



## **New Jersey Destination Overview**

Visitors to New Jersey may be most familiar with its 130 miles of spectacular coastline, but the Garden State has much more to offer beyond its beautiful beaches and boardwalks. A four-season destination, New Jersey offers a wide variety of experiences that include outdoor adventure, renowned culinary offerings, a rich history, and a strong arts and cultural scene. Home to the nation's first beach resorts and the birthplace of major inventions, New Jersey offers a picturesque escape and exciting opportunities for visitors from near and far.

### **FOOD/DRINK**

Aptly known as the Garden State, New Jersey is home to 806,000 acres of farmland, vineyards and orchards. Farming is tied to the state's beginning and agriculture continues to be one of the state's biggest industries. New Jersey has always had a reputation for growing some of the best produce, which was first noted by the likes of Benjamin Franklin, and is one of the reasons why it's a great destination for foodies seeking true farm-to-table dining. New Jersey also has thriving viticultural regions, with over 50 licensed wineries producing award-winning varietals that continue to gain recognition from critics. This artisanal spirit extends to the state's burgeoning beer scene, with craft breweries offering visitors a taste of local flavor.

### **NATURE**

Despite its connectivity to many urban centers, New Jersey's accessible nature provides opportunities to get outdoors all year long. The state is home to 36 state parks and 11 state forests with a wide network of hiking trails revealing picturesque mountains, waterfalls and other natural treasures. In the winter, the state's nearby ski and snow-sport areas deliver outdoor adventure and mountain getaways, with Mountain Creek located fewer than 50 miles from the George Washington Bridge. In the summer, opportunities to soak up the sun are not limited to the shore, with the state also offering lakes and rivers perfect for outdoor recreation.

### **CULTURE**

Innovation and invention have long been part of the state's history. Some of the country's greatest minds have called New Jersey home, including Thomas Edison, who began his legacy as the 'Wizard of Menlo Park.' Today visitors can check out educational resources like the Thomas A. Edison Memorial Museum and the Liberty Science Center. New Jersey's many museums span a range of topics, including the Aviation Hall of Fame, Heritage Glass Museum and the Princeton University Art Museum, which houses one of the largest academic collections in the country with over 72,000 works of art.

The state also played a crucial role in The American Revolution, with several pivotal battles taking place within its borders. Sites such as the 33-acre Fort Lee Historic Park and Visitor Center in Fort Lee, Monmouth Battlefield State Park in Manalapan, and the Hancock House in Hancock's Bridge, each provide an interactive glimpse into the state's revolutionary history.

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