Sixth Edition
VisitSomersetNJ.org

Somerset County Destination Guide



Discover Our Deep, American Jeritage in New Jerse **Explore** Enriching Recreational Activities for Families & Kids

Enjoy Our Amazing Dining & Hospitality Experiences

Welcome

About the Cover

Cover photo: Cross Estate (Bernardsville) by Deanna Watkins www.everythingdee.com

Designed by: **R&J Strategic Communications** www.randjsc.com

Printed by: East Coast Media www.eastcoastmedia.com



C Somerset County Business Partnership

Somerset County Tourism is a division of the Somerset County Business Partnership and receives funding through grants from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism and the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners.

This work is the property of Somerset County Tourism (SCT) and the Somerset County Business Partnership, and no part of it may be used or reproduced without permission. Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of content, contact information, is provided to allow verification prior to visiting. SCT makes no representation, guarantees, or warranties as to the availability, accuracy, completeness, currency, or suitability of the information printed in this guide. SCT is not responsible for misprints or mistakes.

Duke Farms



WELCOME TO

Beautiful Somerset County!

Thank you for visiting Somerset County, in the heart of central New Jersey. We know you'll enjoy our beautiful parks, scenic byways, bountiful farms, and vibrant downtowns. Come for a daytrip or stay a while, you'll find lots of things to do!

The Somerset County Board of County Commissioners







SARA SOOY

COMMISSIONER





SHANEL Y. ROBINSON DIRECTOR

DOUGLAS SINGLETERRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MELONIE MARANO COMMISSIONER

PAUL M. DRAKE COMMISSIONER

WWW.CO.SOMERSET.NJ.US

What's Inside

Table of Contents

- 3 A Message from the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners
- 5 Kid-Friendly Activities
- 8-9 Steeped in History
- 10 Sip & See Somerset
- 11 Outdoor Dining
- 15 Where to Stay
- 16 Live Music & Entertainment
- 18-19 Map of Somerset County
- 20 Garden Party
- 21 Horse Country
- 22-23 Farms & Farmers Markets
- 24-25 One with Nature
- 26 Unique Experiences
- 27 Golf
- 28-29 Events & Celebrations
- 30 Seasonal Events
- 31 Instagram Shot List

Follow Us @visitsomersetnj





visitsomersetnj.org

Questions about planning your next trip? Reach out to our office at: info@visitsomersetnj.org!

Kid-Friendly Activities

- Have an out of this world adventure at The Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College
- Explore the history and habitat of
 The Great Swamp at the
 Environmental Education Center

Colonial Park

- Lead line pony rides and public trail rides at Lord Stirling Stable
- Check out the east coast's largest laser sports tag arena at Branchburg Sports Complex
- Hang from new heights with Iron Peak
 Sports & Events Cliffhanging experience
- Step back into the golden era of gaming and arcades at **YESTERcades**
- Catch the latest baseball game with the Double-A Affiliate of the New York Yankees, the **Somerset Patriots**
- Make a day at Colonial Park cool off with splash pads, enjoy some mini golf, and cruise around with the duck paddleboats

SCAN ME



Find Out More at VisitSomersetNJ.org/play/









Duke Farn

THE HEART OF HILLSBOROUGH FOR SPORTS AND FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT



INDOOR/OUTDOOR TURF FIELDS
BASKETBALL/VOLLEYBALL COURTS
Adventure Area
Ninja Course
Climbing Walls

ARCADE
EVENT SPACE
BIRTHDAY PARTIES
CORPORATE MEETINGS
TEAM BUILDING



BOOK TODAY

908.758.2739 INFO@IRONPEAKSE.COM

137 MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD, HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844



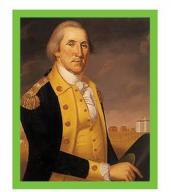
THE WALLACE HOUSE 71 SOMERSET ST. | SOMERVILLE, NJ | 08876

LUSSIAN EN

DISCOVER SOMERSET COUNTY'S Revolutionary History!

Somerset County is chock-full of Revolutionary War sites, including two of General George Washington's headquarters; lookouts and encampments; the roads to Morristown, Monmouth, and Yorktown; and more. As the nation approaches its 250th anniversary, this is the place to retrace the footsteps of the diverse American army that made possible the world's first enduring democracy.

