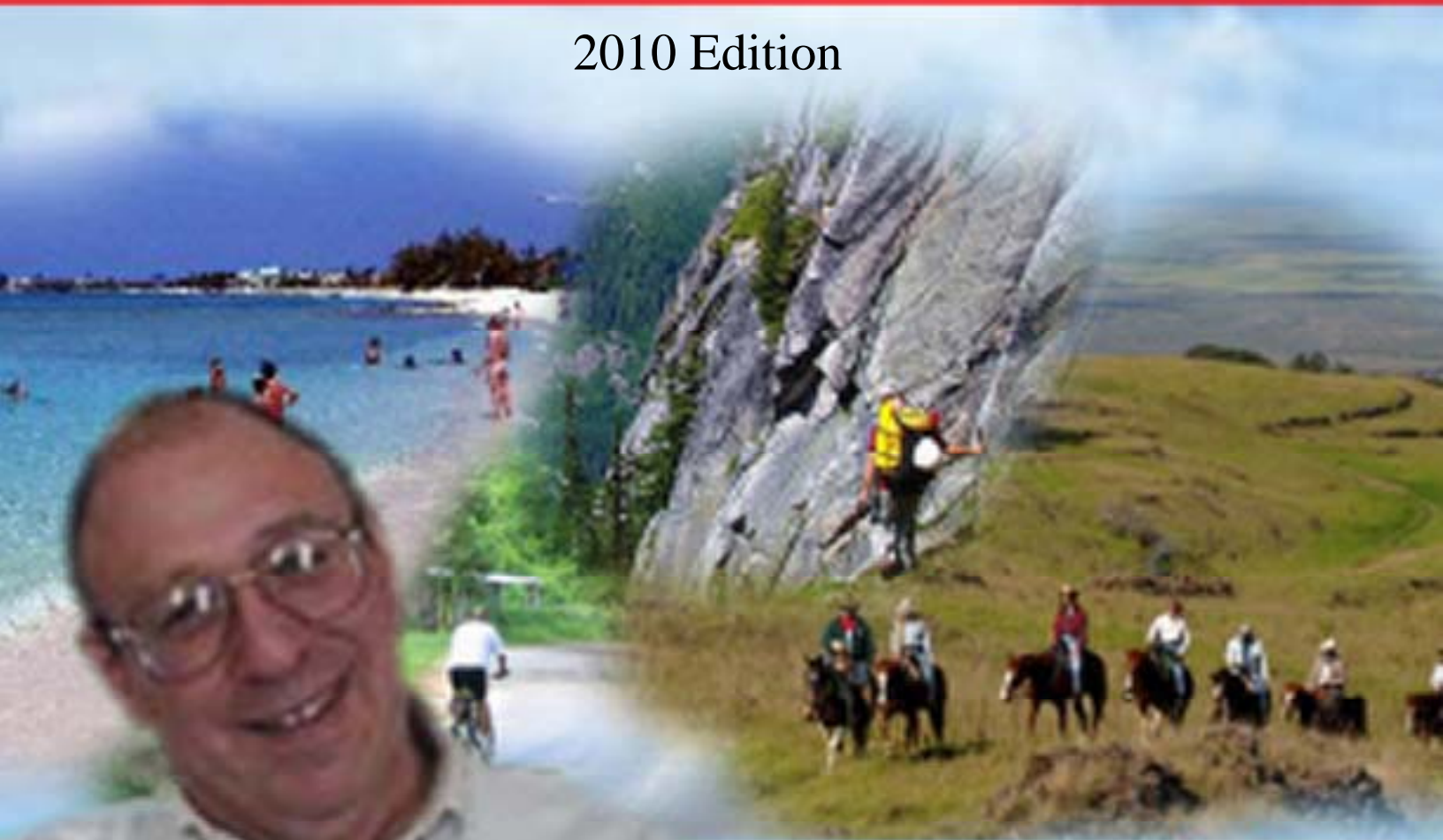


# CAR FREE AT THE BEACH

## 20 U.S. Beaches You Can Enjoy Without a Car

2010 Edition



Steve Atlas  
[CarFreeAmerica.com](http://CarFreeAmerica.com)

# CAR FREE AT THE BEACH

## 2010 EDITION

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### Update for 2010 Edition

Since our first edition, we have found three more beaches you can enjoy without needing to drive.

We have added a new chapter (Chapter 17) spotlighting the Mississippi Gulf Coast. (This replaces the chapter about Cleveland and its Lake Erie beaches.)

Most of us have heard about the Mississippi Gulf Coast communities of Biloxi and Gulfport, and their casinos. But few people know that these communities + the quaint community of Ocean Springs have a regional airport in Biloxi (served by Air Tran), great Gulf beaches, and Coast Transit that serves all 3 communities, the beaches, casinos, and key attractions and shopping in the area. For more information about visiting the Mississippi Gulf Coast by public transit, read Chapter 17 in this e-book.

Here is some information about the other two beaches we found that you can enjoy without driving.

New Jersey is well known for its beautiful beaches. Many are easily reached by commuter train or bus. However, most New Jersey beaches charge daily parking and admission fees.

Wildwood, in southern New Jersey is unusual because its beaches are free to the public. Parking fees however can be costly—and parking can be hard to find on busy summer weekends. Instead, New Jersey Transit buses ([www.njtransit.com](http://www.njtransit.com)) offer direct service from Philadelphia, Cape May, and Atlantic City to Wildwood. Once you arrive, the beach and many hotels are just a short walk away. For more information about Wildwood, visit [www.wildwoods.com](http://www.wildwoods.com), or call the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce at (609) 729-4000.

Erie, PA is another option for a beach vacation where you don't need to drive. Greyhound has daily bus service to Erie. The bus stop at the multi-modal terminal, in downtown Erie, is near hotels and shopping. The terminal is also served by local public transit buses. Amtrak also stops in Erie once a day. Summer beach visitors should take the summer Water Taxi from downtown Erie to Presque Isle State Park and choose from several convenient beaches on Lake Erie. The park also offers walking tours and a variety of other activities. You can also rent bicycles at the park. Back in downtown Erie, many attractions are within walking distance. In addition, the Green Trolley operates every half hour to most downtown locations. For more details about





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visiting Erie and Presque Isle State Park, visit [www.visiterie.com](http://www.visiterie.com), or call toll-free (800) 524-Erie.

Here are a few more changes in this year's edition:

- We had to drop Cleveland and its Lake Erie beaches, because there are now no area beaches served by public transportation on weekends.
- Our chapter about Southern York County in Maine now includes several free parking areas in Wells. (The other towns in that chapter do **not** have any free parking during the summer.). If you need to drive, but want to avoid traffic jams, and high gas prices, consider parking at one of those areas and using the Shoreline Express.
- Corpus Christi, Texas has stopped its Harbor Ferry. However, local beaches are still served by public transportation—local buses.
- The San Diego chapter has been updated.
- The Northern Oregon Coast now has two daily buses from Portland's Amtrak station. (There was only one last year.) For more information about those buses, as well as local and regional public transportation along the Northern Oregon Coast, visit the following website: [http://www.oregon-point.com/nw\\_point.html](http://www.oregon-point.com/nw_point.html).

Remember, enjoying the beach without driving does not mean you have to give up your car. It simply means that you now have the choice of leaving your car at home or at your hotel, and walking, biking, or using public transportation to enjoy the beach and the local area. Of course, if you don't own a car or don't want to drive at all, you can also use this e-book to find beaches you can reach without every driving.

Now, I invite you to relax and enjoy planning your car-free beach vacation.



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### Foreword

The origins of this project are in two of the best beach vacations my wife and I ever took, and neither required me to drive at all.

Let me explain...About 10 years ago, my wife and I visited Virginia Beach (showcased in Chapter 11) in December, because the beach was less crowded and far less expensive than during the summer. After parking our car at our oceanfront hotel, we never used it during our two days there. We walked to restaurants, strolled along the beach, and didn't worry about traffic or crowds.

The same thing happened again...In December 2006, we spent a few days in Cape May, New Jersey. We were delighted when we stayed in the historic area. The ocean, shopping, and attractions were nearly all within walking distance.

One reason we had such a great time was our ability to stop driving when we were at the beach. We wondered if there were other summer beaches you could enjoy without needing to drive.

We found that several beach communities make it possible to walk to the beach and at least some restaurants when you are there. However, we needed to find out how easy it is to get to these beaches without needing to drive. What are the best beaches to visit if you don't want to drive at all during your vacation? When you want a change from the beach, do you need to drive there?

We found that most beach communities and convention and visitors bureaus assume that their visitors will be driving. For that reason, directions, attractions, and accommodation listings are written for drivers. There is usually little or no information for visitors without cars.

Sometimes, if you want something that is not available, you have to create it. I decided to create a guide to summer beaches for visitors who don't want to drive.

### What's inside?

This book, *Car Free at the Beach*, spotlights 20 beach communities throughout the United States that you can enjoy without a car. There are actually many more than 20, but we had to limit this e-book to a small number. Two other beaches are described briefly as good choices.



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If you want to enjoy the beach, but don't want to drive, this guide is for you. Several beaches (such as Long Beach, NY and most of the towns on the Southern York County coast in Maine) charge parking fees that you can avoid by using public transportation.

If you need to drive to the beach, but don't want to drive while you are there, both Rehoboth Beach and Ocean City both have free or inexpensive park & ride lots where you can park free or at little cost and take a shuttle to the beach.

Our theme for this book is *you don't need a car to enjoy the beach this summer!*

#### An invitation...join us!

This project is a work-in-progress. We look forward to exploring and researching additional car-free beach opportunities.

More important, we look forward to your comments and suggestions. We hope you will contribute your experiences as you, too, enjoy the pleasure of car-free beach vacations!

Steve and Karen Atlas



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### Acknowledgements

This book could not have been written without the cooperation and help of many people. I want to thank my writing coach, Roger C Parker for his encouragement, guidance, and belief in the need for a guidebook for beach visitors who don't want to drive. I appreciate the time and professionalism of Karen Scharf: my web designer and small business coach, who designed both my web site and this e-book. I could never have accomplished this project without the tremendous support and editing, brainstorming, and other support I received from my wife: Karen Atlas.

Unfortunately, it is impossible for any one person to have a thorough knowledge of beach communities throughout the United States. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the staff members at the Convention and Visitors Bureaus and Chambers of Commerce, and public transportation providers in all the beach communities included in the book. I only wish I could individually thank each of the wonderful people who have helped me to make their beach community more accessible to visitors without cars, but I am afraid that I might accidentally forget someone who deserves to be thanked.

I also want to thank: Mary Field from the Shoreline Explorer in Wells Maine, Dave Chaves from the Ogunquit Trolley, Nick Papin from the York Trolley, Christina Tisi-Kramer for permission to use a few of her original photos from her book *Visions of Long Beach*, Jared Becknell at the Palms Hotel in Isle of Palms (South Carolina) and Carla Ligon at U.S. Hospitality and Holiday Inn Sunspree (Texas) for their photos of beaches near their hotels, Bob Dickson at the Mason County District Library (Ludington, MI), Sue Ann Schnitker from Cartier Mansion (Ludington, MI), and Debbie Petruzzeli from Balboa Park (San Diego, CA).

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my friends, family, Kirstin Miller at Ecocity Builders, and readers of my **Car Free Journey** column for their encouragement and belief that this e-book is a needed resource. Even when I got discouraged at how long the project was taking, none of you allowed me to give up.

Well, we made it! Thanks, everyone!





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### Introduction

In the current economy, driving less is a good way to save money (less gasoline). Walking or bicycling are far better for your health than the sedentary activity of driving a car. Chris Balish's book, *How to Live Well without Owning a Car* does an outstanding job of answering many of the fears and concerns that stop people from living car-free.

Yet, the unfortunate reality is that we live in an automobile-based culture, especially in the United States. When you plan a vacation, you call the Chamber of Commerce or Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and receive information about attractions and places to stay—and how to drive to each one. Ask the CVB about getting there and getting around using public transportation, and it takes longer to get the answers you need.

There's another solution. Focus on the needs and interests of people who want to enjoy a car-free vacation, and walk, bike, or use public transportation.

Because my wife and I enjoy the beach, and have a much better vacation when we can walk or take a beach trolley—instead of driving everywhere, I decided to write a beach vacation guide, spotlighting beaches and beach communities that visitors can enjoy without needing to drive.

### How can this book help me?

This e-book, *Car Free at the Beach: 20 U.S. Beaches You can Enjoy without a Car*, spotlights beaches at the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, Great Lakes, and Gulf of Mexico. You will learn how to get to each beach community by public transportation, and how to get around without driving.

You may be amazed at how much fun you can have without a car. In Jacksonville Beach, Florida, a local bus takes beach visitors to a popular theme park: Adventure Landing—and there are no parking hassles. York County, Maine has trolleys that serve beach hotels, the beach, and local attractions. Several trolleys have all-day passes where you pay one fare and can get on and off as much as you want.

If you drove down the peninsula to the Lake Michigan beaches at Ludington, you might never take the unforgettable four-hour boat trip across Lake Michigan on the SS Badger. However, readers without cars will take it—because it is the only way to get to Ludington without a car.



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In Rochester, New York, you can take a local bus to the Erie Canal. There, you can rent a canoe and take a ride on that historic waterway.

Would you enjoy a beach vacation where you can leave your car at the hotel or at home? *Car Free at the Beach* includes communities throughout the United States where you can do just that.

How about a day trip to a beach, where you can leave your car during your visit, without worrying about parking fees and feeding a meter? Two of our beach communities: Ocean City Maryland and Rehoboth Beach Delaware have park & ride lots where you can leave your car and use free or low-cost shuttles to get to the beach.

There are other beach communities where this is possible. When considering a beach to visit for the day, call the CVB or visit the CVB web site and find out if there is a park & ride lot or other place where you can leave your car for the day.

If you are looking for a beach vacation where walking, trolleys or buses, and/or riding a bicycle are realistic ways to get to the beach, restaurants, and local attractions, check out one or more of the communities included here.

A beach vacation can become an even-more unforgettable experience when you can go at your own pace, talk to other walkers or transit-riders, and stop whenever you want, without needing to find a parking place. You can be car-free if you find the right place. Car-Free at the Beach will show you where to find these beaches.

Chapter 2 will introduce you to the beaches we will be visiting together in this book.

I invite you to join me as we visit 20 beaches in the United States that you can enjoy without a car.

### **This E-Book is an Introduction, not a Complete Travel Guide**

Each beach report is an introduction to how it can be reached and enjoyed without a car. The report includes a few ideas for car-free outings away from the beach. Most beach visitor centers have lots of information about what is available there. Each report includes links to the CVB website, other websites of unusual attractions, and links to transit providers.



# **CAR FREE AT THE BEACH**

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## **20 U.S. Beaches You Can Enjoy Without a Car**

### **Chapter 1: Four Reasons to Leave Your Car at the Hotel or at Home**

"There must be a better way," you tell yourself as you start planning your one-day, weekend, or weeklong, trip to the beach. You know the ocean, gulf, or maybe a great lake, will be beautiful, and (if you choose the right location) warm.

But filling the car up with gasoline that costs more every year, trying to beat the crowds of other drivers who are also "escaping" to the beach, fighting congestion and "parking lot waits" on roads to the beach, and then paying \$5, \$10 or more for parking at the beach makes you wonder if it's worth all the trouble.

Fortunately, there is a better and less expensive way to enjoy a beach vacation. You can leave your car at home, or—at your hotel, and walk, bicycle, or use public transportation to avoid delays, eliminate traffic congestion, save money, and have more fun.

Here are four compelling reasons to leave your car at the hotel, or—even better—at home:

#### **Reason 1: Save Time and Money**

##### **The Way it is Now**

These days, gasoline costs between \$2 and \$3 per gallon, often more at resort areas. Turning on your car's air conditioner uses your gas up even faster. How much more will gasoline cost when you take your vacation? Are there highway, bridge, or tunnel tolls?

If you are still working, chances are that you will leave for the beach on a Friday, and return home Sunday. However, thousands of other drivers are doing the same thing. How much fun are traffic delays, highways that seem to turn into parking lots, and congestion that stays with you for most of your trip?

If the beach is more than a day's drive, you could fly to a nearby community and rent a car. But, how much expense will the car rental (plus insurance) add to your trip?

When you arrive at your hotel, you probably want to drive to the beach. Many beach communities and state parks charge parking fees.



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When you shop, it's tempting to avoid strip shopping centers and malls, and visit specialty shops downtown or in other tourist areas. Several communities have expensive meter fees for on-street parking, and garages can be costly.

Creeping along congested local roads can seem to take "forever." The last mile to the beach seems the longest!

Finally, you reach the beach. After paying the parking fee, you look for two things: a parking lot that isn't full, and then an available parking space.

Then, you see a parking space—and so do lots of other drivers. Will you get that space? If not, how long will it take you to find one?

By the time you get out of the car, the drive from home to the beach has been more stressful than you expected.

Is this the type of beach vacation that you want?

#### **A Better Way**

There is a better way to experience a beach vacation that is relaxing, healthy, and affordable. Leave your car at home, or—if that isn't possible—at your hotel. Then walk, bike, or take public transportation.

Even, drivers can benefit. For example, Ocean City, MD is a popular beach vacation spot. There is no need to drive at all, once you reach the beach. Leave your car at your hotel, and walk or take the Coastal Highway bus--\$2 for unlimited rides until 6 a.m. the next day. If you are driving to Ocean City for the day, park free at the Ocean City Park & Ride, and take a shuttle to the beach--\$1 for unlimited shuttle rides until 3:00 a.m., \$2 more for unlimited rides on the 24-hour Coastal Highway bus

But, you may not need to drive at all. The beach at Oceanside, CA is a short walk from the train station, served 6 days a week by inexpensive commuter trains from San Diego. York County, Maine is served by trolleys all summer. These trolleys connect with Amtrak, and serve the beach and nearby hotels.

The beach at Long Beach, NY is a short walk from the train station.



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When you walk or take public transportation, traffic jams and congestion are someone else's problem. Many beaches are free to pedestrians. The trolley, boardwalk tram, harbor ferry, or even the beach bus are all part of the vacation experience.

Best of all, a growing number of beach areas are easy to visit without a car.

Here is a special tip for drivers: If you are visiting the beach for the day, there may be a park & ride where you can park free and take a low-cost or free bus or trolley to the beach.

#### Reason 2: Less Stress and More Fun

The biggest single benefit I've found of driving less is a slower, more relaxed and less stressful life. As drivers, too many of us are in a hurry to do everything and go everywhere. When was the most recent time you were in a frantic hurry—only to be held up by traffic lights, congestion or other delays? You become angry (“what right do they have to hold me up and make me late?”) and anxious.

Sitting in traffic, fighting for a parking spot, and looking anxiously for the right street or location are all stressful. And when you are driving, how easy is it to relax and enjoy the scenery?

When your life isn't centered on driving, you slow down.

Do you want to go to the beach from your hotel? Walk or ride your bike there. Or walk to the corner and wait for the trolley or bus. Talk to people while you are waiting, and then relax on the bus until it reaches your stop.

Walking, cycling, or taking a trolley or ferry (and maybe a train or bus) are fun, especially if you have an unlimited-ride pass. Get on and off whenever you choose.

Whether you walk, stride briskly, or ride a bicycle, you go at your own pace.

When you walk, ride a bike or use public transportation, you are really part of the beach community. You experience it directly, not as a spectator in an air-conditioned automobile with the windows closed.

Your vacation begins when you get out of your car!





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### Reason 3: Better Personal Health

#### Did you know that driving and driving-related activities could result in health problems?

In the book, *How to Live Well Without Owning a Car*, by Chris Balish (pages 35-36). Dr. Karol E. Watson, MD, PhD, Director of the UCLA Center for Cholesterol and Hypertension Management found: "Heavy traffic has been shown to produce a high degree of stress which could be a catalyst for stroke and heart attack."

According to a study published in the October 21, 2004 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, sitting in traffic nearly triples the risk of suffering a heart attack.

"The link between sedentary lifestyles and the precipitous rise in obesity and chronic disease is undeniable," says Joe Moore, President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) and member of the Advisory Board of the newly formed Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease.

Compare how you feel after a 30-minute-drive and after taking a 30-minute-walk. Chances are you feel tired and ready to stretch after getting out of the car. On the other hand, after walking for ½ hour, you probably feel invigorated and full of energy.

Start doing this on your beach vacation. Take frequent walks. Rent a bicycle and ride along the boardwalk or on nearby bike paths. Take a bus, trolley or boat. Get off frequently and explore a neighborhood or group of interesting stores. You might be in an area where you can rent a canoe or kayak and explore a nearby lake or river.

