

YOUR TRAVEL GUIDE TO

Transportation: Bike riding is the preferred method of transportation since the town is over-crowded with cars. Not much parking anywhere!



Rio Grande is great for antiquing and staying at cheaper motels when everything is sold in Cape May. It's also easy to get into Cape May through route 9, no tolls & less traffic.



Wildwood, NJ: If you stay in Cape May, you'll probably want to go to Wildwood at some point. It's 35 minutes away and really the hallmark of the jersey shore. It consists of three large piers of carnival style rides and three ferris wheels. Take the Tram Car throughout the amusement park. Round trip takes about an hour.



Mini Golf on Perry Street: A family-friendly activity and easily located everywhere. It's also got a cafe to get food and super clothes to lots of other small bistros. Definitely bike ride to this place, the parking is always super tight.



Key West Tacos: After mini-golf or checking out the shopping, the tacos here are basic and cheap. <http://keywesttacos.com/gallery.html>



The Westside Market: Grab a hoagie or all the fixings for it. It's a good spot for Saturday afternoons. https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g1867426-d393880-Reviews-Westside_Market-West_Cape_May_Cape_May_County_New_Jersey.html



Antiquing: There's nothing but antiquing in Cape May if you haven't been reading this guide. Literally, people have yard sales on their front lawns daily throughout the summer season. Attic Treasures on sunset blvd and Atlantic is our go-to. It's a family-owned business run by two sisters and has so many knick-knacks, big and small! There's also a bunch of ornate gift shops at the Washington Sq. Mall.



Astrology & Card Readings the Marina: If you're into looking for crystals and other accessories, stop here and say hi!



The Cafe at the Lobster House: This full-service restaurant on the marina greets you as soon as you arrive into Cape May from Route 0. They have a bunch of different bars and seating areas. The dock is good to sit & eat out on during the day. There are lots of boats and people watching. At night and on the weekends, there's live music.



Coast Guard Tours: Cape May is home to the Coast Guard and its Training Camps. Later this year, tourists will be able to view the cutter named after Angela McShaun, the first African American woman to achieve the rank of master chief in the Coast Guard. You can arrange a tour through the Public Affairs office in Cape May. In April, all the cutters are accessible during the Coast Guard Community weekend.



Whitesborom, NJ: It's the town located adjacent from Rio Grande. This town was founded by Hon. George Henry White, a black businessman and North Carolina's 2nd congressional district between 1897 and 1901. After slavery was abolished, White co-founded Whitesboro as a planned township from blacks transitioning out of slavery were welcomed to establish roots. Check out the Whitesboro Historical Foundation Museum to view artifacts about one of the first all-black towns in the US during the Reconstruction Era. Email: whitesborofoundationmuseum@gmail.com to schedule your visit.



Harriet Tubman Legacy Tours, Reenactment and Museum: Cape May was one of the most popular stops during the time of the Underground Railroad. Many free black families who were already living in Cape May assisted with the logistics of the underground railroad. There are Harriet Tubman reenactments in Cape May in August.. The freedom fighter made several stops here to work and save money because Cape May was known as the place for free Blacks. By 2020, the historic Macedonia Baptist Church in Cape May will be renovated into a museum in memory of the legendary activist. For more info go to: <https://www.capemaymac.org/>

CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY

Sunset beach - This free beach is located at the southern most part of the town, right on the peninsula. It's near the lighthouse. Just drive, walk or bike ride south on Sunset Blvd. People come here to enjoy a calm beach setting and view the SS Altantus concrete ship that sank during WWI. This piece of history has become apart of Sunset beach. Each year the ship sinks deeper into the ocean. People just hang out at the beach. There's no swimming since lifeguards aren't on duty. So it's at your own risk. Bring a float.

 **Beaches on Ocean Drive.** It's all about the location and convenience. The best parking during peak hours is around Poverty Beach. This is the end of Ocean Drive. It was known as the beach poor people went to in the early 1900s, it was also free back then. Today, the beach is not free and also part of the entire Beach drive because they use the same beach tags. It's \$6 per person. The pros of beaching here are that it's the end of the boardwalk and has more free parking options during the day. At the opposite end of Ocean Drive, Violet Summer recommends going to the "beach on grant ave." It's the beach locals go. <https://www.google.com/maps/@38.9302179,-74.9267084,3a,31.9y,137.07h,90.78t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sTnn2guWu-RwdcuVgOQTnVw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656>

 **Tour on Franklin Street:** There are African American walking tours that take place in the downtown area of Cape May every Saturday morning throughout the summer months. The group gathers on 114 Franklin Street. According to the census, black people were once 30 percent of the population.

Legend of the Underground Railroad in Cape May

Cape May was founded by a Dutch settler in the early 1600s, the town was known as Marina base for imports and exports. It is a town on the New Jersey peninsula where the Delaware River meets the Atlantic ocean. Culturally, because of the town's close proximity to Philadelphia, many saliers and affluent families made Cape May their beach home destination. Over the centuries, the beach town has always claimed their abolitionist roots and welcomed people from all backgrounds. Of course, it wasn't as developed and a tourist attraction as it is today. There were farming and farm based businesses, as well as equal parts Victorian modeled homes, as the town started to emulate high society. Beyond the Victorian architecture, there's a long history of African Americans before the impact of the so-called government "urban renewal" projects that took shape and blurred out the true black history of the land. Back then in around the 19th an early 20th century, blacks were more than 30 percent of the population. Blacks were able to thrive, many early beginnings of "color" society came from free blacks marrying into the local native American communities. Fast forward a few centuries, Blacks living in the South started to rebel against slavert and escape plantations. The Civil War was definitely coming. One of these brave people was named Harriet Tubman, who was born in Dorchester, Maryland. Sick of getting beaten by a disgusting slave master, Tubman started having premonitions about her freedom journey from God. In 1849, Tubman escaped to Philadelphia. It was said that she completed over 13 roundtrips back to her hometown to help free her people. She became the black female Moses, using the north star to guide her and the people who were brave enough to freedom. Of course she made friends along the way. Some in Cape May, as proof from the historic Underground Railroad landmark and reenactments that take place every year. Church leaders like Edward Turner and other descendendants of Violet Summer were her allies. They helped her and the people who were courageous enough to go on these missions in the dead of night. It was said that Tubman made Cape May her home during her "rest" periods, where she could work and save up for her next fugitive missions. This is why Violet Summer loves Cape May. Visit with your friends and family to keep her spirit alive.

Hon. George H. Whiteman: He was a Congressman who left North Carolina to start a black community called Whitesboro, the town over from Cape May for people/natives of North Carolina. He wrote letters about the "purity in the ballot" and other voting and political ideas that still hold true today. At the end of the Reconstruction Era, Whiteman was like the last of the Mohicans to write these famous letters and continue to help black people migrant to a better town up north. After 1910, the beginning of segregation and infamous Jim Crow South made it harder for blacks to advance in business and continue to build real estate.