

LIVING AND WORKING IN THE GARDEN STATE OF NEW JERSEY (PART 1, SOUTH JERSEY)



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A QUICK GUIDE TO BEAUTIFUL SOUTH JERSEY

By Ted Costa

South Jersey is my home. After being born in Willingboro and living here in the southern part of the state for over 20 years total, leaving for 10 years, and then recently returning to buy a home to one day start a family in – I’ve seen and heard all facts and opinions about what it’s like to live in this not-so-little part of the state.

So here’s a quick guide from someone who knows it, lives it, and can give you an honest synopsis of what it’s all about living here (with, of course, a little hometown bias).

1. South Jersey is beautiful

The topography, the nature preserves, the farms, the historic homes, the beach (which I will go more into later, of course...) – they are but mere quick examples of what you find and see here. Where people get fooled from the “outside-looking-in” perspective is that passers-by only get to

view our historic highway system! You can make it through from DE to NY in less than 2 hours, but you'll miss everything along the way! Seeing the state and all it has to offer requires exploration; sometimes that means taking roads less travelled (at least less travelled than the NJ turnpike alone).

2. It's called the "Garden State" for a reason

Some areas of the world have all the luck – and in South Jersey, the luck is in the soil. Jersey can grow more than you can imagine given that we have both hot and cold seasons (yes, we get to sample all 4 seasons here – more on this later). Farmers of all crops have known this for centuries, and the state is host to a plethora of farm goods – tomatoes, blueberries, cranberries, apples, squash – really just to name a few. But don't let others have all the fun – grow your own, too! Right in your backyard, you'd be amazed at what you can do in your first year of learning how to grow a garden.

3. The water and the beaches

The beach, or I should say "the shore" as it's known here, will become a family staple for all who love the water and sand here. Although it is true that North Jersey has the beaches as well, there's something about the South Jersey shores that have their own charm to them. Many of the beaches are known as family

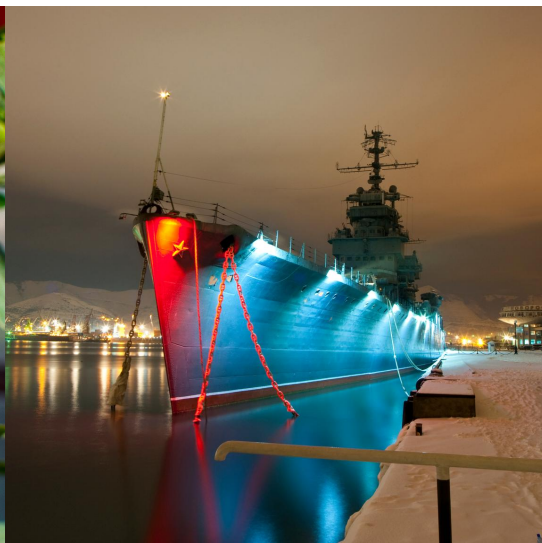
beaches; places to get away as you stay in a lovely town and forget about everything else for a while. And if beaches aren't your favorite body of water, there's plenty of bays and rivers to traverse as well. Whether it renting a boat for the day, hopping on one for a deep sea fishing trip, or owning your very own in one of our many, many marinas, there are plenty of ways to never feel too far from the water.

4. South Jersey is historic

You can check out monuments of history and towns built centuries ago – all within short distances from each other. Try a tour on the Battleship NJ on the DE river (go to the Aquarium while you're there, too – they're next-door neighbors). Or maybe the Burlington County Prison Museum to see how correctional facilities used to be (and if you're into haunted houses, try this out around Halloween especially). All the way from the 1880's, check out the bizarre sight of the Lucy The Elephant Museum right by the beach – make a whole trip out of that day!

5. Close in proximity to anything

Growing up in South Jersey, my family was able to go everywhere and anywhere on a whim. Skiing and snowboarding – no more than 2 hours away. NY theaters – a short train trip.



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CLOSE IN PROXIMITY TO ANYTHING...

Day trip to Atlantic City and the beaches? Just over an hour – add a few minutes if you stop for ice cream on the way out of town. Quick trip to DC for some museum touring – take a bus or drive a few hours with the family to see our nation’s capital.

6. Seasons change in New Jersey

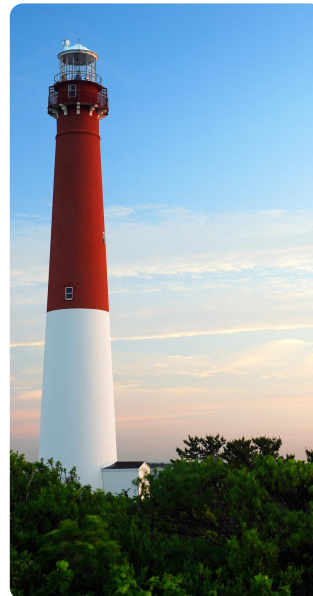
Perhaps one of my most favorite ticket items – the seasons. Being a photographer for fun on the side, I particularly enjoy seeing the state change with the times of the year. But you need not be a camera enthusiast to enjoy snow in winter, the sight of flowers blossoming in spring, the beachy weather in summer, and the leaves changing with the cooling breezes in fall. We have it all, it seems.

These are just some of things I’ve come to know and love – and I don’t believe I’ve seen it all... yet. But that’s one of the other things I like about South Jersey;

7. South Jersey keeps on giving

Families, businesses, small towns and cities – they all thrive here in this state. There’s always something new to explore, and new people to meet. The south side has a lot of character to it. Take it from me, a person who lives here and loves it here.

If you’re wondering what this spot in the world may hold for you and your family, just reach out! My colleague, Carmelyn, is actually a licensed agent and we can both set you up on a tour! We look forward to an honest conversation about your needs.



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