

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE WILD ISLANDS OF ASSATEAGUE AND CHINCOTEAGUE

1. Of these sister islands, Chincoteague, in Virginia, has the creature comforts: B&Bs, shops, restaurants, ice-cream parlors (Island Creamery is a favorite), and the year-old Marina Bay Hotel & Suites. Meanwhile, Assateague has 37 miles of shoreline and is best for seeing the famous wild ponies. On Chincoteague, aside from the annual July roundup, the ponies are more confined.

2. The best times to visit are May and September, to avoid the buggy summer months.

3. Although on maps it looks as if they're completely connected, you reach northern Assateague from Maryland, below Ocean City, and reach Chincoteague from Virginia's upper Eastern Shore. There's no road from northern Assateague to Chincoteague.



WHAT TO SEE AND DO IN OCEAN CITY AND FENWICK

**THE CASE FOR:** Ocean City is all about fun—sometimes boisterous fun. Year-round, the calendar is full of weekend happenings: Jeep Week, BeachFest volleyball tournament, concerts. Residential Fenwick is quieter.

**THE CASE AGAINST:** If blaring music and alcohol-fueled antics aren't your thing, you might not enjoy yourself quite so much at the southern end of Ocean City, especially in June when high-school graduations beget beach week after beach week.

**ALSO KNOWN FOR:** Ocean City is a world-class deep-sea-fishing destination. Its 45th annual White Marlin Open tournament offers nearly \$5 million in prizes this August.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Ocean City's boardwalk, built in the early 1900s, stretches almost three miles. On it, **Trimper's Rides** and a **Jolly Roger Amusement Park** provide thrills, as do the parasailing and other water adventures OC offers. Like to golf? There are 17 area courses—one of the best is **Eagle's Landing**, an Audubon Sanctuary with beautiful views of Sinepuxent Bay and Assateague Island National Seashore. That boisterous fun in Ocean City includes **Seacrets**, the 11th-highest-grossing bar

in the country. In Fenwick, you can't miss the red barn that's the vast **Seaside Country Store**, where shoppers wander from cheese-spread tastings to home decor. Nearby, **Thunder Lagoon** water park and two mini-golf courses—**Golf Down Under** and **Viking Mini Golf**—cluster at one action-packed intersection.

**EAT:** Fenwick standouts that put a value on local sourcing are **Just Hooked**, which has heavenly corn-and-jalapeño crab bisque, and **Our Harvest**, a new place with a creatively stocked bar. In West Fenwick, **Captain Mac's** fish house and carryout features the daily catch and great views. In OC, head to **M.R. Ducks** for live music and sunsets, or dine with your feet in the sand at **Macky's Bayside Bar & Grill**.

**RENT:** In Fenwick, a gently weathered three-bedroom oceanfront cottage goes for \$3,300 a week. In Ocean City, a two-bedroom condo with balcony at the high-rise **Golden Sands** rents for \$1,650 to \$2,895.

**CHECK IN:** A pair of Fager's Island boutique hotels, the **Lighthouse Club** and the **Edge Hotel**, are luxurious sanctuaries. Also in Ocean City is the vintage **Inn on the Ocean**, a cozy home away from home.

CLASSIC BEACH EATS Some boardwalk treats are a tradition



OLD BAY POPCORN AT FISHER'S POPCORN

So much better than a bag of crab-flavored potato chips.



FRIES AT THRASHER'S

The salty, vinegary aroma tempts you from down the boardwalk.



FROZEN CUSTARD AT KOHR BROS.

Simple but super-rich and creamy.



CHEESE PIZZA AT GROTTO'S

Sorta-thin pies with a signature swirl of tangy tomato sauce.



SALTWATER TAFFY AT DOLLE'S

A box will keep the beach vibe going long after you've returned to the office.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAURÈNE BOGLIO

OCEAN CITY'S BOARDWALK STRETCHES NEARLY THREE MILES.

## WHAT TO SEE AND DO IN REHOBOTH AND LEWES

**THE CASE FOR:** Rehoboth is the region's most classic beach town, with lovely shingled cottages amid shady pines plus a mile-long boardwalk lined with treats and amusements. Adjacent Lewes is a quieter enclave of historic clapboard houses and upscale dining.

**THE CASE AGAINST:** Popularity begets lots of traffic on Route 1, a.k.a. Coastal Highway—the road into Lewes and Rehoboth—especially on Saturdays, when rentals turn over.

**ALSO KNOWN FOR:** Rehoboth is LGBTQ-friendly. Especially popular spots include Poodle Beach, at the boardwalk's southern end and, at Cape Henlopen State Park, North Shores Beach and Gordons Pond.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Two popular walking and biking trails that link Rehoboth and Lewes are Junction & Breakwater and Gordons Pond, which borders a salt lagoon with ospreys, herons, and other shore birds. **Cape Henlopen State Park** in Lewes offers natural beaches. The **Lewes Historical Society** hosts a variety of walking tours in town. In Rehoboth, kids love **Funland**, a 56-year-old amusement park and arcade on the boardwalk. Rainy-day amuse-

ments include **outlet shopping** in Rehoboth, while Lewes offers **Lefty's Alley & Eats**, an indoor arcade with laser tag, and **Shell We Bounce** trampoline park.

**EAT:** In high season, expect to wait about an hour for great Mexican fare at **Agave** in Lewes. **Michy's Relaxed Dining** (don't be put off by its location in a Route 1 strip mall) and the **Back Porch Cafe**, both in Rehoboth, and **Heirloom** in Lewes are innovative dining options. Casual **Bethany Blues** in Lewes has great burgers, barbecue, and an abundant brunch buffet. For dessert, the **Ice Cream Store**, just steps off the Rehoboth boardwalk, scoops 100 luscious flavors.

**RENT:** In high season, a three-bedroom townhouse on the bay beach in Port Lewes rents for \$2,000 a week. Rehoboth is pricier: A four-bedroom two blocks from the beach runs \$3,550.

**CHECK IN:** **Bewitched and Bedazzled** in Rehoboth offers a playful B&B experience. For oceanfront charm, check into Rehoboth's **Boardwalk Plaza** hotel. The **Inn at Canal Square** is a quieter choice on Lewes's harbor.



REHOBOTH IS THE REGION'S QUINTESSENTIAL BEACH TOWN.

### BEACH NON-BUMS

A few boldface names who have houses in Rehoboth



### JOE AND JILL BIDEN

The former VP and his wife have a six-bedroom house with plenty of porches and a large outdoor kitchen and fireplace. It looks over the Atlantic Ocean and Cape Henlopen State Park.



### TONY KORNHEISER

The ESPN host and former *Washington Post* sportswriter has a five-bedroom that's outfitted for entertaining, with two wrap-around porches, a sunroom, an outdoor shower, and a grilling area.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEXEY SWALL



### JOHN DELANEY

The congressman represents Maryland's 6th but likely spends a good deal of time at his Delaware vacation home. It has seven bedrooms, a heated pool, private beach access, and ocean views.



### CAROL SCHWARTZ

The former DC Council member and mayoral candidate got flak during her 2014 run for spending too much time at her Rehoboth home—a gray-and-white bungalow she's had more than 20 years.



### KEVIN PLANK

The Under Armour founder's six-bedroom, seven-and-a-half-bath, Victorian-style getaway has multiple decks, a pool, and a hot tub on the fourth floor that overlooks the ocean and nearby state park.