

New Jersey

By Tom Kirvan

THE GARDEN STATE OFFERS A UNIQUE CHARM

Often overshadowed by its larger neighbors, New York and Pennsylvania, New Jersey is a state with a unique identity and charm. Known as the Garden State, it boasts natural beauty, cultural landmarks, and economic significance. From its diverse population to its pivotal role in American history, New Jersey has something to enjoy for everyone.

With a population of approximately 9.4 million people, New Jersey is one of the most densely populated states in the U.S. Its diversity is one of its defining features, with significant communities of Italian, Irish, African American, Hispanic, and Asian heritage. This cultural mix is reflected in its cuisine, festivals, and daily life.

Geographically, New Jersey is a study in contrasts. The state spans from the sandy beaches of the Atlantic Coast to the rolling hills of the Highlands, down to the forested Pine Barrens in the south. The Delaware River defines its western boundary, while the Hudson River and New York Bay lie to the northeast.

New Jersey's history is deeply intertwined with the story of the United States. One of the original 13 colonies, it played a pivotal role in the American Revolution, earning it the nickname "Crossroads of the Revolution." Key battles, such as those in Trenton and Princeton, were fought on its soil. Visitors can explore these historic sites and learn about the state's contributions to the fight for independence.

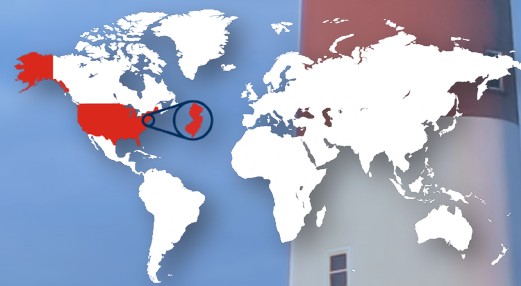
In the 19th and early 20th centuries, New Jersey became a hub of innovation and industry. Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratory, where the light bulb was perfected, is a testament to this legacy.

New Jersey's economy is as diverse as its population. It is a leader in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and telecommunications. Major companies like Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and Prudential have headquarters in the state, contributing to its economic strength.

Agriculture also plays a vital role, with New Jersey earning its Garden State nickname through the cultivation of produce like blueberries, cranberries, and tomatoes. The state's proximity to major metropolitan areas like New York City and Philadelphia ensures a thriving trade and logistics sector.

The state capital, Trenton, is steeped in history and served briefly as the nation's capital in 1784. Today, it's known for landmarks like the New Jersey State House and the Old Barracks Museum.

In contrast, Newark, the most populous city, is a bustling urban center and transportation hub. Home to Newark Liberty International Airport, the Prudential Center, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the city is a gateway to the state's cultural and economic vibrancy.



Fast Facts

Capital: Trenton

Population: 9.4 million

Highest Point: High Point (1,803 feet)

Trivia: The nation's first drive-in movie theater opened in 1933 in Camden.

Primerus Members:

- **Mandelbaum Barrett PC, PBLI**
(Roseland, New Jersey, U.S.)
- **Thomas Paschos & Associates, P.C., PDI**
(Haddonfield, New Jersey, U.S.)

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Top 5 Must-See Tourist Destinations

- **Atlantic City and the Jersey Shore:** Atlantic City, with its iconic boardwalk and casinos, is an alluring destination for entertainment and nightlife. The Jersey Shore, stretching from Sandy Hook to Cape May, offers sun-soaked beaches, quaint seaside towns, and family-friendly attractions.
- **Liberty State Park and Ellis Island:** Located in Jersey City, Liberty State Park provides stunning views of the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline. Visitors can take ferries to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, delving into America's immigrant heritage.
- **Princeton University:** Princeton University, one of the Ivy League's crown jewels, boasts a picturesque campus filled with Gothic architecture and rich history. The surrounding town offers boutique shops, cozy cafes, and cultural events, making it a perfect day trip destination.
- **Delaware Water Gap:** A haven for outdoor enthusiasts, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area spans more than 70,000 acres along the Delaware River. Activities include hiking, canoeing, and exploring waterfalls, with the Appalachian Trail passing through this scenic area.
- **Cape May:** Known for its Victorian architecture and charming streets, Cape May is one of America's oldest seaside resorts. Visitors can enjoy whale-watching tours, explore the historic Cape May Lighthouse, and relax on pristine beaches.

