Celebrate New Jersey’s Black Heritage in Central New Jersey

For four centuries, the Black community in New Jersey has been shaping our history and culture. Today, we can cherish and learn from some of our nation’s most remarkable pioneers by visiting destinations honoring our unique Black heritage. Explore this intriguing theme in locations all over the state, including at the Central New Jersey sites featured below.

**DAY 1**

**Red Bank and Middletown Legacies**

Journey to Red Bank, on the Navesink River and near the Atlantic Ocean, which charms with a rich history and lively music and arts scene, plus eclectic cuisine and shopping.

Catch a show at the **Count Basie Center for the Arts**, named for the renowned musician, composer and bandleader who played here and was born only blocks away.

At the **T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center**, experience the legacy of a man born into slavery who became a leading Black journalist, civil rights champion and more.

Tour **Moses D. Heath Farm** (Middletown)—founded by Clinton Pearson Heath, a formerly enslaved man—for exhibits like a children’s garden, blacksmith shop, sugar cane mill and honey bee colony.
DAY 2

New Brunswick Art and Culture

Among its highlights, vibrant New Brunswick promises some of New Jersey’s finest art and culture, such as superb performance venues, museums and restaurants. Check out calendars, snap up your tickets, and get ready to hit the town!

You’ll find illustrious locales including the Crossroads Theatre Company. Committed to literary works with positive imaging of Black life, history and culture, this Tony Award–winning treasure stages premier productions from throughout the African Diaspora.

Cap an unforgettable day by dining at Delta’s, a beloved spot dishing up delectable Southern cuisine, creative cocktails and live music in a soul-livening atmosphere.

DAY 3

Star Power in Somerville and Scotch Plains

Amid Victorian charm and Downtown Somerville, discover where iconic actor and singer Paul Robeson grew up. He gained fame for Show Boat and as an athlete, lawyer, scholar and civil rights activist.

Stops include St. Thomas AME Zion Church, an Underground Railroad site where Robeson’s father, a formerly enslaved man, preached. (Full details here.)

Play the public, 9-hole golf course or 18-hole mini golf course at Scotch Hills Country Club (Scotch Plains). Once called Shady Rest, the first Black-owned golf and country club in the US and the first with a Black membership, luminaries like Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday met here.

There’s Even More to See and Do

Extend your stay and add these on:

Mix in Appealing Options

Enrich your journey, and support Black-owned businesses at the same time. Consider chocolate making and tasting at Carol’s Creative Chocolatez and boutique shopping at Evolve Clothing Gallery (Somerville), savoring LoveLee Wine and the 2 Much Sauce Food Truck (Plainfield, near Scotch Plains), and delving into the offerings and events of Above Art Studios (New Brunswick).

Get Info

Find Full Details on Central NJ’s Black Heritage Stops:
VisitNJ.org/Black-Heritage-Central-New-Jersey

Access All 4 Black Heritage Regions and Itineraries:
VisitNJ.org/Black-Heritage

Travel & Tourism Resources:
VisitNJ.org

Explore NJ

Year-round, New Jersey offers an exciting array of attractions, outdoor adventures, accommodations, cuisine and events, all within easy access to New York City and Philadelphia. Visitors enjoy 130 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline, state and national parks, American Revolution sites, rich arts and culture and 0% sales tax on clothing and footwear—and that’s just the beginning!