Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/499823973

Downloaded on Jan 21, 2021



Spending days – and nights – along Delaware's shore

By EVE ZIBART
SPECIAL FROM THE WASHINGTON POST

If Ocean City, Md., is for families in summer, Rehoboth and Dewey Beach, Del., are for singles, at least along the boardwalk and beach areas.

Though it attracts plenty of families with small children (or teenagers), Rehoboth isn't as amusement-oriented as O.C. It also has an established gay/lesbian/bi community. Dewey Beach is famously the spot for college and young adult group homes, and tides of sun-lovers who roll out with coolers and come back with hums.

Rehoboth has increasingly affluent private communities and restaurants filled with well-to-do couples (and the obvious houses to match, especially around Silver Hill Lake), but they reside in Rehoboth year-round and don't necessarily hang with the summer-home boys.

Rehoboth is also, along with Lewes, Del., still recognizable as a "town" once off Route 1. Like Ocean Grove, it started as a religious camp, so its focus has always been the shore (and the wonders of nature); the commercial attractions came later. The buildings in the center of town are small and unpretentious; the classic Methodist-meeting "tent," really a wooden cottage typical of summer retreats all over the region, is the (fittingly) Christian Street headquarters of the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society.

It's a boardwalk town, but almost as an afterthought – it's only a couple of blocks long, and with just enough fries and popcorn and pizza to keep the tanners busy sated till dinner. Rehoboth is more espresso-bar savvy than its neighboring resorts, with its own bakeries and even cheese mongers.

The beach itself is wide and flat, and has long, easy views – hence the name Rehoboth, which is Hebrew for "broad places." Although the public beaches can be very busy and there is an unofficial but long-standing semi-nude gay beach south of the boardwalk ("Poodle Beach"), you can, on a few stretches, find something closer to quiet, if not complete solitude. One such area is at the abandoned military base at the end of North Shore Drive. Its parking lots have also been "abandoned," so you can park for free, a real perk in meter-heavy Rehoboth.

Beyond the beach

There is small-stop shopping up

See REHOBOTH Page T-5

Jill Schensul's column will return next week.

Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com

Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/499823979

Downloaded on Jan 21, 2021

Rehoboth: A year-round resort suited for the well-rounded

From Page T-1

and down Rehoboth Avenue and in the "mews" going off it, including some very nice home furnishings and accessories stores (people read Architectural Digest and Details on the beach) and antiques shops of the pricey sort.

The big-time budget-crunchers, however, head to the factory outlet malls along Route 1: Rehoboth Outlet Centers 1, 2, and 3, which together offer more than 140 designer and national brand names. Less slick shopping malls have popped up around them, too; and the fact that Delaware doesn't impose sales tax makes these areas destinations unto themselves.

Rehoboth has the only winery in Delaware: The Nassau Valley Vineyards has a tasting room, as well as a small museum and sometime art exhibit center off Route 404 just west of Route 1; the wines are pleasant and inexpensive.

Rehoboth has a more arts-conscious community than most beach resorts, and the Rehoboth Arts League in Henlopen Acres offers exhibits and classes year-round. It also has a sybaritic side, with at least a dozen day spas and massage studios.

There are also the traditional resort amusements: miniature golf courses, go-karts, bumper cars, water slides, and bowling.

Both towns have a fair amount of nightlife, but their respective "strips" have different styles that reflect the traditional crowds. Restaurants in Rehoboth are organized with two or three "seatings," with people wandering from bar to restaurant to lounge. Rehoboth has trendy restaurants clustered in the blocks just off the boardwalk and the franchises and larger or family-style establishment generally along Route 1. Cocktail hour is an important ritual in these parts and tends to the wine and shooters style (although at Dogfish Head, the house-distilled rum is making waves).

In Dewey Beach, it's happy hour: more and faster rounds and less conversation. In Dewey it's an all-nighter with your 12 housemates and thousands -- check the crowds at Ruddertown -- of your closest friends.

Karaoke and calypso

The music scene in the area is particularly lively. In Rehoboth, it's piano bars, notably Harlow's, with John Flynn at the ivories every Friday and Saturday night, and karaoke, notably at the Purple Parrot, and a little smoky blues and jazz at Sydney's. On Dewey it's live party music, at places such as the Waterfront and the Rusty Rudder, where the Island Boyz play calypso every evening from 4 to 9.

One of the newer additions to Rehoboth Beach nightlife is the Ram's Head, owned by the same folks who own the Ram's Head Tavern in Annapolis, Md. This establishment is several rungs up from the Irish bar previously occupying the premises. It features an open mike night for local musicians. Unlike the Dogfish Head, which brews on site (and which also books very good music), Ram's Head brings its beer over from the venerable Fordham Brewing Company in Annapolis.

And although it's anything but new, Dewey's Bottle & Cork continues to book some of the biggest names you'll find in Delmarva.



COURTESY DELAWARE TOURISM OFFI

Visitors stroll the beach and boardwalk, above, as well as enjoy a good volleyball game, right, in Rehoboth Beach, Del. Rehoboth has been a seaside resort for more than a century. While other resort towns are struggling with overdevelopment issues, or finding business during the winter, Rehoboth is becoming a year-round town.



COURTESY REHOBOTH BEACH DEWEY BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERC

IF YOU GO

Accommodations

Rehoboth has a wide range of lodging possibilities, from the campgrounds and discount motels along the routes into town (the farther away, the less expensive) to in-town suite hotels, (relatively) high-rise boardwalk hotels, 12-bedroom "retreats," condominiums, rental homes, and even a few guest houses and bed-and-breakfasts. You can spend from $130 to $400 for ocean-view hotel rooms, up to $200 for oceanfront condos, and $5,000 a week for retreats. Browse the Web at www.rehoboth.com for more information.

Dewey Beach, though most famous for the houses rented by mini-consortiums of Capitol Hill interns and college students, also has plenty of motels ($125-$200 a night) and rental villas and condos (up to $2,800 a week) along the oceanfront; if you settle for a poolside efficiency, you can probably find something for $75. Go to www.beach-fun.com.

Dining and nightlife

Bucking the Rehoboth trend to fusion cooking is the new Ocean Club, which offers a fairly pricey menu of the Ocean City, Md., style, from the crab imperial to the surf and turf: 23 Baltimore Ave., (302) 227-9563.

Perhaps the most fun addition to the dining scene, one that hits the post-glasnost Russian revival trend and baroque bubble-lounge kitsch chic, is Red Square, a small nest of lacquer-brilliant booths and samovars. It offers a small and very select menu of beluga, osetra, and sevruga; cheeses and salads; and a half-dozen smoked meats and fowl. Dish not to miss: The blini that Red Square brings from Miami are the best yet. 162 Rehoboth Ave.; (302) 226-7782.

Bottle & Cork, Highway 1, Dewey Beach, (302) 227-7272

Dogfish Head, 320 Rehoboth Ave., (302) 226-2739

Harlow's, 404A Rehoboth Ave., (302) 226-0207

Purple Parrot, 247 Rehoboth Ave., (302) 226-1139

Ram's Head, 15 Wilmington Ave., (302) 227-0807

Rusty Rudder, Dickinson Street, Dewey Beach, (302) 227-3888

Sydney's Blues & Jazz Restaurant, 25 Christian St., (302) 227-1339

The Waterfront, 136 Dagsworthy Ave., Dewey Beach, (302) 227-9292

More information

Contact the Rehoboth-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (302) 227-2233 or (800) 441-1329, or visit www.beach-fun.com or www.rehoboth.com.

— EVE ZIBART

PRINCESS
where i belong



JERSEY SHORE CALENDAR

Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com