

TRAVEL

Atlantic City offers visitors more than gaming tables

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (PRNewswire) - It's always a great time to visit Atlantic City, "America's Favorite Playground," whether you plan to spend a day, stay overnight in one of the resort's luxurious casinos or hotels or settle in for a week of fun and exciting activities the resort has to offer.

Atlantic City rolls out the welcome mat for nearly 37 million people each year who visit the seaside resort's 12 dazzling casinos with 24-hour gaming offering non-stop excitement, hours of entertainment and four-star restaurants. The resort's white, sandy beaches and world-famous Boardwalk offer year-round fun for the entire family, including swimming, boating, surfing, fishing, croquet and special events, and exploring unique stores for gifts and memorabilia, and quiet strolls enjoying the sea breezes under a spectacular skyline. Atlantic City's choices are endless with everything from festive and special events, action-packed sporting events, public shows featuring cars, antiques and collectibles, sailboats and a fun-filled kids' fair; public concerts; cultural and historic attractions, and so much more.

Don't miss the fabulous attractions Atlantic City offers, including Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum with its quirky, unusual exhibits. The Atlantic City Historical Museum on Garden Pier chronicles the city's history. You'll see gowns and crowns worn by past Miss Americas, photographs and artifacts of the elegant hotels from the turn of the century, and a poignant film documenting Atlantic City throughout the decades. The Florence Valore Miller Art Center, also on Garden Pier, houses six galleries and exhibits the works of renowned artists. Other area museums include Lucy the Elephant in nearby Margate; the Noyes Museum and its extensive collection of regional folk art and contempo-

rary American fine art.

If you like some physical activity, ice or walk along the world-famous Boardwalk or rent a bicycle for an early morning ride. Sea Skate Pavilion offers rollerblading and roller skating from spring through fall, and ice skating during the late fall and winter. Skaters get a view of the ocean from the Pavilion, located in front of Boardwalk Convention Hall. Canoeing, camping, kayaking, and hiking are available in nearby local, state and national parks. And of course, there's the entire Atlantic Ocean to swim in!

For those who enjoy spectator sports, minor league baseball comes to Atlantic City in early 1998, with the Atlantic City Surf creating waves of excitement in the new stadium called "The Sandcastle." Minor league hockey is also expected in 1999, and the Atlantic City Seagulls provide basketball excitement. Atlantic City is also the scene for many major boxing matches, the planned renovation of Convention Hall on the Boardwalk will turn the facility into a special events arena for major sporting events, the annual Miss America Pageant, and family entertainment.

Golfers can tee off at any one of the 23 beautifully manicured courses in the area throughout the year. The Blue Heron Pines Golf Club has received a four-star rating from Golf Digest, which designated it one of the top three public courses in New Jersey in 1996 due to its combination of features from such famed courses as Pine Valley and Pinehurst, among others. The 175-acre Mays Landing Golf Club was designed by Leo Baez, former president of the PGA, while the Cape May National Golf Club, built around a 50-acre natural preserve, has been honored with numerous awards for its environmental sensitivity. Bring the clubs and test out the courses at your leisure.

Get back to nature at the

40,000-acre Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, a migratory stop to more than 200 species of birds. The Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary is a nationally recognized nesting ground for American egrets and hundreds of species of shore birds. The Wetlands Institute and Museum in Stone Harbor is a 6,000-acre wildlife refuge and includes marsh trails, a children's discovery room, aquarium and observation tower. The Sea Life Museum-Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine is a unique rehabilitation facility devoted to rescuing and returning stranded or injured whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals and sea turtles to their natural habitats.

Fishing enthusiasts will find a variety of charter boats available throughout the region to traverse the Atlantic Ocean for canyon billfishing, overnight tuna chunking, and spring and fall stripper trips.

For family entertainment stroll through the Cape May County Park & Zoo with more than 300 species of animals, birds and reptiles, or in nearby Bridgeton, the 10-acre Cohanizk Zoo houses animals from all over the world - including several rare white tigers. The Cowtown Rodeo - the oldest rodeo on the East Coast - in Woodstown, is just minutes from Atlantic City. Nearby Storybook Land enchants children with costumed characters, settings from favorite stories and amusement rides. Sandcastle building and rolling surf appeal to the child in everyone.

History comes alive in the Atlantic City area, too. The Southern New Jersey area is the site of Batsto Historic Village, an iron mining village that was a principal source of ammunition for the Revolution, and Wheaton Village, featuring the Museum of American Glass, a fully operational glass factory with glassmaking demonstrations, craft shops, train rides and special events. Right in Atlantic City,

visitors can see the Absecon Lighthouse built in 1857, and nearby are four other lighthouses featuring artifacts, memorabilia and tours. Other local attractions include numerous museums, historical societies and restored homesteads, houses and mansions.

Visitors can enjoy a host of other attractions throughout the South Jersey area. Six wineries and vineyards are only minutes away from Atlantic City, including the Renault Winery, the oldest working winery in the country. Each one offers wine tastings and tours of their facilities.

Dining diversity is offered in Atlantic City with over 200 restaurants to choose from, including waterfront restaurants, quaint pubs, ethnic cuisine, a world-famous submarine sandwich shop, and gourmet fare. Each of the resort's 13 casinos boast great food in a variety of settings for every taste. The resort also has themed eateries, including Harrah's Casino Hotel's FantaSea Reef Buffet; Resorts Casino Hotel's California Pizza Kitchen; Caesars Atlantic City Hotel Casino's Planet Hollywood; and Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort's Hard Rock Cafe, the Stage Deli, and the Official All-Star Cafe. But check out the other choices off the Boardwalk as well!