### Reason 4: Create a better environment for future generations!

Have you thought about the kind of world your children and grandchildren will inherit? Smog, air pollution, and oil consumption poison our atmosphere and contaminate our lakes and oceans. Air pollution concerns all of us! It is not just bad for the environment, but also bad for your health. Motor vehicles account for 30-40 percent of ozone-related pollutants.

On this vacation, you can do one simple thing to help create a clean and healthy planet that our children and grandchildren can enjoy: **Leave the car home or at the hotel!**

***You don't need a car to enjoy the beach!***



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### Rate Your Priorities

Take a few minutes to rank these four reasons by how important each one is to you:

1. **Save Time and Money**
2. **Less Stress and More Fun**
3. **Better Personal Health**
4. **Create a Better Environment for Future Generations**

**First: give each reason a rank from 1 (worst) to 5 (best)** by how important it is to you when planning a vacation. (Since you will rank each reason separately, several reasons could receive the same grade.)

### Second:

- **Select the reason that is most important to you. Give that an A.**
- **Select your 2nd most important reason. Give that a B.**
- **Select your 3<sup>rd</sup> most important reason. Give that a C.**
- **Select your least important reason. Give that a D.**

Use this to help plan your vacation.

If Better Personal Health is your **A**, look for locations with good walking or biking trails. Walk, swim, or bike as much as possible. It won't matter if the bus is a short walk away from the beach or your hotel.

If Saving Time and Money is most important to you, a beach close to your home may be a good choice. Even if it's not that close, perhaps a budget airline or bus may serve that community. Look for hotels close to beaches, restaurants, and other amenities. Then, you won't have to travel far to have a good time.

These are just two examples of how ranking the importance of each reason can help you decide what beach is right for you.

Chapter 2 describes the beach locations spotlighted in this special report, and suggests a few questions to ask before starting your trip.



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### Chapter 2: Finding the Right Beach For Your Vacation

Going to the beach without the hassles and expense of driving and parking can be an experience you will enjoy, especially if you've chosen a beach community that's right for you. You don't need to travel to the east or west coast. The Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico offer alternatives to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

#### 20 Beaches to Enjoy Without a Car—From Sea to Shining Sea

This special report spotlights beaches in many parts of the United States. We start on the Atlantic coast with four New England Beaches and a Long Island Beach close to New York City. Going south, we visit beaches in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Finally, we spotlight beaches in South Carolina and northern Florida.

Many of you live far from the Atlantic or Pacific Coast, but close to one of the Great Lakes. We introduce you to three Great Lakes Beach communities: one on Lake Ontario, and two on Lake Michigan.

You will discover unexpected treasures. Rochester, New York is a good choice not only for visiting Lake Ontario, but also for a boat ride along the legendary Erie Canal.

Did you know that a four-hour ferry ride across Lake Michigan is the only car-free way to visit Ludington, Michigan? If you love ice cream, you will find out where the ice cream sundae was created.

We sample Gulf of Mexico beach communities with visits to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and Corpus Christi, Texas.



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Southern California is well known for its sunny beaches, and we visit two of them.

We conclude our cross-country exploration of car-free beaches with a trip up the Oregon Coast, and a visit to Puget Sound beaches in Washington.

### Extend Your Vacation by Combining Two Beach Trips

Would you like to extend your beach vacation? Several of our beach trips can be combined into a longer trip. These include:

- South County Beaches and Block Island (RI),
- Rehoboth Beach (DE) and Ocean City (MD),
- Manitowoc (WI) and Ludington (MI)—but not in the reverse order (starting with Ludington),
- San Diego and Oceanside (CA).

### Enjoy These Beaches Car-Free, Even If You Drive There

Many of you are not near public transportation. Perhaps, driving is the only way you can get to the beach. This guide can help you enjoy your beach stay after you arrive.

You can always drive to your hotel, and then walk or take public transportation nearly anywhere you want to go. Many of these beaches welcome bicyclists, and bike rentals and bike trails are often available.



A few of these beaches (such as Rehoboth Beach, Ocean City, and Gulfport and Biloxi on the Mississippi Gulf Coast), have free or inexpensive park & ride lots where visitors can leave their car and take a free or low-cost shuttle to the beach.

If none of these beaches are anywhere near you, there may be other locations more convenient to you?



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### Questions to Ask Before Packing Your Bags

The beaches we spotlight in this special report are not the only beaches you can visit without a car. Our 20 beaches are a good place to start, but you may find a beach that is closer to you—perhaps one that is on a lake or a river.

Here are a few questions to ask before deciding where you will spend your vacation, weekend escape or day trip:

- Is public transportation, or hotel shuttles, available at the airport, bus terminal, or train station?
- Once you arrive, how easy is it to walk or take local buses or trolleys where you want to go?
- What specific beaches are most convenient to hotels (and which hotels) and public transportation?
- If you are driving, is there a park & ride lot where you can leave your car and take a free or low-cost shuttle to the beach?

A more complete list of questions to ask, and who to ask, is available in our special report, *Worksheets to Use When Planning a Beach Vacation*.

*Remember: you don't need a car to enjoy the beach!*





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#### Chapter 3: Southern York County, Maine

##### York County, Maine: Use the Trolley Instead Of Your Car

When vacationers travel to southern Maine's ocean beaches, most people sigh and join the traffic lines and congestion. They assume that anyone visiting Maine needs a car.

However, that does not need to be true. From Boston's North Station, Amtrak's Downeaster train makes five round trips to Portland, Maine.

At the Wells (Maine) station, get off the train and transfer to the Shoreline Explorer's Shoreline Trolley (Route 4). The Shoreline Explorer is a network of four summer trolley routes (three are private operators), and three shuttle buses that serve five beach communities in York County. Because many beaches and hotels are located near a trolley stop, you don't need a car to enjoy a beach vacation in these beach communities.



Photo credit the Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce.

##### Getting To York County Without A Car

From Logan Airport in Boston, take the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority)'s Blue line subway marked Bowdoin to State Street and transfer at State Street to the Orange Line marked Oak Grove. Get off at North Station where you will board Amtrak's Downeaster Train going to Portland. Get off at Wells.

From Portland Maine's Airport, take Metro Transit route 5 to the Portland Transportation Center, located at 100 Thompson's Point Road.



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Get on the Downeaster and take the 40-minute trip to Wells.

Amtrak's Downeaster has five trains every day between Boston and Portland, ME. Take the train to Wells, ME (\$19 one-way from Boston, or \$11 from Portland). The Shoreline Trolley stops at the station.

#### York County, Maine: Shoreline Explorer

The Shoreline Explorer is a network of 4 trolley routes, + 3 shuttle bus routes (a Kennebunk Shuttle (Route 7), Shore Road Shuttle (Route 2), and Sanford Ocean Shuttle (Route 5)). The Kennebunk and Shore Road Shuttles are the same price as the Shoreline Trolley for adults only—no cost for children. The 4 trolley routes and 3 shuttle bus routes serve Wells, Ogunquit, York Beach, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport., during the peak summer season. For more information about the Shoreline Explorer and the four trolleys that participate, visit [www.shorelineexplorer.com](http://www.shorelineexplorer.com), or call (207) 324-5762: Extension 2932



Photo credit the Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce.

The Shoreline Trolley serves Wells and Kennebunk. It has bike racks and will operate June 26-September 6 in 2010. The cost is \$1 or \$3 for a one-day pass (good also on the Kennebunk and Shore Road Shuttle routes). Take the trolley to Wells Beach, Wells Harbor, many motels and restaurants. Wells Beach includes seven miles of ocean, and has bathhouses, restrooms, a grocery store, and even a few shops. Taking the trolley to the beach eliminates expensive parking fees of \$15 per day.

The *Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge*, ([www.fws.gov/northeast/rachelcarson/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/rachelcarson/index.html), (207) 646-9226) located at 321 Port Road in Wells, offers a one-mile walk over a marsh. The Refuge, established in 1966, includes forested upland, barrier beach and dunes, coastal meadows, tidal salt marsh, and a distinctive rocky coast. Shoreline Trolley drivers will drop riders at the Refuge entrance, if the passenger(s) notify the driver. If you have any questions about the Shoreline Trolley, including stopping at the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge, call (207) 324-5762: Extension 2932.



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The Shoreline Trolley connects to the Intown Trolley (Kennebunk) and Ogunquit Trolley (Ogunquit) and the Shore Road Shuttle, connects with the Ogunquit Trolley in Perkins Cove and York Trolley at York Beach.

Ogunquit Trolley owner Dave Chaves recommends taking a trip on the entire Ogunquit Trolley route (\$1.50 per ride) and then deciding where to go.

Highlights include the beach, Ogunquit Museum of American Art, and a play at the Ogunquit Playhouse. The Ogunquit Trolley stops at Ogunquit Beach. The sand here stretches for more than three miles. It's probably too cold for most people to swim, but it's fun to walk along the beach.

Another popular activity in Ogunquit is a walk along Marginal Way from the downtown shopping area to Perkins Cove. The one-and-a-quarter mile walking path offers dramatic views of the Maine coastline. A highlight of the walk is the Sparkhawk Resort's flower garden. If you get tired, there are over 30 benches along the footpath.

Perkins Cove (a stop on the Ogunquit Trolley) has restaurants and shops, and is a good place to charter boats for deep-sea lobster and fishing expeditions, or whale watching.

Finestkind Scenic Cruises ([www.finestkindcruises.com](http://www.finestkindcruises.com), or call (207) 646-5227, based at Perkins Cove, offers a Lobstering Trip, and a Nubble Lighthouse Cruise that offers great views of York's elegant homes and the rocky Maine coast.

For a change of pace, visit the Ogunquit Museum of American Art (OMAA) located at 543 Shore Road ([www.ogunquitmuseum.org](http://www.ogunquitmuseum.org), or call (207) 649-4909). In 2010, the Museum is open between July 1 and October 31. Hours are Monday-Saturday: 10-5, and Sunday: 1-5. Admission is \$7, \$5 for senior citizens, \$4 for students 12 and older, no cost for children younger than 12.

According to the Museum's home page, "The OMAA is the **only museum in the State of Maine devoted exclusively to the exhibition and collection of American Art**. The Permanent Collection includes almost 1600 works of art, including paintings, sculptures, photography and graphics. It houses one of the largest collections of ceramic sculpture by Carl Walters; watercolors by Eliot O'Hara; oils by Henry Strater; and drawings and sculpture by Isabella Howland.

"The Museum is one of only two U.S. institutions possessing a complete set of all the graphic works of Jack Levine. It also has eight Reginald Marsh tempera and watercolor depictions of the Bowery and Coney Island; and seven fine works by Marsden Hartley. The OMAA collection



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includes a variety of works by artists associated with the famed Ogunquit arts colony, including Edward Betts, Charles Woodbury, Hamilton Easter Field and Robert Laurent.

"While the museum has a superb assortment of works by Maine-related artists, it is also recognized for the diversity of American artists represented in its collection.

"Among the artists comprising the permanent collection are: Eric Aho, Ben Aronson, Peggy Bacon, Will Barnet, Romare Bearden, George Bellows, Thomas Hart Benton, Charles Burchfield, Alexander Calder, Charles Demuth, John Flannagan, Gertrude Fiske, Morris Graves, Marsden Hartley, Childe Hassam, Robert Henri, Edward Hopper, Peter Hurd, Wolf Kahn, Alex Katz, Rockwell Kent, Walt Kuhn, Gaston Lachaise, Jacob Lawrence, Ernest Lawson, Roy Lichtenstein, George Luks, Paul Manship, John Marin, Reginald Marsh, Louise Nevelson, Arnold Newman, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Mark Tobey, Neil Welliver, Margaret Bourke-White, Marguerite and William Zorach."

Tuesday evenings at the Museum, starting at 6:00 p.m. most Tuesday evenings, include concerts, and special programs.

If you are staying in Ogunquit, spend an evening at the Ogunquit Playhouse, located at 10 Main Street ([www.ogunquitplayhouse.org](http://www.ogunquitplayhouse.org), or call (207) 646-5511.). In 2010, the Playhouse presents five plays, including two popular musical shows: The Sound of Music, and Chicago. The Playhouse also has a Children's Theater.

When visiting the Museum and/or Playhouse, eliminate parking hassles and traffic congestion by taking the Ogunquit Trolley. The Trolley costs \$1.50 for each one-way trip. For schedule information and to find out where the Trolley stops, visit [www.ogunquittrolley.com](http://www.ogunquittrolley.com), or call (207) 646-1411 or (617) 417-2042. You can also obtain a Touring Map with trolley stops from the Ogunquit Chamber of Commerce ([www.ogunquit.org](http://www.ogunquit.org)).

York Trolley owner Nick Papin invites visitors to use the York Trolley (\$1.50 per ride, \$7 for a day pass) to visit York's Wild Kingdom Zoo and Amusement Park, York Beach, and the Goldenrod: an old fashioned ice cream parlor





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and soda fountain, where you can look through the window and watch candy being made. For York Trolley schedules and details and to find out where Trolley stops are located, visit [www.yorktrolley.com](http://www.yorktrolley.com), or call (207) 363-9600.

The Intown Trolley, 33 Wildes District Road in Kennebunkport, offers a 45-minute Kennebunkport Tour (\$15 per person, and \$5 for children ages 3-17). Highlights include President Bush's estate, beaches, and the Franciscan Monastery. Get details by visiting [www.intowntrolley.com](http://www.intowntrolley.com), or call (207) 967-3686.

There are walking tours and many other activities in the Kennebunk and Kennebunkport area. For more information, visit [www.kennebunkbeachmaine.com/thingstodo.htm](http://www.kennebunkbeachmaine.com/thingstodo.htm) or the Chamber of Commerce at [www.visitthekennebunks.com](http://www.visitthekennebunks.com).

A summer visit to York County's Trolley communities makes you realize that you can enjoy a stay here without a car. Even if you do need to drive, it's a lot more fun to leave your car at your hotel and use one or more of the Shoreline Explorer Trolleys to go to the beach and most other places you want to visit.

#### If You Do Drive - Limited Free Parking in Wells

Because of the traffic, the train and Shoreline Explorer is the best way to enjoy Wells. However, there are a few free parking areas in Wells. These include:

- **Casino Square** - Wells Beach near Forbes Restaurant
- **Gold Ribbon** - off Webhannel Drive (no RVs or campers)
- **Wells Harbor Park** - end of Harbor Road

The **Shoreline Explorer** stops near all of these free parking areas.

If you must drive, we recommend saving time, money, and frustration by leaving your car at your hotel or one of the free parking areas in Wells, and using the Shoreline Explorer system.

#### For More Information

For information about the Shoreline Explorer trolleys and area attractions, visit <http://www.shorelineexplorer.com>, or call (207) 324-5762: Extension 2932.

For information about attractions and accommodations in York County, visit [www.mainebeachesassociation.com](http://www.mainebeachesassociation.com).





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#### Chapter 4: Provincetown, Massachusetts

##### Provincetown, Massachusetts: Enjoy Cape Cod Without a Car

Despite popular myths, you don't need a car to get here. Take a ferry from Boston to Provincetown. Then walk or take a bus anywhere you want to go.

##### How to Get to Provincetown Without a Car

From mid-May until mid-October, fast-ferries take pedestrians from Boston to Provincetown in 90 minutes. Contact Bay State Cruises ([www.boston-ptown.com](http://www.boston-ptown.com)), or phone toll-free (877) 783-3779 or Boston Harbor Cruises ([www.bostonharborcruises.com](http://www.bostonharborcruises.com)), or phone toll-free (877) 733-9425).



Bay State Cruises has a one-day excursion to Provincetown most Saturdays (except July 11 and August 8) between June 27 and September 5. The ferry leaves Boston at 9 a.m. and arrives in Provincetown at 12:30 p.m. The return trip leaves Provincetown at 3:30 p.m., arriving in Boston at 6:30 p.m.

Plymouth & Brockton buses make daily trips from Boston's Logan Airport, Park Square, and South Station to Provincetown. (Visit [www.p-b.com](http://www.p-b.com), or call (508) 746-0378.) The ride takes about four hours each way.

Cape Air has daily flights between Boston's Logan Airport and Provincetown Airport. Visit [www.capeair.com](http://www.capeair.com), or call toll-free (800) 352-0714.

For a more complete list of ways (other than driving) to reach Cape Cod, visit [www.smartguide.org](http://www.smartguide.org).



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### Enjoying Your Visit After You Arrive

A car is not necessary once you arrive. Most hotels, restaurants, shops and beaches are within a 15-20 minute walk, or a short bus or taxi ride away. Cape Cod Transit provides frequent bus service between Provincetown and nearby communities. Its Flex bus travels between Provincetown and Harwich six days a week (daily in the summer).

At the Route 6 overpass in North Truro, transfer to the Summer Shuttle. The Shuttle serves the Cape Cod National Seashore, and connects with Cape Air at Provincetown Airport (on request), and Boston Harbor Cruise and Bay State Cruise ferries at Macmillan Pier.

Bus fares are \$2 for a single ride (\$1 for seniors older than 60 and people with disabilities. A day pass is \$6 (\$3 for seniors and person with disabilities). For information about the Flex Bus, and other nearby public transit, visit [www.theflex.org](http://www.theflex.org), Or call Cape Cod Transit toll-free at (800) 352-7155.

### Visit Cape Cod National Seashore Car-Free



In Provincetown, take [The Shuttle](#) to Herring Cove Beach, Race Point Beach or the Province Lands Visitor Center from May through October. Both beaches have bathhouses, gentle surf, and lifeguard-supervised swimming. Admission fees for pedestrians and bicycles are \$4.

Meet the Shuttle at MacMillan Pier in Provincetown or flag it down anywhere along its route. Take your bike aboard free. Reach Provincetown via [Flex bus](#) or the [Plymouth & Brockton](#) coach.

Throughout the year, reach the Seashore's Salt Pond Visitor Center via the [Flex](#) & [P&B](#) buses. In season bring your bike, and pedal to the Little Creek Parking Area for a free tram to Coast Guard Beach. As an option, try the Nauset Bicycle Trail to the water's edge.



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Rent bikes in town at Gale Force Bike Rentals ([www.galeforcebikes.com](http://www.galeforcebikes.com), [508] 487-4849), Arnold's Where You Rent the Bikes (call [508] 487-0844), or Ptown Bikes ([www.ptownbikes.com](http://www.ptownbikes.com), or call [508] 487-9835).

### Other Beaches

*Long Point Beach*, a local beach favorite, includes a lighthouse. It is a good choice for sunning, swimming, and picnicking.

*Beech Forest* is known for its birdlife. Its tables and grills make it a top choice for picnics.

Several harbor beaches are only a five minute walk from town.

Take time to watch the sun setting over the Atlantic Ocean.

### A Change of Pace from the Beach

Take a four-wheel-drive sand dunes tour with Art's Dune Tours ([www.artsdunetours.com](http://www.artsdunetours.com), phone: (508) 487-1950).

Explore the town and National Seashore on a Provincetown Trolley's 40-minute narrated tour. ([www.provincetowntrolley.com](http://www.provincetowntrolley.com), Phone (508) 487-9483).

Visit *Commercial Street*. Sample its restaurants, shops, galleries, cafes and inns, and scenic views of the Harbor. Participate in a free summer Friday Gallery Stroll.

*The Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum* commemorates the Pilgrims' first landing and the town's history.

Take a boat trip with *Dolphin Fleet Whale Watch* to get a close-up view of whales ([www.whalewatch.com](http://www.whalewatch.com), or call toll-free (800) 825-9300, or (508) 240-2326).

Watch a play or film in the Provincetown Art House Theatre ([www.ptownarthouse.com](http://www.ptownarthouse.com), phone: (508) 487-9222. Stay after the show to visit the theatre's café and bar.

### For More Information

Visit [www.provincetowntourismoffice.com](http://www.provincetowntourismoffice.com) or call (508) 487-3298.



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#### Chapter 5: South County Beaches, Rhode Island

Are you looking for a beach that is easy to reach by AMTRAK, budget airlines, bus, and local buses? Then, Rhode Island's South County Beaches, near Providence, may be the right choice for you.

##### Coming to Providence without a Car

Bonanza and Greyhound provide frequent and affordable bus service.

Southwest Airlines is one of the airlines serving Providence's T. F. Green Airport. Boston residents and visitors can use MBTA's commuter rail from South Station to Providence, seven days a week. The one way fare is just \$7.75 (half price for seniors, students, and persons with disabilities). Amtrak trains run daily from Washington D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, and many communities in Connecticut.

##### RIPTA Buses Make it Easy to Get to the Beach



The Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA) makes it easy to get to four beaches. Kennedy Plaza (the Providence hub of RIPTA buses) is just 2 1/2 blocks from the train station—a short walk or five-minute ride on routes 56 or 57.

