

Batona Trail

Pinelands
National Reserve



The 50-mile long Batona Trail derives its name from the words **BACK TO NATURE**. It crosses vast tracts of New Jersey's Pinelands National Reserve.

Plant and animal species that are rare, and in some cases, unique to the Pinelands can be found along the route. The trail passes through some of South Jersey's forgotten towns like Martha, Lower Forge and

Four Mile. The trail is marked with pink blazes, and there are several major roads that intersect it, making it easy to plan hikes of varying lengths.



U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



State of New Jersey
Division of Parks & Forestry



State of New Jersey
Pinelands Commission

The New Jersey Division of Parks & Forestry, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and the National Park Service are working together to "enhance public understanding, awareness and appreciation of natural and cultural resources" of the Pinelands National Reserve.

- Extra Batteries
- Watch
- Binoculars
- Camera
- Comfortable Footwear and Weather Appropriate Clothing
- Cell Phone (Service availability may be limited.)
- Sunscreen and Sunglasses
- Insect Repellent
- Whistle
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight/Headlamp
- Water and Water Treatment Supplies
- Food and Snacks
- Map/Compass/GPS



Hiking Checklist:

- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Know your route.
- Know your ability/limitations.
- Check the local weather forecast.
- Be bear aware.

Before you hike...

- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.
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The Batona Trail

The Batona Trail began in 1961 when the Batona Hiking Club charted and cleared a trail from Carpenter Spring in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest to Batsto in Wharton State Forest. Through the years the trail was lengthened and now stretches for almost 50 miles, from Ong's Hat in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, through Wharton State Forest and on to Bass River State Forest. The trail is maintained jointly by the Batona Hiking Club, the Outdoor Club of South Jersey and the New Jersey State Park Service.



American Black Bear



Pine Barren Gentian

The Batona Trail traverses the Pinelands, a vast area of pine barrens habitat in South Jersey noted for its beautiful and unique flora and fauna, many species of which are found nowhere else in the world. An observant eye may catch orchids, white-tailed deer or a hawk around the next bend. Wild blueberries and huckleberries can be gathered by the handful in season.

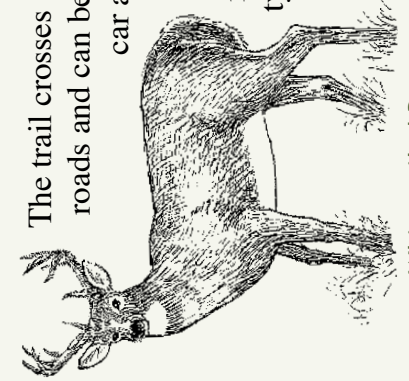
The route covers varied land features and forest types, meeting a number of streams and ponds along the way. Many areas rich in history also lie along the trail, with names like Four Mile, Lebanon, Batsto and Martha, to remind us of the forgotten towns that once thrived here. The trail is available for everyone to appreciate, but not abuse, the valuable and unique natural and cultural resources of the area.



Blueberry

The Batona Trail was planned as a wilderness trail, although rolling hills and an occasional sandy or wet area are the most severe tests this trail will offer. The trail can be walked from end to end by almost anyone, and it is prominently marked with pink blazes that are easily followed.

The trail crosses a number of roads and can be reached by car at many points, making it possible to plan many different types and lengths of hikes.

