

Historic Lewes Byway

Gateway to the Bayshore



5 Days/4 Nights

Gateway City: Baltimore, Maryland



In 1631, a small group of Dutch settlers established a whaling and trading post on the southern tip of what would later become the state of Delaware. Named Zwaanendael, this new colony lasted only one year. It took a few more attempts for a settlement to become a permanent fixture on the Delaware River, but in 1682, William Penn named the city after his mother-in-law's hometown of Lewes, England. It would later hold the designation of the First Town in the First State of the new United States of America. A harbor and several lighthouses were quickly erected, and its location at the mouth of the Delaware Bay helped Lewes become the perfect spot for rescuing crews and passengers, developing a major shipping channel, and defending the Bay and adjacent communities during times of war and strife.

Today, this tiny community on the sea, absolutely laden with history, is best seen on the Historic Lewes Byway, a continuous road network that spans 12 miles and nearly 400 years of the town's heritage. Echoing the constant flow of maritime traffic in and out of Lewes, the Byway offers historic homes, miles of preserved beaches, a working waterfront, and an abundance of wildlife and diverse natural ecosystems. Discover harbors where tall ship masts dot the sky, endless expanses of

fields and salt marshes, towering beach dunes that gently drift in ocean breezes. The short route is packed and there is no better place to experience firsthand the development of the United States than on the Historic Lewes Byway, your gateway to Delaware's Bayshore.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Baltimore, with a stop in the historic maritime town of Annapolis, on your way to the Historic Lewes Byway. Explore the historic Main Street of this very old city, Annapolis Maritime Museum and Historic London Town and spend the evening in the Historic Inns of Annapolis.

On Day Two, travel to Lewes, one of Delaware's most beloved towns and the center of the Historic Lewes Byway. Start your visit here here at the Lewes History Museum, which will put the rest of the stories told at historic properties into context. From there, visit the Zwaanendael Museum and end your day relaxing and sipping at the Nassau Valley Vineyards.

On Day Three, begin your visits at the Ryves Holt House, the Visitor Center of the Lewes Historical Society, followed by the Historic Architecture Walking Tour, on which you will hear the stories of important Lewes families and the historic homes they occupied over the past three centuries.

From there, visit the Lewes Maritime Museum with its famous embedded cannonball, the Shipcarpenter Campus, encompassing 9 historic buildings, and the Life Saving Station (if open).

Day Four gives you the opportunity to visit the Lightship Overfalls, the permanently moored 1938 lightship, and enjoy a Cape Water Tour, which will leave some time in the afternoon to explore the unique shops in downtown Lewes.

Day Five begins with a visit to Cape Henlopen, including the Fort Miles Museum, where the “Great Dune” rises 80 feet above sea level and the “walking dunes” that move slowly across the pine forest. From there, you can enjoy a scenic ride on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, which has been making the 17-mile, 80-minute journey across the Delaware Bay since 1964. Fortunately, the ferry runs all up until 7:45PM to Cape May, NJ.

From there, we wish you a safe and pleasant journey home.

DAY ONE



Annapolis

Annapolis was designed to be grand. Instead of laying out a grid pattern, the city was constructed around a baroque plan used in the capitals of Europe. Circles with radiating streets created a focal point for important buildings, that still stand proudly today. Originally Providence and Anne Arundel's Town, the city did not become Annapolis until the Maryland capital was moved from St. Mary's City. Queen Anne's royal badge, with a crown over the entwined thistle of Scotland and Tudor rose of England, is still depicted on the Annapolis flag. As the town prospered, wealthy merchants and planters worked to duplicate the amenities they had enjoyed in England and built mansions worthy of any in the world. Today,



Annapolis has more of these original 18th century structures standing than any other city in the United States.

Historic Main Street

Start your visit strolling through the historic 18th-century core historic district, a remarkable place, surrounded by four centuries of lovingly preserved architecture. Yet, Annapolis has the energy of a contemporary city, with Midshipman from the Naval Academy, shops and restaurants of every size and description, and bustling streets. There are dozens of restaurants to enjoy downtown, plus art, historic landmarks and historic landmarks.

Annapolis Maritime Museum and Park

The historic McNasby Oyster Company, the last oyster packing plant in Annapolis serves as the home of the Annapolis Maritime Museum. With a direct view of the Chesapeake Bay, the campus includes the exhibits center, three transient piers, an adjacent beachside park with wooden boat exhibits and kayak launch point, a research library and a rotating, maritime-themed art gallery.