The Greyhound and Bonanza bus terminal is at Kennedy Plaza.

One way bus fare is \$1.75 (\$.85 for senior citizens and persons with disabilities all times except weekday morning and afternoon peak hours) + \$.50 for a transfer.

A one-day RIPTA pass (allowing unlimited travel on buses, trolleys, and Flex vehicles) is \$5 and is valid for 24 hours after purchase. A seven-day RIPTA pass is \$20. Both the one-day pass and the seven-day pass are sold on RIPTA buses.





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RIPTA's route 14 goes directly from T.F. Green Airport to Narragansett Town Beach (every day except Sunday) in 65 minutes. (Take the outbound 14 bus.)

Route 66 goes directly from the Amtrak train station in Kingston to Scarborough Beach, Roger Wheeler Beach, or Salty Brine Beach (also known as Galilee Beach).

From the end of the 66 route, it's a short walk to the Block Island Ferry. A visit to Block Island can be a day-long outing.

The 14 and 66 also stop at Kennedy Plaza.

### Narragansett Town Beach

This beach is alcohol-free and a good choice for families. Several Bed and Breakfast inns (and one hotel) are close to the beach. It's a short walk to restaurants and the nearby Pier Marketplace.

Beach admission is \$5 per person. Changing facilities, snack bars and rest rooms are available, and lifeguards are on duty. For a change from the beach, enjoy a short walk north along the beach to the mouth of the nearby Pettaquamscutt River.

For more information about Narragansett Town Beach, call (401) 782-0658.

From Narragansett Town Beach, you can reach the three state-run beaches by taking route 14 outbound to the last stop: Salt Pond Plaza, and transfer to route 66 outbound. (From downtown Providence, take route 66 from Kennedy Plaza or the Kingston Amtrak station.)



Photo Courtesy of South County Tourism Council.

### Scarborough State Beach North and South

This is Rhode Island's most popular beach: a good choice for anyone, regardless of age. Lifeguards are on duty from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. There are changing facilities, a boardwalk,





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concessions, and coin-operated hot showers. For more information: call (401) 789-2324 (Scarborough North) or (401) 789-1319 (Scarborough South) in summer. Call (401) 789-8374 (Fishermen's Memorial State Park) year round.

Or visit: <http://www.riparks.com/scarborough.htm>.

### Roger W Wheeler State Beach

Also called Sand Hill Cove Beach, this beach is known for its calm water and fine white sand. It has a slight drop-off where shallow water becomes deeper. This beach also has playground area, picnic tables, changing facilities and concessions.

More information: (401) 789-3563, or <http://www.riparks.com/wheeler.htm>.

### Salty Brine State Beach

This small beach, also known as Galilee Beach, is great for children, because it is within the three mile long seawall, protected from the surf.

It's fun to watch the fishing boats, pleasure boats, and ferries go by.

However, because of construction on a new pavilion, we recommend only coming here to view the boats, until the new pavilion opens for the summer in 2010.

More information: (401) 789-8374, or <http://www.riparks.com/saltybrine.htm>.

### A Special Note about Admission to the State Beaches

There is **no admission** charge for pedestrians.

### For More Information

Visit [www.southcountyri.com](http://www.southcountyri.com), or call (401) 789-4422, or toll-free (800) 548-4662.



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#### Chapter 6: Block Island, Rhode Island

##### A Beach Vacation On Unspoiled Land

How does a beach vacation on an unspoiled island, with no chain stores or strip malls sound? Then, Block Island, Rhode Island may be your ideal summer beach vacation. A special bonus, if you enjoy boat trips, is that the only ways to get here are by ferry or air. You can't drive directly to Block Island (although you can take your car on the year-round ferry from Galilee). The Island's small size lends itself to biking or walking.

Block Island beaches are free to use. There are no commercial buildings along Block Island's three- mile stretch of uninterrupted sandy beach.

And here is a special tip from local residents: Consider a fall visit. The water is still warm, the island is less crowded, and you can better appreciate and enjoy the Nature Conservancy trails and other natural attractions.



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### Getting Here Without Driving

From points south of Rhode Island, summer travelers can take Amtrak to New London, Connecticut. Then walk across the street to the high-speed pedestrian and bicycle ferry to Block Island ([www.goblockisland.com](http://www.goblockisland.com), or (860) 444-2624). This ferry operates weekends only from Memorial Day until June 26 and August 31 until September 27 (+ Labor Day), and daily from June 26 until August 30.

From Amtrak's Kingston station, it's a 45-minute bus ride on RIPTA (Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority) route 66 to the Port Judith ferry terminal in Galilee. From here, the Block Island Ferry operates all year (with additional summer service from Newport). Visit [www.blockislandferry.com](http://www.blockislandferry.com), or call (401) 783-7996 or toll-free (866) 783-7996.

If you are in a hurry, you can fly on New England Air from Westerly, RI to Block Island in just 12 minutes. From the Westerly Amtrak station, it's about a 10-minute taxi ride (approximate cost \$10-\$15) to New England Air ([www.blockisland.com/nea](http://www.blockisland.com/nea), or call toll-free (800) 243-2460).

### After You Arrive

Taxis, bicycles (you can rent bikes here), mopeds, and walking are the only transportation available for those without their own cars.

*Fred Benson Town Beach* is just a short walk from the ferry landing. This beach has visitor changing rooms, restrooms and showers, and a concession that serves breakfast, lunch and soft-serve ice cream. Chair, umbrella, and boogie board rentals are available.

There are many accommodations near the ferry landing that are close to beaches, restaurants, shopping and night entertainment. You can enjoy a pleasant stay—and never need to walk far from this area.

To experience Block Island fully, it's best to rent a bicycle (or bring your own) or a moped. Then, you can fully explore the island's 17 miles of beaches. Beaches here have bike racks. During the summer season, there are several stores that rent bicycles and/or mopeds.

Another option is a one-hour (approximately) taxi tour of Block Island. 10 local cab companies offer this service. Your driver does the narration. One company that encourages advance planning (one-two days advance notice for summer weekends) is Mig's Rig Taxi (401) 480-4983



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or, for advance planning only, (401) 466-2892. The cost is \$55 for one or two people, and \$10 more for each additional person.

The Nature Conservancy, (401) 466-2129, maintains over 28 miles of walking trails to explore. (A taxi from the ferry landing costs approximately \$15 each way.)

Other active outing ideas include rental kayak and kite boards, parasailing at the ferry landing and horseback riding.

The island has two lighthouses. (Taxi fares range from approximately \$15-\$19 each way.) The North Light is a Maritime Museum open during the summer. Call (800) 383-2474 for details.

#### For More Information

Visit [www.blockislandchamber.com](http://www.blockislandchamber.com), or call toll-free (800) 383-2474.

Another web site with useful information about the island is the Block Island Tourism Council's site: [www.blockislandinfo.com](http://www.blockislandinfo.com). (You can also call the Council toll-free at (800) 383-BIRI.)





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#### Chapter 7: Long Beach, New York

##### Long Beach, New York: A Day-Trip on the Train

Sometimes, taking a long beach vacation isn't possible, or is too expensive. A day trip to the beach, especially one with no traffic or parking fees, may be the solution.

New York City residents recommend a beach that is just an hour away by train: Long Beach on Long Island. There is an admission fee, but you can purchase discount passes. And the daily cost for two people is less than a tank of gas.

##### Getting to Long Beach Without a Car

The Long Island Railroad's (LIRR) Long Beach line operates trains nearly every hour (even more frequently during certain times), and operates 24 hours a day.

The ride takes less than an hour. If you are planning to visit Long Beach several times, consider a 10-trip off peak ticket, or a weekly pass.

For most summer beach visitors, the least expensive way to visit Long Beach for one day is to buy a combination round-trip train and beach ticket. The cost is \$19 per person from either Penn Station (Manhattan) or Brooklyn. (Since the one-day admission to the beach is \$10, and the off-peak fare is \$7.75 one way, or \$15.50 round trip, you would save \$6.50 by buying the combination train/beach ticket.)



Photo credit TISI Photography, Inc.





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#### Enjoying the Beach After You Arrive



Photo credit TISI Photography, Inc.

From the Long Beach train station, it's just a short walk to the beach. There are shops nearby. This summer, visitors will be able to rent umbrellas and chairs at the beach, as soon as you enter the beach from Edwards Boulevard. There will also be a rickshaw service along the boardwalk.

The beach is free weekdays between Memorial Day weekend and June 21, and every day after Labor Day.

Otherwise, the admission is \$12 for a one-day ticket, \$80 for a ten-ticket book (this can be used by either one person or several people coming together). A season pass costs \$80 for an individual, \$100 for a family, \$30 for senior citizens (62 and older), \$20 for children and students under 18, and \$15 for anyone who is physically challenged.

The beach has rest rooms, concessions, and a boardwalk where you can buy food. Long Beach has 15 beaches that are all connected—making this a great place for a walk. The beach is also good for surfing and bicycling.

Soft sand, warm water, a good place to enjoy watching boats on the water, and beautiful sunsets are some of the reasons a visit to the beach here can be lots of fun. When my wife, son and I visited several years ago, we were impressed by the vastness of the beach. There was lots of room to spread out, even though crowds were large.

If you get hungry, you can visit one of the nearby restaurants along Park Ave. and use your beach day pass to re-enter the beach at no extra charge.

If you want to stay late, free summer concerts are held on the beach, beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.



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If you want to remember Long Beach after you leave, Christina Tisi-Kramer (a local photographer) has published a pictorial book about Long Beach with over 100 scenic images. (We have included a few of her pictures with this report, with her permission.) She also has published a book of postcards of Long Beach. For more information, visit [www.visionsoflongbeach.com](http://www.visionsoflongbeach.com).

If you want to stay over, the Allegría Hotel and Spa (80 West Broadway, Phone: (516) 889-1300) in Long Beach opens on Memorial Day, 2009. Otherwise, take the LIRR to Island Park (one station away). From the station, you can walk to the Long Beach Motor Inn (3915 Austin Boulevard, Phone: (516) 431-5900).

Otherwise, pick your own time for returning to New York Penn Station on the Long Beach branch.

#### For More Information

For more information, visit [www.longbeachny.org](http://www.longbeachny.org), and click on the Visitors Link. Then, click on Beach Information. For summer programs, click on "Summer Information" on the left tab. Or call (516) 431-1000: Extension 7216 during normal weekday business hours.

For information about the Long Island Railroad, visit <http://mta/info/lirr/>, or call (718) 217-LIRR.



Photo credit TISI Photography, Inc.



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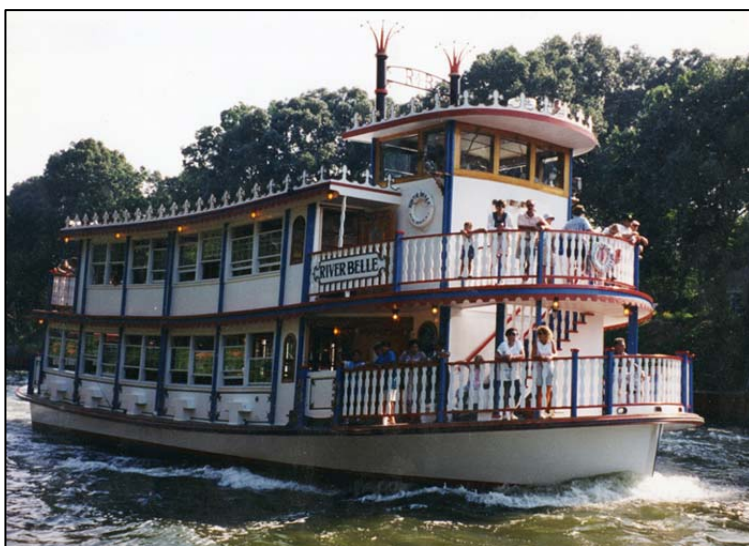
### **20 U.S. Beaches You Can Enjoy Without a Car**

#### **Chapter 8: Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey**

##### **Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey—Take the Train to the Beach, Boardwalk, and Aquarium**

Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey is the most southern resort boardwalk community accessible by direct train from New York City and Newark International Airport. Many year-round residents commute into New York City and northern New Jersey.

Point Pleasant Beach is a destination for the whole family. Enjoy the sandy beach, a boardwalk with rides and free summer concerts, and an Aquarium that is open year round. If you want to return frequently, half-season and full-season passes are available.



##### **Getting to Point Pleasant Beach without a Car**

Point Pleasant Beach is the next to last station on New Jersey Transit's North Jersey Coast Line. From New York's Penn Station, the trip takes about two hours, with a change of trains at Long Branch. Travelers flying into Newark International Airport can catch the train at Newark International Airport station.

From Princeton, Trenton, Philadelphia and points south, take NJ Transit's Northeast Corridor Line to Rahway and transfer to the North Jersey Coast Line south. (The trip from Philadelphia requires two transfers: at Trenton from SEPTA to NJ Transit's Northeast Corridor Line, and at Rahway to the North Jersey Coast Line south.)





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Train service to Point Pleasant Beach operates daily from early morning until late evening. For schedule and fare information, visit [www.njtransit.com](http://www.njtransit.com), or call (973) 275-5555 anytime (live operators are on duty from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.).

Don't forget to **buy your ticket before you get on the train.** (There is an extra charge for buying a ticket on the train.)

Senior citizens, age 62 and older, ride for ½ the regular fare. Simply show a photo ID (driver's license) and Medicare card when buying your ticket.

#### Enjoying the Beach after you Arrive

From the Point Pleasant Beach train station, it's a short walk to the beach. Across the street from the station is downtown Point Pleasant Beach with boutique shops, restaurants, and the Antique Emporium with 100 specialized antiques dealers. The Point Pleasant Historical Society Museum, (732) 892-3091, is in town hall: 416 New Jersey Ave.

The beach and boardwalk are five blocks from the station. For beach and equipment fees, visit: <http://www.jenkinsons.com/beachprices.pdf>.



Several hotels and motels offer free beach passes to their guests.

Many visitors enjoy relaxing on the sand, swimming in the ocean, or watching boats pass through the Manasquan Inlet. The south end of the beach—away from the developed part of the boardwalk—tends to have the least crowds. Lifeguards are on duty between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Beaches are open daily from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day. A Victorian bathhouse offers changing facilities for day visitors.

Families wanting a more active day spend time on the boardwalk. Rides, a fun house, miniature golf, and a wide selection of food and snacks can easily take up an entire day. Free concerts or



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other entertainment are available most summer evenings. For a 2010 schedule, visit [www.pointpleasantbeach.com/events.htm](http://www.pointpleasantbeach.com/events.htm).

For a change of pace, visit Jenkinson's Aquarium. See live fish normally found off the New Jersey coast. Exhibits include Atlantic and Pacific sharks, alligators, and seals. A touch tank allows visitors to touch live animals such as sea stars and juvenile sharks. (Visit [www.jenkinsons.com/aquarium](http://www.jenkinsons.com/aquarium) for information.)

The River Belle ([www.riverboattour.com](http://www.riverboattour.com)) offers sightseeing tours and luncheon and dinner cruises along the Manasquan River, Point Pleasant Canal, and Barnegat. Call (732) 892-3377 for details.



#### Where to Stay Without a Car

There are many places to stay within an easy walk of the beach. Families and active couples will enjoy being close to the excitement of the boardwalk.

Visitors looking for a more quiet area should consider staying in nearby Bay Head—the last stop on the North Jersey Coast rail line. Bay Head has excellent beaches, but no changing rooms or rest rooms on the beach.

#### For More Information

For information about beach prices, the boardwalk, and the aquarium, visit [www.jenkinsons.com](http://www.jenkinsons.com), or call (732) 892-0600.

For information about Point Pleasant and help with accommodations, visit [www.pointpleasantbeachnj.com](http://www.pointpleasantbeachnj.com), or call (toll-free) (888) PPBFUN2.

For information about Bay Head, visit [www.bayhead.org](http://www.bayhead.org) (click on the Visitors Link), or (toll-free) (800) 4bayhead.

For train information, visit [www.njtransit.com](http://www.njtransit.com) or call (973) 275-5555.





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#### Chapter 9: Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

##### Rehoboth Beach, Delaware—a Great Choice for Non-drivers

Are you looking for a summer ocean vacation where you can walk nearly any place you want to go?

Then, Rehoboth Beach may be a good choice for your beach getaway. The entire town is one square mile and the downtown commercial district comprises the half-mile boardwalk with eateries and arcades, three avenues of restaurants, galleries and shops, with several cross streets. Rental bicycles and scooters are available.

Because downtown parking is expensive, pedestrians and visitors without cars save a lot of money.

Beach access is free, but there are no changing facilities on the beach. Change at your hotel, or before beginning your trip. Or take a local bus to Fenwick Island State Park where there is a modern bathhouse.



##### Getting to Rehoboth Beach Without a Car

Direct bus transportation here is only possible during the summer season. In 2010, DART First State's Route 305 provides weekend service from Wilmington and Dover (Delaware) between May 28 and September 6.

The 305 connects to SEPTA's commuter rail line R2 (from Philadelphia) and Amtrak at the Wilmington train station. (The R2 commuter rail line does not operate on Sunday.) A one-day round trip by bus is possible. Baltimore and Washington residents can connect to the 305 by



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taking Amtrak to Wilmington. A one-day round trip to the beach costs \$9.45 for an adult. Children 46" or shorter are free. Transfer to Resort Transit local buses at the Rehoboth Park & Ride.

During the summer season (May 27-September 19, 2010), DART's Route 208 connects with the Ocean City (MD) local bus in Ocean City. This also allows Maryland residents from Salisbury and Berlin to visit Rehoboth any day of the week.

### A Special Invitation to Drivers Who Don't Want To Drive

Many people can only get to Rehoboth by driving. However, you too can avoid beach congestion, limited and expensive parking near the beach. Simply park at the Rehoboth Park & Ride: off DE route 1, on Shuttle Road north of Rehoboth Avenue. For an all-day parking fee of \$7, you and everyone in your group receives a free all-day bus pass to ride DART's Resort Transit buses. (See below for details about DART Resort buses routes and schedules.)

### Getting Around After You Arrive

Between May 27 and September 19, 2010, DART's Resort Transit buses make it easy and inexpensive to travel between Delaware beaches and resort communities. A day pass, costing \$2.10 for each person (unless you drive and park at the Rehoboth Park & Ride) allows you unlimited bus rides for that day. The main transfer point for all buses (and the connection point for the shuttle bus to the Lewes/Cape May Ferry) is the Rehoboth Park & Ride.

During summer, buses operate seven days a week.

Here is a brief summary of where each DART Resort Transit route goes:

- **Route 201:** This bus travels to the Rehoboth Boardwalk and downtown Rehoboth, and operates every 10-30 minutes from 7:00 a.m. until 2:30 a.m. If you are staying near the beach, take this bus to connect with other Resort Transit buses at the Rehoboth Park & Ride.
- **Route 203:** This bus stops at several hotels along Delaware Route 1 (Hampton Inn, Comfort Inn, and Econo Lodge) and stops at the Tanger Outlet Mall. This bus is a great resource if you are staying at one of these hotels. This route operates every 30-40 minutes between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.



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- **Route 204:** This bus serves Bayview Medical Center, Beebe Hospital, and Cape Henlopen State Park. *Cape Henlopen State Park* sits east of Lewes with 5 miles of shoreline where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. Camping, hiking, the Great Walking Dune, a nature center, swimming, a bathhouse, fishing pier and an observation tower are just a few of the attractions. For information about how close the park is to the bus stop at the Dairy Queen on Cape Henlopen Drive, and fees for pedestrians who walk from the bus stop, call the park office: (302) 645-8983. (During summer, the park office is open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.)
- **Route 205:** After 9:00 p.m. Routes 203 and 204 are combined into Route 205. Buses operate every 60 minutes from 10:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. (2:00 a.m. from July 1 until Sept. 7).
- **Route 206:** This bus serves Lewes and Georgetown, and is primarily a weekday bus, with limited weekend service (2 buses each way).
- **Route 207:** This bus serves Long Neck and Pot-Nets. See the schedule on the DART Resort Bus website address at the end of this report.
- **Route 208:** This is a very useful bus for visitors. It connects with the Ocean City bus in Ocean City, Maryland, and serves Fenwick Island State Park, South Bethany, Bethany, and Dewey. There are bus stops at the Fenwick Islander Hotel, Sea Colony (in South Bethany) and Rehoboth Inn Motel.

All buses are equipped with bike racks that carry two bicycles at no additional cost.

