



Museums. Arts. Culture.

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CAPE MAY NEW JERSEY

A tall, white, tapered lighthouse with a red lantern room and gallery. It is surrounded by lush green pine trees and other vegetation. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

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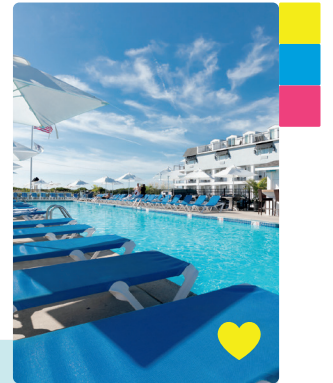
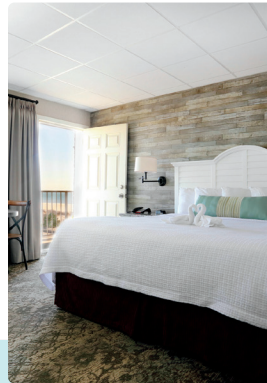
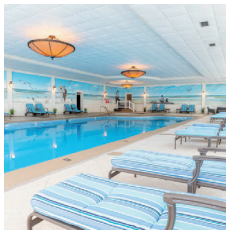
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Historic Sites

1879 Emlen Physick Estate

1048 Washington St., Cape May



Guided tours are offered daily April through December and select dates at other times of the year. Special living history presentations are also available. The Physick House and the Carriage House are air-conditioned for the comfort of visitors.

The Physick House was designed by Frank Furness, the renowned architect of more than 600 buildings in the greater Philadelphia area in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Such trademark features as the greatly oversized corbelled (upside down) chimneys, jerkinhead dormers, and porch brackets appear in many other Furness buildings of the period.

Also on the grounds is the 1876 Carriage House. Today, it is home to the Carriage House Museum Shop, featuring high quality museum gifts, uniquely designed silk scarves reflecting Frank Furness architectural elements, high quality tea and coffee, custom clothing with local, original designs for children and adults, and more, including one of the largest selections of books by local authors in and about Cape May.

The Carroll Gallery is the only gallery dedicated to changing exhibits that focus on Cape May history.

The first floor of the house museum, as well as the Carriage House, is fully accessible.

A visit to the Physick Estate offers a look back at the Victorian past: its architecture, decorative arts, customs, and the lives of one Cape May household and the staff who worked here.

Emlen Physick Jr., his widowed mother, Frances Ralston, and his maiden aunt Emilie Parmentier moved into their home when it was completed in 1879.

Emlen, who never married, was descended from two famous and wealthy Philadelphia families, the Physicks and the Emlens. His grandfather, Dr. Philip Syng Physick, was considered the father of American surgery and invented numerous surgical procedures and medical instruments that are still in use today.

Emlen graduated from medical school but never formally practiced medicine. In Cape May, he led the life of a gentleman farmer. He bought and sold a great deal of real estate in Cape May, and took an active role in civic affairs.





1859 Cape May Lighthouse

Located in Cape May Point State Park, Lower Township



In December, 1986, the Cape May Lighthouse was leased to Cape May MAC (Museums + Arts + Culture). The organization assumed responsibility for restoring the lighthouse, interpreting it as a historic site and opening it to the public.

The process of restoration took more than 15 years (1987-2002), and was funded by nearly \$2 million in grants.

Cape May MAC supervised the restoration of the lighthouse windows and doors, the addition of safety improvements, the restoration of the oil house which is at the entrance to the lighthouse grounds, the restoration of the lantern roof and windows, the interior walls and staircase, an archaeological investigation that located the original privies and walkways, and the restoration of the grounds.

The lighthouse has also been repainted in its original color scheme, in which the tower is crème and the lantern is red.

Visitors can climb the 199 steps to the top for a breathtaking view of the Atlantic

Ocean and Delaware Bay. For those who choose not to climb, the Lighthouse's Oil House has been fully restored, and houses a fully accessible visitors' orientation center as well as a museum shop offering a variety of lighthouse and seashore memorabilia. Periodic night climbs offer visitors the chance to climb during the light of the Full Moon, or during the New Moon, when the stars shine and the moon is dark.

A beautiful new brick pathway was installed on the grounds in 2021, with dedicated bricks available for purchase. Three new interpretive panels were installed on the grounds in 2023. They include a comprehensive list of Cape May Lighthouse Keepers, the story of Belle Palmer, Cape May's female Custodian of the Light, and the story of "Crossing the Bay in a Bateau," documented by William Still, detailing six persons' escape from slavery led by the light of the lighthouse.

Tens of thousands of visitors each year experience a visit to the top of the lighthouse, and learn about the Lighthouse Keepers of a century ago.

World War II Lookout Tower

Located near Cape May Point on Sunset Boulevard in Lower Township

Restoration of Fire Control Tower No. 23, a World War II coastal artillery lookout tower, is another Cape May MAC historic preservation success story.

Fire Control Tower No. 23 is New Jersey's last freestanding World War II tower, part of the immense Harbor Defense of the Delaware system known as Fort Miles. Built in 1942, the tower was one of 15 towers that helped aim batteries of coastal artillery. The tower was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Nov. 17, 2003.

The restoration included building staircases in the Tower so that the public can safely climb to the top; construction of a wooden walkway from the street to the Tower, and a deck around its base to preserve the fragile dune environment; replacing missing windows and doors; recreating historical details, such as the original wooden ladders, and outfitting the watch room and viewing platform at the top; installing interpretive panels along the walkway and at every level in the Tower; and upgrading the existing parking lot across Sunset Boulevard. A Wall of Honor on the third level honors local World War II veterans. An All Veterans Memorial at the rear of the Tower was dedicated in 2012 and is open year-round. The walkway, interpretive panels and All Veterans Memorial are fully accessible.



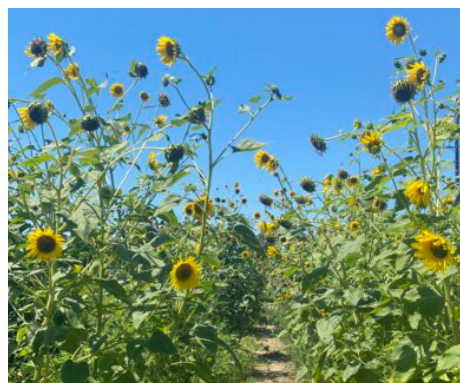


Cape May MAC's open-air red trolleys are the perfect way to tour Cape May and discover its history, architecture and natural beauty. Throughout the year, daytime and evening trolley tours focus on differing aspects of Cape May, the nation's only National Historic Landmark City. Combination house and trolley tours include a tour of the 1879 Emlen Physick Estate. Specialty trolley tours celebrate the changing seasons and holidays from spring to Christmas. An accessible trolley is also available (call for details).



Historic District Trolley Tour

Cape May is the nation's oldest seaside resort and the Historic District features a variety of styles of Victorian architecture. Wonderful tour guides explain why Cape May is a National Historic Landmark City and why preservation is so important here.



