

HISTORY, HATS AND HUMOR – CAPE MAY

OCTOBER 11-13, 2025

Cape May



Museums. Arts. Culture.

DAY ONE

2:00PM

Victorian Weekend Crafts & Collectible Show at the Emlen Physick Estate (10am-4pm)

Browse wares of crafters and collectibles dealers from throughout the Cape May region. A special appearance by the Wheelmen, a national, non-profit organization dedicated to keeping alive the heritage of American cycling, including promoting the restoration and riding of early cycles manufactured in and before 1932.

3:00PM

Free Time at the Washington Street Mall

Enjoy leisurely time strolling through the delightful Washington Street Mall, the heart of Cape May. Discover unique and charming boutiques and shops and unwind at nearby Rotary Park for an incredibly enjoyable experience.

4:30PM

Check into your hotel

6:00PM

Dinner at a local restaurant

7:00PM

Temperance Debate (45 minutes)

During the late Victorian Period, the issues of temperance and prohibition were as much "hot topics" in Cape May as they were in the rest of the country. This interactive living history program presents a debate between a local saloonkeeper and a representative of the Women's Rights Movement and other reform efforts.



DAY TWO

8:00AM

Breakfast at your hotel

9:00AM

Combination Trolley, Physick Estate & Carroll Gallery Exhibit

Known as the "Queen of the Seaside Resorts" for its quaint Victorian cottages and pristine beaches, Cape May is the oldest seaside resort in the country. In 1976, the entire city was declared a National Historic Landmark. Possessing one of the country's largest collections of 19th century seaside wood framed buildings, the historic district features a variety of styles of Victorian architecture. It is beautiful. It is charming. Experience our trolley tour and gain knowledge as your tour guide shares insights into the history and architecture of Cape May, and how it has managed to not only survive but thrive to this day.



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DAY TWO CONTINUED

Emlen Physick Estate House Tour Theme: The Art of Home

Explore Cape May's 1879 Victorian House Museum and discover its significant role in the town's long-standing revival, all while admiring its stunning beauty and craftsmanship. Designed by architect Frank Furness, this home is a fine example of Stick Style architecture, featuring intricate moldings, bespoke furniture, and vibrant wallpaper. The artistic traditions of the era are evident in surprising details such as mourning jewelry crafted from hair and whimsical "rogue taxidermy" within parlor shades. Even the practical features, like pocket shutters and ceiling medallions, were crafted with elegance. Each room narrates a story of beauty, memory, and creativity, making the Physick Estate a vibrant showcase of 19th-century design and expression.



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 ten Americans believe society is more accepting of people with tattoos. Learn about the range of expression and history of this ancient art form in the Carroll Gallery Exhibit.



12:00PM

For the Love of Hats (Monday, October 13th)

Guests will enjoy a three-course luncheon at the Inn of Cape May along with a presentation by Lynne Anne Donchez, the author of *For the Love of Hats*. This will be a unique and chic show of Lynne Anne's

hat collection including pill-boxes, clothes, fascinators and more; approximately 60-70 women's and men's hats from a broad range of eras, for your guests to explore and enjoy. The show is a one-hour talk on the history, fashion and etiquette of hats followed by a Q&A session.



3:00PM

Return to your hotel

Enjoy an afternoon break and take time to rest and relax. Take a leisurely walk along Cape May's promenade, read your favorite book or grab a seat at the bar and savor a refreshing beverage.

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DAY TWO CONTINUED

6:30PM

Dinner at the Lobster House Restaurant

Enjoy dinner 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.

8:00PM

Spirits & Oddities Trolley 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.



DAY THREE

8:00AM

Breakfast at your hotel.

10:00 AM

Depart for home.

Options to extend your stay:

•Treat yourself to the newest offering in our entertainment lineup - **Cape Square Entertainment**. Featuring 8 modern movie theaters, 16 stylish bowling lanes, three fully stocked bars, two highly rated restaurants and a state-of-the-art golf simulator for your enjoyment.



Photo courtesy of Craig Terry/Cape May County Tourism

Explore Cumberland County Sites on your way home:

- Glasstown Arts District - www.glasstownartsdistrict.com
- Millville Army Air Field Museum - <https://p47millville.org/>
- The Levoy Theatre - <https://levoy.net/>
- Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center - <https://www.wheatonarts.org/>



Photo courtesy of Craig Terry/Cape May County Tourism

For group inquiries or reservations, contact:

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