- The Somerset County Board of County Commissioners



Try the Washington Slept Here Tour!





Steeped in History

Step into the past and explore Somerset County, a designated Crossroads of the American Revolution State Heritage Area. Visit Somerset County's many historic sites, homes and museums, spanning eras that include colonial times, the American Revolution and beyond! Check out our historical sites' many activities, tours, and special events!

SCAN ME



Find Out More at VisitSomersetNJ.org/play/ historic-sites/

The Heritage Trail Association's Middlebrook Five Generals Bus Tour

Over Presidents' Day weekend, take a guided bus tour to five historically important Somerset County homes and military headquarters during the Revolutionary War Middlebrook Cantonment of 1778-1779.

- Abraham Staats House
- Van Horne House
- Jacobus Vanderveer House •



Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage



1770s Festival

Colonial history comes to life at the Somerset County Park Commission's 1770s Festival. Colonial craftspeople ply their trades, a town crier delivers the news, and a Revolutionary War military detachment camp conduct their daily lives at the former estate.

Weekend Journey Through the Past

Take a journey through time in Somerset County to experience what life was like 50, 100, 200 years ago, and more. Discover our rich Revolutionary War history and immerse yourself in the stories and people of the past and present.







9

Sip & See Somerset

Outdoor Dining

'Sip and See' your way through Somerset County! Check out our craft beverage trail and who's who on it. Whether you love beer, spirits – or cider! There's a little something for everyone on the trail. Oh and...receive a special prize for visiting all our locations!

- Bellemara Distillery (Hillsborough)
- Brooks Brewery (Manville)
- Burnt Mills Cider (Bedminster)
- Flounder Brewing (Hillsborough)
- Jersey Cyclone Brewing (Somerset)
- Readington Brewery (Neshanic Station)
- Village Brewing Company (Somerville)

SCAN ME



Find Out More at SipAndSeeSomerset.com



- AMA (Hillsborough)
- Bernards Inn (Bernardsville)
- The Bradford (Bridgewater)
- Café Azzuro (Peapack)
- Char (Raritan)
- **Delicious Heights (Bedminster)**
- The Grain House (Basking Ridge)
- Green Knoll Grille (Bridgewater)
- XXVI Tavern (Basking Ridge)
- Kuay Tiew Noodles (Somerville)
- The Landing (Hillsborough)
- Mexicali Brews (Branchburg)
- Ninety Acres (Peapack-Gladstone)
- Old Man Rafferty's (Hillsborough)

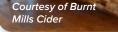


Find Out More at VisitSomersetNJ.org/dine

- Pluckemin Inn (Bedminster)
- Red Oak Grille (Basking Ridge)
- Rocky Hill Inn (Rocky Hill)
- Savor (Somerville)
- Stage House Tavern (Somerset)
- Stateside Tap + Tavern (Somerset)
- The Station (Bernardsville)
- Stone House at Stirling Ridge (Warren)
- Stoney Brook Grille (Branchburg)
- Tapastre / Project PUB (Somerville)
- Verve (Somerville) Named best bar in NJ by NJ.com!
- Washington House Restaurant (Basking Ridge)
- Water + Wine (Watchung) •







Courtesy of Basking Ridg Country Club XXVI Tav

Courtesy of

TASTE



ΚΕ R M Δ

California Pizza Kitchen • Cava Grill • The Cheesecake Factory • Chipotle DIG • Gloria Jean's Coffees • Gong Cha Bubble Tea • Maggiano's Little Italy Qdoba • Redstone American Grill • Seasons 52 • Shake Shack • Starbucks Uncle Julio's Mexican From Scratch • And More

