

On the Road



JEFF CAMPBELL *Coordinating Author*

Never canoe alone on the Delaware River (p71) – not because it's dangerous, but just because you can't have a water fight all by yourself. I'm on the right as we head out to spend a day on the lazy river. We pulled over at sandy banks and islands, and shouted our way through every tiny riffle we encountered. The nephews had the water guns, but the uncles had the paddles, which work exceedingly well when broadsided across the surface.



BRIDGET GLEESON

Every Pennsylvania girl knows the value of freshly pressed apple cider. At the Bird-in-Hand farmers' market (p329), I was delighted to discover that you can still buy a cup for 25 cents. Five minutes later, a Mennonite woman lent a pair of scooters to my sister and me, and we took a short ride down a country road – it was a thoroughly wholesome day.



SARAH CHANDLER

How could I miss a tête-à-tête with one of America's greatest presidents? After hanging out with the venerable Franklin D (Roosevelt, that is) at his gorgeous old Hyde Park (p136) stomping grounds, I cruised down to the Culinary Institute of America (p137). Inspired by FDR's words 'The only thing we have to fear is fear itself,' I feasted fearlessly.



DAVID OZANICH

Here I am in the sculpture garden at the Nassau County Museum of Art (p121) on Long Island's Gold Coast. I was touring with Karen, a native, and we spent the day exploring Gatsbyesque manors and ornamental gardens. Between attempts to find 'F Scott Fitzgerald realness,' we searched for the perfect place to relax with a cocktail.

For full author biographies see p427

Destination New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania

In this region, all things connect to New York City. It is the heart pumping blood down arterial highways to the limbs and vital organs in upstate New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It is the brain sending electrical impulses along every potholed street to the very tips of the region's toes. There are many wonderful sights in each of these three states, but it is impossible to start anywhere else, or to long escape the city's magnetic pull. And it should be said that this arrangement doesn't please everyone, in part because New Yorkers – from the West Village to the West Side, from Brooklyn to the Bronx – have perfected the annoying habit of assuming that everything (by which they mean anything worth noticing) revolves around them.

Make no mistake: Manhattan is 'the city,' despite the presence of nearby Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Indeed, as much as (or more than) Paris or London, Tokyo or Hong Kong, New York is *the city* – the poetic, intoxicating distillation, the ultimate expression, of what we understand an international city to be. New York overwhelms – stifling and crowded, belching hoards from below, looming above, pedestrians and taxis straining at each red light, everyone hustling amid the grit and bodegas and skyscrapers – to the point that it defies logic and comprehension. New York should not be able to function. Yet it does, its sea of humanity spreading out daily to do its job, and later returning to sweltering apartments lifted five, 10, 15 stories above restless streets.

With pride, New Yorkers will list all of the iconic places they have never been: the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Times Square, the Museum of Natural History, Broadway. They wait for out-of-town friends and family to drag them to these famous sights, and even then may feign a sudden weakness to avoid going. For residents, the city is not about attractions or museums. It is the ineffable magic of living in the rough-knuckled, lofty center of the modern world, which is, ironically, most often experienced in those small, serendipitous, incongruous moments of connection and beauty that could only happen in New York – a place where the meadows of Central Park and the molded seats of the subway hold everyone equally.

To a lesser degree, this sense of entitled exceptionalism pervades the entire region. America was conceived in Philadelphia, where the nation's raw, wrinkled babyhood remains lovingly swaddled in the city's historic district – in Independence Hall, the National Constitution Center and the Liberty Bell Center. The birth pangs of the Revolutionary War still resound at nearby Valley Forge, and at New Jersey's Morristown, Trenton and Princeton. The region was, and largely remains, the engine of American industry and commerce, from the former steel mills of Pittsburgh to the canyons of Wall Street. In fact, from Gettysburg to Ellis Island, from Ground Zero to Seneca Falls, these states have witnessed and survived epochal events that helped shape the country's most cherished ideals, its proudest profile. Whatever hard times hit, locals know they're too tough to ever be knocked down long.

This East Coast braggadocio is most amusingly expressed by New Jersey, the put-upon middle sibling. Benjamin Franklin famously dubbed the state 'a barrel tapped at both ends,' succinctly capturing Jersey's geographical

FAST FACTS

Population (2009):

NYC 8,391,900, NY

19,541,500, NJ 8,707,700,

PA 12,604,800

Per capita income: NY

\$47,000, NJ \$50,000, PA

\$40,000

Regional unemployment

rate: 8-10%

Millionaires in NY metro

region: 667,200

Billionaires in NYC: 71

Languages spoken in

NYC: 170

Most roads per square

mile: New Jersey

Most horses per capita in

US: New Jersey

Percentage of Pennsylvania

that is farmland: 27%

(7,800,000 acres)

curse. Despite its gorgeous coastline and seaside resorts, it has forever been dismissed by big-city snobs. Residents live with a permanent chip on their shoulders, which breeds an I'll-do-it-my-way scrappiness, embodied by Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen, and suffragette Alice Paul. Thomas Edison invented the phonograph and the movies in Menlo Park, and Princeton University has been home to Albert Einstein and Toni Morrison, yet respect never comes. New Jersey will always be 'Joisey,' the home of *The Sopranos* and *Jersey Shore*, but travelers might be surprised to learn that the Garden State is as much wilderness as suburb, with as many farms as interstates.