### What To Do During Your Vacation

Rehoboth is a great place for walkers, with its boardwalk, three downtown blocks and many cross streets. The beach is right downtown, and so are many hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast accommodations. As you explore the galleries, shops, and restaurants, take a minute to smile compassionately at nearby drivers as they feed money into the expensive parking meters.

Rehoboth Beach, DE has a wide and very clean sandy beach, with beautiful protective dunes, shells, an umbrella and beach chair concession, special big wheel beach chairs for handicapped visitors.

The mile-long boardwalk is great for bike riding, strolling or jogging. It offers miniature golf, arcades, a small amusement park, bandstand musical entertainment and numerous festivals.



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Watch sunrise, follow the frolicking dolphins, birds and other natural beauties, or fly a kite on the sand.

For a more peaceful beach experience, where it's easier to enjoy the beach and sand without crowds or most distractions, take DART Resort Transit route 208 to Fenwick Island State Park. Another nearby beach is Cape Henlopen State Park, served by route 204.



The 208 also goes to the family-friendly beach communities of Bethany Beach, South Bethany Beach, and Fenwick Island.

If you want to explore Bethany, the town has a trolley (25 cents per ride) that will take you all around that town. Visit [www.townofbethanybeach.com/index.asp?nid=268](http://www.townofbethanybeach.com/index.asp?nid=268), or call (302) 539-8011.

When you return to downtown Rehoboth, if you are here the second Saturday of June, July, August or September, consider visiting the 12 galleries that participate in the Mosaic art collective. Walk around Rehoboth and visit each member's gallery for a reception from 2pm to 5pm. For details, visit [www.mosaicrehoboth.com/events/index.htm](http://www.mosaicrehoboth.com/events/index.htm), or call (302) 227-2772.

If you have time, consider a performance at Rehoboth Theatre of the Arts. Call (302) 227-9310 or visit [www.rehobothbeachtheatre.com](http://www.rehobothbeachtheatre.com).

When you want to leave downtown Rehoboth, DART's Resort Transit routes 203 or 204 buses will take you to the Tanger Outlet malls outside of town. Delaware has no sales tax.

For a change of pace, ride the Jolly Trolley from Rehoboth to Dewey Beach. A trolley ride is always fun, and surprisingly affordable: one-way fare is \$2 from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., and \$3 between midnight and 2 a.m. ([www.jollytrolley.com](http://www.jollytrolley.com)). Call (302) 227-1197 for more information.



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Consider a trip on the Cape May Ferry. After buying a DART daily pass, take a DART local bus from downtown Rehoboth to the Rehoboth Park and Ride. The Ferry's shuttle bus (which will accept your bus pass) will take you to the ferry terminal at Lewes. For an extra fee, take a round trip on the Ferry, and an optional shuttle bus from the Cape May terminal into Cape May for a day in that historical and charming beach community.

#### For More Information

For information about Rehoboth Beach, visit [www.downtownrehoboth.com](http://www.downtownrehoboth.com) or call (302) 227-2772.

For DART's Resort Transit summer bus service, visit call (toll-free) (800) 652-DART (3278) or visit <http://www.dartfirststate.com/information/programs/beachbus/index.shtml#top>.





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#### Chapter 10: Ocean City, Maryland

##### Ocean City, Maryland—Use the 24-hour bus

Most resort communities have limited public transportation. That can make it difficult for non-drivers to go where they need or want to go.

Ocean City, MD is a welcome change: an ideal place for a car-free beach vacation. Ocean City's Coastal Highway Transit Bus operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week along Coastal Highway, stops every two blocks, and travels the length of Ocean City. Bus stops are just a block or two from the beach. A 24-hour bus pass (\$2) allows unlimited rides between 6 a.m. and 6 a.m. the next day.



Ocean City is a great place to enjoy a car-free beach vacation, any time of the year.

##### Getting to Ocean City without a Car

Greyhound has two direct bus trips from Baltimore, seven days a week. Travelers from other cities should transfer at Baltimore, or Salisbury, MD.

Shore Transit operates regional bus service from Salisbury, Pocomoke City, Snow Hill, and Berlin, MD to the West Ocean City Park and Ride, seven days a week. From the Park and Ride, take the Ocean City Park and Ride shuttle into Ocean City. The \$2 Ocean City 24-hour bus pass is accepted on the shuttle.

During summer, DART Resort Transit bus #208 from Rehoboth Beach connects with the Ocean City bus at Ocean City's North Transit Station.

US Air flies into the Salisbury/Ocean City Airport. However, there is no public transportation from there to Ocean City, except taxis. Rental cars are available.



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Day visitors can park free at the West Ocean City Park & Ride, and take a shuttle to the beach for just \$1 for the whole day.

#### Enjoying Your Ocean City Vacation After You Arrive

Ocean City is a 10-mile barrier island, with the beach running the entire length of the ocean-side. From the Coastal Highway bus, it is only a one-two block walk to the beach, anywhere in Ocean City. That means that all hotels on or within walking distance of the beach are just a short walk away from a bus stop.

If you drove here, park your car at your hotel—and leave it there during your stay.



Ocean City's famous Boardwalk parallels the beach from the Inlet at the south to 27<sup>th</sup> Street and offers amusements, arcades, shops, eateries and hotels, and public restroom facilities. There are no changing facilities, but rinse-off showers are located in a few areas, including the inlet beach area. The Boardwalk Tram, runs the length of the boardwalk, costs \$3 per ride, or \$20 for 8 rides.

Lifeguards are stationed along the entire length of the beach from Memorial Day Weekend through

mid-September from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. A number of free special events are held on the beach during the summer, including movies on the beach, concerts, bonfires and family beach Olympics. For a complete list visit the Ocean City Dept. of Tourism web site at [www.ococean.com](http://www.ococean.com).

From 27<sup>th</sup> Street all the way to the north, hotels and/or condominiums line the beach. There is plenty of room to spread out, and the beach here tends to be less crowded than along the Boardwalk.



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While you are here, take a picnic basket and enjoy a gorgeous sunset at Sunset Park at the south end of Ocean City.

Fishing is popular here. No fishing license is required, and fishing enthusiasts can choose from four public piers.

When you tire of the beach, enjoying the ocean, and the sand, Ocean City offers a variety of activities. Take the Park and Ride shuttle to the Ocean City Factory outlets in West Ocean City. From the Park and Ride in West Ocean City, Shore Transit buses go to the quaint town of Berlin with its art galleries, antique shopping and dining.

Northside Park, at 127<sup>th</sup> Street and the Bay, has softball/baseball fields, a fishing lagoon, walking and jogging trails, a picnic area and tot lots.

The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum ([www.ocmuseum.org](http://www.ocmuseum.org), or phone (410) 289-4991), located at 813 South Boardwalk, has many unique exhibits, and presents free morning programs during the summer.



When you tire of the crowds, consider a boat trip on the Assateague Adventure, located at Talbot Street and the Bay ([www.talbotstreetpier.com/boatrides/adventure.htm](http://www.talbotstreetpier.com/boatrides/adventure.htm), or phone (410) 289-9125). On this 90-minute boat ride, you will learn about the ecosystem, land on Assateague Island and explore the island, see birds in their natural habitat, search for wild ponies, dredge for clams, and navigate Ocean City's commercial fishing harbor. Hands on crab and crab pot demonstrations are held on board.



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While you are at the Talbot Street Pier, ask about two other boat trips: The OC Rocket (a 90-minute ocean cruise), and the Duckaneer Pirate Boat 90-minute cruise around Ocean City. (These have the same web site and phone number as the Assateague Adventure.)

#### For More Information

For more information about Ocean City, visit [www.ococean.com](http://www.ococean.com), or call toll-free (800) 626-2326.



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#### Chapter 11: Virginia Beach, Virginia

##### Car Free to Virginia Beach, Virginia: Leave Your Car at Home or at the Motel

Virginia Beach during the summer is so popular that it's easy to assume that traffic congestion, expensive gas prices, and parking hassles and fees are an unfortunate price we pay for a beach vacation.

But the Virginia Beach oceanfront is actually quite easy to enjoy without a car. A free shuttle from Amtrak's Newport News train station and a Greyhound bus station in Virginia Beach make it easy and affordable to get here without driving.

Once you arrive, an inexpensive shuttle service makes it easy to walk or take public transportation nearly anywhere you need to go.

When you get tired of the beach, there are two major attractions in Virginia Beach you won't want to miss, plus a ferry to nearby Old Portsmouth.



If you plan for it, Virginia Beach can be a wonderful choice for a summer beach vacation for anyone who doesn't want to drive. (And even if you do drive, it's easy to park your car at your hotel, motel or bed and breakfast inn, and walk or take public transportation while you are here.)





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### Getting to Virginia Beach Without a Car

**From Norfolk International Airport:** Carey VIP Airport Connection; visit <http://careyvip-net/carey/vip/airportconnection> or call toll-free (866) 823-4626 or (757) 963-0433; costs \$42 one-way to go to any oceanfront hotel in Virginia Beach.

**From the Greyhound Bus Terminal,** 971 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach: It's about a 20-minute walk to the Oceanfront. Call (757) 422-2998.

AMTRAK's Northeast Regional trains serve Newport News, VA (from Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C.) with a free bus connection to 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Pacific Ave. in Virginia Beach.

### Getting Around Once You Arrive



Every summer, the VB Wave Shuttle (part of Hampton Roads Transit) provides a car-free way to enjoy Virginia Beach's oceanfront and nearby attractions, on eco-friendly electric hybrid-buses. The cost is \$1 (\$.50 for persons with disabilities and senior citizens, free for children under 38 inches tall), or \$2 for a day pass—accepted on all HRT (Hampton Roads Transit) buses (except the MAX) and the Paddlewheel Ferry to historic Old Town Portsmouth with its historical 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings and small shops.

Virginia Beach does have all-year bus service, but nothing as convenient as the VB Wave. For information about all-year bus service, visit [www.gohrt.com](http://www.gohrt.com), click on *services*, then on *bus routes*, and then *Virginia Beach*.

The Wave has three routes. All operate daily.

The 30 (Atlantic Ave.) serves the entire Virginia Beach boardwalk, every 15 minutes from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. from May 1 to September 30.



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The 31 (Aquarium and Campground Shuttle) serves the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, Ocean Breeze Waterpark, KOA and Trav-L campgrounds, every 20 minutes from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m., between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The 32 (Shopper's Shuttle) goes to trendy Hilltop and Lyndhaven Mall, every 60 minutes from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 pm, between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The VB Wave Shuttle is within walking distance of oceanfront hotels and motels.

#### What To Do While You Are Here

**Walk, Bike or Swim on the Oceanfront Resort Beach**, from Croatan Beach to the South, up to the North End Beaches. The three-mile Boardwalk has a separate bike path, and is the perfect place for a stroll. Sunbathers come for the wide sandy beaches. Everyone comes for the people watching.

Walk to dozens of great restaurants and outdoor cafes. Free outdoor entertainment is presented every evening from Memorial Day through Labor Day between 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Streets (as well as on stages located at 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Streets).

Three attractions along the Boardwalk are:

- **Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum/DeWitt Cottage** (1113 Atlantic Avenue, [www.theraven.com/wildfowl.htm](http://www.theraven.com/wildfowl.htm), or call (757) 437-8432): The Museum displays wildfowl arts and artifacts and old decoys that are representative of the most well known, turn of the century decoy carvers.
- **Naval Aviation Monument Park** (25<sup>th</sup> Street): the park features heroic-scale statuary and reliefs to tell the history of Naval Aviation.
- **Old Coast Guard Station** (24<sup>th</sup> Street and Atlantic Avenue, [www.oldcoastguardstation.com](http://www.oldcoastguardstation.com) or call (757) 422-1587): This former U.S. Life Saving Station was built in 1903 and now includes exhibits on the history of the Coast Guard, rescue methods and shipwrecks off the Virginia coast.

Meet Chesapean Outdoors ([www.chesapean.com](http://www.chesapean.com), or call toll-free (888) 379-5188, or (757) 961-0447) at the King Neptune Statue at 31 Street on the Boardwalk for a bike tour through First Landing State Park.



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Rent bicycles from Cherie's Bike and Blade Rental, 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Atlantic Ave. For details, call (757) 437-8888. Some hotels may offer packages that include bike rentals.

For a special one-day outing, consider a boat ride on the Paddlewheel Ferry. Take MAX route 960 from Pacific Ave at 19<sup>th</sup> Street (near the Oceanfront) to Cedar Grove transfer point in downtown Norfolk. From there, take the 310 shuttle to Waterfront. At Waterfront, ride the Paddlewheel Ferry to Old Town Portsmouth and back. Your total cost: \$5.50 for a MAX one-day pass.

### Ideas for a Rainy Day

- **Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center:** In the fall of 2009, the Aquarium opened a \$25 million renovation. Restless Planet spotlights the different environments and landscapes – a Malaysian peat swamp, the Sahara Desert, the Red Sea and Flores Island active volcanoes – that eventually led to creating Virginia as we know it today. Komodo dragons share their habitat with Indonesian finches in Restless Planet's volcanic exhibit. (Go to [www.virginiaaquarium.com](http://www.virginiaaquarium.com), or call (757) 356-3474.) Ask about the Aquarium's local dolphin watching ocean cruises. (Take Wave route 31 to the Aquarium.)
- **A.R.E. Association for Research and Enlightenment:** the international headquarters of Edgar Cayce, the most well documented psychic of modern times. Relax with a holistic massage at the spa. ([www.edgarcayce.org](http://www.edgarcayce.org), or call toll-free (800) 333-4499, or (757) 428-3588.) To get here, take the route 30 WAVE Shuttle along Atlantic Avenue and transfer to HRT Bus Route 33 at 40th Street to go to First Landing State Park and the Association for Research and Enlightenment.
- **Town Center:** Virginia Beach's new downtown area is a short trip from the oceanfront. Once you arrive, you can walk to fine dining, shopping and entertainment. The Sandler Center for the performing arts is an intimate 1300 seat theater Westin. [www.vabeachtowncenter.com](http://www.vabeachtowncenter.com), call (757) 965-5452. (Take HRT Bus Route 20 from the Oceanfront, and get off at Corporation and Constitution. From there, it's about a 10-minute walk to Town Center.)

### For more information

For information about the VB Wave and other public transportation: [www.gohrt.com](http://www.gohrt.com), or call (757) 222-6100. For information about attractions and activities in Virginia Beach, [www.vbfun.comvisitors/default.aspx](http://www.vbfun.comvisitors/default.aspx), or call toll-free (800) VA-Beach.



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#### **Chapter 12: Isle of Palms, South Carolina**

##### **A Quiet Beach Getaway Outside of Charleston**

Sometimes, you get tired of crowds and excitement, and long for a quiet relaxing beach—a place to get away from it all.

Fortunately, travelers without cars have a place to go: the Isle of Palms in Charleston County, South Carolina.

##### **Once You Arrive, You May Not Want to Leave**

The Isle of Palms is an island near the Mount Pleasant section of Charleston. It's easy to spend a few days here, soaking in the sun and swimming in the warm ocean. This family-oriented beach is very expansive with great sand, a chance to watch the dolphins, pick up sea shells, walk along the beach, and—if you get up early enough—watch the sun rise over the nearby fishing pier.

##### **Getting to Isle of Palms Without a Car**

Local bus service in the Charleston area (including Isle of Palms) is provided by the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA). For route and schedule information, visit: [www.ridecarta.com](http://www.ridecarta.com), call (843) 724-7420 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, or e-mail [askcarta@gocarta.com](mailto:askcarta@gocarta.com).

A taxi from Charleston International Airport to Isle of Palms can cost \$55-\$60 each way.

When you return to the airport, East Cooper Taxi (843) 554-8066) charges approximately \$40-\$45 from Isle of Palms to the airport, but it is not authorized to pick up passengers at the airport.

Public transportation, although less expensive, can take two hours or more each way.

CARTA's Route 11 (cost: \$1.50) serves the airport, seven days a week. A one-day pass costs \$5, and a three-day pass costs \$11. These passes include all CARTA routes (except express routes),





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including the Flex Bus to Isle of Palms. Ride at Night CARTA buses cost an extra \$.75 with a pass, or a flat fee of \$2 per ride.

Route 11 also serves the Charleston Greyhound bus terminal.

Route 10 stops in front of the Amtrak station (Rivers and Morningside Avenues).

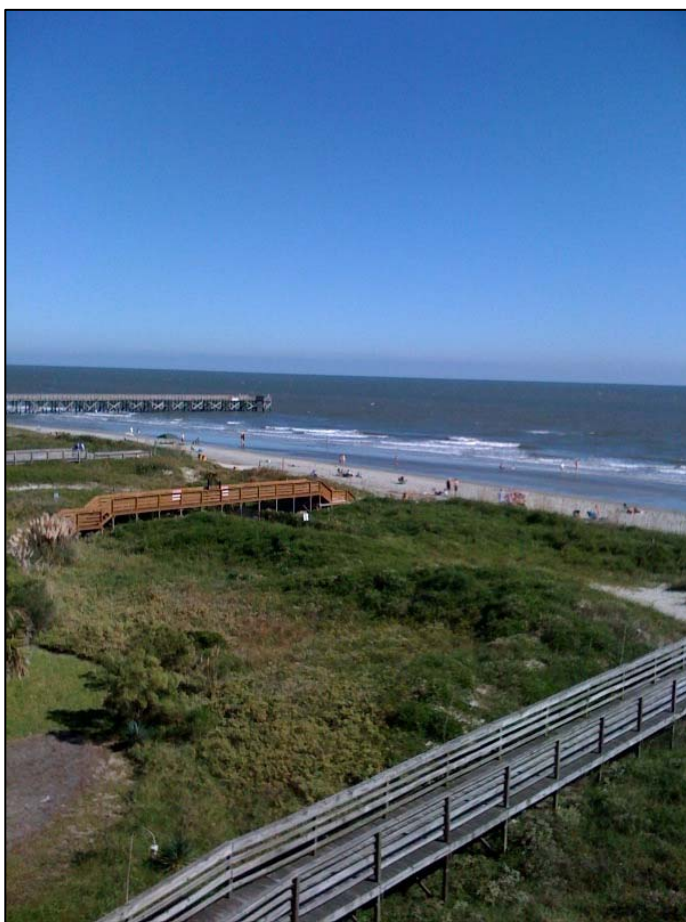
Isle of Palms is served by CARTA's Flex Bus: a door-to-door service from any fixed route bus stop in Mount Pleasant along CARTA's Route 40. To use the Flex bus, call (843) 747-0007 and press 1 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, (and 2 evenings and weekends) at least two hours before you want to use the service.

From downtown Charleston, transfer at Mount Pleasant Town Center from Route 40 to the Flex Bus. Then, take the Flex Bus to 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocean Blvd.

### Enjoying Your Visit After You Arrive

If you want to stay in downtown Charleston, call CARTA to schedule a Flex Bus pickup at Mount Pleasant Town Center when your route 40 bus is scheduled to arrive. Take the Flex Bus to 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocean Ave. Call CARTA at least two hours before you want to leave the beach. Then take the Flex Bus to Mount Pleasant Town Center, and the 40 downtown.

Isle of Palms County Park has changing facilities, restrooms, picnic areas, volleyball courts, boardwalks, and (in season) umbrella and beach chair rentals. The sandy family-oriented beach is a great place to enjoy the sun and the ocean. Lifeguards are on duty from 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., May-September.





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The beach is popular and a good choice for walking or running in either high or low tide. The ocean here is warm and a good place to swim. According to Jared Becknell at the Palms Hotel, the beach at Isle of Palms has won the blue tide award—for many consecutive-years-for having the cleanest beach in South Carolina.

If you want a relaxing weekend at the beach, both the Palms Hotel, (843) 886-3003, and Seaside Inn, (843) 886-7000, are on Ocean Blvd. between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. From either hotel, it's an easy walk to the beach, restaurants, and several shops. A grocery store is just a few blocks away.

*My Favorite Things*, a beach shop across from the Palms Hotel, rents bicycles for \$20 for 24 hours, or \$35 for a week. They will be glad to recommend bike trails and other interesting rides. (No web site, call (843) 886-6387.)

If you are staying for any length of time, take time to visit downtown Charleston's many attractions. Take the Flex Bus to Mount Pleasant Town Center. Then take Route 40 downtown to the Visitor Center: located on Meeting Street between Ann and Johns Streets. While you are downtown, CARTA's 3 Dash shuttles (Routes 210, 211, and 212) will get you nearly anywhere you want to go.

#### For More Information

For information about Isle of Palms County Beach and other Charleston County parks, visit [www.ccprc.com](http://www.ccprc.com) or call (843) 886-3863.

