

{ OUTDOORS }

DOWN THE SHORE:

LIFE'S A BEACH

We'll never forget the summer of quarantine, but a day by the water can surely help. The coast is clear for sunbathers, surfers — and anyone who missed the sand — to enjoy a few moments of relaxation.



ASBURY PARK

Description: Baby, we were born to run (on the beach). Come play on the beach with family and stroll down the streets that inspired The Boss himself. With iconic music venues, art galleries and buildings in Victorian, Gothic, Federal Revival and other styles, Asbury Park has something for everyone.

Beach fees: \$6 daily for adults (Monday–Friday), \$9 weekends and holidays, FREE for 12 and under as well as active military members and veterans with military ID. Season beach badges are also for sale.

Beach parking: Payable at kiosk or via ParkMobile app
Pets: Dogs are allowed on the Eighth Avenue Dog Beach through Sept. 14, 6 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. only.

For more information, call 732.502.8863.

BARNEGAT LIGHT

Description: Located on the northern tip of Long Beach Island in Ocean County, the family shore town has so much to offer. From beach fishing, bay fishing and crabbing to amazing local eateries, Barnegat Light is a go-to summer destination. And, yes, there is a lighthouse.

Beach fees: \$5 daily, \$22 weekly (Saturday through Friday), \$12 weekly for seniors.

Beach Parking: FREE at Barnegat Lighthouse and on side streets in designated areas.

Pets: Prohibited on the beach until Sept. 15.

For more information, call 609.494.9196.

BELMAR

Description: This family-friendly beach stretches 1.2 miles and features a small boardwalk with food and refreshment vendors. Additional eateries and taverns are located less than a mile away on Main Street. Want a cute date idea or something for the kids? Check out 9th Ave. Pier for mini golf.

Beach fees: \$9 daily for adults, FREE for 15 and under, active military members and veterans. Cash only.

Beach parking: Payable via ParkMobile app for beachfront; FREE on side streets.

Pets: Prohibited on the beach until October.

For more information, call 732.681.3700.

CAPE MAY

Description: If you want a quick getaway from home, Cape May is just a short drive away from Monmouth. Home to some of the country's best beaches, the town features memorable dining and convenient shopping. Come stay at a bed & breakfast and ride a rental bike down sandy streets. Take a ghost tour through historic downtown for a taste of Halloween during the summer months.

Beach fees: \$8 daily for adults, free for active military members, veterans and their families, \$20 weekly.

Beach parking: Metered; free on select side streets.

Pets: Prohibited on the beach until fall.

For more information, call 609.884.9525.

SANDY HOOK

Description: This 7-mile-long barrier beach peninsula jutting into the Atlantic Ocean and Sandy Hook Bay is part of the National Park Services' Gateway National Recreation Area, which encompasses 26,000 acres of parklands in parts of New Jersey and New York. It features public beaches, salt marshes, a holly forest and numerous historical landmarks.

Beach fees: FREE with vehicle parking.

Beach parking: \$15 daily, \$75 for the season.

Pets: Prohibited on the beach until fall.

For more information, call 732.872.5970

POINT PLEASANT BEACH

Description: Many of the popular family attractions like the boardwalk's famous rides, games and food vendors are open for business following last year's pandemic closures. Come soak up sun on the beach or escape the heat in Jenkinson's Aquarium.

Beach fees: \$11 daily for adults, \$12 weekends for adults, \$3 (weekdays) and \$4 (weekends & holidays) for ages 5 to 11, FREE for children age 5 and under.

Beach parking: Paid-parking available at Jenkinson's Boardwalk, and metered parking is available throughout the town.

Pets: Prohibited on the beach until fall.

For more information, call 732.892.0600.