Natural Habitats Trolley Tour

Cape May is renowned for its birdwatching, monarch migration, and natural history, offering trolley tours led by Cape May Bird Observatory naturalists to explore local natural habitats and the birding capital of North America. These tours provide insights into the region's rich biodiversity and history, making for an entertaining and educational experience.



Welcome to Cape May Trolley Tour

This is the best introduction to Cape May for first timers and also for those who haven't been to Cape May in some time. Find the hidden gems and the little-known treasures of this glorious seaside town and learn about natural and cultural points of interest. This narrated tour highlights the many cultural, historical and natural attractions on the island.



Mansions by the Sea Trolley Tour

This tour features a century of beachfront development, from Victorian cottages of the 1870s to the most up-to-date seaside cottages and mansions of today. It includes the history of some of Cape May's most magnificent structures.



Underground Railroad Trolley Tour

Hear the history of Cape May's connection to the Underground Railroad and how legendary anti-slavery fighter, Harriet Tubman, who was present here in the early 1850s, along with businessman and former enslaved person, Stephen Smith, helped hundreds escape to freedom. Co-sponsored by the Center for Community Arts.



Cape May's Maritime Trolley Tour

Whaling, wartime and wild weather. The remarkable maritime history of our seaside town has long defined the Cape May story. Board the trolley and rediscover the important places and natural phenomena that have shaped, literally and figuratively, the Cape May we know today.



Spirits & Oddities Trolley Tour

Cats in ghostly form purr from the beyond. Beloved family members in photographs without their heads. Graves equipped with a torpedo to put off intruders. Hear several Cape May ghost stories and more strange stories from Victorian Cape May history that are macabre, mysterious or just downright weird!



Stories of Cape Island

Many stories of Cape Island and the surrounding area's economy are in whaling and farming and while new industries have evolved since then, that heritage is celebrated today. Hear how whalers centuries ago eked out a dangerous but lucrative living near Town Bank and how the area's rich farming heritage continues to be a source of tremendous community pride. Learn about the Union Bethel community in 1831 in which Black residents thrived and the diverse community that continues to contribute to the vibrancy of island life today.



Ghosts of Cape May Trolley Tour

Cape May is renowned as one of the most haunted cities in the country and this tour tells you why. Take this evening trolley tour of the Historic District past places and properties reputed to be haunted, as guides tell stories of the unexplained unearthed by psychic medium Craig McManus during his paranormal investigations.

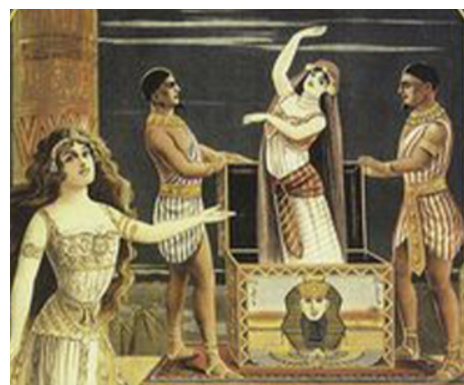


Combination Trolley/Physick Estate Tour

A guided trolley tour of Cape May's Historic District is followed by a guided tour of the Physick House Museum, Cape May's only Victorian house museum. Visit the Carroll Gallery in the Carriage House.

Historic Haunts Combo Tour

First you'll travel by trolley past properties reputed to be haunted and hear supernatural stories unearthed during paranormal investigations. The trolley then brings you to the 1879 Physick House Museum, where you step inside and learn why Victorians were so fascinated by Spiritualism.



Cape May's Maritime Combo Tour

Whaling, wartime and wild weather. The remarkable maritime history of our seaside town has long defined the Cape May story. Board the trolley and rediscover the important places and natural phenomena that have shaped, literally and figuratively, the Cape May we know today. The trolley stops at the Lobster House for an up-close Fisherman's Wharf Walking Tour about Cape May's commercial fishing industry.

Combination Underground Railroad Trolley Tour & Harriet Tubman Museum

Cape May was part of the Underground Railroad and this combination tour that includes the Underground Railroad Trolley Tour and a visit to the Harriet Tubman Museum tells the story of those dangerous days. Hear how legendary anti-slavery fighter, Harriet Tubman lived and worked here, as did prominent railroad businessman and former enslaved person, Stephen Smith, whose railroad cars carried hundreds of enslaved persons to freedom.

Spirits, Oddities & Obsessions Combo Tour

Victorians of the late 19th century had wild notions about the passage from life to death, and were fascinated by mystery and illusion. Hear Cape May ghost stories as you travel Cape May by trolley, along with strange stories from Victorian Cape May that are just plain weird. Then visit select rooms in the 1879 Physick House Museum and learn about famous Victorian illusionists and magicians.

SPECIAL EVENTS

You're a history buff, a mystery solver, a romantic, a beer lover, an arts and culture aficionado, a foodie, or all of these! Whether you travel alone or with friends, when you come to Cape May we are here for you. We have a variety of fun events year-round to intrigue and entertain, enlighten and engage in America's First Seaside Resort.

Murder Mystery Dinners

Murder and mayhem are served during Murder Mystery Dinners. Savor a multi-course dinner as players take you on a dramatic journey, leaving clues "on the table," figuratively. Keep track of the characters and their motives and plots as the mystery unfolds around you and is finally revealed. Original play performed by Cape May MAC Theatrics Troupe

Brunch & Bingos

Laugh along with your friends as you play a little bingo, compete for prizes and enjoy a fashion show by Lace Silhouettes/Cotton Company. It's all over a scrumptious brunch.

The Gardens of Cape May Tour

This is your invitation to explore Cape May's unique natural areas and the private landscape designs of some of the area's most passionate gardeners. Smell and see what's blooming and flourishing in several different seashore locations dominated by sunlight, ocean breezes, and sand and salt, each uniquely situated.

Cape May Wine Trail

Relax and have fun on the Cape May Mac trolley and enjoy tours and tastings at several of Cape May County's premier wineries. Lunch included.

Victorian Weekend

This is the best time of year to visit Victorian Cape May and celebrate the unique heritage of America's first seashore resort. Enjoy a weekend of exciting and entertaining activities focused on history and Victorian Cape May culture.

Sherlock Holmes Weekends

The game's afoot in Victorian Cape May as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson lead you through a weekend of an original Sherlock Holmes style mystery as you compete for prizes. Original play performed by Cape May MAC Theatrics Troupe

Cape May Beer Trail

Relax and have fun on the Cape May Mac trolley and enjoy tours and tastings at several of Cape May County's outstanding breweries. Lunch included.