For sure, the New York–Philly–North Jersey monstropolis is the nation's most urbanized, densely populated slab of concrete and asphalt, but this fun fact is misleading. If you've come to visit the states, not just the cities, prepare for vast stretches of wilderness and bucolic, wooded Appalachian Mountains. The Adirondacks are America's largest protected landscape outside Alaska, preserved by state constitution to be 'forever wild.' Most of Pennsylvania is farmland and forest, and all three states are threaded by major river systems, such as the Delaware, the Allegheny, the Susquehanna and the Hudson. You could, in fact, spend all your time hiking, biking, canoeing, sailing, swimming, fishing and climbing and never once hear a car honk.

Further, while New Yorkers would have you believe there is no culture but their culture – none so refined and ethnically diverse, so important, so avant-garde – there is sophistication even in the hinterlands: in Newark and New Brunswick, in Andy Warhol's Pittsburgh and Hyde Park, in Ithaca and Saratoga Springs. In contrast, Pennsylvania's Amish have preserved their spiritual, rural lifestyle, maintaining anti-modern customs that are a humble, quiet rebuke to all that Manhattan stands for.

Did we mention hard times? When the stock market collapsed in 2008, due to falling home prices, Wall Street nearly went belly up, and its captains of finance were largely blamed for gaming the system for their own good (a twice-told tale if there ever was one). The result has been a national Great Recession that has crippled state budgets in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. All three states have laid off workers and slashed funds for schools and essential services, and seen unemployment skyrocket, with no lasting relief on the horizon.

Political scandals have also made headlines. In 2008, New York Governor Elliot Spitzer was caught with a New Jersey call girl and promptly resigned; his replacement, Governor David Paterson, later confessed to adultery and to snorting cocaine; as these happened before he was governor, Paterson stayed in office. In 2004, New Jersey Governor James McGreevey, an ostensibly happily married man, was seen with a male aide, came out as gay and promptly resigned. Then in 2009, the largest federal sting operation in New Jersey history (and that's saying something) led to the arrest of 44 people – including three mayors, two state legislators and five rabbis – on charges of political corruption, money laundering and trying to sell a human kidney.

More troubling, however, was the September 2009 arrest of three al Qaeda terrorists who pleaded guilty to planning a trio of suicide bombings in the Manhattan subway. For New Yorkers particularly, the events of 9/11 (see p42) remain fresh memories, even though 2011 marks the 10-year anniversary of the attacks. The pulsating life of the city hardly stops, for anything, but these are sobering reminders of tragedy.

In the end, everything revolves around New York City, a resilient, multi-faceted, soaring metropolis on a narrow island at the mouth of the Hudson River. In a region that offers so much – a veritable cornucopia of American life, history and culture – it stands supreme, lending any visit the impression that one has also seen the world.

'In a region that offers so much – a veritable cornucopia of American life, history and culture – New York City stands supreme, lending any visit the impression that one has also seen the world'

Getting Started

WHEN TO GO

New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are four-season destinations, with climate and weather patterns common to the US Northeast. As a rule, spring and fall are mild and pleasant, with warm days and cool nights, while summer and winter hold the extremes: July and August can become unbearably muggy with highs over 90°F (32°C), and January and February can get buried by snowstorms and see days of below-freezing temperatures. Precipitation is fairly consistent year-round, with slightly more summer rain on the coast and more winter snow in the mountains.

Locals will tell you the 'best' seasons are spring and fall, but that has nothing to do with your agenda. Deciding the best time to visit depends entirely on what you want to do.

If cities are your main focus, then the worst time is summer, which is usually considered to be from Memorial Day to Labor Day. That's when most tourists arrive, clogging up the queues, and it's no fun sightseeing the concrete jungle when you could fry eggs on the pavement. If Manhattan, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are your destinations, choose spring, fall or early winter (through December). City cultural institutions are very lively through Christmas, which is a magical time.

If you want to frolic on Atlantic coast beaches, then arrive from June through September, or forget it. Only a few Jersey and Long Island towns are year-round tourist destinations (like Cape May); otherwise, you swim while it's hot or not at all.

If you're looking to explore the outdoors – hiking, canoeing, fishing and so on – then summer and fall are the prime seasons. Autumn foliage is spectacular, and the season encourages hiking and camping with low humidity and fewer bugs, particularly the farther north you go, such as the Adirondacks (June is blackfly season). Spring can be good too, but rain and melting snow can make for muddy, buggy trails.

If you want to ski, of course, then arrive December through March. If you don't mind the weather, winter can be a quiet, fun time in the cities.

Then there are the wildcards: major events and festivals (p23) happen year-round, many worth planning trips around. Plus, if you want to fit in pro sports, then your ideal season isn't weather-related.

COSTS & MONEY

Just so you know: you can see this region successfully on the equivalent of a collegiate's stipend or a CEO's expense account. Naturally, most people fall somewhere in the middle, and what constitutes a reasonable budget depends on the when, where and how of your trip.

Let's start at the top: Manhattan will bleed you dry. Finding hotel rooms for less than \$200 a night is tough, and then meals, transportation and sightseeing are all more expensive. For a couple, a moderate budget might be \$500 a day, not including show tickets; spending less takes willpower. Philadelphia is not as expensive; budget \$400 per day. You knew this, though. So here are a few things to keep in mind: avoid having a rental car in either city. Only rent one when, or if, you leave town. If you only want to visit Manhattan for a day or two, consider sleeping outside the city and day-tripping in.

Also, generally speaking, accommodations in cities are more expensive during the week, less expensive on weekends. Conversely, beach towns and vaca-

See Climate Charts (p406) for more information.

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT...

