

Welcome to Cape May!



Welcome AMOY Working Group! The New Jersey local planning committee has compiled some information to help plan your trip to Cape May for the 2025 AMOY Working Group Meeting. This document includes information about travel and arrival, on-site facilities and meeting logistics, as well as information about nearby restaurants, grocery stores, pharmacies, other services, and attractions. We hope you enjoy your stay! *Please note that hours and availability of some establishments may change seasonally with little notice, so consider calling ahead when making plans.*

CONTENTS:

- Meeting & agenda
- Cost & registration
- Field trip
- Presenters
- Lodging
- Arrival & departure instructions
- Parking
- Meals
- Travel information
- Optional tour of Cape May Point State Park
- Fall birding in Cape May
- Contact information
- More local info

Meeting & Agenda

The 2025 American Oystercatcher Working Group Meeting will be held in Cape May, New Jersey at the [Cape May Point Arts and Science Center](#). The meeting will be two full days (October 15 and 16) and a half-day field trip on Friday October 17th. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am on Wednesday and Thursday, with virtual attendees able to sign in at 8:30 am. The [agenda](#) will be available on the AMOYWG website (www.amoywg.org).

Cost & Registration

Virtual registration is \$30/person and Zoom links will be sent out individually prior to the meeting. In-person registration is \$135 and includes breakfast (Wed/Thurs), lunch (Wed/Thurs), a group dinner on Wednesday and meeting coffee/snack breaks. Lodging and add-on costs for the Thursday social and field trip lunch are separate. All payments will be accepted through online registration.

Field Trip

A half-day field trip is scheduled on the morning of Friday October 17th, 7:30-11:30 am. We will leave from the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center by car to go see a few important nesting sites, marsh or beach restoration sites, and high tide roosts of oystercatchers within the seaside barrier island/marsh system on foot. Box lunch orders are provided with registration and will be brought on the field trip. If you are attending the field trip, please be prepared for chilly and/or wet conditions. Additional details will be provided during the meeting.

Presenters

The virtual meeting will be hosted on Zoom. Virtual presenters will be asked to share their screens.

Information for in-person presenters:

- Presentations will be loaded onto and run from the meeting room computer.
- Please try to upload your presentation to this [FOLDER](#) ahead of the meeting.
- Alternatively, you can email your presentation to Sam Collins (scollins@wetlandsinstitute.org) *or* arrive early on the day of your presentation to upload your presentation.

Lodging

In-person attendees have been given the option of dorm-style lodging at [Cape May Point Arts and Science Center](#) (The Center). The Center stands nestled among the dune grasses at New Jersey's southernmost point, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Delaware Bay, creating one of the country's most vital and biodiverse ecosystems. Devoted to environmental protection, restoration, and conservation throughout the region, The Center advances its mission by providing unique opportunities and funding for advocacy, education, and research.

The Center is a 38,000 square-foot Victorian structure that debuted as the Shoreham Hotel in 1889. In 1909, it became Saint Mary by-the-Sea, the summer retreat house for the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia. Lovingly maintained by the Sisters for more than 100 years, The Center would not be possible without their preservation of the building and dedicated stewardship of nature. With widespread community support, and under the leadership of top

researchers and scientists, The Center builds on Cape May Point's century-and-a-half long legacy of providing a restorative backdrop for recreational, spiritual, and educational retreats.



The Cape May Point Arts and Science Center offers charming, affordable dormitory-style housing that is “European-style.” Since many of the dorm rooms are not climate controlled, mid October offers an ambient temperature for the facility that is located on the water. There is a student discount for rooms and options for a limited number of rooms that have a queen bed and smaller daybed. The Center can accommodate 40-50 overnight guests. A limited number of rooms are available with heating and these will be filled on a first-come/first-serve basis (please indicate during booking if you would like to request one of these rooms). A variety of shared bathrooms throughout the floor will be available for use during your stay. Booking will be done directly through the center (info@cmpscience.org) and prices are as follows:

\$100/night for single or full-time undergraduate/graduate students

\$125 for single occupancy professional

\$150/night for double occupancy professional

\$175/night for suite rooms (queen bed and twin daybed) ***limited number of these rooms***



Information on other local inn/hotel accommodations is provided in this document for attendees who want to arrange their own lodging. Cape May offers a plethora of rooming accommodations based on your preference. If making it a longer stay (getaway), please visit the “[Stay in Cape](#)”

[May](#)” site. If you are looking for a Bed and Breakfast, Cape May is the place to be! Victorian charm is throughout the area and the early fall timeframe offers availability and deals. Below are a few options that we recommend:

The Beach Club on Madison Ave
605 Madison Ave, Cape May, NJ 08204
855-785-6851

Escape to [The Beach Club on Madison Ave](#), considered Cape May’s premier adults only boutique hotel, located 15 minutes (3.8 miles) from the science center. A discounted block of 10 king studio rooms (\$149/night) has been reserved as an option for the group. Each room is equipped with a king size bed, bathroom, and kitchenette. Book directly through this [link](#) for the discounted group rate to reserve your room. The discounted room block will be released on September 14th, one month prior to the meeting, but after that date they are still willing to honor the group rate on an individual call-in basis but be sure to reference The Wetlands Institute when making a reservation.