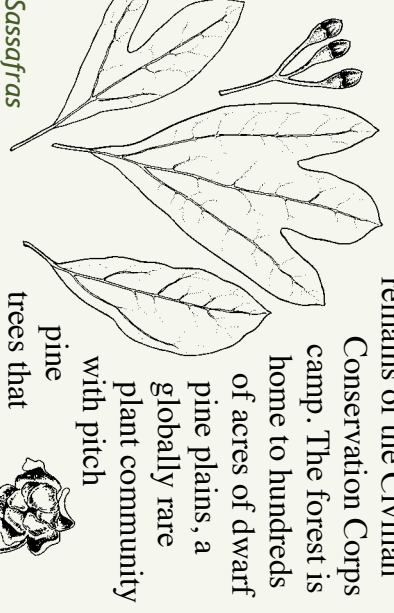


White-tailed Deer

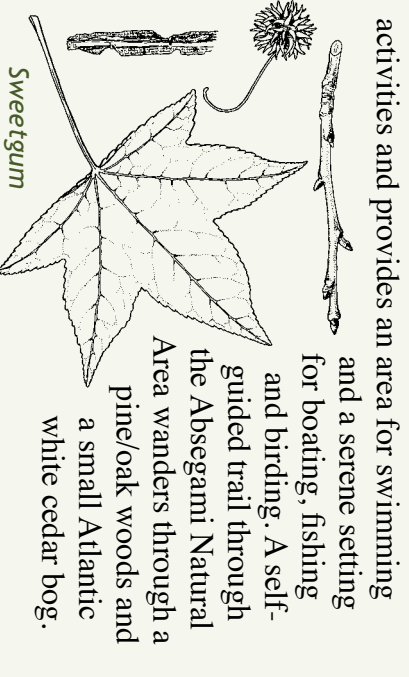


Civilian Conservation Corps Memorial

There is also a self-guided trail through the remains of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp. The forest is home to hundreds of acres of dwarf pine plants, a globally rare plant community with pitch pine trees that reach a height of only 5 feet to 6 feet. Camping opportunities include campsites, lean-tos, shelters and cabins. For more information about camping and other recreational opportunities at Bass River State Forest, call the forest office at (609) 296-1114.

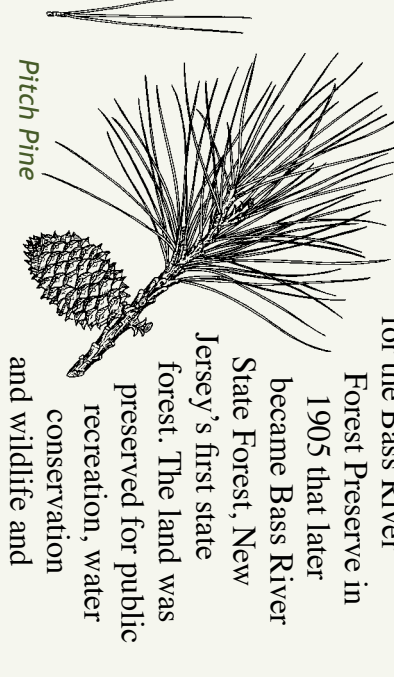


Pitcher-Plant



Sweetgum
White Oak
and a serene setting for boating, fishing and birding. A self-guided trail through the Absegami Natural Area wanders through a pine/oak woods and a small Atlantic white cedar bog.

The State of New Jersey began acquiring land for the Bass River Forest Preserve in 1905 that later became Bass River State Forest, New Jersey's first state forest. The land was preserved for public recreation, water conservation and wildlife and timber management. In June 1933, Civilian Conservation Corps Camp No. 7 (later changed to Camp S-55) was built along East Greenbush Road and lasted until the Civilian Conservation Corps ended in 1942 with the onset of World War II. Lake Absegami, a 67-acre lake created in the 1930s by the CCC, is the center of the forest's recreational activities and provides an area for swimming and a serene setting for boating, fishing and birding. A self-guided trail through the Absegami Natural Area wanders through a pine/oak woods and a small Atlantic white cedar bog.



Pitch Pine

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The Pinelands National Reserve

Our country's first National Reserve The U.S. Congress established the Pinelands National Reserve in 1978 to protect an ecologically sensitive region while respecting the heritage and lives of more than 700,000 residents living within it.

The Pinelands encompasses approximately 1.1 million acres covering 22 percent of New Jersey's land area. It is the largest remaining body of open space on the Mid-Atlantic seaboard between Richmond and Boston. However, from Apple Pie Hill (the highest point in the Pinelands), your view will be a canopy of trees stretching to the horizon.

The primary trees are pitch pine and oak, along with Atlantic white cedar that trace forest streams. Cranberry bogs, tea-colored rivers, a few meadows and white, sand roads punctuate this landscape. Beneath the Pinelands lies a huge natural reservoir of pure water estimated at 17 trillion gallons—enough to cover New Jersey in a lake 10-feet deep. The Pinelands also is home to more than 850 plant and 500 animal species, including many that are threatened or endangered.

In 1979, New Jersey formed a partnership with the federal government to preserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of this special place. In 1988 it was recognized as an International Biosphere Reserve. Today, the region is protected in a manner that maintains its unique ecology while permitting recreational opportunities and compatible development.



Bass River State Forest
762 Stage Road
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
(609) 296-1114

Brendan T. Byrne State Forest
PO Box 215
New Lisbon, NJ 08064
(609) 726-1191

Wharton State Forest
31 Batsto Road
Hammonilton, NJ 08037
(609) 561-0024 (Batsto Office)
(609) 268-0444 (Atsion Office)

Keep Your Forest Clean
Through the Carry-In/Carry-Out Program you can help us keep your parks and forests clean and beautiful by carrying out the trash you carry in. Bags are provided at various locations. Thank you for your cooperation, and remember to recycle.

Funding provided by the National Park Service.

