

# Delaware Bayshore Byway

*Shaped by Water and History*



6 Days/5 Nights, Optional Day 7  
Gateway City: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



When one thinks Delaware, one thinks Wilmington, Dover, and a collection of really wonderful historic towns. Yet, there's a 100-mile route through a unique landscape that will change your perception of the state. It is rural, meandering through marshlands, past huge farms and bountiful agricultural areas, with vistas overlooking shimmering waterways with patches of grass waving in the wind. And then every so often, you can leave the road to visit one of those wonderful historic towns on your way south through the state. This is where you'll find incredibly well-preserved historic homes, parks, gardens, quaint shops, and places to eat. The whole experience is a contrast between the quiet, unpopulated wild side of Delaware to the towns filled with people and attractions. In some places in the First State, life has changed little in the past 300 years. Along the shore, the waves gently lap at your feet. In others, historic homes stand majestically by, ready to be explored and their story heard, built by sea captains, where crabbing is a way of life, birding a daily activity, hiking comes naturally, and the water beckons you to take a dip. As you flow back and forth between this bounty of nature and history, feel the wind in your hair and breathe the sweet scent of saltwater. Leave the world behind and savor every quiet minute enjoying nature and man's beautiful contributions to the region.



### **Touring the Byway**

We recommend starting your journey in Philadelphia and make your way to New Castle, a city settled in 1651, where you can still find hundreds-year-old houses on every corner of the historic streets. Begin exploring at the First State Welcome Center and New Castle County Courthouse, one of the oldest surviving courthouses in the United States dating from 1732, both a part of the First State Heritage Park. Next up, the New Castle Visitor Center at the Historic Society, that is the gateway to tour the Amstel House Museum, and the Dutch House Museum, which showcasing Dutch Colonial antiques and artifacts that reflect the traditions and lifestyle in early America. Spend your first evening relaxing in a quaint bed and breakfast in the historic city center.

As you begin your drive along the Bayshore Scenic Byway on Day Two, after a stop at the Read House and Gardens, the 14,000 square foot home of George Read II, son of one of Delaware's signers of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution, head south to Delaware City, on DE-9 to explore Fort Delaware, located on Pea Patch Island, Fort DuPont State Park, the African Union Church Cemetery, and Port Penn Interpretive Center, where displays explain the folklife of the historic wetland communities along Delaware's coastline. When you reach the Augustine Wildlife Area, grab your binoculars to try to spot as many different species of waterfowl as you can. In the evening, curl up in a historic bed and breakfast in Odessa.



On Day Three, begin your day by stepping back in time in Odessa, where you can experience 18th-and 19th-century domestic life, economics, and politics, on tours of the 1770 Collins-Sharp House, the 1772 Corbit-Sharp House, and the 1780 Pump House, which once served as the town jail. You'll want to, of course, have lunch at Cantwell's Tavern. Back on the route, pause for some serious Bayshore breezes at the Delaware Blackbird Creek Reserve and Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area near Townsend, before reaching Woodland Beach Wildlife Area. From there, you'll pass through Leipsic and Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, two natural and protected areas that exemplify Delaware's coastal landscape. Spend the evening in a charming historic inn in Dover.

Today, on Day Four, you'll be exploring Dover, starting at the First State National Historical Park Welcome Center for exhibits on Delaware history and a peek into the Delaware Public Archives, plus The Green, a public square that has been the state's political center for centuries. Outside the city, visit the John Dickinson Plantation, another location of First State National Historical Park, to hear the stories of the enslaved people who lived, worked, and died on the plantation. After exploring the Ted Harvey Wildlife Area, wrap back around to Dover to stay another night.

The next day, Day Five, you'll be headed for Magnolia, where you can drive by the John Lindale House, being restored, and visit the **Bowers Beach Museum** before reaching Frederica, with over 100 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places including Trinity Methodist Church, the Hathorn House, and the John Dill Store. Here the Milford Neck Wildlife Area and the Mispillion Marine Reserve await, plus Barrett's Chapel, Museum and Cemetery, plus Killens Pond State Park. When you reach Milford, a river town with a vibrant downtown that was once home to a once-flourishing shipbuilding industry, you can tour the Parson Thorne Museum and enjoy the Mispillion Rierwalk before staying in Milford for the evening.

