



News Release

Cape May County, New Jersey

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Check out the many things geared to kids in Cape May County, New Jersey

OK, so you've already answered a thousand questions from the kids squirming in the backseat including the all too familiar "how much longer?" and "are we there yet?" Kids and questions just seem to go together so here are a few vacation-related ones just to keep you – and the youngsters – on your sandy toes:

What was life like a hundred years ago?

How high is up?

What do butterflies like to eat?

How are seashells made?

How do you spell relief from those and other thought-provoking questions while you're on vacation with the under 10 set? Forget the local drug store. Check out the many things geared to kids that can fill a rainy day, a few hours before it's beach time or an afternoon of family fun.

In Cape May, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts offers plenty of kid-friendly tours, programs and more.

How did kids live without electricity and, ohmygosh, without computers, television and DVDs! A special 30-minute tour of the 1879 Physick Estate, geared especially for the 5 to 10-year-old crowd, answers those and many other questions about life a century ago.

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Did you know that blowing bubbles was a favorite activity of kids in Victorian times? Or that crayons have been around for ages? Kids Day at the Physick Estate is filled with tall tales, hands-on activities and tea with your teddy bear (or dolly) at the Twinings Tea Room.

Or, how about a trolley tour for kids that includes gingerbread you can't eat and witches caps on houses. There's plenty to see aboard MAC's jolly red trolley tour for youngsters of all ages and kids under 3 ride free!

Climb the 199 steps to the top of the Cape May Lighthouse or the 228 steps of the Absecon Lighthouse and you'll find out how high is up! In Cape May, the reward is a panoramic view of the tip of the ocean and the bay; in Atlantic County it's a bird's eye view of the city skyline and back bay area.

Discover the fun of exploring Cape May and uncovering its architectural elements from a kid's eye view with the Cape May Family Treasure Hunt packet that includes a clue sheet and map for a self-guided discovery tour, set to your own pace. (The answer sheet is included, too!)

Ever been on a safari? No? Well, hop on the Harbor Safari with a marine biologist and find out what butterflies like to eat and how are shells made. See Cape May's beach and marsh habitats and learn about the wonder and beauty of the plants and animals found there. Or, like the pirates and explorers who got their first glimpse of Cape Island from the water, board a whale watcher boat for a cruise around the island.

Later, tour Fisherman's Wharf and find out the answers to more fishy questions at one of the busiest fishing ports in the United States. You just might get a chance to see one of the big fishing boats unloading its catch.

Meander through the Cape May County Park and Zoo, home to over 400 animals with many of them roaming in a natural African Savanna. The park and zoo are open year round and admission is free.

The Cape May Kids Playhouse will definitely bring on a serious case of the sillies

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in kids of all ages. Puppet Show? Got it! Juggling? Got that, too! Laughing and singing?

You bet! There's lots of opportunity for audience participation in these professional shows for kids - and sometimes moms and dads!

Imagine this! The chance to explore the secrets of the salt marsh in the 6,000 acres of wetlands that are a living laboratory at the Wetlands Institute.

Have your kids ever made rope, a straw broom or a corn husk? Spend a day at Historic Cold Spring Village, a recreated farm village of the 1850s with a collection of more than two dozen historic buildings. During the summer, interpreters practice crafts from the age of homespun, a fun way to learn a lot about history while making something special to take home. Older children will love the Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum where vintage planes are housed in a World War II era hangar at the county airport.

The ocean beaches have always been the main attraction in Southern New Jersey complemented by boardwalks lined with attractions, amusements, food and seashore ambiance at its best. The Boardwalks that stretch for miles along the ocean front in Ocean City and the Wildwoods are filled with state of the art amusement piers, roller coasters, water parks and more thrills than you can cram into one vacation

Ocean City's Boardwalk, just 20 minutes south of Atlantic City and about the same distance north of Wildwood, is more than two miles of family fun. Lined with shops and eateries, the biggest attractions on the walk are the amusement piers: Gillian's Wonderland Pier at 6th Street and Playland Park at 10th Street. The amusement piers offer an afternoon or evening of thrilling adventure and excitement with rides ranging from delightful boat rides for the kiddies to zipping, twisting roller coasters for the more adventuresome.

The 38-block Wildwoods Boardwalk that runs from Cresse Avenue north into North Wildwood is filled with action and excitement with shops, discount stores, pizza and sub shops, arcades and, of course, amusement piers. The beach side of the walk is home to several piers which extend several hundred feet toward the ocean with the largest

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concentration of amusement attractions in the country. Morey's Piers operates three amusement piers on the Wildwoods Boardwalk, each with a roller coaster or two, kiddie rides and other exciting amusements and attractions. There are three water parks with state-of-the-art slides and rides for a fun and relaxing afternoon.

The Nature Center of Cape May on Cape May Harbor offers a diverse array of educational natural history programs that change with the seasons for children and families. Popular with summer visitors to the resort, the nature center has an aquaria with local marine life, interactive displays, games, activities and special programs for youngsters of all ages.

Family fun doesn't stop when the school bell rings in September. During the holidays, Clara and the Sugar Plum Fairy dance, Santa drops by and teddy bears and their young owners enjoy tea together. Later youngsters can lick the sticking icing from their fingers and sneak a gumdrop as they design their very own gingerbread house.

The old year ends and the New Year begins each Dec. 31 with First Night in Ocean City. More than 60 entertainment programs at a dozen venues provide a fun-filled, alcohol-free New Year's celebration for the whole family with magicians, story tellers, puppeteers, rides at Wonderland Pier and other kid-friendly performances are scheduled early for the youngsters.

There you have it. Like the saying goes – you've got questions, we've got answers. And your kids will love them!

For more information about family vacations at the Jersey Cape, call the Cape May County Department of Tourism at 1-800-227-2297 or visit the website at www.thejerseycap.com.