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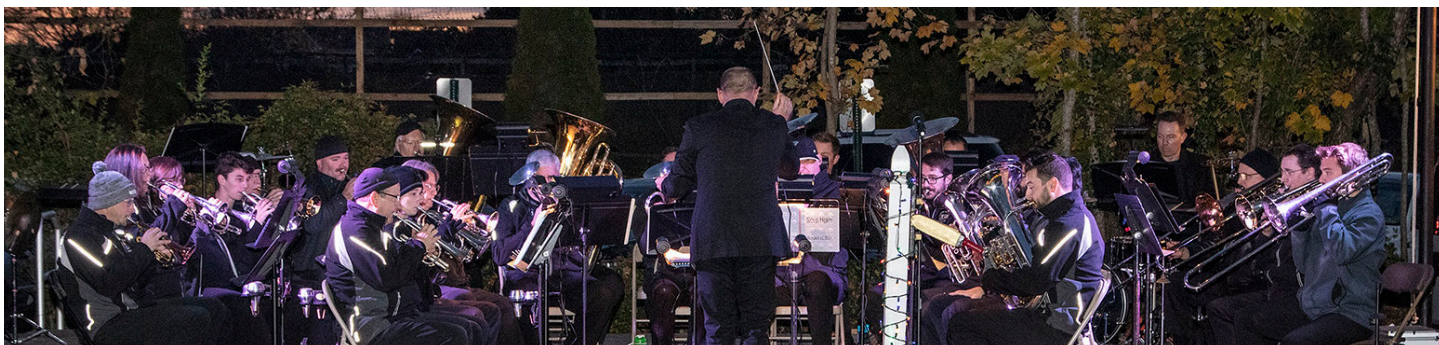




MUSIC FESTIVAL

Cape May Music Festival

The Cape May Music Festival features both indoor and outdoor musical performances from May through June, with classical concerts from the Bay Atlantic Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players and the New York Chamber Ensemble, and jazz performances, popular music concerts, and Bach's Lunches.





WALKING TOURS



Painted Ladies, Porches & More Walking Tour

Take a guided walking tour from the Washington Street Mall to the 1879 Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington St., and experience charming Cape May, a National Historic Landmark city, up close. Delight in beautiful gardens as you learn about Victorian social history and Cape May's colorful history along the way. Discover the interesting features of various Victorian styles and learn why front porches were so important to Victorian social customs. Comfortable shoes recommended.



Architectural Walking Tour

See the architectural features of America's only National Historic Landmark City up close on this one-hour walking tour that explores Cape May's Historic District by foot. Put on your walking shoes and stroll along the sidewalks of streets such as Hughes Street, Ocean Street and Columbia Avenue, with a knowledgeable guide to describe the distinctive elements that make Victorian Cape May's architecture so special. See where Victorian gamblers won or lost their shirts, where the Great Fire of 1878 burned and how it affected how the town looks today, and more. Tour begins and ends at the Washington Street Mall Information Booth. Comfortable shoes recommended.



Fisherman's Wharf Tour

Take this guided tour of Fisherman's Wharf at the Lobster House Restaurant at Schellenger's Landing and you'll learn how your seafood gets from the sea to your table and discover how Cape May is a major commercial fishing port. Guests meet in front of the main entrance at the Lobster House, next to the green awning. The tour guide arrives by trolley to meet the tour. Comfortable shoes recommended. Fisherman's Wharf is a working dock and we can't guarantee wheelchair accessibility.



PHYSICK ESTATE HOUSE TOURS



Clueless at the Physick Estate

This annual immersive "whodunit" mystery written by Jacklyn Fazio unfolds inside the first floor of the 1879 Physick House Museum. Have fun listening for clues as you try to solve the mystery unfolding around you. Original play performed by Cape May MAC Theatrics Troupe



Strange Victorian Obsessions House Tour

Victorians were fascinated with mystery and illusion and this tour through select rooms in the 1879 Physick House Museum shares that fascination. Learn about the famous Harry Houdini who captivated Victorian audiences with his intricate escapes, the Goddess of Mystery, Ionia, a Belgian beauty who Victorians worshipped for her spectacles of magic, The Great Lafayette, who became known as the world's greatest magician, and Pepper's Ghost, an illusion still used today, with Sherlock Holmes, Jack the Ripper and more.



Historic Haunts House Tour

Tour select rooms with your guide and learn about Victorian Spiritualism in Cape May's only Victorian house museum, the Physick House Museum, widely reputed to be haunted. In the museum, guides will compare the methods of spirit contact used by the Victorians with those of today's paranormal investigators. Select rooms on both floors are included in the tour.



Voices From Beyond House Tour

Experience an unusual tour in Cape May MAC's 1879 Emlen Physick House. In the Voices from Beyond Tour, you will hear actual spirit voices captured by Cape May MAC staff over the past 10 years. View historical photos of the Physick family and their staff alongside photos of apparitions seen inside the house. Learn about the equipment and tools used throughout history in paranormal research. Who could these voices belong to and what is keeping them connected to the Physick House Museum? Draw your own conclusions on this new and exciting paranormal tour.



OUTDOOR EVENTS

Cape May MAC offers outdoor events each year on the beautiful grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate that bring together crafters, live music, craft beers and food and beverage vendors. Admission is free. The Physick Estate grounds are pet-friendly and accessible.



Concerts at the Physick Estate

The outdoor stage on the beautiful grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate is a popular destination in Cape May for music events throughout the seasons.



Harvest Brew Fest

The Harvest Brew Fest on the grounds of the Physick Estate is held in September and features live music on the outdoor stage, regional craft brews, food, and plenty of family-friendly activities and games.

CRAFTS & COLLECTIBLES SHOWS

Multiple shows throughout the year. Shows take place outside at the PE, summer family fun days at the CM LH, and inside in cape may convention hall in the fall.

Interested in becoming a vendor?
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HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

Explore the spirits of historic Cape May during specially-themed tours and events that tell the many ghost tales of this seaside town, including Ghost Walk with Craig McManus, Historic Haunts Tours, Voices from Beyond Tours, and more. Stroll the beautiful grounds of the Physick Estate and visit Scarecrow Alley, with funny and spooky scarecrows along the walkways, and vote for your favorite!

Year-round Trolley Tours

(See trolley tours page 8 & 9)

Year-round House Tours

(See house tours page 17)



Phantoms of the Physick Estate

Immerse yourself in this spine-tingling Halloween drama. This annual original play written by Jacklyn Fazio brings the audience along from room to room on the first floor of the 1879 Physick House Museum as the story unfolds and strange happenings occur. Original play performed by Cape May MAC Theatrics Troupe



Channeling Dinner with Craig McManus

Enjoy a three-course prix fixe dinner at the Inn of Cape May followed by a two-hour channeling session with medium Craig McManus. McManus will read the energies in the room and channel messages from the spirits of departed family and friends. While he does not read everyone present and cannot control where messages come through, he will bring through as many messages from spirits as possible during the two-hour channeling.



Scarecrow Alley

Walk the grounds of Cape May's original "haunted house," the 1879 Emlen Physick Estate during October and enjoy a highlight of the estate's Halloween decorations, Scarecrow Alley, an annual community display of creative, scary and funny scarecrows built by local businesses, families, schools, community groups and Individuals. Create your own scarecrow in September and enter the contest! Visitors to the Physick Estate will be encouraged to vote for their favorite scarecrow by filling out a ballot in the Carriage House.



Sherlock Holmes Weekends

A full weekend of interactive performances along with a Search for Clues self-guided walking tour. Performances take place at The Ocean Room at the Marquis de Lafayette Hotel.



