

NEW JERSEY'S

A-Z GUIDE

There's so much to see and do in New Jersey, it would be impossible to list everything in one small book. Still, we've tried on these pages to guide you toward some perennial favorites of the *New Jersey Monthly* staff and our readers from throughout the state. Many of the suggested destinations are taken straight from our annual "Best of New Jersey" poll. Read on—and have fun discovering all that's great about the Garden State.

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ANTIQUES & FLEA MARKETS

The Garden State boasts some of the best places to turn something old into something new. Whether you're into antiquing or just like to discover quirky knick-knacks, check out these key spots for digging deep into the past.

ENGLISHTOWN AUCTION

90 Wilson Avenue

Englishtown (Monmouth County)

732-446-9644; englishtownauction.com

This market began as a farmer's trading post in 1929 and now sprawls across 40 acres.

GOLDEN NUGGET ANTIQUE MARKET

1850 River Road

Lambertville (Hunterdon County)

609-397-0811; gnmarket.com

A state favorite since 1967, this market is open year-round, so there's never a dull moment combing through the wares of more than 200 outdoor dealers and 60-plus indoor vendors.

CHESTER ANTIQUE MALL

427 Route 24

Chester (Morris County)

908-879-7836; cantiquemall.com

This group shop with more than 30 dealers is just the gateway to downtown Chester's many antique and craft shops. Don't miss the tasteful **Chester Antiques** (26 Main Street, 908-879-2900) or the stimulating clutter of **Pegasus Antiques** (98 Main Street, 908-879-4792), with its endless cases of china, Depression glass, pottery, bric-a-brac, toys, magazines, and more.

NEW EGYPT FLEA MARKET

150 Evergreen Road

New Egypt (Ocean County)

609-758-2082; newegyptfleamarket.com

For an old-timey feel, this market's wares are displayed in a former World War II barracks brought over from Fort Dix in the 1970s.

THE OLD MILL ANTIQUE CENTER

1 South Main Street

Mullica Hill (Gloucester County)

856-478-9810; oldmillantiques.zoomshare.com

Variety is the key at this three-story antique wonderland set inside a pre-Revolutionary War mill.

POINT PLEASANT ANTIQUE EMPORIUM

622 Trenton Avenue

Point Pleasant (Ocean County)

732-892-2222; pointpleasantbeach.com

Just blocks from the beach, the Emporium features more than 100 dealers. More than a dozen shops operate nearby, including **Point Pavilion Antique Center** (608 Arnold Avenue, 732-899-6300).

ANTIQUE CENTER OF RED BANK

195 West Front Street; 226 West Front Street

Red Bank (Monmouth County)

732-842-3393; 732-842-4336; redbankantiques.com

ANTIQUE EMPORIUM OF ASBURY PARK

646 Cookman Avenue

Asbury Park (Monmouth County)

732-774-8230; antiqueemporiumofasburypark.com

CENTER STAGE ANTIQUES

King Street and Rancocas Road

Mt. Holly (Burlington County)

609-261-0602; centerstageantiques.com

LAFAYETTE MILL ANTIQUES CENTER

12 Morris Farm Road

Lafayette (Sussex County)

973-383-0065; millantiques.com

MONTCLAIR ANTIQUE CENTER

34 Church Street

Montclair (Essex County)

973-746-1062; montclairantiquecenter.com

SUMMIT ANTIQUES CENTER

511 Morris Avenue

Summit (Union County)

908-273-9373; summitantiquecenter.com

BEACHES & BOARDWALKS

B With 127 miles of coastline on the Atlantic Ocean, our great state has plenty of sun and sand to please any beach lover. Here are a few must-visit beaches and some wooden counterparts, the staples of summer down the Shore.

SANDY HOOK GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Atlantic Highlands (Monmouth County)

732-872-0115; nps.gov/gate

Get a lesson in history while getting sand in your shoes. The Sandy Hook Lighthouse is the country's oldest operating beacon, signaling sailors home since 1764. There's also Fort Hancock, a former Army defense post and a National Historic Landmark. There are several beaches for the whole family to enjoy—just be aware that parts of Gunnison Beach are clothing optional.

ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

Seaside Park (Ocean County)

732-793-0506; state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/island

This spot is fun and functional—it's a preserved barrier island that protects our shoreline and nearby wildlife habitats. Nature buffs will enjoy searching for more than 400 varieties of plants over nearly ten miles of beaches.

SEVEN PRESIDENTS OCEANFRONT PARK

221 Ocean Avenue North

Long Branch (Monmouth County)

732-229-0924; monmouthcountyparks.com

At this beach, everyone can have fun in the sun. So named for the seven presidents who used to vacation here (Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Harrison, McKinley, and Wilson) this beach now welcomes visitors to swim, surf, play volleyball, or just lounge on the sand. The Tony's Place playground is fully accessible for kids with handicaps or disabilities.

What would a visit to a Jersey beach be without a stroll on an old-fashioned boardwalk? Lucky for visitors—and locals, too—there are many to choose from. Detailed here are the favorites in the *New*

Jersey Monthly Best of New Jersey readers' poll.

JENKINSON'S

300 Ocean Avenue

Point Pleasant Beach (Ocean County)

732-892-0600; jenkinsons.com

Point Pleasant's plank offers mini-golf, plenty of rides, and tons of food. The aquarium is a perennial go-to spot for families.

MOREY'S PIERS

3501 Boardwalk

Wildwood (Cape May County)

609-522-3900; moreyspiers.com

This place is a veritable hive of activity ("Watch the tram car, please!") all tied together with Wildwood's signature Doo-Wop style. There are multiple amusement piers with light fare for kids, as well as scream-inducing rides for more adventurous thrill-seekers.

ASBURY PARK BOARDWALK

Ocean Avenue between Asbury and Sunset avenues

Asbury Park (Monmouth County)

732-897-6500; apboardwalk.com

This famous plank is studded with new shops, restaurants, and attractions, and flanked by nostalgic spots like the Stone Pony and the Paramount Theatre.

OCEAN CITY

6th Street to 14th Street

Ocean City (Cape May County)

800-BEACH-NJ; oceancitychamber.com

This boardwalk offers two-and-a-half miles of family-friendly fun, rides, and shopping.

BIKE TRAILS

Paved or pebbly, scenic or historic, there are plenty of trails to traverse throughout the state. Pick up a map; go for ten, twenty, or thirty miles; and see where the road takes you.

BARNEGAT BRANCH RAIL TRAIL

Ocean County

planning.co.ocean.nj.us/transp-railtrail.htm

This nearly 16-mile trail runs from Barnegat to Toms



River and lies along the abandoned Barnegat Branch portion of the Central Railroad of New Jersey. The 10-foot-wide trail is surfaced with stone dust, allowing for handicapped accessibility.

COLUMBIA TRAIL

High Bridge to Long Valley (Hunterdon County)
co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/guides/Columbia-Trail.htm

This ten-mile trail passes through Ken Lockwood Gorge, offering great views of the Raritan River. The trail is actually a former railroad bed used by the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL STATE PARK

Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset, and Burlington counties
dandrcanal.com

An ideal 70-mile trail for biking, hiking, and jogging through a unique linear state park. For two-wheeled enthusiasts, the two connected paths of 30-plus miles provide lightly graveled riding surfaces in a consistently scenic (and flat) setting.

LIBERTY STATE PARK

Hudson County
state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/liberty.html

This 10-mile paved path is a green swath of tranquility in the middle of a bustling metropolis. Bike around the park and take in the views of Lady Liberty and the Manhattan skyline.

LOANTAKA BROOK RESERVATION

Morris County
morrisparks.net/aspparks/loantakamain.asp

There's about five miles of flat, scenic trail here for riding. Along your journey, you'll pass a playground and duck pond, perfect if you have the kids in tow.

PAULINSKILL VALLEY TRAIL

Hunterdon and Sussex counties
pvtc-kvsp.org

Located in Kittatinny Valley State Park, this 27-mile trail (an old NY Susquehanna and Western railroad bed) winds through two scenic northwestern counties.

CULTURE

While some cross the Hudson for a taste of the high arts, they are well represented in our own back yard.

NEW JERSEY BALLET COMPANY

15 Microlab Road
Livingston (Essex County)
973-597-9600; njballet.org

Since 1958, this cultural stalwart has staged some of ballet's most famous (and beloved) productions, including *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, and holiday favorite the *Nutcracker*. Seasoned vets like Edward Villella and Leonid Kozlov (both former principal dancers with the New York City Ballet) are among the notable advisors who have worked with founder and artistic director Carolyn Clark.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

60 Park Place, 6th Floor
Newark (Essex County)
973-624-3713; njsymphony.org

This collective is the resident orchestra at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (see Performing Arts Centers). Its name was adopted in 1937, though its history as a performing arts group dates back to 1846, when it was founded in Newark as a men's choral society. Today, the orchestra also reaches out to young performers through groups like the Greater Newark Youth Orchestras and the NJSO Early Strings program.

OPERA NEW JERSEY

14 Washington Road
Princeton Junction (Mercer County)
609-799-7700; opera-nj.org

Don Giovanni, *Faust*, and *Carmen* are just some of the offerings that have hit the stage at this Central Jersey opera haven. The repertoire opened only in 2004, but already boasts a master list of top opera titles.

