

# 25 Nature Spectacles In New Jersey

When it comes to natural beauty, New Jersey has a lot to offer. From stunning waterfalls to charming gardens and wildlife-rich reserves, the Garden State provides a plethora of nature spectacles that are sure to leave you in awe.

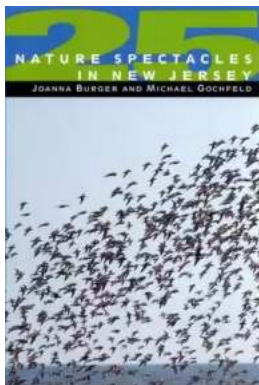
Whether you're a nature enthusiast or simply looking for a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, New Jersey's breathtaking landscapes will not disappoint. Here are the top 25 nature spectacles in New Jersey that you must visit:

## 1. High Point State Park

Located in Sussex County, High Point State Park offers a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape from its famous monument. The park is ideal for hiking, camping, and picnicking, with its serene beauty captivating visitors throughout the year.

## 2. Delaware Water Gap

Straddling the border between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the Delaware Water Gap is a natural wonder carved by the Delaware River. This majestic area offers numerous hiking trails and opportunities for rock climbing and kayaking.



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by Joanna Burger (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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### **3. Cape May Peninsula**

Known for its beautiful beaches and Victorian architecture, Cape May is also a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. The Cape May Peninsula hosts a variety of migratory birds and is famous for birdwatching, especially during the fall migration.

### **4. Paterson Great Falls**

Located in Paterson, New Jersey, the Paterson Great Falls is a breathtaking waterfall on the Passaic River. The falls served as an essential power source during the Industrial Revolution and are now protected as a National Historical Park.

### **5. Pine Barrens**

The Pine Barrens, a vast forested area in southern New Jersey, is a unique and mysterious landscape. It is home to rare plant species, such as the carnivorous pitcher plant, and provides a peaceful retreat for nature lovers.

### **6. Liberty State Park**

Located in Jersey City, Liberty State Park offers stunning views of the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island. The park is perfect for a picnic, leisurely walk, or bike ride while enjoying the breathtaking scenery.

### **7. Sandy Hook Beach**

Sandy Hook Beach is a popular coastal destination known for its picturesque sandy beaches and scenic trails. It offers a great opportunity to relax, swim, and enjoy the serenity of the Atlantic Ocean.

## **8. Duke Farms**

Owned by the Duke family, Duke Farms in Hillsborough is a 2,740-acre estate that boasts exquisite gardens, lakes, and waterfalls. It provides a peaceful escape for nature enthusiasts and is a hub for sustainable farming and environmental conservation.

## **9. Appalachian Trail**

The Appalachian Trail stretches over 2,000 miles and passes through a section of New Jersey. Hiking this portion of the trail allows you to immerse yourself in the serene beauty of the state's forests and mountains.

## **10. Island Beach State Park**

Island Beach State Park is a barrier island that offers miles of pristine shoreline, dunes, and wetlands. It is a prime destination for birding, fishing, and swimming, providing a unique coastal experience.

## **11. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge**

The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge encompasses over 7,600 acres of wetlands, forests, and meadows. It provides a sanctuary for migratory birds and various wildlife, offering excellent opportunities for nature photography and exploration.

## **12. Barnegat Lighthouse**

Situated on the northern tip of Long Beach Island, the Barnegat Lighthouse is a historic landmark that offers panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat

Bay. Climbing to the top rewards visitors with breathtaking vistas.

### **13. Deep Cut Gardens**

Located in Middletown, Deep Cut Gardens is a horticultural gem that showcases a variety of stunning plant collections and themed gardens. It is a tranquil oasis where visitors can appreciate the beauty and diversity of nature.

### **14. Hacklebarney State Park**

Hacklebarney State Park is a hidden gem nestled in the heart of Morris County. With its picturesque waterfalls, scenic trails, and picnic areas, it provides a perfect setting for a family outing or a peaceful hike.

### **15. Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge**

Stretching along the Atlantic Flyway, the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge hosts a rich diversity of bird species. The refuge offers observation platforms and trails that allow visitors to immerse themselves in the beauty of nature.

### **16. Ramapo Mountain State Forest**

With its rugged terrain, stunning overlooks, and serene lakes, Ramapo Mountain State Forest is a nature lover's paradise. It offers numerous recreational activities, including hiking, fishing, and camping.

### **17. Sandy Hook Lighthouse**

The oldest working lighthouse in the United States, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse stands proudly on the northern tip of the Sandy Hook peninsula. Visitors can climb its spiral staircase and enjoy breathtaking views of the coastline.

### **18. Jenkinson's Boardwalk**

Jenkinson's Boardwalk in Point Pleasant Beach is a popular tourist destination that combines amusement park attractions with a beautiful beach. It offers fun-filled activities for all ages, making it a great outing for families.

## **19. Wharton State Forest**

Wharton State Forest is the largest state forest in New Jersey, encompassing over 125,000 acres of diverse landscapes. It features rivers, forests, and historic sites, providing endless opportunities for outdoor adventures.

## **20. Liberty State Park Nature Interpretive Center**

The Liberty State Park Nature Interpretive Center offers educational exhibits and programs that highlight the rich biodiversity of the park. It is a great place to learn about the local flora and fauna while enjoying stunning views of the Manhattan skyline.

