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Discovering the Garden State: Geography of New Jersey



New Jersey, often called the Garden State, is a small but diverse state located in the northeastern part of the United States. Despite its modest size, it boasts a wide range of geographical features, from rolling hills and fertile farmland to bustling cities and picturesque shorelines. Let's delve into the geography of New Jersey and uncover the beauty of this unique state.

Location and Borders

New Jersey is situated in the northeastern region of the United States, bordered by New York to the north and northeast, Pennsylvania to the west, and Delaware to the southwest. To the east, it is flanked by the Atlantic Ocean, offering stunning coastal views.

Size and Counties

New Jersey covers an area of approximately 8,722 square miles, making it one of the smallest states in the country. Despite its size, it is divided into 21 counties, each with its own distinct character and geography.

Varied Landscapes

New Jersey's geography is incredibly diverse. The state features rolling hills in the northwest, the expansive Pine Barrens in the south, and the scenic Delaware Water Gap in the northwest. Its landscape ranges from mountains and forests to fertile farmland and coastal plains.

Mountains and Highlands

The northern part of the state is home to the Kittatinny Mountains and the Highlands region. This area offers excellent opportunities for hiking, with stunning vistas and pristine wilderness.

Coastal Plains

The southern and eastern parts of New Jersey are primarily coastal plains. These low-lying areas are characterized by fertile soil, making them ideal for agriculture. The region also hosts many charming towns and cities along the Jersey Shore.



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Rivers and Lakes

New Jersey is crisscrossed by numerous rivers, including the Delaware River, which forms its western border, and the Raritan and Passaic Rivers. Additionally, the state has numerous lakes, such as Lake Hopatcong, a popular destination for water sports and relaxation.

The Jersey Shore

The Jersey Shore stretches along the eastern coastline and is famous for its beautiful beaches, boardwalks, and summer resorts. It offers a wide range of recreational activities, from swimming and surfing to amusement park rides.

The Pine Barrens

The Pine Barrens, located in the southern part of the state, is a vast forested area known for its sandy soils and distinctive pine trees. It's also home to unique plants and wildlife, including the rare Pine Barrens tree frog.

Urban Centers

New Jersey is densely populated, with several major cities, including Newark, Jersey City, and the capital, Trenton. These urban centers are hubs of culture, commerce, and education.

Transportation Hub

The state's strategic location and well-developed transportation infrastructure, including major highways, airports, and ports, make New Jersey a vital transportation hub for the northeastern United States.

