, and has more history than Santa has toys in his sleigh – honest! **Bridgeton** has an historic house tour and its own Liberty Bell. Don't



Atlantic City Ballet Nutcracker

forget **Millville** for Third Friday celebrations in the Glasstown Arts District.

Each community in the region has Christmas activities, be it a holiday parade, downtown shopping bazaar, tree lighting ceremony, ugly sweater 5K, winter wonderland display, or small business Saturday. *Links to all the region's attractions and their special holiday events can be found on www.escapetothejerseycap.com and www.njsouthernshore.com*

Atlantic City's Tinseltown celebration was a big hit in 2023 offering visitors an array of festive events including pop-up lounges and a Holiday Market & Gingerbread Village, among many other events. www.atlanticcitynj.com

Enjoy The Nutcracker performed by the Atlantic City Ballet? Performances are usually held at the **Performing Arts Center of Stockton University**.

The casinos are decked out in glam, glitter and lights from top to bottom, hosting some of the biggest show biz names throughout the holidays.

Not only do the region's restaurants and nightclubs go big with traditional New Year's Eve events, places like Ocean City have made New Year's Eve celebrations must-do events.

First Night in Ocean City involves a lengthy calendar of events starting at 3:45 p.m. on Dec. 31, and running through midnight, which – of course! – culminates with a magnificent fireworks display on the beach.

Shopaholic? There's no treatment that we can recommend other than the largest winter shopping event with the best of Stone Harbor and Avalon's boutiques in March. It's a great cure for the winter blues! •

JOHN POSADA

Cumberland Events!

These events & many more are happening in 2024 in Cumberland County



MAY 5: Cinco De Mayo Festival. Bridgeton: www.facebook.com/downtownbridgetoncom

MAY 17 – 26: Bridgeton Invitational Baseball Tournament. www.bridgetoninvitationalbaseballtournament.sportngin.com

JUNE 8: Cruise Down Memory Lane Car Show. Landis Avenue, Vineland. www.TheAve.biz

JUNE 8: Food Truck Festival. NJ Motorsports Park. www.njmp.com

JUNE 8 & 9: Strawberry Festival. Shoppes at Dragon Village, Hopewell Twp. www.Shoppesatdragonvillage.com

JULY 9 – 13: Cumberland County Fair, County Fairgrounds, Millville. www.cumberlandcofair.com

JULY 21 – 29: Puerto Rican Festival Week. www.facebook.com/vinelandprfestival

SEPTEMBER 21: Hopewell Harvest Fair, Hopewell Twp. www.facebook.com/HopewellTownshipCumberlandCountyNJ

SEPTEMBER 23: Artisans' Faire & Marketplace. Gibbon House in Greenwich. www.cchistoc.org

OCTOBER 5 & 6: Festival of Fine Craft, WheatonArts & Cultural Center, Millville. www.Wheatonarts.org

DECEMBER 7 & 8: Renaissance Christmas. Shoppes at Dragon Village, Hopewell Twp. www.Shoppesatdragonvillage.com

Cumberland County, New Jersey
CumberlandCountyNJ.gov • explorecumberlandnj.com



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Lower Township

A Place to Remember

NATURAL BEAUTY - RICH IN HISTORY - EXCITING EVENTS



UNIQUE AGRITOURISM - FAMILY MEMORIES

May 24, 2024: Summer Kick Off/ Family Fun Night/ Movie Night
September 6, 2024: Back to School/ Family Fun Night/ Movie Night
June 2, 2024: Escape The Cape Triathlon
July 3, 2024: Independence Day Festival (Rain Date July 5th)
August 3, 2024: Coombs/ Douglass Bayrun
October 12, 2024: Halloween Costume Parade
October 20, 2024: Halloween Trunk or Treat
October 26, 2024: Halloween Haunted Trails
November 9, 2024: Veteran's Day Parade
December 15, 2024: Ferry Merry Christmas Party
December 27, 28, 29, 2024: Tom Beheler/ Elks Basketball Tournament
December 31, 2024: New Year's Eve Party

SPECIAL EVENTS

"Home of the best sunsets."

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES on the Ferry Green

July 10, 2024: Split Decision
July 17, 2024: The Big House Band
July 24, 2024: Legacy
July 31, 2024: Jimmy & The Parrots
August 7, 2024: Fat Mezz
August 20, 2024: Amish Outlaws (Benefit Concert)



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OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Get out there and discover off the beaten track gems



EVERY DESTINATION has attractions that are well known to the locals but a bit of a secret to others. New Jersey's Southern Shore Region is no exception. With more than 10 million visitors creating vacation itineraries each year, visitors are encouraged to explore the outdoor adventures that are off the beaten path.

Dedicated to preserving wetlands and the coastal ecosystem, the **Wetlands Institute** can be found near the entrance to Stone Harbor, at 1075 Stone Harbor Blvd. Set amongst 15,000 acres of The Great Salt Marsh, the institute is the premier location to get a closer look at the region's shorebirds, each season of the year. Visitors to the Wetlands Institute can explore the walking paths where songbirds roost, or check out the interpretive displays inside the institute.

A spring visit to the institute might provide a glimpse of osprey, herons, egrets, and ibis returning to set up their nests. Indigenous plants found in the marsh make the area hospitable for these migrating birds.

During summer, there is a great number of shorebirds that call the Great Salt Marsh home, and the institute's Terrapin Recovery and Conservation Project, which protects the reptiles.

Fall is the time for migration, and falcons and other raptors can be seen on their stopover to warmer climates. The gardens situated around the institute attract migrating butterflies, hummingbirds, and songbirds.

Lest one think winter isn't for the birds,

the cold season provides ideal views of the salt marsh for wintering raptors and waterfowl.

More information about the Wetlands Institute is here at www.wetlandsinstitute.org

In Cumberland County, there is a 500-acre preserve that is unique in the region because of its hilly terrain. Named for the rounded cliffs that overlook the 35-mile "Wild and Scenic" Maurice River, Referred to as "The Bluffs," the **Maurice River Bluffs Preserve** is an important stopping point for migrating songbirds and raptors, such as osprey and bald eagles. .

The Bluffs Preserve is a freshwater haven for dragonflies and damselflies that call the preserve home.

Whether nature enthusiast or fitness devotee (or both), The Bluffs are well worth a stop for anyone visiting the region. The preserve has six miles of hiking trails,

including a 35-foot-long bridge, and steps and rails on steeper inclines. There are benches situated throughout the preserve, picnic tables, a floating dock, and information kiosk. Bicyclists will find a six-mile mountain biking trail. Access to the preserve is from Silver Run Road in Millville. Call 609-861-0600 or visit www.nature.org for more information.

As soon as you step onto **Sunset Beach**, which is as far south as you can go in New Jersey, you will notice one thing right away. Instead of sitting in beach chairs, you will observe most beachgoers exploring the sand and collecting pebbles. The beach, which is famous for the most beautiful panoramic and colorful sunsets anywhere on the East Coast, offers a secret treasure that locals and long-time visitors know as Cape May Diamonds.

Cape May Diamonds are actually pieces of quartz, washed down, and worn in the process, from the faraway upper reaches of the Delaware River, a trip that can literally take thousands of years. The pure quartz crystals, found primarily along the bayside beaches, can be polished, faceted and set to resemble diamonds. Sunset Beach Gift Shops located right there can help you find the true potential of your find or stop in the shops and browse the beautiful jewelry available for purchase.

Sunset Beach is a beachcomber's paradise. Cape May Diamonds are just the beginning of the unique finds on this beach. Often, arrowheads surface along the Delaware Bay side beaches – and if time and tides are right, the famed "ghost tracks" at Higbee Beach, dating back nearly a century, might be visible. Visit www.sunsetbeachnj.com

Do yourself a favor and stray from the beaten path to explore these hidden gems of New Jersey's Southern Shore Region. •



Maurice River Bluffs Preserve

DINING

We're waiting on you!



THE CULINARY JOURNEY at the Jersey Cape blends farm-to-table freshness, exquisite seafood, international flavors and intimate waterfront and outdoor settings that capture the region's access to fresh seafood and its rich agricultural heritage.

The dining scene in the region is vibrant and characterized by a commitment to locally sourced ingredients, ensuring an authentic farm or sea-to-fork experience. New Jersey, also known as the Garden State, is home to the freshest fruits and vegetables in season, which can be found daily at local farms and farm markets. Cape May/Wildwood is one of the largest ports on the East Coast, and many of the seafood choices are delivered to restaurants within hours of being caught. This ensures that the seafood is fresh and of the highest quality.

If you want an up-close look at farm fresh, you must tour **Beach Plum Farm** in West Cape May and enjoy breakfast or lunch outside as farm workers hoe, weed and harvest around you. The hundred or more varieties of fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs grown on the 62-acre farm eventually end up on the tables of local restaurants like the **Blue Pig** at Congress Hall and the **Ebbitt Room** at the Virginia Hotel. It's in these fine restaurants where chefs develop menus around

the wide variety of fresh farm produce.