LUNA STAGE

555 Valley Road
West Orange (Essex County)
973-395-5551; lunastage.com

NEW JERSEY THEATER ALLIANCE

8 Marcella Avenue
West Orange (Essex County)
973-731-6582; njtheateralliance.org

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

22 Brookside Drive
Millburn (Essex County)
973-376-4343; papermill.org

RUTGERS-CAMDEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
303 Cooper Street
Camden (Camden County)
856-225-6306; rcca.rutgers.camden.edu

DELICATESSENS

It's no secret that Garden State denizens dig their delis. But with so many statewide, how do you choose? Italian or Kosher? Hoagie, hero or submarine? The debate rages on.

ITALIAN STYLE:

MILLBURN DELI

328 Millburn Avenue
Millburn (Essex County)
973-379-5800; millburndeli.com

A longstanding institution in Millburn, this deli opened in 1946 and continues to serve favorites like piled-high heroes.

JOE LEONE'S

400 Route 35 South
Point Pleasant Beach (Ocean County)
732-701-0001; joeleones.com

Besides delectable sandwiches, this specialty store carries quality items like olive oil, vinegar, meats, cheeses, breads, and pastas.

TOWN HALL DELI

60 Valley Street
South Orange (Essex County)
973-762-4900; townhalldeli.com

This deli, which opened in 1927, claims it's the birthplace of the sloppy joe, expertly made with two meats, cheese, coleslaw, and Russian dressing squeezed between two slices of Pullman rye.

A&G ITALIAN FOOD

177 Washington Valley Road
Warren (Somerset County)
732-302-9700; agfinefoods.com

DELFINI'S

244 West Front Street
Red Bank (Monmouth County)
732-212-9920

KOSHER STYLE:

HOBBY'S DELICATESSAN & RESTAURANT

2 Branford Place
Newark (Essex County)
973-623-0410; hobbydeli.com

BRAGMAN'S DELI

393 Hawthorne Avenue
Newark (Essex County)
973-375-9868

HAROLD'S NEW YORK DELI

707 Route 46 East
Parsippany (Morris County)
973-335-3339; haroldsnystyledeli.com

KIBITZ ROOM

100 Springdale Road
Cherry Hill (Camden County)
856-428-7878; kibitzroom.com

EPPES ESSEN

105 East Mount Pleasant Avenue
Livingston (Essex County)
973-994-1120; eppesessen.com

IRVING'S DELI

575 Route 10 East
Livingston (Essex County)
973-994-5100; irvings-deli.com

DINERS

As far as Jersey favorites go, our state's diners are always high on the list.

PARK WEST

1400 Route 46
Little Falls (Passaic County)
973-256-2767; parkwestdiner.com

Bathed in neon, this spot is a perennial high-scorer on *New Jersey Monthly's* readers' poll. Get your fix of breakfast specials like buttermilk pancakes or eggs any style.

TICK-TOCK DINER

281 Allwood Road
Clifton; (Passaic County)
973-777-0511; theticktockdiner.com

It doesn't get more traditional than this place, a 1946 art deco diner with a can't-be-ignored shiny chrome exterior.

MASTORIS

144 Route 130
Bordentown; (Burlington County)
609-298-4650; mastoris.com

With more omelets than you can crack an egg at, this spot consistently is a South Jersey favorite.

SUMMIT DINER

1 Union Place
Summit (Union County)
908-277-3256

SKYLARK

17 Wooding Avenue
Edison (Middlesex County)
732-777-7878; skylarkdiner.com

ECOLOGY

There are several organizations committed to protecting or showcasing the Garden State's plants and wildlife. Most offer tours and classes. Whether you visit to learn or just to observe, a trip to one of these places is sure to be enlightening.

CAPE MAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

701 East Lake Drive
Cape May Point (Cape May County)
609-884-2736; birdcapemay.org

With weekly walks, birding workshops, fall and spring weekend events, and boat trips, the observatory provides a variety of ways for visitors and enthusiasts to get into the Cape May birding scene.

THE GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

241 Pleasant Plains Road
Basking Ridge (Somerset County)
fws.gov/northeast/greatswamp

This 7,768-acre refuge in Somerset and Morris counties is home to some of the most varied wildlife in the Northeast. There are more than 240 species of birds here, and turtles, muskrat, fish, frogs, flowers, and plants also call the space home. There are several places to hunt, hike, or just take photographs of the surroundings.

MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING CENTER

3625 Brigantine Boulevard
Brigantine (Atlantic County)
609-226-0538; marinemammalstrandingcenter.org

This private nonprofit organization is the only one of its kind in the state. Robert Schoelkopf, Sheila Dean, and a team of volunteers respond to strandings of whales, seals, turtles, dolphins, and other marine mammals and then work to rehabilitate the creatures. The facility is open year-round for visitors.

MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER

Two DeKorte Park Plaza
Lyndhurst (Bergen County)
201-460-8300; rst2.edu/meadowlands

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and Ramapo College paired up in 2003 to educate students and the general public about the vibrant Meadowlands ecosystem, and how to protect it for future generations.

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

9 Hardscrabble Road
Bernardsville (Somerset)
908-204-8998; njaudubon.org

This nonprofit society's mission is to foster environ-



mental awareness, protect the state's wildlife, and promote conservation. The Audubon Society has several branches across the state, so visit the website to find the center nearest you. Many free or inexpensive nature tours are available throughout the year.

THE PEQUEST TROUT HATCHERY AND NATURAL RESOURCE EDUCATION CENTER

605 Pequest Road

Oxford (Warren County)

908-637-4125; state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pequest

Come see how more than 600,000 brook, brown, and rainbow trout are raised each year to stock New Jersey's public waters. Visitors and kids can take part in educational classes and programs, go on a self-guided tour, or stop by the exhibit hall to observe live fish.

STONE HARBOR BIRD SANCTUARY

3rd Avenue and 114th Street

Stone Harbor (Cape May County)

609-368-5102; stone-harbor.nj.us/Bird-Sanctuary/Site/Introduction

With freshwater and saltwater ponds and marshes, a songbird forest, and wading bird nesting areas on 21.5 acres, this sanctuary has a lot to see and do. Find threatened species of egrets, herons, and ibises that the sanctuary protects.

FARMS & ORCHARDS

There's no shortage of places to pick your own produce in the Garden State. Tons of fresh fruit and veggies from the state are marked with the Jersey Fresh seal. Many of the farms and orchards have special fall events like hayrides or corn mazes for the whole family.

TERHUNE ORCHARDS

330 Cold Soil Road

Princeton (Mercer County)

609-924-2310; terhuneorchards.com

Owners Pam and Gary Mount run this more than 200-acre farm for your fruit and vegetable picking pleasure. Pick apples and sip cider in the fall, or visit the farm store and sift through lettuces, beans,

herbs, and more. There are also activities for kids, like wagon and pony rides.

EMERY'S BLUEBERRY FARM

346 Long Swamp Road

New Egypt (Ocean County)

609-758-8514; emerysfarm.com

This certified organic 60-acre blueberry farm typically sells its tiny, tasty marvels from June through August. Find other goodies like eighteen varieties of freshly made pies (caramel apple walnut, lemon crunch, etc.), muffins, jams, and frozen blueberries in the farm market.

A. CASOLA FARMS

178 Route 34

Holmdel (Monmouth County)

163 Georgetown-Wrightstown Road

Springfield (Burlington County)

732-332-1533; antoniocasola.com

A. Casola Farms boasts beautiful flowers in its nursery, as well as a variety of fall events in October like pumpkin picking, hayrides, and a corn maze. In December, bring the family to the new Springfield location to cut your own Christmas tree from the 75-acre tree farm.

HONEY BROOK ORGANIC FARM

260 Wargo Road

Pennington (Mercer County)

609-737-8899; honeybrookorganicfarm.com

From June to November, scoop up some of the best organic produce the state's got to offer, from salad greens and strawberries to herbs and heirloom tomatoes. This spot is Jersey's oldest operating certified organic Community Supported Agriculture program (started in 1991), and all produce is grown without fertilizers or synthetic pesticides.

READINGTON RIVER BUFFALO FARM

937 County Road 523

Readington Township (Hunterdon County)

908-806-0030; njbison.com

There's more to farms than fruits and veggies. Take bison, for example—more than 100 roam on this 250-acre farm. Traditional hayrides and pumpkin pick-

ing can also be found here, but for a change of pace, stop in the market to pick up some buffalo steaks and burgers.

VALLEY SHEPHERD CREAMERY

50 Fairmount Road

Long Valley (Morris County)

908-876-3200; valleyshepherd.com

This working dairy farm employs the same practices used in Europe for the past 4,000 years, like traditional cave-aging for cheese. Several different tours are available for visitors, who are encouraged to take part and experience what it's like to work at a real sheep dairy. Cheeses include smokey shepherd and crema de blue (availability varies).

CHERRY GROVE FARM

3200 Lawrenceville Road

Lawrenceville (Mercer County)

609-219-0053; cherrygrovefarm.com

BATTLEVIEW ORCHARDS

91 Wemrock Road

Freehold (Monmouth County)

732-462-0756; battlevieworchards.com

EVERGREEN FARM

1023 Yardville-Allentown Road

Hamilton Township (Mercer County)

609-259-0029; evergreenfarm.us

GRIGGSTOWN FARM MARKET

986 Canal Road

Princeton (Mercer County)

908-359-5218; griggstownquailfarm.com

HALLOCK'S U-PICK FARM

38 Fischer Road

New Egypt (Ocean County)

609-758-8847; hallocksupick.com

RIAMEDE FARM

122 Oakdale Road

Chester (Morris County)

908-879-5353; riamede.com

TREE LICIOUS ORCHARDS

135 Karrville Road

Port Murray (Warren County)

908-689-2906; treeliciousorchards.com

GARDENS

It's not called the Garden State for nothing. There are gorgeous grounds to explore all over the state, simply to enjoy or to inspire your own green thumb.