- Street smarts, a credit card, and a money belt or pouch.
- Quitting smoking. Seriously, it's bad for you. It's expensive (over \$12 a pack in NYC!). And all three states ban smoking in most public buildings, except for bars in Pennsylvania and casinos in Atlantic City.
- A Manhattan street and subway map (oh right, you're holding one).
- Getting a visa or registering online under the Visa Waiver Program (p408).
- Hotel reservations in Manhattan (p103) or the Jersey shore (p213).
- Seeing what festivals are happening while you're here (p23).

tion resorts are cheaper midweek, raising rates on the weekend; on the Jersey shore, summer weekend hotel rates can be equivalent to Manhattan. You're money ahead seeing cities on the weekend and parks and beaches midweek.

Outside of the major cities and high seasons, good hotels for \$100 to \$150 are typical. The region is not well-served by hostels, but it has a wealth of good camping (usually \$20 per night).

Your food budget can vary wildly. The region is legendary for its inexpensive comfort foods – hot dogs, pizza, cheesesteaks. Stick to NYC's rolling carts – a veritable smorgasbord – and your per person per day meal budget might not top \$30. Visit one of the region's many gourmet restaurants, and \$30 doesn't cover the tip.

Within and between major cities, public transportation is a viable option: buses are cheapest; trains more pleasant and expensive. While commuter trains and buses serve the wider metropolitan region, they are less useful for sightseeing. Instead, a car is the most flexible option; for visits to the rural countryside, it's really the only choice. Rates vary depending on where you rent, but minimum daily/weekly rentals usually start from \$35/140, plus gas and insurance.

Since small savings add up, remember to check museums for 'free' days (most have one monthly) and see Discounts (p407).

TRAVELING RESPONSIBLY

Lonely Planet encourages readers to tread lightly and travel responsibly, which means considering the impact of our choices on the environment and local communities. Of course, 'green travel' is just as important in the New York metropolitan area – America's most urbanized region – as it is in the wilderness of the Alleghenies and the Adirondacks; indeed, New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are all making concerted efforts to turn themselves into models for 'sustainable cities.' For more information on environmental issues, and for a list of environmental organizations, see the Environment chapter (p60).

'Sustainable tourism' really involves two things: it's about making 'green' choices, and it's a way of interacting with people and the environment. The list on p21, Top Ways to Go Green, highlights a few specific ways to practice low-impact tourism; generally, these include choosing nonmotorized recreation, taking public transportation instead of driving, and buying local products, such as at farmers markets. In addition, there is a growing number of ecofriendly hotels; some are highlighted in this book. For more, see the following organizations:

Green Hotels Association (www.greenhotels.com) A membership organization promoting green hotels and travel nationwide.

HOW MUCH?

Push-cart hot dog: \$2

Manhattan subway ride:
\$2.50

New Jersey beach tag:
\$5-10

Yankees bleacher seats:
\$14

Broadway show:
\$100-300

Greenopia (www.greenopia.com) Ecoguides for city living in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh.
offManhattan (www.offmanhattan.com) Promotes car-free, green travel around Manhattan.
Sierra Club (www.sierraclub.org) Has local chapters in all three states, with news and outings.

When renting a car, consider getting an ecofriendly model, such as a hybrid or electric car; these are increasingly available from national rental companies (p419), or instead of renting, consider a Zipcar. The auto association Better World Club (p419) supports environmental legislation and offers ecofriendly services. For more information and advice, and the fun of calculating your personal carbon footprint, visit **Climatecrisis.net** (www.climatecrisis.net).

'an era
when
New York
vibrated
with joy
and intel-
lectual
excitement
is vividly
captured
in *Kafka
Was the
Rage: A
Greenwich
Village
Memoir*'

TRAVEL LITERATURE

So many excellent books have been written about NYC and the region. This short, eclectic list is focused on travel writing and memoirs that evoke a sense of place. For regional literature, see the Culture chapter (p44); for regional histories, see the History chapter (p32).

Let's start by getting weird – *Weird NJ*, that is. What started as an occasional newsprint magazine highlighting New Jersey's creepy legends, haunted sights and murder mysteries has grown into a series of books, including editions of *Weird New York* and *Weird Pennsylvania*. Writers and paranormal aficionados Mark Moran and Mark Scurman keep things loose, lively and funny.

One hot summer, EB White sat in his sweltering Manhattan apartment and penned a shimmering sketch of the city, boldly titled *Here Is New York* (1949). Yet here it is, Gotham reduced to its purest essence and readable in the time it takes to get from Wall St to Harlem on the 3.

New York Times book critic Anatole Broyard arrived in Manhattan in the mid-1940s, and fell in love in so many ways it's hard to count. He had a bawdy, bohemian good time in an era when New York vibrated with joy and intellectual excitement, vividly captured in graceful, crisp prose in *Kafka Was the Rage: A Greenwich Village Memoir* (1993).

Few places in the world have as much going on underground as above ground. In *Subwayland* (2004), Randy Kennedy takes us on a tour of New York's subway culture through this collection of his *NY Times* 'Tunnel Vision' columns.

Little Chapel on the River (2005) by Gwendolyn Bounds documents how one New Yorker coped after 9/11 and found a renewed sense of hope and community in a rural town in the Hudson Valley, which, as such towns often do, revolved around the local watering hole, Guinan's.

Make fun if you want, but New Jersey is truly an odd place filled with unforgettable characters and more muffler men (giant fiberglass characters) per capita than any state. Okay, so we made that last bit up, but you can track them all down with the help of Pete Genovese's *New Jersey Curiosities* (2007). Genovese is the guy who drives the *Star-Ledger's* Munchmobile, so he knows the backroads.

One of America's finest writers, John McPhee, wrote *The Pine Barrens* (1967), which was such a revelation about this vast New Jersey wilderness that it was the fulcrum leading to their conservation. He brought piney culture to life as well in this Jersey classic.

