Welcome to Delaware!!! Although Delaware is the second smallest state in the country it is blessed with many things to see and do, either within the state or just across its borders. This booklet highlights some of the more well-known places to visit as well as the more obscure, with a few recommendations of specific places to eat or shop. I have also inserted several hyperlinks and these are all active (hold down ‘ctrl’ then click to open them). Good luck!

Ian Stewart

**Newark and Wilmington Area**

Although downtown Wilmington perhaps doesn’t have a lot to attract visitors, the riverfront area leading up to the train station is pleasant ([http://www.riverfrontwilm.com/](http://www.riverfrontwilm.com/)), and walking or jogging alongside the river is a nice way to spend the afternoon, as is just relaxing on a bench and watching the occasional rowing team glide past. The riverfront has recently been revitalized with a children’s museum, an indoor market, theaters and restaurants (including the exclusive Harry’s Seafood Grill), and the brand new IMAX movie theater is close by. The train station itself is an elegant old red brick building and Amtrak trains depart from here to exciting destinations up and down the east coast from New England to Florida.
One of the main attractions in Wilmington is the Delaware Art Museum (http://www.delart.org/), located in one of the city’s most elegant neighborhoods. This is a private, not-for-profit museum that normally costs $12 but is free on Sundays (donations accepted), making it a perfect place to spend a rainy Sunday afternoon. It hosts travelling exhibits as well as a wide variety of permanent paintings including a stunning original by Edward Hopper and a large selection of works by Howard Pyle, a Wilmington native and highly influential artist famous for his illustrations of classic children’s books about pirates, Robin Hood and King Arthur. It has a small gift store, café, and back garden, and if the weather is nice the neighborhood around the museum is a pleasant place to explore.

Concord Mall and Christiana Mall. There are two shopping malls in the area. Christiana Mall is the larger and more modern of the two and contains some brilliant places to shop and eat. Dining on the patio of the Cheesecake Factory on a summer evening is a great way to wind down after a hard day of shopping! On the down side, it can be a nightmare to get in and out of because of its design and proximity to a dense network of roads, and this is especially true on Saturday afternoons and around the holidays. Concord Mall is an easier place to get to, particularly if you take the pleasant country roads through Brandywine Creek State Park, although it is smaller and several of its shops and dining options are spread out along Route 202 and its associated strip malls. It does contain a movie theater, however, and Route 202 is the location of the popular Lucky’s Coffee Shop (http://www.luckyscoffeeshop.com/), a hip retro diner and one of the coolest places to be seen in. If you really want to experience the American Mall at its most extravagant then be sure to spend a day at the King of Prussia Mall, Pennsylvania (http://www.simon.com/mall/king-of-prussia-mall). Located just over an hour from Newark, this is the largest mall on the east coast and contains over 400 shops and plenty of eating options, and is a surprisingly pleasant place.

White Clay Creek State Park. Delaware has an excellent network of state parks and Newark is blessed with arguably the best one. White Clay Creek SP spreads across northern Newark (http://www.destateparks.com/park/white-clay-creek/) and contains miles of well-marked trails popular with hikers, runners and mountain bikers, as well as nature lovers, bird watchers, and people casually walking their dogs. The park has hills, creeks, ponds, meadows and dense forests, and is an equally rewarding place to visit in all four seasons. It hosts regular outdoor programs for families around the Nature Center, and one of the coolest features to try to locate is a stone post on the site of an original Mason Dixon Line marker!

Another excellent state park not far from Newark is Brandywine Creek. This has some excellent trails running alongside the dry stone walls (http://www.destateparks.com/park/brandywine-creek/) as well as more family-oriented areas for picnicking and games, including a cricket pitch in the Rockland Area, but its main attraction is the broad but shallow creek popular with kayakers.

Entry to all of the state parks is free from November 30th to March 1st but for the rest of the year you have to pay during each visit, usually via an honesty-box. If you plan to make multiple visits, it is better to buy an annual pass on-line (http://www.destateparks.com/index.asp) then stick it inside your car window. The fee is currently $27 for a car registered in Delaware and $54
for a car registered out of state.