Once dubbed the Restaurant Capital of the East Coast by the New York Times, the City of Cape May continues to expand its dining styles. Dining at **Elaine's Cape May** is an experience that invites patrons inside or outside anytime of the year. That is right! Eating outside in the fall and winter is a thing at Elaine's where guests can enjoy beverages and meals at tables and two outdoor bars warmed by tableside heaters and firepits. Live entertainment all year long combined with an eclectic menu makes a visit to Elaine's Cape May a must! *For more information visit www.elainescapemay.com*

At the **Ocean 7** Restaurant in the Inn of Cape May, the dining options are indoor and al fresco, too! Start your day with a steaming cup of coffee and relax on a plush lobby couch. For happy hour, sip cocktails on the sun-drenched porch while enjoying the salty-sea air. If you're looking for a more formal dining experience, make a reservation at Ocean 7. The restaurant offers a contemporary twist on American classics, using fresh, seasonally sourced ingredients to produce creative takes on timeless cuisine. **The Coffee Bar** is the perfect place to grab your first cup of Joe or mid-morning pick-me-up. They serve up the caffeinated drinks you need to

fuel your next activity after a late night or before a long day. **The Porch** is another great spot to unwind with friends over wine or indulge in a refreshing midday cocktail. With comfortable bistro seating and cozy gathering corners, it's the ideal spot to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. *www.innofcapemay.com*

Dining al fresco reaches new heights at **Harry's Ocean Bar & Grille** in Cape May where rooftop dining provides unobstructed views of the city's picturesque beachfront. The view is only part of the excitement at this award-winning restaurant. Menu items made of fresh local seafood, signature sandwiches and tasty appetizers pair well with their famous Orange Crushes. Located in the Montreal Inn, Harry's is the only rooftop bar in town. *www.harryscapemay.com*

Hemingway's at the Grand Hotel in Cape May is a favorite restaurant for visitors and locals alike. Enjoy modern American cuisine with a variety of delectable culinary creations – steaks, fresh, locally sourced seafood including an early Sunset Dining menu and the popular Prime Rib Night on Wednesdays. The classically casual, never stuffy vibe at The Bar @Hemingway's is the perfect place to relax and unwind with specialty cocktails, some with unique backstories like the

Hemingway, a tribute to Ernest himself, and the "Beast" named after one of Cape May's famous sportfishing boats. Hemingway's serves breakfast, lunch and dinner; the Bar@Hemingway's hosts happy hour. *www.hemingwayscapemay.com*

Curious how those plump, succulent scallops end up on your plate? Tour **Fisherman's Wharf at the Lobster House** and gain a greater understanding – and appreciation – for those people who head hundreds of miles out to sea to make a living to provide us (and cities near and far) with a variety of fresh fish.

The Delaware Bay is home to a thriving oyster industry, producing one of the world's most highly-favored shellfish delicacies, just miles from the restaurants where they are served. The origins of Cape May Salts date as far back as the late 1800s.

Headed to Sea Isle City for dinner? Just hang a right when you get into town and look for the city's famous **Fish Alley** sign at the base of Park Road, then take your pick or flip a coin. Maybe **Oar House Pub**, a great place with live music, or **Mike's Seafood and Dock Restaurant** offering a wide selection of fresh, locally caught seafood for lunch or dinner. *www.visitsicnj.com*

Atlantic City boasts a vibrant and diverse dining scene that goes beyond the glitz of the nationally recognized restaurants in the famous casinos. The city's diverse neighborhoods offer quaint cafes, lively pubs and eateries.

Café 2825 located at 2825 Atlantic Ave. offers upscale dining with old school recipes combining Sicilian and Neapolitan-style dishes including lasagna, homemade pastas, and seafood favorites like Chilean sea bass and lobster fra diavolo, which are customer favorites. House specialties handmade, warm, Burrata-style fresh mozzarella and



Old World Caesar Salad, are made tableside. Café 2825 is so popular reservations must be made two weeks in advance to ensure seating, or they will call you if there is a table available from cancellation.

Oysters as a seafood delicacy have been a favorite for over 125 years at **Dock's Oyster House** located at 2405 Atlantic Ave. in Atlantic City. In 1897, Harry "call me Dock" Dougherty opened a restaurant that would serve the finest seafood available. Four generations later, the restaurant's raw bar is still a local hot spot, and it continues to blend the classic oyster bar feel with the restaurant's popular seafood dishes.

Whether you're seeking a classic American diner experience, international flavors, or a taste of the freshest seafood, Cumberland County has an evolving dining scene. Local diners in Cumberland County can explore a range of establishments, from quaint family-owned diners serving classic breakfasts to contemporary eateries located in downtown

districts in Vineland and Millville. Eateries offering international cuisine capture the essence of the region rich in cultural diversity. Local chefs specialize in Italian, Mexican and Asian cuisines, among others, blending traditional recipes with a modern twist.

Cumberland County has several great and authentic Mexican restaurants, try local favorites like **Los Molcajetes** in Bridgeton, **Julio's** on Main and **Alebríes** in Vineland and **El Guacamole** in Millville for delicious food.

Cumberland has delicious vegan options too, check out the **Wildflower Café** in Millville, **Vegans R Us** in Vineland. *www.vegansareusnj.com, www.wildflowervegan.com*

Looking for Mike Trout's favorite restaurant? You can stop by the local favorite **Jim's Lunch** in Millville, it has been a staple since 1923. Another favorite of locals and visitors alike, **Charlesworth Restaurant and Hotel** is a charming, historical restaurant and hotel located on the Delaware Bay in Fortescue. This historical landmark was founded in 1924 and is located on the water with spacious decks to enjoy the bay view and legendary sunsets. For restaurant hours, make sure to call ahead. The Charlesworth Hotel offers charming rooms to stay in that offer spectacular views. Visit *www.charlesworthrestaurant.com*

The Bait Box is a hidden gem near Greenwich in Hancock Harbor, Cumberland County. Located on the Cohansey River, the restaurant offers casual seafood along with a beautiful waterfront view.

Don't miss a visit to the **Red Eyed Crab** in Port Norris for fresh seafood dishes, salads, and pork and steak dishes.

While you are visiting the Southern Shore Region, take advantage of the area's exquisite bounty from land and sea. It's a journey you won't soon forget! •



BIKING

Biking your way through New Jersey's Southern Shore Region



EXPLORING THE SCENIC BEAUTY of Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties on two wheels is definitely a popular way to go. Don't worry about your skill level; there are a variety of biking trails, boardwalks, and promenades that cater to different preferences. If your bicycles didn't make the trip, no problem! Bikes and associated equipment can be rented at reasonable rates from many shops located in all the resorts.

There is no doubt; riding on two wheels is a favorite pastime in the **Wildwoods**. Destination managers say the "Wildwoods have Bikeability." Enjoy a scenic, leisurely 12-mile round trip bike route that runs nearly the entire length of the five-mile island. A special "bikes only" lane is also dedicated throughout the length of North Wildwood, from 1st to 26th avenues along Surf Avenue and running parallel to the North Wildwood Sea Wall. Biking is also permitted along the 2.5-mile stretch of the Wildwoods Boardwalk until noon. Wildwood Crest's bike path runs from the southern end of the Boardwalk to Rambler Road, then to Seaview Avenue where the bicycle lane runs to the southernmost end of that resort. Visit www.WildwoodsNJ.com for more information.

In the historic landmark **City of Cape May Promenade**, a 2-mile long paved path that

runs along the beachfront allows visitors to cycle past majestic Victorians, and enjoy a panoramic view of the beach. The Promenade is open to bikers from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. from May to September. Rise early, it's a great spot to catch the sunrise. www.capemaycity.com

In America's Greatest Family Resort, the **Ocean City Boardwalk** is a popular destination for cyclists of all ages. The boarded walkway path is 2.5 miles long, and runs along the beachfront offering stunning views of the ocean. The boardwalk is open to bikers from 5 a.m. to noon June through September. www.bikeOCNJ.com

A trail at the **Cape May County Park & Zoo** is a 2.2-mile trail that runs through the award-

winning attraction. The trail is paved and is suitable for all skill levels. It is also stroller and wheelchair accessible, making it an ideal spot for families with kids. The zoo's bike paths connect to the Middle Township bike path, which has access to the Davies Sports Complex, the 4-H Fairgrounds and Atlantic Cape Community College. www.cmczoo.com

The 8.9-mile **Middle Township Bike Path** runs south from the Cape May County Park for five miles to Whitesboro, along the old railroad bed of the Cape May Seashore Line. This bicycle path brings riders down to the Lower Township bicycle path, which takes riders nearly three miles to Cold Spring Village.

If you're looking for a more challenging biking experience, try the **Belleplain State Forest Trails**. The forest offers several trails that cater to different skill levels, passing through several lakes and forests and making it an ideal spot for nature lovers.

In Atlantic County, explore the **Atlantic County Bikeway**, a 7.56-mile trail that runs from the Atlantic County Institute of Technology in Mays Landing to Harbor Square (Formerly Shore Mall) in Egg Harbor Township. The trail is paved and is suitable for all skill levels. It is also stroller and wheelchair accessible. www.atlanticcountynj.gov

Cumberland County offers several biking trails that cater to different skill levels. A popular biking route is the **Maurice River Bikeway** in Millville. The trail is 1.4-miles and runs just off the river from Ware Avenue, where you have immediate access to restaurants and shops. When you are near the end on Sharp Street, you can access a playground, ball fields, and a floating dock for fishing.

Whether you're a nature lover or a beach bum, there's something for everyone. So, grab your bike and hit the trails! For additional information visit www.TrailLink.com.



ALL ABOARD THE CAPE MAY LEWES FERRY

Rediscover the thrill of exploration



THE CAPE MAY-LEWES FERRY is a cherished transportation link connecting North Cape May, New Jersey and Lewes, Delaware. The iconic ferry service offers a unique and scenic way to travel between the two states making it more than a means of travel – it's a gateway to rediscovering the joy of travel.

Whether you're a local seeking a refreshing

day trip or a visitor eager to explore the culture and beauty of the region, the ferry welcomes you to rediscover the simple pleasure of the journey. Passengers can choose the open-air observation deck for a breath of fresh sea air or the climate-controlled comfort of the indoor lounges.

The ferry operates every day, year-round, inviting foot passengers, cyclists and drivers

to enjoy the 85-minute crossing. Passengers can see historic lighthouses, picturesque harbors and oceangoing vessels. It is not uncommon to see dolphins playfully dancing in the waves or seabirds soaring overhead.

The ferry can accommodate vehicles of all sizes, including cars, SUVs, pick-up trucks and motorcycles. Fares for the ferry service are reasonable and vary depending on the passenger's age, vehicle type, and travel dates. And if you are a frequent ferry traveler, be sure to look for discounted fares.

The modern terminals at Cape May, NJ and Lewes, DE offer a range of amenities, including restaurants, lounges and gift shops. Shuttle services to and from Cape May's Welcome Center are available during the summer season and early fall. The DART Route 204 also operates seasonally.

The ferry is a convenient way to travel between New Jersey and Delaware especially for those who want to avoid the traffic on the highways. Visit www.cmlf.com or call 1-800-643-3779 for event information, schedules and reservations.