723 Second Street, Annapolis, MD 21403 10AM-3PM. Adults \$7

Historic London Town

Before there was Annapolis, over three hundred years ago, the area was a colonial tobacco port town, bustling with ships, ferries, and commercial trade goods. Then it all disappeared, to be reconstructed today surrounding the 1760 William Brown House, with scenic river views, 10 acres of woodland and ornamental gardens.

839 Londontown Road, Edgewater, MD 21037 410-222-1919, W-Sun 10AM-4PM





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Historic Inns of Annapolis, 58 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-263-2641

Historic hotel in three different buildings: The Maryland Inn, Governor Calvert House and Robert Johnson House, right on the center of everything.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Reynolds Tavern, 7 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-295-9555

Galway Bay, 63 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-263-8333 Historic Irish pub in a cobblestone alley.

Iron Rooster, 12 Market Space, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-990-1600 Breakfast all day.

Lewnes' Steakhouse, 410 Fourth Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-263-1617

Maryland classics and seafood, plus steak.

DAY TWO



Lewes

It is amazing from its early history, that Lewes ever became a town. Originally named Zwaandael by Dutch settlers in 1631, and were wiped out in 1632, the land was later deeded to a group of Mennonites by the City of Amsterdam to keep from being captured by Maryland. They settled in 1663, and in 1664, the British who had captured Dutch holdings in New York, ordered the settlement razed. The Dutch regrouped by 1673, but in 1682, the Delaware colonies were given to William Penn. He renamed it Lewes. After the British bombarded the town in the War of 1812, Lewes was finally incorporated in 1818. Since Delaware was a border state, but not part of the Confederacy, Lewes became an important stop on the Underground Railroad, where safe houses were identified with a single candle in the top window of the house. Fort Miles was built during World War II to protect local factories and oil refineries. Today, Historic Lewes is a very peaceful, quaint, historic place.



Lewes History Museum

Start your visit to Lewes at the Lewes Historical Society which has been collecting thousands of artifacts, artwork, documents, maps and photos for over 50 years. A visit here will put your other visitors in context. Ongoing exhibits begin with the founding of Lewes and continue with its maritime history, decorative arts and artists, famous families of Lewes, and how the region has been transformed through environmental change.

101 Adams Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 10AM-4PM, Tu-Sat



Zwaanendael Museum

The museum, which is modeled after the town hall in Hoorn, Netherlands, where the first Delaware settlers hailed from, was constructed in 1931 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the state's first European colony. The stepped facade gable with carved stonework and decorated shutters is unique in America. Exhibits include Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport, and A Seaborne Citizenry about the British warship that sank off the coast of Delaware in 1798.

102 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-1148, Tu-Sat 10AM-4:15PM

Nassau Valley Vineyards

As you make your way across Maryland and Delaware, you can take a break at Nassau Valley Vineyards which hosts a Farmers Market every Sunday Noon to 1PM, Mid-May to Mid-October. Enjoy a sip, some music and food from local vendors.

32165 Winery Way, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-9463



Savannah Inn, 330 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-0330 Luxurious yet comfortable accommodations in a home built at the end of the Edwardian period. Enjoy breakfast on the wrap-around porch or in the garden.

Destination Distinctive Dining

On the Rocks Dockside Grill, 43 Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-644-6028, Lunch and Dinner: burgers, sandwiches, salads, plates and starters.

Lemon Tree Restaurant, 416 East Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-0481, American fare

King's Ice Cream, 201 Second Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-9425 Hand-crafted.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Sand N Stones, 112B Front Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-270-7027 Handcrafted jewelry.

Peninsula Gallery, 520 East Savannah Road, Lewes, DE, 19958, 302-645-0551

Cape Art Gallery, 110 West Third Street, Lewes, DE 19950, 302-644-7733

DAY THREE



The Ryves Holt House Museum

The oldest building in Delaware still on its original foundation, tells the story of Lewes from 1631-1787 and also serves as the Lewes Historical Society Information Center. Exhibits include the story of Zwaanendael, the first European settlement in Delaware, the Mason & Dixon Line, and Lewes's role in the journey to ratifying the Constitution in 1787 and an early occupant, Revolutionary War naval hero, Jacob Jones.

