



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Free & Exciting Ways to Experience the Wildwoods, NJ

**The Wildwoods, NJ** – A vacation in the Wildwoods offers a myriad of FREE activities for visitors of all ages to experience and enjoy! The Wildwoods arguably are the best value family vacation destination at the Jersey Shore.

### Wildwoods Gateway Visitor Experience

As visitors make their way over the bridge and onto the island, vacationers are greeted by the new 'Welcome to the Wildwoods' Doo Wop style sign in the shape of a surfboard. With its vivid colors and lighting, it can be seen upon approach day or night, setting the tone for the fun that lies ahead. The new Gateway also features a digital billboard announcing the latest events and information. Visitors will also notice colorful beach ball bollards along the entranceway, leading straight to the world-famous 'WILDWOODS' sign. It's the perfect spot to capture a photo of the beginning of your Wildwoods vacation!

### FREE Beaches

The Wildwoods' five-mile island has appealed to vacationing families for more than a century. One of the reasons families choose the Wildwoods is for the island's expansive clean, safe beaches with plenty of room to spread out. These pristine beaches have been voted 'Best Beaches in New Jersey' and 'Top 10 Beaches in the US'. The Wildwoods beaches also remain FREE for all visitors – removing the hassle of purchasing expensive beach tags each season.

The Wildwoods' FREE, white-sand beaches aid to clear the minds of visitors as they enjoy the calming benefits of 'Beach Therapy'. The beaches offer an award-winning and spacious stretch of tranquility to relax, recharge, and reunite with friends and family. The beach also gives visitors an opportunity to get some exercise and partake in the thrill of all the exciting watersports offered.

### Year-Round Events

The Wildwoods' Calendar of Events is full of FREE fun events and festivals for the whole family. FREE-to-attend events in the Wildwoods include Sports Cards, Toys, Comics, and Collectible Shows; street fairs celebrating Irish and Italian heritage; food and music festivals including The Fabulous '50s Weekend, the Seafood and Music Festival, and New Jersey State Barbeque Championships and Anglesea Blues Festival; National Marbles Tournament; Baby Parade; International Kite Festival; Classic Car Shows; and much more! You can view our more than 160 events and festivals at WildwoodsNJ.com.

### 'Bikeability'

Another FREE way to experience the wonder of the Wildwoods is by biking. Recharge, get physical exercise and enjoy the beautiful shore air and scenery by hopping on your bike and taking part in the Wildwoods exclusive version of 'Bikeability'. Enjoy a scenic, leisurely 12-mile round-trip route with plenty of fresh air and breathtaking views starting at the far southern end of the island along the Dunes Bike Path in Wildwood Crest. Travel along the path up onto the Wildwoods' 2.5-mile Boardwalk, and through North Wildwood's Muhlbury Bike Path to the North Wildwood Sea Wall. You can also ride your bike along the Wildwoods streets and downtown, with special "bikes only" lanes available around the entire island.

### The World-Famous Wildwoods Boardwalk

Otherwise known as 'two miles of smiles,' the iconic 38-block Wildwoods Boardwalk is one of the most

exciting attractions in the Wildwoods for strolling, jogging, and biking. There's no better way to take in the incredible views of the lively Boardwalk, beach, and ocean. There are a myriad of shops, eateries, arcades, carnival games plus three exciting amusement piers with over 100-rides and attractions and three beachfront Waterparks to experience. The sights, sounds, and smells of the Wildwoods' Boardwalk are pure sensory overload. And when you get tired of walking, just hop on the famous Wildwoods Boardwalk Tram Car and ride the entire Boardwalk in style.

### **The Wildwoods' Icon Wall Murals**

Tributes to iconic musical artists who have represented the destination's rich musical history, are displayed throughout the Wildwoods in a series of 'Icon Wall Murals.' The Greater Wildwoods Tourism Improvement and Development Authority (GWTIDA) developed the Icon Wall Mural project to enhance public spaces while heightening appreciation of the music evolution of the Wildwoods throughout the decades. These icon wall murals showcase the Wildwoods' influence as a living, breathing slice of Americana. Subjects of the Icon Wall Murals include key music legends whose mark was first made in the Wildwoods: Bobby Rydell, whose hit song 'Wildwood Days' has become the official anthem of the Wildwoods; Bill Haley & The Comets, who introduced the country's first Rock 'n Roll hit song 'Rock Around The Clock' at the Hof Brau Hotel in Wildwood; and Chubby Checker, who first introduced a new dance craze that swept the nation in the '60s, 'The Twist', at the Wildwoods' Rainbow Club. Each of these musical icons has significantly contributed to Wildwoods' colorful history and unique culture that has drawn people of all ages to this shore resort destination for generations.

### **The Wildwoods Sign**

The nine front brushed aluminum letters and blue background that make up the dramatic 80-foot-long, 19-foot-high sign – coined 'the Hollywood sign of the East Coast' – is a must-see New Jersey icon and a landmark for the Wildwoods. The Wildwoods Sign along with its brightly colored giant beach ball bollards were unveiled in 2008 and have welcomed millions of visitors to pose in front of the sign for a once-in-a-lifetime photograph. The entryway and sign that boldly states 'WILDWOODS,' was designed by Philadelphia architect Richard Stokes. Its prime location has not only made it a major tourist attraction for photo opportunities but has also become the ideal backdrop for major outdoor events, weddings, class pictures, TV broadcasts, press conferences, and much more. The sign is also broadcast live worldwide on our EarthCam webcam for viewing year-round, 24-7.

### **Doo Wop Architecture**

The Wildwoods offer the largest collection of mid-20th century architecture in the country. This iconic style is known as 'Doo Wop Architecture.' Take a self-guided tour on foot or by car to witness the islands unique aesthetic up close and personal. The bright neon signs, vibrant architecture and colorful motel names make up the Doo Wop ambiance for which the Wildwoods are famous and gives it its unique flair. As we like to say, "As Art Deco is to South Beach, Doo Wop is to the Wildwoods."

### **Fishing**

Fishing is a great way to have fun and enjoy the islands unique seaside environment for FREE. 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. The beaches along Hereford Inlet in North Wildwood are a popular spot for fishing enthusiasts to enjoy the sport of surf fishing.

### **Crabbing**

Crabbing is another beloved shore activity common in the tidal marsh areas along 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.

### **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall**

Located on the corner of Ocean and Burk Avenues, the Wildwoods' Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall is an exact half-size replica of the official Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This attraction offers ample opportunity for individuals to reflect and pay respect to the heroes of the Vietnam War who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The memorial also offers an important educational opportunity for people of all ages.