If you prefer to walk or jog on flatter ground try Newark Reservoir, located on Old Papermill Road off Route 72. This is up on a hill and offers nice views over Newark and UD campus. Delaware Nature Society. If you are interested in nature and in the outdoors in general, I highly recommend that you join the Delaware Nature Society (http://delawarenaturesociety.org/). This very active society runs frequent and interesting nature programs at several locations throughout the state, and these are particularly popular with children during the summer. Most of its programs are based at its headquarters at Ashland, not far from Newark, which is a beautiful place to visit at any time. Not far from Ashland along US-41 is the small town of Hockessin which has a disproportionately large parade and fireworks display each 4th July, as well as a highly-regarded athletic club. It also has some notable food shops and eateries, including the fancy Backburner Restaurant if you want to treat yourself (http://www.backburner.com/). Not far from Hockessin is a legendary ice-cream shop, Woodside Creamery (near the Chinese-American Community Center). This is part of a working farm where you can relax in the tree-lined garden while enjoying a whole variety of icecream (http://www.woodsidefarmcreamery.com/). This is cash only, although they have an ATM in the shop.

Northern Delaware

Old Newcastle. This is an absolute gem less than 30 minutes from Newark (http://www.thebrandywine.com/go/historic_new_castle.html). It is accessed by following road 273 past the Newcastle Farmers Market located on Route 40 (http://newcastlefarmersmarket.com/), which is itself a good, albeit chaotic, place to find some unusual foods as well as cheap clothes and household items. As you enter Newcastle a right hand turn toward the red brick armory leads you down to the historic part of town where there is ample street parking as well as a small waterfront lot. This is the site where William Penn first set foot on American soil in 1682 and there is a bronze statue of him by the quaint village green. Old Newcastle has some cute little shops and a few places to eat, as well as the old courthouse, several art galleries and a popular waterside park. However, many people visit Old Newcastle simply to wander along the cobbled streets through the quaint neighborhoods (watch your ankles!) and explore the grounds of Immanuel Episcopal Church, which dates back to 1703. Several of the owners of the historic houses dress in period costume and welcome visitors during a Christmas celebration in December (which in 2013 will be Saturday December 14th), and you can also sit in the quaint little church and listen to carols being sung by the choir. Regardless of whether you visit on a warm Sunday afternoon or a snowy Saturday, Old Newcastle is arguably the most atmospheric place in the whole state.

Delaware City and Pea Patch Island. Route 9 leads downstate from Newcastle and is a pleasant road to drive as it takes you through some tiny towns and picturesque bridges over the marshes. Traffic is usually light but the speed limit is only 25mph and it is a notorious speed trap so don’t use it if you’re in a hurry. It soon brings you to Delaware City, which doesn’t have a whole lot to offer apart from a small waterside park with an authentic diving bell, an ice cream shop and the famous Crabby Dick’s seafood restaurant where you can sit on the patio and eat shrimp while gazing over the river at Pea Patch Island. Pea Patch Island is actually the reason most people visit Delaware City, since there is a civil war fort on the island, Fort Delaware, which has since
become a popular state park ([http://www.destateparks.com/park/fort-delaware/](http://www.destateparks.com/park/fort-delaware/)), and the only way to get to it is via a boat that shuttles back and forth from the harbor here during the summertime only. As it turned out, the fort was only really used to hold prisoners and so it is very well preserved, and on certain weekends there are people dressed in uniform and period costume who explain what life was like in the fort. There is also a walking trail around the island, though be sure to take bug spray. It’s worth a visit just for the unusual feeling of being on an island!

Just as you leave Delaware City heading south on Route 9 there is another state park, Fort du Pont, accessed just before the impressive Reedy Point Bridge. This is a now a ghost-town of abandoned military buildings ([http://www.destateparks.com/park/fort-dupont/index.asp](http://www.destateparks.com/park/fort-dupont/index.asp)), though it also has some nice walking trails and a quiet picnic spot overlooking the river, and does occasional guided tours. Going further south along Route 9 takes you past some of Delaware’s lesser-known curiosities, including an inland lighthouse and possibly the creepiest place in the whole state, the abandoned Deakyne house at the end of Thoroughfare Neck Road.