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OUR TWO ZOOS

Both zoos are located within expansive parklands



CAPE MAY COUNTY ZOO

Families, armed with cameras and wide-eyed children, enter a world where nature's wonders are on full display. Beyond the gate, a world of diverse habitats awaits, filled with giraffes, monkeys, tigers, lemurs, birds, reptiles, primates, snow leopards and more. The Cape May County Park and Zoo is home to about 550 inhabitants representing about 250 species, an impressive and diverse population, on 200 wooded acres.

Looking for a family adventure? Take a self-guided tour of the zoo. Seeing the animals up-close in their native habitats is just the beginning. There are plenty of other things to see and do at the park in Middle Township just off Exit 11 of the Garden State Parkway – two giant playgrounds and a Wildlife Carousel for the little ones. Explore the park from the treetops with Tree to Tree Cape May's adventure courses, which include climbing walls, rope swings, and zip lines.

Into fitness? The park's outdoor fitness center has 12 different stations: chin-up bars, push-up, and sit-up platforms plus low-to-the-ground balance beams. Shady bike paths also offer a great workout and expansion plans will connect locations in the park with direct routes to the zoo in the future. And there's golf – well it's Frisbee golf, so instead of a club and ball, players use a disc or a Frisbee

and throw it from the tee area to a basket, which is the "hole." Across Route 9 from the zoo there are tennis and basketball courts plus baseball and softball fields.

Photography enthusiasts will find ample opportunities to capture stunning shots of the diverse animal residents and the scenic landscapes. The zoo's educational initiatives promote awareness about the importance of



preserving wildlife and natural habitats.

More good news: Admission to the park and zoo is free. Parking? Free. Donations are accepted, encouraged, and welcomed; some of the tours, picnic pavilions, etc. are fee-based. Both the park and zoo are open 364 days a year, weather permitting, closed only on Christmas. *For more information call 609-465-5271 or visit www.cmcZoo.com*

COHANZICK ZOO

The Cohanick Zoo is a premiere attraction in Cumberland County. Curious about the name? It's named for the Lenape Tribe who lived in Bridgeton along the Cohansey River, known as the Cohanicks. The river still flows through the park, adding a peaceful feel to the zoo – New Jersey's first zoo founded in 1934.

LiMu the emu is well known these days, thanks to Liberty Mutual, but hold on to your feathers! Lolli, Cohanick's resident emu who enjoys life at the zoo, is every bit as popular locally. They might even make a great couple. Who knows? Among her best zoo friends, Lolli counts Nora and Clyde the ring-tailed lemurs and Winston the wallaby. Of course, there's also Sandy and Koko the gibbons, and Chase and Oxy the marmosets.

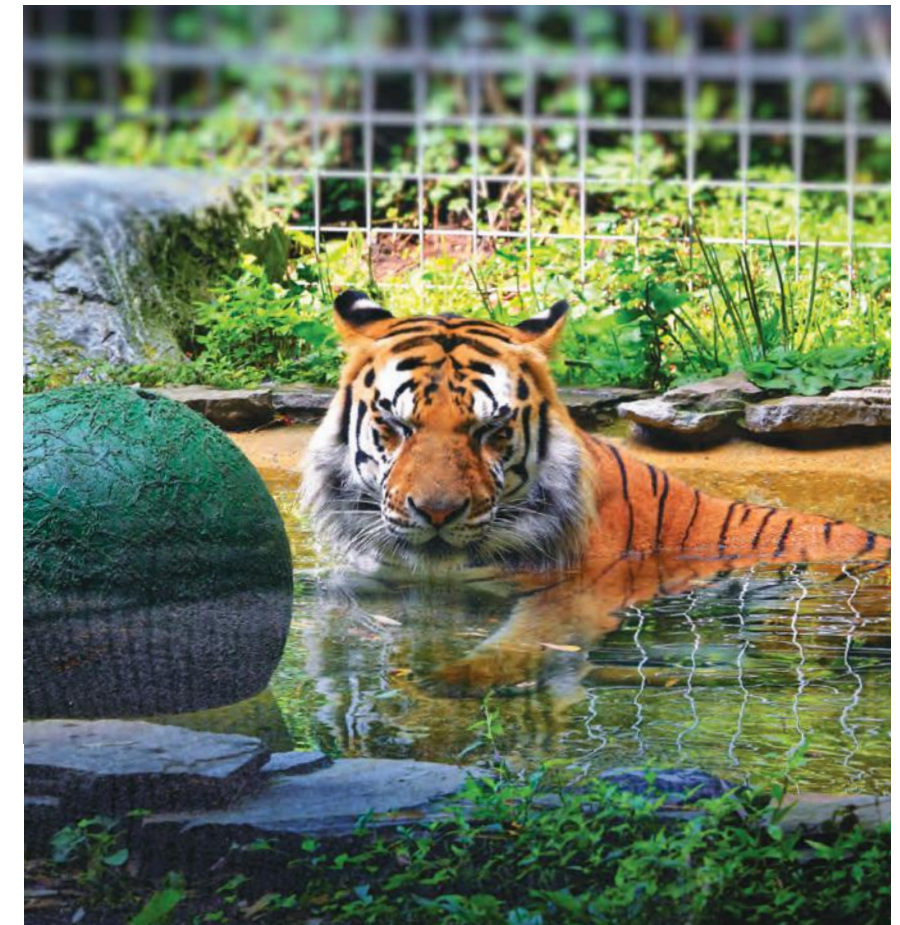
The zoo is home to big cats – the jungle variety! Bengal tiger brothers Mahesha and Rishi, who came to the zoo as babies, are babies no more. The zoo's collection also

includes African leopard sisters Nakia and Shuri. Nakia sports a normal spotted coat, but Shuri has a black coat. Black, or melanistic, leopards are uncommon and actually do have spots. They are a little harder to see, but look closely in just the right light.

The Cohanick Zoo has a growing collection of animal statuary featuring Gordy the gorilla, Mr. Kipling the life-sized Komodo dragon, Shorty the giraffe, and Daisy with George, the mother and baby gorillas.

Through support from the Cohanick Zoological Society and the surrounding community, Cohanick Zoo plans to remain a top family destination in Cumberland County, with improvements that include new animals, new exhibits, maintenance, and landscaping. Over the years, the zoo has been home to thousands of animals and has provided a home for injured, non-releasable and orphaned wildlife, and unwanted, often illegal, exotic animals from the pet trade. The City Park also provides a children's splash park, scenic walking tours, and Sunset Lake.

Admission to the zoo is free; donations help provide food and care for the animals. *45 Mayor Aitken Drive, Bridgeton; 856-453-1658; www.cohanick-zoo.com*



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ELEVATE YOUR ADVENTURE

Tree to Tree Cape May Offers a Thrilling Treetop Perspective



NESTLED WITHIN the scenic confines of Cape May County Park and Zoo, Tree to Tree Cape May emerges as a thrilling oasis for adventure enthusiasts seeking a unique and elevated perspective of the natural world. Offering an exhilarating blend of suspended obstacle courses, ziplines, and breathtaking treetop adventures, this attraction is set to redefine your notion of a day at the zoo.

Soaring Heights of Adventure: Tree to Tree Cape May takes the concept of wildlife

exploration to new heights – literally. As you traverse through a network of suspended bridges, ziplines, climbing walls, rope swings, and cargo nets, you find yourself up to 40 feet above the ground. The experience is not just about adrenaline; it's about connecting with nature in a way that is both daring and awe-inspiring.

Challenge Accepted: With progressively challenging adventure and zipline only courses, participants have the freedom to choose their desired level of intensity.

Whether you're a novice seeking a mild thrill or an adrenaline junkie ready to conquer daring heights, Tree to Tree has something for everyone. The absence of time limits allows guests ages 6 and up to tailor their experience, with an average visit lasting 1.5 to 2.5 hours, inclusive of harnessing, training, and a guided demonstration course.

Reach Requirements for High-Flying Fun: To partake in this treetop extravaganza, aspiring adventurers must meet minimum age (seven years) and height requirements (4 feet 7 inches). Safety is paramount, ensuring that every participant is harnessed and briefed before embarking on their self-guided adventure.

Plan Your Aerial Expedition: Tree to Tree Cape May operates from April through November, providing a seasonal window to indulge in this extraordinary adventure. *Reservations are strongly advised to secure your spot in the treetops, and booking can be conveniently done by calling 609-388-8289 or online at www.treetotreecapemay.com.*

REVOLUTION RAIL

A Unique Way to Tour Cape May

NEW JERSEY'S SOUTHERN SHORE

is famed for its stunning beaches, bays, boardwalks, and delightful dining. There are plenty of indoor activities for the rare occasions when outdoor activities are nearly impossible, but what about outdoor attractions for those who want to go beyond the "salt life?" When the sun shines, and you crave adventure beyond the salt-kissed air, we have just the experience for you!

Nestled in the Jersey Cape, Revolution Rail offers a unique adventure that launched in 2020 and quickly became a must-do activity. Starting from the Cape May Welcome Center on Lafayette Street, this guided railbiking tour pedals along a scenic four-mile route to the Cape May Canal, with a stop at the Garrett Family Preserve. Here, you're not just a visitor but an explorer, accompanied by a knowledgeable naturalist who shares the secrets of local flora and fauna.

The 90-minute journey pedals through landscapes from saltmarsh to wildflower meadows, and provides glimpses of wildlife,



including songbirds, raptors, and butterflies. With tours departing every two hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. – and extended hours during peak season – you can choose the perfect time to embark. Pack your favorite snacks and drinks to savor during the leisurely stops.

For a night to remember, join the magical full moon ride. Illuminated rail bikes guide you to a picnic spot near the Cape May Canal for an enchanting twilight experience. Enjoy your treats and share stories – maybe even tales of ghosts, pirates, and the legendary Jersey Devil. •



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WINERIES, BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

A vacation in every glass, a memory in every sip



NO MATTER WHERE your itinerary takes you in Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland counties, adding a stop at a beverage attraction during your stay will not disappoint. The appeal is part locally made libations hand crafted for you to enjoy in unique, comfortable tasting rooms, part scenic views, live music, and delicious culinary offerings, and finally, relaxation mixed with a whole lot of fun. Whether you're looking for a leisurely afternoon at a winery, a lively evening at a brewery, or a tour of a distillery, The Jersey Cape has something for everyone.

