



## Fun and Free!

***The Wildwoods, NJ*** – The five-mile long island known as the Wildwoods has appealed to vacationing families for more than a century. One of the reasons so many families have opted for the Wildwoods is because the island's expansive, pristine beaches, voted Best in New Jersey, are FREE to all, without the expense and hassle of having to purchase beach tags.

But the Wildwoods' world-famous beaches aren't the only free things that are pleasing to vacationers. The Wildwoods and surrounding area have a myriad of activities and events throughout the summer – and beyond – that visitors can enjoy without spending a lot of money.

Fishing, a favorite seashore pastime, is a great way to have some fun and enjoy the island environment. A fishing pier on the Intracoastal Waterway – known locally as "the back bay" – at Sweetbriar Road in Wildwood Crest is a popular fishing spot for island natives and visitors alike, and there are beaches along Hereford Inlet in North Wildwood where fishing enthusiasts gather to surf fish.

Crabbing is another beloved shore activity commonplace along the tidal marsh areas on the west side of the island. Those looking to catch their evening crab feast are frequently spotted along the wetlands area entering the island; at street ends; or on docks along the back bay.

In addition to FREE fishing and crabbing, recreation centers can be found in each of the three Wildwood municipalities: North Wildwood, Wildwood and Wildwood Crest, with playground equipment, ball fields, tennis and basketball courts open for all to use at no charge.

Cyclists will find a FREE bike route that runs nearly the entire length of the five-mile island, beginning at Rambler Road in Wildwood Crest. The beach side bicycle path runs north, continuing on the world-famous Wildwoods Boardwalk at Cresse Avenue via the bike ramp connector, where bicycles are permitted until 11 a.m. on weekdays and 10:30 a.m. on weekends and holidays. The Boardwalk stretches 2.5 miles north to a connecting ramp between 16<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenues in North Wildwood. From there, cyclists can continue along a path on the beach through the Mulberry Grove to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and the Sea Wall in North Wildwood. A special "bikes only" lane is also dedicated throughout the length of North Wildwood, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> avenues along Surf Avenue and on the North Wildwood Sea Wall.

If you leave your bicycle behind, don't worry! Bikes and associated equipment can be rented at reasonable rates from many bike shops throughout the Wildwoods.

Not only do the Wildwoods offer visitors FREE fishing, FREE crabbing and FREE bike riding, but FREE live entertainment is another Wildwoods staple that can be enjoyed almost every night of the week throughout the summer months.

FREE concerts are performed Wednesday and Saturday evenings at Centennial Park in Wildwood Crest; Thursday and Saturday evenings at the Lou Booth Amphitheatre in North Wildwood; and Sunday evenings at the Fox Park Amphitheatre in Wildwood, across from the Wildwoods Convention Center. A wide variety of music is performed ranging from famous recording acts and oldies groups, to big band sounds and the hits of today.

The Wildwoods Boardwalk offers FREE family entertainment on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings during the summer featuring Irish Pipe Brigades, Marching Bands, and a variety of

String Bands which stroll through the crowds on the boardwalk from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., enhancing the excitement of the Wildwoods' one-of-a-kind boardwalk atmosphere. Friday nights in the Wildwoods feature a FREE spectacular fireworks show, originating from the beach at Pine Avenue at 10 p.m. that can be viewed from the beach, boardwalk or anywhere throughout the 5-mile island.

The Wildwoods' Calendar of Events is full of FREE fun events and festivals for the whole family from May through October. Whether it's watching the area's cutest babies strolling along the Wildwoods Boardwalk during the Wildwoods Baby Parade or enjoying the colorful and skillful display of kites that fill the sky during the Wildwoods International Kite Festival, held every Memorial Day weekend. Other FREE-to-attend events in the Wildwoods include Sports Cards, Toys, Comics & Collectibles Show; street fairs celebrating Irish and Italian heritage; food and music festivals including the New Jersey State Barbeque Championships and Anglesea Blues Festival, and the Seafood & Music Festival; and Classic Car Shows and Motorcycle Rallies for auto enthusiasts.

The Wildwoods also have several historical museums, with FREE admission or a small optional donation. Inside, these museums tell the celebrated history of the five-mile island, from its origins to the present. The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse offers visitors award-winning English gardens to stroll through for FREE; while the Wildwood Historical Society's Boyer Museum chronicles the great history of the Wildwoods. The Wildwoods are also home to the National Marbles Hall of Fame, which highlights the rich history of the National Marbles Tournament, a real slice of Americana, held at Ringer Stadium on the beaches of Wildwood each year.

The Wildwoods also offer the largest collection of mid-20th century architecture, known as Doo Wop Architecture, in the country. Visitors are encouraged to stop in at the Doo Wop Preservation League's Doo Wop Experience Museum on Ocean and Montgomery Avenues to learn more about Doo Wop and what made the Wildwoods famous in the '50s. Afterwards, take a stroll or drive around the island to see the bright neon signs, vibrant architecture and colorful motel names, up close and personal, which make up the Doo Wop ambiance the Wildwoods is famous for.

Welcome to the Wildwoods – they're fun, close by, and so many great things are FREE!

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