Hagley Museum. This is the site of the gunpowder works founded by Eleuthère I. du Pont in 1802, which was the initial source of family’s wealth, and also the ancestral home and gardens of the du Pont family ([http://www.hagley.org/](http://www.hagley.org/)). The family gradually diversified their business interests away from gunpowder but their founding factory located on the banks of the Brandywine Creek near Greenville remains in very good condition and is an interesting place to explore. The well-preserved house is also open for visitors and is surrounded by some striking tree-lined avenues and walled gardens. There is a small café and gift shop and the museum also hosts a variety of changing exhibits and a summer antique car show. The admission is usually $14 but you can occasionally enter for just a dollar on Sundays, just check listings on their web site. Many of the attractions and wildlife areas featured in this guide are a direct result of the generosity of the du Pont family, so if you do visit Hagley it is worth taking the time to ponder how very different our state would have been if EI du Pont had decided to build his factory somewhere else!

Winterthur. This is a beautiful du Pont family estate with extensive grounds that includes a memorable ‘Enchanted Garden’ for children ([http://www.winterthur.org/](http://www.winterthur.org/)), ($18 entry for adults). The gardens are excellent and can be explored on foot or surveyed from the free bus tours, although many people come here to explore the mansion with its antique furnishings and changing exhibits. There is a nice shop and small café inside the grounds, as well as a modern restaurant with a large patio right next to the visitor center. Winterthur is also the venue for the annual Point to Point steeplechase held each May, which is a fixture on the Delaware social calendar if you enjoy dressing up!

Winterthur is located on Kennett Pike (US 52), a graceful road which connects a series of well-maintained small towns and villages. Heading back towards Newark brings you to Greenville, reputedly the most expensive square mile of real estate in Delaware. The small but interesting Delaware Museum of Natural History ([http://www.delmnh.org/](http://www.delmnh.org/)) is found here as well as some notable shops including the high-end Janssen’s Market which sells some gorgeous edibles and has a reasonably-priced café attached to it. In the same strip mall is the exquisite Pizza by Elizabeth’s ([http://www.pizzabyelizabeths.com/](http://www.pizzabyelizabeths.com/)), a trendy restaurant featuring a piano
player at weekends and remarkable variety of gourmet pizzas, all named after famous Elizabeths! If you decide to go in the other direction and take Kennett Pike towards Pennsylvania you soon reach Centerville, a colorful town lined with immaculate old houses that has several craft shops and curiosity stores as well as the historic Buckley’s Tavern. If you really want to splurge, a country lane on the way to Centerville takes you to the exclusive Inn at Montchanin (http://www.montchanin.com/), a sumptuous hotel featured on the Travel Channel that has a spa, masseurs, and a highly-regarded though not prohibitively expensive restaurant.

Odessa and Middletown. Odessa is a small town which most people simply pass through while zipping along US-13, which is unfortunate as the wide main street has some beautiful historic houses and open gardens centered around Cantwell’s Tavern. This tavern has some nice burgers and is famous for making its own beer (Taylor’s Grog) which is served in metal tankards. Odessa’s most notable event takes place on the first Saturday in December (http://christmasinodessa.com/), when the doors to the old houses are thrown open for guided tours.

A visit to Odessa is perhaps best combined with a trip to nearby Middletown. Middletown has an attractive main street and town square with a few scattered places to eat and a classic hardware store, and also a fantastic old theater. The Everett Theater (http://www.everettttheatre.com/) shows recent movies sometimes but also hosts regular plays and musicals for which they hold open auditions – if you’ve ever wanted to perform at a cute theater in front of a friendly crowd here is your chance! This is the theater featured in the iconic movie ‘The Dead Poets Society’ and is essentially unchanged inside and out since then. Most of the movie was filmed at St. Andrews (http://www.standrews-de.org/), a highly-regarded boarding school on the outskirts of Middletown. This school is a sublimely beautiful campus to look around and as far as I am aware, the grounds are open to the public on sports days.

Mid-Delaware

Dover. There isn’t a whole lot to see in Dover and since the busy highway US-13 goes right through it most people only experience the state capital from their car window. This is a pity, as a short detour from the highway brings you to the pedestrian-friendly historic district, which is a sedate grassy area liberally scattered with centuries-old government buildings including the attractive state legislative hall. The historic district also holds the Biggs Museum of American Art, an old theater, and the quirky Johnson Victrola Museum, filled with old gramophones and statues of ‘Nipper’, the focus of the iconic advertisement of a dog looking into a phonograph. The best time to visit is the first Saturday of each month, when the hall and other interesting buildings are open for tours (http://www.destateparks.com/park/first-state-heritage/index.asp).