A getaway to Cape May County (any time of the year) is not complete without a stop at **Hawk Haven Vineyard & Winery**. Located in Rio Grande and owned and operated by Todd and Kenna Wuerker, the Wuerker family has been cultivating the farmland since the 1940s when Todd's grandfather emigrated from Germany to start a family. The vineyard was first planted in 1997 with Cabernet Sauvignon, and the first vintage was in 2007, which also included the wildly popular American Kestrel White (an unoaked Chardonnay).

Today, the Wuerkers have more than 16 acres under vine with as many different varietals. All of the estate grapes are harvested, pressed, fermented, aged, blended, and bottled on site. In 2019, Todd and his team released their first round of Pet-Nats, shortly followed by their 2017 Brut, Blanc de Blanc, and Blanc de Noir sparkling wines. Creating a unique,

handcrafted wine selection is only the beginning of this story. Hawk Haven customers can enjoy Club Member events and the popular Rootstock Concert Series, a multi week summer concert series featuring live music, food truck eats and more. The tasting room is open daily, year-round, offering tastings, guided vineyard tours, and seasonal events that showcase the winemaking process. 600 South Railroad Ave., Rio Grande. 609-846-7347. www.hawkhavenvineyard.com

Cape May Winery in Lower Township is the oldest winery in Cape May County. Owned by the Craig Family, the winery is

operated by Toby Craig and his daughter Betsy, providing customers with quality wines, exceptional service, and a relaxing atmosphere that makes everyone feel like part of the family after the first sip. The winery's journey began in 1989 with the planting of the first vines in Cape May County, which started their Townbank Vineyard. Today, the Craigs grow 11 different varietals across four vineyards covering 26 acres.

If you're more interested in beer and spirits, then you should check out **MudHen Brewing Company** in Wildwood. MudHen Brewing Company is a brewery and full-service bar



and restaurant with inside and outside seating, fun events, weekly specials and live music. Open year-round, the MudHen is especially beautiful during the Christmas season, when thousands of colored lights cast a magical glow over the entire premises.

In Cumberland County, you will find a unique and authentic distillery experience near Millville's Glasstown Arts District. **Mission Spirits** is a small-batch spirits distillery that produces and bottles hand-crafted beverages with names like Sage Old Granny, Caprese Daiquiri and Painkiller. These classics and more are handcrafted spirits using Mission-made whiskey, gin, rum and vodka.

These are just a few of the many wineries, breweries, and distilleries that you can visit in Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland counties. Each establishment has its own unique flair, so be sure to explore and discover your own passion for wine, beer, and spirits. •

WINERIES

Ashenfelter Vineyards: 237 Lincoln Ave, Vineland; www.ashenfeltervineyards.com

Balic Winery: 6623 Harding Highway, Mays Landing; 609-625-2166; www.balicwinery.com

Bellview Winery: 150 Atlantic Ave., Landisville; 856-697-7172; www.bellviewwinery.com

Cape May Winery and Vineyards: 711 Townbank Road; 609-884-1169; www.capemaywinery.com

Cedar Rose Vineyards: 431 Kenyon Ave., Millville; 856-221-3131; www.cedarrosevineyards.com

DiMatteo Vineyards: 951 8th St.; Hammonton; 609-704-1414; www.dimatteofamilyvineyards.com

Frightened Turtle Vineyard & Winery: 400 Greenwich Road, Bridgeton, NJ; 856-451-0025; www.frightenedturtle.com

Hawk Haven Vineyard and Winery: 600 S. Railroad Ave., Rio Grande; 609-846-7347; www.hawkhavenvineyard.com

Jessie Creek Winery: North Delsea Drive, Rt. 47, Cape May Court House; 609-536-2023; www.jessiecreekwinery.com

Kennedy Cellars: 839 13th St., Hammonton; 609-941-2000; www.kennedycellarswine.com

Natali Vineyards: 221 North Delsea Drive (milepost 12.9 Rt. 47 North), Cape May Court House; 609-465-0075; www.natalivineyards.com

Plagido's Winery: 570 N. First Road, Hammonton; 609-567-4633; www.plagidoswinery.com

Renault Winery: 72 N. Bremen Ave., Egg Harbor City; 609-965-2111; www.renaultwinery.com

Sharrott Winery: 370 S. Egg Harbor Road, Hammonton; 609-567-9463; www.sharrottwinery.com



Terra Nonno: 370 Garrison Road, Millville; 856-575-1459; www.terrannonno.com

Tomasello Winery: 225 North White Horse Pike, Hammonton; 800-666-9463; www.tomasellowinery.com

Willow Creek Winery: 168 Stevens St., West Cape May; 609-770-8782; www.willowcreekwinerycapemay.com

White Horse Winery: 106 Hall St., Hammonton; 609-270-1411; www.whitehorsewinery.com

BREWERIES

Anglesea Aleworks: 3401 New Jersey Ave., Wildwood; 609-305-4388. www.angleseaaleworks.com

Avalon Brew Pub: 79th Street & the Beach, Avalon; 609-967-2116; www.avalonbrewpub.com

Behr Brewing: 513 Seashore Road, Cape May; 609-435-5746; www.behrbrewing.com

Bucket Brigade Brewery: 205 N. Main St.; Cape May Court House; 609-778-2641; www.bucketbrigadebrewery.com

Cape May Brewing Company: 1250 Hornet Road, Rio Grande, Cape May County Airport; 609-849-9933; www.capemaybrewery.com

Chimney Rustic Ales: 15 Horton St., Hammonton; 609-270-7454; www.chimneybeer.com

Cold Spring Brewery: 733 Seashore Road, Lower Twp; 609-854-3077; www.coldspringbrewery.org

Garden State Beer Company: 247 E. White Horse Pike, Galloway; 609-232-2337; www.gardenstatebeerco.com

Glasstown Brewing Company: 10 Peterson St., Millville; 856-327-7770; www.glasstownbrewery.com

Gusto Brewing Company: 3860 Bayshore Road, N. Cape May; 609-849-8260; www.gustobrewco.com

Hidden Sands Brewing: 6754 Washington Ave., Egg Harbor Township; 609-910-2009; www.hiddensands.com

Ludlam Island Brewery: 2051 Dennisville-Petersburg Road, Woodbine; 609-263-6969; www.ludlamisland.com

MudHen Brewery: 127 W. Rio Grande Ave., Wildwood; 609-846-7918; www.mudhenbrew.com

Slack Tide Brewery: 1879 Route 9, Cape May Court House. 609-478-2343; www.slacktidebrewingco.com

SoPo (Somers Point Brewing Company): 705 W New York Ave. Somers Point. 609-788-0767. www.somerspointbrewing.com

The Seed: 204 N. Delaware Ave., Atlantic City. 609-246-7324. www.theseedbeer.com

Three 3s Brewery: 50 13th St., Hammonton; 732-814-1396; www.three3sbrewing.com

Tun Tavern: 2 Convention Blvd., Atlantic City; 609-347-7800; www.tuntavern.com

Vinyl Brewing Company: 300B 12 St, Hammonton; 609-666-5460; www.vinylbrewingnj.com

Whale Tale Brewing Company: 28 Indian Trail Road, Unit 103, Cape May Court House; 609-960-8253; www.whaletalebrewing.com

DISTILLERIES

Blue Rascal Distillery: 8 West End Ave., Hammonton; 609-878-3578; www.bluerascaldistillery.com

Lazy Eye Distillery: 135 E. Spicer Ave., Wildwood. 609-305-4755; www.lazyeyedistillery.com

Little Water Distillery: 807 Baltic Ave., Unit B, Atlantic City; 609-344-7867; www.lwdco.com

Mission Spirits: 215 Buck St., Millville; 856-765-7861; www.missionspirits.com

Nauti Spirits Distillery: 916 Shunpike (north of the canal), North Cape May; 609-770-3381; www.nautispirits.com

Shore Craft Distillery: 371 Route 47 South, Cape May Court House; 609-305-4853; www.shorecraftdistillery.com



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OCEAN CITY HAS BEEN a favorite destination for families ever since four Methodist ministers vowed in 1879 to create a wholesome seaside resort. Since then, generations have enjoyed Ocean City's beaches, boardwalk and bay.

The Ocean City Boardwalk offers 2.5 miles of family fun with rides, mini golf, shops, iconic eateries and attractions for all ages. A bustling bayside offers fishing charters, parasail boats, rented watercraft and even a floating water park for children. The downtown shopping district on Asbury Avenue includes shops and restaurants that cater to families.

But a full calendar of special events gives families even more reason to visit Ocean City in every month of the year.

Spring includes two Great Egg Hunts that allow children to find prizes and treats at Boardwalk businesses. Martin Z. Mollusk – Ocean City's hermit crab mascot – will seek his shadow on May 3 and attempt to bring an early summer to Ocean City for the 50th consecutive year. The Spring Block Party



is set for May 4.

Some of the premier summer events include Fourth of July bike parades and fireworks (July 4), the 69th annual Night in Venice boat parade (July 20) and the 114th annual Baby Parade (August 8).

Fall brings the Airport Festival and Parachute Pyrotechnic Show (Sept. 14), the Boardwalk Aerobic Air Show (Sept. 15), the Fall Block Party (Oct. 12), Dog Days on the Boardwalk (Oct. 26 and 27), Halloween

Parade (Oct. 24), and a wonderful Christmas in the Downtown celebration (Nov. 29) that includes Santa being rescued from the roof of city hall by a fire department ladder truck.

Every year is capped off by the city's family-friendly First Night celebration on New Year's Eve (Dec. 31, 2024) and First Day at the Beach (Jan. 1, 2025).