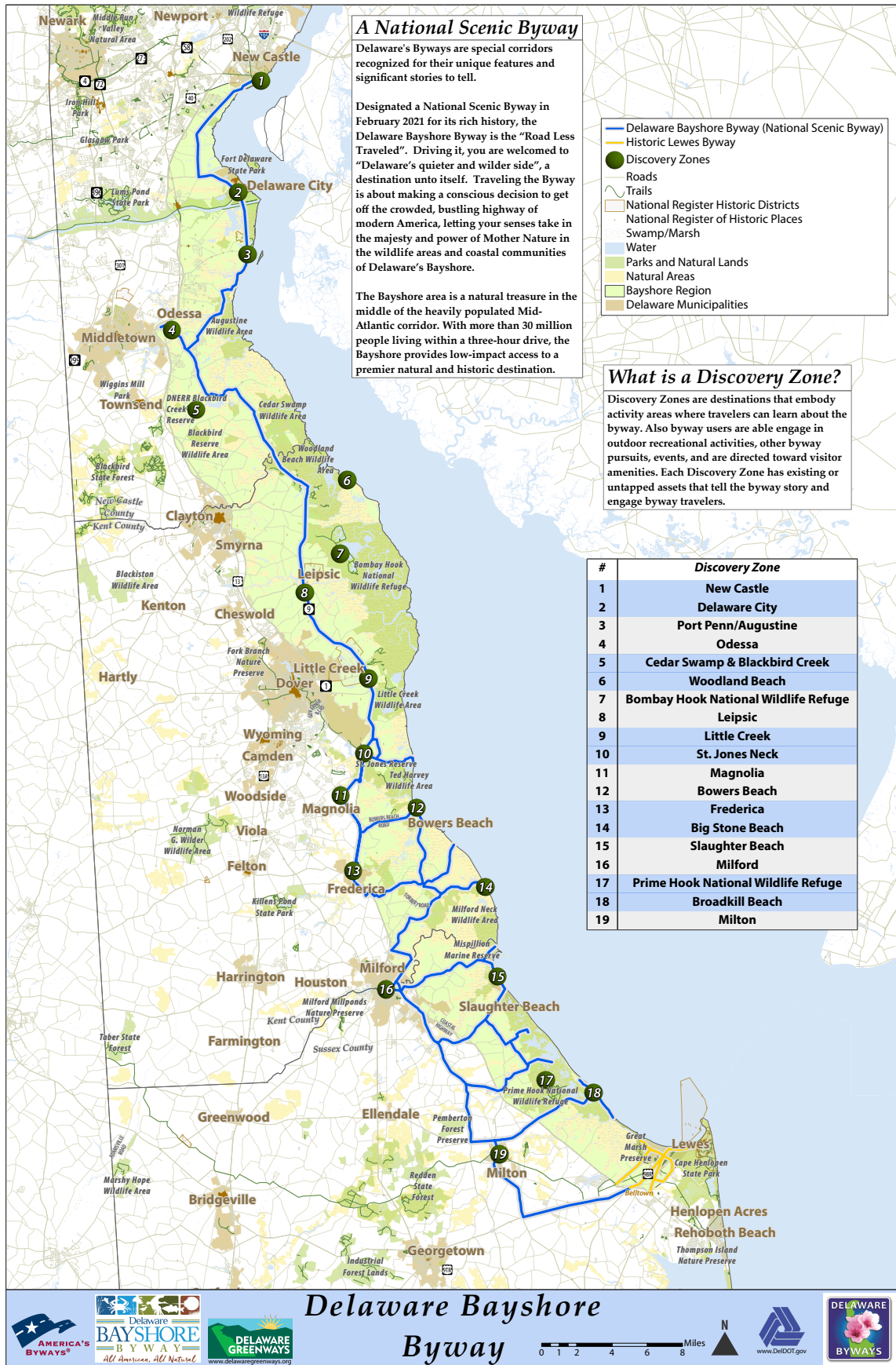


Before leaving Milford on Day Six, learn about Milford's history from the 1700's through its shipbuilding years to the present day at the Milford Museum, then head for Slaters Beach to savor over 10,000 acres of ponds, wooded swamps, grasslands, and salt and freshwater marshes at the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Along with Fowler Beach, Broadkill Beach, and Slaughter Beach, this protected area provides sanctuary to a myriad of wildlife species. From there, it's on to Pemberton Forest Reserve and the Marvel Southmarsh Preserve, before reaching Milton, Home of the Great Marsh Reserve and the Milton Historical Society. Plan to stay in historic Lewes for the evening.

Once in Lewes, spend an optional day exploring this very historic city with it's own Historic Lewes Byway if you choose.

From there, we wish you a safe passage if you're continuing on another Delaware Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.





