



Lewes, DE



Lewes, Delaware, is situated at Cape Henlopen where the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean meet. Lewes was established as a whaling station by the Dutch and named Zwaanendael in 1631. Delaware later became part of the Pennsylvania territory granted to William Penn, who renamed the area after his home county of Sussex, England, and its port city, Lewes, in 1862. During the War of 1812, a British frigate bombarded the town. Lewes has been essentially a seafaring town throughout its history. The Lewes and Rehoboth Canal flows through the city.

The Zwaanendael Museum is a showcase for Lewes-area maritime, military, and social history. Modeled after the town hall in Hoorn, the Netherlands, the museum commemorates the founding of Delaware's first European settlement.

The Lewis Historical Society operates three museums and the Historic Complex. The Ryves Holt House (c.1665) is the oldest house still standing in the State of Delaware and has been a tavern and inn, a court house, an insurance office, a church office, and a family home and now is the museum's gift shop. The Cannonball House, which was struck by a cannonball during the War of 1812, is home to the Society's collection of maritime artifacts. Lewes Life-Saving Station also contains collections and exhibits of local maritime history and is known for its heroics during a freak March squall in 1888 when dozens of ships were wrecked in the Breakwater.

The Historic Complex consists of nine historic buildings dating from the mid 1600s to the late 1800s that illustrate the impact of the sea on the community: Hiram Rodney Burton House (c.1694), Burton-Ingram House (c. 1785), Rabbit's Ferry house (c.1741), Midway School #178 (c.1898), Doctor's Office (c.1850), Early Plank House (c.1700s), Thompson Country Store (c.1800), Ellegood House (c. 1800), and Lewes Blacksmith Shop (c.1785). With the exception of the Hiram Rodney Burton House, all the buildings have been relocated from other locations in Lewes or surrounding communities.

The Bethel United Methodist Church Hall is the venue for Coastal Concerts' annual series of classical music performances. Free summer concerts are held in Stango Park on most Tuesday evenings.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Lewes has several residential areas. Lewes's Historic District contains homes in Queen Anne, Second Empire, Early Republic, mid-19th century revival, and Colonial styles. Shipcarpenter Square was conceived as a community of historic homes, primarily farmhouses constructed from the late 1700s through the late 1800s that have been moved from other locations. Most of these historic homes have additions due to their original, relatively small size. Burton's Subdivision is located between the historic district and the Beebe Medical Center and Blockhouse Pond and has housing that includes small cottages and two-story houses on small lots. New home construction is underway on several previously empty lots. Mariner's Way is a waterfront condominium community on the Lewes Canalfront in the heart of the historic district. The Devries Circle community is defined by an eclectic mix of homes of varying styles and sizes, many shady green open spaces, and mature trees.

Along and east of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal, Lewes has many single-family homes in styles that range from classic beach cottages to modern homes. The area also has various condominium and townhouse communities, such as the Breakwater House, Ocean House, Safe Harbor, Captain's Quarters, Queenanne Pier, Pilot Point, and Port Lewes.

Lewes has many neighborhoods west of the canal with single-family homes, such as Pilottown Park, Pilottown Village, and the Reserve at

Pilottown, which has some homes that date from the 17th century. Other neighborhoods include the Bay Breeze Community, Beach Plum Place, and Drake Knoll, which consists of houses designed as replicas of historic styles.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Lewes has several local parks and two beaches. The Lewes Canalfront Park is part of the historic district and features a "seaside theme" playground, tennis courts, ballpark, pier, gazebo and gardens. The 1812 Memorial Park, also known as The Cannonball Park, commemorates the site's usage as a defense battery during the War of 1812. George H.P. Smith Park has a playground, horseshoe pit, butterfly garden, and a shaded fishing pond. Zwaanendael Park is home to the Zwaanendael Museum, the 18th-century Fisher Martin House, and the Fisher Martin Herb Garden, which is an authentic colonial herb garden.

Cape Henlopen State Park offers biking, camping, 18-hole disc golf course, basketball courts, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, kayaking, surfing, swimming, and bird watching. Prior to 1964, the land that comprises Cape Henlopen State Park was part of Fort Miles, which was a heavily armed coastal fortification built in 1941 to defend the Delaware River and Bay area and Philadelphia during World War II. Delaware State Parks is working to restore a portion of this facility so that visitors may experience what occurred here.

The Great Marsh Preserve contains such habitats as fresh and saltwater wetlands, intertidal mud flats, and Atlantic white cedar swamps, which can be explored by canoe or kayak.

EDUCATION

Cape Henlopen School District educates approximately 4,500 students in Lewes, Milton, and Rehoboth Beach in four elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school.

The University of Delaware College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment Hugh R. Sharp Campus is located in Lewes and offers undergraduate and graduate degree options for students.

Margaret H. School of Nursing at Beebe Medical Center is a diploma nursing program located in Lewes.

HEALTH CARE

The city is served by a 210-bed community hospital.

CITY STATS

2011

City Population	2,798
Micropolitan Statistical Area Population	200,330
Per Capita Personal Income, Seaford, DE	\$34,988