PRESBY MEMORIAL IRIS GARDENS

474 Upper Mountain Avenue

Upper Montclair (Essex County)

973-783-5974; presbyirisgardens.org

This volunteer-run organization was established in 1927 in honor of Frank Presby, a horticulturalist and Montclair resident. The garden focuses solely on—you guessed it—irises, and contains approximately 3,000 varieties of the bloom, including heirloom, Japanese, and Siberian. Blooming season generally runs mid-May through early June.

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM

165 Hobart Avenue

Summit (Union County)

908-273-8787; reeves-reedarboretum.org

This historic estate with gardens has a lot to offer, including a rose garden with more than 230 varieties, an azalea garden, and woodlands and wetlands beyond the formal gardens. Visitors can sit and relax on one of the several benches scattered throughout the property, or visit the recently renovated, century-old Wisner House.

GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

18 Fairgrounds Road

Hamilton (Mercer County)

609-586-0616; groundsforsculpture.org

This 25-acre park is the state's foremost location for outdoor art, with more than 250 contemporary sculptures on display. There also are exhibit galleries, fine dining, and a gift shop.



VAN VLECK HOUSE & GARDENS

21 Van Vleck Street

Montclair (Essex County)

973-774-4752; vanvleck.org

This nearly six-acre property—the Van Vleck family home more than 125 years ago—now serves as a center for display, education, and research. Visit the azalea, rock, and butterfly gardens, among several others on the grounds.

SKYLANDS BOTANICAL GARDEN

5 Morris Road

Ringwood (Passaic County)

973-962-9534; njbg.org

Hostas, rhododendrons, lilacs, peonies—there's a lot to take in at this sprawling homage to nature. Check out Crab Apple Allée in the spring to delight in a half-mile stretch of luscious pink blooms. There's also a Magnolia Walk, featuring sweet bay magnolia trees that are usually only found in the southern states.

CORA HARTSHORN ARBORETUM

324 Forest Drive South

Short Hills (Essex County)

973-376-3587; hartshornarboretum.org

FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM

53 East Hanover Avenue

Morristown (Morris County)

973-326-7601; arboretumfriends.org

LEAMING'S RUN GARDENS

1845 Route 9

Cape May Court House (Cape May County)

609-465-5871; leamingsrungardens.com

WILLOWOOD ARBORETUM

300 Long View Road

Far Hills (Somerset County)

973-326-7600; morrisparks.net

HISTORIC SPOTS

Edison invented here. Olmsted designed here. Washington slept here (in multiple places, actually). Go almost anywhere in the state and you are sure to find yourself in the footsteps of history.

BRANCH BROOK PARK

115 Clifton Avenue

Newark (Essex County)

973-268-2300; branchbrookpark.org

This park was the first in the U.S. to open for public use. The firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, chief architect of Central Park, was hired to redesign the park in 1900 and added curved paths, roadways, and a gazebo.

THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

211 Main Street

West Orange (Essex County)

973-736-0550; nps.gov/edis

Visit the newly renovated complex where the master worked. The main lab holds the precision machine shop, a three-story library, and stock room, chock-full of Edison's inventions. You can also visit Glenmont, Edison's circa 1880, 29-room Queen Anne-style home.

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Tempe Wick Road

Morristown (Morris County)

973-543-4030; nps.gov/morr

Between Jockey Hollow, where George Washington and the Continental Army camped during the bitter winter of 1779-1780, and the Washington's Headquarters Museum, there's plenty to see in this park.

FORT HANCOCK

Gateway National Recreation Area – Sandy Hook Unit

Sandy Hook (Monmouth County)

732-872-5970; nps.gov/gate

Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook lighthouse were built to prevent ships from entering New York Harbor. Today, visitors can see how a lone lighthouse operator may have lived while guarding the coast, visit the Fort Hancock Museum, stop by the Battery Gunnison, or check out a former Nike missile site.

HISTORIC ATLANTIC CITY CONVENTION CENTER (BOARDWALK HALL)

2301 Boardwalk

Atlantic City (Atlantic County)
609-348-7000; boardwalkhall.com

When it was built in 1929, the convention center boasted a 137-foot vaulted barrel ceiling that was then the highest clear span in the world. Now it's a revamped space that echoes Atlantic City's heyday as the ultimate entertainment spot down the shore.

HOT-AIR BALLOONING

There's a lot to see on the ground in our state, but even more from above. Take flight at one of two giant state balloon festivals, or check out the list of local companies who can take you up, up and away.

THE HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

Warren County Farmer's Fair

Route 519

Warren (Warren County)

908-859-6563 (for fair info);

908-454-3431 (for balloon info); balloonfestnj.com

This popular annual fest usually takes place in July or August. Watch 30 to 40 balloons take flight in the early evening—it's truly a spectacular sight.

QUIK CHEK NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL OF BALLOONING

Solberg Airport

39 Thor Solberg Road

Readington (Hunterdon County)

973-882-5464; balloonfestival.com

At this nearly 30-year-old festival, take a hot air balloon ride or just a tethered ride for a taste of ballooning. There's music, vendors, and other entertainment at the weekend-long party, too.

ABOVE AND BEYOND BALLOONING

Solberg Airport

39 Thor Solberg Road

Readington (Hunterdon County)

908-208-1869; njhotair.com

ALEXANDRIA BALLOON FLIGHTS

Sky Manor Airport

Pittstown (Hunterdon County)

908-310-3434 or 908-479-4878; njballooning.com

HUNTERDON BALLOONING

111 Locktown-Flemington Road

Flemington (Hunterdon County)

908-788-5415; hunterdonballooning.com

TEWKSBURY BALLOON ADVENTURES

29 Oldwick Road

Whitehouse Station

908-439-3320; tewksburyballoon.com

ICE CREAM

Since summertime is one of the things we Garden Staters look forward to the most, it's only fitting that a love for ice cream is in our DNA. Who makes the best confection is a sweet debate, but trying multiple scoops is one good way to draw your own conclusion.

APPLEGATE FARM

616 Grove Street

Upper Montclair (Essex County) (additional locations in Clifton, East Hanover, Franklin Lakes, Freehold, Montclair, Nutley, and Summit)

973-774-5900; applegatefarm.com

This former working dairy farm, which dates to 1848, now churns out delicious ice cream in flavors like vanilla peanut butter, cappuccino crunch, and black raspberry. The shop also offers seasonal varieties (like peppermint stick in December) and ice cream cakes and pies.

HOFFMAN'S ICE CREAM

800 Richmond Avenue

Point Pleasant Beach (Ocean County) (and two other locations: Spring Lake and Little Silver)

732-892-0270; hoffmansicecream.net

The recently opened Little Silver scooper is the newest addition from the Hoffman family, which opened as one of the first-ever Carvel stores in Point Pleasant in 1955 (renamed Hoffman's in 1976). Today, flavors



like chocolate marshmallow and peanut butter nugget keep customers coming back for more.

HOLSTEN'S BROOKDALE CONFECTIONERY

*1063 Broad Street
Bloomfield (Essex County)
973-338-7091; holstens.com*

Now best known as the site of the famous last scene of Jersey mob drama *The Sopranos*, Holsten's serves homemade ice cream and candy, presumably without Journey playing in the background. Stop by for a photo-op at the Soprano family's final dining spot, or simply enjoy the treats.

KOHR'S BROTHERS

*Wonderland Pier
Ocean City (Cape May County)
609-391-9363; kohrsbros.com*

Though it first debuted in Coney Island in 1919, the famous Kohr's Brothers frozen custard has since made its way to ten states, including New Jersey (there are twelve locations here). It's a perennial summer favorite on the Ocean City and Wildwood boardwalks.

SPRINGER'S

*9420 3rd Avenue
Stone Harbor (Cape May County)
609-368-4631; springersicecream.com*

This seaside spot has supplied Shore-goers with quality ice cream for nearly eight decades. Check out the floats and milkshakes, or brave the shop's monster banana split, made with a halved banana, three scoops of ice cream, cherries, pineapple, strawberries, chocolate syrup, nuts, and finally, a hefty dollop of whipped cream.

THE BENT SPOON

*35 Palmer Square West
Princeton (Mercer County)
609-924-2368; thebentspoon.net*

BISCHOFF'S

*468 Cedar Lane
Teaneck (Bergen County)
201-836-0333*

DENVILLE DAIRY

*34A Broadway
Denville (Morris County)
973-627-4214; denvilledairy.com*

GUERNSEY CREST

*134 19th Avenue
Paterson (Essex County)
973-742-4620*

JERSEY LANDMARKS

As one of the country's original thirteen colonies and its third state, New Jersey has a rich in historic background. Here are some of the state's most intriguing landmarks.



PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

*Paterson Cultural Center
65 McBride Avenue Extension
Paterson (Passaic County)
973-279-9587*

In the late 1700s, this roaring waterfall inspired then-Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton to implement a mill system that would harness the Falls' energy, establishing Paterson as an early manufacturing center. Now, visitors can view the nearly 77-foot drop from a footbridge that spans the Falls.

HIGH POINT STATE PARK

*Sussex County
973-875-4800*

Take in a panoramic view from the tip-top of the 80-year-old, 220-foot High Point Monument, which sits—you guessed it—at the highest point in the state, at 1,803 feet. The rest of the park offers winding paths like Monument Trail and camping sites through October.