For complete information on all events, visit them online at www.oceancityvacation.com or call 1-800-BEACH-NJ. •

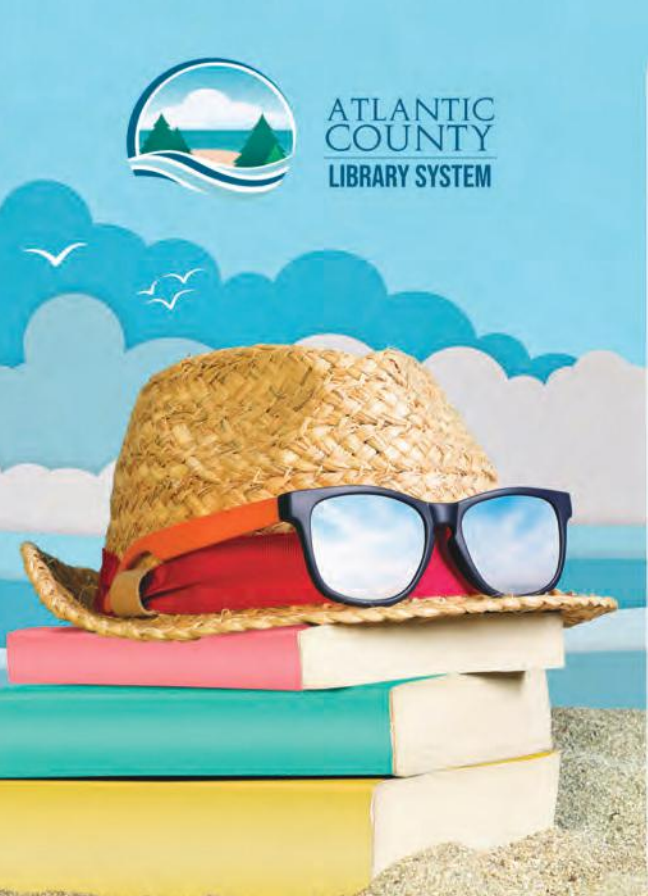


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Named the "#1 Destination on the Rise in the U.S." by Tripadvisor and voted "Best Beaches in New Jersey" by USA Today, the Wildwoods deliver one-of-a-kind value for family vacations at the Jersey Shore. With more than 160 events and festivals throughout the year and plenty of fun things to do, the Wildwoods offer everything a person could ever want in a safe family vacation. Find something that excites everyone in your family, without having to go anywhere else.

The beach lovers – swimmers, surfers, boogie boarders, paddleboarders and kayakers – can't get enough of the Wildwoods' beaches. Whether you're a sun soaker or an adventure seeker, you can rent a speedboat or Jet Ski and jump the waves or just relax on the soft white sand and simply catch a few rays.

Experience the true essence of the Jersey Shore with a stroll down the world-famous Wildwoods Boardwalk. It's just over two miles of family fun with more than 100 amusement rides and attractions as well as three beachfront waterparks – plus shopping, carnival games, arcades, over 200 unique

eateries and so much more.

Want to know what's on the menu? How about a little bit of everything? The Wildwoods Boardwalk is full of sights and sounds – and yes, heavenly smells. Feast on traditional boardwalk fare like funnel cakes, curly fries, cheesesteaks, pizza, frozen custard, homemade fudge and saltwater taffy. Or sample some gourmet fare with delectable fresh seafood caught daily and featured in the many fine restaurants that populate the island.

The Wildwoods can take your vacation to new heights. The boardwalk features four of the best seaside roller coasters in the country. They won't be hard to find. You'll hear 'em screaming at the three Morey's Pier beachfront amusement piers. There's the Sea Serpent; the Great Nor'easter, an inverted looping coaster; the Runaway Tram; and the Great White, one of the tallest and fastest wooden roller coasters on the East Coast. Any one of them will thrill even the bravest roller coaster enthusiast.

The Wildwoods play host to a wide array

of events and festivals throughout the year, such as the Vintage Antique Car and Motorcycle Beach Drag Races, Monster Truck Beach Races, Mummies Weekends and Parades, Ultimate Beach Frisbee Championships, beach soccer and lacrosse tournaments, ethnic and music festivals, live concerts, the world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters, WWE Wrestling, block parties and craft shows – plus FREE fireworks every Friday night and FREE outdoor concerts four nights a week all summer long. It's never hard to find something to do.

Stay in style and in budget. With more than 8,000 hotel/motel rooms and 3,000 vacation rentals, you're sure to find the perfect accommodations for your family's budget. So make precious family memories that will last a lifetime in the Wildwoods, where you will always enjoy the best of the Jersey Shore – all on one five-mile island!

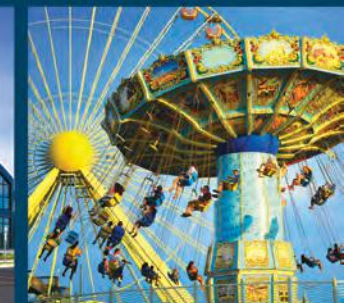
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DISCOVER A WORLD of charm and unique treasures as you embark on a boutique shopping adventure in the seashore resort downtowns in the Jersey Cape. From vibrant Asbury Avenue in Ocean City to quaint 96th Street in Stone Harbor, stylish Dune Drive in Avalon, and historic Washington Street Mall in Cape May, each locale promises a distinctive shopping experience filled with character and warmth.

A family-owned and run shopping experience has made these resort retail

districts become attractions for generations of vacationers. A personal and unique shopping experience is just the beginning. These boutique-lined streets offer restaurants, special entertainment, farmers markets and themed shopping events that have made visits to these districts “must-do” events any time of the year. Best of all, New Jersey has tax-free shopping on clothing and shoes.

Asbury Avenue in Ocean City, between Sixth and 14th streets, is the heart of the City’s shopping district with dozens of

shops, cafes, and attractions to browse, dine and enjoy. This vibrant avenue is the place for those seeking one-of-a-kind items, from handmade crafts to stylish fashion. Enjoy the downtown area with art galleries, artisan ice cream and bakeries, fashion boutiques, exquisite dining and more or head to the Boardwalk for Johnson’s Popcorn.

For, literally, a one-stop shopping experience, **Staintons** at Eighth and Asbury offers more than 70 boutiques where local artisans showcase their talents under one roof.

Find the perfect coastal-inspired fashion with boutique clothing stores that offer beachy-chic attire that will take you from the Boardwalk to a seaside dinner. During the Christmas celebration, which begins in November, the Asbury shopping district becomes a “**Miracle on Asbury Avenue**” celebrating the holiday with free horse and carriage rides and a First Night celebration that kicks off the New Year in grand style. Visit www.oceancityvacation.com.

In Sea Isle City it’s **Girls Weekend** – a twice-a-year event that’s all about shopping and more with restaurants, salons, gyms, and other businesses offering great deals and discounts. So, plan ahead and you, too, can enjoy a get-away weekend hanging with your best gal pals while sipping a cocktail as you stroll from store to store.



Venturing south to **Stone Harbor, 96th Street** is home to a charming array of mom-and-pop shops nestled in this coastal haven. Explore unique art galleries that feature local artists and boutiques that celebrate the seashore lifestyle, offering a carefully curated selection of beachwear, accessories, and home décor.

The ambiance is very relaxed, and the boutiques showcase a blend of sophistication and coastal casual. The area is dotted with wrought-iron flower boxes, an old town clock stands amid the shops, and dozens of highly lacquered black benches line the street. The famous water tower at 95th Street and Second Avenue is the place to be on Tuesday nights to enjoy the area’s talented bands and entertainers. Boutiques with names like Bellanova, Moonstruck, Breezin Up, Talk of the Town, Small Crafts Advisory, People People and trendzHome are just some of the shops offering unexpected finds – jewelry, designer duds and unique home decor – all within a two-block radius centered on 96th Street and Third Avenue.

At the heart of the 96th Street shopping district are Harbor Burger Bar and Harbor Square Theater offering the perfect dinner and a movie night and THE place to show off your newly purchased outfit and accessories. Visit them at www.stoneharborchamber.com for more information.

Continue your journey to **Avalon**, where **Dune Drive** invites you to explore a more refined side of boutique shopping. This upscale destination features boutiques that cater to those seeking luxury and exclusivity. Discover high-end fashion and accessories in boutiques that showcase the latest trends and timeless styles.



From designer beachwear to elegant evening attire, shopping on Dune Drive and surrounding streets in the borough ensures you’re dressed in coastal sophistication. Boutiques abound with great names like Armadillo, Tiger Lily, Lululemon, The Preppy Palm, and Lilly Pulitzer. Forget something? Head to one of Hoy’s Five and Ten locations for toys, clothes, and beach needs, just like your parents and grandparents have been doing since 1936!

Did we mention that Avalon is the only seashore community where all parking is free? Pay a visit to www.visitavalonnj.com for more information.

Your boutique shopping journey reaches its pinnacle in historic Cape May, where **Washington Street Mall** transports you to a bygone era. Lined with Victorian architecture, this charming pedestrian mall is home to an eclectic mix of boutiques.

Step into boutiques housed in beautifully restored buildings including the First Jersey

Trust building on the corner of Ocean Street that dates to 1895. Each one tells a story of Cape May’s rich history.

From clothing, antique, jewelry to artisanal shops like the Cape May Peanut Butter Company, and the Cape May Olive Oil Company, shoppers are invited to explore the past while indulging in the tastes and styles of today. Take a leisurely stroll along the brick-paved mall, and you’ll find small, family-owned shops with names like Cash and Clive, Grace Oliver, James, Queen May and Casale’s Shoes, creating a shopping experience that transcends time. More information may be found at www.washingtonstreetmall.com

Woodland Village is a “don’t miss” shopping destination and a hidden jewel in Cape May County’s landscape. Its beautiful campus of 17 shops provides a peaceful, relaxed, open-air setting and a welcome getaway from the hustle and bustle of the beach scene. The shops provide something for everyone – here you can outfit your family in the latest apparel, find that one-of-a-kind gift or unique home décor item, stock up on gourmet treats and/or indulge yourself while you shop.

The Village is located at 1943 North Route 9 in Clermont. It’s literally minutes from any of Cape May Counties’ seashore resorts, nestled on Route 9 between Avalon and Sea Isle Boulevards and just north of the Garden Greenhouse.

Among the unique shops, you’ll find the **Red Door Gallery**, operated by photographer Christine Peck and fiber artist/painter Mary Stewart, featuring only the work of South Jersey artists and fine craftspeople, both decorative and functional. Among the 18 artists whose work is represented you’ll find potters, mosaic artists, jewelry makers, quilters, and woodworkers. The seashore environment where the artists live, and work inspires

much of the work in the gallery. It's a great place to find a thoughtful gift, a statement piece for your home, or a treat yourself. Everything is one of a kind, so if you like it, you'd better buy it!