Dept. 56 Halloween Display

If you love our Dept. 56 Dickens Village at Christmas, come and see what we have for Halloween! It's a witch's brew of spooky houses, bizarre characters and bats, cats and pumpkins galore, all done in the exquisite miniature fashion which has made Dept. 56 so popular with collectors. Nearly 100 pieces and accessories will be on exhibit on the Physick House's enclosed entrance porch.



Halloween Crafts & Collectibles Show

Visit the Emlen Physick Estate for this open-air show featuring wares of local vendors and crafters. Explore our annual Scarecrow Alley which decorates the grounds. Feel free to come in costume to celebrate this festive holiday!



Ghost Walk with Craig McManus

Psychic medium and author Craig McManus leads this walking tour of Victorian Cape May's Historic District past properties where he has sensed and written about paranormal activity. Hear the stories of unexplained phenomenon directly from Craig himself, on this evening walk.



Classic Tastes— All Times of Year.

Congress Hall is home to some of the most celebrated dining in Cape May. Cozy tavern staples, brick-oven pizza, classic cocktails; no matter the season, you'll find your taste at America's First Seaside Resort.



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TheBluePigTavern.com



THE BOILER ROOM

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BoilerRoomCapeMay.com



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Artisanal cocktails and plates in an exquisite lounge atmosphere



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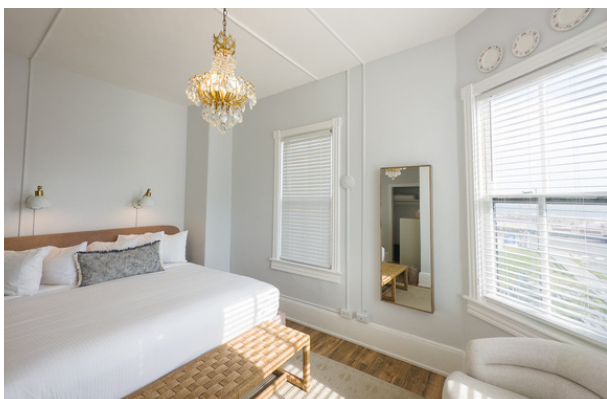
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OCEAN 7

SAVOR THE VIEW

Curb your appetite with our chef's contemporary twist on American classics at **Ocean 7**. Fresh, seasonally sourced ingredients serve as inspiration for creative takes on timeless cuisine. Indoor and al fresco seating available. Make a reservation to see what creative new dishes our chef has dreamed up.

the Porch

INN OF CAPE MAY

Breathe in the salty-sea air as you relax and unwind on **The Porch**. Casual bistro seating and cozy gathering corners offer the perfect place to enjoy a coffee or a cocktail. Enjoy the coffee bar before a morning stroll along the shoreline. Sip cocktails on the sun-drenched porch as the sun sets.



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CHRISTMAS IN CAPE MAY

According to HGTV, Cape May, NJ, stands out for its holiday traditions and vibes that are worth a trip with the family. The town delivers major holiday spirit and was chosen as one of their 50 favorite towns to visit for Christmas. Holiday tours and events begin the weekend before Thanksgiving and continue through the New Year.



Christmas Candlelight House Tour

Cape May MAC launched its first Christmas tour in 1974 and ever since this tour has been a beloved annual tradition and a highlight of the holiday season in America's only National Historic Landmark City. This self-guided walking tour celebrates the best of Cape May at Christmas, as you travel Cape May's gaslit streets, hear musicians and carolers, and visit homes, inns, B&Bs, churches and hotels where you'll step inside to see both Victorian and more modern interiors beautifully decorated for the holidays. Don't miss Cape May's longest running and most popular Christmas tour.



Carroll Gallery Exhibit: "An Old-fashioned Christmas"

Open the Friday before Thanksgiving through the New Year

This elaborate exhibit sparks joy each holiday season for both children and adults! Bring the family and marvel at the extensive Dept. 56 Dickens Village on display underneath the boughs of a giant Christmas tree. All this plus vintage family photos, model trains and more. There's even a spot to drop off letters to Santa! Located at the Carroll Gallery in the Carriage House. Admission is free.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Bring the entire family to the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony to celebrate the arrival of the holiday season! A professional brass band plays holiday favorites on the outdoor stage and Santa Claus is the evening's special guest. He will flip the switch that lights the huge estate Christmas Tree. Held the Saturday evening before Thanksgiving.



Spirited Cape May Christmas Trolley Ride

Hear about Santa arriving at this seaside town in odd and surprising ways, ghostly appearances in the 1879 Physick House museum experienced and recorded by staff there during the holidays, ghostly shadow spirits out strolling on cold December nights and more, including the weird and risky games Victorians played at Christmas.

Evening Yuletide House Tour

Take this guided, first-person living history holiday tour of first-floor rooms of the magnificent 1879 Physick Estate, Cape May's only Victorian house museum, decorated in authentic Victorian style for Christmas. Your guide portrays a member of the Physick family in the early 1900s and shares stories and traditions. The tour also includes a visit to the Carroll Gallery to see "An Old-fashioned Christmas" exhibit, featuring a huge Christmas tree, model trains, and an elaborate Dept. 56 Dickens village collection.

Santa's Trolley Ride

Bring the kids to the Physick Estate on weekends for a trolley ride around Cape May with stories and songs led by Mrs. Claus. Santa will be there to greet children on the return to the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate.

Lamplighter Christmas House Tour

See inside a selection of Cape May bed & breakfast inns and private homes, specially decorated for the holidays on this self-guided evening walking tour that includes a visit to An Old-fashioned Christmas Exhibit at the Physick Estate Carriage House.

Breakfast with Santa at the Inn of Cape May

Santa is the guest of honor for this delicious breakfast. Enjoy this family-friendly event that includes breakfast and a visit with Santa. Christmas lists accepted!

'Tis the Season Holiday Performance

This original play written by Jennifer Hickok brings the audience along as the drama of a Victorian Christmas gone wrong unfolds from room to room on the first floor of the 1879 Physick House Museum.

All That Glitters Trolley Tour

It's the winter holiday season in the late Victorian age. Join us on a ride around town as we regale with then and now stories of the lively Cape Island holiday social landscape of the time. Learn about charming rituals and superstitions that promise good fortune in the new year. Hear how the New Year's ball drop tradition got started and continues today, right here on Cape Island. Learn where Cape May Victorians shopped and entertained during the winter holidays with numerous stories about the food and drink traditions that make New Year's celebrations festive and bright.

Holiday Lights Trolley Ride

See Cape May's Historic District lit with holiday lights for Christmas. Listen to Christmas music and enjoy hearing about the history of many of the Christmas traditions of today. This is a ride to share with friends and family to revel in Cape May's Christmas spirit.

Holiday Inns Tour

See several of Cape May's bed & breakfast inns & private homes festively decorated for the holidays during this self-guided afternoon walking tour with continuous trolley shuttle service.



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Discover the beautiful open spaces of Beach Plum Farm, our 62-acre working farm tucked away in West Cape May. Rooted in sustainable practices and a sense of community, Beach Plum Farm is proud to champion the timeless farming heritage of the Garden State.