LIBERTY STATE PARK

*Jersey City (Hudson County)
201-915-3440*

This sprawling park opened in 1976 as the state's bicentennial gift to America. Today, it accommodates more than 5 million visitors each year. With a prom-

enade, plenty of open space, and the Statue of Liberty looming majestically in the distance, the park has something for everyone. Ferries leave from this spot to Ellis and Liberty islands.

BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY

100 Clinton Street

Camden (Mercer County)

856-966-1652; battleshipnewjersey.org

The USS New Jersey was built at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and saw action in World War II and the Korean War. The vessel, now a floating museum, arrived in Camden in 2001 and plays host for tours, events, and overnights.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton (Mercer County)

609-258-3000

One of the foremost academic institutions in the country, this Ivy League university has produced some of the sharpest minds in history, including several New Jersey governors. Chartered in 1746 as the College of New Jersey (its name for 150 years), it's the fourth-oldest college in the U.S.

LIGHTHOUSES

These functional but aesthetically pleasing structures are almost synonymous with the Garden State. Each has a unique history; the beacon at Sandy Hook is the oldest-operating in the country. Map out a trail to visit some, or all, of these historic landmarks along the state's coastline.

ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE

31 South Rhode Island Avenue

Atlantic City (Atlantic County)

609-449-1360; abseconlighthouse.org

BARNEGAT LIGHTHOUSE

Barnegat Light (Ocean County)

609-494-2016; state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/barnlig.html

CAPE MAY LIGHTHOUSE

Lower Township (Cape May County)

609-884-8656

EAST POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Maurice River Township (Cumberland County)

HEREFORD LIGHTHOUSE

North Wildwood (Cape May County)

609-522-4520; herefordlighthouse.org

NAVESINK TWIN LIGHTS

2 Lighthouse Road

Highlands (Monmouth County)

732-872-1814; twin-lights.org

SANDY HOOK LIGHTHOUSE

Sandy Hook (Monmouth County)

732-872-5970; nps.gov/gate

TINICUM ISLAND LIGHT

Billingsport (Gloucester County)

TUCKER'S ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

Tuckerton (Ocean County)

KIDS' STUFF

Whether it's expanding their knowledge at an interactive museum or simply letting loose on a roller coaster, there's plenty to do for Jersey kids. Bugs, magicians, amusement rides—it's all here. Be sure to check ahead before heading out, as featured exhibits change often.

BOWCRAFT AMUSEMENT PARK

2545 Route 22 West

Scotch Plains (Union County)

908-389-1234; bowcraft.com

With rides like the Galleon Pirate Ship, the Scrambler, and the Frog Hopper, there's a little bit of everything for young thrill-seekers (or birthday boys and girls) at this North Jersey fun spot. For less-than-adventurous types, there's a mini golf course that's perfect for a lazier day, and rides and activities for younger kids.



THE FUNPLEX

*Multiple locations
funplex.com*

Got any fans of a certain boy wizard in your family? Okay, so it's not the Harry Potter theme park in Orlando, but the East Hanover location does have Mag-iQuest, an interactive adventure packed with goblins, sorcerers, and more. Both locations boast video and arcade games; either serves as a great place to host a birthday party.

THE GARDEN STATE DISCOVERY MUSEUM

*500 Springdale Road
Cherry Hill (Camden County)
856-424-1233; discoverymuseum.com*

With a calendar full of educational events, workshops like Creature Features and Hoot Hoot Hooray (a lesson on our nocturnal friends), group events, and oodles of goodies at the Discovermore Gift Shop, there's plenty for youngsters to do at this interactive museum.

IMAGINE THAT MUSEUM

*4 Vreeland Road
Florham Park (Morris County)
973-966-8000; imaginethatmuseum.com*

This 16,000-square-foot facility houses more than 50 exhibits for kids, including Around the World (the study of cultures) and Doctor's Office (get ready for medical or dental school early). The museum encourages a learning-through-playing model that will keep kids and their parents satisfied.

INSECTROPOLIS

*1761 Route 9
Tom's River (Ocean County)
732-349-7090; insectropolis.com*

Some kids just love slimy things and creepy-crawlies, and Insectropolis is the perfect place to learn about them all. Follow underground burrowers like termites through the Mud Tube, or check out the furry tarantulas in the Creepy Cavern.

LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER

*222 Jersey City Boulevard
Jersey City (Hudson County)
201-200-1000; lsc.org*

There is an abundance to learn and do in this world where science and physics meet pure fun. Climb to the top of the food chain at the Eat or Be Eaten exhibit, or enjoy Wonder Why, which features long-standing exhibit favorites like Resonance Tube and Fluorescent Rocks. The center also houses an Imax theater and a Digital 3D Theater.

MONMOUTH MUSEUM

This spot is perfect for kids of all ages. The Dorothy V. Morehouse WonderWing is ideal for kids six and under, who can play around on a pirate ship or climb a tree house. Older kids will enjoy the Becker Children's Wing, which has activities and exhibitions like Dinosaurs and Space Exploration.

NEW JERSEY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

*599 Valley Health Plaza
Paramus (Bergen County)
201-262-5151; njcm.com*

There are more than 30 different learning and play areas at this interactive hotspot. Take the kids to Fossil Cave so they can make their own cave drawings and dig through sand, or dress up like Lancelot and Guinevere for a birthday party and hold a tea party in the Throne room.

SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE

This 2,200-acre wonderland features rides and activities for kids of all ages. Older, adventurous kids swoon for the 45-story, 128 mile-per-hour Kingda Ka coaster, the tallest and fastest in the world. Take the little guys to Wiggles World and Bugs Bunny National Park to spend the day with loveable characters like the namesake rabbit and Daffy Duck. Or, stop by the Safari for an equally fun, non-stomach-churning, adventure.

STORYBOOK LAND

*6415 Black Horse Pike
Egg Harbor Township (Atlantic County)
609-641-7847; storybookland.com*

Remember the classic stories you used to hear as a kid? Share them with the next generation at Storybook Land, where kids can visit places like Snow White's House and Sleeping Beauty's Castle.



LAKES & RIVERS

Sure, there's the shore—but don't forget about New Jersey's freshwater treasures. From fishing and skating to swimming and rowing, there's plenty to do on our state's lakes and rivers.

BATSTO RIVER

Burlington County

Running through Wharton State Forest, the Batsto River is dotted with historical sites. Spend the day canoeing or stay the night and rough it at the Lower Forge Camp (we're talking bring-your-own water).

LAKE CARNEGIE

Princeton (Mercer County)

A gift from steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie to Princeton University, this man-made lake serves as the practice ground for the university's rowing team. Visitors are welcome to fish and skate, but swimming is not permitted. Lake Carnegie is on the National List of Historic Places.

DELAWARE RIVER

(Hunterdon to Cape May counties)

Bet you didn't know that this watershed provides water for 10 percent of the nation's population. From tubing and rafting to swimming and fishing, there's something for everyone at this major summertime destination that divides Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

GREENWOOD LAKE

West Milford (southernmost end) (Passaic County)

New Jersey shares part of the seven-mile stretch of Greenwood Lake with its northern neighbor, New York. To swim, you'll have to cross the state line to enjoy two public beaches. Spend the day boating, or take advantage of the several restaurants along the marina.

LAKE HOPATCONG

Sussex and Morris counties

With its vibrant marina, numerous markets, dining destinations, and endless options for sailing lessons, Lake Hopatcong comes alive during the summer months. Though overnight accommodations are

limited (unless you rent or own a home), the state's largest lake is still a great spot with plenty of activities to fill up a fun day trip.

LAKE MOHAWK

Sparta (Sussex County)

This three-mile lake is private, but visitors to its shores can still enjoy the restaurants and shopping offered along the marina. The lake's water ski show team, the Ski Hawks, performs here, showcasing wild jumps for everyone's entertainment.

MULLICA RIVER

Burlington County

For paddling enthusiasts, a serpentine trip down the Mullica is a must for summertime fun. The river once served as a passageway for Revolutionary War supplies, so take in the history as you wind your way through the Pinelands' forests and marshes.

SHEPHERD LAKE

Ringwood State Park

Ringwood (Passaic County)

There's a lot more than just water activities to keep you busy at Shepherd Lake, located in Ringwood State Park. Rent a boat, visit the park's historic grounds and gardens, or swim Memorial Day through Labor Day.

SPRUCE RUN

Clinton (Hunterdon County)

Enjoy fishing, boating, and camping at this recreation area and reservoir. Visitors can also hunt (seasonal) and take advantage of several different hiking paths like the Highlands Millennium Trail.

TOMAHAWK LAKE

Sparta (Sussex County)

Most New Jerseyans know about Six Flags in Jackson, but we've also got this gem of a water park upstate. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the Apache Plunge, a new, 610-foot water flume ride. Pack the gingham tablecloth: you can also picnic here.



MUSEUMS

From baseball to rare books, our state's museums run the artistic and historical gamut. Some are old, some are new (and most house items that are a bit of both), but each has a distinct character and offers enrichment and education.

JANE VOORHEES ZIMMERLI ART MUSEUM

71 Hamilton Street

New Brunswick (Middlesex County)

732-932-7237; zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu

This museum at Rutgers University showcases more than 60,000 works of art. Russian, American, and European art are prevalent; another attraction is the Schimmel Rare Book Library, a resource of more than 4,000 books on French art and society.