Photojournalist Harry Dorer captured New Jersey as it transitioned from the rural Garden State to the nation's most urban state from the 1920s to the 1950s. His photos – of FDR and the Pulaski Skyway, of glassmakers and fox hunts, of workers constructing the George Washington Bridge – are a portrait of America, even if the title humbly promises *This Was New Jersey* (2007); it's edited by historian John Cunningham.

TOP PICKS



WAYS TO GO GREEN

Going green needn't be complicated. It's simple: slow down, avoid motors, enjoy and protect nature, eat local produce and patronize ecofriendly businesses.

- Use the subway: New York (p113) and Philadelphia (p312) both have great city subways and rail lines.
- Ride a bike: Manhattan, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia have easy, bike-friendly cycling routes. See p69.
- Get into nature. For a list of top natural areas, see p63.
- Buy local farm produce: Jersey is the Garden State, so partake (p246). Philadelphia has two great food markets, Reading Terminal (p294) and the Italian Market (p296), plus Amish Country (p319).
- Get informed (p60)
- Volunteer (p412)

PLACES TO POP A CHILL PILL

Manhattanites are known to be a little *tense*. Here are some of their favorite places to relax. They're nice even when you aren't wound tighter than a midtown cabbie.

- The Cloisters (p99)
- The beach: try Robert Moses State Park (p186) or Island Beach State Park (p230), or get naked on Sandy Hook (p213).
- Sheep Meadow, Central Park (p91)
- Delaware River: take a lazy float along the Delaware & Raritan canal (p258) or on the lakes in the Delaware Water Gap NRA (p398).
- The Catskills (p143) for fall leaf-peeping.
- Atlantic City spas, like at the Chelsea (p268), the Water Club (p268), and Harrah's (p264).
- Pennsylvania Dutch country (p319), the definition of unplugged.
- Lady Mendl's Tea Salon (p108) in Manhattan.
- Tivoli (p141) in the Hudson River Valley.

IDIOSYNCRATIC ART EXPERIENCES

Fine art is a highlight of this region, but it needn't be ponderous. Here are some don't-miss highlights, ranging from art glass to fluorescent lights, from mindblowing sculpture parks to loopy homemade environments.

- New York Earth Room, NYC (p87)
- Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, Philadelphia (p296)
- Dan Flavin Art Institute, Bridgehampton, Long Island (p124)
- Longhouse Reserve, East Hampton, Long Island (p124)
- Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ (p256)
- Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (p358)
- Dia:Beacon, Hudson River Valley (p132)
- International Museum of Photography and Film, Rochester, NY (p198)
- WheatonArts, Millville, NJ (p278)
- Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC (p95)

INTERNET RESOURCES

Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com) Travel news and summaries, the Thorn Tree bulletin board and links to more web resources.

New Jersey Division of Tourism (www.visitnj.org) The Garden State's official visitor portal; full trip planning and calendar, and you can order brochures.

New York Division of Tourism (www.iloveny.com) Same as New Jersey's, with comprehensive information.

New York Times Travel (<http://travel.nytimes.com>) It covers the region and its home turf as well as the world.

Pennsylvania Division of Tourism (www.visitpa.com) Ditto, for Pennsylvania.

Weird NJ (www.weirdnj.com) A local legend for local legends and roadside attractions, with links to more weirdness in New York and Pennsylvania.

Events Calendar

Many more festivals are listed in Festivals & Events sections throughout this guide. For a list of major sporting events, see 'Root & Race' (p73), and for more food festivals, see p57.

JANUARY

MUMMERS' PARADE Jan 1
Unique Italian-American parade (www.mummers.com) in Philly, with over 25,000 strutting in fancy handmade costumes; see p305.

APRIL-MAY

TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL late Apr
Major New York film festival (www.tribecafilm.com) started by Robert DeNiro in the wake of 9/11.

GETTYSBURG BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL May
This close to the Mason-Dixon Line, expect top-flight, kickin' bluegrass (www.gettysburgbluegrass.com). All the top names show up, such as Alison Krauss in 2010.

THE BAMBOOZLE early May
A huge two-day music festival (www.thebamboozle.com) in the New Jersey Meadowlands. Features over 100 bands, focusing on new groups, from R&B to punk to hip hop to Ke\$ha. Draws 60,000.

WILDWOOD KITE FESTIVAL Memorial Day weekend
A four-day extravaganza on the Jersey shore, drawing kitemakers from around the world, with stunt kite and indoor kite competitions.

HARRISBURG ARTSFEST Memorial Day weekend
One of the nation's biggest arts festivals (www.harrisburgarts.org/artsfest), with three days of music, film and kids' art.

JUNE

ITHACA FESTIVAL early Jun
Enjoy crunchy-granola fun in Ithaca, New York (www.ithacafestival.org), with three days of art, activism, folk music and cultural awareness, plus a funky parade.

THREE RIVERS ARTS FESTIVAL early Jun
Ten days of funky visual and performing arts (www.artsfestival.net), with a strong focus

on sustainable Pittsburgh and lots of family entertainment.

CRAWFISH FEST early Jun
For three days in Augusta, NJ, Michael Arnone dishes up the best New Orleans festival (www.crawfishfest.com) north of the Mason-Dixon Line. Louisiana music, dancing, camping and tons of tasty Creole and Cajun cooking.

THE TONY AWARDS mid-Jun
Didn't bring a tux? Rent one and get tickets for Broadway's star-studded awards ceremony (www.tonyawards.com).