If you're looking for comfortable clothing for kids, the Village is just the place for you. Visit **Sock Monkey Kids Shop** (newborn to 7T) where you'll find clothing, accessories and toys that are both kid-friendly and planet-friendly. Sock Monkey Kids Shop has what you are looking for, with a wide range of styles and sizes for the littles in your life. Plus, we have the best selection of shower and new parent gifts to welcome that special baby home.

Northeast Man features mens' apparel, wooden watches, sunglasses, fun socks, backpacks, and a full line of Duke Cannon grooming products. You'll find the brands your men can feel comfortable wearing, including Free Fly Bamboo Clothing and Flag & Anthem Men's Wear. Every man should look and smell this good!!

Celtic-Irish Gifts is new to the Village and features a full line of authentic Irish clothing including scarves, capes, and cardigans plus unique gifts- Newbridge silver Christmas ornaments, Mullingar Pewter including jewelry boxes, cork stoppers, money clips, key chains and hair clips, Connemara marble jewelry and more.

Admit it, vacationing is on your mind, and there's one last "must visit" before you leave the Village. 7 Mile Travel is a full service, year round agency specializing in all types of domestic or European travel and all types of cruise vacations, destination weddings, honeymoon, couples, family, or group travel.

Other shops in the Village offer eat-in and take out food, candy, ice cream, cheese and gourmet goodies, tea and spices, soaps and lotions, candles, toys, home décor, and women's clothing and accessories.

In Cumberland County, browse through private galleries and shops in buildings with rich architectural histories on Third Fridays in **Millville's Glasstown Arts District** and **Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts**. It's an easy drive from the shore points and the Camden-Gloucester area in New Jersey's Southern Shore region.

If you are interested in one-of-a-kind gifts, consider the gift shops in the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts (RRCA), 22 N. High St., and Rowan College South Jersey – Clay College, 321 N. High St. RRCA is filled with unique handcrafted jewelry, décor

items, art prints, glass art objects, and pottery. **The Clay College** offers a shop with original ceramics crafted in its own ceramic studios along with jewelry.

For other unique shopping experiences, check out the **Greater Bridgeton Amish Farm Market** and the **Shoppes at Dragon Village**, both in Hopewell. www.bridgetonamishmarket.com, www.shoppesatdragonvillage.com

Restaurants, cafes, and pubs are open in the district, so how about trying the pub menu at the Old Oar House Irish Pub at 123 N. High St.? The best days to visit and shop in the Glasstown Arts District are Wednesdays to Saturdays. For art information contact *Riverfront Renaissance Center at 856-327-4500* and for business information contact *Holly City Development Corporation at 856-776-7979*.

In Atlantic City visit **Tanger Outlets – The Walk** in Atlantic City between the Convention Center and the casinos is filled with more than 100 outlet stores and retailers. Men's,

women's, and children's stores carry the latest merchandise, plus there's a wide selection of great places to grab a snack or sit for a while to enjoy a nice meal while you inventory your purchases. It's a one stop-shopping mecca for name brands such as Michael Kors, Calvin Klein, Nike Factory Store, Coach Factory, Loft Outlet, Nautica, J. Crew, H&M, Forever 21, Abercrombie & Fitch and American Eagle Outfitters.

With more than 85,000 square feet of outdoor fun, nearby Bass Pro Shops Outpost really does have something for everyone – fishing, hunting, boating camping, you name it.

The newest addition to the Tanger Outlets is Dave and Buster's Restaurant. Known for tasty food, and outrageous entertainment and games under one roof, now you can eat and play where you like to shop at at 2120 Atlantic Ave. *More information is available at www.tangeroutlet.com* •

THE CUMBERLAND MALL

Experience the ultimate shopping, dining, and entertainment adventure at Cumberland Mall. Located in South Jersey, Cumberland Mall boasts a diverse selection of national retailers, unique local shops, and eateries for every taste bud. Plus, whether you're looking for formal wear or casual clothing, tech gadgets, or entertainment essentials, Cumberland Mall has you covered.

Find your favorites like Victoria's Secret, Old Navy, and Marshalls, and discover new and local gems like Karina Boutique, Contemporary Hair Designs, and Divano Furniture. When you're ready for a break, grab a bite at one of the many dining options available. Luca's Pizza, Starbucks, Red Lobster, Applebee's, and Sushi Lover are just a few of the delicious choices.

Cumberland Mall is more than just a shopping destination. It also offers entertainment for visitors of all ages. Visit the Children's Play Area and check out the Game Star arcade featuring the latest video game trends. Movie lovers can enjoy a fantastic experience at Regal Cinema.

Don't miss the exciting celebrations and activities at Cumberland Mall. From monthly Paint & Sip charity events, animal adoptions, job fairs, expos, and more, there's always something to look forward to. Elevate your shopping experience and become a Cumberland Mall VIP to follow your favorite stores and be the first to know about exclusive giveaways and early access to events.

So, what are you waiting for? Cumberland Mall is open daily for your next unforgettable shopping experience. Visit www.CumberlandMallNJ.com to learn more.

Follow Cumberland Mall on Social Media: Facebook | Instagram | #CumberlandMallNJ •



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Red Door Gallery LLC

The Red Door Gallery features photography, watercolors, pastels, pottery, mosaics, jewelry, quilts and fiber arts, stained glass and woodwork, inspired by the seashore environment where the artists live and work. Find a thoughtful gift, a statement piece for your home, or a treat yourself. www.facebook.com/reddoorgalleryatwoodlandvillage



Sock Monkey Kids Shop

Looking for comfortable clothing for kids? Visit Sock Monkey Kids Shop for clothing, backpacks, accessories, books and toys that are both kid-friendly and planet-friendly. Sock Monkey Kids Shop has a wide range of styles and sizes for the littles in your life, plus the best selection of shower and new parent gifts to welcome that special baby home. www.sockmonkeykidsshop.com



Northeast Outfitters

Northeast Outfitters features mens' apparel, Camp sunglasses, fun socks, backpacks and a full line of Duke Cannon grooming products – the brands men can feel comfortable wearing, including Brixton Men's Fashions, Free Fly Bamboo Clothing, Flag & Anthem Men's Wear and authentic Hawaiian shirts. Every man should look and smell this good!! www.northeast-man.com

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BIRDING

Maybe you're already a "birder"



THERE ARE MORE than 350 different kinds of hummingbirds in the world. Here in New Jersey, you are most likely to encounter a Ruby-throated Hummingbird; a common summer guest in the southern part of the state. Stunning in their iridescent beauty as well as their speedy aerial acrobatics, they are also intercontinental travelers.

Fun facts about hummingbirds, including the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

- Their wingbeat (the number of times they flap their wings) is from 50 to 80 times per second; that's over 3,000 times per minute!
- They are the only birds that can sustain a backward flight.
- They are pollinators. Hummingbirds are attracted to brightly colored flowers, especially red, pink, yellow and orange blooms.
- Their long, needle-like bills are adapted to reach into long, tubular flowers where nectar may accumulate deep inside the base.
- They nectar on flowers hundreds of times per day, even over 1,000 times per day.
- They are territorial and will fiercely defend a feeder or patch of flowers from other hummingbirds, and even butterflies and moths.
- The iridescent red throat is only found on males and males and females are otherwise almost identical.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrate to Central American countries from Mexico to Panama to spend the winter months, before

returning to eastern North America to breed. Researchers have found they can travel over 1,200 miles in a single flight during migration, having bulked up for the journey.

You can attract Ruby-throated Hummingbirds to your yard by planting native flowers

and/or hanging a hummingbird feeder from a hook or branch. Because it is essential to keep your feeder clean and nectar fresh with a minimum of weekly replenishment, look for a red disc-shaped feeder. The red plastic is enough to attract the hummingbirds and your homemade nectar, made by dissolving one part table sugar into four parts hot water, will keep them coming back for more.

What could be better than hanging a hummingbird feeder? Hanging two or three! Put them out around April 15th and enjoy a full season of action. Hummers are most abundant in August as this summer's young take flight and join the pre-migration feeding frenzy. Next summer, it's likely that your hummingbirds will return to your feeders.

As with all things birds, the more you learn, the more you enjoy. Check out all the programs at New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory and Nature Center of Cape May at 701 East Lake Drive, Cape May Point. www.njaudubon.org

Lillian Armstrong is Special Events Director at New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory. Ask her about the World Series of Birding, Spring Festival and Fall Festival!

ATLANTIC COUNTY LOCATIONS

Estell Manor Park: Home of the Warren Fox Nature Center, 109 State Highway 50, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. 609-645-5960 or 609-625-1897. atlanticcountynj.gov

Gaskill Park: Located at the bulkhead of the Great Egg Harbor River in Mays Landing, NJ 08330. atlanticcountynj.gov

Lake Lenape: 6303 Harding Highway in Mays Landing, NJ 08330. atlanticcountynj.gov

Weymouth Furnace: Route 559/Weymouth Rd, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. atlanticcountynj.gov

CAPE MAY COUNTY LOCATIONS

Cape May Bird Observatory: Center for Research and Education, 600 N Delsea Dr, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

Cape May Bird Observatory: Northwood Center, 701 E Lake Dr, Cape May Point, NJ 08212

Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, 12001 Pacific Ave, Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260

Nature Center of Cape May, 1600 Delaware Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204

Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary, 11400 3rd Ave, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

Wetlands Institute, 1075 Stone Harbor Blvd, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

CUMBERLAND COUNTY LOCATIONS

Edward G. Bevan WMA, 8747 Ferry Rd, Millville, NJ 08332

Cohansey River WMA, 66 Perry Rd, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Dix WMA, Back Neck Road, Fairton, NJ

Egg Island Fish WMA & Fortescue WMA, Fortescue, NJ 08321

Heislerville WMA: Matts Landing Road, Heislerville, NJ 08324. For nesting bald eagles.