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YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!



As a member of Cape May MAC, your membership directly supports our mission of promoting preservation, culture and the arts in Cape May. You also play a role in continuing our non-profit's 50+ year history of interpreting Cape May's heritage – from our inception by rescuing the Emlen Physick Estate from demolition, to developing Victorian era tourism, restoring the historic Cape May Lighthouse and World War II Lookout Tower, providing museum education, celebrating the arts by creating the Cape May Music Festival, and thus leading the way in expanding the region's tourism season.

Becoming a Cape May MAC member, or renewing your existing membership, is a true investment in keeping this mission alive for generations to come. There is no better way to show your love and appreciation for Cape May's past than to invest in its future.

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ccolson@capemaymac.org
609-224-6040



Transportation for your Special Event!

Book one of Cape May MAC's red trolleys. Trolleys can be reserved for weddings and rehearsal dinners, and private tours for your family and guests!

*A wheelchair accessible trolley is available upon request.

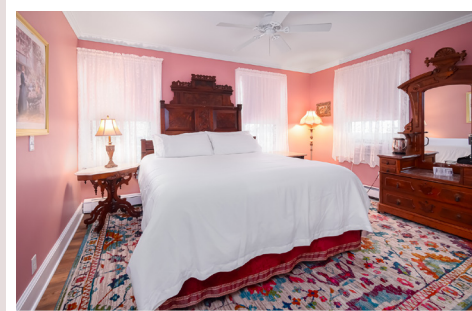
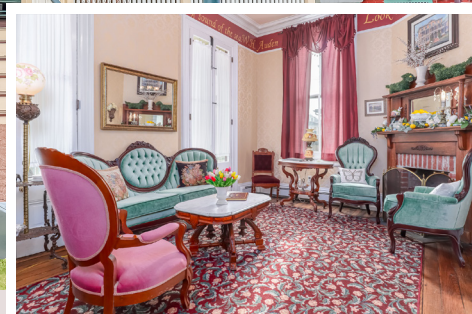
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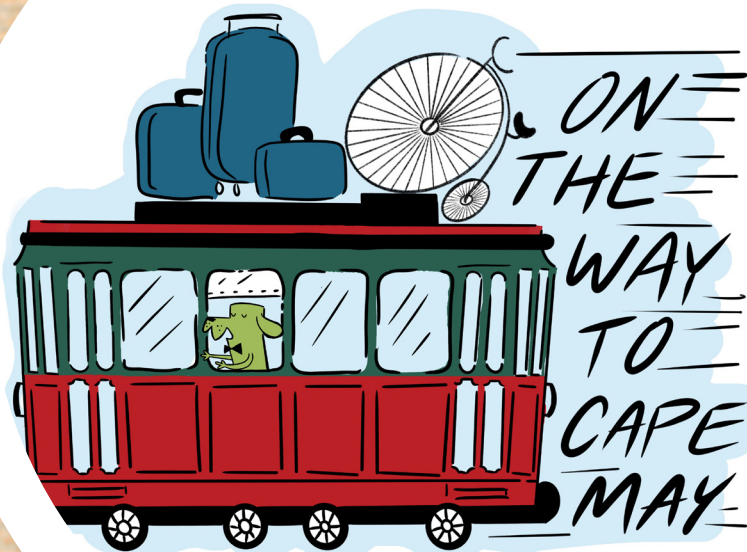
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GROUP TOURS



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Angie.com picked the 1879 Emlen Physick Estate for New Jersey's "This is the Most Beautiful Building in Your State" (2023)



1879 Emlen Physick Estate

The Emlen Physick Estate is Cape May's only Victorian house museum. A visit to this beautifully restored mansion provides a glimpse into the Victorian lifestyle. The Carriage House is home to the Carroll Gallery with its changing exhibits and the Museum Shop.



1859 Cape May Lighthouse

The Cape May Lighthouse is located in Cape May Point State Park, one of the world's premier birding spots. The tower is both a museum of maritime history and a working lighthouse. A climb up its 199 steps offers a breathtaking view of the Cape.



1942 World War II Lookout Tower

The World War II Lookout Tower tells the story of Cape May's integral role in homeland defense during the war. No tour is complete without a visit to the Wall of Honor dedicated to local veterans and the All Veterans Memorial.



Trolley Tours

Our trolleys provide a variety of day and evening narrated tours through Historic Cape May. Visitors can learn about its unique architecture and colorful history, its paranormal activity, its role in the Underground Railroad, the Native American tribes who inhabited this land, the whaling industry and farming or enjoy a front row view of Cape May's holiday decorations.



Step-on Guide Tours

A Cape May MAC guide can step aboard your bus and accompany your group on an informative and entertaining tour.

- Cape May Point
- Natural Habitats



Be sure to visit one or more of our convenient shopping locations:

- Sunset Beach
- Washington Street Mall
- West End Garage

Additional itineraries available for download at
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FIELD TO FORK: EXPLORING THE PATH FROM FARM TO TABLE

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10:00AM-12:00PM Historic Cold Spring Village (Choose **OPTION A** or **B**)

OPTION A: Village Views Walking Tour (available September through June)

Travel back in time to the 1800s and immerse yourself in Historic Cold Spring Village, a sprawling 30-acre site featuring restored and preserved buildings. Stroll along the village paths with your guide, who will discuss the history of the buildings and the crafts and trades of a 19th century village.

OPTION B: VIP Sampler Tour (available September through June)

For a more interactive experience, the VIP Sampler Tour allows your group to meet and chat with Village residents such as a schoolmaster, innkeeper, housewife, and shopkeeper. Learn about their daily lives and duties as they welcome you into four different Village buildings.



12:15PM-1:45PM Lunch at The Grange Restaurant

Discover the charm of Cold Spring Grange Restaurant, a farm-to-table eatery with a rich history. Their dishes feature ingredients sourced directly from the Historic Cold Spring Village Farm and other local farms in southern New Jersey.

2:30PM Free Time on the Washington Street Mall

Enjoy a midday break and browse through the charming Washington Street Mall, which acts as the central hub of Cape May. Explore an array of one-of-a-kind boutiques and shops, indulge in fine dining options, and relax at nearby Rotary Park for a delightful experience.



2:30PM-4:00PM Stories of Cape Island Trolley Tour

Many stories of Cape Island and the surrounding area's economy are in whaling and farming and while new industries have evolved since then, that heritage is celebrated today. Hear how whalers centuries ago eked out a dangerous but lucrative living near Town Bank and how the area's rich farming heritage continues to be a source of tremendous community pride. Learn about the Union Bethel community in 1831 in which Black residents thrived and the diverse community that continues to contribute to the vibrancy of island life today.