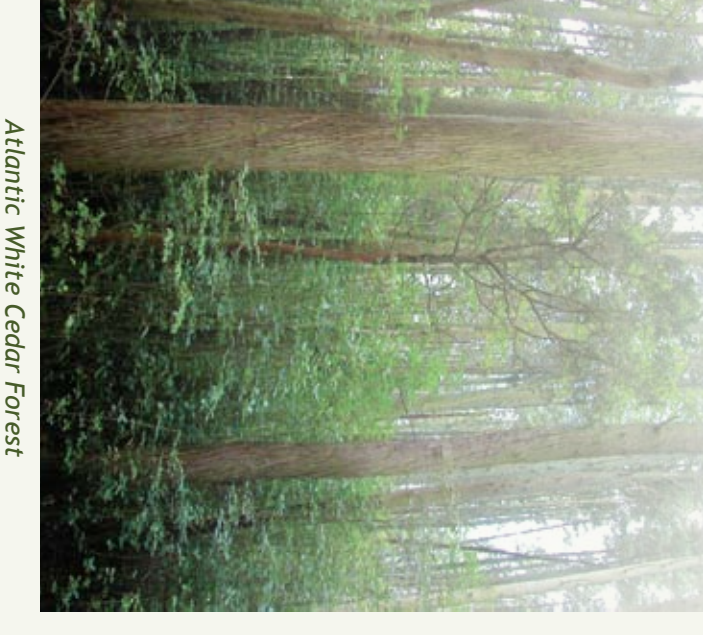
For Further Information:
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
State Park Service
PO Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404
www.njparksandforests.org



Batona Trail

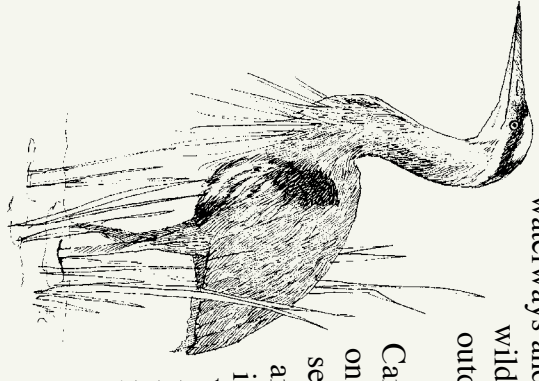


State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
State Park Service



Atlantic White Cedar Forest

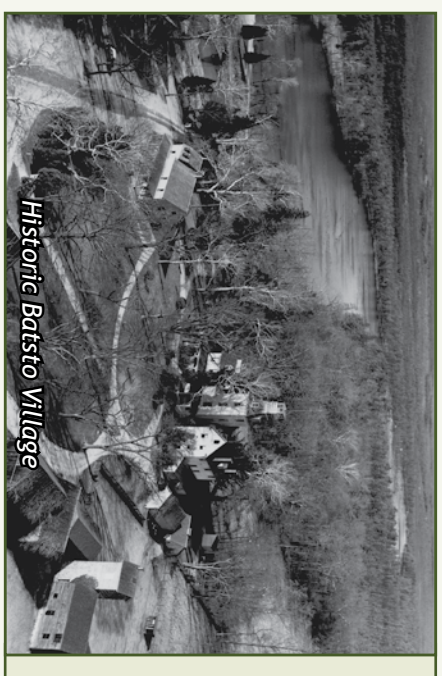
Brendan T. Byrne State Forest Today's forested acres are a strong contrast to the barren, cleared land that existed during the operation of the Lebanon Glass Works. The glass works was operated from 1851 to 1867 and shut down after depleting the supply of wood necessary for the furnace to operate. Today, visitors to Brendan T. Byrne State Forest are greeted by the fresh scent of pine. Numerous tea-colored, iron-rich streams of pure water flow through acres of swampy land covered with dense stands of Atlantic white cedar. Hikers can follow sandy trails and roads that crisscross the forest, occasionally passing the remains of stone or brick structures representing what was once a bustling town. For more information about camping and other recreational opportunities at Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, call the forest office at (609) 726-1191.



Great Blue Heron

Camping, by permit only, is allowed at several designated areas. For more information about Wharton State Forest, call the forest office at (609) 561-0024 or (609) 268-0444.

Wharton State Forest, located in the heart of the Pinelands, is the largest single tract of state-owned land in New Jersey, containing more than 120,000 acres. The forest is home to many threatened and endangered plants and animals including bog asphodel and the Pine Barrens tree frog. The natural beauty of Wharton State Forest can be appreciated at all times of the year. Miles of trails, pristine waterways and uninterrupted wilderness await the outdoor enthusiast.



Historic Batsto Village

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, a web of industrial centers thrived in what is now Wharton State Forest. Fueled by the natural resources, these centers produced iron, glass, lumber and paper. While many are gone today, significant buildings and structures remain at Batsto and Atsion reflecting the ventures that existed during the 19th century.

Wharton State Forest