Milford and Slaughter Beach. Milford is a small, laid-back town whose centerpiece is a boardwalk along the sleepy Mispillion river which separates Kent county from Sussex county (http://www.cityofmilford.com/). The town center has a friendly restaurant converted from an old department store, and there is also a vibrant local playhouse. Milford is a great place to stop off at in order to break the monotony of a long drive along US-113 or US-1, and it also fits in well with a trip to Slaughter Beach. Slaughter Beach is famous as one of the best places in the state to watch Horseshoe Crabs up close as they mate and spawn on the beach during May, and
also witness the hordes of migrating shorebirds eating their eggs. Try not to disturb the feeding
birds by getting too close. You haven’t lived in Delaware if you’ve never seen Horseshoe Crabs!
The beach is usually fairly quiet and pleasant to walk along, and there is also a neat Du Pont
Nature Center accessed via Lighthouse Road which has captive crabs for children to examine, as
well as a wooden pier overlooking the harbor which is popular with birdwatchers. The following
link is taken from the fantastic Delaware Birding Trail, a guide which gives details about
Slaughter Beach as well as several other wilder places in the state that are fun to explore even if
you aren’t particularly interested in birds (http://www.delawarebirdingtrail.org/dbc6.html).

Southern Delaware

Cape Henlopen and Lewes. These two places are close to each other near the bottom of the state
but even if you live in Newark it is possible to drive there and back in the same day, especially if
you take the fast US-1. If you have more time however, it is best to make a weekend of it as both
of these places have a very relaxed atmosphere that is best enjoyed at your leisure. Cape
Henlopen is a large and scenically-diverse state park (http://www.destateparks.com/park/cape
henlopen/) featuring excellent trails for cycling and walking and a long, clean beach. The beach is popular with fishermen and tourists during the
summer but if you prefer to avoid the crowds there is a quiet bay beach accessed at the tip of
Post Road by the signal station. The park also contains a fort from World War 2 which is open to
visitors and one of the fort’s observation towers can be climbed to give great views over the
Atlantic Ocean. Cape Henlopen also has a reasonably-priced camp ground nestled among the
pine trees which is equipped with barbecue pits, picnic tables and showers. Some of the camping
sites are large enough to accommodate several tents so families or groups of buddies can share a
site and have a communal cookout.

The quaint town of Lewes (http://www.lewes.com/) has some brilliant places to eat and shop in
the pedestrian-friendly downtown area as well as some gorgeous houses to admire in the quiet
streets nearby (including the famous ‘Cannonball House’). The Lewes-Cape May ferry terminal
is a perfect place from which to watch the boats sail in and out of the harbor, and if you are
feeling adventurous you can take the ferry over to Cape May, New Jersey. The ferry takes foot
passengers for only $7 return as well as cars (http://capemaylewesferry.com) and departs about
every 3 hours. Cape May is a colorful town to visit on a day trip or over a long weekend
(http://www.capemay.com/), and is also accessible overland via New Jersey. It has an appealing
promenade and beaches, a well-organized town center and leafy, cycle-friendly neighborhoods
of ‘gingerbread houses’, some of which have been modified into highly-recommended bed and
breakfast accommodations.

Maryland

Chesapeake City. This cute little waterfront town is a hidden gem which crouches underneath a
large, imposing bridge not far from Route 896 (http://chesapeakecity.com/). It has a kooky
collection of shops and great places to eat and also a little canal-side park which is a lovely place
to sit with an ice cream and watch the boats drifting in on a summer weekend. Most of the boats
are headed to the legendary Chesapeake Inn and Marina which is curious hybrid of a raucous
outdoor bar out front and an elegant restaurant and ballroom around the back.
Fair Hill ([http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/fairhill.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/fairhill.asp)) is just 20 minutes west of Newark on route 273 and is a 5,000 acre spread of grassy hills and woodlands containing over 80 miles of trails that are open to casual dog walkers, runners, hikers and equestrians. It hosts horse races over Memorial Day weekend and, if you want a more unusual experience, it is also the site of the Annual Scottish Games on the third Saturday of May. It is a well-maintained park with decent facilities, a nature center, a stocked trout stream and several parking lots. Payment is on an honor system, $5 per day for out of state residents, $3 for in-state. Be warned that deer and raccoon hunters are active in certain parts of Fair Hill during the fall and winter so try to avoid the marked areas.