For group inquiries or reservations, contact:

Susan F. Gibson, CTIS Group Tour Manager

Direct: 609-224-6030 | sgibson@capemaymac.org

CAPE MAY'S SPIRITS, SOBRIETY AND SCARECROWS

Cape May



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DAY ONE

CHOOSE EITHER *A*, *B* OR *C* FOR YOUR GROUP:

A) 4:15PM Combination Voices from Beyond, Ghosts of Cape May Trolley & Carroll Gallery Exhibit (2 hours) Limited Availability

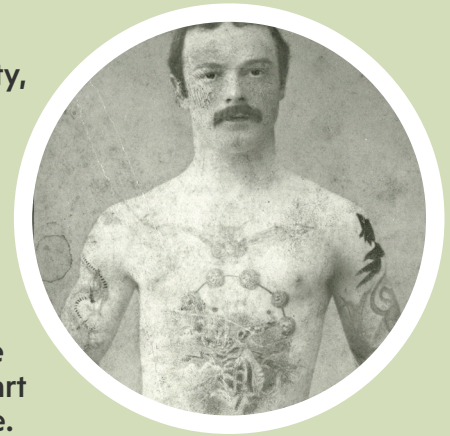
This is one of the most unusual tours that Cape May MAC has ever presented.

As we walk through Dr. Emlen Physick's home we will share with you a number of voices recorded here in the house that have no scientific explanation. Throughout the tour you will learn about the equipment and tools used over the years in paranormal research. The key to a successful EVP is not the equipment used, but the person doing the investigation. If the researcher is sensitive to the Spirit, and can form a bond, then you may have a real EVP experience. That is what we are lucky enough to have here at the Physick House.

What was that shadow? Was it the undead of Cape May's past wandering their beloved haunts? You might scoff, you might shudder, but rest assured: on board a trolley with an experienced guide you will begin to wonder what is beyond when you hear the tales of hauntings unearthed in Cape May by renowned psychic medium and author Craig McManus.

Tattoos: Modern Expression & Ancient Art

For millennia, humans have tattooed their bodies to express their individuality, chronicling loves, losses, beliefs, victories, affiliations, hopes and dreams. The oldest human mummy discovered – 5,300 years old – had 60 tattoos, and his contemporaries, from the South Pacific to the indigenous people of New Jersey, were also inked. Queen Victoria's husband, son, and many of her grandsons and nephews, who were rulers of Europe, were tattooed. There is a long tradition of sailors using tattoos to chronicle adventures at sea. Tattooing has become increasingly popular in the last 20 years, and today, eight out of 10 Americans believe society is more accepting of people with tattoos. Learn about the range of expression and history of this ancient art form in this Carroll Gallery Exhibit on the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate.



B) 4:30PM Spirits, Oddities & Obsessions Combo Tour (1 hour)

They did what?! Headless photography? Electric Corsets? Coffin Torpedoes? Travel on our trolley and explore some of the strange beliefs, superstitions, oddities, fads, curiosities, and mysteries from the end of the 19th century – the Victorian era. Hear stories from Cape May's history that are bizarre, unexplained, or just downright weird!

Take a step back in time to the Victorian Era - 1879 in the restored Physick Estate mansion and learn about the Victorian's fascination with magic, illusion, the mysterious and the odd. Hear about the Great Lafayette, the world's greatest magician; Houdini, the astounding escape artist; Ionia, the Goddess of Mystery; Pepper's Ghost, is it real, or just an illusion? Sherlock Holmes, Jack the Ripper and much more! (First floor only of Physick Estate)



CAPE MAY'S SPIRITS, SOBRIETY AND SCARECROWS

Cape May



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DAY ONE CONTINUED

C) 4:30PM Historic Haunts Combo Tour: A double dose of Ghosts! (1 hour)

Get into the "spirit" of things on a trolley tour past some of Cape May's regal Victorian residences, reputed to host more than the living. What was that shadow? Was it the undead of Cape May's past wandering their beloved haunts? You might scoff, you might shudder, but rest assured: on board a trolley with an experienced guide you will begin to wonder what's beyond when you hear the tales of hauntings unearthed in Cape May by renowned psychic medium and author Craig McManus.

Step off the trolley at the Emlen Physick Estate and enjoy a guided tour of the historic (some say haunted) 1879 Physick House Museum. As you tour the house, gain insight into Victorian Spiritualism and how it compares to modern paranormal investigation techniques. Your guide will lead you through selected rooms on both floors of the museum.

6:30PM Dinner at a local restaurant

7:30PM Temperance Debate (45 minutes)

In the late Victorian Period, the topics of temperance and prohibition were widely discussed in Cape May, just as they were in other parts of the country. This immersive program portrays a heated debate between a saloon owner from the community and a member of the Women's Rights Movement, along with other reformists.



DAY TWO

9:30AM Cape May Point Step-on Guide (1 ½ hours)

Take a scenic journey through West Cape May and reach the very tip of Cape May's peninsula, known as one of the most renowned migratory spots in North America. Upon entering Cape May Point State Park, you'll catch sight of the fully restored Lighthouse, originally built in 1859. Then, make your way to Sunset Beach where you can see the sunken ship, USS Atlantus - part of a collection of twelve concrete ships that ran aground on June 8, 1926, and remains visible today. Take your time exploring the shops, strolling along the beach in search of precious Cape May Diamonds, and capturing stunning photos of Delaware Bay.



CAPE MAY'S SPIRITS, SOBRIETY AND SCARECROWS

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DAY TWO CONTINUED

11:15AM Build a Scarecrow for Scarecrow Alley at the Physick Estate (1 hour)

Participate in a one-of-a-kind team building experience: Divide your team into smaller groups and work together to create a scarecrow for display on Scarecrow Alley at the Emlen Physick Estate. We will provide basic supplies, but your team is also encouraged to bring their own materials and clothing to personalize their scarecrow creation.



12:30PM Free Time for Lunch and shopping on the Washington Street Mall

Take advantage of a mid-day break to savor lunch and browse through the charming Washington Street Mall, which acts as the central hub of Cape May. Explore an array of one-of-a-kind boutiques and shops, indulge in fine dining options, and relax at nearby Rotary Park for a delightful experience.



3:00PM Return to your hotel

6:30PM Dinner at a local restaurant

DAY THREE

8:00AM Breakfast at your hotel

10:00AM Depart Cape May



For group inquiries or reservations, contact:

Susan F. Gibson, CTIS Group Tour Manager

Direct: 609-224-6030 | sgibson@capemaymac.org

CAPE MAY CHRISTMAS

Candles, Cards, and Candy Canes

Cape May



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DAY ONE

4:00PM Check into The Grand Hotel

5:00PM Dinner at your hotel



6:00PM Holiday Lights Trolley Ride

Who can resist the twinkle of Cape May's beautiful streetscapes and Victorian homes decorated for Christmas? Experience an evening trolley ride through Cape May and enjoy a front row view of Cape May's holiday decorations. Listen to your guide and learn about exterior holiday decorations, wassailing/caroling, the evolution of Santa, traditions of gift givers and the history of Christmas.

Trolleys are open-air, dress accordingly.



DAY TWO

9:30AM Combination Trolley, Physick Family Christmas & Carroll Gallery Exhibit

Travel back in time and immerse yourself in the beauty of a Victorian Christmas at the 1879 Physick Estate. The Physick house is adorned in authentic holiday decorations, adding to the festive atmosphere. As you tour the estate, interact with a member of the Physick Family household from the 1890s and gain insight into their lives during this time.

