

# Historic Sites Located Near Delaware's Atlantic Ocean Beaches

Following is a sampling of some of the historic places that can be visited within a 20-mile radius of [Delaware's Atlantic Ocean resorts](#)—Lewes, Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach, Bethany Beach and Fenwick Island. Hours of operation and other information can be found on each site's webpage.

## [De Vries Monument](#)

Pilottown Road, Lewes, Del.

Telephone: Call the Zwaanendael Museum at 302-645-1148



De Vries Monument

Delaware's Colonial history began near this site which commemorates Swanendael, meaning "Valley of the Swans," established by the Dutch in 1631 as a whale-hunting and agricultural station. The monument, located along the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal (originally called Hoorn Kill), is named for David Pieterszoon de Vries, general administrator of the Swanendael colony.

## [Zwaanendael Museum](#)

102 Kings Highway, Lewes, Del.

Telephone: 302-645-1148



Zwaanendael Museum

Operated by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the museum was built in 1931 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the state's first European colony, Swanendael. Modeled after the town hall in Hoorn, the Netherlands, the museum's exhibits and presentations provide a showcase for Lewes-area maritime, military and social history. Currently on-display are the exhibits "[Delaware and the War of 1812](#)" which examines the service and sacrifice of Delawareans of 1812 to 1815; and "[A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World](#)" which explores His Majesty's Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798. Each Monday between June 1 and Sept. 28, 2015 (except for Sept. 7), the museum also offers [lecture/tours of DeBraak](#) which include a trip to nearby Cape Henlopen State Park for a tour of the surviving section of the ship's hull.

As the administrator of many of the state's most important historic sites, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs leases the following properties to community organizations that in turn, operate them for public visitation.

### [Delaware Breakwater East End Lighthouse](#)

Surrounded by water, the lighthouse is located on the inner breakwater in Lewes harbor.  
Telephone: 302-226-3866 or 302-542-4432



The lighthouse was built in 1885 as a navigational aid for ships entering the Delaware Bay. It is currently closed to visitation. Cruises to the waters surrounding the structure are conducted by the [Delaware River & Bay Lighthouse Foundation](#).

Delaware Breakwater East End Lighthouse

### [Fenwick Island Lighthouse](#)

Located at the intersection of 146th St. and Lighthouse Lane, Fenwick Island, Del.  
Telephone: 443-235-8521  
Operated by the New Friends of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse.



Built in 1858 to protect shipping from the Fenwick sand shoals that extend several miles out from the Delaware coast, the lighthouse sits exactly on the eastern origin of the Mason-Dixon Line.

Fenwick Island Lighthouse

### Old Sussex County Court House

10 S. Bedford St., Georgetown, Del.

Telephone: 302-855-9660

Operated by the Georgetown Historical Society. Open 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on Saturdays, May 2, June 6, July 11, Aug. 1, and Sept. 5, 2015. Other times by appointment.



In 1791, the Sussex County seat was moved from Lewes to Georgetown in order to provide a more centralized location for county governmental and judicial functions. In 1793, the building now known as the Old Sussex County Court House was constructed in Georgetown to meet the exact dimensions of the former county court house in Lewes. In 1837, the building was moved from its original location on Georgetown Circle to make way for the current court house which still occupies the site.

Old Sussex County Court House

### Prince George's Chapel

101 Chapel Lane, Dagsboro, Del.

Telephone: 302-732-6835

Operated by the [Friends of Prince George's Chapel](#). Open by appointment.



Built in 1755 as an Anglican chapel-of-ease, the structure was named in honor of the English prince who would later become King George III. Its most distinctive feature is a barrel-vaulted ceiling made of natural, unadorned heart-of-pine planks.

Prince George's Chapel

Other attractions featuring Delaware history that are located within 20 miles of Delaware's beaches include the [Bethany Beach History Museum](#), [DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum](#), [Fort Miles Historical Area in Cape Henlopen State Park](#), [Indian River Life-Saving Station](#), [Lewes Historical Society](#), [Lightship Overfalls](#), [Milton Historical Society](#), [Nanticoke Indian Museum](#), [Nutter D. Marvel Carriage Museum](#), [Ocean View Historical Society](#), [Rehoboth Art League](#), [Rehoboth Beach Museum](#) and the [Treasures of the Sea](#) exhibit. In addition, the towns of [Lewes](#) and [Milton](#) contain historic districts that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.