Atlantic City has been the home of the Miss America Pageant since 1921, and fans can visit the Miss America Home at the Atlantic City Boardwalk along Michigan Avenue to read plaques with inscriptions by, or about, each winner. Miss America memorabilia is displayed in the new Sheraton Convention Center Hotel, new home to the Miss America Organization. And in the Sheraton, stop by the "Shoe Bar" with its displays of contestants' footwear, and have your picture taken wearing a stainless steel version of the Miss America crown.

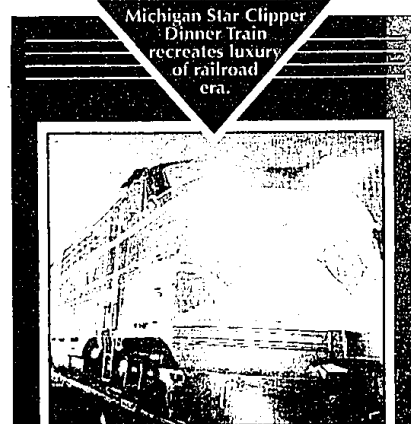
In Atlantic City, there is a \$7 billion renaissance redevelopment under way showcased by

the new \$268 million Atlantic City Convention Center. The renaissance also includes the 500-room Sheraton Convention Center Hotel; the Grand Boulevard, Atlantic City's new entranceway, featuring a 90-foot high lighthouse replica, a dazzling laser light show at night, cascading fountains and park areas; the Atlantic City Bus Terminal; the New Jersey Rail Terminal, adjacent to the new convention center; road improvements and infrastructure; new housing and beautification projects throughout the city.

A visit to Atlantic City is a

must for all age groups, and that's why nearly 37 million people make "America's Favorite Playground" their destination of choice for a fun-filled day, a luxurious overnight stay or a vacation for the entire family.

The ACC&VA serves as Atlantic City's marketing arm generating economic growth through both convention and leisure tourism business on behalf of its parent agency, the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which is responsible for Boardwalk Convention Hall and The New Atlantic City Convention Center.



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Weather service advises travelers

WAYNE, Pa., Dec. 11 (PRNewswire) - Dreaming of sun-drenched beaches on your next vacation? Seeking fresh powder and nightly snowfalls during your next ski trip? Hoping for cool winds to refresh you on your next hiking expedition?

Now, through a revolutionary Web site and telephone advisory service, vacationers can access weather forecasts up to 12 months in advance. WeatherPlanner has launched a service that offers reliable, customized weather forecasts for over 85,000 locations in the United States (including Hawaii) and Canada for a nominal fee. In addition, WeatherPlanner has extensive databases of weather forecasts for ski resorts, U.S. National Parks and the Caribbean.

"We anticipate our service to be a must for vacationers," said Frederic D. Fox, president, WeatherPlanner. "Successful vacations are completely dependent upon the weather. With prior knowledge of weather conditions, vacationers selecting their dates and destinations can avoid significant losses of time, money and effort. WeatherPlanner aids in planning to minimize risk, protect against loss and provide peace of mind. And, to our knowledge, we are the first and only weather planning service to provide a money-back satisfaction guarantee."

The service can be accessed through the Internet at <http://www.weatherplanner.com>

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Frederic D. Fox
President, WeatherPlanner

or by calling WeatherPlanner at 1-800-741-PLAN (7268) to speak directly with a personal weather advisor. The service is available for \$14.95 for a one- to ten-day forecast, for any period up to 12 months in advance, via the Internet, and \$2.99 per minute through the telephone advisory service. WeatherPlanner's forecasts are backed by a satisfaction guarantee of a full refund of the fee for any customer who is not satisfied with the service.

In the last quarter of 1998, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East bordering on the Mediterranean Sea will be added to the geographic scope. In addition to providing weather forecasting and planning services, WeatherPlanner also offers current conditions including maps, satellite and radar reports for the U.S. and worldwide on their Web site, free of charge.

WeatherPlanner is a wholly owned division of Strategic Weather Services (SWS). Through SWS, we've been providing weather forecasting and

advisory services to companies for over sixty years," noted Fox, also president of SWS. "Our SWS business clients include Sears, Wal-Mart, Kmart, Eastern Mountain Sports, EcoChallenge and Pep Boys, as well as many others. Our business clients use our highly reliable forecasts for a variety of strategic, business and event planning decisions. With the advent of the Internet and the incorporation of a sophisticated telephone system, we are now able to expand our service to provide consumers with the power to intelligently plan events that can be impacted by weather."

WeatherPlanner's sophisticated proprietary technology utilizes higher mathematics and

atmospheric physics to project future weather events. Ongoing analysis of more than 100 years of historical weather data helps to determine the intensity associated with the modeled forecasts. The resulting forecasts show the development, movement and decay of macro-scale weather systems, which WeatherPlanner's weather advisors interpret to create the firm's forecasts.

WeatherPlanner, headquartered in Wayne, Pa., is a wholly owned division of Strategic Weather Services. WeatherPlanner provides customized weather forecasting and advisory services for consumers through their Web site at <http://www.weatherplanner.com> and their telephone advisory service at 1-800-741-PLAN, as well as through several independent Web sites including Maine Nordic Ski Council (<http://www.mnsc.com>) and Great Outdoor Recreation Pages (<http://www.gorp.com>). For additional information, contact WeatherPlanner at 610-407-2900, or e-mail at mail@weatherplanner.com.

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