GAY PRIDE late Jun
On Gay Pride weekend, New York City hosts a slew of raucous events and a huge parade, but everyone also comes out in Philadelphia and Asbury Park for equally colorful shenanigans.

CLEARWATER'S GREAT HUDSON RIVER REVIVAL late Jun
Started by Pete Seeger to highlight Hudson River cleanup efforts, and now a major two-day celebration (www.clearwater.org/festival) of folk music and environmental awareness.

MERMAID PARADE late Jun
Cross Carnivale, Mardi Gras and Coney Island (www.coneyisland.com/mermaid.shtml) and you get this bohemian saunter of spangles, mermaids, drag queens and other fantabulously costumed sea creatures.

JERSEY SHORE JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL early Jun
Jersey's oldest and largest jazz and blues event (www.jerseyshorefestival.org) usually takes over hip Red Bank for a June weekend, but it has moved around in recent years.

JULY-AUGUST

INDEPENDENCE DAY Jul 4
Fireworks in New York Harbor, Philadelphia and Wildwood are the biggest of the region-wide celebrations, plus historic parks in Philly and Morristown have public readings of the Declaration of Independence.

NEW JERSEY SANDCASTLE CONTEST

mid-Jul

Belmar is the setting for the most amazing and ephemeral engineering feats known to sand (www.njsandcastle.com).

NEW JERSEY STATE BARBECUE CHAMPIONSHIP

mid-Jul

Got pig? There's serious prize money at stake for this Kansas City-sanctioned statewide competition in Wildwood (www.njbbq.com). There's serious blues music, too.

CAPE VINCENT FRENCH FESTIVAL

mid-Jul

In New York State's Thousand Islands, once home to French colonies, this two-day festival (www.capevincent.org/frenchfestival.asp) features French food, folks in period dress, drum and bugle corps, and a float parade led by Napoleon.

ALL POINTS WEST FESTIVAL

mid-Aug

In Jersey's Liberty State Park, this newcomer in the rock-festival circuit draws major headliners like Jay-Z and Coldplay for three loud, crowded days in the shadow of Lady Liberty (www.apwfestival.com).

MISS CRUSTACEAN HERMIT CRAB BEAUTY PAGEANT

early Aug

Think hermit crabs in elegant frippery on miniature floats, and crab races (www.ocnj.us) in Ocean City, New Jersey. Silly? You bet. But Miss America isn't so seriously judged.

PHILADELPHIA FOLK FESTIVAL

late Aug

This three-day festival (www.pfs.org) features music by the best, such as Taj Mahal. Camping is big, and there's tons of kid fun.

DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

late Aug

In the Hudson Valley's Rhinebeck, expect six days of classic county-fair fun (www.dutchessfair.com): rides, music, horse shows, racing pigs, pony rides, corn dogs and more. Draws a half million folks.

PENNSYLVANIA RENAISSANCE FAIRE

Aug-Oct

Find fair wenches and jousting knights, fire-eaters and sword fights at this quintessential and popular medieval blast from the past (www.parenfaire.com) on weekends at Mount Hope Winery.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**CLOWNFEST**

mid-Sep

Seaside Heights has an image problem, and hundreds of rainbow-wigged clowns pratfalling on the boardwalk for four days probably doesn't help (www.clownfest.com). Not to be missed.

SAN GENNARO FESTIVAL

mid-Sep

For a fortnight in NYC's Little Italy, a million people celebrate the patron saint of Naples (www.sangennaro.org). This 80-year-old religious festival includes a famous procession, a celebratory mass, and lots of food and music.

CAPE MAY FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

late Sep

Cape May is known for its gourmet restaurants, and everybody shows up for this delicious weeklong festival (www.capemaymac.org), with seminars, classes, tastings, a chowder contest and restaurant-server relay races.

CHOWDERFEST

early Oct

The definitive chowder contest is held at Beach Haven (www.chowderfest.com), where every one of the 15,000 attendees gets to participate in the judging. Bring an appetite.

HALLOWEEN

Oct 31

Check out New York's Village Halloween Parade (www.halloween-nyc.com), the nation's largest costumed revelry. Or enter the haunted house at Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary (www.easternstate.org/halloween).

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**LIGHT UP NIGHT**

mid-Nov

Pittsburgh kicks off its holiday season with this tree-lighting festival (www.downtownpittsburgh.com), a pre-Thanksgiving weekend that includes a bridge party, carriage parade and fireworks.

THANKSGIVING

4th Thu in Nov

NYC's famous Macy's Parade, with its helium character balloons, includes Santa's arrival. Visit the Museum of Natural History the night before to see the balloons blown up. Philadelphia also holds a major float parade.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dec 31

A million people cram Times Square (www.timesquarenyc.org) to watch the crystal ball drop to ring in the New Year.

Itineraries

CLASSIC TRIPS

CITY MOUSE, COUNTRY MOUSE

one week/NYC to Lake Placid

With only a week, the best thing is to take your first three or four days and give them to the **Big Apple** (p76). Of course, you can't see everything, but if this is your first time, use your feet and indulge in iconic Manhattan: stroll **Central Park** (p91), walk the canyons of **Wall Street** (p80), trip your way through **Greenwich Village** (p87). Join the locals on the **High Line** (p89), and book a ferry for the **Statue of Liberty** (p84). And wander **Times Square** (p90) on your way to a **Broadway show** (p111).

Now pick up that rental car and go north on Rte 9. In the **Hudson Valley** (p130), visit **Hyde Park** (p136) and the **Catskills** (p143). Either rest your legs in **Woodstock** (p149) or hike **Minnewaska State Park** (p144). Next stop: **Saratoga Springs** (p159) – where the spas will soothe your bones. With your last day or two, get a taste of the **Adirondacks** (p166), either in **Lake George** (p167) or **Lake Placid** (p170), where Olympians still train and High Peaks await.



