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[There's More To Atlantic City Than Gambling](#)

by [Noah Johnson](#) on September 27, 2013 | [Leave a Comment](#)



For decades, Atlantic City has been the East-Coast gambler's destination of choice, but lately it's become known as a great holiday destination for those seeking more wholesome forms of fun. Only two hours away from Manhattan, Atlantic City can be an exciting, beautiful place to visit for day trips or longer stays; no casino required.

Atlantic City is located on the Jersey Shore, meaning a visit definitely wouldn't be complete without a trip to the beach. Unlike many of the other popular beaches along the [Jersey Shore](#), Atlantic City's is free, so get yourself set up on the sand and enjoy a great day without big spending; far preferable to throwing money away at slot machines. Sunbathing, surfing and volleyball are all popular on the broad, clean beaches, and fishing is permitted on certain jetties, so there are activities available to suit the whole family.

The central feature of Atlantic City's tourist scene is its Boardwalk. This famous and much-loved promenade has been around since 1870 and was the first of its kind in the USA. Lined with hotels and casinos, it also is packed full of food vendors, amusements, shopping and restaurants, so a day can easily fly by while you stroll through this historic landmark. The Ripley's Believe It or Not museum is located on the main Boardwalk, and will provide thrills and gross-out fun for the whole family. Stemming out from the main Boardwalk are several piers that should certainly be explored; families should be sure to check out [Steel Pier](#), which features plenty of exciting amusement park rides and games to excite the kids.

For those looking for a little more culture, check out Garden Pier, which hosts the historical museum for the city and the Atlantic City Art Center. Even away from the Boardwalk, there's plenty going on around the city for art lovers: the current [ARTlantic](#) community program is hosting a variety of art installations in different locations, creating 'art playground displays' that are well worth a look. These installations are free to explore and feature daily events, so check the timetables ahead to see if they might interest you. There's so much culturally to do here you should confine your gambling to online sites like [ParrotCasino](#).

Be sure to catch a show. If you're staying at a resort in Atlantic City, your accommodation will most likely come with a performance venue. These shows are usually musical or comedy based, but celebrities sometimes perform in some of the bigger venues too, so look around to see what's playing to be sure you don't miss out. [Boardwalk Hall](#), the former home of the Miss America pageant, hosts huge events, but you'll find fun and entertaining shows all around the city in smaller venues too.

For fashion fans, Atlantic City has much to offer in terms of shopping and retail. There are options from the top of the high-end retail market down to some serious bargain hunting and everything you can think of in between. To shop for gifts, souvenirs and the Jersey Shore's famous saltwater taffy, stick to the Boardwalk and piers. For great discounts on designer clothes take a look at [Tanger Outlets- The Walk](#). This outlet mall has over 80 stores spread over a huge area and is easily accessible from the main Boardwalk area; it's a great place to explore and find good deals on high-end clothes. If outlets aren't your thing, The Pier Shops at Caesars offers the real luxury experience at full price tags; you'll find everything from Louis Vuitton to Michael Kors, along with some of Atlantic City's best premium restaurants and a spectacular light, sound and water show that runs hourly. For a more exotic theme, check out Old Havana, Tropicana's Cuban themed venue that offers plenty of great shopping and great food along with a Pixar cinema. With all this to do, boredom just isn't an option, and you'll hardly find time to gamble. The whole family should be in for an exciting and truly memorable vacation.