For local bus information, visit [www.ridecarta.com](http://www.ridecarta.com), or call (843) 724-7420. For Flex Bus reservations, call (843) 747-0007, and press 1 (2 evenings and weekends).

For information about Charleston area sights and attractions, visit [www.charlestoncvb.com](http://www.charlestoncvb.com), or call (843) 853-8000.



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#### Chapter 13: Jacksonville Beach, Florida

##### Jacksonville Beach: Warm Beaches and Many Activities



Photo credit Greg Downing.

Would you enjoy a weekend at a warm beach with lots of activities, where nearly everything is either within walking distance or easy to reach on a bus or trolley? Jacksonville Beach and its two neighboring beaches: Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach in northern Florida have miles of white sandy beach and great sport fishing, boating and water sport opportunities.

##### Getting Here Without Driving

Jacksonville Transit Authority's (JTA) route NS 33 (cost: \$1.50) serves Jacksonville International Airport seven days a week.

JTA route AR7 serves Greyhound's Bus Terminal: 10 North Pearl Street.

The Amtrak train station, 3570 Clifford Lane, is served by the M4 and K2. The K2 also serves the Jacksonville beaches, after leaving downtown.



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### Getting Around After Arriving

Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA) provides local and regional bus and trolley service; [www.jtafla.com](http://www.jtafla.com), or (904) 630-3100.

One-way bus fare is \$1, persons with disabilities pay \$.25, and senior citizens age 60 and older ride free. A book of 10 tickets cost \$9; a 40-ticket book is \$36. A weekly pass costs \$12.

The Rosa L Parks Station in downtown Jacksonville is the main transfer point for JTA buses and the Skyway monorail. Two JTA routes: K2 and BH1, + the BH50 Commuter bus serve the Beaches area (except Ponte Vedra Beach) seven days a week.

Every weekend, the Beaches Trolley (fare is just \$1.00 per ride) operates between South Beach Parkway Shopping Center and Atlantic Village Shopping Center, Friday: 7 p.m. until 2 a.m., Saturday: 12 noon until 2 a.m., and Sunday: 12 noon -- 6 p.m. The 2009 season is from May 8 until September 7 (Labor Day).

### Welcome to the Beach Communities of Jacksonville

Jacksonville, Atlantic, Neptune and Ponte Vedra Beaches are in a centralized location. Beaches, restaurants and bars, beaches, parks and shopping are a short walk from the Trolley.

The Jacksonville Beach core, the area surrounding the Sea Walk Pavilion, has many hotels with ocean views, close to shopping, art galleries, and eateries. You don't need a car to stay here.



Photo courtesy Visit Jacksonville.

The Beaches Museum & History Center (within walking distance of ocean view hotels) (a beautiful museum) now includes a Visit Jacksonville welcome center, where visitors can pick up a Visitor Magazine, brochures and receive vacation advice. 380 Pablo Ave., 32240 [www.bm-hc.com](http://www.bm-hc.com)



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Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach, just north of Jacksonville Beach, form a Town Center that is the center of a boutique shopping, dining and nightlife, including resort hotels and more quaint accommodations.

Lifeguards are on duty during the summer months. Play in the ocean, walk or collect seashells along the beach, or stroll along the Sea Walk and watch for porpoise year-round or the whales that winter off our coast. Concerts or festivals are held at the Sea Walk Pavilion most weekends from April through October.

For bicycle, umbrella or beach chair rentals, contact **Rent Beach Stuff** ([www.rentbeachstuff.com](http://www.rentbeachstuff.com), or call toll free (877) 997-8833, or (904) 305-6472, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day.)



Photo courtesy Visit Jacksonville.

### Outings Away From the Beach

For a family outing, take JTA route K2 to 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Beach Blvd. From there it's a short walk to Adventure Landing. Here, you can enjoy a round of adventure miniature golf, indoor laser tag or a race on the go-kart tracks. During the summer, bring your bathing suit and check





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out the Shipwreck Island Water Park featuring the Little St. Johns Lazy River, Typhoon Lagoon and three waterslides. ([www.adventurelanding.com](http://www.adventurelanding.com), or (904) 246-4386.)

Monday-Friday, JTA has an express bus from the Beaches area to downtown Jacksonville. For schedules and bus stops, visit: <http://www.jtafla.com/Schedules/showPage.aspx?Sel=133>

Three downtown museums are just a bus ride away.

**Museum of Science & History (MOSH)** ([www.themosh.org](http://www.themosh.org), or (904) 396-6674) is a great place to experience electrifying and explosive science shows, explore 12,000 years of Jacksonville's history or watch the stars circle the night sky

The MOSH features hands-on exhibits exploring nature, history and science. There are small animal exhibits and aquariums to view and special exhibits are featured seasonally. Permanent MOSH exhibits include, Universe of Science, Water Worlds and Currents of Time.

**The Cummer Museum of Arts and Gardens** (<http://www.cummer.org>, phone: (904) 356-6857) is the largest fine art museum in Northeast Florida. Noted for its Old Master and American paintings, beautiful formal gardens and renowned collection of Meissen porcelain, the museum's collections cover western art from 2,000 BC to the present. The museum's Italian garden is modeled after the gardens of Villa Gamberaia in Florence, Italy. While you are here, enjoy a stroll in the museum's English gardens on the St. Johns River.

**The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)** (<http://www.mocajacksonville.org>, phone: (904) 366-6911) Jacksonville hosts a permanent collection of over 700 works in a wide range of media, representing prominent national and international artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Your children will enjoy the Art Explorium Loft Family Learning Center's educational programs.

If you want a Saturday change from the beach, consider a bus ride downtown to enjoy **The Riverside Arts Market.**, tucked beneath the Fuller Warren Bridge and along the St. Johns River in the historic Riverside neighborhood. With over 150 booths for vendors in the expansive space, local artists display and sell art, produce and fresh baked goods. The market also features an amphitheater with live entertainment and a kids' area for family fun.

[www.riversideartsmarket.com](http://www.riversideartsmarket.com)

To plan your JTA trip, visit [www.jtafla.com](http://www.jtafla.com), choose Riding JTA, then click on How to Ride, than on the bottom right tab, click Plan Your Trip.





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### If You Need to Drive

Traffic can be a problem. However, parking at Jacksonville Beach's ocean beaches is generally free, even during special events.

### For More Information

For information about attractions and accommodations in Jacksonville, Atlantic, and Neptune Beach, visit [www.visitjacksonville.com](http://www.visitjacksonville.com), or call (800) 733-2668.

Check out the new website for information about the Beaches area:

[www.visitjacksonvillebeaches.com](http://www.visitjacksonvillebeaches.com)

For information about local buses and the beach trolley, visit [www.jtafla.com](http://www.jtafla.com), or call (904) 630-3100.

For information about JTA's express bus to the beaches, go to:

<http://www.jtafla.com/Schedules/showPage.aspx?Sel=133>



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#### Chapter 14: Rochester, New York

##### Rochester, New York: Ontario Beach and the Erie Canal

Would you like to visit a beach on Lake Ontario? Come to Rochester, New York's Ontario Beach Park (also known as Charlotte Ontario Beach Park).

Ontario Beach Park, a Monroe County park, where the Genesee River merges into Lake Ontario, has a natural sand beach, a carousel, picnic shelters, barbeque grills, basketball courts, a boardwalk, a museum, and an auditorium. Watching boats coming in and out of the harbor, riding the historic carousel, and enjoying the free summer concerts at the park's bandstand are just a few ways to have a visit you will remember.



Photo courtesy of Visit Rochester.

##### Getting to Rochester without a Car

From Greater Rochester International Airport, RGRTA bus 2 operates seven days a week to downtown Rochester.

Amtrak's train station (320 Central Avenue) is served by route #11.

The Greyhound Bus Terminal (300 East Broad Street) is served by, or within walking distance of, nearly all downtown Rochester bus routes.



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#### After You Arrive

The Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority ([www.rgrta.org](http://www.rgrta.org), telephone: (585) 288-1700) recently lowered its fares to just \$1. A day pass costs \$3, and a five-day pass is \$14. (Both passes can be used for unlimited rides during the period they cover.)

To reach Ontario Beach Park, take RTA route #1 Lake Avenue to Charlotte Beach, or take the bus to Port of Rochester. From there, it's a short walk to the beach. The Roger Robach Community Center has restrooms, showers and lockers. Lifeguards are on duty between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

The historic 1905 Dentzel Menagerie Carousel provides visitors of all ages the opportunity to ride on a wide variety of winsome animals for just \$1.

During summer, enjoy movie nights and free Wednesday evening concerts.

Stay in downtown Rochester or another neighborhood close to RTA buses. Downtown Rochester is home to the Strong Museum. The 17 East Ave. bus (also serving Pittsford) goes to the George Eastman House (900 East Ave.), and the Rochester Museum and Science Center and its Strasenburgh Planetarium (667 East Ave.)

#### Take a Boat Ride on the Erie Canal



Photo courtesy of Visit Rochester.

No summer visit to Rochester would be complete without a boat ride on the Erie Canal.

The Erie Canal Boat Company rents canoes, kayaks, and paddleboats at two locations: Pittsford and Fairport. ([www.eriecanalboatcompany.com](http://www.eriecanalboatcompany.com), phone: (585) 748-2628.). A canoe trip down the canal is a trip back in history.

Take a ride on the Sam Patch, ([www.samandmary.org](http://www.samandmary.org), or (585) 262-5661), located at 12 Schoen Place in



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Pittsford. It offers the opportunity to cruise on a replica of a canal packet boat through a century-old Erie Canal lock, passing through a beautifully restored and redeveloped historic canal town.

If you have limited time, take RTA bus 17 East Ave. to Main and Del Monte Lodge in Pittsford and walk to both the Sam Patch and Erie Canal Boat Company. Rent a bicycle at Towpath Bikes ([www.towpathbike.com](http://www.towpathbike.com), phone (585) 381-2808).

While you are here, take time to explore Pittsford.

The village of Pittsford remains a working example of a traditional village downtown. The historic center of the village comprises one of the earliest and best-preserved collections of 19th-century architecture in the region. The community library, parks, schools, banks, churches, lodgings, coffee shops, a dairy, village and town offices, and restaurants are all within easy walking distance of the Four Corners.

Schoen Place, a shopping area along the banks of the Erie Canal, is an outstanding example of adaptive reuse. Buildings originally designed as canal and railroad warehouses have been adapted for retail uses, including a coal tower that has been reincarnated as a restaurant. Pittsford Village is a community that has refused to forsake its 19th-century charm, grace, and individuality.

If your schedule allows, explore the town of Fairport, or downtown Rochester's Corn Hill neighborhood — home to the Mary Jemison: a local tour boat offering a great view of the merging of the Genesee River and Erie Canal.

Fairport is located in the heart of Perinton, New York. The Canal flows through the village and under its world-renowned landmark lift bridge. The packet boats and barges of the past have been replaced by recreational boaters and tour boats of today, making it a boater's paradise. The Village's business district is complete with modern overnight docking facilities for more than 30 boats, and a helpful dock master is on duty throughout the busy boating season.



Photo courtesy of Visit Rochester.





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The Village's canal towpaths are a perfect thoroughfare for avid bikers, joggers and walkers. The towpaths are at the heart of one of the most desirable Victorian-style family neighborhoods in upstate New York, complete with sylvan canal-side parks and bountiful shops.

The Fairport office of the Erie Canal Boat Company is located at 7 Lift Bridge Lane. To get to Fairport, take route 21 (every day except Sunday) to Main Street and Lift Bridge Lane in Fairport.

If you have time, consider a boat ride on the *Mary Jemison*, located at 290 Exchange Boulevard in Rochester. *Mary Jemison* cruises offer spectacular views of the Rochester skyline featuring the award-winning Frederick Douglass-Susan B. Anthony Bridge; Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Genesee Valley Park; and the picturesque crossing point where the waters of the Genesee River and Erie Canal meet. Take routes 14, 20, 21, 22, 30, or 92 to Broad Street and Exchange Boulevard.

The boat is docked about a 5 minute walk south on Exchange Street - or on the River Walk along the Genesee River. There is an elaborate system of trails along the Genesee River and Erie Canal, which are great for bicycling, walking, running, etc.

*Mary Jemison* is located in the *Corn Hill Neighborhood* in downtown Rochester. This neighborhood features some of the oldest homes in the City, many of which were built with the fortunes made by those who benefited from the completion of the Erie Canal. Walking tours of Corn Hill are provided by the Landmark Society of Western New York.

<http://www.landmarksociety.org/>.



Juxtaposed against the 19th century architecture is a development of new townhouses and the City's newest development, Corn Hill Landing. Several excellent restaurants are located in the Landing and across Exchange St. from it.

Downtown Rochester, the Community War Memorial, downtown hotels, Rochester Convention Center, East End entertainment district, Rochester Public Library, Eastman Theater,





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Geva Theater, and Renaissance Art Gallery are all within easy walking distance of Corn Hill Landing. A highly popular annual arts festival takes place in Corn Hill every year in July. For details, go to [http://cornhill.org/festival\\_overview.htm](http://cornhill.org/festival_overview.htm).

#### For More Information

For information about Rochester, visit [www.visitrochester.com](http://www.visitrochester.com), or call (800) 677-7282.

For information about Ontario Beach, visit [www.monroecounty.gov/parks-ontariobeach-php](http://www.monroecounty.gov/parks-ontariobeach-php), or call (585) 753-7275.

For public transportation in Rochester and Monroe County, visit [www.rgrta.org](http://www.rgrta.org), or call (585) 288-1700.



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#### Chapter 15: Manitowoc, Wisconsin

##### The Beaches of The Port Cities Manitowoc-Two Rivers, Wisconsin

Would you enjoy a Great Lakes beach vacation? Consider Wisconsin's Port Cities: Manitowoc and Two Rivers. Manitowoc is a medium-sized city on Lake Michigan with a population of 33,000 people. Two Rivers is a small city of about 12,000 people. The beaches are only one of many activities you can enjoy.



##### Getting to Manitowoc Without a Car

From Milwaukee, Indian Trails and Jefferson Lines bus lines each have one trip a day that stops in Manitowoc. (Service from Minneapolis takes over 7 hours.)

A Jefferson Lines bus leaves Milwaukee at 10:30 a.m. daily, arriving in Manitowoc at 12:01 p.m. A Super 8 Motel is next door to the Shell station where the bus arrives.

*Maritime Metro Transit* (MMT) provides local bus service within Manitowoc and Two Rivers, every day but Sunday. Buses operate 5:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. For schedule and fare information, and help getting around by bus, call (920) 683-4560 between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Central Time, Monday-Friday, or visit [www.manitowoc.org/dept\\_MMTw.html](http://www.manitowoc.org/dept_MMTw.html). (When the bus isn't operating, the local taxicab's phone number is: (920) 686-1300.)

Two local parks have beaches near a MMT bus stop. Both provide restrooms, changing facilities, and walking trails, and are popular with local residents.

*Red Arrow Park*, in Manitowoc, near MMT's Route 4, is dog friendly, offers open shelters and picnic areas with fryers, changing room/restrooms, several large playground areas, a groomed swimming beach with lots of beach frontage and a boat launch. Build sand castles, picnic, or play volleyball on the beach. Or just bring a blanket and stare up at the stars or watch the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks.



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*Neshotah Park*, in Twin Rivers, is close to MMT's Route 1, and offers 600,000 sq. ft. of groomed beach, volleyball nets and half court basketball. Concessions, picnic areas, restrooms and changing facilities are at the 50-acre Neshotah Park, across the street from the beach.

Neshotah Beach is home to “Kites Over Lake Michigan” – an exciting family-friendly kite flying festival on Labor Day weekend.

If you want a break from the beach, explore downtown Manitowoc's

streets and shops. Tour a fully restored World War II submarine at the *Wisconsin Maritime Museum*. Other highlights, a short bus ride from downtown, include *Lincoln Park Zoo* with its natural habitats featuring fish, birds and larger animals native to the North Woods, and the *Rahr West Art Museum*: where a chunk of Sputnik IV landed in front of the museum in 1962. The Museum, housed in a Victorian mansion, includes works by Picasso and Georgia O'Keefe.

In Two Rivers, the *Hamilton Wood Type and Printing Museum* spotlights over 100 years of American printing history. *Two Rivers Historic Farm Museum* displays farming equipment 50 years and older. Combine art with delicious ice cream at *Historic Washington House*, where rare murals are on display in the second floor ballroom. Berner's old-time ice cream parlor and soda fountain serves up delicious treats, while commemorating the invention of the ice cream sundae in Two Rivers.

For more active recreation, rent a bike at *Village Inn on the Lake* in Two Rivers, or seven other locations in Manitowoc and Two Rivers. Enjoy a walk or bike ride along the *Mariners Trail* ([www.marinerstrail.net](http://www.marinerstrail.net)). This six-mile paved, lakeshore recreational trail is the longest, continuous scenic view of Lake Michigan in the state of Wisconsin. Enjoy the scenic shoreline view of Lake Michigan between Manitowoc and Two Rivers.

We recommend visiting the beach either weekdays or Saturday morning and early afternoon, when bus service is most frequent. On Sunday, find a location within walking distance of attractions or activities. Downtown Manitowoc and Village Inn on the Lake in Twin Rivers are two possibilities.



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Extend your Lake Michigan trip with a four-hour ride across Lake Michigan on the *S.S. Badger* (toll-free: (800) 841-4243 or (920) 684-0888, or visit [www.ssbadger.com](http://www.ssbadger.com)) to Ludington, Michigan.

#### For More Information

Visit [www.manitowoc.info](http://www.manitowoc.info), or [www.two-rivers.org](http://www.two-rivers.org), for a complete list of attractions and accommodations in Manitowoc and Two Rivers. Or call the Manitowoc Area Visitors & Convention Bureau toll-free at (800) 627-4596, or (920) 683-4388.



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#### Chapter 16: Ludington, Michigan

##### A Lake Michigan Beach Community

Here is an idea for a special beach weekend at a beautiful Lake Michigan beach community: Ludington, Michigan. Best of all, between Memorial Day weekend and the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October, you don't need a car to get here. Instead, enjoy a four-hour boat ride across Lake Michigan. (Enjoy a weeklong vacation by combining this trip with our Manitowoc vacation.)

##### Getting to Ludington Without a Car

From Milwaukee, take a 1 ½-hour bus ride to Manitowoc, Wisconsin on either Indian Trails or Jefferson Lines.

From Manitowoc, the SS Badger—also called the Lake Michigan Car Ferry—makes a four-hour trip across Lake Michigan to Ludington: once a day in spring and fall, and twice daily in summer (from June 5-August 31). For schedules and fares, visit [www.ssbadger.com](http://www.ssbadger.com), or call toll-free (800) 841-4243. (Pedestrians without cars are welcome. Bicycles can also be taken on the ferry.) Our suggestions are based on the summer schedule. (We suggest going Thursday or Friday, and returning Sunday or Monday.)



Photo credit [www.toddandbradreed.com](http://www.toddandbradreed.com).

If you want to enjoy the views of Lake Michigan, take the afternoon trip that leaves Manitowoc at 1:15 Central Time and arrives in Ludington at 6:15 Eastern Time. The ferry serves food, shows movies, and has many games and other entertainment for the whole family.





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When you return to Manitowoc, the ferry leaving Ludington at 8 a.m. Eastern Time arrives in Manitowoc at 11:00 a.m. Central Time.

#### After You Arrive

From the ferry terminal, it's just a short walk to downtown Ludington. Or call the Ludington Mass Transit Administration (LMTA) and request that one of their on-call buses pick you up. LMTA (231) 845-6218 is an on-demand service. You call and tell them where you are and where you wish to go. Then, one of their buses picks you up (generally in just a few minutes). LMTA operates: Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Sunday: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Adults: ages 12-60 pay \$2 each trip, senior citizens 60 and older, persons with disabilities and children under 12 pay \$1.

Downtown Ludington has a variety of overnight accommodations, shopping, restaurants, and summer activities. Some lodging facilities offer car ferry shuttle service. Ask about this when making your reservation.

The Ludington Historic Bed and Breakfast Association ([www.ludingtonbedandbreakfast.com](http://www.ludingtonbedandbreakfast.com)) includes 8 historic Bed and Breakfast Inns, in historic mansions. A stay at one of these inns is a special experience.

If you don't stay at one of these inns, walk along East Ludington Ave. between James and Washington Streets to view these historic buildings.

Stearns Beach Park is a short walk from downtown. Located at the west end of Ludington Avenue, this family friendly beach has 2,500 feet of sandy shoreline, a grassy area with picnic tables and grills, a playground, miniature golf, volleyball and shuffleboard, changing facilities,



Photo credit [www.toddandbradreed.com](http://www.toddandbradreed.com).