The Sea Crest Inn
101 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-4561

The scenic [Sea Crest Inn](#) offers beach-front views of the ocean and is located approximately 8 minutes (2.9 miles) from the science center. The hotel offers a range of room choices under \$175 if you use the discount code “2025discount” when booking. Hotel amenities include a large heated swimming pool, poolside whirlpool, and close proximity to hundreds of shops and restaurants. There are several options for double occupancy rooms at this location, making this an affordable stay for 2-3 people. Booking should be done directly through the [Sea Crest Inn website](#) and be sure to use the discount code “2025discount.”



Arrival & Departure Instructions

Attendees who registered for lodging at Cape May Point Arts and Science Center will be provided with more information about their stay via email after registration is confirmed. Linens, pillows, blankets, and towels will be provided on each bed. Instructions for clean-up before departure will be provided both in writing at the facilities and during meeting updates.

Parking

Parking at the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center will be available in designated parking spots outside the facility for overnight guests. Ample street parking surrounding the facility will also be available for overnight guests or those commuting in for the meeting.

Meals

All meals that are provided during the meeting will include a variety of options, including vegetarian and vegan options. Specific dietary restrictions indicated during registration will also be considered. Dining options throughout Cape May are quite extensive.

Breakfast (included in registration): A light breakfast (quiche/frittatas, bagels, fruit, granola bars, coffee) will be provided on Wednesday and Thursday at the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center, 7:00-8:30 am.

Lunch (included in registration): We will have catering options for lunch at Cape May Point Arts and Science Center on Wednesday and Thursday. A variety of wrap/sandwich options will be offered for the field trip boxed lunch on Friday. Specific orders for the field trip boxed lunches will be provided as indicated on the registration.

Snacks: Coffee, snacks, and drinks will be provided during the meeting.

Dinner: Dinners on Tuesday night and Friday night (if you are staying) are on your own. Local restaurant information is provided in this document. A buffet style dinner on Wednesday night (included in registration) will be held at The Cape May Point Arts and Science Center, where the meeting is located. Thursday evening will be an off-site social gathering for dinner and drinks that will be pay on your own. More information will be provided closer to the meeting about menu options to meet vegetarian, vegan, and other dietary restrictions for included meals and the social gathering (pay on your own) for Thursday evening.

Travel Information

The Cape May Point Arts and Science Center is located at [101 Lehigh Ave, Cape May Point, NJ 08212](https://www.capemaypointartsandsciencecenter.com/101-Lehigh-Ave-Cape-May-Point-NJ-08212). Cape May is considered the “end of the earth” for many locals since it is in a scenic, historic and ecologically important area as part of the mid-Atlantic Flyway for migratory avian species. With that said, there are numerous ways to get to Cape May, New Jersey.

Travelers will be encouraged to carpool to and from the airport and the Local Organizing Committee will assist with making arrangements for shuttles if need be.

Flights to Atlantic City, Philadelphia, and Newark Airports

The closest airport to Cape May is the [Atlantic City International Airport](#) (ACY), approximately a 1-hour drive. The airport is located off the Atlantic City Expressway (Toll Road). From the Expressway, at exit 7s is the entrance to the Garden State Parkway South (Toll Road) that will bring you right into Cape May (45 miles).

The [Philadelphia International Airport](#) (PHL), has many options for affordable flights but would require a longer commute to the venue, approximately 1hour and 45minutes. It is located off Interstate 95 that then leads to 76 East and the Atlantic City Expressway (Toll Road), then to exit 7s for the Garden State Parkway South (Toll Road), right into Cape May (97 miles, 2 hours). See below about a NJ Transit bus from Philadelphia to Cape May.

The [Newark International Airport](#) (EWR) offers numerous flights but would be a much longer commute to Cape May, approximately 2.5 hours. From the New Jersey Turnpike South (Toll Road), take exit 11 for the Garden State Parkway South (Toll Road), and take this for 127 miles.

Public Transportation

New Jersey Transit offers bus transportation from Philadelphia, Newark, or Atlantic City to Cape May. Please see a more detailed schedule from [New Jersey Transit](#).

Commute to Cape May

The famed Garden State Parkway is the most direct way to enter Cape May from the west and north. The Parkway is a toll road with some tolls costing \$2.30 at the booth, with multiple booths and costs expected depending on your origin. From the Garden State mile-marker “0,” the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center is about 16 minutes.

