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A VICTORIAN CAPE MAY CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 18-20, 2026

Experience the Magic of Christmas in Cape May! Every holiday season, Cape May transforms into a sparkling seaside wonderland filled with festive events, Victorian traditions, and unforgettable memories. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976, Cape May is one of America's oldest seaside resort towns, with its well-preserved Victorian architecture dating back to the 19th century. See why HGTV chose Cape May as one of their 50 favorite towns to visit for the holidays!

Departure/return times and pickup location are as follows:

	DEPART	RETURN
Kohl's, Westminster Rt. 140 & Market St. (Rear of parking lot)	8:00 A.M.	7:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18: We will travel north today making a comfort stop en route. Upon arrival in Cape May, we will have a delicious **lunch at The Washington Inn**, constructed in 1846, which was inspired by the grand columns of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, extending up to the third floor. Today, it stands as one of Cape May's top-rated and most beloved dining venues. At the heart of the Washington Inn are its dedication to warm hospitality and superb New American cuisine. As you complete your meal, treat yourself to a **Victorian Christmas Traditions presentation**. The beloved holiday customs we know today have their roots in the Victorian Era, including Christmas trees, cards, and Santa Claus himself. Discover how Prince Albert brought these traditions from Germany to England after marrying Queen Victoria, and how they eventually spread across the Atlantic to America. This afternoon, we will visit **Willow Creek Winery**, a 50-acre vineyard nestled in West Cape May, for an educational wine tasting. Sip, savor, and explore their exceptional, award-winning, estate-grown wines and blends as you unwind in their rustic-chic Tasting Room. We will then check into our oceanfront accommodations at the:

GRAND HOTEL OF CAPE MAY (609)884-5611
1045 Beach Avenue
Cape May, New Jersey 08204

This evening, we will enjoy **dinner at The Lobster House**, a Cape May landmark, overlooking Cape May Harbor, followed by a **Holiday Lights Trolley Ride**. Board our trolley and enjoy a front row view of Cape May's holiday decorations as our trolley winds its way through town. Listen to your guide and learn about exterior holiday decorations, wassailing/caroling, the evolution of Santa, traditions of gift givers and the history of Christmas. Who can resist the twinkle of Cape May's beautiful streetscapes and Victorian homes decorated for Christmas?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19: Following **breakfast** at the hotel this morning, a **local step-on tour guide** will join us as we travel through West Cape May to the tip of Cape May's peninsula,

which is one of the most celebrated migratory locations in North America. Entering **Cape May Point State Park**, view the fully restored Lighthouse, built in 1859. Then, it's onto Sunset Beach where the sunken ship ***Atlantus*** is still visible. Enjoy free time for lunch and finish your holiday shopping at the picturesque **Washington Street Mall**, which serves as Cape May's town square, featuring a variety of unique boutiques, shops, galleries, and restaurants. Return to the hotel this afternoon and freshen up before this evening's **Christmas Candlelight House Tours**. This self-guided walking tour is the main attraction of Cape May's festive holiday season, featuring homes, inns, hotels and churches where you'll step inside to see both Victorian and more modern interiors beautifully decorated for the holidays. As you travel Cape May's gaslit streets, hear carolers and strolling musicians, and hospitality centers offer warm beverages and traditional treats. Cape May launched its first Christmas tour in 1974 and ever since this tour has been a beloved annual tradition and a highlight of the holiday season in America's only National Historic Landmark City. Grab dinner at your leisure this evening.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20: Following **breakfast** and check out, we will visit the **Emlen Physick Estate**. This 1879 Victorian house museum sparkles for the holidays with authentic Victorian decorations that invite you to step back into Christmas past! This unique living history experience gives you the opportunity to interact with a member of the Physick Family household from the 1890s and gain insight into their lives during this time. Then, embark on a **trolley excursion through Cape May's Historic District** as a knowledgeable guide presents entertaining and educational stories about the nation's oldest seashore resort. See the oldest residential streets in town, admire iconic landmarks, quaint gingerbread houses, and stunning examples of Victorian Architecture, including the well-known Grande Dames of Cape May. Following the trolley tour, visit the **Carroll Gallery at the Physick Estate** which becomes a Christmas wonderland this time of year. It's all about the wonder of Christmas morning with model trains and Dept. 56 Dickens Village beneath the boughs of a giant tree. Afterwards, we will depart Cape May and travel to **Historic Smithville, NJ**, a village that takes you back in time! What started as a simple, one-room stagecoach stop has blossomed over the last 50 years into a beloved destination for making memories. Feel the warm embrace and charm of small-town hospitality as you stroll along cobblestone walkways and over foot bridges, browsing the 50 boutiques & shops, and enjoying lunch on your own at one of the eateries onsite. The unique winter wonderland atmosphere of a bygone era will show you why Historic Smithville is a South Jersey hidden gem. We will depart for home, making a comfort stop en route, reflecting on our Victorian Cape May holiday getaway!