SHOP. DINE. DISCOVER. Shop 150 Stores • Over 35 Dining Options

BRIDGEWATER COMMONS

BridgewaterCommons.com



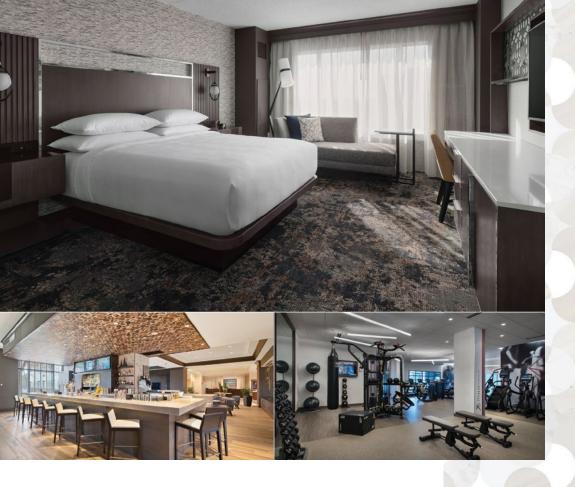
See the Pinstriped Stars of Tomorrow, TODAY!

Jasson Dominguez Yankees Top Prospect Somerset 2022-2023

thony Volpe **Yankees SS** Somerset 2022

SCAN FORTICKETS

 $\star \star \star$ SomersetPatriots.com $\star \star 13$



A FRESH LOOK IN NEW JERSEY

The newly renovated Bridgewater Marriott offers you modern amenities, intuitive service and stylish accommodations in the heart of Central New Jersey. Take a dip in the indoor pool or workout in our state-of-the-art 24-hour fitness center, featuring two Peloton bikes. Treat your palate to upscale American cuisine and creative cocktails at Booker & Zinc, our signature hotel restaurant and bar. Explore shops and restaurants of the Bridgewater Commons Mall, located just across the street from our hotel. For those looking to host a meeting or social event, you will find over 17,000 square feet of elegant event space and comprehensive planning and catering services. Our modern hotel in Bridgewater, NJ offers everything you need for a memorable stay.

BRIDGEWATER MARRIOTT HOTEL 700 COMMONS WAY | BRIDGEWATER, NJ, 08807 BRIDGEWATERMARRIOTT.COM

Go There With MARRIOTT BONVºY



MARRIOTT BRIDGEWATER

Where to Stay

With over 35 hotels and inns and more than 4,000 rooms throughout Somerset County, leisure and business travelers as well as tour groups have many options when it comes to lodging, style, price, and ambiance. From historic country inns to national hotel brands, social and corporate events of all sizes are easily accommodated at our various upscale banquet facilities and conference centers.



To see the full list of lodging options check out VisitSomersetNJ.org/stay







Courtesy of Bridgewater Marriott

Courtesy of The Bernards Inn



Live Music & Entertainment

Hang back and check out live performances at our theaters and outdoor concerts!

- Brook Arts Center (Bound Brook)
- Central Jersey Jazz Fest (Somerville)
- Downtown Somerville Summer Stage Series
- Music in Somerset Hills (Peapack)
- Somerset Valley Players (Hillsborough)
- State Theatre New Jersey (New Brunswick)
- Somerset County Park Commission North Branch Park Summer Concert Series
- The Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College (Branchburg)
- Villagers Theater (Franklin)
- Watchung Arts Center (Watchung)



SCAN ME

check out more live music and entertainment venues in our Weekend Top 10 VisitSomersetNJ.org/ weekend-top-10/

You shouldn't have to search worldwide for world-class joint surgery. Do it right. Here.

Recovering from knee surgery involves regular trips to therapy, and the less time you spend traveling, the more time you can spend healing. You'll find the highest level of orthopedic care at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset, with board-certified surgeons using the latest treatments and technology, and physical therapy right on site. Visit **rwjbh.org/ortho** to learn more.

