



New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania

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Why Go?

Where else could you visit an Amish family's farm, camp on a mountaintop, read the Declaration of Independence and view New York, New York from the 86th floor of an art-deco landmark - all in a few days? Even though it's the most densely populated part of the US, it's full of places where jaded city dwellers escape to seek simple lives, where artists retreat for inspiration, and pretty houses line main streets in small towns set amid stunning scenery.

Urban adventures in NYC, historic and lively Philadelphia and river-rich Pittsburgh are a must. Miles and miles of glorious beaches are within reach, from glamorous Long Island to the Jersey Shore - the latter ranges from stately to kitschy. The mountain wilderness of the Adirondacks reaches skyward just a day's drive north of New York City, a journey that perfectly encapsulates this region's heady character.

Best Places to Eat

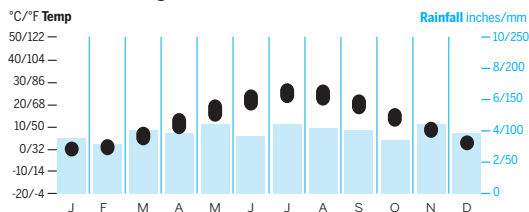
- » Blue Hill (p92)
- » Morimoto (p137)
- » The Breslin (p92)
- » Anchor Bar (p117)
- » Primanti Bros (p151)

Best Places to Stay

- » Bowery Hotel (p86)
- » Mohonk Mountain House (p109)
- » Saugerties Lighthouse (p110)
- » Morris House Hotel (p136)
- » Caribbean Motel (p125)

When to Go

New York City



Oct–Nov Autumn in NYC brings cool temps, festivals, the marathon and gearing up for holiday season.

Feb Winter sports buffs head to the mountains of the Adirondacks, Catskills and Poconos.

31 May–5 Sep Memorial Day through Labor Day is for beaches from Montauk to Cape May.

Transportation

The big cities all have airports, but New York's John F Kennedy is the region's major international gateway. Alternatives include Newark Liberty International Airport and La Guardia, in Queens, with mostly domestic flights. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh also have small international airports.

Greyhound buses serve main cities and towns, while Peter Pan Bus Lines and Adirondack Trailways are two regional bus lines. Amtrak provides rail services linking New York with much of New Jersey, as well as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Most popular day trips, at least from New York City, are easily accessible by one of the three commuter-rail lines. If you're driving, the main north-south highway is the I-95.

THE HIGH LINE

Originally built in the 1930s to lift freight trains off Manhattan's streets, the High Line is now a brilliantly designed elevated park that embraces the natural and industrial, from the Meatpacking District to Chelsea.

NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

Parklands and recreation areas are in big supply here, as is wildlife, which is at first surprising to many who associate these states only with large urban areas. Black bears, bobcats and even elk can be found in forested parts of the states; more common are various species of deer. Falcons, eagles, hawks and migrating species of birds stop over in the region, some even within only a few miles of New York City.

In New York alone, you'll find hundreds of state parks, ranging from waterfalls around Ithaca to wilderness in the Adirondacks. In New Jersey, float down the Delaware River, grab some sun at the Cape May beach and hike the forested Kittatinny Valley in the north. Pennsylvania includes a huge array of thick forests, rolling parklands and a significant portion of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a 2175-mile footpath that snakes its way from Maine to Georgia.

Fast Facts

- » Hub cities: New York City (population 8,175,000), Philadelphia (population 1,526,000)
- » New York to Philadelphia: 97 miles
- » New York to Niagara Falls: 408 miles
- » Time zone: Eastern Standard
- » Number of politicians resigned or jailed after scandal: enough to fill the legislature

Did You Know?

From November to April harbor seals, as well as other seal species, migrate to the waters of the Jersey Shore, Long Island Sound and NYC, from Staten Island to beaches in the Bronx.

Resources

- » New York State Tourism (www.iloveny.com) Info, maps, travel advice available by phone.
- » New Jersey Travel & Tourism (www.visitnj.org) Statewide tips on sights, accommodations and festivals.
- » Pennsylvania Travel and Tourism (www.visitpa.com) Maps, videos and suggested itineraries.

Top Five Scenic Drives

- » **Catskills, New York – Rte 23A to 214 to 28:** This takes you past forested hills, rushing rivers and spectacular falls.
- » **North Central, Pennsylvania – Rte 6:** A drive through this rugged stretch of mountains and woodlands includes gushing creeks, wildlife and state forests.
- » **Lake Cayuga, New York – Rte 80:** Head north from Ithaca above the lake past dozens of wineries.
- » **Delaware Water Gap, New Jersey – Old Mine Rd:** One of the oldest roads in the US past beautiful vistas of the Delaware River and rural countryside.
- » **Brandywine Valley, Pennsylvania – Rte 100, 52 and 163:** Only 25 miles through rolling horse country and lovely farmland.