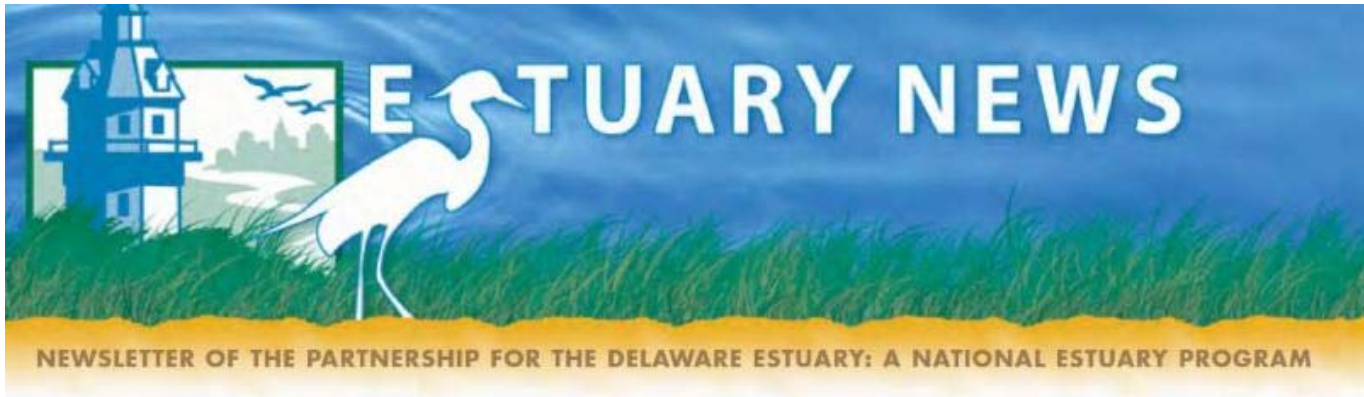




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We are pleased to provide below an article published in the
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Newsletter



FEATURE ARTICLE

ESTUARY EXCURSIONS/WORLD CLASS SPRINGTIME TOURING

Byways to Encircle Delaware Bay

By Shaun Bailey, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

In Delaware there's "the beach." In New Jersey there's "the shore." In between there's the road less travelled; "the other shore," as some have come to call it. This is its road map.

Planners in Delaware and New Jersey have spent nearly five years creating two scenic byways. One is the Bayshore Heritage Byway. It spans from the Delaware Memorial Bridge in Pennsville, New Jersey to Cape May. The other is the Delaware Bayshore Byway. It continues from the same bridge in New Castle, Delaware and travels to Lewes. Those who arrive in Cape May and Lewes can sail across Delaware Bay, with their vehicles if necessary, aboard the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.

This loop route has existed since ferry service opened in 1964. What did not exist until now are:

- curated attractions
- way-finding signage
- a trio of ecotourism efforts, including:
 - DiscoverDelawareBay.org
 - ecoDelaware.com
 - The Delaware Bayshore Initiative
- the advent of peer-to-peer rentals like AirBNB

New Jersey's Bayshore Heritage Byway



Credit: Shaun Bailey of PDE

The South Jersey Bayshore Coalition, a group of organizations coordinated by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, led the Bayshore Heritage Byway's creation. They hired expert planners to study the Garden State's route, which is slightly more complicated than Delaware's. Visit tinyurl.com/hakfomf for a map.

Tourists can rely on DiscoverDelawareBay.org to find outdoor fun in New Jersey. The Bayshore Center at Bivalve launched this website in 2015 to showcase local attractions, communities, festivals, food - and sunsets. New Jersey's bayshore is the only place where people can watch the sun set over open water.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation installed way-finding signs for its byway in 2016. These are plentiful, though it's still helpful to use a navigation system given the number of turns.

Delaware's Bayshore Byway



Drivers have Delaware Greenways to thank for planning the Delaware Bayshore Byway. The organization's staff collaborated with other stakeholders and towns to guarantee the most authentic experience possible. Visit tinyurl.com/gtdsaed to see the stops they chose. Recent additions include connections along the Historic Lewes Byway, available at tinyurl.com/hjafx5p.

Tourists can find dozens of roadside attractions at ecoDelaware.com, where "Fun comes naturally." The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary created this website in 2008 to boost outdoor tourism in the First State.

Two state agencies have been working to prepare the Delaware Bayshore Byway for tourists. The Delaware Department of Transportation plans to install way-finding signs (pictured) in March. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is adding amenities through its Delaware Bayshore Initiative. A great example is the new wildlife viewing platform at Thousand Acre Marsh near Port Penn.

Accommodations

Both byways wind their way past bayshore villages, family farms, and wetlands. Naturally, very few hotels and motels exist there, but technology has yielded modern solutions. Travelers can now use services like AirBNB, FlipKey, HomeAway, Tripping, and others. These allow travelers to maximize their time on the bayshore, experience communities like a local, and avoid the crowds and traffic that plague beachgoers and "shoobies" alike.

P.S. But beach body surfing for shore fans is a pleasant tour break to enjoy!

- Gary Brown



Delaware Bay Byways

Fortescue Beach

AJ Meerwald,
Bayshore Center at Bivalve

Photo by J. Gregory Barton

Photo by PDE

DuPont Nature Center

Photo by Paul Williams

Aquatic Resources Education Center

Photo by Shaun Bailey

ecoDelaware.com

Visit ecoDelaware.com and DiscoverDelawareBay.org for outdoor family fun along Delaware Bay's two byways.

Editor's Note: This map does not show the byways' numerous "spurs," or side roads to the bay. Instead, its purpose is to illustrate their primary routes. Please visit each byway's website to customize a route that suits you.

Credit: Frank McShare

For more information on the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary visit the website at <http://www.delawareestuary.org/>



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