JERSEY CITY MUSEUM

350 Montgomery Street

Jersey City (Hudson County)

201-413-0303; jerseycitymuseum.org

This contemporary art-focused museum strives to exhibit work from under-represented artists, and thus boasts a large collection of work by Latino, African-American, and Asian artists. The museum also has on display a collection of glass and ceramic works by the American Pottery Company and the New Jersey Glass Company.

MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM

3 South Mountain Avenue

Montclair (Essex County)

973-746-5555; montclair-art.com

This museum focuses on American and Native American art through exhibits and educational programs. The collection boasts more than 12,000 items, including works from notable American artists like John Singer Sargent, Georgia O'Keeffe, Roy Lichtenstein, and Montclair's own George Inness.

NEWARK MUSEUM

49 Washington Street

Newark (Essex County)

973-596-6550; newarkmuseum.org

This 101-year-old museum is the state's largest, show-

casing impressive collections of American, Asian, and classical art. Founded by John Cotton Dana, the museum continues to bring the best in arts and sciences to the state. The adjoining Ballantine House is a trip back to the Victorian era and also a National Historic Landmark. Kids will enjoy the museum's mini zoo and an educational visit to the planetarium.

NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM

205 West State Street

Trenton (Camden County)

609-292-6464; state.nj.us/state/museum

This museum in our capital city opened in 1895 with a collection of natural history specimens from the nineteenth century, but has since grown to house areas for archaeology, ethnology, decorative arts, fine arts, and more. There's also a new planetarium with a 360-degree inner dome that projects more than 6,000 stars found in the night sky.

NOYES MUSEUM OF ART

733 Lily Lake Road

Oceanville (Atlantic County)

609-652-8848; noyesmuseum.org

This museum's niche is craft and folk art from New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region. Fred and Ethel Noyes founded the museum in 1983, and the latter's intricately carved duck decoys are now part of the institution's permanent collection of nineteenth and twentieth century fine and folk art.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Princeton University campus, accessible from Nassau or Washington streets

Princeton (Mercer County)

609-258-3788; princetonartmuseum.org

One of the largest academic museums in the country, this Princeton institution houses more than 72,000 works of art, from ancient and Islamic art to a contemporary collection.

YOGI BERRA MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER

*8 Quarry Road, on the Montclair State University campus
Little Falls (Passaic County)*

973-655-6894; yogiberramuseum.org

The Hall of Famer and former Yankees catcher (and

longtime Montclair resident) opened this museum in 1998, which takes baseball history buffs on a trip through artifacts and photos. The museum also houses Yogi's ten championship rings, the most of any player in baseball history.

AMERICAN LABOR MUSEUM AND BOTTO HOUSE NATIONAL LANDMARK

83 Norwood Street
Haledon (Passaic County)
973-595-7953; labormuseum.org

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM

1003 Morris Avenue
Union (Union County)
908-527-0400; kean.edu/libertyhall

MORRIS MUSEUM

6 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown (Morris County)
973-971-3700; morrismuseum.org

MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES AND CRAFTS

9 Main Street
Madison (Morris County)
973-377-2982; rosenet.org/metc

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION MUSEUM

77 Liberty Corner Road
Far Hills (Somerset County)
908-234-2300; usgamuseum.com

NAUTICAL ADVENTURES

Whales, dolphins, seals, and...pirates? See them all out on the water. There's an activity for everyone in your family on New Jersey's lakes, rivers, and oceans.

A.J. MEERWALD

2800 High Street, Bivalve
Port Norris (Cumberland County)
856-785-2060, ext. 103; ajmeerwald.org

This ocean-going beauty is an authentically restored, 128-foot Delaware Bay oyster schooner. Not

only can you host an event aboard the ship, but the Bayshore Discovery Project, a maritime advocacy and education group, offers shore-based programs and educational classes at its Bivalve facility.

ATLANTIC CITY CRUISES

Historic Gardner's Basin
800 North New Hampshire Avenue
Atlantic City (Atlantic County)
609-347-7600; atlanticcitycruises.com

Take a morning skylight cruise to recharge after a late night at the tables, or kick-start the evening with a Happy Hour cruise. Cruise operators will recount Atlantic City's history as you tour the waters around the casino capital.

BARNEGAT BAY SAIL CHARTERS

Cedar Creek Marina
100 Harbor Inn Road
Bayville (Ocean County)
732-269-1351; sailingnj.com

Learn to sail in the calm waters of Barnegat Bay with certified instructors. You can also take a personalized cruise, where you can participate in the action or just sit back and enjoy the views on the 30-foot Margarita sailboat.

CAPE MAY WHALE WATCHING

Schellenger's Landing
2nd Avenue and Wilson Drive
Cape May (Cape May County)
609-884-5445; capemaywhalewatcher.com

Each of the two 110-foot ships has more than 350 feet of rails for prime views of the whales, dolphins, and other undersea creatures it encounters. There's also table seating indoors if looking for Free Willy makes you a little famished.

JERSEY SHORE PIRATES

Riverfront Marina
281 Princeton Avenue
Brick (Ocean County)
732-899-6100; jerseyshorepirates.com

To impress your kids for years to come, take them to see the Jersey Shore Pirates aboard the Sea Gypsy II. Get a pirate name and hop on deck to search for trea-

sure and fend off a pirate attack with water cannons on the high seas—well, the Metedeconk River, at least.

OFFSHORE SAILING SCHOOL

Liberty Landing Marina

80 Audrey Zapp Drive

Jersey City (Hudson County)

201-432-7763; offshoresailing.com

Steve and Doris Colgate's sailing school is considered one of the best in the country, so you'll definitely learn your stuff. Sign up for sailing courses, powerboat school, or a corporate teambuilding outing. And it's scenic too; you'll be sailing in the shadow of Lady Liberty.

THE SKIMMER SALT MARSH SAFARI

Dolphin Cove Marina

Ocean Drive at Fish Dock Road

Wildwood Crest (Cape May County)

609-884-3100; skimmer.com

Take a ride through South Jersey's coastal salt marshes on the 40-foot Skimmer, looking for shellfish, plant life, tidal flows, and birds. The waters are calm and the ride is smooth (some parts are only two feet deep), so it's even ideal for those prone to seasickness.

OLD HOMES & HISTORIC VILLAGES

People have made their homes in New Jersey for centuries (we're the nation's third state, after all). Some took comfort in a warm bed during a harsh winter, while others still uphold tried-and-true traditions like glassmaking. Many of the most vibrant spots in the state are the oldest, and each carries its own rich tradition that you can discover today.

BATSTO VILLAGE

31 Batsto Road

Hammonton (Atlantic County)

Tucked within the Wharton State Forest, this village still boasts vestiges of its past as an early settlement, with iron and glassworks, a sawmill and gristmill, and a general store. Take a tour—then visit the museum shop for books and old-timey souvenirs.

GROVER CLEVELAND BIRTHPLACE

207 Bloomfield Avenue

Caldwell (Essex County)

973-226-0001; state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/historic/grover_cleveland/gc_home

Since Grover Cleveland was the only president born in New Jersey, his birthplace is definitely a Caldwell highlight. Take tours through several period rooms, or play popular games of the day like hoop toss, marbles, and tops.

HANCOCK HOUSE

3 Front Street

Hancock's Bridge (Salem County)

856-935-4373; state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/historic/hancockhouse/hancockhouse-directions

This historic home was built in 1734 by William Hancock, a Justice of the Peace in Salem County who served in the Colonial Assembly for 20 years. Angry that the people of Salem supported the Continental Army, the Loyalists staged a massacre at the site in 1778. Today, groups and families can go on tours of the old home.

HISTORIC SMITHVILLE AND VILLAGE GREENE

Route 9

Smithville (Atlantic County)

smithvillenj.com

This 18th century village provides a welcome respite from the bright lights of nearby Atlantic City. Some 60 shops and eateries—all in historic buildings—are arrayed around Lake Meone and its old mill. Kids enjoy the old-time train ride and carousel.

OLD DUTCH PARSONAGE

38 Washington Place

Somerville (Somerset County)

state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/historic/olddutch-wallace/odwh-home

Reverend John Frelinghuysen and his family first occupied this Georgian-style parsonage, built in 1751. Another resident, Reverend Jacob Hardenbergh, became the first president of Queens College in 1785, now known as Rutgers University.

WALT WHITMAN HOUSE


330 Mickle Boulevard

Camden (Camden County)

856-964-5383; state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/historic/whitman/index.html

This Greek Revival-style house was the only dwelling the famous poet ever owned. He completed his last comprehensive volume of poetry here, too. Take a tour of the grounds where Whitman perfected subsequent editions of “Leaves of Grass,” his most enduring work.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS

 Our state’s performing arts centers provide New Jerseyans with excellent and varied entertainment, while also serving as venues to educate young people in the arts. Visit these centers for a show, or take part in the many activities offered.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Once Center Street

Newark (Essex County)

973-642-8989; njpac.org

Open since 1997, NJPAC is the sixth-largest performing arts center in the country. Past performers include Itzhak Perlman, Sarah Brightman, and Diana Krall. The center also offers programs in arts education for children and teens.

SOUTH ORANGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

One SOPAC Way

South Orange (Essex County)

973-275-1114; sopacnow.org

This 415-seat performance hall has seen the likes of Yo-Yo Ma and Olympia Dukakis grace its stage. Opened in 2006, SOPAC is still a young organization, but has already made its mark on the South Orange arts scene.

BERGEN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

30 North Van Brunt Street

Englewood (Bergen County)

201-816-8160; bergenpac.org

The shuttered John Harms Center reopened as Bergen PAC in 2003, expanding its performances and

programs for the community. The Performing Arts School features master classes with visiting artists.

