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LOCAL STOP | POINT PLEASANT BEACH

The Beach, the Boards, the Pizza Pie



Nancy Wiegard for The New York Times

Jenkinson's Beach in Point Pleasant gets crowded, so arrive early. [More Photos >](#)

By LIZETTE ALVAREZ
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Boardwalks in summer have a way of dismantling people's inhibitions, with their heady doses of sugar, heat, carnival game taunts and frothy drinks. So it is at Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., where, with a spin on the Super Himalaya and a little bumper-car action, the day can reach high kitsch. Day-trippers who venture away from the Boardwalk won't be disappointed either; the downtown has been spruced up in recent years.

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After a two-hour-plus ride from Pennsylvania Station on [New Jersey Transit](#) (\$12.50 one way for adults), visitors have an eight-minute walk to the beach, with the shops of downtown two minutes in the opposite direction.

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A Visit to Point Pleasant



families with children in droves. The beach offers outdoor showers and a few changing rooms. Food and nonalcoholic drinks in plastic containers are allowed. As with most beaches on the Jersey Shore, it costs money to get your toes sandy (\$7.50 for adults on weekends, \$6.50 on weekdays; \$2 for children 5 to 11; \$8 for an umbrella, \$7 for a chair).

1 P.M. Time to gorge on Boardwalk junk food. There is no standout here (is there ever on a boardwalk?) but Boardwalk Bar and Grill has decent footlong hot dogs and pizza greasy enough to leave a translucent sheen on the paper plate, and there is a full-service restaurant on the second floor, (732) 714-2241. A few steps away sits Kohr's Frozen Custard, which is a nice antidote to beach fatigue (\$3.25 for a medium).

2 P.M. After the sugar, it's ride time. Jenkinson's Beach Boardwalk amusement park offers mostly modest rides designed for younger children and 'tweens (a book of 60 tickets is \$25; on Tuesday afternoon and Friday night, unlimited rides cost \$15). Teens who crave whiplash-inducing attractions should look elsewhere. There is a rock-climbing wall and, for an extra fee (\$5), the Fun House. Smaller children may quibble with the term fun since some have high-tailed it through the emergency doors in terror.

4 P.M. Follow Arnold Avenue from the Boardwalk for 10 minutes to reach downtown and its long row of quaint shops. Most people stick close to the train station, but it is worth walking a few blocks west. Hidden in the back of Lynne's clothing store, 707 Arnold Avenue, sits the Train Room, (732) 899-4000, a gem for toy train devotees. The store, run by Tim Ferrie, sells the complete line of Lionel trains. The miniature displays, including one of a New York subway, are gorgeous.

4:30 P.M. Across the street, Atomic CDs, 704 Arnold Avenue, (732) 295-9150, sells piles of LPs (the Who, Yes, the Grateful Dead) and vintage clothes, including 1970s polyester wear and plenty of figurines, lunchboxes and doodads from the Brady Bunch era. If 2009 vintage is more your style, around the corner is Stella e Luna, 500 Bay Avenue, (732) 714-2221, for a hodgepodge of items, like mermaid wood cutouts, handmade frames and the Gurgle Pot, a pitcher that gurgles when you pour (\$40).

5:30 P.M. Dinnertime. A few blocks off the northern end of the Boardwalk sits Red's Lobster Pot, 57 Inlet Drive, (732) 295-6622, a seafood joint where sandy feet are not frowned upon. Red's offers fish and chips (\$9.75) and broiled stuffed flounder (\$21.95), and the coleslaw is exceptional. For dessert, try Stewart's Drive-in, 63 Broadway, (732) 295-2722, for a root beer float (\$4.82). On Thursdays at 7 p.m. through August, you can drink it as you watch hermit crab races unfold on a Stewart's table.

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