North East. Halfway between Newark and Havre de Grace is the town of North East ([http://www.northeastmd.org/about.php](http://www.northeastmd.org/about.php)), a nice place to spend an afternoon as it has a sleek main street with a large antique mall located inside a converted historic hotel as well as several eclectic shops and eateries, including the legendary yet informal Woody’s Crab House. Not far from North East is Elk Neck State Park in which you can take a pleasant stroll to the historic Turkey Point Lighthouse and enjoy the views across the Chesapeake Bay. It also hosts a cute Christmas parade in December together with a Santa’s Grotto for children.

Havre de Grace. This colorful town is right on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay about 20 miles west of Newark and is easily accessed via Route 40 or I-95 ([http://www.hdgtourism.com/](http://www.hdgtourism.com/)). It has a small but interesting downtown area with a fantastic row of antique shops, a duck decoy museum, and a pretty park with a boardwalk and old lighthouse.

Chestertown. A trip to Chestertown requires a full day really as it takes about 1 ½ hours to get there, especially if you go via the slower, prettier back roads (although even the most direct road, US-301, is actually quite pleasant and not too busy). This is a friendly riverside town with some great little shops, cafes, art galleries and antique stores, as well as a pretty town square ([http://www.chestertown.com/](http://www.chestertown.com/)). The town square is the venue for outdoor plays and brass band concerts on Saturdays during the summer. Chestertown is also the home of George Washington College ([http://www.washcoll.edu/](http://www.washcoll.edu/)). This is one of the oldest schools in the country and was founded in 1782 thanks to a 50 guinea donation from George Washington. The campus is close to the town center and worth a visit. If you would prefer to break up the long drive there then one option is to stop for lunch on the way down in Georgetown, perhaps at the historic Kitty Knight House ([http://www.kittyknight.com/](http://www.kittyknight.com/)). Georgetown straddles the Sassafras River and has a sedate harbor where you can walk alongside boats of all shapes and sizes and dream of one day owning one.

**South-eastern Pennsylvania**

Kennett Square. This local highlight was recently awarded 5th place in Budget Travel magazine’s list of the ‘Coolest small towns in America’. It is a gorgeous town just 30 minutes from Newark along Limestone Road ([http://historickennettsquare.com/](http://historickennettsquare.com/)), with a fascinating mix of upscale modern stores, galleries and eateries nestled alongside an old barber shop and American Legion Post, all surrounded by some sublime old houses tucked away down side streets. Some of the shops and eateries are a quite expensive but there are plenty of reasonably-priced alternatives to
both including a very welcoming charity book shop and Sinclair’s Sunrise Diner on Main Street. The Half Moon restaurant is not too pricey and has an exotic menu that includes bison, kangaroo and ostrich! Kennett Square is usually a relaxing town to stroll around on a Saturday or Sunday morning but during the first weekend of September the streets become chaotic because of the annual mushroom festival! Kennett is the ‘Mushroom Capital of the World’, and the long, low warehouses dotted alongside Limestone are actually mushroom farms. The festival celebrates these fun fungi with lots of vendors selling mushroom-rich foods and paraphernalia, as well as cooking displays and mushroom-related art. Despite the crowds it’s a lot of fun and only a few dollars to enter, although it might be best if this was not your first visit to Kennett!

Longwood Gardens. Many people visit Kennett Square during the morning or for lunch then spend the rest of the day at Longwood Gardens (http://www.longwoodgardens.org/), which is just a few miles down the road. This is another outstanding local attraction which is a perfect place to take your parents or friends visiting from out of town. It was originally an arboretum and was bought by Pierre du Pont with the intention of preserving it. However, he fell in love with the place and ended up building a summer house and developing the grounds even further with a network of ornamental gardens, fountains and lakes. These are all surrounded by wide, paved walkways so it easy to get around, and there are even motorized wheelchairs for rent. This place isn’t cheap but it’s worth the entry fee as once you are inside you can easily spend several hours here. It is $18 entry for adults, so consider becoming a member if you plan on making regular visits. It has a topiary garden and a rose garden, as well as an exquisite glass conservatory with a range of tropical plants including bonsai and water lilies. There is a wide stone terrace before the conservatory which is the prime viewing spot for the fountain displays which take place daily: the ones that take place during the evening are the most dramatic as they are accompanied by piped classical music. Near the conservatory there is a nice restaurant and a low-key café with a patio. Longwood also stages regular indoor and outdoor concerts and art exhibits throughout the year (see their web site for listings; some are free once you are inside while others are expensive). There is an excellent shop in the foyer which sells live plants and seeds as well as gardening supplies and plant paraphernalia. One of the amazing things about Longwood is that the scenery changes with the seasons, and it is just as pretty to visit during the Christmas period as it is when all the flowers are in bloom. You shouldn’t leave Delaware without visiting Longwood Gardens at least once!