MAYO CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

100 South Street

Morristown (Morris County)

973-539-0345; mayoarts.org

This theater was built in 1937 and received a much-needed facelift in 1994. Past performers include notable comedians, singers, bands, and more. The Performing Arts School features classes for kids.

STATE THEATRE

15 Livingston Avenue

New Brunswick (Middlesex County)

732-247-7200; statetheatrenj.org

Originally built in 1921 and extensively refurbished in 2004, the theater hosts major attractions and a variety of music and arts festivals. Management has implemented a green initiative, replacing stage lighting fixtures and installing 155 high-efficiency bulbs in its marquee.

UNION COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

1601 Irving Street

Rahway (Union County)

732-499-0441; ucpac.org


STOCKTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

College Drive at Stockton University campus

Stockton (Hunterdon County)

609-652-9000; stockton.edu/pac

QUIRKS & ODDITIES

 Some people and places have a great story, and some are just downright weird. New Jersey’s got them both, and everything in between.

BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM

High and Grant streets

Mount Holly (Burlington County)

609-518-7667; prisonmuseum.net

Joel Clough brutally stabbed his girlfriend, was sentenced to prison, and was hanged in 1833. He’s not

gone, though: he reportedly still haunts his old cell, and guards have heard the clattering of chains and moans late at night. Still not scared? Book an investigation trip and see if you change your mind.

THE JERSEY DEVIL

The Pinelands

Sometimes called the Leeds Devil because of its possible origin at Leeds Point, the Jersey Devil is said to have been cursed by its mother at birth. It has haunted the woods surrounding its home ever since. A mash-up of several different creatures, the Devil lurks in the deepest parts of the Pine Barrens, with glowing red eyes.

LUCY THE ELEPHANT

9200 Atlantic Avenue

Margate (Atlantic County)

609-823-6473; lucytheelephant.org

One of the most recognizable oddities on this (or any) list, Lucy the Elephant was built in 1881 by a real estate developer as a novelty structure. It's since survived a period of neglect and a subsequent renaissance. Reach the tip-top and get a great panoramic view of the shore.

PARANORMAL BOOKS AND CURIOSITIES

627 Cookman Avenue

Asbury Park (Monmouth County)

732-455-3188; paranormalbooksnj.com

Part bookstore, part museum, this spooky spot in Asbury Park is your source for all things that go bump in the night. You can visit the museum to check out curiosities or books, or sign up for a ghost tour, a ghost hunt, or a paranormal investigation.

SILVERBALL MUSEUM

1000 Ocean Avenue

Asbury Park (Monmouth County)

732-774-4994, silverballmuseum.com

This spot on the Asbury Park boardwalk is a Garden of Eden for pinball lovers. In just 5,000 square feet, Silverball crams nearly 200 machines, from the first table games of the 1930s, made of finishing nails in wood, to the electro-mechanical classics of the 1950s and '60s and the high-tech marvels of more recent vintage. Un-

like most museums, Silverball is a hands-on experience. About 95 percent of the machines can be played.

COWTOWN RODEO

780 Route 40

Pilesgrove (Salem County)

856-769-3200; cowntownrodeo.com

Founded in 1929, Cowntown is the longest-running weekly rodeo in the United States. Check out the action every Saturday night from late May through late September. It's three hours of purebred, authentic rodeo entertainment.

RAILROADING

New Jersey has a rich railroading tradition. Visit some of these historic spots to get a sense of the role rail travel played in Jersey's past.

BLACK RIVER & WESTERN RAILROAD AND BELVIDERE & DELAWARE RIVER RAILWAY

Flemington, Philipsburg, and Ringoes (Hunterdon and Warren counties)

908-782-9600; brwrr.com

There's a lot more here to keep you entertained than just a ride around the tracks (those are available too, for 75 minutes). Holiday-themed rides (corn mazes at Pumpkin Junction; Bunny Express rides for Easter), Murder Mystery nights, and the North Pole Express are just some of the other options to enjoy year-round.

THE CENTRAL RAILROAD OF NEW JERSEY TERMINAL

Liberty State Park

Jersey City (Hudson County)

201-915-3411; state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/liberty_state_park/liberty_crrnj

The railroad was originally chartered in 1838 in Elizabeth and stretched across the state to Philipsburg by 1852. A new terminal was built on the Jersey City waterfront and was a pivotal welcoming point for immigrants coming through Ellis Island. It's now on the National Register of Historic Places and hosts community and special events.





NORTHLANDZ

495 Route 202 South

Flemington (Hunterdon County)

908-782-4022; northlandz.com

This spot is home to the world's largest model railroad, with nearly 100 trains on eight miles of track. The seemingly endless exhibit features tiny cities and villages, a 40-foot bridge, and mountains and ravines, all serving as the backdrop for the constantly chugging trains. There are hundreds of dollhouse collectors' items, too. Visitors can also step outside to take a ride on a two-thirds scale replica of a steam train.

PINE CREEK RAILROAD AND NEW JERSEY MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION

Allaire State Park

Allaire (Monmouth County)

732-938-5524; njmt.org

For history buffs, the three-quarter-mile Pine Creek Railroad is one of the oldest continuously operating steam preservation railway exhibits in the country. The museum hosts Operation Lifesaver, where young rail fans can learn about railroad safety and enjoy games and puzzles.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD'S C.P. HUNTINGTON

Wheaton Village

1501 Glasstown Road

Millville (Cumberland County)

856-825-6800; wheatonvillage.org

This replica of a nineteenth-century locomotive (the original was made in Paterson and now resides in Sacramento, California) runs along a three-quarter-mile track through the Pinelands. When you hop off, check out the local glassmakers' wares in historic Wheaton Village.

WHIPPANY RAILWAY MUSEUM

1 Railroad Place, Route 10

Whippany (Morris County)

973-887-8177; whippanyrailwaymuseum.org

Located in the old Morristown and Erie Railroad yard, this museum really does have all the bells and whistles—from old trains. It's stocked with railroad memorabilia like models, rare paperwork, and historic photographs. The turn-of-the-century freight house was restored to its former luster in the mid-1980s.

SPORTS VENUES

RED BULL ARENA

600 Cape May Street

Harrison (Essex County)

redbullarena.us

The new 25,000-seat home of the New Jersey Red Bulls is heaven for soccer fans. Every seat is covered, so even inclement weather won't dull the action. The stadium also holds special and private events; skyboxes and club seats are available.

PRUDENTIAL CENTER

165 Mulberry Street

Newark (Essex County)

973-757-6000; prucenter.com

This modern arena is home to the three-time Stanley Cup winners the New Jersey Devils. Novice skaters can take advantage of the AmeriHealth Pavilion, which hosts public skating hours, private lessons, and youth hockey clinics to get your young Brodeur on his or her way. Basketball fans get into the action with the Seton Hall Pirates, the New York Liberty, and, while they are still in New Jersey, the NBA Nets.

NEW MEADOWLANDS STADIUM

102 Route 120 East

East Rutherford (Bergen County)

201-559-1515; newmeadowlandsstadium.com

New Jersey is blessed with two professional football teams, the Giants and Jets—and this is the impressive new structure they call home. (Take that, football-less New York City!)

TRAILS

Wherever you live, there's a great walk right around the corner. Hiking, biking, walking, and bird watching adventures are abundant in the Garden State—all you have to do is pick your day and your park (and fill up that water bottle, of course!).

BEARFORT RIDGE AND WAWAYANDA STATE PARK

Passaic and Essex counties

If you want great views, head to Bearfort Ridge. This

picturesque group of trails features great overlooks, colorful rocks, and the Cedar Swamp. The 90-plus miles of trails in this region are unique because of their erosion-resistant puddingstone, too.

BRENDAN T. BYRNE STATE FOREST

Burlington County

Pick a trail through Whitesbog Village in this 36,000-plus acre park and see some of the bogs, wetlands, and forests of the Pinelands. The area is also a great spot to bird watch as you walk.

DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Sussex County

This park is the largest recreation area in the U.S., covering 70,000 acres. Most trails here hook up with the multi-state Appalachian Trail, and several of them can be made into loops for a walk that's easier to tackle. Stick around Blue Mountain Lake in the winter for some great cross-country skiing.

DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL STATE PARK

Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset, and Burlington counties

This linear park's 70-mile trail follows the state's historic canal system along the Delaware River and inland from Trenton to New Brunswick. The entire length is ADA accessible.

ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

Ocean County

Sure, there's plenty of sand at the shore, but there's also a sizable amount of dirt to traverse. If you don't feel like going on foot, the thirteen miles of trails at Island Beach State Park include paved bike paths, bridle paths, and even a canoe trail in Barnegat Bay.

PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK

Bergen County

Great views of Manhattan and the Hudson River await you on the New Jersey section of this multi-state park. The Long Trail follows the Palisades cliff tops, while the Short Trail runs along the coastline (even though "short" sounds more appealing, it's still very steep and rocky at some points).

PATRIOTS' PATH

Morris County

This meandering trail traverses a six-mile section of Morristown National Historic Park, as well as other parks, watershed areas, and historic sites. There are multiple access points, so you're sure to find somewhere interesting wherever you wander.

RINGWOOD STATE PARK

Passaic County

The Crossover Trail passes through Skylands Manor, where you can see gorgeous foliage, wild plants and flowers, and formal gardens at almost any time of the year. Other notable trails run through Ringwood Manor and around Shepherd Lake.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

Essex County

Five marked hiking trails, bridle paths, and carriage roads for jogging make this area quite popular. The longest trail, at six miles, is the Lenape, but there are shorter picks closer to one or two miles for a quick day trip.