Embark on a trolley excursion through Cape May's Historic District and discover its rich history with an informative guide. Admire iconic landmarks, quaint gingerbread houses, and stunning examples of Victorian architecture, including the well-known Grand Dames of Cape May.

Following your tours, your group will visit the Carroll Gallery at the Physick Estate which becomes a Christmas wonderland this time of year. It's all about the wonder of Christmas morning with model trains and a Dept. 56 Dickens Village beneath the boughs of a giant tree. Stand under our tree and feel like a kid on Christmas morning!



CAPE MAY CHRISTMAS

Candles, Cards, and Candy Canes

Cape May



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DAY TWO CONTINUED



12:00PM Lunch at the Anglesea Pub

Located in historic North Wildwood, NJ, Anglesea Pub offers a fantastic authentic Irish Pub experience. Hailing from Ireland, The McMullan brothers have incorporated their heritage into the pub's atmosphere and strive to provide their customers with the most enjoyable experience.

2:00PM Holiday Inns Tour

(Monday-Thursday 1st three weeks in December)

Indulge in the festive season with this delightful daytime **self-guided walking tour**. The Holiday Inns Tour grants you access to four charming Cape May properties adorned with holiday decoations such as garlands, bows, and Christmas trees. Immerse yourself in the holiday spirit as you explore these iconic properties in Cape May. A trolley shuttle will make a continuous loop during this self-guided afternoon tour.



3:30PM Free Time on the Washington Street Mall

Spend some time shopping at the picturesque Washington Street Mall which serves as Cape May's town square. Enjoy a variety of unique boutiques, shops, fine dining restaurants and bars and enjoy lovely Rotary Park nearby.

5:30PM Return to The Grand Hotel

6:30PM Dinner at a local Cape May restaurant

CAPE MAY CHRISTMAS

Candles, Cards, and Candy Canes

Cape May



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DAY THREE

10:00AM Step on Guide-Cape May Point

Take a scenic journey through West Cape May and reach the very tip of Cape May's peninsula, known as one of the most renowned migratory spots in North America. Upon entering Cape May Point State Park, you'll catch sight of the fully restored Lighthouse, originally built in 1859. Then, make your way to Sunset Beach where you can see the sunken ship, USS Atlantus-part of a collection of twelve concrete ships that ran aground on June 8, 1926, and remains visible today. Take your time exploring the shops, strolling along the beach in search of precious Cape May Diamonds, and capturing stunning photos of the Delaware Bay.



12:00PM Lunch at the Lobster House Restaurant

Enjoy lunch at The Lobster House Restaurant serving the freshest seafood available, often from their fleet of commercial boats. Dine in one of their five unique and picturesque dining rooms overlooking Cape May Harbor.

1:15PM Christmas Traditions Presentation

As you complete your meal, enjoy a Victorian Christmas presentation. The beloved holiday customs we know today have their roots in the Victorian Era, including Christmas trees, cards, and Santa Claus himself. Discover how Prince Albert brought these traditions from Germany to England after marrying Queen Victoria, and how they eventually spread across the Atlantic to America.



2:15PM Depart for Home



For group inquiries or reservations, contact:

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Cape May MAC is now managing the City of Cape May's new online Charter Bus Permit Portal, designed to simplify the permit process for group tours, events, and transportation services. Submit applications 10 days before your planned arrival. Access the portal at capemaygrouptours.org under Resources. For assistance, call (609) 224-6041 or via email at sgibson@capemaymac.org, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

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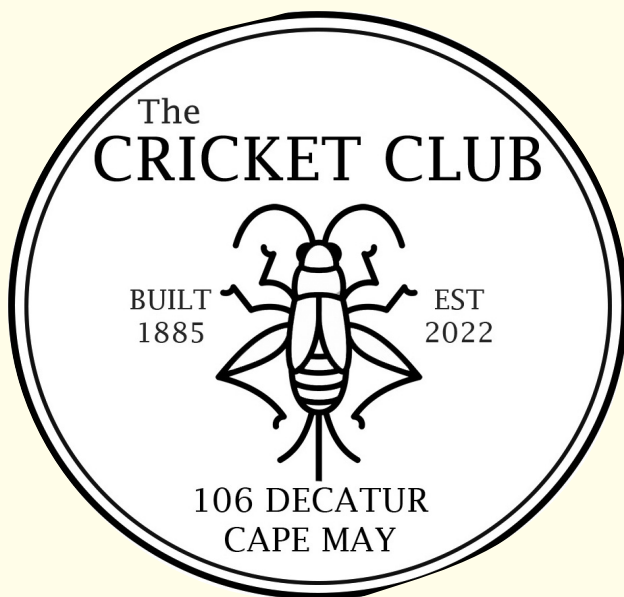




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Cape May MAC has three museum shops located at each of its historic site museums as well as an online shop featuring an ever growing array of books, apparel and gift items.



For more information visit
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CARRIAGE HOUSE MUSEUM SHOP

Carriage House at the Emlen Physick Estate
1048 Washington St.

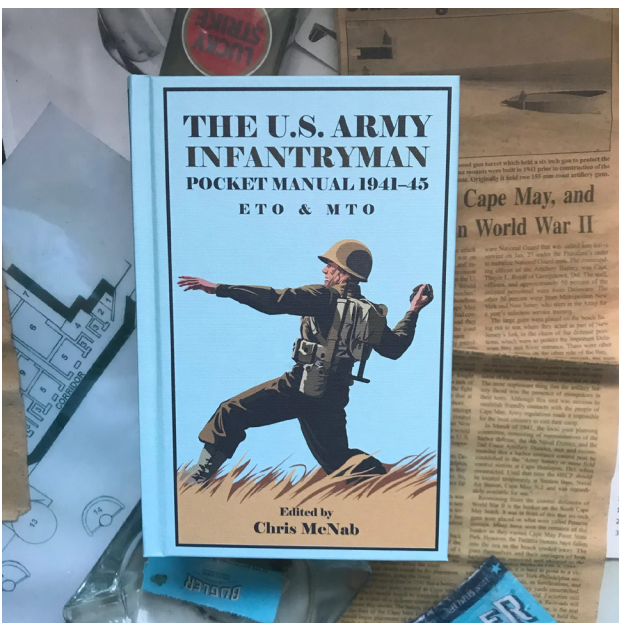
Stop into the charming Carriage House Museum Shop located inside the original 1876 Emlen Physick Estate Carriage House building. Browse books, including a wide selection of local author titles, keepsake souvenirs, apparel and home & décor items. Pick up a favorite blend of Harney's tea or a bag of locally roasted coffee to start your morning right. Our selection of ornaments, puzzles, mugs, and greeting cards make perfect gifts for any season. Victorian themed products inspired by the Emlen Physick Estate and its inhabitants will remind you of your visit to Cape May's only Victorian house museum.