The first few days, you won't drive at all as you bite into the Big Apple. Then it's just 300 miles from New York City to Lake Placid. There are so many reasons to stop, it'll hardly feel like a driving trip at all.

URBAN CULTURAL ODYSSEY**two weeks/NYC to Pittsburgh**

Love art and history? You've come to the right place. Naturally, start in New York City: visit the **Met** (p95) and **MoMA** (p91) if you've never been, and fit in the **Whitney** (p95), the **Cloisters** (p99), the **Chelsea galleries** (p89) and the **Morgan Library** (p91). Each evening, New York is a smorgasbord of **music and theater** (p109), but check the schedule at Newark's **NJ Performing Arts Center** (p241), too.

After three to four days, take I-95 west to **Princeton** (p252), soak up the campus and make a trip to **Grounds for Sculpture** (p256) in Trenton. Then keep going to **Philadelphia** (p281). Spend a day in **Independence National Historic Park** (p285) – where America was conceived – make like Rocky up the **Museum of Art** (p299) steps, and visit the funky **Philadelphia Magic Gardens** (p296). Philadelphia's **nightlife** (p309) is no slouch either.

Valley Forge (p313) is a worthwhile Revolutionary side trip; then head east on I-76. The first stop is **Lancaster** (p319) and a day relaxing in **Amish Country** (p319). Then visit the national park at **Gettysburg** (p337) for a sobering dose of the Civil War. True buffs will want to detour to Harrisburg's **National Civil War Museum** (p346).

Keep going west on I-76. You'll need reservations and nearly a day to detour to Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece **Fallingwater** (p371), but it's an architectural treasure; don't miss it. Then end your journey with two to three days in **Pittsburgh** (p354). Between the wonderful **Andy Warhol Museum** (p358), the massive **Carnegie** (p361) and the wild **Mattress Factory** (p360), you'll stay busy. Simply walking the yellow bridges over the Allegheny River is a stylish way to end.

Stringing together the region's three big cities – Manhattan, Philly and Pittsburgh – is an ideal trip, allowing for tons of improvisations and detours in between. This route is nearly 500 miles, but it's all about the destinations.



BEACH-STOPPING

two weeks/Montauk to Cape May

Yes, locals tend to pick one beach for two weeks and not move. This trip, though, is much more interesting and allows plenty of time for sunning and swimming.

The first few days, take day trips from **New York City** (p76) to **Coney Island** (p101), especially if you have kids, as well as to crowded **Jones Beach** (p128) and gorgeous **Robert Moses State Park** (p186). Or spend a few days in a town on **Fire Island National Seashore** (p128). Your main chance for celebrity-spotting will be on **Hamptons beaches** (p123), and those seeking more quiet and less swimming can go all the way to **Montauk** (p125).

After five days or so, go 'down the shore' in Jersey. **Sandy Hook** (p213) is a perfect place to start, especially if you prefer sunbathing nude. Then bunk down for a couple of days in resurgent, funky **Asbury Park** (p218) for its nightlife and restaurants, with a visit to pretty **Ocean Grove** (p221) next door.

Next, stay in raucous **Seaside Heights** (p226) for a few days. One day rattle your spine on the amusement pier, and recover the next in beautiful **Island Beach State Park** (p230). After that, take another two days in **Atlantic City** (p262). Indulge in a little casino gambling and trendy nightclub hopping (bring tailored clothes). If you have kids, consider a few days of amusement-pier fun and soporific beaches in either **Ocean City** (p270) or **Wildwood** (p271).

Finally, go past Garden State Parkway exit 0 to **Cape May** (p274), the most relaxed Jersey shore resort. A few more days of gourmet food, Victorian-era ambience and white-sand beaches, and all your troubles will be forgotten.



Call this, at most, 400 miles, depending on how far out on Long Island you go. More important than distance, though, is timing: hit the highway with everyone else, and 2 miles could take two hours. Strategize your beach assaults like MacArthur.

ROADS LESS TRAVELED

MOUNTAINS & RIVERS

Three weeks/Montreal to NYC

Outdoors types have a lot of options in New York and Pennsylvania. But you'll need to pick and choose activities to keep this to three weeks.

It's easiest to fly into Montreal, take I-15 south to New York's I-87, and stop first in the Adirondack's **Lake Placid** (p170). With hiking the High Peaks, visiting the Olympic sites and canoeing the Fulton Chain of Lakes, you can easily spend three to four days.

Take picturesque Rte 3 west to I-81 and go north to **Alexandria Bay** (p178) and the **Thousand Islands** (p178) for several days of wildlife-watching, canoeing and fishing, such as on **Wellesley Island** (p180).

Head southwest (along I-81 and I-90) to the **Finger Lakes** (p186); bunk in **Skaneateles** (p196) and enjoy winery tours and lake fun. Detour into Rochester for the **photography museum** (p198), and then gape at mighty **Niagara Falls** (p204).

Continue on I-90 west to Pennsylvania's **Presque Isle State Park** (p381), then pick up Rte 6: where the elk herds, river floats and wooded hikes of the **Allegheny National Forest** (p391) deserve several days. Follow Rte 6 to **Pine Creek Gorge** (p395), the 'Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania.'

Past Scranton, await the **Poconos** (p397) and the **Delaware Water Gap** (p398). You'll find canoeing and rafting on the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers, and plenty of biking and hiking, including the Appalachian Trail, and on the Jersey side of the **Gap** (p247), you can hike more of the AT. When you've had enough, cruise into **NYC** (p76).