## DAY ONE



### **Philadelphia**

Walking the streets of this very historic and well preserved city, it is hard to imagine that once at the water's edge, women “had lighted their fires on the bare earth and slung their kettle between two poles on a stick traverse,” outside of the caves they lived in. It's even harder to imagine that the part of the city laid out by William Penn, now only encompasses a few blocks amidst the thriving metropolis. It must have been rousing when the delegates and townspeople cheered as the Declaration of Independence was read and the Liberty Bell rang out. If you have not previously visited Philadelphia, be sure to tour Independence National Historical Park and the world-renowned Philadelphia Museum of Art, with lunch at the Reading Terminal. It's a very short distance from Philly to New Castle, DE.





## **New Castle**

The first capital city of Delaware was originally named Fort Casimir by Peter Stuyvesant, the Dutch governor who was sent to oversee river traffic in 1651. William Penn arrived here in 1682 and claimed the New Castle area for Pennsylvania. Residents became so dissatisfied with Penn's rule, he granted them a separate legislature in 1704, making New Castle the colonial capitol of Delaware. The town thrived as a shipping point in the 1700's and early 1800's, while the courts and general assembly also attracted various judges, lawyers and government officials who built handsome houses. The Great Fire of 1824 claimed many of the inns and warehouses located on The Strand, yet spared the many grand houses that still populate the streets.

## **First State National Historical Park and Welcome Center**

The main location of First State National Historical Park tells the unique story of the early settlement of the Delaware Valley by the Dutch, Swedes, Finns, and English. This particular part of the multi-unit First State National Historical Park in Delaware is located in the New Castle Court House Museum, built in 1732 over the remains of a 1660s courthouse. It is one of the oldest surviving courthouses in the United States. The cupola was designated as the center of a 12-mile circular boundary, creating Delaware's unique curved northern border. The Court House also served as Delaware's first capital building and meeting place for the colonial and State's Assembly. On June 15, 1776, the legislature passed a resolution to separate from Pennsylvania and Great Britain, creating the State of Delaware. 211 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720, 302-323-4453 Th-Sun 10AM-2:30 PM



## **New Castle Historic Society Visitor Center**

The New Castle Historic Society Visitor Center at the Arsenal is the gateway to explore the Amstel House Museum and the Dutch House Museum, both Historical properties.

30 Market Street, New Castle, DE 19720, Visitor Center W-Sat 9:30AM-4:30PM, Sun 11:30Am-4:30PM

House Museum tours W-Sat 10AM-4PM, Sun Noon-4PM

## **Amstel House Museum**

Built in 1738, the Amstel House is among New Castle's few surviving early colonial buildings. Referred to by some as the “First Grand Mansion of Delaware,” it has original woodwork, fine architectural details, and an open hearth. Its early fanlight and central hallway were among the first uses of these features in town. The historic residence is now filled with decorative arts, textiles, furniture, ceramics, metals, photographs, works-on-paper, books, manuscripts, and documents, spanning over 300 years of local and national history.

## **Dutch House Museum**

The Dutch House dates back to the seafaring days of the late 17th century when New Castle was a young port. In addition to the excellent collection of Dutch furniture used to furnish the house, there are early pewter pieces, a kas- an unusual cupboard, spoon rack, and 1714 Bible, all collected by early 20th century preservationist, Louise Du Pont Crowninshield. The simplicity of the house contrasts sharply with the grander and larger buildings of New Castle's later days.





### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Terry House Bed & Breakfast**, 130 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720, 302-322-2505  
The Terry House is an impressive Federal townhouse built in 1860, with spacious rooms, private baths, queen size beds, and modern amenities.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**The Legend Restaurant & Bakery**, 201 North DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720, 302-322-6222, American food

**Jessop's Tavern**, 114 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720, 302-322-6111 Colonial dining experience near the Terry House

## DAY TWO



### **Read House and Gardens**

Son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, Delaware Governor, Chief Justice, and U.S. Senator from Delaware, George Read was barely 32 when he set out to build a grand mansion with the expectation that he would become an important statesman like his father. He did serve as US attorney from Delaware, but never gained political traction, but he did create a showpiece mansion, that some say may even be the best surviving example of domestic architecture from Philadelphia's grand federal period. It was built mostly by Philadelphia craftsmen, and many of the materials came from there too.

42 The Strand, New Castle, DE 19720, 302-322-8411, Th-Sun 11AM-4PM

## **Delaware City**

Delaware City traces its origins to 1801 when a New Jersey family purchased Newbold's Landing, which they hoped would grow to rival Philadelphia. More than 250 historic structures that date back to the early days, help tell the story of the town.