PRICE PER PERSON:

SINGLE	$1,075.00	(PRICE INCLUDES: motorcoach transportation,
DOUBLE	$ 845.00	lodging, luggage handling, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch,
TRIPLE	$ 800.00	1 dinner, wine tasting, admissions, trolley tours, guided
QUAD	$ 770.00	tours with guide gratuity, presentation, and tax & gratuities on meals included)

A DEPOSIT OF $200 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BOOKING. ALL RESERVATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY **NOVEMBER 4, 2026**. Payment can be made by cash, check or money order and mailed to our office at above address. Luggage tags and final itineraries are mailed about 2 weeks prior to the trip. Bills are not mailed for balances due, however, courtesy calls as a reminder will be made in case payment is not received by due date. Bus driver & tour director gratuities are not included in tour cost.

***PLEASE NOTE** that much walking is involved with this tour. Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended. Due to Cape May's strict bus regulations, there are designated bus pickup/drop-off locations, which may require walking to/from certain locations. CASUAL CLOTHING is appropriate for the entire tour. Some experiences are outdoor and the trolleys are open-air, so dress according to area weather predictions. Walkers are not permitted on the trolleys.

In the event of a cancellation, any non-refundable expenses for package inclusions such as reserved seat tickets, admissions, meals, or lodging may be forfeited. Rills will guarantee full refund only if the cancelled reservations can be resold to another customer. In the event where travel companions sharing the same room should need to cancel one or more persons in that room, the remaining passengers will be responsible for paying the supplemental charge to change occupancy.

We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation insurance which is available through Travel Insured International. For information and to obtain a quote, visit our agency specific link: http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=61986 For specific questions regarding trip cancellation insurance, call Travel Insured's customer care at (800)243-3174 and refer to Agency #61986 (Rill's Bus Service as agent).

Our motorcoach is equipped with restroom, reclining seats, air-conditioning/heating as needed, luggage compartments, Wi-Fi and electrical/USB outlets. Smoking of any kind is strictly prohibited onboard the motorcoach. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by any tour member while onboard our coach is also strictly prohibited. While every reasonable effort will be made to handle your luggage carefully, Rill's Bus Service will not assume any liability for lost or damaged luggage, due to breakage, theft, hotel or carrier handling, fair wear and tear, etc.

Rill's Bus Service reserves the right to change itineraries and reservations at their discretion, with or without notice, if in the best interest of the customer and to improve the quality of the tour, which could be necessary for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, local weather conditions, cancellations/substitutions for trip inclusions made by outside vendors, and/or any other circumstances beyond their control. Rill's Bus Service acts only as an agent on behalf of tour patrons in all matters relating to tour package inclusions, except transportation by their own vehicles, and is not responsible for any damage, delay, loss, injury, or accident to person or personal property when passenger is participating in tour activities and/or traveling by other transportation means while on tour prepared by Rills. Furthermore, Rill's is not responsible for any additional expenses incurred as a result of sickness, injury, weather, or any other unforeseen circumstances that are beyond their control.

By traveling with Rill's Bus Service and participating in any and all tour package inclusions, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.





Photo Credits: Courtesy of Cape May MAC