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rest rooms, and concessions that sell food. A long walkable pier juts out to the North Breakwater Light.

After enjoying the beach, it's natural to crave ice cream. From the beach, it's a short walk to the *House of Flavors Restaurant* (402 West Ludington Avenue, phone: (231) 845-7360): known for its homemade ice cream.

If you have children, let their imaginations run wild at the *Sandcastles Children's Museum* (227 West Ludington Ave., (231) 690-6735, [www.sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com](http://www.sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com)). Here, they can create, discover, and explore an art center, water table, post office, and hands on ice-cream Shoppe.



Photo credit [www.toddandbradreed.com](http://www.toddandbradreed.com).



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If you don't have children, or have older children you can drop off at the Children's Museum, check out two nearby galleries:

*Red Door Gallery* (310 West Ludington Ave., (231) 392-4709, [www.ludingtonreddoor.com/](http://www.ludingtonreddoor.com/): Known for its unique pottery and one of a kind design.

*Todd and Brad Reed Photography* (114 West Ludington Ave., (231) 843-0777, [www.toddandbradreed.com/](http://www.toddandbradreed.com/): A father and son team that truly captures the beauty of the Ludington Area. Three of their photographs are included in this report, with their permission.

Friday Night Live is a series of free concerts downtown, for the whole family, during several July and August Friday evenings.

*Ludington State Park* (<http://www.ludingtoncvb.com/ludington-state-park-139/>) has hiking trails, sand dunes, swimming, and even rental canoes for short trips. (A taxi costs about \$20 each way from downtown.)

Visit *Historic White Pine Village* ([www.historicwhitepinevillage.org](http://www.historicwhitepinevillage.org), Phone: (231) 843-4808). Over 29 buildings recreate Ludington's past. Take time to visit the flower and vegetable gardens. (LMTA can take you here.)

Vintage Baseball Association members host old time baseball club games, at White Pine Village, in accordance with 1860s rules and period uniforms.

### For more information

Go to [www.DestinationLudington.org](http://www.DestinationLudington.org), or call the Ludington Convention and Visitors Bureau toll free at (877) 420-6618.



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#### Chapter 17: The Mississippi Gulf Coast



The Mississippi Gulf Coast communities of Gulfport and Biloxi are well known for their Gulf beaches, historic attractions, and casinos. However, few people know that this area, located between New Orleans (LA) and Mobile (AL), can be enjoyed by visitors who don't want to drive. Coast Transit trolleys and buses operate seven days a week, serve most beaches in Harrison County, and even have an active bike and ride program for cyclists who want to combine their love of the beach with a ride or two on bike trails. On rainy days, there are art,

historical, and children's museums to enjoy. For more information about the Mississippi Gulf Coast and its attractions, visit: <http://www.gulfcoast.org>, or call (228) 896-6699 or (toll-free) (888) 467-4853.

#### Getting Here

The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport (<http://www.flygpt.com>) has non-stop flights to and from Atlanta, Branson (Missouri), Charlotte (NC), Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Memphis, St. Petersburg/Clearwater, and Tampa. The following airlines serve the Gulfport-Biloxi airport: American, Air Tran, Branson Air Express, Continental, Delta, U S Airways, and Vision Airlines. Coast Transit local bus #37 serves the airport every 90 minutes from 6:01 a.m. to 6:01 p.m., every day except Sunday. The 37 offers direct bus service to downtown Gulfport and the Gulfport Transit Center—just one block away from the beach.

Greyhound provides direct daily bus service to New Orleans, Mobile, and Jackson (MS) from both Biloxi, (228) 436-4335, and Gulfport, (228) 863-1022. Both stations are served by Coast Transit buses.





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### Getting Around After You Arrive

Coast Transit provides local and regional bus service to Biloxi, Gulfport, and Ocean Springs. The Gulfport and Biloxi Transit Centers, located in downtown Biloxi and Gulfport, are just a one-minute walk from the beach.

The three bus routes of most value to you and other beach visitors without cars are:

- **Beachcomber Trolley** serves the beach highway in Biloxi, Gulfport, and Long Beach
- **Casino Hopper Trolley** serves the casinos and beach in Biloxi, and
- **D'Iberville Shopper Express** serves the Promenade and Lake View Centers for shopping, dining and entertainment. Shoppers should also know about the #34 Pass Road that serves the Edgewater Mall from both the Biloxi and Gulfport Transit Centers.

All of these routes operate seven days a week. Buses operate from 5:30 AM – 9:30 PM Sunday – Thursday. From 5:30 AM – 1:00 AM on Friday and Saturday (Casino Hopper Trolley only has these late hours). Hours of operation and time intervals vary by route. Route intervals are either 15, 45, 60 or 90 minutes.

For complete schedule and fare information, visit Coast Transit at <http://www.coasttransit.com>, or call (228) 896-8080.

The regular adult fare is \$1.25 per zone and unlimited ride passes are available. A one-day pass is \$5. A three-day pass is \$12. You can purchase any of these passes directly from your bus driver.

There is a wide choice of places to stay on or within a short walk of the beach. For details, visit <http://www.gulfcoast.org>, or call (228) 896-6699 or (toll free) (888) 467-4853.

### If you Drive Here but don't want to use your car during your stay

You are welcome to park free, for as long as you like, at any of the CTA facility parking areas. The facilities are the Biloxi Transit Center on MLK Blvd in Biloxi, the Gulfport Transit Center on 15th Street in Gulfport, Courthouse Rd. Station on Hwy 90 in Gulfport and Jones Park Station on Hwy 90 in Gulfport. The fixed route bus service serves all location from both transit centers.





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#### What to do during your Vacation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

You probably are here because you want to enjoy the beach. According to local authorities, the oil spill has *not* affected local beaches or the Ship Island beaches.

There are excellent beaches in Biloxi, Gulfport, and Long Beach that are served by Coast Transit's Beachcomber Trolley. The Casino Hopper and Beachcomber trolley service serve all the public beaches in Long Beach, Gulfport and Biloxi

A beach highlight you won't want to miss is a visit to West Ship Island.

**Ship Island Excursions** will take you on a 12-mile one-hour cruise out to the magnificent barrier island, West Ship Island. Here, you can tour an historic fort, body surf on the south side of the island, or just enjoy sparkling white sand beaches and surf that are free from commercialism. Dolphins often accompany the vessels on the way to and from the islands and play around the island throughout the day. For more information about the cruises and West Ship Island, visit [http://msshapisland.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://msshapisland.com/Home_Page.html). (Take the Beachcomber Trolley to the Gulfport small craft harbor at the Mississippi State Port.)



#### Other Outdoor Activities

##### Fishing

Take the Beachcomber Trolley to the Biloxi or Long Beach Harbors. Check out the charter boats ready for a fishing excursion.

##### Bicycle Trails

Start by renting a bike from either Competition Sports (228) 456-0218 or Cyclists Choice (228) 864-0072. Both shops are in Gulfport.

Coast Transit's popular Bike & Bus program allows you and other visitors to enjoy Gulf Coast history, culture and entertainment venues by bicycle. The entire fixed



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route bus system is outfitted with a two-bike rack on each bus. Visitors can access all destinations in the five cities and two counties that CTA serves by bike. Detailed Bike & Bus information is available on the CTA website (<http://www.coasttransit.com>).

Jim Foster, President of Gulf Coast Heritage Partnership, recommends two bike trails:

1. After riding the Beachcomber Bike N Bus along Beach Boulevard on the Gulf of Mexico, bicyclists can get their bikes off the rack at Cowan Road in Gulfport. This bicycle lane presents beautiful views of two bodies of water, the Bayou Bernard at Kremer marina and the Seaway canal further North. Cowan Road bicycle lane intersects the Magnolia E-W street route with multiple quiet, low-speed and low-count traffic residential areas. Magnolia E-W route leads to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Jeff Davis Campus and the CTA Center at 333 DeBuys Road, Gulfport to the East. The Magnolia street route to the West connects with residential street routes, shopping and the bicycle rental at Competition Sports, Courthouse Road, Gulfport.
2. For pleasant pedaling in the southern pine forest, CTA Route 4 connects the bicyclist to the Biloxi-D'Iberville Parkway. Traveling through the De Soto National Forest, this Parkway connects the community of Saucier to the city of Biloxi to the south-east. The Parkway features low rollers, open vistas and clear visibility for the bicyclist. Quiet county roads off the Parkway meander through the National Forest providing the best road bike riding along the Gulf Coast.

For more information about local bicycle trails, contact the Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership at [info@GulfCoastTrails.org](mailto:info@GulfCoastTrails.org) or visit [www.GulfCoastBicycleClub.com](http://www.GulfCoastBicycleClub.com). There are many short and medium length rides (12 to 35 miles) across the Coast. For longer rides, use the De Soto National Forest county roads, especially the Southern Magnolia 100 routes (See the 25 mile, 50 mile, 100 km and 100 mile routes on [www.MapMyRide.com](http://www.MapMyRide.com)).

Bicyclists from the communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast will be happy to discuss your preferences and provide "local knowledge." Contact Gulf Coast Bicycle Club by emailing [gcbc@gulfcoastbicycleclub.com](mailto:gcbc@gulfcoastbicycleclub.com).

#### Indoor Activities

When you get tired of the outdoors, there are several museums and other attractions to enjoy.

Here are a few ideas:



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The **Biloxi Schooners**, located across from the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art offer visitors a tranquil sail aboard replicas of the Oyster Schooners that once sailed the waters of the Mississippi Sound harvesting oysters between the 1860's and 1930's. (There is a Casino Hopper/Beachcomber Trolley stop there.)



The **Ohr-O'Keefe Cultural Center** is a Frank Gehry designed campus of 7 buildings "dancing with the trees" and includes the Mississippi Sound Welcome Center, The IP Exhibitions Gallery, The African American Gallery (all opening November 2010) and the Pleasant Reed Interpretive Center (open now), the Ohr Pods and the American Ceramics Gallery (opening by 2011). (The Casino Hopper and Beachcomber Trolley stop here.)

The **Walter Anderson Museum of Art** showcases the art of the Anderson brothers, focusing on Walter Inglis Anderson. The museum is nestled among the trees in Ocean Springs and brings to life the watercolors, drawings, and "widgets" of Anderson along with the pottery of his brothers Mac and Peter Anderson. (Take route 7 to Ocean Springs, every day except Sunday.)

The **Lynn Meadows Discovery Center** is an interactive, hand-on children's learning center where children learn while playing with trains, pulleys, playing dress-up, and shopping in a pretend grocery store. Voted one of the top 50 children's museums and Mississippi's first children's museum the Discovery Center features over 15,000 sq ft of indoor activities and 6 acres of outdoor fun. (The Beachcomber Trolley stops here.)

### For More Information

For information about Mississippi Gulf Coast accommodations and attractions, visit: <http://www.gulfcoast.org>, or call (228) 896-6699 or (toll-free) (888) 467-4853.

For information about public transportation along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, contact Coast Transit. Visit <http://www.coasttransit.com>, or call (228) 896-8080.



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### Chapter 18: Corpus Christi, Texas

#### Corpus Christi, Texas: A Gulf City With Lots of Water Activities

Would you enjoy a beach vacation that includes a downtown with lots to do, trolleys, a Harbor Ferry, and an opportunity to enjoy both popular beaches near downtown, and the unspoiled Gulf beach? Then, Corpus Christi, Texas may be the perfect vacation spot for you.

#### Getting To Corpus Christi Without A Car

Corpus Christi International Airport is served by three airlines: American, Continental, and Southwest. From the airport, several hotels provide free airport shuttles. Check with the hotel when making reservations.

Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)'s *Route 67* provides three daily trips from the Airport to Corpus Christi City Hall, every day except Sunday. (CCRTA's Staples Street Station is across the street from City Hall.)

The Greyhound bus terminal is located at 702 North Chaparral Street in downtown Corpus Christi. The downtown trolley (CCRTA Route 79) stops outside the bus terminal: every half-hour, Monday-Saturday.

#### Enjoying Corpus Christi After You Arrive



Local bus service is provided by the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA). For route and schedule information, visit [www.ccrta.org](http://www.ccrta.org), or call (361) 883-2287. A single ride costs 75 cents (less for students, seniors 60 and older, and persons with disabilities). The downtown shuttle (Route 79) and Port Aransas shuttle (Route 94) cost just 25 cents. A one-day pass costs \$1.75. A weekly pass is \$7.50.





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CCRTA also operates 4 trolleys (Routes 73, 75, 78, and 79

If you don't want to drive, downtown Corpus Christi is a convenient location to stay during your visit. Several attractions are within walking distance, and two popular beaches are a short bus ride away.

#### Two Popular Bay Beaches Are Close To Downtown

##### McGee Beach

Because of its bay location, there is very little seaweed and no undertow, making McGee Beach the perfect location for children. Swim; enjoy the view of sailboats, wind surfers, and shrimpers hauling in their catch or turn street-side to watch the pedal carts and passersby. McGee Beach has a pier, with rest rooms and a small restaurant, where you can bring a rod and some bait and try your hand at fishing.



CCRTA's Route 73 Trolley (McGee Beach Connector) runs every hour, between 7:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. every day except Sunday, from Staples Street Station in downtown Corpus Christi

The following hotels, on Shoreline Boulevard, are a short walk from the beach: Holiday Inn Emerald Beach (with its own private beach), Best Western Marina Grand Hotel, Omni Hotel-Bayfront Tower, and Omni Hotel-Marina.

##### North Beach

You'll find this family-friendly beach on the other side of Harbor Bridge, near the U.S.S. Lexington Museum on the Bay and the Texas State Aquarium. When you finish your swim, there are several great eateries nearby. The Radisson Hotel-Corpus Christi Beach is located here.

CCRTA's Route 78 Trolley serves North Beach and the Texas State Aquarium every half-hour (6:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., weekdays only) all year. The ride from Staples Street Station takes 15 minutes.





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#### Bicyclists Are Welcome Here!

The best biking trail in town is along Shoreline Boulevard and Ocean Drive. Rent a bicycle from Shoreline Bikes, 555 N. Shoreline Blvd., (361) 883.8888, (No Web site), or a four-person bike from the Peoples Street T-Head at the Corpus Christi Marina. From there, enjoy a paved bike trail for several miles.



#### Enjoy The Beach On North Padre Island Car-Free

Every summer, you can enjoy the unspoiled beaches of North Padre Island without a car.

From CCRTA's Southside Station, Route 65 (summers only) has two buses every day to the Holiday Inn Sunspree: the only hotel on the island with its own beach on the Gulf of Mexico. The bus stops in front of the hotel, on Windward Drive. For more information, visit: [www.corpuschristibeachhotels.com](http://www.corpuschristibeachhotels.com) and click on Holiday Inn Sunspree, or call (361) 949-8041.

North Padre Island is nature at its best. The beaches go on and on for miles. The fine sand is easy to walk on and great for building sand castles. There is a beach on the Gulf of Mexico right behind the hotel, and the water temperature stays between 72 and 75 degrees most of the year.



The sun shines 80 percent of the time and with the windy breeze, it never feels too hot.

Enjoy a quiet beach vacation here. The hotel has restaurants and other amenities. Rent a bicycle here, and explore Padre Island National Seashore, seven miles from the hotel, or ride three miles to shopping. If you get stir-crazy, you can always take a morning bus into Corpus Christi, and return that evening.



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### Outings and Attractions Away From the Beach

#### *Kayaking*

This can be a great way to explore Corpus Christi Bay. For information about renting kayaks and 15 recommended kayak outings, visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~johnsonkw/kayak-corpus/id12.html>, e-mail [Johnson@earthlink.net](mailto:Johnson@earthlink.net), or call (361) 855-3926. Be sure to mention that you don't have a car.

#### *Bird Watching*

Blucher Park, located at Blucher and Carrizo Streets next to the Central Public Library, is a four-acre, city park specifically set aside to ensure the preservation of bird habitat and provide birds a welcome pit stop during their annual migrations.

#### *Sightseeing Boat Tours*

Take a tour of the Sparkling City by the Sea from the sea with Captain Clark's Sightseeing Tours on the Peoples Street T-head, (phone: (361) 884.8306). Enjoy day or evening trips on a 400-passenger paddle wheeler with narrated cruises.

#### *Texas State Aquarium*

Observe aquatic life from jellyfish to dolphins and learn about the Gulf of Mexico without leaving shore. Open 9 to 5 daily.  
[www.texasstateaquarium.com](http://www.texasstateaquarium.com), or call toll-free (800) 477-GULF.



#### *U.S.S. Lexington Museum on the Bay*

As soon as you climb aboard this World War II aircraft carrier, you'll be transported back in time, with an opportunity to climb behind the controls of a jet fight, catch a movie in the Mega Theater or take a ride in a flight simulator. Open daily 9 to 5. <http://www.usslexington.com> or call toll-free (800) LADY-LEX.

### For more Information:

Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau, <http://www.corpuschristicvb.com> or call toll-free (800) 678-6232

Regional Transportation Authority: <http://www.ccrtta.org> or call (361) 883-2287



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#### Chapter 19: San Diego, California

##### San Diego California's Coronado Beach—Take a Ferry or Bus Here From Downtown

San Diego, California is an exceptional city in many ways. This popular city offers a special reason for beach lovers without cars to come here: an in-town beach that is a short ferryboat ride from downtown. Stay downtown, and you can enjoy not only Coronado Beach, but also many of San Diego's other beaches as well as many other attractions.



##### Getting to San Diego without a Car

The [San Diego International Airport](http://www.san.org) is conveniently located near downtown San Diego on North Harbor Drive. Visit [www.san.org](http://www.san.org) for more information.

All of the airport's terminals are served by The Flyer, Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Bus Route 992. Route 992 operates between the airport and downtown San Diego. Route 992 connects with Trolley, COASTER, and Amtrak stations. You can get a \$5 Day Pass when you board the bus (children 5 and younger are free).

The Amtrak station is at the Santa Fe Depot, 1050 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101, near the intersection of Kettner and West Broadway in downtown San Diego. Many other bus routes (such as Route 7 to Balboa Park, Route 30 to La Jolla, and Route 901 to Coronado) are just a few blocks away.

San Diego Trolley's Blue Line, Amtrak, and NCTD's COASTER serve the Santa Fe Depot. Bus routes 2, 923, and 992 serve the station

The Greyhound Bus Terminal is located at 120 West Broadway, San Diego CA 92101. The terminal is a few blocks from the Civic Center Trolley Station, and is currently served by local bus routes: 2, 7, 11, 15, 30, 50, 150, and 992.





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### Enjoying San Diego Car-Free after you Arrive

Local and regional bus and trolley service is provided by San Diego's Metropolitan Transit System (MTS). Most MTS bus and trolley routes operate seven days a week. (San Diego's light rail system is known as the San Diego Trolley.) Most bus routes cost \$2.25 for a single ride (no transfers are available). A trolley ride is \$2.50

Judy Leitner, MTS Marketing Manager recommends buying a pass:

*A Day Pass will give you unlimited rides on the San Diego Trolley and most MTS Bus routes that serve the majority of San Diego's popular visitor destinations. You can buy a one-day pass when you board any bus. Multi-Day Passes are sold at all Trolley Station ticket machines, at The Transit Store (Broadway at First Avenue in downtown) and at the International Visitor Center on Harbor Drive across from the Cruise Ship Terminal.*

A one-day pass costs \$5, two-day pass: \$9, three-day pass: \$12, and four-day pass costs \$15.

For fare and schedule information, visit [www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com). Live customer telephone service is available between 5:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. weekends, by calling (619) 233-3004.



Photo credit Joanne DiBona.

If you are in San Diego, you can call toll-free by dialing 511.

24-hour automated transit information is available by calling Info Express: (619) 685-4900

The most convenient area to stay, if you don't want to drive, is downtown San Diego. Here you can walk to trolleys and buses, and many amenities. Most attractions and shopping is either within walking distance, or just a short trolley or bus ride away.





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#### Coronado Beach: Just a Short Bus or Ferry Ride Away

From downtown, just hop on Route 901 (departs every 15-30 minutes weekdays, every 30 minutes on Saturday, and hourly on Sunday)) or the Coronado Ferry (departs every hour on the



Photo credit Joanne DiBona.

hour) for a 15-minute ride to Coronado. If you take the Ferry, it's a short ride on Route 904 (or about a one-mile walk) to an exceptionally family-friendly beach. Coronado Beach has some of the whitest sand on the California coast, and wide beaches with gentle surf and no undertow. This makes it ideal for children and beginning swimmers or surfers.

Swim, surf, sail, body board, fish, or just fall asleep in the

sun. Other activities here include beach volleyball, tide pool exploration, and kite flying. There is also a bike path south of the Hotel del Coronado.