## **Fort Delaware/Pea Patch Island**

Situated on Pea Patch Island, Fort Delaware was originally built to protect Wilmington and Philadelphia from attack, and ended up serving as a Civil War prison camp for Confederate soldiers, due to its relative isolation. Today, interpreters take you back to the summer of 1864 -- where you can tour the parade ground, officers' quarters, barracks, kitchen, blacksmith shop and ordnance room, hear stories of great escapes, and watch as the Fort's Columbia cannon fires a live gunpowder charge. Engage with these historians dressed in period clothing, and hear stories of those who lived at the fort in 1864. The fort is well-known for “ghostly” activity, having been featured on Ghost Hunters. Paranormal tours are offered in the fall.

45 Clinton Street, Delaware City, DE 19706, 302-834-7941, W-Sun  
10AM-4:30PM



### **Fort DuPont State Park**

Named for a Civil War U.S. Naval hero, Fort DuPont, built to protect Wilmington and Philadelphia from enemy ships, became a training base when the weaponry became obsolete. Today, the Riverview Trail is a prime spot to watch birds fly between Pea Patch Island and the mainland. You can also see ospreys dive for fish in the river during the summer months, a variety of waterfowl in winter, and bald eagles year-round. Route 9 just south of Delaware City. M-F 8AM-4PM

### **African Union Church Cemetery**

In 1835, five trustees of the African Union Church from Polktown, one of the earliest African American settlements still in existence, purchased this half acre of land for \$80, to establish a church and cemetery. Five veterans of Delaware's United States Colored Troops, identified by the government issued headstones marking these graves are interred here. Located on Delaware City Branch Creek Trail, Delaware City, DE



## **Port Penn**

Founded in 1763, by the early 1800s, Port Penn had become an important shipping point for agricultural products, but the area revitalized as a summer destination when the canal and railroad passed them by. Even though the population declined a number of significant historic buildings remained, that have been named to the National Register of Historic Places.



## **Port Penn Interpretive Center**

The Port Penn Interpretive Center offers displays and programs that explain the folklife of the historic wetland communities along the Delaware shore.

Five Port Penn Road, Middletown, DE 19709, 302-834-7941



### **Augustine Wildlife Area**

Take the Augustine Wildlife Trail for great birdwatching, especially when birds are plentiful during migratory periods. You can also hike the Port Penn Trail, a one-mile path located across the street from the Port Penn Interpretive Center, that snakes between a tidal marsh and the Delaware River. Liberty Street and Route 9, just north of West Market Street, Port Penn, 302-834-8433



### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Augustine Inn Seafood and Chop House**, 1919 St, Augustine Road, Middletown, DE 19709, 302-464-1106



## **Odessa**

This impeccably preserved town was settled by the Dutch in 1662, along a Native American trail that was the shortest distance between the Delaware River and the Chesapeake Bay. Two years later, it fell to the British. By the 1730s, Odessa was fully developed, playing a role as a key shipping point for over a century, until the railroad was laid in Middletown instead of here. That promoted a change of name from Cantwell's Bridge to Odessa. Today, Odessa is filled with tree-lined streets surrounding beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century homes.



**Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Miller-Dunham House Bed and Breakfast**, 207 High Street, Odessa, DE 19730, 302-378-0459 Stay in the heart of historic Odessa.

**Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Cantwell's Tavern**, 109 Main Street, Odessa, DE 19730, 302-376-0600

Purposefully built in the finest part of Odessa, Cantwell's Bridge Hotel and Tavern was constructed in 1822, holding court for the next 100 years. Today, the Brick Hotel has been fully restored, and opened its doors as a full service restaurant modeled on an early 19th-century style tavern.

## DAY THREE

### **Odessa Foundation Historic Homes**

Tour an enclave of beautifully detailed and preserved 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century structures including the 1774 Corbit-Sharp House, a handsome example of the Philadelphia-Georgian style. The 1769 Wilson-Warner House, the 1700 Collins-Sharp House, and the 1853 former Odessa Bank, that is now the Visitors Center of the Historic Odessa Foundation are also in the collection. Exhibits within the buildings feature over 4,500 decorative arts pieces from 1760-1850. Many pieces of the original family furniture, made by prominent Delaware 18<sup>th</sup> century cabinet makers are complemented with paintings, prints, textiles, silver, and pewter pieces, plus maps and photographs. The property remained in the Corbit family until 1938, when H. Rodney Sharp acquired it. Sharp restored the house as well as several other historically significant buildings in the town and is generally considered responsible for the first efforts at historic preservation in Odessa. 201 Main Street, Odessa, DE 19730, 302-378-4119 Call for tour information.