Easily 1100 miles, with long stretches on 40mph mountain roads behind lumbering RVs. So, keep two things in mind: this is amazing, gorgeous scenery, especially in fall. The road is your destination. And keep your schedule loose. You'll be coming back, anyway.



TAILORED TRIPS

ELEPHANTS & OTHER ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

The bible of regional weirdness is *Weird NJ* (www.weirdnj.com), and indeed, New Jersey has a wealth of roadside oddities. The most iconic is **Lucy the Elephant** (p270), near Atlantic City, while the best place to find the Jersey Devil is **Asbury Park** (p220). Marvel over confiscated anti-tank guns and the Lindbergh baby kidnapping at the **NJ State Police Museum** (p256) in Trenton. Ocean City's overwhelming **Discovery Seashell Museum** (p271) seems to have emptied the ocean, and the doo-wop nostalgia of **Wildwood** (p271) is classic roadside Americana.

Pennsylvania has its own elephants, at **Mr Ed's Elephant Museum** (p345). Bigger is always better, and several 'world's largest' claims – shoes, Christmas, candy, flags – cluster near **Hermitage** (p390). In Philadelphia, don't miss the flamboyant **Mummers' Museum** (p297), the **Mütter Museum** (p293) and **Eastern State Penitentiary** (p298) – this creepy prison once held Al Capone!

Like goosebumps? Visit Ossining's **Sing Sing Museum** (p134) and stop by 112 Ocean Ave in 'Oh the Horror' **Amityville** (p124). Smaller is funner: the world's smallest church is in **Oneida** (p197). In NYC, visit the haunted **Chelsea Hotel** (p104), funhouse **Coney Island** (p101) and don't leave without tipping the **Naked Cowboy** in **Times Square** (p90).



DAMN YANKEES

In sports-mad America, few places can match this region. The world-champion Yankees tend to tower over everyone else, but **NYC** (p109) also has baseball's Mets, and Madison Sq Garden hosts the Knicks (basketball) and the Rangers (hockey). Upstate, there are Cooperstown's **Baseball Hall of Fame** (p165), **Saratoga Springs Racetrack** (p164) and Lake Placid's **Olympic Museum** (p172). Plus, **Buffalo** (p203) has the Bills (football), Sabres (hockey) and the minor-league-baseball Bisons.

Jersey only has **minor-league baseball teams** (p257), but there are plenty to choose from, plus there's the overlooked **Yogi Berra Museum** (p245) in Montclair. In Newark's **Prudential Center** (p243), the Devils (hockey) and the Nets (basketball) play. While **Meadowlands** (p243) has the biggest, baddest new NFL stadium, hosting the Giants and the Jets, two 'New York' teams who actually play in Jersey.

Philadelphia's (p311) often long-suffering fans enjoy pro baseball, football, basketball and hockey in the Phillies, Eagles, 76ers and Flyers, respectively. On Pennsylvania's west end, fans in **Pittsburgh** (p369) root for their hometown Pirates (baseball), Steelers (football) and Penguins (hockey). And let's not forget the kids: in August, **Williamsport** (p397) hosts the Little League World Series, and has a Little League Museum. Now, play ball!



VILLAGE PEOPLE

With the exception of San Francisco and maybe LA, it doesn't get much gayer than **NYC** (p109), where 1969's Stonewall riot sparked the gay rights movement. Today, five neighborhoods have notable GLBT scenes: the West Village, East Village, Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen and Brooklyn's Williamsburg. For city fun, **Philadelphia** (p281) also has a notable gay scene, though it's far more low-key.

When it's time to hit the beach, perhaps the nation's leading gay resort is **Fire Island** (p129), especially the villages of the Pines and Cherry Grove. Here, the highlight of the year is July 4's Invasion of the Pines drag-queen celebration. However, don't forget **Asbury Park** (p218) in New Jersey, which is out and proud, while the shore towns of **Atlantic City** (p262) and **Cape May** (p274) also have (much smaller) gay scenes. Another mellow but visible scene exists in the sister cities of **New Hope** (p314) and **Lambertville** (p258), which hold hands over the Delaware River.

In June, Gay Pride inspires one of the nation's biggest celebrations in New York, along with major parades in Philadelphia and Asbury Park. Plus, you can belt out 'YMCA' along with 40,000 others at **Yankee Stadium** (p110), where it's the ground crew's seventh-inning theme song.



EAST COAST EATS

The East Coast has a deep, proprietary love of its comfort foods. Don't even try to talk someone out of their favorite pizza, bagel, hoagie, hot dog, cheesesteak, cheesecake, ice cream, cannoli or diner joint. It's not gonna happen. So just enjoy and don't question it.

Gourmands make for themselves an endless buffet of the pushcart cuisine in **Manhattan** (p76); walk and you will find. Upstate, **Buffalo** (p199) is the home of Buffalo wings, naturally, and **Saratoga Springs** (p159) invented the potato chip. In Western New York, try the horrible-sounding sandwich 'Beef on Weck' (p206).

Down the **Jersey shore** (p272), the pizza wars are fierce and the hot-dog places legendary. Saltwater taffy was invented in **Atlantic City** (p262), which also boasts **White House Subs** (p268). For cannolis, two choices: Hoboken's **Carlo's Bakery** (p237), home of TLC's *Cake Boss*, and Newark's **Calandra's Bakery** (p242). With over 600 diners, Jersey could be the Diner State; New Brunswick's **Skylark** (p251) is deliciously upscale.

