

## **Free Family Activities**

### **Cape May County Park & Zoo**

*707 Route 9 N., Cape May Court House, NJ*

Explore more than 85 acres of lush country gardens at this county park, or bring the whole family to the [Cape May County Zoo](#), a free attraction featuring more than 550 animals, representing more than 250 species. You can find lions, tigers and bears (plus much more!) at this exciting kidfriendly destination.

### **Princeton University Art Museum**

*Princeton University, Princeton, NJ*

Admission is always free at [Princeton University Art Museum](#), where 92,000 works of art showcase an array of styles, from ancient to contemporary. The Princeton University campus also is home to one of the country's most significant collections of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>-century sculpture, presented as public artwork dispersed throughout the walkways and green spaces.

### **Drumthwacket**

*354 Stockton St., Princeton, NJ*

Explore the stately halls of historic [Drumthwacket](#), which is not only a house museum but the official residence of the governor of New Jersey. The land was once owned by William Penn, and the mansion itself dates back to the early 1800s, when Charles Smith Olden, a state senator and

then governor, lived in the residence. Be sure to make a reservation in advance for the free guided tour. Free parking is also available.

### **Heritage Glass Museum**

*25 E. High St., Glassboro, NJ*

From antique glassworker tools and hand-blown glass to vintage bottles and paperweights, the [Heritage Glass Museum](#) in Glassboro features more than 200 years of South Jersey glass, and it won't cost you anything to visit. The museum is located in the stately Hollybush Mansion, built in 1847.

### **Howell Living History Farm**

*70 Wooden's Lane, Lambertville, NJ*

Visit this early 1900s horse-powered farm for a glimpse into a bygone era. Admission is free to the [Howell Living History Farm](#) in Lambertville and activities such as summer camp, corn maze trips and hayrides require an additional cost.

### **The Center for Contemporary Art**

*2020 Burnt Mills Rd., Bedminster Township, NJ*

Featuring a variety of contemporary art exhibits by emerging, established and underrepresented artists in a range of media, [The Center for Contemporary Art](#) is a thought-provoking destination for visual arts. Admission is free (with a suggested donation of \$5), and classes for a cost are also available.

## **Twin Lights Historic Site**

*2 Light House Rd., Highlands, NJ*

Officially known as [Navesink Light Station](#), this National Historic Landmark is most commonly known as Twin Lights, due to its dual, nonidentical light towers (one flashing and one fixed), situated 200 feet above sea level.

Explore the castle-like structures of this iconic landmark, and take in breathtaking views from the bluffs. While you're here, make sure to check out the photographs and relics on display in the museum.

## **Bridgeton Hall of Fame All Sports Museum**

*Burt Avenue Recreation Center, Burt St. and Babe Ruth Dr., Bridgeton*

Sports lovers will find plenty of variety at the [Bridgeton Hall of Fame All Sports Museum](#), where men and women of all sports are recognized.

Peruse rare memorabilia such as trophies, medals and cups, as well as the Cincinnati Reds bat collection, a Golden Glove from Hall of Fame legend Willie Mays and much more.

## **Presby Memorial Iris Gardens**

*474 Upper Mountain Ave., Montclair, NJ*

Walking paths lattice across 6.5 acres of breathtaking botanical gardens at the [Presby Memorial Iris Gardens](#), where approximately 10,000 plants representing more than 3,000 differently named iris varieties are on display. Blooming season is typically mid-May to early June, so be sure to catch the peak of this natural beauty. This garden has been called the "Rainbow on a Hill". Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated

## **Empty Sky, 9/11 Memorial**

*Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ*

A dramatic tribute to those that lost their lives at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, "[Empty Sky](#)" features twin stainless steel walls are 210 feet long, 30 feet high and feature the engraved names of those who perished in the attacks. This memorial is located in lush Liberty State Park, an urban oasis where visitors can see the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in the distance. The memorial and park are free of charge to all visitors.