## **The Pump House**

William Corbit, the patriarch of the family who owned these properties, was the town's leading citizen, who operated a tannery on the Appoquinimink Creek. Corbit built the Pump House in 1780 as housing for his tannery employees. This type of row construction was typical of Philadelphia and larger cities of the period and represented solidly built middle-class housing. It is reputed that south side of the Pump House served as the town jail. An offending unruly rowdy from the tavern across the street or perhaps a fugitive slave might have spent the night locked up there. The jail room has a heavy door and a sunken post in the floor possibly used to attach the manacles of a prisoner.



### **Blackbird Creek Reserve**

The 400 acre Blackbird Creek Reserve hosts several miles of trails running through uplands, along marshland and restoration demonstration areas reading for hiking, birding and wildlife photography. There is also a canoe/kayak launch for public creek access. 801 Blackbird Landing Road, Townsend, DE 302-378-5734

### **Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area**

In the remote beauty of the Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area, the fact that phone and GPS signals are spotty, does not take away from the beautiful natural area, on the site of a beach resort. Collins Beach was developed along the Delaware River in the 1800, along with the Hygenia House Hotel, a pier for a steamboat, restaurant, dance hall, merry-go-round, and bath houses.

### **Woodland Beach Wildlife Area**

Over 6,000 acres of tidal marsh, forest, and agricultural fields reserved for wildlife management.

Smyrna, DE 19977, 302-284-1077



## **Leipsic**

Once home to a thriving farming, trapping and oystering community, Leipsic has transformed into a very in demand spot for quiet waterside living.

## **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge**

Bombay Hook is part of a chain of refuges that extend from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico to provide breeding grounds and refuge for migrating birds. It has been named a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, and a nationally recognized birding spot designated a Globally Important Bird Area.

2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977 302-653-9345





## **Dover**

Few know that this area, once known as the “Lower Counties on the Delaware” was under the control of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, when Dover was established as the courthouse of Kent County in 1683. The city was laid out in 1717, and the Delaware State Capital moved here in 1777, to place it in a central location. The Green, Dover’s center square, was the location of rallies, troop reviews, and other patriotic events during the American Revolution, and today, is still the heart of the historic district and the location of the Delaware Supreme Court and the Kent County Courthouse.





### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**State Street Inn**, 228 North State Street, Dover, DE 19901, 302-734-2294

Relax and enjoy the comforts of a Bed and Breakfast located in a unique home in the Victorian Dover Historic District. Full breakfast each morning.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Grey Fox Grille and Public House**, 140 South State Street, Dover, DE 19901,

302-734-1234, All local ingredients, cut steaks and salmon in house, dinner, drinks and brunch.

**Frazier's**, 9 East Lookerman Street, Dover, DE 19901, 302-741-2420, American home cooking.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Delaware Shoppes**, 325 South State Street, Dover, DE 19901, 302-674-1787, Delaware themed gifts, art and more.

## DAY FOUR

### **First State Heritage Park**

The centrally located portion of First State Heritage Park in Delaware, The Green, was laid out by William Penn in the center of Dover, to serve as a gathering place for the growing town. Now part of the First State National Historical Park, it was here that Delaware voted to ratify the U.S. Constitution – making it “The First State.” Surrounded by dignified government buildings and stately homes, the very early John Bell House, the oldest wood framed structure in Dover, dates from a much earlier time. This fine example of early Chesapeake architecture was actually constructed as a workshop and tavern, one of only a handful still surviving in the United States. Later serving as a post office, print shop, lawyers’ offices, and private residence, the John Bell House is now the interpretive center of this portion of First State Heritage Park.

43 The Green, Dover, DE 19901, 302-739-9194 M-Sat 9AM-4:30PM



## **Old State House**

The 1787 Old State House was the first permanent capitol building in Delaware. The Georgian-style structure, originally home to both state and Kent County governments, has an 18th century style courtroom on the first floor and chambers on the second. Dramatic details include a gilt sunflower ceiling sham and grand, dual stairways. After having undergone many changes over the years, in 1976, the Old State House was restored to its original 18th century appearance as part of Delaware's bicentennial celebration commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

25 The Green, Dover, DE 19901, 302-744, 5054, W-Sat 10AM-4:30PM



## **Little Creek Wildlife Area**

Over 4,700 acres of natural habitat including tidal marsh and agricultural fields await, viewed from a boardwalk and tower for birding and wildlife photography opportunities. 3010 Bayside Drive, Dover DE 19901, 302-739-9910 Sunrise to Sunset

## **John Dickinson Plantation**

John Dickinson, born on his family’s plantation on Jones Neck, was known as the “Penman of the Revolution,” one of America’s founding fathers who wrote of freedom and liberty for all, while holding human beings in bondage. After his death, the plantation passed to his daughter and stayed in the family for decades, before being bought by the Colonial Dames of America/Delaware. Today, the plantation tells the stories of the tenant farmers, indentured servants, free and enslaved Black men, women, and children, as well as the family, who lived, worked, and died here.