Driving west along Kennett Pike takes you into Pennsylvania and then a right turn on US-1 soon brings you to the elegant town of Chadds Ford. This has a variety of interesting places to eat and shop, especially during the summertime craft fairs, and is also the site of the Battle of Brandywine which is small but tidy and worth a visit, even if you only want to see the house that George Washington slept in the night before the battle (http://www.thebrandywine.com/dine/chaddsford.html). Its biggest draw is the Brandywine River Museum, which is an picturesque art gallery and sometime concert venue within a former gristmill overlooking the river (http://www.brandywinemuseum.org/). The gallery contains works by many artists but most people come to see originals by Andrew and NC Wyeth, and also tour the former’s studio. The Wyeths produced several classic paintings of pivotal moments in American history as well as being responsible for how most people imagine pirates thanks to their illustrations for an early edition of ‘Treasure Island’, the originals of which are on display here.
Many of the country roads in south eastern Pennsylvania are beautiful to drive along, especially on a sunny afternoon in spring or fall. Routes 841, 896 and 926 in particular are lined with some lovely old houses and farms and pass through several appealing small towns and villages, and sometimes you can stumble upon some lovely places to eat or shop. One such gem hidden out in the countryside is the Whip Tavern, a small English-style pub (http://www.thewhiptavern.com/) with a nice back patio. It isn’t cheap and it’s always busy so expect to have to park alongside the road. However, it’s always busy for a reason, which is that the beer and food (both British) is excellent, and unusual. Another prize is Baldwin’s Book Barn (http://www.bookbarn.com) on Lenape Road. This five-story building dates from 1822 and sells an incredible variety of antiquarian and modern books as well as maps and prints. It is a very friendly and charming book store where you can easily spend many hours climbing up and down the narrow stairs between floors and exploring the small ‘book nooks’ which used to house dairy cows.

Cheslen. If you want to blow away some mental cobwebs by wandering around an open, blustery hillside for a few hours then this large chunk of rolling countryside is the perfect place (http://www.natlands.org/preserves-to-visit/list-of-preserves/cheslen-preserve/). It is one of several properties in the area owned by the admirable Natural Lands Trust who buy large tracts of land in order to prevent it from being developed and then implement conservation measures such as reforestation. Cheslen has several entrances and car parks though most people use the one off Route 162 near Embreeville. It is a nice place to visit in both summer and winter as the wide views over the surrounding countryside change dramatically with the seasons, and there are several pieces of history hidden away in the corners. These include the Stargazer’s from which Mason and Dixon took measurements over 250 years ago during their survey, and Potter’s Field cemetery, which dates from 1798 and was mainly used to bury the dead from the local poorhouse. Cheslen is free to enter and leashed dogs are welcome, as are horses, and not many people come here so you might have the place to yourself.

Stroud. This is another Natural Lands preserve near Cheslen (http://www.natlands.org/preserves-to-visit/list-of-preserves/stroud-preserve/). This has 10 miles of excellent trails through fields and woodlands and is noted for its wildlife habitat. If walking around here gives you an appetite then there are plenty of places to eat in nearby West Chester, and an unusual alternative is Four Dogs Tavern (http://www.marshaltoninn.com/) just a few miles away in the beautiful hamlet of Marshallton which has a back patio that allows dogs.

West Chester. This is only about an hour away from Newark and makes for a good day trip (http://www.downtownwestchester.com/). It has a nice history museum and also a lively main street with a cool mix of trendy shops and outdoor cafes Westchester also has a well-respected university with a pretty red brick campus not far from downtown.