## **21. Grounds for Sculpture**

Grounds for Sculpture is a unique and enchanting sculpture park located in Hamilton. Explore a vast outdoor gallery of contemporary sculptures set among beautifully landscaped gardens, ponds, and woodlands.

## **22. Hackensack RiverWalk**

The Hackensack RiverWalk is a scenic waterfront path that stretches along the Hackensack River. It offers picturesque views of the river, wetlands, and New York City skyline, making it a perfect spot for a leisurely stroll or bike ride.

## **23. The Palisades Interstate Park**

The Palisades Interstate Park spans across New York and New Jersey, offering stunning views of the Hudson River and the Palisades cliffs. It features hiking

trails, picnic areas, and historic sites that allow visitors to appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

## 24. Great Falls of Toms River

The Great Falls of Toms River is a hidden gem in Ocean County. This scenic waterfall, surrounded by lush vegetation and rocky boulders, provides a tranquil and picturesque setting for nature enthusiasts.

## 25. Cape May Point State Park

Cape May Point State Park is a beautiful nature preserve that offers stunning views of the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. It is a haven for birdwatchers and provides access to the famous Cape May Lighthouse.

Now that you know about these 25 spectacular nature sites in New Jersey, it's time to plan your adventure. Whether you're seeking breathtaking views, peaceful gardens, or wildlife-filled habitats, New Jersey has something for everyone. Explore the diverse landscapes of the Garden State and immerse yourself in the beauty of nature.



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Join Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld as they guide readers to New Jersey's most marvelous natural spectacles. From mating horseshoe crabs in the Delaware Bay to goldenclub and orchids at Web's Mill Bog, the authors show us Garden State nature at its best.

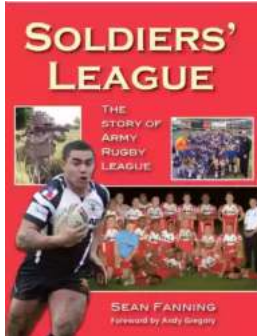
While New Jersey boasts far more than 25 nature spectacles, the authors have selected those that are the most dramatic, predictable, and characteristic of the state so readers can easily enjoy them over and over again. Being in the right place at the right time makes all the difference, so the guidebook is organized by season to ensure the best viewing.

Each chapter begins with a photo and a brief description of the spectacle. A listing of key locations, directions, and the best time to visit follows. A prime habitat section provides a brief characterization of the appropriate surroundings to look for the plant or animal spectacle. The description provides ambiance, natural and life history information allowing readers to enjoy fully what they are observing. A final section lists an agency or organization where more information can be found.

The book contains maps as well as a calendar of recommended events, including the Lambertville Shad Festival and the Barnegat Bay Duck Decoy Festival. The authors also list a number of other spectacles that while they didn't make the top 25 list, but are well-worth checking out—including a tongue-in-cheek look at what may be New Jersey's best-known wildlife, humans at the shopping mall.

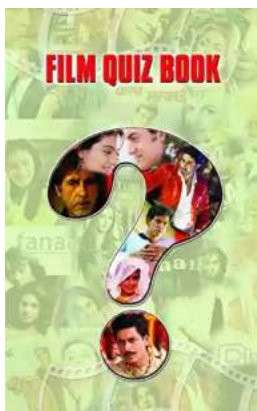
This book grows from the authors' quarter century of exploring the state's estuaries, bays, fields, and forests, observing and enjoying its natural habitats.

They've written the perfect guidebook for everyone, whether you are ready to head off to the great outdoors or prefer to read about nature from the comfort of your armchair.



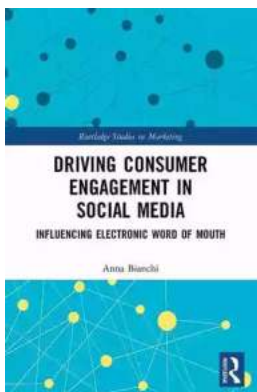
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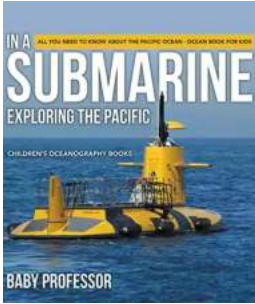
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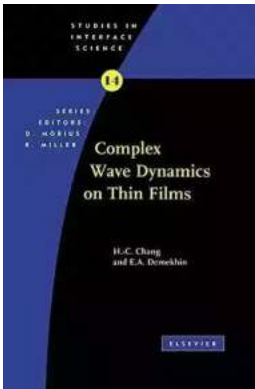
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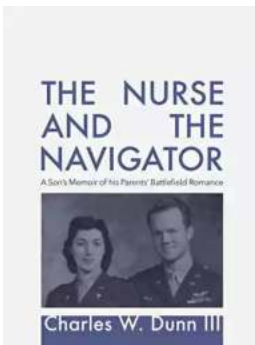
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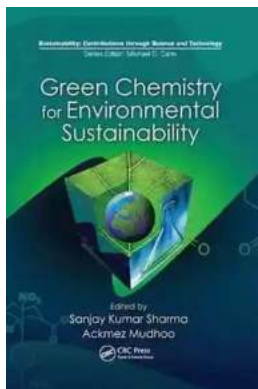
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