340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover, DE 19901, 302-739-3277, Tu-Sat 10AM-4PM, Sun 1:30PM-4:30PM



## **Ted Harvey Wildlife Area**

Four large tracts of land totaling 2,700 acres.

Ted Harvey Wildlife Area Road, Dover, DE 19901

## DAY FIVE

### **Magnolia**

Even though Magnolia boasts both Swedish and Dutch heritage, this area is commonly known as the Quaker Graveyard, which dates from the late 1700s. One highlight of the town, not incorporated until 1881, is the John Lindale house, that is currently being restored. Since it is a private residence, respect the owners.



### **Bowers Beach Maritime Museum**

The Bowers Beach Maritime Museum is a wonderful place for information on the Delaware Bay, the local water men of the area, and artifacts from the town of Bowers Beach.

3357 Main Street, Frederica, DE 19946, 302-222-6341, Sat-Sun 2PM-4PM

## **Frederica**

The center historic district in Frederica encompasses 118 contributing buildings, dating from the mid-18th century, primarily in Greek Revival, Italianate and Federal styles. Notable buildings include Trinity Methodist Church (1856), Robbins Hardware Store, the Hathorn House, Wootten Store, John Dill Store, Robert Dill House, firehouse, post office, and the Governor Hall House (1828), the home of Delaware Governor John W. Hall.



## **Milford Neck Wildlife Area**

Milford Neck hosts more than a million migratory shorebirds that each spring to feed on eggs laid by horseshoe crabs that converge on Delaware Bay to spawn. Though interrupted by scattered farms, this is the only remaining forested area greater than 10,000 acres on the entire coast of Delaware.

### **Barratt's Chapel, Museum and Cemetery**

Built in 1780, Barratt's Chapel, considered the Cradle of Methodism in the United States, is the most significant structure of American Methodists both in terms of national history, and as a significant historical building on the Delmarva Peninsula. Events that occurred here lead to the formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America in 1784.