While you are here, take time to stroll through the elegant Hotel del Coronado with its Victorian splendor and reminder of a more leisurely era ([www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com)). Be sure to sample the many shops there.

To get to the Broadway Pier in downtown San Diego, take MTS bus 2 or 992 along Broadway to the Pier at Broadway and Harbor Drive. The San Diego-Coronado Ferry operates hourly, seven days a week. The trip takes 15 minutes. The one-way fare is \$3.50 per person. Kids age 3 and younger ride free. For more information, visit [www.sdhe.com](http://www.sdhe.com), or call San Diego Harbor Excursion toll-free at (800) 442-6847, or (619) 234-4111. (SDHE also operates one-hour and two-hour Harbor tours.) From the Coronado Ferry Landing, MTS shuttle bus 904 runs hourly and takes less than 15 minutes to reach the beach.

If the weather is bad, or you want a more direct route, MTS route 901 operates every half hour (every 15 minutes during weekday peak hours) from downtown at Broadway and Third Avenue,



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across the Coronado Bay Bridge to Orange Avenue near the Hotel del Coronado--a block from the beach. The trip takes between 30-40 minutes.)

If possible, take time to visit the Coronado Ferry Landing's dozen shops.

The Village of Coronado has a delightful small town atmosphere, a Visitor Center and small Museum.



Photo credit Joanne DiBona.

#### Other Beaches You Can Enjoy Without a Car

MTS buses serve other beaches in and near San Diego. These include: Silver Strand State Beach: Route 901, Imperial Beach: Route 933, Ocean Beach: Routes 35 and 923, Mission Beach and Pacific Beach: Route 8/9 from (Old Town--a stop on the Blue and Green Trolley Lines), and La Jolla: Route 30 (from downtown or Old Town).

#### Take a Break from the Beach and Visit Balboa Park

A good way to sample what is special about San Diego is to visit Balboa Park ([www.balboapark.org](http://www.balboapark.org), or call (619) 239-0512). You will want to spend several days here if you have the available time. In addition to walking trails and playgrounds, you can experience the park's stunning Spanish Renaissance architecture, and a wide variety of things to see and do.

The park houses 15 museums, ranging from art to science, and from air and space to natural history or

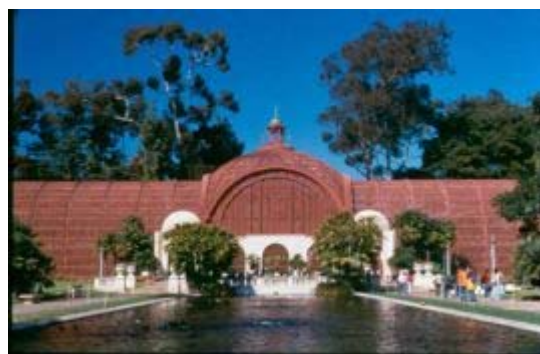


Photo credit [www.balboapark.org](http://www.balboapark.org)



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anthropology. If you love the outdoors, allow time to explore the wide variety of gardens. The San Diego Zoo is world famous. Plays are presented at the Old Globe, while the Spreckels Organ Pavilion outdoor stage presents a wide variety of concerts.

Families and walkers will want to sample the park's trails and playgrounds on the western side of the park.

To reach the Museums, take MTS bus 7 to Park Boulevard and Village Place. Several stops along Park Boulevard are near one or more of the museums or the San Diego Zoo.

The Presidents Way stop will drop you off near the Hall of Champions, Automobile Museum, and the Air & Space Museum.

At the Rose Garden Stop, see the beautiful roses or desert garden. Then take the pedestrian bridge over Park Boulevard into the Prado with the Natural History Museum on your right, and the Reuben H Fleet Science Center on your left. Other museums along the Prado include the San Diego Museum of Art, the Timken, Mingel, and Photographic Museum. You will also be near several restaurants and the Old Globe Theatre (during the summer, don't miss the Shakespeare Theatre in the Globe's outdoor theatre).

At Zoo Drive, you're just a short walk for the entrance to the world famous San Diego Zoo. If you are visiting the Zoo, take the 7 to Park Boulevard and Zoo Place.

MTS buses 3 and 120 serve the park's playgrounds and trails on the western side of the park. Get off and 5<sup>th</sup> and Laurel Streets, and walk over the Laurel Street Bridge to reach the park entrance.

The only problem you may have when San Diego and its beaches is there is so much to do—and never enough time.

### For More Information:

San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau: [www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org), or call (619) 236-1212. For Bus and Trolley route and schedule information, visit: [www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com), or call (619) 233-3004 between 5:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. weekends.

If you are in San Diego, you can call toll-free by dialing 511. 24-hour automated transit information is available by calling Info Express: (619) 685-4900.



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#### Chapter 20: Oceanside, California

##### Oceanside, California: A Short Train Ride From 2 Cities

Sometimes, you just want to find a beautiful beach away from a big city, but within a short walk from a train station. That way, you can enjoy convenience plus a beach getaway outside of a major city. If you are in or near southern California, a day trip or weekend getaway at Oceanside (in San Diego County, California) may be the beach vacation that's right for you.



Photo credit Bill Schildge.

The Oceanside Transit Center is a hub for Coaster (from San Diego), Metrolink's Orange County Line (from Los Angeles), and Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner trains. Several North Coast Transit District (NCTD) routes serving the San Diego north beach and inland communities use the Oceanside Transit Center as their terminal.

From the transit center, it's a short walk to the city's Oceanside Pier and its beaches. Several other beaches are also within walking distance. Visitors appreciate the beaches' quiet family-

oriented atmosphere, and the convenience of having shops, restaurants, and hotels within walking distance.

No license is required to fish here. Visitors can rent poles, bait and tackle at the Pier Bait Shop ([www.pierboat.com](http://www.pierboat.com), or call (760) 722-3936).

Come for the day, or stay for a few days.

##### Getting to Oceanside Without a Car

The San Diego International Airport is located near downtown San Diego on North Harbor Drive. Visit [www.san.org](http://www.san.org) for more information.





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All of the airport's terminals are served by The Flyer, Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Bus Route 992. Route 992 operates between the airport and downtown San Diego. Route 992 connects with the COASTER commuter trains, and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner. You can get a \$5 Day Pass (accepted for \$2 discount on Coaster trains) when you board the bus (children 5 and younger are free).

The Amtrak and Coaster station is at the Santa Fe Depot, 1050 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101, near the intersection of Kettner and West Broadway in downtown San Diego. Many other bus routes (such as Route 7 to Balboa Park, Route 30 to La Jolla, and Route 901 to Coronado) are just a few blocks away.

Coaster commuter trains operate between San Diego and Oceanside, every day except Sunday. The one-way fare is \$6.25, and a round trip is double the one-way fare. The trip takes about an hour each way.

Metrolink's Orange County line operates a limited number of trains between Los Angeles' Union Station and Oceanside. The weekday one-way fare is \$13.50, round trip is \$25.75. On weekends, the one-way fare is \$10.25, and a round trip is \$19.75

Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner trains operate between San Diego, Oceanside, and Los Angeles every day. There are several trains every day. The one-way fare between San Diego and Oceanside is \$16.00. The one-way fare between Los Angeles and Oceanside is \$24. If you are staying for several days, a 10-trip ticket provides a big discount: San Diego-Oceanside is \$88.00 (\$8.80 per trip), and San Diego-Los Angeles 10-trip ticket is \$138.00 (\$13.80 per trip).

#### Enjoying Oceanside After You Arrive

A big benefit of vacationing here is that it's easy to walk to most places you want to go. You can start your beach vacation with a short walk from the station.



Photo credit Oceanside Magazine.



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Oceanside's 3.5 miles of clean, soft, white sandy beaches allows visitors to surf or body board in the rolling waves. Play Frisbee or a game of volleyball on the warm sand. Run or rollerblade along the pedestrian-friendly Strand. Sunbathe and relax in the glorious sunshine.

The closest beaches to the Oceanside Transit Center (where the trains and NCTD buses stop) are the beaches north and south of the Oceanfront Pier (referred to as Pier View North and Pier View South). Other beaches within walking distance include Breakwater Way, Tyson Street Beach, Wisconsin Street Beach, and Oceanside Boulevard Beach.

The Oceanside Chamber of Commerce's web site ([www.oceansidechamber.com/visitor/bestbeaches.asp](http://www.oceansidechamber.com/visitor/bestbeaches.asp)) includes this exceptionally helpful description of specific Oceanside beaches (that we have edited for our readers without cars):

#### **Breakwater Way**

This is a quiet, family beach located just south of Oceanside Harbor. It is popular with surfers and volleyball players. Surfers, however, will have to walk down to the jetty in the summer months when the beach is closed to surfing in front of Lifeguard Tower 8. The river jetty is where the San Luis Rey River meets the ocean. A sandbar, often formed here, creates a good surf break.

The area at the mouth of the river mouth is usually one of Oceanside's least populated beaches. This is partly because it is open surfing only. Also, it's a bit of a walk from the parking areas. Children often like to play in the river mouth; this is not advised because it poses a safety concern due to the strong currents and the potential for high levels of bacteria in the river. Amenities include barbeque grills, picnic tables, volleyball courts (you must provide your own net), fire rings, restrooms and showers.

#### **Pier View North**

The beaches north of Oceanside Pier have much more sand than those south of the pier and provide more space for those visiting the beach. Because the Pier Amphitheater is located on the south side of the pier, there are less activities and events on the north side (than on the south side) and the pier. This often makes for a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. There are two lifeguard towers north of the pier (Towers 2 and 4). During the summer months, an area is closed to surfing (blackballed) but open for all other water activities. The surfing and swimming area will always be marked with checkered flags and swim-surf signs.

#### **Pier View South**

The beach area south of the Oceanside Pier is Oceanside's most popular beach. If you don't mind crowds, you will be comfortable here. Surfing, body boarding, and body surfing contests are held



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at Oceanside Pier throughout the summer. There are also various events that are held in the Oceanside Pier Amphitheater. The pier itself is a beautiful walk and a popular fishing spot as well.

Due to the large number of beachgoers in this area, there are 2 lifeguard towers (towers 1 & 3) relatively close together. Lifeguard Tower 1 sits directly south of the pier and Tower 3 sits approximately 300 feet south of Tower 1. During the summer months, the area from Tower 1 south is closed to surfing most of the day. The area will be marked with a black ball as well as swim-surf signs and black-and-white checkered flags that indicate the boundaries. The surfing area is from Lifeguard Tower to 100 feet from the pier and is closed to all other water activities. No water activity is allowed within 100 feet of the pier.

Amenities include covered picnic tables, benches, barbeques, fire rings, pay phones, and vending machines. Pier View South is close to downtown shops and eateries.

### **Tyson Street Beach**

Tyson Street Beach, also known as Tyson Street Park, is within walking distance of the Oceanside Pier. Lifeguard Tower 5 is located here. Since the park is just a few feet from the beach, it is great for picnics. Stairs are provided for beach and park access from Pacific Street. Due to crowds in this area during the summer months, it is necessary to prohibit surfing here for the safety of swimmers and waders. The area will be marked with a black ball flag, checkered flag and swim-surf signs. Amenities include wide grassy play yard, picnic tables, benches, playground, snack stand (in the summer months only), restrooms, showers, and public phone.

### **Wisconsin Street Beach**

Wisconsin Street Beach is located at Wisconsin Street and The Strand. The south Strand is a one-way, southbound street that parallels the beach. There is a ramp just north of lifeguard Tower 7 for access to the beach. This is Oceanside's least frequented beach due to the beach being narrow. When the tide is high, the water comes all the way to the rocks, leaving very little or no beach at all. The ocean in this area is open to all water activities. Amenities include a snack shop, restrooms, showers, and a public telephone.

### **Oceanside Boulevard Beach**

Oceanside Boulevard Beach offers more actual beach than its neighbor, Buccaneer Beach. All along the beachfront, there are private homes facing the ocean. During the summer months there is an area directly in front of the lifeguard tower (Tower 9) approximately 200 ft. that is designated for swimmers, waders, and body boarders only. For safety precautions, this area is closed to surfing and will be marked by checkered flags and swim-surf signs. Approximately 300 feet south of the lifeguard tower is a very large rock that can be seen at low tide.



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### Where to Stay Near the Beach

Three hotels are on, or very close to one of the Oceanside beaches most convenient for visitors without cars: *Marina Del Mar Condominiums* (call toll-free: (800) 700-0407, *Southern California Beach Club* (760) 722-6666), and *Wyndham Oceanside Pier Resort* (call toll-free: (800) 347-8182).

### Two Places to Visit on a Rainy Day

Oceanside has two museums within walking distance of both the beach and the Oceanside Transit Center. Both are located on Pier View Way.

- **California Surf Museum:** Located at 312 Pier View Way, this is an unusual attraction that any swimmer or fan of surfing will enjoy. [www.surfmuseum.org](http://www.surfmuseum.org), (760) 721-6876.
- **Oceanside Museum of Art:** Located at 704 Pier View Way, this museum focuses primarily on southern California artists, and includes landscape paintings, studio furniture, neon sculptures, art quilts, and architectural quilts. [www.oma-online.org](http://www.oma-online.org) or call (760) 435-3720/

### When you get Hungry

The 101 café is a great dining spot in Oceanside and is the oldest restaurant in Oceanside, preserving Oceanside's rich history. For more information about this diner-style restaurant, visit [www.101cafe.net](http://www.101cafe.net), or call (760) 722-5220.

### For More Information

The most complete list of Oceanside's beaches and other attractions is on the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce website: [www.oceansidechamber.com/visitor](http://www.oceansidechamber.com/visitor).

To talk with a visitor center representative about Oceanside, and for help with reservations, call the



Photo credit Bill Schildge





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California Welcome Center in Oceanside: (760) 721-1101.

For information about the San Diego North region (that includes Oceanside), including public transportation resources and phone numbers, special events and activities, and a free visitors' guide, contact the San Diego North Convention and Visitors Bureau: [www.sandiegonoorth.com](http://www.sandiegonoorth.com), or call (760) 745-4748.

For information about the Coaster and other North Coast public transportation, visit [www.nctd.org](http://www.nctd.org), or call (760) 6500.

For information about Metrolink trains from Los Angeles to Oceanside, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com), and select Orange County Line. For help in planning your trip, or for other questions, call toll-free (800) 371-LINK (5465) 24 hours every day. Live customer service representatives are available from 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For information about Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner trains, visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com), or call toll-free any time (800) USA-RAIL.



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#### Chapter 21: Northern Oregon Coast

##### Northern Oregon Coast: A Treasury of Small Towns, History, and Ocean Beaches

Clatsop County on the Oregon Pacific Coast—just a two-hour bus ride from Portland, or a 35-minute flight from Portland—is a welcome change from a big city. Walking and biking are popular, and many areas are easy to reach by public transportation. Visitors appreciate the small town atmosphere and the short easy walk to most places you need to go.

The towns of Seaside and Cannon Beach, on the Pacific Ocean, are small enough that visitors can walk to the beach, the center of town, and other attractions. Breathtaking views, and something special for every member of the family, make these attractive vacation choices for anyone visiting without a car.



Photo courtesy of Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

Astoria is a place that takes visitors back to simpler times, with architecture dominated by Victorian homes on steep wooded hillsides and a revitalized 1920s-era downtown. The region is set against a backdrop of natural beauty at the mouth of the Columbia River, with a working waterfront in Astoria and beaches for exploring in nearby Warrenton. Exploring Astoria's attractions, walking around town, and enjoying a concert or play at the Liberty Theatre provides a contrast with the small beach communities of Seaside and Cannon Beach.

Best of all, if you are looking for a beach vacation along the Oregon Coast, you don't need a car to enjoy a visit here.



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### Getting Here Without a Car

There are two ways to get to Seaside, Cannon Beach, and Astoria without a car. Oregon Coachway Thruway buses, operated for Amtrak, leave the Portland Amtrak station twice every day: 9:30 a.m. and 6:20 p.m., arriving in Cannon Beach at 11 a.m. and 7:50 p.m., Seaside at 11:10 a.m. and 8:10 p.m., and Astoria at 11:50 a.m. and 8:50 p.m.. The return trips leave Astoria every day at 8:00 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., Seaside at 8:40 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Cannon Beach at 8:50 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. and arrives at the Portland Amtrak station at 10:30 a.m. and 9:20 p.m.

The one-way bus fare is \$18. For reservation, visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com), or call toll-free (800) USA-RAIL. When making reservations, the station codes are: Portland-PDX, Cannon Beach-CBO, Seaside-SSO, and Astoria-ART. For schedules of this shuttle, as well as local and regional public transportation along the Northern Oregon Coast, visit [http://www.oregon-point.com/nw\\_point.html](http://www.oregon-point.com/nw_point.html)

For reservation, visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com), or call toll-free (800) USA-RAIL. When making reservations, the station codes are: Portland-PDX, Cannon Beach-CBO, Seaside-SSO, and Astoria-ART.

Seaport Air has three daily flights from Portland to Astoria. The trip takes 35 minutes, and can cost as little as \$49 each way—if reservations are made 21 days or more in advance. For details about flight times, call toll-free (888) 573-2767, or visit [www.seaportair.com](http://www.seaportair.com).

Currently, weekday flights leave Portland at 5:40 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. Return flights leave Astoria weekdays at 6:25 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 6:20 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

Weekends, flights leave Portland at 8:25 a.m., 1:00 and 3:50 p.m. Return flights leave Astoria at 9:15 a.m., 1:50 p.m., and 4:40 p.m.

Sunset Empire Transportation District (SETD) local bus 12 serves the Astoria Airport several times every day, except Sunday. (For specific schedules, visit [www.ridethebus.org](http://www.ridethebus.org), and click on Airport Route.)



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For the best bus connections, we recommend taking Seaport Air's 10:00 a.m. flight from Portland (weekdays), and the 10:45 a.m. return flight from Astoria (weekdays).

Bus travelers will have shorter walks to their hotels in Seaside and Cannon Beach than in Astoria (in most cases), but check with your hotel or bed and breakfast when making reservations.

#### Getting Around After You Arrive

Sunset Empire Transit District (SETD) serves the Clatsop County communities of Astoria, Warrenton, Hammond, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach. Bus service operates hourly, every day except Sunday, between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Route 20 serves Cannon Beach and Seaside; Routes 10, 12, and 15 serve Astoria.

Route 12 serves the Astoria Airport. Route 101 connects Seaside and Astoria.

One-way bus fares are 75 cents for routes 10,12, 15, 20 and other local routes. Route 101 costs \$3 each way. We recommend buying a day pass for \$5 that is good on all SETD buses for that day.

For more information about routes and schedules, visit [www.ridethebus.org](http://www.ridethebus.org), or call (503) 861-7433: Extension 410.

#### What Community is the Best Place to Stay?

Because bus transportation is available every day except Sunday (and Sunday service is available within Cannon Beach), deciding where to stay depends on your specific interests and needs.

##### Seaside

Families will enjoy staying in Seaside because of the wide variety of amenities and activities. The International Youth Hostel is a short walk away from the Oregon Coachway bus stop (from Portland), a block away from the movie theatre, and 2 ½ blocks from the beach. Several hotels (such as Shilo Inn, Ocean Inn, and Best Western) are located on the oceanfront.



Photo courtesy of Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.





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Seaside has two miles of walkable beach. Its 1.5-mile long oceanfront Promenade is perfect for strollers, joggers and bike riders. The "Prom" also gives access to visitors with mobility issues, getting them closer to the beach. The wide sandy beach has a variety of activities. These include low rider beach bikes, beach volleyball, wave watching, sand castle building, kite flying and hot dog roasts. Those young at heart will enjoy the carousel, arcades, miniature golf, bumper cars and boats, tilt-a-twirl, paddleboats and canoes.

*Wheel Fun Rentals:* 407 South Holladay Drive ([www.wheelfunrentals.com/listlocations/64](http://www.wheelfunrentals.com/listlocations/64)), or call (503) 738-8447), rents bikes, kayaks, and mopeds.

Walk east on Broadway, across the river, and you are in the historic Gilbert District where you can visit several art galleries.

The Seaside Factory Outlet Center, with nearly 30 stores, is located at 1111 Roosevelt Drive (near 12<sup>th</sup> Street). More information: [www.seasideoutlets.com](http://www.seasideoutlets.com), or call (503) 717-1633.

For more information about Seaside, visit [www.seaside.com](http://www.seaside.com), or call toll-free (888) 306-2326.

#### **Cannon Beach**

Art lovers and outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the quiet beauty of Cannon Beach. There are galleries, and performances of musicals, serious drama, and comedies at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse. This is a more quiet beach with art galleries, a four-mile beach walk, and a free town shuttle bus that takes residents and visitors between the three sections of Cannon Beach: Downtown, Midtown, and Tolovana.

