

GROUP TOURS

Cape May, Atlantic & Cumberland County
Tour Description



Cape May Lighthouse - (opens April 1st) Climb the 199 steps up the original, cast-iron spiral stairway to the top of the 1859 Cape May Lighthouse and see a staggering view of the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean, the surrounding nature trails of Cape May Point State Park, and Cape May Point Borough. Interpretive panels on the grounds, at the base and on the climb tell stories of Lighthouse Keepers, the surrounding area, and how the lighthouse functioned historically and today. The Cape May Lighthouse is the third beacon at this location. Still an active aid to navigation, it was restored and is maintained by Cape May MAC (Museums. Arts. Culture). The Cape May Lighthouse is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

- **World War II Lookout Tower** - (opens April 1st)

Fear of German attack in 1942 was real when this tower was built, now the last freestanding World War II Lookout Tower in New Jersey. It was part of the immense Harbor Defense of the Delaware system known as Fort Miles and now helps tell the story of Cape May's role during World War II. Built in just weeks in 1942, the tower was one of 15 towers in Delaware and New Jersey used as observation posts to detect enemy vessels and direct the artillery fire from nearby coastal batteries. Inside, a staircase takes you to the sixth-floor spotting gallery where Observers will answer your questions. Visit the Wall of Honor that pays tribute to local residents who served during World War II. Over 160 veterans' photos are on display there. Changing exhibits highlight varying topics of history related to the tower. Stop at the eternal flame sculpture outside on the boardwalk for quiet contemplation. The tower is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Emlen Physick Estate (Cape May's only Victorian House Museum) - Take a guided tour of the first and second floors of the 1879 Physick House Museum, for an in-depth look at Victorian architecture and the period, reflecting one Victorian family's lifestyle, and detailing the way the Physick family and their household lived, worked and spent their leisure time. Built in 1879, the 18-room mansion is an architectural wonder built by famed American architect Frank Furness and is one of the best examples of Victorian Stick Style architecture in the country. Guided tour themes change annually.

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. Comfortable shoes recommended.



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Historic District Trolley Tour - 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, and 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's beautiful. It's charming. Wonderful tour guides will explain Cape May's history and architecture and how and why it has survived and thrives to this day. This narrated tour travels through portions of Cape May's historic district. Guides discuss the architecture and history of the area.

Children's Trolley Tour - Board MAC's jolly red trolley for a guided tour of Cape May's Historic District geared specially for 3- to 7-year olds. From gingerbread you can't eat to witches' caps on houses, kids will be fascinated by "show and tell" along the way. Trolley tours last about 30 minutes.



Mansions by the Sea Trolley Tour - Hear how the rich lived in the early 1900s in the most elegant part of town on this trolley tour that includes the eastern beachfront. See the broad streets and massive plots on Cape May's east side – an area marketed as "New Cape May" at the turn of the 20th century. Today, new, beachfront second homeowners have continued the tradition, running the gamut from the mere wealthy to the fabulously rich. This narrated tour travels along Beach Drive through the early 20th century East Cape May Development areas. Guides discuss history and architecture.

Combination Trolley and Physick Estate House Tour - Combine a guided tour by trolley of Cape May's Historic District with a guided tour of the Physick House Museum, providing an in-depth look into Cape May history and architecture. Learn why Cape May is the only National Historic Landmark City in the nation as you appreciate the details of Cape May's unique Victorian streetscapes via trolley. Then take a guided tour of the first and second floors of the 1879 Physick House Museum, for a detailed look at Victorian architecture and the period. Built in 1879, the 18-room mansion is an architectural masterpiece built by famed American architect Frank Furness and one of the best examples of Victorian Stick Style architecture in the country.



For group inquiries or reservations, contact:
Susan F. Gibson, CTIS Group Tour Manager
Direct: 609-224-6030 | sgibson@capemaymac.org