UNDERGROUND ATTRACTIONS

Explore the roots of New Jersey's industrial heyday by going below the surface (figuratively, for the most part). Rocks and mines hide treasures below, and even an integral piece of our nation's history ran through New Jersey.

FRANKLIN MINERAL MUSEUM

32 Evans Street

Franklin (Somerset County)

973-827-3481; franklinmineralmuseum.com

Bet you didn't know that Franklin is the fluorescent mineral capital of the world. More than 4,000 minerals are on display here, and the fluorescent ones are quite a sight to see, glowing under lights. Besides visiting the museum and the gift shop, guests can collect specimens at one of two different sites or tour the facilities.



LONG POND IRONWORKS

*Greenwood Lake Turnpike
West Milford (Passaic County)
973-657-1688; longpondironworks.org*

This iron-making site was founded in 1766 and continuously operated until 1882. Today, visitors can view the ruins of three old furnaces at the 175-acre Long Pond Ironworks Historic District, where iron was produced for the Continental Army, as well as U.S. forces during the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

STERLING HILL MINING MUSEUM

*30 Plant Street
Ogdensburg (Sussex County)
973-209-7212; sterlinghillminingmuseum.org*

This spot was once home to a historic zinc mine. Check out fluorescent rocks, get a look at old mining machinery, and more. You can also take a tour of an underground mine—1,300 feet underground, actually—that takes you through the lamp room, the shaft station, and the rainbow room, where all the glowing rocks reside. (You can take home a specimen as a memento.)

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD STOPS

New Jersey abolitionists and their families played a big part in the success of the Underground Railroad. Check out some of these key spots that helped so many along the way to freedom.

THE GRIMES HOMESTEAD

*Mountain Lakes (Morris County)
nps.gov/nr/travel/underground/nj1.htm*

Though it's not open to the public, the Grimes Homestead was an integral part of the Underground Railroad's path to freedom. The Grimes family opposed slavery and, as a result, faced the consequences of the time: the family patriarch, John Grimes, was once arrested for harboring a slave.

PETER MOTT HOUSE

*26 Kings Court
Lawnside (Camden County)
856-546-8850; petermotthouse.org*

The oldest home in historic Lawnside, this house was a station along the Underground Railroad. Peter Mott, a free black man and preacher at a nearby

community church, built the house in 1845. The Lawnside Historical Society is responsible for the restoration and upkeep of this important landmark.

GRUBB ESTATE

*46 Riverbank Street
Burlington (Burlington County)
609-386-0200; tourburlington.org*

The Grubb family made its name in mining, but also reportedly built tunnels underneath their Burlington house to bring slaves to freedom. The estate has a tannery and a brewery (Henry Grubb opened the first tavern in Burlington, too).

VICTORIANA

Travel to New Jersey's southernmost shore town, Cape May, and take a trip into the past. From restored bed-and-breakfasts to old-timey tearooms, the town is practically covered in lace. Because of its rich history and dedication to preserving the past, it's designated a National Historic Landmark, too. Another hot spot of Victoriana is Spring Lake, which boasts many charming B&B's.

CARRIAGE HOUSE TEAROOM AND CAFÉ

*1048 Washington Street
Cape May (Cape May County)
609-884-5404; capemaymac.org*

Indulge in a true English teatime experience at this quaint spot on the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate. Scones, finger sandwiches, pastries, and tea are offered at afternoon tea hours. Bring-your-own-teddy-bear tea parties are available for kids.

COLONIAL HOUSE

*Greater Cape May Historical Society
653½ Washington Street
Cape May (Cape May County)
609-884-9100; capemayhistory.org*

This museum is open June 15 to September 15 and participates in the town's Victorian Week in October. It was originally a tavern and the home of Memucan Hughes, a Revolutionary War patriot.



CONGRESS HALL

251 Beach Avenue

Cape May (Cape May County)

609-884-8422; congresshall.com

Guests have stayed at this famed Cape May destination hotel since 1816. Special guests included John Philip Sousa, who composed the “Congress Hall March” in honor of the spot. Today, the building plays host to excellent dining spots, wedding facilities, and luxurious amenities.

DESIGNER SHOW HOUSE

Locations vary

Cape May (Cape May County)

609-884-5404; capemaymac.org

Each year, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities presents the Designer Show House, where historic properties are transformed to reflect modern design. Past participants include the Carpenter Cottage, a former home for blacksmiths and light-house keepers, and the Memucan Hughes House.

EMLN PHYSICK ESTATE

1048 Washington Street

Cape May (Cape May County)

609-884-5404; capemaymac.org

For a taste of what it was like to live in this seaside hamlet more than a century ago, visit this gem of Victoriana in Cape May. As the town’s only Victorian house museum, the Emlen Physick Estate hosts tours and special events throughout the year.

HISTORIC INNS OF SPRING LAKE

Spring Lake (Monmouth County)

732-859-1465; historicinnsofspringlake.com

You won’t be wanting for curvy spires in Spring Lake: there are more than a dozen charming B&Bs dotting the coastline and inland areas of this sleepy, yet refined, shore town. The Grand Victorian on Ocean Avenue dates to 1883, while the Queen Anne-style Victoria House is set back on Monmouth Road.

INN OF CAPE MAY

7 Ocean Street

Cape May (Cape May County)

This vast Victorian landmark has been a beacon on

Cape May’s seashore for more than 100 years. The inn now boasts modern hotel amenities, but its Victorian charm is preserved for all.

QUEEN VICTORIA BED AND BREAKFAST

102 Ocean Street

Cape May (Cape May County)

609-884-8702; queenvictoria.com

This award-winning bed and breakfast has impeccable charm resonating through its two restored 1880s buildings. Lounge on the veranda overlooking the ocean, or spend time in the restored 1876 gambling room.

WASHINGTON INN

801 Washington Street

Cape May (Cape May County)

609-884-5697; washingtoninn.com

This former plantation home was built in 1840 and is now a premier dining destination and event facility in Cape May. The restaurant also boasts an expensive wine cellar and hosts tastings and classes regularly.

VINEYARDS

New Jersey’s wineries have gained growing recognition. Come taste what their grapes have to offer today.

LAURITA WINERY

35 Archertown Road

New Egypt (Ocean County)

609-758-8000; lauritawinery.com

Wines at Laurita are all about being food friendly and reasonably priced (under \$25). There are also tons of events at this spot, including horseback riding on the 250 acres it shares with the equestrian center next door.

CREAM RIDGE WINERY

145 Route 539

Cream Ridge (Monmouth County)

609-259-9797; creamridgewinery.com

This winery has won the Governor’s Cup for best wine four times and earned fourteen awards at the

2008 NJ Wine Competition. Tastings are offered every day, and there are tours most weekends.

RENAULT WINERY

72 North Breman Avenue

Egg Harbor City (Atlantic County)

609-925-2111

This place is more than a winery—it's a destination resort offering a hotel and an 18-hole, 7,200-yard golf course. Tours here include a visit to the Antique Glass Museum, which holds an impressive collection of champagne and wine glasses.

TOMASELLO WINERY

225 Whitehorse Pike

Hammonton (Atlantic County)

609-561-0567; tomasellowinery.com

This establishment took home the 2010 Winery of the Year award at the NJ Wine Competition. Founded in 1933, Tomasello produces wine from more than 30 different grape varieties on 70 acres. Newer varieties include Sangiovese and Shiraz.

VALENZANO VINEYARDS

1090 Route 206

Shamong (Burlington County)

609-268-6731; valenzanowine.com

This winery opened in 1996 and strives to make quality wine that everyone can enjoy. Events include the Wine Fest, which takes place in September and features wine, food and musical entertainment.

ALBA VINEYARD

269 Route 627

Finesville (Warren County)

908-995-7800; albavineyard.com

HERITAGE VINEYARDS

480 Mullica Hill Road

Mullica Hill (Gloucester County)

856-589-9344; heritagestationwine.com

CAPE MAY WINERY AND VINEYARD

711 Town Bank Road

Cape May (Cape May County)

609-884-1169; capemaywinery.com

UNIONVILLE VINEYARDS

9 Rocktown Road

Ringoes (Hunterdon County)

908-788-0400; unionvillevineyards.com

WINTER SPORTS

Don't frown when summer's over. Jersey has plenty of cold-weather activities to keep you busy from November to March. Skiing, tubing, ice fishing—you name it, our state's got it, so pack the hot chocolate!

MOUNTAIN CREEK RESORT

200 Route 94

Vernon (Sussex County)

973-827-2000; mountaincreek.com

Home to the All-Mountain Terrain Park, Mountain Creek will have you doing fakies in no time. If tricks aren't your thing, there's 167 skiable acres on four mountain peaks here, as well as nighttime skiing and boarding. Luxury lodging is available at the nearby Crystal Springs Resort.

HIGH POINT CROSS COUNTRY SKI CENTER

1480 Route 23

Sussex (Sussex County)

973-702-1222; xcskihighpoint.com

With tons of trails for all levels of cross-country skiers, there's something for everyone at this snowy spot at the state's northwestern tip. Flatter, easier trails are available for kids, handicapped visitors, or the visually impaired.

