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# CAPE MAY

## Along the Good Jersey Shore

Anita Draycott Jun 24, 2015

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24 JUN 2015: Cape May City is less than an hour's drive from Atlantic City but it's light years away in terms of atmosphere. It's the kind of place that reminds me of Norman Rockwell painting. Neatly painted Victorian mansions, (many now B&Bs) with gingerbread trim are bedecked in bunting. Gardens are tended. There's a sense of community

pride in Cape May. In fact the entire city was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976.



The city of Cape May is the main tourist destination, but there are plenty of other cute towns in Cape May County, one of America's oldest seaside resort destinations. You will discover fine sandy beaches, boardwalks lined with salt-water taffy and ice cream shops, lots of family attractions... and not a casino in sight. (All prices approximated in US dollars)

## **THE "YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE" SPLURGE LIST**

### **Gimme Shelter**

The Reeds at Shelter Haven, a modern luxury boutique hotel set on the harbour, has 37 rooms and suites decorated with a modern nautical theme. Dine alfresco on the Water Star Grille patio where chef Tim Hamill has created a shared plate dinner experience. Rather than offering individual starters and main courses, the Water Star Grille serves dishes and specialty drinks that are designed for sharing and are brought to the table continuously throughout your meal. Try the shellfish tower, Kobe beef sliders and a unique handcrafted cocktail.

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

### **Southern Comfort**

Built in the 1800s, the sprawling antebellum-style Southern Mansion Bed & Breakfast offers genuine

Southern hospitality. Fine antiques, circular staircases, pretty gardens, a gracious veranda and bountiful breakfasts are all part of the charm.

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

## **Eat like a Locavore**



At The Island Grill in Cape May, most of the food is sourced locally and chef Joshua Day puts some innovative twists on his dishes. I recommend the Cape May scallops served with a black-eyed pea salad, artichokes and warm ham vinaigrette and the crispy pork belly. This is a BYOB establishment, but if you forget to bring a bottle, there's a terrific wine store next door. [www.islandgrillcapemay.com](http://www.islandgrillcapemay.com)

## **THE "CHEAP THRILLS" SAVE LIST**

### **Grand Style**

Recently renovated two-story Townhouse Suites are ideal for up to six guests at the oceanfront Grand Hotel. The kitchen with table includes basic cookware, flatware, dinnerware, two burner electric cooktop, convection microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker and toaster. So you can make simple meals and snacks and save on restaurant costs. The second level of the suite is an open loft that includes a large private balcony

overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and outdoor pool.

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

## **Piscean Platters**

If you're looking for the freshest catch of the day, head to Mike's Seafood on Fish Alley in Sea Isle City. Mike's and many other restaurants in Cape May County have a BYOB policy and you don't even pay a corkage fee. Mike's is a casual spot where the portions are generous. Folks line up in the peak summer season for a feed of steamed clams with garlic butter and wine, chunky chowder, lobster mac 'n cheese. Don't miss the fries.

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

## **Animal Kingdom**



The Cape May Country Park Zoo is the pride and joy of locals. With more than 100 animals, including snow leopards and a white tiger, the Zoo is a great spot to take kids big and small.

Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

[www.capemaycountygov.net](http://www.capemaycountygov.net)

## **Sundae Best**

The Chatterbox in Ocean City looks like the kind of place where you might bump into Archie, Betty and Veronica. The iconic pink restaurant has been

an institution in Ocean City since 1937. It's the home of the \$3.99 breakfast sandwich, ice cream sodas and the colossal Tidal Wave Sundae (\$59.95 for 30 scoops). [www.chatterboxrestaurant.com](http://www.chatterboxrestaurant.com)

## **Lots to Wine About**

New Jersey, known as The Garden State, now boasts lots of wineries; six of them are in Cape May County. Sandy soil and moderating breezes from Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean provide an ideal environment for many grapes. Most of the wineries offer tastings for a minimal fee and some also serve food.

At Cape May Winery & Vineyard, the lucky first hundred to reserve for Wednesday Grill Night indulge in a \$37-buffet with grilled meats, salads and sides catered by the Washington Inn (both the winery and the Inn are owned by the Craig family). Buy a bottle of Cape May's award winning wines to accompany your meal in the garden and mingle with the locals. [www.capemaywinery.com](http://www.capemaywinery.com)

Fire Pitt Fridays are popular at Willow Creek Winery. Outside there's music and fire pits; inside pair tapas and wine tastings. Best to reserve. [www.willowcreekwinerycapemay.com](http://www.willowcreekwinerycapemay.com)

Enjoy Sangria Sundays at Hawk Haven Vineyard & Winery. From May to September, relax in the vineyard with a glass of two of their wine or famous sangria will local musicians entertain. Well-behaved kids and dogs are welcome. No cover charge. [www.hawkhavenvineyard.com](http://www.hawkhavenvineyard.com)

Do the Boardwalk Ocean City's four-km boardwalk

is lined with tasty treats. Shriver's has been making salt-water taffy since 1898. Curious to know why it's called Salt Water Taffy? A chap named Bradley sold taffy on the Atlantic City Boardwalk. One day the high tide rolled in and spoiled some of his candy. An angry Bradley sarcastically called this batch salt-water taffy, even though there's really no salt in it. The name stuck and the rest is history.

Kohr Brothers' Frozen Custard contains less fat and sugar than ice cream but it's delicious.

Warning: it can become addictive.



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The advertisement features a photograph of a group of people on a ship's deck, looking out at the ocean. The text is overlaid on the image, with a red banner at the top and a teal circle for the 'Plus' offer. The Globus and Cosmos logos are at the bottom left, and a 'VIEW OFFER' button is at the bottom right.

Cape May





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### [Anita Draycott](#)

Quite aside from being an award winning writer, whose travel articles and photography regularly appear in golf and lifestyle publications and websites, Anita Draycott is a self confessed golf fanatic, who has chased dimpled white balls over five continents.

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