17

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset

RWJBarnabas HEALTH

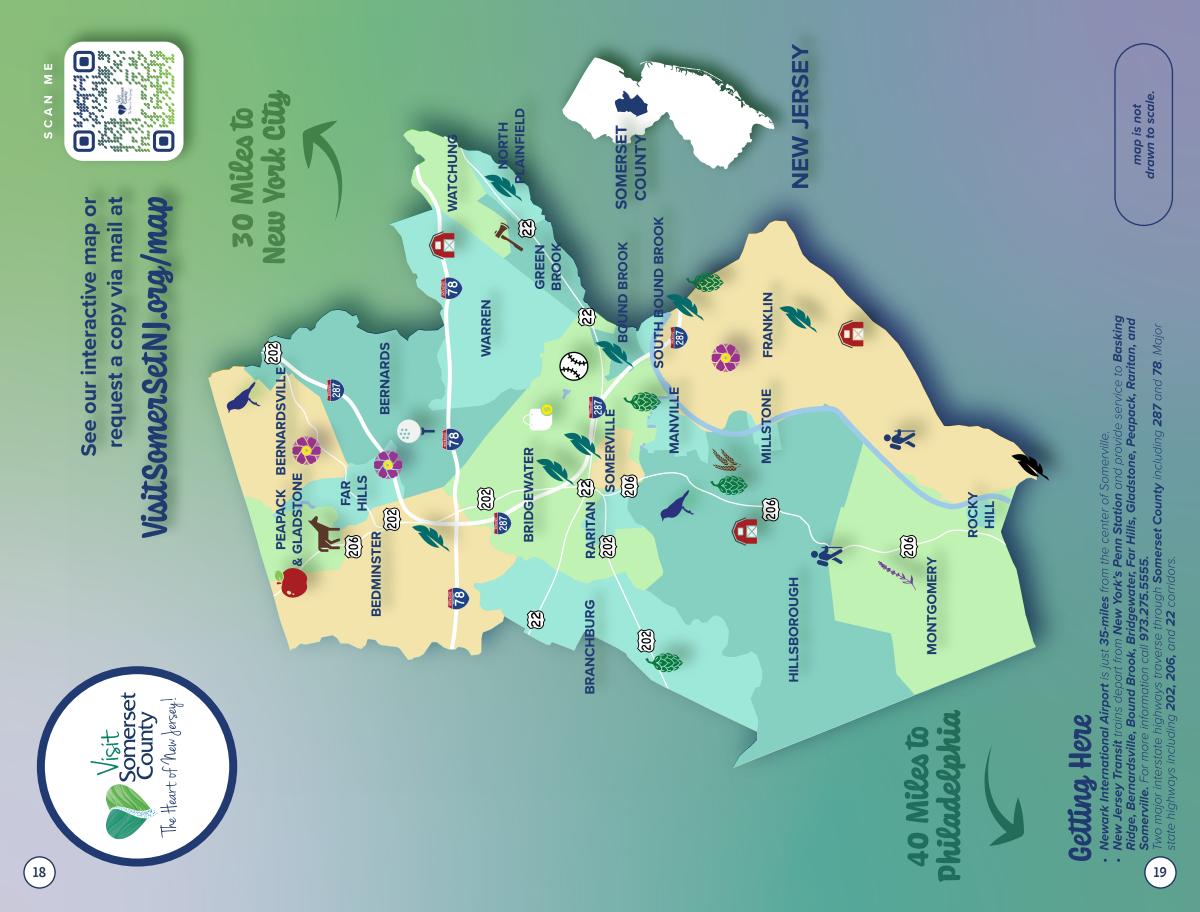
Let's be healthy together.











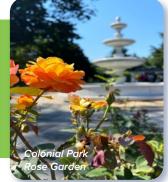
Garden Party

•

There's nothing like seeing Somerset County in full bloom! Every spring through fall brings bursts of color in our beautiful gardens. Stop on by and smell the roses!

- Colonial Park Gardens (Franklin Township)
- Cross Estate Gardens (Bernardsville)
- Duke Farms Orchid Range and Arboretum (Hillsborough)
- Leonard J Buck Garden (Far Hills) .
- Peony's Envy (Bernardsville & Liberty Corner)
- Snyder's Farm (Franklin Township) •



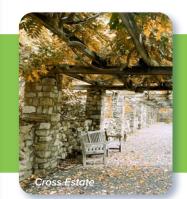








Find out more about our aardens at: VisitSomerSetNJ.com





Horse Country

The Somerset Hills area in the north is New Jersey's horse country. Somerset County is home to many boarding stables, hunter jumper stables, lesson stables, and summer horse riding camps.