THE HIDDEN VALLEY CLUB

44 Breakneck Road

Vernon (Sussex County)

973-764-4200; hiddenvalleynj.com

This family-oriented mountain has several lesson options for kids and adults alike for skiing and snowboarding. There's also a racing program (one of the longest-running in the region) that follows the US Olympic team's methods; participants aren't required to competitively race, though.





CAMPGAW MOUNTAIN SKI AREA

200 Campgaw Road

Mahwah (Bergen County)

201-327-7800; skicampgaw.com

You can ski and snowboard here, but Campgaw's big attractions are its six 800-foot tubing runs. Organize a tubing birthday party for the kids, or try your (gloved) hand at re-creating Frosty at the mountain's snowman-building contest in January.

FLOYD HALL ARENA

One Hall Drive

Little Falls (Essex County)

973-746-7744; floydhallarena.com

This complex has two rinks that are open year-round for public skating, figure skating, and hockey. For New Jersey Devils hopefuls, the arena offers youth ice hockey camps all year for boys and girls.

ICE HOUSE

111 Midtown Bridge Approach

Hackensack (Bergen County)

201-487-8444; icehousenj.com

New Jersey's largest ice rink facility has four NHL-sized rinks for winter activities like hockey and skating. Designated Skate Jam nights recall the roller rinks of yore, with a DJ, laser lights, and a smoke machine. Figure skating greats like Oksana Baiul and Sasha Cohen have trained here.

WILLIAM G. MENNEN SPORTS ARENA

161 East Hanover Avenue

Morristown (Morris County)

973-326-7651; morrisparks.net/aspparks/mennenmain

This facility has three ice rinks for figure skating and hockey. Lessons and clinics in both sports are offered. It's also the new home for the NJ Revolution indoor football league.

ICE FISHING

Most state-owned lakes allow ice fishing, but it's best to check with each before embarking on a chilly adventure. Some key spots to check out are **Lake Hopatcong** (Sussex County); **Budd Lake** (Morris County); **Spruce Run** (Hunterdon County); and **Assumpink** (Monmouth County).

X-TRA INNINGS (Minor League Baseball)

With the Yankees to our north and the Phillies down south, it's easy to get caught up in all that major league action. But Jersey's got plenty of minor league teams that heat up summer nights—and for a lot less dough, too.

CAMDEN RIVERSHARKS

Campbell's Field

401 North Delaware Avenue

Camden (Camden County)

866-742-7579; riversharks.com

With a great view of the Philadelphia skyline, this stadium is a perfect place to take in a ball game on a warm summer night. The stadium opened in 2001 and seats 6,400 fans. Kids who can't sit still will enjoy the rock-climbing wall and inflatable bounce houses at the Nesquik Fun Zone.

LAKWOOD BLUECLAWS

FirstEnergy Park

2 Stadium Way

Lakewood (Ocean County)

732-901-7000; lakewoodblueclaws.com

After ten years at the Jersey shore, the Lakewood Blueclaws are still hitting it out of the park for baseball fans young and old. The team won the 2009 South Atlantic League Championship and hosts several fun, family-oriented events throughout the season. The Blueclaws have sent such stars as Ryan Howard and Cole Hamels to parent team the Philadelphia Phillies.

NEWARK BEARS

Bears & Eagles Riverfront Stadium

450 Broad Street

Newark (Essex County)

973-848-1000; newarkbears.com

Since 1917, the Bears have been a minor league mainstay. Formerly an affiliate of the New York Yankees, prestigious Bears alums include baseball greats Yogi Berra and Charlie Keller.



NEW JERSEY JACKALS

*Yogi Berra Stadium
Valley Road and Normal Avenue (Montclair State
University campus)
Little Falls (Essex County)
973-746-7434; jackals.com*

This stadium was built in 1998 as part of an initiative to provide a space for the university's sports teams. The Jackals have won three championship titles in six years here. The stadium sits alongside the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center, with its great collection of Yogi- and Yankee-related memorabilia.

SOMERSET PATRIOTS

*TD Bank Ballpark
1 Patriots Park
Bridgewater (Somerset County)
908-252-0700; somersetpatriots.com*

There's tons of fun to be had at the home of the Somerset Patriots. The 6,100-seat park features a picnic area and an executive party deck for group outings (in the off-season, it also hosts the New Jersey State Fair). Kids can sign up for the Sluggers Club and get exclusive merchandise.

SUSSEX SKYHAWKS

*Skylands Park
94 Championship Place
Augusta (Sussex County)
973-300-1000; sussexskyhawks.com*

Have a picnic catered in the pavilion as you enjoy a night of nine innings in the Skylands. Guests can also rent a private luxury suite for a night (\$495), which includes fifteen tickets and is air-conditioned and catered.

TRENTON THUNDER

*Waterfront Park
1 Thunder Road
Trenton (Mercer County)
609-394-3300; trentonthunder.com*

As the Class AA-affiliate of the New York Yankees, Trenton Thunder games are a good way to get New York action right here in the Garden State. The team got started in 1994 and has lots of activities for the whole family, including Boomer's Kids Club.

YUMMIES

Call your dentist, because you may get a cavity just reading about some of these tasty New Jersey confectioners. From delicious salt-water taffy at the Shore to perfectly crunchy peanut brittle, there's something to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth.

THE BLACK RIVER CANDY SHOPPE

*44 Main Street
Chester (Morris County)
908-879-1233; blackrivercandyshoppe.com*

This old-time candy shop stocks new and old favorites, including a large selection of Jelly Belly beans and Bonomo Turkish Taffy. People will love browsing through the shop's harder-to-find candies like Abba Zaba bars and Razzles.

CANDYLAND

*258 Second Street
Lakewood (Ocean County)
732-367-2263; candylandnj.com*

For all your Kosher candy needs, Candyland is the place to go for gift baskets, bulk candies, and dried fruits. You can find a gift for almost any occasion here, from corporate baskets to presents for baby showers or housewarming parties.

FRALINGER'S

*1325 Boardwalk
Atlantic City (Atlantic County)
609-345-2177; fralingers.com*

Legend has it that salt water taffy was born when a spray of ocean water dampened a merchant's taffy stock at his stand on the Boardwalk in the late 1800s. However the sticky treat really came about, Fralinger's has served it at the Shore since that time. It's still a perennial favorite.

FUDGE KITCHEN

*513 Washington Street
Cape May (Cape May County)
609-884-2834; fudgekitchens.com*

Pick from 21 flavors of fudge at this sweet confectionery. The fudge is hand-whipped in copper kettles using pure cane sugar and fresh cream. The shop also has assorted candies, licorice, and fruit slices.

OLD MONMOUTH CANDIES

627 Park Avenue

Freehold (Monmouth County)

732-462-1311; oldmonmouthcandies.com

Known for its sweet, salty, and crunchy peanut brittle, this candy shop has churned out the nutty confection and other candies since 1939. The operation has undergone some changes since then, and lately it has gone green, boasting 265 solar panels.

SHRIVER'S

Nineth Street and the Boardwalk

Ocean City (Cape May County)

609-339-0100; shrovers.com

Generations of candy makers have supplied the Jersey Shore with sticky, chewy, and flavorful salt-water taffy. Choose from mint, licorice, molasses, sour apple, tangerine, and dozens of other flavors.

ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

New Jersey's zoos and aquariums are home to thousands of species, including some that are native to our state. These spots aren't just for show, either. Each one has special events and programs for kids and adults alike to enjoy.

ATLANTIC CITY AQUARIUM

800 North New Hampshire Avenue

Atlantic City (Atlantic County)

609-348-2880; oceanlifecenter.com

Visit the Indo-Pacific, Mid-Atlantic, and the Amazon, all in one trip. Watch a diver feed different species of ocean life, including cownose stingrays. Moon jellies, loggerhead sea turtles, and a shark-and-ray touch tank are just some of the exhibits you'll find here.

CAMDEN ADVENTURE AQUARIUM

1 Riverside Drive

Camden (Camden County)

856-283-0545; adventureaquarium.com

A 17,000-gallon tank is home to more than 20 African penguins at this popular destination. You can also interact with and touch several species here,

including invertebrates from the Pacific Northwest and smooth dogfish sharks.

CAPE MAY COUNTY ZOO

707 Route 9 North

Cape May Court House (Cape May County)

609-465-5271; co.cape-may.nj.us

This free zoo, opened in 1978, covers 85 acres in southern Jersey. Come visit Rocky and Amur, the zoo's two tigers, as well as snow leopards, bongos, kookaburras, and several species of monkeys.

JENKINSON'S AQUARIUM

300 Ocean Avenue

Point Pleasant Beach (Ocean County)

732-892-0600; jenkinsons.com/aquarium

With events like Talk Like a Pirate Day, the South African Penguin Festival, and Storytime on the Beach, there's always something to do at this aquarium on the Point Pleasant boardwalk. Stop by to see penguins, seals, and alligators get their meals from aquarium staff.

TURTLE BACK ZOO

560 Northfield Avenue

West Orange (Essex County)

973-731-5800; turtlebackzoo.com

Besides checking out Cookies and Cream, two of the zoo's newest penguins, take a ride on the Endangered Species carousel or visit the Wild New Jersey exhibit, which features native New Jersey animals like the bobcat, porcupine, and bald eagle.

VAN SAUN PARK ZOO

216 Forest Avenue

Paramus (Bergen County)

201-262-3771; co.bergen.nj.us/bcparks/zoo

With events like Boo Zoo, Sheep Shearing, and Party for the Planet, there's never a shortage of things to do at this county zoo. There are programs for kids and teens to learn about wildlife, like Zoo Babies and a horseshoe crab census, which takes place each spring.