One hotel: the Stephanie Inn ([www.stephanie-inn.com](http://www.stephanie-inn.com), or call toll-free (800) 633-3466) has its own shuttle for hotel guests. With advance notice, if a shuttle is available, this hotel will take guests to Ecola State Park, where hiking trails abound. Indian Beach is also here.

For more information about Cannon Beach, visit [www.cannonbeach.org](http://www.cannonbeach.org), or call (503) 436-1240.

#### **Astoria**

This is a good choice for visitors who enjoy history, historic houses, the arts, and sightseeing. If you have time, go to a live performance at the historic Liberty Theater: 1203 Commercial Street ([www.liberty-theater.org](http://www.liberty-theater.org), or call (503) 325-5922).

Rich in architectural beauty, Astoria has two national historic districts: the Astoria Downtown Historic District and the Uniontown Alameda Historic District. One-fourth of its homes, many built during the Victorian era, are eligible for Historic Landmark status. More than 500 buildings



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are designated as local landmarks. The varied architectural styles include Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Colonial Revival. If you have time, take a walking tour of Astoria's historic homes.

Take time to visit the *Astoria Column*. Located on top of Coxcomb Hill, in a wooded park towering above Astoria's highest hill, the Astoria Column presents a panoramic view of the city and surrounding rivers, bay, forest, mountains and Pacific Ocean. Built in 1926, the column is 125 feet high and boasts 164 steps circling to a viewing deck at the top. The Column is open daily from dawn to dusk.

Astoria is on the Columbia River. A good way to learn the history of the river and the region is to visit the *Columbia River Maritime Museum*, located at 1792 Marine Drive, on Astoria's historic waterfront. The museum brings to life the rich maritime heritage of the entire Columbia River region.



Photo courtesy of Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

Visitors of all ages will experience what it is like to pilot a tugboat, walk the bridge of an actual WWII Navy destroyer, the *USS Knapp*, participate in a Coast Guard rescue on the Columbia River Bar, and live in Astoria during the height of salmon fishing. Huge windows make the Columbia River a living backdrop for exhibits that are interactive and touchable, many accompanied by interviews with people involved in the events depicted.

Exhibit galleries include: fur trade and exploration; navigation and marine safety; fishing, whaling and canneries; sailing vessels; steamboats on the Columbia River; and naval history.

A tour onboard the lightship *Columbia* is included with museum admission. The *Columbia* is the last seagoing lightship to serve on the West Coast, and it is now docked on the river next to the museum.

The Museum is open daily from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$10, \$8 for seniors 65 and older, \$1 discount with AAA card, Free for active military, \$5 for children ages 6-17, and free for children 5 and younger. For more information, visit [www.cmmm.org](http://www.cmmm.org), or call (503) 325-2323.



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Another highlight is Astoria's *Riverfront Trolley* ([www.old300.org](http://www.old300.org)). Hop aboard this 40-passenger antique trolley for some of the best scenery on the waterfront. Historic "Old 300" travels along the Columbia Riverfront tracks, crossing the city from the West End to the East End Mooring Basins. Built in 1914 by the American Car Company of St. Louis, the car was restored by 300 volunteers, including skilled local craftsmen and artists, who worked more than 2,800 hours over a five-month period in 1999. It is now operated entirely by community volunteers.



Courtesy of Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

Board the trolley anywhere along the waterfront by waving at the conductor or going to one of the covered benches located at: the East End Mooring Basin; 20<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> streets; the Red Lion Inn; the Fisherman's Memorial and Portway Street at the foot of the bridge.

The trolley operates year-round, typically running in the afternoon and evening, but hours vary by season. Call the Chamber of Commerce at (800) 875-6807 for a current schedule. Because this is a historic trolley that has been lovingly restored, it can't operate in the rain.

The Trolley costs \$1 per ride or \$2 for a day pass

For more information about Astoria, visit [www.olderoregon.com](http://www.olderoregon.com), or call toll-free (800) 875-6807, or (503) 325-6311.

### Our Recommendation for a Vacation Here

Because each of these three towns (Seaside, Cannon Beach, and Astoria) has so much to do, and the bus service is so good (except Sunday), we recommend selecting one town and spending most of your time there.

Then, take a day to visit the other town(s). Take SETD route 101 between Astoria and Seaside or route 20 between Seaside and Cannon Beach. Spend the day sightseeing in Astoria, appreciating the quiet beauty of Cannon Beach, or sharing a family outing at Seaside.



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And don't despair if you can't see everything. You can always return for another visit—and stay in a different town than you did during this visit.

### For More Information

For local bus route and schedule information, visit [www.ridethebus.org](http://www.ridethebus.org), or call Sunset Empire Transportation District at (503) 861-7433: Extension 410.

For information about Seaside, visit [www.seaside.com](http://www.seaside.com), or call toll-free (888) 306-2326.

For information about Cannon Beach, visit [www.cannonbeach.org](http://www.cannonbeach.org), or call (503) 436-1240.

For information about Astoria, visit [www.oldoregon.com](http://www.oldoregon.com), or call toll-free (800) 875-6807, or (503) 325-6311.



Photo courtesy of Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.





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#### Chapter 22: Seattle, Washington

##### Seattle, Washington: a City Surrounded by Water Where the Beach is Part of the Vacation

Sometimes, you want to combine several different experiences into a short vacation. A city vacation offers a wide selection of activities, but you would still like to enjoy a visit to the beach—if you have time to fit it into your schedule.

When you're in Seattle, you're surrounded by water. There's Puget Sound to the west, and Lake Washington to the east. Green Lake, Lake Union, Lake Sammamish, and numerous other smaller lakes, bays, rivers, streams, and creeks dot the landscape. The Ship Canal connects Lake Union to Lake Washington. (The Ballard Locks connect Puget Sound to Lake Union.)



Bridge, ferries, sightseeing boats, and cruises make the downtown Seattle waterfront a special place. At many lakeside locations, you can also rent canoes or kayaks.

And when you want a break from the water, Seattle has museums, parks, and many other city attractions that provide a vacation with a wide variety of activities and attractions.

##### Getting to Seattle Without a Car

*The SeaTac International Airport* is in the City of SeaTac, Washington south of Seattle. It is served by Sound Transit's new Link light rail line, and bus routes 124, 140, 174, 180 560, and 574; the last operates between the airport and Tacoma.

*King Street Station* is served by Amtrak and Sound Transit Sounder commuter rail trains. Amtrak operates "local" trains in the corridor between Vancouver, B.C. and Portland, Oregon via Seattle and two "long-distance" trains between Seattle and both Chicago and LA via Portland and Oakland. The King Street station is in the south end of downtown Seattle and is served by



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many bus routes. It is one block from the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT) International District Station, which is served by 22 bus routes and Link light rail.

The intercity *Greyhound terminal* is on Stewart Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Seattle. It is served by many bus routes and is one block from the DSTT Convention Place Station.

#### Getting Around After You Arrive

King County Metro Transit operates public transportation within King County. Live telephone customer service is available by calling (206) 553-3000. The Metro Transit web site is: [www.kingcounty.gov/metro](http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro)

One-way bus fares are \$2 per ride, except during weekday peak hours. Peak hour one-way fares range from \$2.25-\$2.75. The Youth Fare (ages 6-17) is 75 cents at all times.

#### Seattle Has Two Beaches on Puget Sound

The City of Seattle has several beaches on the Puget Sound. Two of the largest and most popular are Alki Beach in West Seattle and Golden Gardens Beach in Ballard. Both are served by Metro buses, and are not widely known to out-of-town visitors.

##### Alki Beach

Metro's route 56 (seven days a week) stops at the Alki Playground—a short walk from the beach. Take the 56 to West Seattle from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Pine Street downtown.



At Alki Beach, there is a great view of downtown Seattle. The beach is family-friendly, and is popular with young people.

Here is how the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department describes Alki Beach:



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Picture a perfect summer day, and chances are your thoughts will take you to Alki Beach Park: a long beach strip that runs from Alki Point to Duwamish Head on Elliott Bay. It's a great spot for a 2.5-mile walk any time of year. The summer draws joggers, rollerbladers, volleyball players, beachcombers, sunbathers, bicyclists and strollers out to enjoy the sun.

The widened path accommodates a lot of folks. There are picnic tables, a bathhouse housing an art studio, and a restroom at the south (Alki Point) end of the beach. There, you will find the monument to the arrival of the first white settlers on November 13, 1851.

The water temperature ranges from 46 to 56 degrees Fahrenheit.

The north end of the beach is protected by a bulkhead, and flanked by cottages. The whole beach offers spectacular views of Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, and the flotilla of ferries, sailboats, steamships and other craft that ply Puget Sound waters.

At a small sea walled square that used to be the site of Luna Park, an amusement park, be sure to stop and see the old 2.5-ton anchor dredged up by the Nor'West Divers Club and secured at the site.

#### **Golden Gardens Park and Beach:**

Metro's Route 46 serves this park, weekdays only. To get here from downtown, take Route 17 (marked Sunset Hill) to Market Street and Ballard Avenue. Transfer there to Route 46 (marked Shilshole) and take it to Seaview Avenue NW and Seaview Place NW. From there, walk 0.1 miles north to the park.

On weekends, take Route 17 (marked Sunset Hill) to Market Street and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Ballard. From there, it's about a 20-minute walk to the park.

At Golden Gardens, enjoy a great view of the Olympic Mountains. This family-friendly park is quieter and less crowded than Alki Beach.

Here's how Seattle's Parks and Recreation Department describes Golden Gardens:

Located in Ballard on Puget Sound, this popular park offers extraordinary views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains.



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A recent project restored two wetlands, established a short loop trail, and restored the northern beach. Golden Gardens offers strolls along a rugged coastline, hikes through forest trails, sunbathing on sandy beaches, fishing from a pier and a boat launch.

#### Bicycles, Kayaks and Canoes are Available for Rent

Rent bicycles, skateboards, inline skates, and fishing boats from Alki Kayak Tours ([www.kayakalki.com/](http://www.kayakalki.com/), phone: (206) 953-02217. Alki Kayak Tours also has guided kayak tours, and will rent kayaks to experienced kayakers for self-guided tours.

You can also rent bicycles at Wheel Fun Rentals ([www.wheelfunrentals.com/listlocations/104](http://www.wheelfunrentals.com/listlocations/104), phone: (206) 932-2035).

Rent canoes or rowboats at the University of Washington Water Activities Center, (206) 543-9433, located where the Ship Canal enters Lake Washington, at the far southeast corner of the University of Washington campus.

#### Visitors Without Cars Should Stay Downtown

Both Alki Beach and Golden Gardens Park are in residential areas. For visitors without cars, downtown is the best location to stay. Downtown Seattle is not only convenient to transit, but also to many attractions such as the Pike Place Market, and the Seattle waterfront.

If you need to stay outside of Seattle, select accommodations close to a major transit hub or park-and-ride such as: Northgate Transit Center north of the city; the Bellevue Transit Center, Kirkland Transit Center or Eastgate Park-and-Ride in East King County; or near SeaTac Airport in South King County.

#### Consider Other Water-Related Outings

While you are here, sample a few of Seattle's other water-related activities and attractions. Here are two to consider:

##### King County Water Taxi to West Seattle

The water taxi operates between Seacrest Park, 1660 Harbor Avenue SW, in West Seattle and Pier 50 on the downtown Seattle waterfront, Alaskan Way and Yesler Way. One-way adult fares





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are \$3.50 with cash. The water taxi takes approximately 10 minutes to sail across Elliott Bay, and travels more frequently during weekday peak periods. Check the online schedule for more details at [www.kingcounty.gov/watertaxi](http://www.kingcounty.gov/watertaxi)

#### **Washington State Ferry from Seattle to Bainbridge Island:**

Call (206) 464-6400 or visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries)

From downtown, it's a short walk to Pier 52 (801 Alaskan Way), or take Metro routes 16 or 66. The Ferry operates every day. Pedestrians pay \$6.70 each way (half price for senior citizens 65 and older.) On Bainbridge Island, Winslow Street has art galleries, shops, restaurants, and a nearby waterfront park. Bicycle and kayak rentals are available, and there are several bike trails on the island.

If you have more time, take Kitsap Transit bus route 90 to the town of Poulsbo: an old Scandinavian town worth exploring on foot.

Kitsap Transit (call (360) 478-6225) has bus service on Bainbridge Island, and other communities in Kitsap County, every day except Sunday. From the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal, take route 100 to Winslow Street in the city of Bainbridge Island, or route 90 to Poulsbo. Each ride on the bus costs \$2.00.

If you want to stay overnight, the Island Country Inn ([www.islandcountryinn.com](http://www.islandcountryinn.com), or call (206) 842-6861) is a mile away from the Ferry Terminal. Walk, take a taxi, or take Kitsap Transit route 100 that stops a few blocks away from the hotel.

For more information about attractions and activities on Bainbridge Island, visit [www.visitKitsap.com](http://www.visitKitsap.com), or call toll-free (800) 337-0586.

#### **Sightseeing Cruises**

Argosy Cruises offers travelers several options for getting out on the water. Take a one-hour narrated tour of Seattle's harbor: Elliott Bay; Tours depart from Pier 56 on the Seattle waterfront several times throughout the day depending on the season.

Argosy also offers a two-hour locks cruise, also departing from Pier 56. The narrated tour passes through Hiram M. Chittenden Locks along the Lake Washington Ship Canal. The U.S. Government operated locks raise and lower boats between six and 26 feet between fresh and salt water.



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Argosy's popular Lakes Cruises offer either a two-hour trip from Seattle's Lake Union, or a 1.5-hour trip departing Kirkland (east of Seattle) on Lake Washington. For more information on all of Argosy's tours, call (206) 623-1445. (800) 642-7816, or visit [www.argosycruises.com](http://www.argosycruises.com)

#### Do You Want to Stay Longer and See More?

Seattle offers so much to see and do that it can seem overwhelming.

Two discount programs can help solve this problem:

1. City Pass ([www.citypass.com/city/seattle.html](http://www.citypass.com/city/seattle.html))
2. Go Seattle Card ([www.goseattle.org/visitors/explore/gocard.asp](http://www.goseattle.org/visitors/explore/gocard.asp))

#### For More Information

Contact *Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau* for information about attractions and activities in Seattle, King County, and the greater Seattle area. Visit [www.visitseattle.org](http://www.visitseattle.org), or call toll-free: (866) 732-2695

Contact *King County Metro Transit* for route and schedule information and other questions about public transportation in the Seattle area. Visit [www.kingcounty.gov/metro](http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro), or call (206) 553-3000.



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### A Final Word

We've now completed our first cross-country journey, visiting beaches you can enjoy without a car. But this is just the beginning.

There are thousands of miles of ocean beaches, plus more beaches on the Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico. And let's not forget the many lakes and rivers throughout the United States. For many of you, a lake or river may be the only body of water within a one or two day trip.

We plan to continue and expand our exploration of beaches and other vacation attractions that can be enjoyed without a car.

To use a famous expression: "You ain't seen nothing yet!"



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### About The Author

Ever since growing up in Staten Island, New York, I've been a passionate lover and supporter of car-free travel.

While other kids played baseball or football, I'd ride buses or Staten Island Rapid Transit trains, getting off at random stops to explore the neighborhood on foot.

After college, when I purchased my first car, I'd enjoy outings on public transportation, but wished that it was easier to travel without a car. The typical response to my concerns was, "You don't want a car? Go back to New York."

I went "cold turkey" in 1979, and discovered I could walk, rely on public transportation, or rent a car when necessary. Since public transportation in my new home town of Columbia, MD was very limited, I started the "Howard County Transit Riders Association," in 1980.

I was definitely ahead of my time, however.

In 1989, Howard County began operating local public transit within Columbia and the rest of the county. Commuter bus service to Washington, D.C. greatly improved. Suddenly, there was growing interest in promoting and expanding public transportation. The Maryland Transit Administration adopted my suggestion of an early-morning commuter bus. I joined several local and regional transit rider organizations that supported better public transit.

In 1997-8, I started my bi-weekly local and regional travel column. "Backyard Getaways" was notable because it included directions to each area attraction by public transportation.

In 2001, I wrote a unique guide for the Maryland Transit Administration, "Now it's Safe to Take your Hands Off the Wheel." This groundbreaking study described why public transportation was more economical and energy-efficient than driving—even for suburban residents.

But the unfortunate reality is that we live in a society dominated by the automobile. The only way to reduce dependency on cars is to show how and why driving less or not at all makes sense, and then how to move away from driving and toward walking, biking, and using public transportation.





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I decided to focus on *Where* to live, vacation, or retire without needing a car. With the help and support of a friend who is a webmaster, I launched a community website: [www.carfreeamerica.org](http://www.carfreeamerica.org). Here, people could share their experiences, success stories, and tips for others who want to be car-free. I joined the World Carfree Network to find others who shared my concern about reducing car-dependency.

In 2008, Kirsten Miller at Ecocity Builders invited me to write a monthly column, "Car Free Journey," for the organization's new newsletter, *Ecocities Emerging*. The column spotlights communities and neighborhoods where people can live car-free, and vacation ideas for people who don't want to drive. This is another step to connect with others who fear that the United States' dependence on automobiles is wrecking our environment and our economy. (View past issues of Car Free Journey at [www.ecocitybuilders.org](http://www.ecocitybuilders.org), then go to the right tab and click on "Ecocities Emerging." Car Free Journey is near the bottom of each issue.)

The next step is to write travel, retirement, and living guides focusing on the specific needs of people who don't want to depend on a private automobile as their primary means of transportation.

My website: [www.carfreeamerica.com](http://www.carfreeamerica.com) will be a resource for writing guides, such as this one, that spotlight beach communities and other places where a car is not necessary. Future e-books will include

- More car-free beaches,
- Other types of vacations where a car is not needed,
- Retirement communities (not age-segregated, but actual neighborhoods and cities) that are friendly and convenient for people who don't want to drive,
- Neighborhoods that are good choices for people who want to live near parks, shopping, and public transportation, and
- Other resources and guides for people who want to reduce or eliminate their dependence on their own car.

I want to create a community of people who are concerned about how our dependency on private automobiles is wrecking our economy, our environment and quality of life.

However, unlike some groups that focus primarily on what is wrong and what needs to be done to solve problems, *our community will focus on what is working now*. We believe the best way to reduce car-dependency is to share our experiences, success stories, recommendations about good places to live, vacation or retire, and include resources and tips for others who want to reduce or eliminate their need for a personal automobile.



# CAR FREE AT THE BEACH

## 2010 EDITION

## 20 U.S. Beaches You Can Enjoy Without a Car

[www.CarFreeAmerica.com](http://www.CarFreeAmerica.com) will soon have a newsletter, blog, and other services to help you find the information you need and want to enjoy a life not dominated by the automobile.

I plan to offer car-free coaching in the future—by e-mail or telephone—about planning a car-free vacation, or finding the right place for your vacation, retirement, or other needs.

Contact me at [steve@carfreeamerica.com](mailto:steve@carfreeamerica.com) to share your interests, concerns, what you would like to see on [www.carfreeamerica.com](http://www.carfreeamerica.com), and any ideas for future e-books and other special reports for people who are looking for vacation locations, retirement communities, and places to live where a car isn't needed.



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## 20 U.S. Beaches You Can Enjoy Without a Car

### Where To Go From Here

#### It depends on where you want to go without a car!

Together, we've just traveled across the United States surveying beaches and beach communities that could be good choices for your next vacation without a car.

This is just the start of a series of reports and e-books about specific places where you can vacation, live, or retire without needing a car.

But, I need your help. I'd like your suggestions for topics for future reports. What type of reports would most help you? What types of activities and regions are you interested in exploring without a car?

Would you like:

- More beach reports
- Other vacation ideas by topic (such as ski vacations or fall foliage ideas)
- Regional or city car-free travel reports, cities that are top choices for bicycling, retirement communities that are good choices for retirees who don't want to drive, metro areas that are easiest to commute without driving, communities near rail stations

The above just scratches the surface for ideas for future reports. What would you like to see? What would help you most now? Do you have any specific places you would like to recommend to be included in one of our reports? E-mail me: [steve@carfreeamerica.com](mailto:steve@carfreeamerica.com).

We will all benefit from sharing our experiences, success stories and tips with each other. Our newsletter and blog will keep you informed of new developments in the car-free world, resources, and places you might want to live or move to.

If you haven't done so already, visit our website: [www.carfreeamerica.com](http://www.carfreeamerica.com), and join our list of e-mail newsletter subscribers.

Thanks for joining me in this exploration of *Car Free at the Beach*.

