

Smart Travel Tips: How to Travel Worry Free In & Around the Delaware Bay





Take the Stress Away

The goal of a vacation is to experience new things, see new places, change the scenery, or just to relax. Sadly, however, for many people – including those who'd like to get-away more – the experience can be stressful rather than stress-reducing. The worry about the “What Ifs” that can happen while on the road can detract from the total vacation experience.

To help, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry team has put together this short list of ways to take the worry out of enjoying the best the Delaware Bay region has to offer on both sides of the bay. None of the ideas are recommendations, but are tips that we've picked up from talking to our own passengers over the years as they tell us what makes travel here fun and relaxing.

The best places to find old-fashioned wooden picnic tables are in state parks.

Eat to Be Merry: Picnic Options

Being Hangry – Hungry and Angry – happens all too often on road trip vacations. Time between scheduled stops takes longer than planned, and food on the road is less than perfect for many dietary needs. People can get anxious about where to get allergen free meals, or even how to fit in a normal schedule of meals while on the road.

Even though food is available at both Ferry terminals and on all the boats, sometimes the best option can be to bring along your own brown bagged or picnic food. Open tables on the boats and around both terminals allow you to comfortably enjoy your own food at times that make the most sense on your schedule.

Sadly, actual picnic stops on many roadways are not as plentiful as in years past, but there are still some good picnic spots available on both sides of the bay, particularly during warmer months. The best places to find old-fashioned wooden picnic tables are in state parks.





In Cape May, a favorite picnic spot is a 10-minute drive from the Ferry at the [Cape May Point State Park](#), replete with a close up view of the Cape May Lighthouse and beach. There are three picnic pavilions in the park.

A short drive up Rt. 9 in NJ brings you to the Cape May Zoo grounds with picnic tables just outside the zoo entrance.

If you're in a hurry to get farther north on the Garden State Parkway, there are picnic tables at the first Parkway rest stop – Ocean View -- 17 miles up the parkway. Although not the most scenic, the stop has full facilities and is just steps away from a NJ State Veterans Memorial.

Almost every small town in Southern Delaware has a picnic pavilion in th center of town or along its waterfront.

there is an admittance fee to the park. Another option is to drive into Rehoboth, enter the state park from that entrance to enjoy the Gordon's Pond area, not accessible by road from the Lewes entrance.

Other Delaware options include Grove Park in Rehoboth at the intersection of Columbia Avenue and Grove Street



Shoemaker Holly, a pull over stop 3 miles north is also available from both sides of the Parkway and has more outdoor picnic tables in a park-like setting, but no bathrooms.

The closest picnic spots in Delaware to the Ferry are in [Cape Henlopen State Park](#) with three different picnic pavilions. In season

near the Visitor's Center. The good news is that almost every small town in Southern Delaware has a picnic pavilion in the center of town or along its waterfront. Milton's is on the Broadkill; Lewes has a pavilion on the Lewes Creek, and Georgetown's is the circle in the center of town where they hold the ["Returns Day"](#) Celebration.



Of course on both sides of the bay, if you're comfortable eating on a blanket without a picnic table, there are many beaches where you can enjoy the sand and views while enjoying your home packed picnic goodies.

Health & Welfare: Emergency Options

It's never fun to get sick when on a vacation, but sometimes emergencies strike when you're far from home. It's comforting to know that there are robust hospital systems and services on both sides of the Bay.

In Cape May County, the [Cape Regional Medical Center](#) (Cape May Courthouse, Exit 11, on the Garden State) is a full service, 24-hour hospital affiliated with Philadelphia's Penn Medicine. The [AtlantiCare Urgent Care](#) center (open 7 days a week 9-9) is right at Exit 0, just before Joe Canal's and before you cross into the town of Cape May.

In Delaware, the [Beebe Medical Center](#), also open 24 hours, is located right on the outskirts of downtown Lewes. Beebe also has walk-in centers in both Lewes and Rehoboth, and the Got A Doc Walk-in Medical Center on Savannah Rd. in Lewes is also an option for health care while away from home.