CAPE MAY LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM SHOP

Cape May Lighthouse in Cape May Point State Park

Located inside the original oil house, built in 1893, and used to store the kerosene used to power the light. Find a seaside treasure of nautical, lighthouse, pirate, and nature-inspired gifts, art, apparel, books, and toys. Take home something to remind yourself of your 199 step ascent to the top of the 1859 Lighthouse, or just the beauty of the natural area surrounding this landmark beacon.



WORLD WAR II LOOKOUT TOWER MUSEUM SHOP

World War II Lookout Tower on Sunset Boulevard in Lower Township

Located on the ground floor of the the World War II Lookout Tower, Fire Control Tower No. 23, which was part of the immense Harbor Defense of the Delaware system known as Fort Miles. Browse the selection of World War II and military memorabilia including books, apparel, hats, patches, decals, pins & more.



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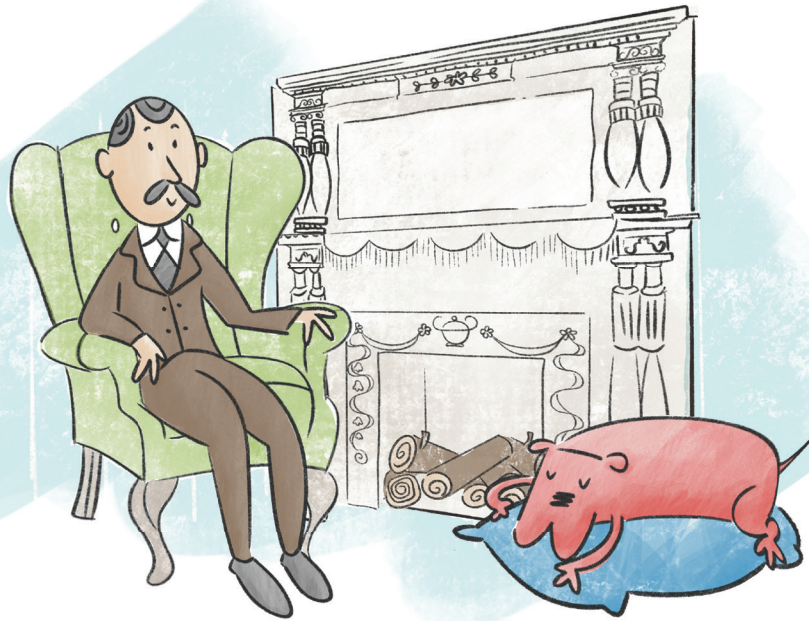


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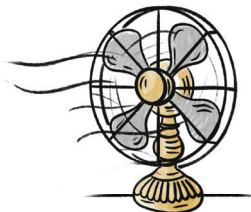
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609.884.1888
www.HomesteadCapeMay.com

IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE!



Cape May MAC is embarking on a capital improvement project to install an HVAC system and fire suppression in the 1879 Physick House Museum. We've secured the planning and capital grants but now we need the matching funds. Your contribution to help us meet that match is greatly appreciated. Together, we will bring these plans through to fruition.

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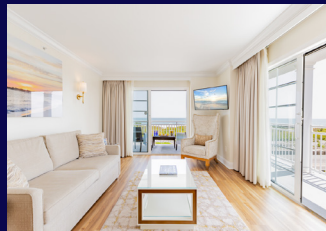
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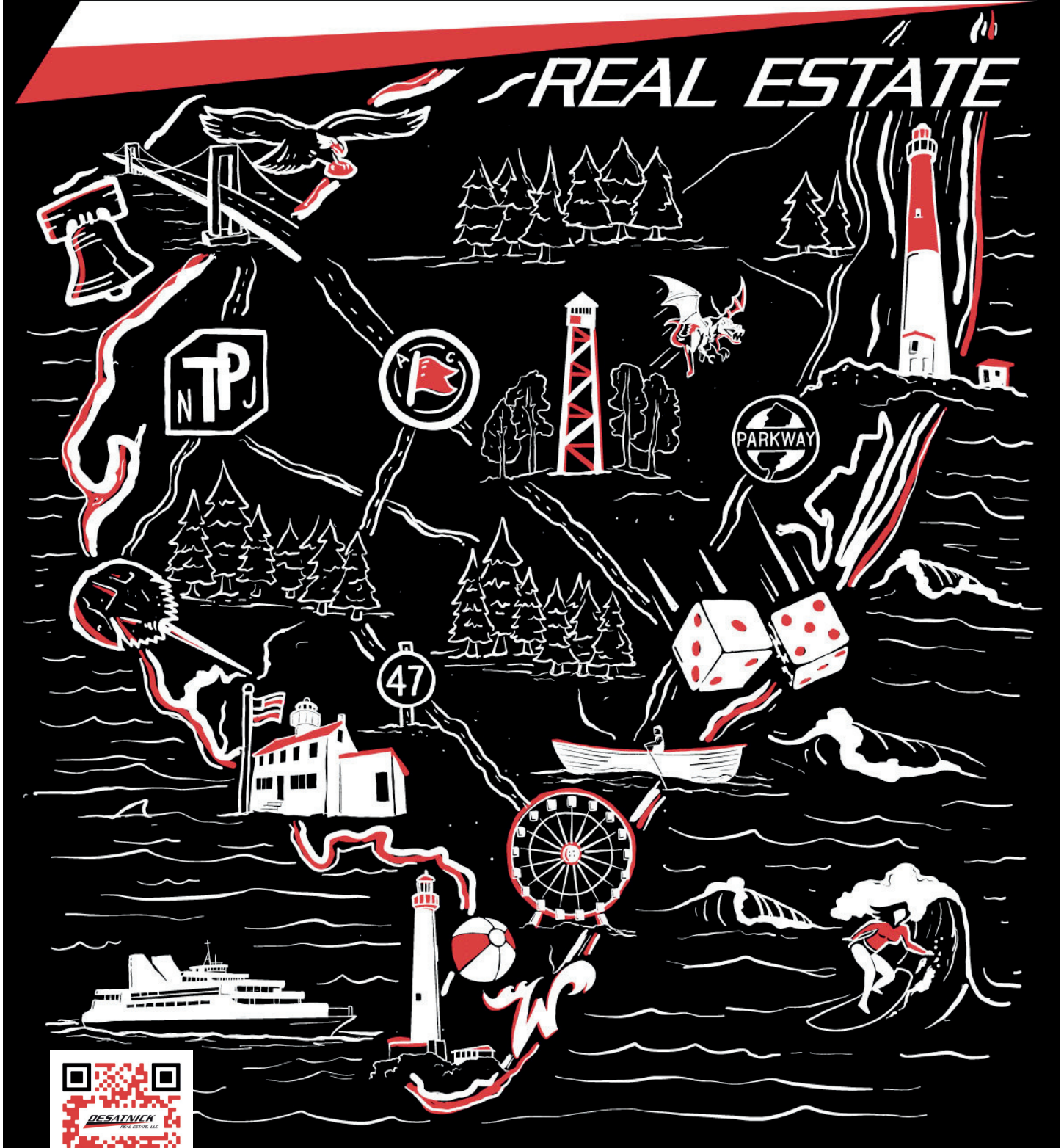


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