## **Wander through 96 acres of beautiful gardens**

[The New Jersey Botanical Gardens](#) are a part of Ringwood State Park, the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, and the Department of Environmental Protection. The park has free guided garden tours on Sunday afternoons at 2 PM from May through October. Self-guided tours are also available.

*2 Morris Rd, Ringwood, NJ 07456*

*(973) 962-9534*

## **Get up close and personal with falcons**

Take a self-guided visit to see hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures at [The Raptor Trust](#). Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. There are also self-led guided tour talks available for a group fee.

*1390 Whitebridge Rd, Millington, NJ 07946*

*(908) 647-2353*

## **Marvel at birds and sculpture gardens at Duke Farms**

[Duke Farms](#) covers over 1,000 acres of land with native species, natural beauty, and sustainability efforts. It is free to enter the former Doris Duke estate and explore the areas with rich history and natural wonders. Don't miss the sculpture gardens, greenhouse, and waterfall along the way. And if you're hungry, get a bite to eat at their farm-sourced, award-winning cafe while you are there.

*1112 Dukes Pkwy W, Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844  
(908) 722-3700*

## **Float away on canoes and kayaks at Scotland Run Park**

Spend the day on the water—the whole family can paddle a canoe or hop in a [kayak during the weekend](#) for *free* at this Clayton, NJ park from June to September. First come, first serve, and all children 14 or younger must be accompanied by an adult. They provide life jackets and paddles, but [you must print out a waiver](#) and fill it out before your visit.

## **Feel the magic of the fairies**

If you want to give your kids a magical experience without a price tag, travel down a [half-mile trail inhabited by fairies](#). Walk along the white-blazed path to see fairy homes built into tree hollows and roots during this visit of free things to do in NJ.

*197 Glen Ave., Millburn, NJ 07041  
(973) 268-3500*

## Take in the beautiful gardens at Sayen House & Gardens

In Historic Hamilton Square sits [Sayen House & Gardens](#), and you can use it daily from dawn to dusk. Enter a garden filled with azaleas and rhododendrons surrounded by ponds, gazebos, and bridges, and pack a picnic to enjoy on the insta-worthy grounds.

*155 Hughes Dr, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690*

*(609) 890-3630*

## Take some time to smell the flowers

A free botanical garden, and open year-round, Rutgers Gardens has it all. See gardens and plant collections with everything from Herb Gardens to a Community Youth Garden and even a Rain Garden. Or head out to Middletown Township and discover [Deep Cut Gardens and its 54 acres of beauty](#).

## Take a step back in time at a Living History Farm

Visit [Longstreet Farm](#) in Holmdel to see a blacksmith demonstration, corn harvest, or a 19th-century woodworking demonstration. Sheep shearing, and special programs every weekend. Check their calendar for specific programs.

## See Revolutionary War sites

The [Friends of Monmouth Battlefield](#) hold many free tours, including a walking tour of the Battlefield, programs about different battles, and even living history encampments. Or visit the Revolutionary War massacre site of the [Hancock House](#) in Hancocks Bridge.

The [Morristown National Historical Park](#) is also a place to soak up free history, where Washington made his headquarters during a crucial

**time of the Revolutionary War time of the Revolutionary War and soldiers encamped in nearby Jockey Hollow.**

### **Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck**

**535-acre green space featuring sports courts, a playground & spray park, plus paths and picnic areas.**

### **Huber Woods Environmental Center, Locust**

**This special place helps visitors experience and develop relationships with the natural world through exhibits and displays.**

### **Sea Girt Lighthouse**

**Sea Girt Lighthouse guided mariners in their journeys since December 10, 1896. It was built to illuminate a blind spot between the Barnegat Lighthouse and Navesink Lighthouse. It is one of only 11 of the 40 original lighthouses in New Jersey open to the public. The building is now a historical landmark filled with exhibits, photos and artifacts of its vital role in the history of New Jersey. Group tours are offered on Sundays from 2-4pm most of the year, and they can also be scheduled year-round by special arrangement.**