Nantuxent WMA, East Bay Point Road, Cedarville, NJ

Natural Lands Glades Wildlife Refuge, 261 Schoolhouse Road, Newport, NJ 08345

New Sweden WMA, Cedarville, NJ 08311

Stow Creek State Park, Stow Creek Road, Stow Creek Landing, NJ

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CAMPING

Pitch a tent, rent a cabin or park your RV



FROM BEACHSIDE LOCATIONS to lush wooded areas, sleeping under the stars in this region is a chance to unwind, explore nature, and create lasting memories against the backdrop of New Jersey's unique coastal charm.

Camping in Atlantic and Cape May counties offers a blend of coastal beachlife and the natural beauty of lush wooded forests.

While there are no campgrounds located on the beach, most parks are minutes away from nearly 60 miles of pristine, sandy beaches, family fun on the Boardwalks, the excitement of Atlantic City's casinos and the Historic Landmark City of Cape May.

Whether pitching a tent or parking an RV, campers in Cape May County can savor the

seaside ambiance with ocean breezes and the soothing sounds of the waves just minutes from nearly 50 campgrounds. Camping near Cape May Point State Park provides proximity to beautiful beaches, and the iconic Cape May Point Lighthouse. The park is also an excellent spot for birdwatching.

With approximately 16 campgrounds in Atlantic County, outdoor enthusiasts can explore the sandy shores of Atlantic County's beaches and the scenic beauty of Wharton State Forest, all in one great vacation. With its extensive trail system, the forest provides hikers and nature enthusiasts with a chance to discover the beauty of New Jersey Pine Barrens, which is mostly rural and undisturbed and supports a diverse array of plants and flowers.

Many campgrounds in the region offer family-friendly amenities such as fishing, kayaking and biking, and host events and activities to entertain their guests. Experience camping in this region; it is THE most relaxing way to escape the everyday.

Memories are waiting to be made at **Ocean View Resort Campground**, the largest privately-owned camping resort in New Jersey with 180 forested acres, including 1,175 wooded sites providing full hookups and all the modern

conveniences including Wi-Fi. There are sites to accommodate different sizes of travel trailers and RV's. No camping equipment? No problem! OVR has cabin and cottage rentals for every budget, with some cottage rentals on the lakeside. Seasonal sites are available as well; you can leave your equipment on-site all summer or purchase a cottage to keep in OVR!

Get into vacay mode by relaxing on the resort's white sandy beach and take a refreshing dip in the lake! Have fun and cool down on hot summer days at the Buccaneer Bay splash pad with a light spray or an outright drenching.

Midway between Atlantic City and Cape May, Ocean View Resort is only three miles from the ocean beaches of Sea Isle City where you can enjoy free concerts and free movies under the stars all summer long. The Wildwoods are just 20 miles away or head to the Ocean City Boardwalk, merely 15 miles away. There's certainly plenty to do and many activities near Ocean View Resort. The Cape May County Zoo, golf courses – including discounted greens fees at Shore Gate Golf Club – restaurants, kayaking, sightseeing cruises are just a short drive away for the perfect camping vacation. 2555 Route 9, Ocean View; 609-624-1675; www.ovresort.com

Nestled in the heart of Cape May County, **Sea Grove Camping Resort** on Route 9 in Ocean View is camping at nature's best, providing vacation happiness for everyone. The resort offers a variety of activities with plenty of rest and relaxation. Sea Grove is minutes away from South Jersey's beautiful beaches, perfect for basking in the sun or enjoying the waves. Stroll the local boardwalks, marvel at the sunset, or gather around the campfire in the quiet splendor of your wooded campsite.

Onsite amenities include a swimming pool, camp store, game room, shuffleboard, basketball, horseshoes, a children's playground

and much more. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring, firewood, and many other conveniences to make camping fun. Special weekly events this summer include ice cream socials, hayrides, music, movies, face painting, and a campsite decorating contest. Reserve your spot now for summer fun. Located at 2665 Route 9, Ocean View; 800-432-6629; 609-624-3529; www.seagroveresort.com

CAMPING RESOURCES

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www.newjerseycampgrounds.com
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GET READY TO BE ENTERTAINED

Two on the aisle



ECHOING SHAKESPEARE'S, famous sentiment, all the region is a stage here in Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties where destination managers transform beaches, parks, theaters and historic entertainment venues into a diverse range of artistic stage experiences. From world premiere productions, music festivals on the beach, local concerts under the stars and headliners at Atlantic City casinos, the entertainment scene is bursting with talent and surprises. Buy a ticket, grab a lawn chair, wiggle into that poodle skirt or pull on those cowboy boots and get ready to be entertained.

Cape May County known for its charming coastal towns and historic and diverse architecture, has cultivated a rich cultural scene. **The Cape May Music Festival** stands out, bringing classical and contemporary musicians to enchanting venues like the Emlen Physick Estate. www.capemaymac.org

Ocean City's Historic Music Pier on the Boardwalk is home to the Ocean City Pops Orchestra and it's the place where visitors can rock along with such legendary musicians as the Beach Boys, in a concert series that runs throughout the summer. www.ocnj.us

Under the stars, imbibing the fresh salt air and comfy in your own lawn chair, music concerts at the Jersey Cape take place in picturesque settings, and best of all, are mostly free making it the perfect night out!

Genres including rock, pop, jazz, blues, and country are performed by local and regional artists in weekly concert series such as **Concerts Under the Stars** in Sea Isle City and North Wildwood, Centennial Park Concerts in Wildwood Crest, Rotary Park Concerts in Cape May, Ferry Park in Lower Township, the Water Tower in Stone Harbor and Surfside Park in Avalon. Check local chambers of commerce for details.

Imagine that you are standing on the beach with the waves crashing in the background and the voices of the biggest names in country music reverberating across the sand from five stages. If your travels bring you to Wildwood in June, your imagination just became reality. **The Barefoot Country Music Festival** is set on Wildwood's massive beach, June 20-23. The 4-day event will host over 30 country artists including headliners Luke Bryan, Keith Urban, Kane Brown joining up-and-comers on multiple stages on the beach. Visit www.wildwoodsnj.com, www.BarefootCountryMusicFest.com

If headline entertainment is the ticket, look no farther than the casinos in Atlantic County's premier City of Atlantic City where world-class entertainers, shows and renowned artists take the stages of Hard Rock, Ocean, Caesars and Borgata, among them. Just steps away from the casino stages, on the city's iconic Boardwalk, visitors will find a variety of events, live music

performances and parades for every occasion. www.atlanticcitynj.com

Picasso or Warhol? Is watching visual artists at work your choice for an afternoon of fun? Check off another itinerary item with a visit to the **Noyes Arts Garage at Stockton University** in the heart of the Atlantic City Arts District. Watch artists working in a variety of media – painting, photography, illustration, sculpture and more. Stroll through the galleries and stop for a bite to eat. With a mission to promote education, provide resources for emerging artists and enrich the community, the Arts Garage includes a satellite gallery of The Noyes Museum of Art and the **African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey**. www.artsgarageac.com

Don't miss the excitement when the curtain goes up on a thrilling new season of music, dance theater, and comedy at the **Stockton Performing Arts Center** on the campus of Stockton University. www.stocktonpac.org

In Cumberland County, the entertainment scene has evolved to reflect the community's diverse interests. Parks and outdoor spaces host family-friendly concerts and retail events that help to foster local talent supporting emerging musicians, artists, and performers.

Community theaters such as the **Levoy Theatre** in Millville and the **Landis Theater** in Vineland provide a platform for both seasoned and up-and-coming actors. The Levoy Theatre traces its history to the silent film era and is a vibrant center of entertainment for Millville and surrounding areas, the Levoy has a full schedule of concerts, children's plays, and special performances. www.levoy.net

The Levoy Theatre also offers quality off Broad Street productions and special performances such as **Hands Up Silent Theatre** which produces shows that members of the d/Deaf, Hard of Hearing and hearing community can enjoy at the same time through the use of American Sign language. www.handsup-theatre.org/about-hands-up

Want more local community theater? Take in a **Cumberland Players** production, they offer shows in their cozy Vineland theater. www.cumberlandplayers.com

In the heart of Vineland, the Landis Theater hosts live music and theater in a historic Deco styled venue. www.thelandistheater.com

CAPE MAY THEATER: CAPE MAY STAGE AND EAST LYNNE THEATER COMPANIES

CAPE MAY STAGE opens the 2024 season at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse June 5 with **Becoming Dr. Ruth**. Everyone knows Dr. Ruth from her career as a pioneering radio and television sex therapist. Few, however, know the incredible journey that preceded it. *Becoming Dr. Ruth* is filled with humor, honesty and life-affirming spirit of Karola Ruth Siegel, the girl who became "Dr. Ruth" and runs through June 30.

Beginning July 6 and running to July 12, the critically acclaimed, **The Heat is On – Rita Hayworth** starring Quinn Lemley is written and directed by Carter Inskeep. This one woman musical show pays tribute to the life of Rita Hayworth, the star that built Columbia Pictures.

Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt 2B is an irreverent, darkly comic modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth and sidekick, this fast-paced romp re-examines the classic adventure stories you love with a bold new female lens. The show runs from July 17 – Aug. 25.

Hollywood comes to rural Ireland in this hilarious comedy, **Stones in his Pockets**, from Sept. 11 to Oct. 20. Small-town Irishmen Charlie and Jake are hired as extras in an epic American movie, but when a famous actress takes a shine to Charlie – and tragedy strikes – chaos ensues.

The Gift of the Magi – a modern adaptation of the O. Henry Story begins Nov. 20 just in time for Cape May's holiday season. This modern retelling of an iconic Christmas story is the perfect way to celebrate. The play runs through Dec. 29. *For more information, call 609-770-8311 or visit www.capemaystage.org*

EAST LYNNE THEATER COMPANY: Craig Fols, a seasoned actor, playwright and director, marks 2024 as his second full season of the East Lynne Theater Company (ELTC). Fols and company present an exciting mainstage lineup in ELTC's current venue at the Cape May Presbyterian Church located at 500 Hughes Street.

ELTC's season begins with **Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty** by Eric H. Weinberger and Elaine Bromka. This is a 90-minute play about three very different First Ladies of the United States: Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford. *Tea for Three* opens June 19 and runs 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays through July 6, except July 3 and 4. There will be special showings at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, and a 4 p.m. tea time matinee Thursday, July 4.

