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Why You Should Head To The Delaware Beaches This Summer



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Travel

I cover adventure, luxury and family travel.

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The beaches in southern Delaware are known for their views and lighthouses. COURTESY OF VISITSOUTHERNDELAWARE.COM

This summer is all about road trips, and the beaches in Delaware on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean are pretty hard to beat. This destination is great for families—there’s plenty to do, great places to stay, and plenty of restaurants that serve up fresh fish and other summer treats.

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Here's what you need to know before you plan your trip.

Where to Stay



Many accommodations are located walking distance to the beach. COURTESY OF
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It's important to pick the right accommodations for your family. A good option for families looking for campground fun, but for those who don't

want to deal with the grunt work of pitching a tent and sleeping on the ground, try booking a cottage at [Massey's Landing](#), an RV resort. The beachfront cottages not only have amazing views, but also contain all the modern conveniences of a vacation rental—full kitchens and bathrooms, screened porches, outdoor living spaces with a grill and firepit, and sleep arrangements for up to seven people. Pets are always welcome.

Staying at a cottage is a great way to have the luxury of a real bed, a real bathroom, and a kitchen, but still have all the perks of campground life including campfires, outdoor pools, and the camaraderie that campgrounds are known for. (It's one of the easiest places to make friends.) It's camping fun without the work.



The cottages at Massey's Landing have a kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms and screened-in front porch. ... [+] [MASSEY'S LANDING](#)

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According to [Go RVing](#), these cottages (which are actually park model RVs) are ideal for families who want to experience camping but don't have all the gear for tent camping or access to an RV. It's a great way for families to see if RV vacations are for them. Basically, these cottages are stationary RVs designed to look like a home with bedrooms, a bathroom, and a living-room area, but they need to hook up to electricity, sewer, and water like normal RVs. (Don't worry, guests don't have to deal with the hookups—that's all handled by the campground.) Extra features like a front porch, grill, and other amenities make these accommodations some of the most requested in the campground.

For families new to camping, picking a campground resort like Massey's Landing is ideal because it offers so much right on property. There are two outdoor pools, one with a pool bar; daily activities for kids; watersport rentals including kayaks and SUP; and a customer-service center for all your planning needs and to answer any questions. Many families like to rent a golf cart during their stay—not only is it tons of fun to drive around in, but it's a quick and easy way to get around the campground. Don't feel like cooking your meals? No worries, the Tiki Bar, located right on the water, has a full menu. Plus, you can order food at the pool bar (and what kid doesn't love that).

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Exploring the Area



Biking along the Gordon's Pond Trail is a great family-friendly activity. COURTESY OF VISITSOUTHERNDELAWARE.COM

What's so wonderful about this area is that there are so many outdoor activities to do. If you're into biking and hiking, be sure to check out the trails at Cape Henlopen State Park. They vary in difficulty, but the views are all pretty amazing. Another good option for active adventure is Delaware Seashore State Park. Two great biking trails are Gordon's Pond Trail and Junction and Breakwater Trail. Both are flat (so great for kids), but really pretty with lots of places to stop along the way.



Burton's Island Wildlife tour is a favorite among families. COASTAL KAYAK

A great family-friendly option is a kayak tour with [Coastal Kayak](#). They offer a variety of tours including their best seller: Burton's Island Wildlife Tour. This family-friendly excursion allows kayakers to paddle through salt marsh trails around a state wildlife refuge. Kayaking here is not difficult so it's ideal for kids and those not very experienced with kayaking. There's an opportunity to see plenty of wildlife including horseshoe crabs, oystercatchers, osprey, skimmers, herons, and egrets. The tour also includes a stop at a sandbar where people can get out of their kayaks and explore the

area looking for a variety of beach life including fiddler crabs, starfish, moon snails, and clams. The tour is about two hours, and children between the ages of 7 and 11 go tandem with an adult.



Parasailing is a great way to see the region from the air and sea. GETTY

If you're looking for active adventure, head over to [Dewey Beach Parasail](#) for some bucket-list-worthy fun. The company has been in business for 17 years and has a clean safety record (they are inspected and in compliance with all U.S. Coast Guard regulations) in order to deliver a fun and secure experience. This is Delaware's largest parasailing operation. Families can parasail together (kids age six and older are allowed). Get amazing views of the Delaware beaches and the water below. (You'll be surprised at how peaceful it is floating in the sky.) Seeing this region from the air is one of the most unique experiences to be had and a great excursion to add to your family vacation.

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Where to Eat



Big Chill Beach Club is located inside Delaware Seashore State Park. [BIG CHILL BEACH CLUB](#)

Sampling local cuisine is a must when traveling and two great options are [Big Chill Beach Club](#) and [Crooked Hammock Brewery](#).

If you're looking for great views, Big Chill Beach Club is located right on the ocean in Bethany Beach inside Delaware Seashore State Park. It's nestled in the Indian River Inlet and has views of both the Atlantic Ocean and Rehoboth Bay. They have a pretty extensive menu, for both kids and adults. Fan favorites include the fish tacos, crab cakes, mahi mahi, and burgers. Be sure to try a few appetizers before your mains. The coconut shrimp and the nachos are quite popular, but if you're looking to go all out, get the Seafood Paradise platter, which comes with shrimp, crab claws, crab balls, conch fritters, and an array of sauces and dips. The drink menu is as expansive as the dinner menu. Favorites here include the margaritas, cocktails, and a variety of beer and wine. Before you leave, be sure to check out the interactive piece of art from the [Delaware Discoveries Trail](#).

The Crooked Hammock Brewery opened in 2015, and it's been drawing families ever since. They are known for their extensive list of craft brews, their laid-back family-friendly environment, and their tasty food. The backyard area is a great playground for kids—they have corn hole, ping pong, a kid's play area, hammocks and more. When it's time to order, the longboard nachos is a popular starter, especially for groups. It is chock-full of cheese, pico, corn-and-black-bean salad, chipotle crema, pickled jalapeños, and sour cream. The baked crab dip is another crowd-pleaser. For mains, the crispy brussel and summer berry salads are both well worth a try. For something heartier, the honey barbecue ribs and fried chicken platter are popular choices.

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