Best Friend Care: Pet Services

One of the advantages of a road trip and travel on the Ferry is the ability to take your best pet friend on a trip with you. But, just like human companions, pets can get into scrapes particularly when in unfamiliar surroundings. [Ocean View Veterinary Hospital](#) in Cape May Courthouse, NJ, is open 24 hours as is the [Savannah Animal Hospital](#) in Lewes.

Running low on pet supplies? Three pet food stores are close by the Cape May Ferry Terminal (Pet Smart in Rio Grande, Pet Value in Cape May Courthouse, and The Wagging Tail Nutrition Center in Cape May).



In Delaware, [Concord Pet Foods & Supplies](#) is in the Rehoboth Marketplace. If you need a place closer to the Ferry, look for PetCo in the Pelican Bay Shopping Center next to Acme in Lewes.

Gassing Up: Keep Your Car Fueled

The key to a stress-free road trip is always a full tank of gas, but knowing where to find gas in unfamiliar territory can be an issue, especially since they are frequently on side roads rather than main thoroughfares.

In Cape May, there are three gas stations within two miles of the Ferry terminal, but all are located on Bayshore Avenue – requiring a left turn off the Rt. 109. A gas station is also just outside of Cape May before getting on the Parkway. The next closest gas stop once on the Parkway is 17 miles up the road.

In Delaware, two gas stations are on Coastal Highway, with another one on Savannah Road.

Looking for your closest AAA for other types of roadside assistance? In NJ, the AAA office is off Rt. 9 in Rio Grande. On the Delaware side, the closest AAA offices are actually in Salisbury, MD. Both offices offer maps and standard AAA travel services.



Visitor Centers: Set Up for Answers

When in doubt about where to go, or what to do, it's always a good bet to check out local visitor centers. A good place to start is in either Ferry terminal both replete with brochure racks of most popular tourism hot spots on both sides of the bay. An electronic board in Cape May provides more regional information for those traveling farther north.

The Cape May Visitor Center located near the local Acme in downtown Cape May lets you stock up on vacation ideas and groceries in one trip. If you're heading deeper into Cape May County,



The Greater Cape May Chamber Visitor Center is located 11 miles up the Parkway just off exit 11 and has more great information about tourism options throughout the county including The Wildwoods and Ocean City. Just a bit farther up the Parkway at mile marker 17, the NJ Tourism Center in the Ocean View Service Area provides more information on camp grounds, Atlantic City and other South Jersey attractions.

The same is true in Delaware. The Lewes Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau is on Kings Highway. A separate visitor center in Rehoboth is dedicated to what to do and see in the famous beach town. The web site VisitSouthernDelaware.com gives you an even broader view of all to do throughout Sussex County.



It's always good to have some backup plans for when things go awry.

Ferry Guest Services: For More Than Just Reservations

When traveling, it's always good to have some local knowledge and insights of where to go and what to do. Our customer service representatives at the Ferry can be reached during normal business hours at 1-800-643-3779 and can help provide suggestions for best routes to the Ferry, places to stay overnight, or options for food and beverage in between Ferry crossings.

Because, as with everything else in life, even the best laid plans can go a bit haywire when least expected. It's always good to have some backup plans for when things go awry.

Check our Travel Guide pages on CMLF.com for ideas of where to go and what to do, and feel free to call us with any questions you may have ferry-related or otherwise. If we don't have the answers, we'll likely know how to get them!

Have a Different Question?



Just pick up the phone and ask us or check out our full list of FAQs on CMLF.com. Our goal is always to ensure you have the best travel experience possible, and make it easy for you to experience an unforgettable journey aboard the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.

Ready to book now?
Visit: [CMLF.com/book](https://www.cmlf.com/book)

Hope to welcome you aboard soon!



For more information on creating your own Ferry Experience, contact:

Customer & Guest Services
CustomerService@drba.net
800-643-3779