218 Second Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-7670, 10AM-4PM Tu-Sat



Lewes Historical Society Visitor Center/Historic Architecture Walking Tour

For a great introduction to Lewes, following your drive here, the Lewes Historical Society offers a Historic Architecture Walking Tour through the National Historic District which encompasses 122 contributing buildings and 6 contributing sites within the 17th-century core of the town. The district is primarily residential with resources ranging from small working-class houses to large and ornate houses from the Victorian period in Queen Anne and Second Empire styles. The Market Street commercial area, includes three frame store buildings and the elaborate Smith Block. Other buildings include St. Peter's' Episcopal Church, the Ellis Marine Complex, Cannonball House, Governor Ebe W. Tunnell House, Walsh Building, Zwaanendael Museum, Cornelius Burton House, Lewes Historical Society enclave, and the De Wolf Houses.

110 Shipcenter Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-7670, Architectural Walking Tour, Th and Sun, 5PM, Adults \$10



Lewes Maritime Museum

Nationally important pieces of maritime art and artifacts are on display in the 1765 Cannonball House, that took incoming fire during the bombardment of Lewes during the War of 1812. It still holds the cannonball that nearly destroyed the historic structure. Learn the story of the battle, the maritime history of the region, and the story of Gilbert McCracken and his son Henry, who continued to defend Lewes until the end of the war in 1815.

118 Front Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-7670, Tu-Sat 10AM-4PM, Adults \$5

Historic Shipcarpenter Campus

Nine historic buildings highlight Lewes's relationship to the sea and illustrate the three centuries since its founding. The Campus includes the 1720 Hiram Rodney Burton House, the only building on its original site, the 1785 Burton-Ingram House, illustrating fine Federal period architecture and original furnishings, the 1740 Rabbit's Ferry House which illustrates life in rural southern Delaware, the 1800 Thompson Country Store, the 1790 Ellegood House another Sussex County farmhouse and Blacksmith Shop, the 1850 Doctor's Office, and 1898 Midway School #178.

110 Shipcarpenter Street, Lewes, DE 19958 10AM-4PM Tu-Sat, Free

Lewes Life-Saving Station Boathouse

Displays explain the history of the US Life Saving Service and implements the service used to rescue shipwreck survivors.

2 Shipcarpenter Street, Lewes, DE 19958, 10AM-4PM, Tu-Sat

DAY FOUR

Lightship Overfalls

A lightship is a lighthouse that floats, aiding ships navigating at night and warning mariners in fog. Lightship Overfalls, the last lightship built for the U.S. Lighthouse Service, which has since been merged into the US Coast Guard, is now resident in Lewes and open for touring.

219 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-644-8050

Cape Water Tour



Enjoy a 90-minute narrated tour to get the best view of the shoreline of southern Delaware, with Cape Water Tours. Check the departure point for your particular tour choice. A variety of departure times and tour types are on offer.

217 Anglers Road or 43 Cape Henlopen Drive 302-644-7334

DAY FIVE

Cape Henlopen State Park

Cape Henlopen State Park has a diverse collection of habitats that make up a coastal ecosystem of barrier dune, coastal beaches, and maritime forest that are home to many species of plants and animals. You can visit the Seaside Nature Center to participate in an interpretive program or learn about the park's native plants and animals. For generations, native people lived off the land's abundant and rich resources and in the late 1600s, William Penn granted the land and allowed citizens to harvest many of the same resources. The area's strategic position led to the construction of Fort Miles during World War II with its iconic fire control towers along the Atlantic coast and, which served as a federal defensive site, training area and testing location both during, and after the war. The Fort Miles Museum, part of the park, is located in Battery 519, a 15,000 square foot fortified underground chamber featuring Delaware's wartime stories, submarines, daring actions of civilian pilots, and hometown heroes.

15099 Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-8983 Museum open March-June 10 F-Sat, June 13-Sept 9, Tu-Sat, 10AM-4PM, Park open 8AM-Sunset Daily.



Cape May-Lewes Ferry

You can add a final adventure to your trip departing Lewes on the Ferry to Cape May, New Jersey. As you cross the Delaware Bay, enjoy historic lighthouses, scenic harbors, unique shorebirds and maybe even your own dolphin escort! The Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal is conveniently located in Lewes right next to Cape Henlopen State Park. At the end of US Highway 9 at the waters edge.