Cape May-Lewes Ferry

A great way to get to Cape May from the south is the [Cape May-Lewes Ferry](#) that runs numerous trips between Lewes, Delaware and Cape May, New Jersey. Getting to the Ferry Terminal in Lewes is a bit tricky and they like passengers to be there at least 45 minutes in advance so be sure to allocate a good amount of time if you are planning to take the ferry across. The ferry itself runs about 1.5 hours on the Delaware Bay from Lewes to Cape May. See the [Sailing Schedule](#) for October and try to book far in advance to get your choice of sailing times. The ferry terminal is located about 7 miles (approximately 15-20 min.) from the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center. Below are the ferry prices for September 1-October 31, 2025:

	One-Way	Round Trip
Passenger and Driver Fares		
Adult (14-61 years)	\$10	\$18
Senior (62+ years)	\$8	\$14
Child (6-13 years)	\$3	\$5
Child (under 6 years)	FREE	FREE
Military (ID required)	\$8	\$14
First Responder (ID required)	\$8	\$14
AAA (adult; membership # required)	\$8	\$14

Vehicle Fares (does not include driver)**

Car, SUV, Pick-Up Truck (under 20')	\$33	\$58
Motorcycle	\$27	\$47
3-Wheel Motorcycle or Motorcycle w/trailer	\$27	\$47
Scooter	\$13	\$23
Long Vehicle and Pick-up Trucks (20' and over)	Vary - Check when registering	

Optional Tour of Cape May Point State Park

Arriving early on Tuesday? For those interested in a tour of [Cape May Point State Park](#), please contact Samantha Collins (scollins@wetlandsinstitute.org). The park is home to an active hawkwatch platform and iconic landmarks including the Cape May Lighthouse and Battery 223 (aka “the bunker”), the remains of a harbor defense battery from World War II. On this tour, we will explore these features as well as ponds, coastal dunes, marshes, and forest habitat along the hiking trails and beaches of the state park that offer great opportunities for bird watching and wildlife viewing.

Fall Birding in Cape May

Cape May is known as one of the best migration hot spots in the world. Fall migration in Cape May is particularly spectacular. There are many enjoyable walks on the island to look for migrant birds and butterflies. Additionally, there are the Cape May Migration Watches that are within a short walk or drive of the Science Center.

The Cape May Hawkwatch is viewable from the Hawkwatch Platform at Cape May Point State Park. ~5 minute walk from the Science Center. Sunrise to sunset daily.

Find out more about NJ Audubon’s Cape May Hawkwatch here:

<https://njudubon.org/watch/cape-may-hawkwatch/>

If you’re an early bird, check out “Morning Flight” which is a sunrise count of migratory landbirds. It is hosted at Highbee Beach Wildlife Management Area. ~10 minute drive from the Science Center. Begins at sunrise, typically goes for about 3 hours or until morning migration drops off. *Recommend solid footwear as it does require climbing a dike to reach the count area

Find out more about NJ Audubon’s Morning Flight:

<https://njudubon.org/watch/morning-flight/>

If you’re up for seabirds, take a ride up to Avalon to witness the migration of seabirds from the Avalon jetty. ~30 minute drive from Science Center. Sunrise to sunset daily.

Find out more about NJ Audubon’s Avalon Seawatch:

<https://njudubon.org/watch/avalon-seawatch/>

Recommendations for birding/hiking trails in Cape May:

TNC's The Garrett Family Preserve at Cape Island Creek

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/garrett-family-preserve-at-cape-island-creek/>

TNC's South Cape May Meadows

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/south-cape-may-meadows/>

NJFW's Highbee Beach Wildlife Management Area

Pin to parking lot for beach access: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fqDDC8hAePoJC1F18>

*Can access trails from these parking lots. Trails are loosely marked.

Cape May Point State Park

<https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/capemaypointstatepark.html>

Contact Information

Questions? Please contact anyone on the Steering Committee or Local Organizing Committee.

AMOY WG Steering Committee - Lindsay Addison, Raya Pruner, Tim Keyes, Sam Collins, Trevor MacLaurin

NJ Meeting Planning Committee – Sam Collins, Emily Heiser, Meghan Kolk, Emmy Casper, Todd Pover, Kashi Davis, Lisa Ferguson

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More Local Info!

The city of Cape May, “The Nation’s Oldest Seashore Resort,” distinguishes itself in many ways through its pristine beaches, promenade, and all the amenities that make any seashore town worth visiting but with a rich history and an architectural diversity equal to none. For the best reference on local attractions, dining, shopping, activities, leisure, and events visit the [Cape May website](#) for a plethora of options on things to do and explore during your visit!