6362 Bay Road, Frederica, DE 19946 302-335-5544 Call for hours and appointment.



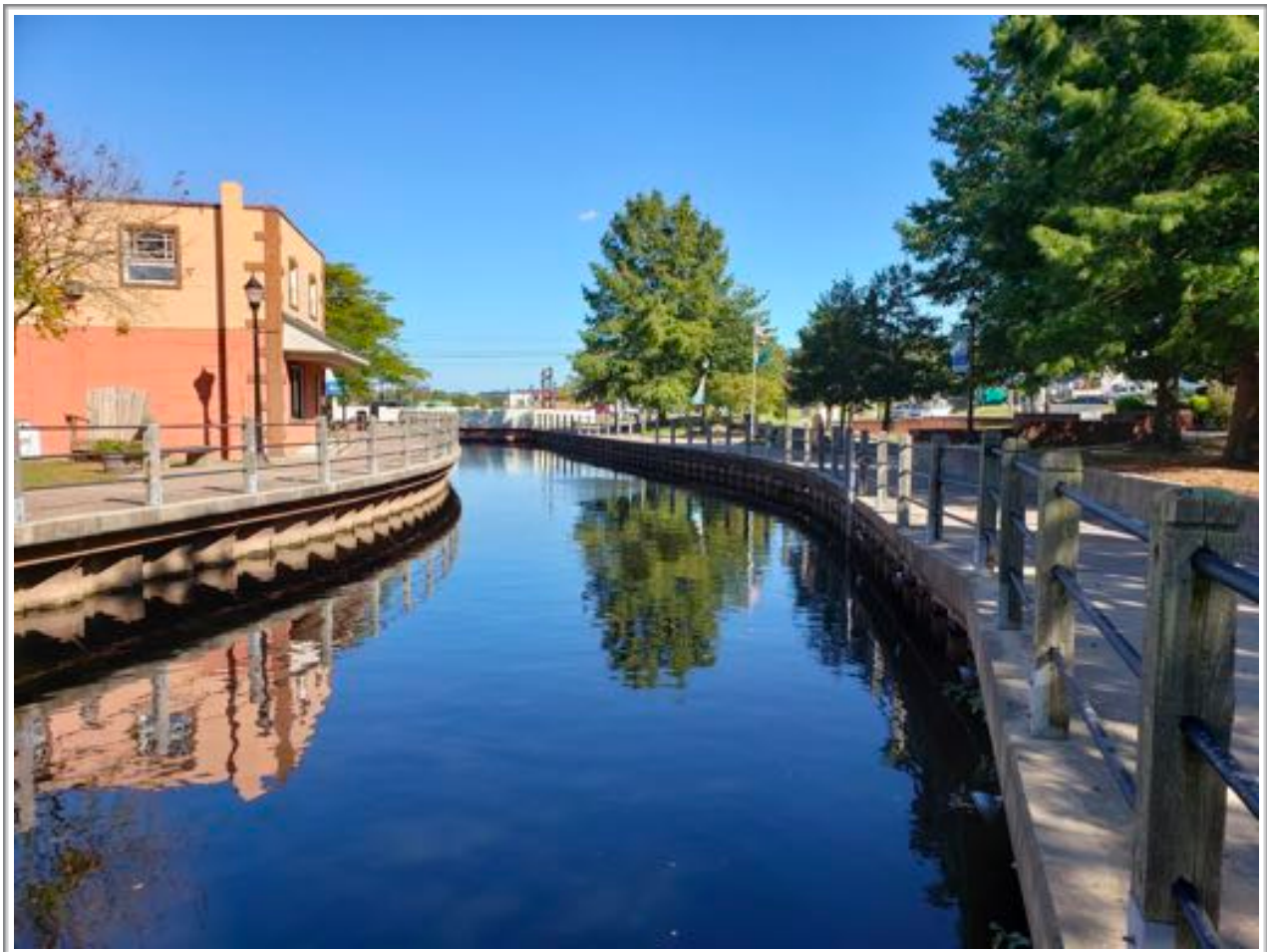
### **Mispillion Marine Reserve**

Home of the science based educational and interpretive DuPont Nature Center with interactive exhibits designed to illustrate Delaware Bay's natural history and ecology.

2992 Lighthouse Road, Milford, DE 19963, 302-422-1329

## **Milford**

Settled in 1680, but not incorporated until 1807, Milford was home to a thriving shipbuilding industry for centuries until after World War I. At one point 6 shipyards were operating in the downtown area. When the last of the area's giant white oaks was cut in the 1920s, the shipyards quickly went out of business, although the Mispillion ships sailed on for many years. After serving as the commercial center for the region's agriculture, today, the downtown has been revitalized with upmarket boutiques, art galleries, restaurants and a community theatre. Seven of Delaware's governors came from Milford. Make sure to enjoy the Mispillion River Walk during your stay.







### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**The Towers Bed and Breakfast**, 101 North Front Street, Milford, DE 19963, 302-422-3814  
A luxurious bed & breakfast, The Towers was built in 1783, but dramatically remodeled in 1891 in the lavish "steamboat Gothic" style.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**WestSide Restaurant**, 101 South Maple Avenue, Milford, DE 19963, 302-424-4888 Old school diner.

**Arena's Milford**, 200 NE Front Street, Milford, DE 19963, 302-422-3354, Easy going American deli.

## DAY SIX

### **Milford Museum**

Housed in the original city Post Office, permanent exhibits include local historic events from the 1700s to the present, featuring historic shipbuilding, the city of Milford, Delaware history, the Revolutionary War, local sports, a historic doll collection, and Victorian items.

121 South Walnut Street, Milford, DE 19963, 302-424-1080, Tu-Sat  
10AM-3:30PM

### **Parson Thorne Mansion**

This very historic property dates from a 1,750 acre tract of land granted by the Duke of York in 1680. Joseph Bowman purchased 510 acres in 1730. The Reverend Sydenham Thorne bought the property in the 1780s. Silver Hill as the property was then known was conveyed to the Milford Historical Society.

501 North West Front Street Milford, DE 19963, 302-422-3115, Hours by appointment only, please call in advance.



### **Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge**

Providing habitat for over 245 species of birds, the refuge was originally created to safeguard the pristine wildlife habitat of coastal Delaware, and provide feeding, nesting, and roosting areas for migratory birds.

11978 Turkle Pond Road, Milton, DE 19968, 302-684-8419



### **Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve**

You can view the wildlife in the Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve up close and personal on the Marvel Scenic Byway Boardwalk, which traverses the preserve. Today, the marsh is home to fiddler crabs, blue crabs, grass shrimp and many other water creatures. Birds include Marsh Wrens, Seaside Sparrows, Clapper Rails, Great Egrets, Northern Harriers and Osprey.