Lancaster and Strasburg. Lancaster is over 1½ hours from Newark but a convenient way to break up the drive is to call in at Strasburg on the way (http://www.strasburgpa.com/). Strasburg is a pretty town surrounded by several large antique barns and has a popular old-time ice cream store right in the middle of town There is a large Amish community around Strasburg and on the outskirts of town there is an Amish chain store (http://peacefulvalleyfurniture.com/) which sells a wide variety of hand-made furniture, household items and souvenirs. Be warned that Amish
furniture is not cheap but it is high quality and durable. Strasburg also has a famous railroad to ride ([http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/](http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/)), as well as a railway museum. If you would like a unique sleeping experience, not far from the railroad is the Red Caboose Motel and restaurant which is composed of old railroad cars ([http://www.redcaboosemotel.com](http://www.redcaboosemotel.com)).

Lancaster ([http://www.cityoflancasterpa.com](http://www.cityoflancasterpa.com)) has an interesting downtown shopping area and the Central Market is one of the oldest in the country, though this closes mid-afternoon so be sure to get there in the morning. There are some historic neighborhoods to explore and it is also the home of Franklin and Marshall University ([http://www.fandm.edu/](http://www.fandm.edu/)), a highly-ranked liberal arts college established in 1787 which has a nice campus to walk around. Lancaster is in the middle of Amish country and there are many scenic drives around here as well as towns popular with tourists such as Bird-in-Hand ([http://www.bird-in-hand.com/](http://www.bird-in-hand.com/)). Try to be respectful of the Amish people who generally do not like to be photographed and note that Amish stores are closed on Sundays and only take cash, although the larger stores usually have an ATM.

If you don’t want to drive so far there is also an Amish store in the large indoor Farmer’s Market at Booth’s Corner off Route 202, north of Concord Mall ([http://www.boothsconer.com/](http://www.boothsconer.com/)). Oxford also has an Amish market selling fresh local produce and barbecue which is attached to an antiques shop ([http://www.downtownoxfordpa.org/market.html](http://www.downtownoxfordpa.org/market.html)). There are a few interesting shops in downtown Oxford including the Oxford Feed and Lumber Store, which is a famous farm supply store that also sells a wide variety of pet products and bird feeders.

Media. This is a friendly town just off I-95 with an old trolley line running along the middle of the main street. It has some cute craft shops and a longstanding Italian restaurant (Fellini’s) which has superb, reasonably-priced food and famous wall murals ([http://visitmediapa.com/](http://visitmediapa.com/)). A visit to Media can be combined with a stroll around the somber graystone campus of nearby Swarthmore College ([http://www.swarthmore.edu/](http://www.swarthmore.edu/)), which dates from 1864 and was recently ranked as the 3rd best liberal arts college in the entire country. If you go via I-95 it is worth calling in at the brand new Pennsylvania visitor center which is stocked with tourist information.

Valley Forge. This is the site of George Washington’s winter camp during the Revolutionary War ([http://www.nps.gov/valo/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/valo/index.htm)) and contains some of the original houses plus reenactments of the camp. It is surrounded by dramatic rolling scenery and contains trails for walkers and cyclists as well as an extensive souvenir shop for history buffs.

**Further afield**

A review of things to see and do in neighboring cities is beyond the scope of this guide given the richness of their options. Philadelphia is our nearest city and is close enough that it can easily be visited in a day trip, especially if you go by public transport and avoid the stress of driving and parking in heavy traffic! The easiest way to get there is to take a train from Newark Station using the local network ([http://www.septa.org/](http://www.septa.org/), Newark is on the Regional Rail Line) or the more expensive Amtrak ([www.Amtrak.com](http://www.Amtrak.com)). It only takes an hour or so and the train stops right in the heart of the city at 30th Street Station. Other stunning places to visit are Washington DC, Baltimore and New York City, all of which are served by train, though services leave from Wilmington Station more frequently than they do from Newark. These destinations are a further
afield but make great weekend trips, and since they all have decent youth hostels accommodation needn’t break the bank. Amtrak can be expensive, especially on weekends, but a much more reasonable alternative ($1??!) is to take the Megabus (www.megabus.com) which picks up and drops off right on the UD campus at the Marriott Courtyard. It’s an amazing experience to get on a bus in sleepy Newark and get off it a few hours later in Manhattan! The UD student center also runs popular day trips to these cities.

Summary

This guide highlights what I have found to be the best places to visit in and around Delaware but I am sure there are many more to be found! My advice is get out and about and you never know what delights you might come across. If you find anything of note please let me know at ‘istew ‘at’ udel.edu’ and I can include them in future versions of the guide.

Good luck on your travels!

Ian Stewart

PS. I have no financial connection with any of the shops or restaurants mentioned in this guide!