Learn about, explore and experience the First State along Delaware’s Byways

Delaware Department of Transportation
302-760-2080 • 800-652-5600 (DE only)
byways.deldot.gov
clewes.de.us

Funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration

Transportation routes traveling through the area with special intrinsic scenic, historic, natural, cultural, recreational, or archeological qualities. As an alternative travel experience that tells a story, the byway connects and provides access to the area’s heritage, beauty, urban, natural and recreational resources.

The byway is a tool to:
- Manage roadway improvements/right-of-way, as guided by DelDOT policy documents: Context Sensitive Design Manual, Byway Corridor Management, and Master Plans, and coordinating with active developers. DelDOT staff, elected officials and the greater community.
- Manage the positive and negative impacts of tourism.
- Help manage available transportation infrastructure at maximum efficiency to help capture economic value, not lose it.
- Advocate and provide recommendations for context sensitive design at the conceptual design stage for landscaping and/or building projects to enhance the travel experience.
- Promote tourism, connecting the travel experience for heritage, recreational and eco-tourism.
- Manage the positive and negative impacts of tourism.

The Lewes Byway Routes are:
Transportation routes traveling through the Lewes area with special intrinsic scenic, historic, natural, cultural, recreational, or archeological qualities. As an alternative travel experience that tells a story, the byway connects and provides access to the area’s heritage, beauty, urban, natural and recreational resources.

The byway is a tool to:
- Manage roadway improvements/right-of-way, as guided by DelDOT policy documents: Context Sensitive Design Manual, Byway Corridor Management, and Master Plans, and coordinating with active developers. DelDOT staff, elected officials and the greater community.
- Manage the positive and negative impacts of tourism.
- Help manage available transportation infrastructure at maximum efficiency to help capture economic value, not lose it.
- Advocate and provide recommendations for context sensitive design at the conceptual design stage for landscaping and/or building projects to enhance the travel experience.
- Promote tourism, connecting the travel experience for heritage, recreational and eco-tourism.
- Manage the positive and negative impacts of tourism.
**Lewes Downtown and Historic District** – This downtown area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The maritime heritage of Lewes gives it a unique character, with a blend of architectural styles that spans almost four centuries. Lewes is the traditional home for Delaware River and Bay Pilots as well as fishing and ship carpentry. Visit the downtown area for unique shopping and a variety of food items. [lewes.com](http://lewes.com)

**Lewes Historical Society** – The Lewes Historical Society offers walking tours, seasonal water tours, trolley, field trip, and group tours. Discover historic destinations downtown, learn fun facts about the region’s maritime history, and experience history as it comes alive. Learn about Lewes lighthouses, cemeteries, historic architecture, maritime monuments and more, including the Ryves Holt House under the National Park Service and De Vries Monument. [historiclewes.org](http://historiclewes.org)

**Cape Henlopen State Park** – This State park is home to the famous walking dunes, Great Dune, and World War II Observation Towers. Surf fishing and swimming areas are accompanied by miles of nature and cycling trails, camping, tennis courts, disc golf, pavilions, and playing fields. [destateparks.com/park/cape-henlopen/index.asp](http://destateparks.com/park/cape-henlopen/index.asp)

**Cape-May Lewes Ferry** – The ferry provides a 17-mile, 80-minute cruise between New Jersey and Delaware coastal communities and beaches. There are also shuttle bus opportunities to visit either location. [capemaylewesferry.com](http://capemaylewesferry.com)

**Junction Breakwater Trail** – Hikers on Junction Breakwater Trail can access both Lewes and Rehoboth Beach for approximately 8 miles on a flat contour. The trail is suitable for hikers, joggers, bikers, and strollers. Trail users will pass through mature hardwood and conifer forests and open fields, and will experience scenic vistas of coastal marshes. Interpretive signs provide opportunities to learn more. [destateparks.com/activities/trails/locations/cape-henlopen/index.asp](http://destateparks.com/activities/trails/locations/cape-henlopen/index.asp)

**Zwaanendael Museum** – The Museum commemorates Delaware’s first European colony, Swanendael, established by the Dutch in 1631. This museum serves as a showcase for the Lewes area’s maritime, military, and social history. [history.delaware.gov/museums/zm/zm_main.shtml](http://history.delaware.gov/museums/zm/zm_main.shtml)

**Lightship Overfalls** – Lightship Overfalls is a historic ship, built in 1938. It is situated within Canal Front Park and marina, along with other walking, recreation, and landscape viewing attractions. [overfalls.org](http://overfalls.org)

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**Historic Lewes Byway** Located north of the Delaware Beaches, the Historic Lewes Byway, “Gateway to the Bayshore,” captures a remarkable history and surviving legacy as the First Town in the First State. The stunning views by land and sea capture natural beauty, maritime origins, architecture, and rich history from native settlements, agricultural and marine industries, to the present day resorts. The byway offers unique shopping opportunities, food, and recreational facilities. Situated along the Delaware Bay, the Historic Lewes Byway can be reached from New Jersey on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry and from points west, north, and south along US Route 9, Coastal Highway SR 1, or other roads that access this maritime community. Biking, walking, shuttle, and transit use are available and encouraged to enjoy and experience parts of the byway’s intrinsic resources.

**Length:** 12.35 miles  
**Website:** [byways.deldot.gov](http://byways.deldot.gov)