Marvel Drive, Slaughter Beach, DE 302-239-2334



## **Milton**

Beginning in 1675, English planters began settling in the area, following earlier Dutch settlement in Lewes, working in lumbering, milling, shipping, and shipbuilding activities at the head of the Broadkill River. Because it was some 10 miles inland from Lewes on a very winding river, Milton was secure from the pirate and foreign naval attacks that plagued waterfront towns in the early centuries. Today, Milton is a classic example of a small historic town with an extensive Victorian home district in relatively rural area. King's Ice Cream at Union and Broad Street, is the oldest commercial building in continuous use in Sussex County.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**The Backyard**, 211 Broadkill Road, Milton, DE 19968, 302-684-3440, Restaurant and bakery serving seasonal and local foods, plus traditional favorites.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**The Mercantile at Milton**, 101 Union Street, Milton, DE 19968, 302-664-1849, Antique store.

## **Milton Historical Society**

The museum's main exhibition space was once the 1857 Grace Methodist Church. The walls and ceiling of stamped metal, original light fixtures and the striking stained glass windows all date from the early twentieth century. Text panels and displays illustrate the history of Milton and the Broadkill Hundred. Shipbuilding, button factories, canneries and, in recent times, beer brewing at Dogfish Head are woven into the fabric of Milton history and its current life, and are very much a presence in the Main Exhibit Hall.

210 Union Street, Milton, DE 19968, 302-684-1010





## Lewes

It is amazing from its early history, that Lewes ever became a town. Originally named Zwaendael by Dutch settlers in 1631, and were wiped out in 1632, the land was later deeded to a group of Mennonites by the City of Amsterdam to keep from being captured by Maryland. They settled in 1663, and in 1664, the British who had captured Dutch holdings in New York, ordered the settlement razed. The Dutch regrouped by 1673, but in 1682, the Delaware colonies were given to William Penn. He renamed it Lewes. After the British bombarded the town in the War of 1812, Lewes was finally incorporated in 1818. Since Delaware was a border state, but not part of the Confederacy, Lewes became an important stop on the Underground Railroad, where safe houses were identified with a single candle in the top window of the house. Fort Miles was built during World War II to protect local factories and oil refineries. Today, Historic Lewes is a very peaceful, quaint, historic place.



**Savannah Inn**, 330 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-0330 Luxurious yet comfortable accommodations in a home built at the end of the Edwardian period. Enjoy breakfast on the wrap-around porch or in the garden.

**Destination Distinctive Dining**

**On the Rocks Dockside Grill**, 43 Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-644-6028, Lunch and Dinner: burgers, sandwiches, salads, plates and starters.

**Lemon Tree Restaurant**, 416 East Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-0481, American fare

**King's Ice Cream**, 201 Second Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-9425 Hand-crafted.

**Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Sand N Stones**, 112B Front Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-270-7027 Handcrafted jewelry.

**Peninsula Gallery**, 520 East Savannah Road, Lewes, DE, 19958, 302-645-0551

**Cape Art Gallery**, 110 West Third Street, Lewes, DE 19950, 302-644-7733

## OPTIONAL DAY SEVEN



### **Lewes Historical Society Visitor Center/Historic Architecture Walking Tour**

For a great introduction to Lewes, following your drive here, the Lewes Historical Society offers a Historic Architecture Walking Tour through the National Historic District which encompasses 122 contributing buildings and 6 contributing sites within the 17th-century core of the town. The district is primarily residential with resources ranging from small working-class houses to large and ornate houses from the Victorian period in Queen Anne and Second Empire styles. The Market Street commercial area, includes three frame store buildings and the elaborate Smith Block. Other buildings include St. Peter's' Episcopal Church, the Ellis Marine Complex, Cannonball House, Governor Ebe W. Tunnell House, Walsh Building, Zwaanendael Museum, Cornelius Burton House, Lewes Historical Society enclave, and the De Wolf Houses.

110 Shipcenter Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-7670, Architectural Walking Tour, Th and Sun, 5PM, Adults \$10



## **Historic Shipcarpenter Campus**

9 historic buildings highlight Lewes's relationship to the sea and illustrate the three centuries since its founding. The Campus includes the 1720 Hiram Rodney Burton House, the only building on its original site, the 1785 Burton-Ingram House, illustrating fine Federal period architecture and original furnishings, the 1740 Rabbit's Ferry House which illustrates life in rural southern Delaware, the 1800 Thompson Country Store, the 1790 Ellegood House another Sussex County farmhouse and Blacksmith Shop, the 1850 Doctor's Office, and 1898 Midway School #178.

110 Shipcarpenter Street, Lewes, DE 19958 10AM-4PM Tu-Sat, Free

