

Seafood lovers 'Downe by the Bay' weekend

STAY

Stay at the [Charlesworth Hotel & Restaurant](#), 224 New Jersey Avenue (on the Bay), Fortescue 856.447.4928 or find a private rental or use the RV campground in Fortescue on the Bay.

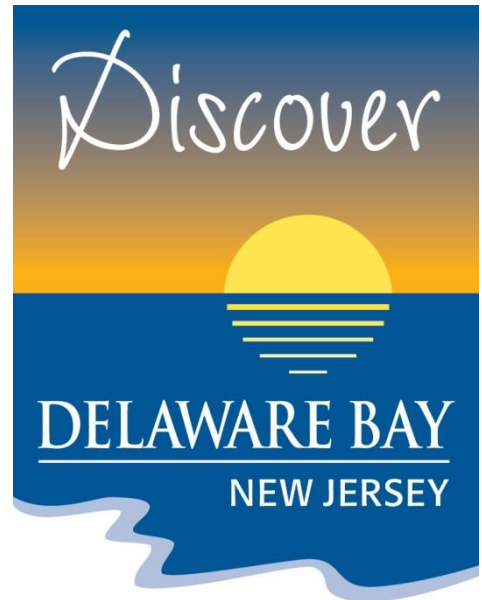
DAY 1

If you can plan your weekend the second Friday of the month then start off your seafood indulgence in Bivalve for 2nd Friday, 5:30-8:30pm at the Bayshore Center – raw bar, live music, local beer & wine and catch of the day at the [Oyster Cracker Café](#) (year round). Drive back to Fortescue for a moonlight walk on the beach before turning in. If you can't make it on a 2nd Friday, kick it off with a tasty seafood dinner cooked up by your [Charlesworth Restaurant](#) host Jim Fonash and be welcomed by his lovely wife Shirley, who will make you feel right at home among all the regulars at this iconic Bayshore establishment, she'll be sure that you're comfortable in your room (ask for Room #1 if available- its view is spectacular! – and it has its own bathroom).

DAY 2

Start your Saturday early at [Higbee's Marina](#) and breakfast bar where local author and historian Betty Higbee may regale you with stories of the Weakfish Capital of the World. If you'd like to spend the day on the Bay, Higbee's (April – October) can hook you up ;-) on the Miss Fortescue or another open boat for a fishing trip if you want to catch your own seafood (Betty will also pack you a hoagie or sandwich for lunch on the boat if needed).

If a smaller boat is more your style, head down Rt 553 and stop in to see the Watermans (yes! that's really their last name!) at [Beaver Dam Boat Rentals](#) – you can crab or bird in row boats or kayaks on Orinokin Creek – a gorgeous backwater with great crabbing, birding and an eagle nest in plain view. Check out their saltwater tanks with blowfish, minnows and informal environmental education content at this passionate family business. (seasonal). Work up your appetite then, if you missed it Friday evening, head to the [Oyster Cracker Café](#) for lunch (year round) – walk out on the historic oyster wharves and find yourself in the midst of a true working waterfront, if you're lucky you'll see oysterboats, crabbers, conch boats and maybe the watermen themselves tending their gear next door.); or cross the Mauricetown Causeway and try the [Maurice River Diner](#) (year round) in Bricksboro on Rt 47.



If you find that you have the time, check out the [Glasstown Brewery](#) (year round) at Millville Airport – it's only about 14 minutes from Fortescue or Bivalve – and they have a Fortescue brew!

Don't miss the [Bull on the Barn Bayshore Crabhouse](#) for dinner, another family run establishment – your chef is from an oystering family as evidenced by the array of artifacts adorning the walls, its actually an informal museum, don't be afraid to poke around and check out the décor while you wait for your made-to-order fresh seafood (seasonal). Back to the your comfy room in the Charlesworth to check the mood of the bay from the deck.

DAY 3

You can take Sunday morning slow or not, head to Newport to [The Landing Restaurant](#) for breakfast, they do have seafood breakfast options (year round). The Landing is also a great place for birding and creek watching – and you can just see Money Island off in the distance over the marshes. Head back towards Fortescue and on the left as you approach the island, stop at the Tat Starr Trail for a couple mile easy hike through the woods that opens out to the back side of Oranokan Creek, you have such a wide open vista, you can even see Beaver Dam Boat Rentals on the distant horizon as you climb the observation deck and see a one-of-a-kind wetland expanse. You'll never know that you're in the most populated state of the union! You could imagine it's Alaska or any another beautiful wild place...

And, you should still have time to go to the South end of Fortescue Beach, cross the bridge and explore Raybins Beach – there's a path through the marsh that takes you through an amazing expanse of wetlands in the heart of the Bayshore. If you have a kayaks to bring along, this would be a GREAT opportunity to kayak from the South Beach around, further south towards Egg Island – this expanse of bayfront is only accessibly by boat it probably looks just like it did when the Native Americans did their waterfowl hunting here... chock a block full of wildlife, if you're lucky you might see a Peregrine Falcon... If no Kayak, beachcombing is guaranteed to net you some interesting finds – and what better way for a seafood lover to spend the day than walking a pristine beach amidst the creatures of the Bay!

Cap your weekend off with an early dinner at the Charlesworth – the gem of the Bayshore (Easter – Halloween). Now you'll know why!

Thanks for coming to the Bayshore!

We love feedback!

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