ELTC's centerpiece for the upcoming season is the gripping play **Dial M for Murder**. This fresh adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher has been making waves and earning acclaim at leading regional theaters. Inspired by Frederick Knott's original thriller (which also served as the basis for Hitchcock's masterpiece), this production beautifully embodies the theme of ELTC's 2024 season. *Dial M* will take place 7 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays from July 31 to Aug. 31.

Beginning Sept. 18, **A Case for the Existence of God** by Samuel D. Hunter revolves around two men – one Black, one white; one straight, one gay; both single fathers of daughters – who, through empathy and humor, form an unlikely bond within the walls of an office cubicle. *A Case for the Existence of God* will run 7 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays through Oct. 12.

Thanks to a \$1.2 million capital campaign launched with a generous donation from Cape May resident Christina Clemans in honor of her late husband, Dave. The new playhouse will be named The Clemans Theater at Allen AME Church. *More information and ticket reservations can be found at www.eastlynnetheater.org*

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a historic church into a new theater,
and our **2024 Cape May Season**



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WHEATONARTS

South Jersey's Hidden Gem



WHERE DO YOU GO TO GET OUT

of the city and away from the boardwalk crowds while still enjoying unique sights, shopping, and creative entertainment? You stop at **WheatonArts and Cultural Center** in Millville, N.J.! There you will discover an incredible arts nonprofit campus with paved walkways leading to various offerings including the Museum of American Glass, Down Jersey Folklife Center, Glass Studio, Pottery Studio, museum stores, and much more. Initially designed as a “turn of the 20th-century glass town” in the 1970s, WheatonArts has grown into an unusual cultural destination. It’s a staple for the region’s cultural diversity, a place for artists to explore the limits of their creativity, hosts popular weekend events, and is recognized internationally for fostering unique collections and programs.

Circling at the heart of WheatonArts is the **Museum of American Glass**, housing one of the most comprehensive collections of glass produced in America. Explore the first glass bottles made in America, the intricate glass art paperweights of Paul Stankard, thought-provoking works by contemporary glass artists, as well as the record-holding world’s largest hand-blown glass bottle. Special exhibits change each year, and in 2024, the museum is plotting a grand illusion of an exhibition titled

Centuries of Tomfoolery, examining evolving cultural mores and society’s sense of humor through trick glasses, early American whimsies, and masterful contemporary glass pipes that purposefully obscure their function.

With the museum as the heart of WheatonArts, the **Glass Studio** is undoubtedly its heartbeat! Holding the essence and history of South Jersey glassmaking in an inspired recreation of the 1888 T.C. Wheaton Glass Factory, the Glass Studio is a place of amazement and wonder as you watch skilled artists sculpt molten hot glass into extraordinary works of art. Demonstrations change daily, from glassblowing to mold pouring, and

artists worldwide come to collaborate and experiment with traditional and innovative glass making processes, pushing the limits of their creativity. Artists, including Netflix Blown Away stars Deborah Czeresko, Alexander Rosenberg, Grace Whiteside, and prominent artists like Michael Joo and Kait Rhoads, have worked in the Glass Studio in recent years.

In addition to the hot glass making demonstrations, you can also experience pottery and flamework up close. **The Pottery Studio** truly brings imagination and artistic process together as ceramic artists demonstrate the transformation of wet clay into functional



objects of beauty using hand-building and wheel-throwing methods. Be fascinated in the Flamework Studio as you watch artists use heat, gravity, and specialized tools to manipulate colorful, thin glass rods into beads, marbles, and miniature forms over a flaming torch.

All three Artist Studios (Glass, Pottery, and Flamework) are excellent incubators of ideas for artists and visitors alike, as you can engage with each working artist to learn about the materials and tools, scientific properties, history, and the social forces that shape their art. There is even a “Make-Your-Own” experience program available, providing hands-on involvement in creating a glass or clay object of your choice with expert guidance from a WheatonArts teaching artist.

If you’re interested in discovering international perspectives of people whose creativity has helped shape our country’s cultural wealth, then you will want to follow the path to the Down Jersey Folklife Center! Cultural groups from the community are highlighted each year in the **Folklife Center**, showcasing the richly diverse populations of South Jersey and connecting generations of

the human spirit. In 2024, the Folklife Center is focusing on the cultural heritage of the region’s West African communities through multi-faceted programming, including a major exhibition titled *Ceremonies in Circles*. This exhibit will showcase traditional masks, costumes, and ceremonial objects related to special rituals and community celebrations of West African peoples. Additional educational activities, artist residencies, and performances related to the exhibit will be scheduled throughout the year.

Walking up to **WheatonArts three museum stores**, you are in for yet another treat with an exceptional shopping experience not seen for miles around. Inside the General Store, you will find unexpected treasures, unique everyday items with a whimsical twist, and their famously popular candy counter with old childhood sweets. You can even play a quarter to hear a tune from the antique JP Seeburg Player Piano! Next, at the A.G. Paperweight Shop, explore handcrafted traditional and contemporary glass paperweights from world-renowned artists such as Paul Stankard, Mayael Ward, John Deacons, and Caithness Glass. From there, you can

slip into the Gallery of Fine Craft to discover one-of-a-kind contemporary sculpture, fine art in glass, ceramics, wood, metal, mixed media, and a broad selection of unique glass jewelry. Browse collections of stylish scarves, clothing, and handbags as well. The shopping is even guilt-free as purchases support WheatonArts educational arts programming and individual artists.

As if that wasn’t enough, WheatonArts hosts a one-mile looping nature trail through its 45-acre campus with pollinating plants, rain gardens, and interpretive signage. In any given month, you can find a creative class, workshop, performance, and popular weekend event on the grounds, such as the annual Festival of Fine Craft in October. It’s a place well deserving of a visit, especially if you find yourself in need of some creative inspiration. Make it a day trip to experience one of WheatonArts’ special events or as a regular stop on your way to or from the shore. Either way, you’ll likely be satisfied and ready to return for more! WheatonArts is open seasonally, April through December. *Learn more and start planning your visit at www.wheatonarts.org*

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GLASSTOWN ARTS DISTRICT & MILLVILLE TOURISM

A must-do, must-see day trip



THE GLASSTOWN ARTS DISTRICT is a must-do, must-see on everyone's visit to the Jersey Shore. The good news? It's a short drive from just about anywhere in Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland counties, making it the perfect day trip.

Now in its 23rd year, the **Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts**, 22 N. High St., has four gallery spaces with original work and prints on display along with sculptures, mosaics, wood crafts, jewelry, and more. Visit on the Third Friday of the month and enjoy evening receptions with artists often at work in their studios. Along with the year-round gift shop, the main gallery turns into a fabulous shopping space in November and December with art and artisan pieces, perfect for holiday gifts.

Rowan College South Jersey – Clay College, 321 N. High St., is a large ceramics art school, gallery, gift shop, and working artists' studio space. Gallery exhibits are often contemporary and modern including paintings, sculptures, and pottery with special exhibits throughout the year often featuring the historic past of Cumberland County.

Other galleries in the arts district include artist Danielle Cartier at 508 N. High St. DC Gallery & Studio represents a variety of artists. Cartier will often be found working in the studio area of the gallery.

LaBottega of Art is in the Village on High

in Cottage I, where several popular artists are represented. You can watch artist Maryann Cannon working in this studio space. Also included in the Village on High, 501 N. High St., among the 10 cottages you'll find An Octopus's Garden, The Simple Life Studio, Turner Family Ceramics, and the Village Gallery.

Other shops in the village include the Xanderlily Gifts for handmade soy candles and soaps, Lather in Lavender for beauty and bath products, TnD Scents that specializes in scented candles and oils, Captured Moments by KB for professional photography, and Skyn Fix for facials and skin health. All shoppers need a break, so enjoy lunch or dinner at Wildflower Vegan Café in the shopping village.

Mission Spirits Distillery, at 215 Buck St., is one of the most popular spots to visit and taste the wide selection of handcrafted rums. Hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 3 to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 1 to 11 p.m. Bring your own snacks/food.

Ready for a great Broadway-style show, concert, or comedy night? **The Levoy Theatre** on North High Street is a beautiful, 700-seat theatre fully restored to its original grandeur.

Welcome to **Millville Public Library's** brand-new building! A state-of-the-art library expansion will be completed and open in the spring of 2024. If you need any

of the library's services, make sure to stop in.

Millville Army Air Field Museum was America's first defense airport during World War II. Thousands of airmen trained at the facility and the museum captures that history with a large collection of artifacts, photos, uniforms, artillery and much more. Glasstown Brewery is only a few steps from the museum with beer tastings six days a week as well as special events.

Nearby is **New Jersey Motorsports Park**, home to two road courses for professional auto and motorcycle races. NJMP hosts exotic car clubs that enjoy the raceways plus clubhouse amenities and dining.

Wheaton Arts Cultural Center, a re-creation of a 19th century glass blowing factory, is home to one of the largest museums of American glass. Visitors can watch artists craft a variety of art forms in glass while potters and wood carvers create their own works of art. Stroll the lovely grounds, visit the galleries, folklife center and general store, or enjoy many special events from April to December.

A sip of vino perhaps? Visit **Cedar Rose** and **Terra Nonno** wineries, both producing excellent wines, just a short drive from the Arts District with indoor and outdoor tasting rooms and events throughout the year.

The wild and scenic **Maurice River** runs through the Arts District, winding its way to the Delaware Bay. Check the schedule for river cruises replete with bald eagles, osprey, river otters, turtles, and a wide array of migrating birds. Sailings are Wednesday evening sunset sails, Fridays, and Saturdays. Contact Captain Dave at 856-327-1530 for reservations.

Hike or bike the **Maurice River Bluffs Preserves and Natural Lands Peek Preserve** or launch a kayak at various locations and enjoy the pristine environment and bird watching.

Plan to visit Wednesdays to Saturdays as museums and many restaurants, galleries and shops are closed Sundays through Tuesdays. Check websites or social media pages for information about each destination. For art information contact Riverfront Renaissance Center at 856-327-4500 and for business information contact Holly City Development Corporation at 856-776-7979. www.glasstownartsdistrict.com; 856-293-0556.

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