Philadelphia has two don't-miss food markets: **Reading Terminal Market** (p294) and the **Italian Market** (p296). They have cheesesteaks, which have grown into an epic **Pat's vs Geno's vs Jim's cheesesteak rivalry** (p309). Dutch Country is famous for scrapple, shoofly pie and Amish sausage; simply peruse the **Bird-in-Hand Farmer's Market** (p329). In Pittsburgh, **Primanti Brothers** (p366) sandwiches have stopped hearts.



HISTORY BUFFS

America's roots run deep here: Henry Hudson's discovery of New York Harbor in 1609 predated the Pilgrims' arrival in Massachusetts by a decade. However, America was conceived in Philadelphia, where the superlative **Independence National Historic Park** (p285) vividly brings these events, people and ideas to life. Significant Revolutionary War sights include nearby **Valley Forge** (p313) and New Jersey's **Washington Crossing** (p258), Washington's headquarters in **Morristown** (p245), and **Trenton** (p255) and **Princeton** (p252).

Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty (p84) also symbolize national ideals and America's immigrant heritage. In addition, **Federal Hall** (p85) focuses on Washington and Alexander Hamilton, and the **Tenement Museum** (p87) re-creates late-19th-century immigrant life. Though it is still mostly a construction zone, Manhattan's **Ground Zero** (p85) is one of modern history's most significant memorials.

It's a historical footnote, but memories of the War of 1812 are preserved in New York's **Sackets Harbor** (p185) and towns along the **St Lawrence Seaway** (p185). **Seneca Falls** (p196) is famous as the birthplace of the women's rights movement.

In Pennsylvania, **Gettysburg** (p337) commemorates the most important battle of the Civil War, while **Harrisburg** (p346) has a major Civil War museum. For a look at the beginnings of oil barons like Rockefeller, detour to **Oil City** (p388), near where the first oil well was dug.



BY THE TIME WE GOT TO WOODSTOCK

Music is another highlight. The region features legendary venues and history in just about every major style: rock, jazz, folk, hip hop, opera, the symphony and more. You're spoiled for choice just in **NYC** (p110) what with Lincoln Center and Birdland, Carnegie Hall and Harlem's **Apollo Theater** (p98) – not to mention its plethora of punk-rock nightclubs. **Philadelphia** (p309) also offers the full buffet: from top-flight opera and classical to funky rock, blues and jazz spots.

Surprisingly or not, New Jersey as a state keeps pace with both cities. Newark's **NJPAC** (p241) is a world-class cultural center, and **New Brunswick's theaters** (p251) are renowned statewide. Hoboken has the indie club **Maxwell's** (p238), and **Red Bank** (p216) has a thriving music scene. Tops for independent rock, though, is **Asbury Park** (p220), where the Stony Pony launched Bruce Springsteen and leads a vibrant scene. Looking for Dire Straits and Lady Gaga? Try **Atlantic City** (p269), whose casinos pull the top names.

Upstate New York has, first of all, **Woodstock** (p149), which tends the Summer of Love flame, and folk music is a regional favorite. In Chautauqua, the **Chautauqua Institution** (p207) has classical music in summer, and the **Saratoga Performing Arts Center** (p163) is upstate's primary music venue for big acts.

Plus, check the Calendar (p23) for music festivals year-round.



The Authors



JEFF CAMPBELL

Coordinating Author, New Jersey

Jeff grew up in central Jersey (exit 8A), moved to San Francisco, married a Jersey girl and now finds himself once again a resident of the Garden State – raising his own Jersey girl and boy! For Lonely Planet, he's been the coordinating author of the award-winning *USA* three times, plus *New York, Washington DC & the Mid-Atlantic Trips, Hawaii, Florida, Southwest USA* and others.



SARAH CHANDLER

New York State

Sarah hails from Minneapolis, known to New Yorkers as 'the flyover.' Raised on a steady diet of Woody Allen films and Blondie, she long dreamed of punk shows at CBGB. Since moving to Jersey and then NYC after college, she has waited tables in a trattoria, summered in Saratoga Springs, chased a thief in Washington Square Park, hiked the High Peaks, tubed the Catskills, gotten lost in the Shawangunks at twilight, temped in the Rockefeller Center, spent all her money on theater tickets, and woken up to mist rising off the Hudson at dawn. She secretly dreams about accidentally inheriting a brownstone in the West Village with good light, a garden and a jazz club nearby.



BRIDGET GLEESON

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Though Bridget grew up just 2 miles from the chocolate factory in Hershey, Pennsylvania, she's been off in South America for years writing about snorkeling in Brazil and whale-watching off the coast of Argentinian Patagonia. Returning to the US to cover her home state, she saw everything from a fresh perspective: suddenly, the Amish market was a gourmet paradise, Pittsburgh was a culture capital, and even the milk chocolate tasted sweeter than ever. Bridget was the author and a contributing photographer of Lonely Planet's *Buenos Aires Encounter* before contributing to *Argentina* and *Brazil*; she also writes for Delta Sky, AOL Travel, Tablet Hotels, and Mr & Mrs Smith.

LONELY PLANET AUTHORS

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DAVID OZANICH *New York City, Long Island, The Culture, Food & Drink*

David left the wilds of LA for New York when he was 18 and enrolled in NYU film school. Having fallen in love with NYC, he never left and still lives in Greenwich Village to these many years later. When not writing for Lonely Planet (he worked on *New York, Washington DC & the Mid-Atlantic Trips*), he pens teen novels (*Likely Story* for Knopf), plays (*The Lightning Field*), and screenplays. He also spent a year blogging about *One Life to Live* and *The Bold and the Beautiful* for Soapnet.com. Yes, that's true and he's not ashamed.

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