- Lord Stirling Stable (Basking Ridge) Offering equestrian experiences for all ages including pony rides, birthday parties, riding lessons, and more. Public trail rides on 14-miles of scenic trails through meadows and woodlands on the edge of the Great Swamp are available daily.
- Moorland Events (Far Hills)

Courtesy of Far Hills Race

The organization that brings renowned events including the Far Hills Race Meeting and the Mars Essex Horse Trials. Join the festivities to enjoy food, fashion, and family fun!

United States Equestrian Team Foundation (Gladstone)

The Olympic Training Center and headquarters at Hamilton Farm. Individual visitors and groups are encouraged to visit at any time.



SCAN ME



Find Out More at VisitSomersetNJ.org/ horsecountry/





Leonard J. Buck Garden

Farms & Farmers Markets

Keep it Jersey Fresh! Our farms are the lifeblood of Somerset County. Your favorite fruits, vegetables, and flowers are a direct product of many of our farms. Connect with our scenic communities and partake in pick your own orchards and fields, check out our country farm stands and markets selling fresh-from-the-field produce and flowers, and see where you can enjoy nature's bounty.

SCAN ME



Learn more about community supported agriculture, farmers markets, and on-farm markets at VisitSomersetNJ.org/farms











One with Nature

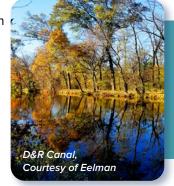
Take a stroll down our scenic pathways or climb to new heights at our parks. Our outdoor spaces are perfect for biking, hiking, running, or exploring.



SCAN ME

Check out even more parks and recreational opportunities in Somerset County at VisitSomersetNJ.org/play/ parks-and-recreation/ **Delaware & Raritan Canal (Multi)** – Over 70-miles of recreational corridor. The D&R Canal boasts a historic towpath set along rural sites

Duke Farms (Hillsborough) – A place of education and enjoyment. Visitors may explore 1,000+ acres of native species and the area's natural beauty. Bike rentals are available on-site during dedicated times. Designated as an Important Bird Area.



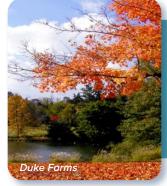
Fairview Farms Wildlife Preserve (Bedminster) – Miles of walking trails through meadows and woods, a scenic pond, colorful gardens, and a restored 1800s barn complex.

Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary (Bernardsville) – The headquarters of New Jersey Audubon, SHWS has 276 acres of woodland, field, and floodplain that supports over 200 species of wildlife including 60+ species of nesting birds and 25 species of warblers during spring migration.

- Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Education Center – Located on 500 acres the facility has over 9 miles of trails
- Sourland Mountain Preserve (Hillsborough, Montgomery) 6,000+ acres of park with an undisturbed setting.
- Washington Valley Park and Hawk Watch Area (Bridgewater) – 715-acre park of mixed hardwood forests, open freshwater wetland marshes, and rock outcroppings with a 21-acre reservoir. The Hawk Watch area is one of the East Coast's premier locations to watch raptors, hawks, falcons, eagles, ospreys, peregrine falcons, and more.
- Natirar (Peapack, Gladstone, Far Hills, Bedminster) Over 400 acres of property. Trails run through areas of lawn and woodland with river access, scenic views, and a historic farm and other buildings.

Little Brook Sanctuary (Bernardsville) – Undeveloped, 100-acre property with meandering brook that runs through a variety of wildlife including birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and flowers.









24



Unique Experiences

- **Beyond the Plate Food Tours** (Somerville) – Sample foods from 4-5 restaurants around Somerville in their 'Taste Around the World' food tour.
- Bluebird Farm Alpacas (Peapack) -Meet, feed, and photograph snuggable alpacas. Visitors may book a time to tour and walk alpacas on the farm.
- Candyland Crafts (Raritan) Hands on learning for a variety of cake decorating and chocolate making taught by professional decorators.
- Stumpy's Hatchet House (Green **Brook)** – Known for their invigorating team building event, kick-axe bachelor/ bachelorette parties, birthday celebrations for big kids, and exciting adventure dates.
- Hidden Spring Lavender and Alpaca Farm (Montgomery) – Lavender fields

What a View Farm!

26

and gift shop with homemade, natural products to fill your home. Visitors may also say hi to the alpacas and reserve a time to walk them around the property.

