

Attractions

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Delaware's northern county.

New Castle County is the smallest, and the most densely populated, of Delaware's three counties. First settled by a group of Swedish and Finnish soldiers arriving in 1638, **New Castle's** rolling hills, farmlands, and forests still bring old-world charm to visitors.

Brandywine Valley in the north was the site of the Brandywine Battle during the American Revolution. Walk through Brandywine Battlefield Park to see displays of the conflict. Also in Brandywine are the duPont estates and gardens. These incredible mansions and breathtaking gardens are open for tours. Centreville and Greenville in this area are home to many unique high-end shops and gourmet restaurants. Tour historic houses, visit some of the many museums, or walk down the Brandywine Valley Wine Trail to explore several wineries.

History abounds in **New Castle County**. A working, ornately carved replica of the first colonist's ship, the Kalmar Nyckel, is open for tours. Visit Fort Delaware, a former Civil War fort built on an island near Delaware City. Costumed guides demonstrate life in the fort and offer ghost tours. In Wilmington, take a ride on an authentic steam or antique diesel train. Tour a living historic town in Old New Castle. Travel to Odessa to see more historic homes in the Georgian and Federal styles. Also here is the log frame Collins-Sharp House, built around 1700, one of the oldest buildings in Delaware.

The water beckons in Wilmington, the site of the first permanent settlement in Delaware. The Christina Riverfront, named for Queen Christina of Sweden, offers a riverwalk, outlet stores, markets, and restaurants. Enjoy a cruise in a water taxi or stroll the landscaped waterfront.

With its museums, old-world

charm, markets, culture, and parks, **New Castle County** has something for everyone to enjoy. Get in touch with history and enjoy the natural beauty of our "First State."

To learn more, visit **New Castle County of Delaware** at www.ncde.org

BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Located along the Brandywine River in northern Delaware.

The beautiful green **Brandywine Valley** has been home to several prominent Americans and the location of many historic events. Here the Battle of Brandywine was fought and lost to the English during the American Revolution. William Penn brought his fellow Quakers to the valley and their influence is still felt today in this peaceful area. Howard Pyle established his School of American Illustration here, and the duPonts built their company, mansions, and gardens along the **Brandywine**.

The Algonquin Indians originally lived in the **Brandywine** area. As the Swedish, Finnish, and Dutch settlers gradually acquired the land through treaties, the natives moved north and west. These European settlers were Swedish and Finnish soldiers who landed near the mouth of the Brandywine River in 1638 aboard the Kalmar Nyckel and the Fogel Grip. A fully functional, ornately carved reproduction of the Kalmar Nyckel, complete with seven working cannons, can be toured.

The Revolutionary War comes to life in the Brandywine Battlefield Park. Walk the rolling, wooded hills to see displays of the Brandywine Battle. Visitors can also tour the headquarters of Washington and Lafayette.

Visit **Brandywine Valley** for an escape from the city life to quiet country relaxation. Explore the wineries along the Brandywine Valley Wine Trail and have



Longwood Conservatory (photo courtesy Brandywine Valley CVB)

a peaceful picnic under the trees. The central location of this valley makes it a great hub for vacationers. Philadelphia and Lancaster are only a short drive away, and New York City, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. are within a two hour drive.

To discover more about the **Brandywine Valley**, visit the **Brandywine Conference and Visitor's Bureau** at www.brandywinecvb.org

OLD NEW CASTLE

Old New Castle is a 50-minute drive north of Dover, via US 13, Route 1, or Route 9.

The Dutch founded **New Castle**, originally named Fort Casimir, in 1651. Because of its strategic location on the Delaware River, the fort's ownership was hotly contested between the Dutch, Swedish, and British settlers. William Penn took possession of the area in 1682, but Delaware



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Steeplechase at Winterthur (photo courtesy Ben Yanis, Wikimedia)

desired its independence, and was granted its own legislature in 1704. **New Castle** then became the colonial capitol, and also was briefly the state capitol. Today, **New Castle** is a thriving historic community where people continue to live and work.

Travel back in time in historic **Old New Castle**. Here, the streets are paved in cobblestone and herringbone patterned sidewalks meander through town. The charm and beauty of this community offer a respite from busy city life. Not just a reenactment of the past, **New Castle** is a living town surrounded by history.

Many historic buildings are available for tours. These wonderful examples of federal and colonial architecture are sure to please architects and history buffs alike. A colonial commons, churches, specialty shops, his-

toric restaurants and taverns, and a riverside park add to the atmosphere of this town.

Feel a chill at a ghost tour, relax in the town green, or walk the waterfront path in Battery Park. **New Castle** has activities and attractions for the whole family, so learn about our colonial history while having fun in Delaware!

For more about **New Castle** and other historic Delaware locations, visit the **Delaware Tourism Office** at www.visitdelaware.com or call (866) 284-7483.

WILMINGTON

Wilmington, Delaware and the Brandywine Valley are easy to access, easy to navigate and easy to enjoy! Mid-way between New York and Washington, DC - ideally located for great getaways, meetings, conferences, reunions and weddings. Many of our attractions

are within 10 minutes of I-95.

World class museums, mansions and gardens, fabulous art and antique collections, gorgeous countryside, exciting attractions, award-winning hotels and restaurants, thoroughbred racing, a slots casino, championship golf courses, tennis, canoeing - even motocross and BMX racing...these and more are here for you to experience and explore.

KENT COUNTY

Located in central Delaware.

Come to Delaware's Capital Region for history, incredible scenery, and culture in the "First State." In Dover, our capital city, Colonial delegates were the first to ratify the United States Constitution. The central location of Dover makes it the perfect hub for all your Delaware vacation destinations. From capital city attractions to small Amish farms, **Kent County** has activities for everyone. Our contrast of old traditions and modern culture with coastal scenery and natural beauty make Delaware a fascinating vacation destination.

Early American history can be seen everywhere you look in Dover. Constitution Park displays a bronze sculpture with an inscription of the entire Constitution and its signers. One block from the park is The Green; there you can see the tavern site where the Constitution was ratified. The Christ Episcopal Church was built in 1734 and houses a monument to Caesar Rodney, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, in the church cemetery.

Kent County is also home to many migratory birds, which can be found in the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Smyrna, north of Dover. The refuge is

located along the Delaware Bay where many birds stop to feed on horseshoe crab eggs during their flight north. Take an auto tour, hike along trails through salt marshes, fields, and forests, or just relax and watch the birds. Observation towers and spotting scopes along the trails allow visitors to get a close-up view.

Killens Pond State Park is a must-see in the heart of **Kent County**. The park's 66-acre mill-pond features boating and fishing for bass, catfish, perch, and more, while the waterpark offers entertainment for the whole family. See the native plants and animals along hiking trails and a cross-country running course. Camping and cabins are available year-round.

Kent County's historic museums and buildings are popular attractions, and most feature free admission.

Fine art and culture are not lacking in central Delaware. Concerts, theatrical presentations and entertainment are featured in Dover's historic downtown.

For more information about **Kent County**, please visit www.visitdover.com

DOVER

Delaware's capital city is located on the St. Jones River in central Kent County.

Named by William Penn, **Dover** has a rich and varied cultural history. Known as the location of the first signing of the Constitution, early American history abounds here. Museums and monuments dedicated to our country's first founders along with historic buildings and sites make **Dover** a history buff's paradise. Full of old-world charm and natural beauty, there are attractions



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