- **Iron Peak Sports and Events** • (Hillsborough) - tackle the ninja course, reach new heights with climbing walls, or even check out one of their leagues!
 - Ultimate Xscape Rooms (Somerville) Enjoy live-action games in themed settings with friends or family while you work together to hunt for clues to crack the code and escape the room before time runs out.
- What a View Farm! (Hillsborough) -Bond with nature during a yoga with goats class. These playful goats will wander around and even join in with participating yogis.



Somerset County offers the ability not only to experience some of the most pristine greens around, but also to hone your skills with state-of-the-art technology, all while learning the history and physics of the game at the nation's oldest sports museum!

Somerset County has seven public golf **courses** throughout the county including:

- Fox Hollow Golf Club (Branchburg)
- Green Knoll Golf Course (Bridgewater)
- Neshanic Valley Golf Course (Branchburg)
- Quail Brook Golf Course (Somerset)
- Royce Brook Golf Club (Hillsborough) Spooky Brook Golf Course (Somerset)
- Warrenbrook Golf Course (Warren)













SCAN ME



SCAN ME



Read More At VisitSomersetNJ.org/ golf

Private Courses include:

- Basking Ridge Country Club (Basking Ridge)
- Cherry Valley Country Club (Montgomery)
- Hamilton Farm Country Club (Gladstone)
- New Jersey National Golf Club (Basking Ridge)
- Raritan Valley Country Club (Bridgewater)
- Trump National Golf Club (Bedminster) •

Make a visit to the nation's oldest museum of sport - the United States Golf Association **Museum**. Home to the world's premier collection of golf artifacts and memorabilia, exhibits here feature numerous multi-media and interactive displays.



SCAN ME

Learn More At VisitSomersetNJ.org/ weddings

Say 'I do.' in Somerset County. Weddings in our county can range from ultra luxury to bucolic settings to golf clubs, ballrooms, and even historic settings. If you're looking to host a reunion, bar or bat mitzvah, birthday party, or baby or bridal shower, there are plenty of venues to suit your style and needs.

- Basking Ridge Country Club (Basking Ridge)
- The Bernards Inn (Bernardsville)
- Bridgewater Manor (Bridgewater)
- Bridgewater Marriott (Bridgewater)
- Colonial Park (Franklin)
- DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center (Franklin)
- Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
 (Bedminster)
- Forest Lodge (Warren)
- Hamilton Farm Golf Club (Gladstone)
- The Imperia (Franklin)

- The Marigold (Franklin)
- Leonard J Buck Garden (Far Hills)
- Natirar (Peapack and Gladstone)
- New Jersey National Golf Club
 (Basking Ridge)
- Olde Mill Inn (Basking Ridge)
- Raritan Valley Country Club (Bridgewater)
- Royce Brook Golf Club (Hillsborough)
- Somerset Palace (Franklin)
- Somerset Hills Hotel, Tapestry Collection
 by Hilton (Warren)
- Stone House at Stirling Ridge (Warren)









There's always something exciting happening in Somerset County! Check out what's going on throughout the year to enhance your experience with us.

Spring

- St. Patrick's Day Parade in Somerville Named one of the best St. Patrick's Day Parades in the country by Forbes magazine!
- World Series of Birding
- Girls' Night Out
- Tour of Somerville
- **Rose Day Festival**

Summer

- **Craft Beer Festival**
- **Independence Day Festival**
- **Summer Concert Series**
- Starlit Cinema





Fall

- Lord Stirling 1770s Festival
- Weekend Journey Through the Past
- Brite Nites

- Raritan Headwaters Lantern Walk

Winter

30

- Holiday Jubilee
- Colonial Christmas
- Festival of Trees •
- Five Generals Bus Tour





Can you capture all these sights on your visit to

Somerset County?

Don't forget to tag your photos to @visitsomersetnj on social media and tag #visitsomersetnj on your posts!



Neshanic Mill Courtesy of @DeSantoPhotography





Bridgewater Commons



Hidden Spring Lavender and Alpaca Farm



Rudolf van der Goot Rose Garden, Courtesy of @brown.eyed.flower.child



Cross Estate Gardens

Courtesy of The Bradford







Snyder's Farm, Courtesy of @forevercozyvibes



31

