As you relax on our beaches, enjoy our famous blue crabs or take advantage of the multitude of vacation activities our family resort offers to you, include time to learn about the unique role Ocean City, Maryland has played in our nation's history. Our barrier island is 10 miles of land shaped by the wrath of Mother Nature, combined with the hard work of dedicated citizens.

Founded in 1875, Ocean City began as a small fishing village. Most commercial fishing was from boats in the Sinepuxent Bay but a few brave souls risked launching through the shore break to fish in the Atlantic Ocean. To earn extra money, the wives of the fishermen would rent out rooms until later years when hotels were built.

On August 23, 1933, a violent hurricane hit the resort, cutting a link into the ocean with the bay, thus creating offshore fishing. Sport fishing became such a popular attraction that by 1939, Ocean City was known as the "White Marlin Capital of the World."

Another devastating storm swept through town on March 5, 1962. The rebuilding of destroyed property blossomed into continuing community growth. Today, organizations such as the Downtown Association of Ocean City and the Ocean City Development Corporation are working to preserve history while striving for the positive revitalization of the Downtown Area.

For a more information on the history of our coastal town, please spend time at Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum.

Enjoy your tour of Downtown Ocean City, Maryland!
10. Perdue House
Baltimore Avenue & Talbot Street

Built around 1905, this is the largest and most elaborate of the Queen Anne style Victorian dwellings in Ocean City. Also known as the Taylor House, this is one of the best preserved of a small number of Queen Anne dwellings in town. Harlan & Minnie Perdue purchased the house in 1914 and the family interests were maintained until 1980.

Let's walk east on Talbot Street to the boardwalk. When you reach the corner, you may want to stop for a bit of fish or bucket of Fisher's cinnamon Popcorn, well known by the people who enjoy Heading north on the boardwalk, we will stop at Caroline Street to see...

11. Caroline Street Enlarged Post Cards

In 2004, computer imaging was used to enhance actual post cards and placed the results on this wall.

Walking north on the boardwalk, we come to the...

12. Boardwalk Arch

The Boardwalk Arch was built by the Town of Ocean City in 2000 as a greeting to our many visitors.

Let's continue by taking a stroll west on 3rd Street to Chicago Avenue where we will find...

13. Ocean City Baptist Church
Baltimore Avenue & North Division Street

The Ocean City Baptist Church was originally built around 1906 for the Presbyterian congregation that formed in the resort town. The title was transferred to the Baptist Church in the early 1940s. Let's wander west 1 block on North Division Street for a view of the White Martin Statue. This was erected in 2002 by the Ocean City Development Corporation and funded through private contributions. It is meant to welcome visitors coming in over the Rt. 50 Bridge. While here, why not take a photo?

Let's walk north on Philadelphia Avenue to First Street and once again turn east to the boardwalk. Heading north on the boardwalk we will continue to Third Street, in front of the Surf Plaza Hotel, at Second Street, you will find some palm trees on the beach side which present a perfect photo opportunity.

Leaving the boardwalk one more time at Third Street, we are going to see...

14. St. Paul's By The Sea Episcopal Church
3rd Street & Baltimore Avenue

This was the second church to be erected in the Town of Ocean City. The cornerstone was laid in 1890 and the church was completed and consecrated in 1891. The interior of the church is quite beautiful. Numerous stained glass windows adorn the sanctuary and the building has an air of peacefulness about it. The church was originally built on second story floors, allowing storm surges to pass beneath the building. Over the years, a basement was added and the rectory was built in 1923.

15. City Hall - Third Street & Baltimore Avenue

Built in 1913, this building was erected as a college to augment the Towns College of the Maryland State Teachers Association. The idea of a college in Ocean City was abandoned two years later and the building was then designated as a Worcester County school for children from Ocean City and the outlying areas. It served as the hub of social and cultural activities for over half a century. The last class to graduate from the high school was in 1954 with twenty-two students accepting diplomas. Elementary levels used the school well into the 1960s. In 1968, the Towns of Ocean City acquired the building and it has since been used as the Towns City Hall. It recently underwent a massive restoration. Open during business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Let's continue by taking a stroll west on 3rd Street to Chicago Avenue where we will find...

16. Bayside Fisherman's Home

This is one of the few remaining sections of Ocean City that has not been greatly disturbed by progress. The street is lined with small bungalows, once the homes of commercial fishermen and shipowners. The George B. Cropper Concrete Company that sits on the bay front, was founded many years ago and is the only heavy industry business in the resort.

The George B. Cropper Concrete Company that sits on the bay front, was founded many years ago and is the only heavy industry business in the resort. The George B. Cropper Concrete Company that sits on the bay front, was founded many years ago and is the only heavy industry business in the resort.

As we continue south, we will walk under the Route 50 bridge towards the bayside fishing marina. Since the turn of the century, fishing marinas have extended along the bay south of the Ocean City Bridge. Much excitement and many fish tales have always entertained crowds that gather for the return of the sport-fishing boats in the early morning. Prints can be found at the end of Talbot, Dorchester and Somerset Streets. Several restaurants of long standing such as the Argyle Restaurant (since 1939).

M. R. Ducey and the Maritime Ducey to the public. Any of these would be an excellent choice for a lunch or dinner stop. If you want to take a rest area,

The docks are busy with charters for sport-fishing, nature tours, bay fishing and speed boat rides. You can still find some of the homes of men who worked for the United States Life-Saving Service and those in the commercial fishing and sports fishing industry. Their wives rented out rooms in their homes for extra money. In days past, the yards were well tended, flowers abound and front porches were places of congregation, spending time visiting away the evenings.

As we walk south on Philadelphia Avenue, from Somerset Street, you will see Dawson's Ice Cream Factory.

This building was constructed in 2002 and is an exact replica of the original Pier building located on the boardwalk. Want something cold to eat or drink? Stop in here and watch the ice cream being made.

We once again head south on Philadelphia Avenue to South Division Street where we will see...

17. The Old Rail Road Bridge Site

In 1876, a train trestle was erected to span the St Simons Bay and provide direct transportation to the beach. Other than water transportation, this trestle was the only access across the bay until the first road bridge was built in 1918. The train trestle was soon planned to permit the passage of wagons, buggies and horses. This is where the trains would come into Ocean City with visiting traffic up until 1919. The great storm of that year destroyed the bridge and there are still myths that there was a train on the bridge at the time which now lies at the bottom of the bay.

18. Viola's Ice Cream
103 South Division Street

In 1994, this house was used by Columbia Pictures in the filming of the movie "Viola's Ice Cream," starring Whoopi Goldberg and Kevin Kline. The film was quite a success at the time and brought the Town of Ocean City much recognition. This house, built circa 1912, is the remaining building in Ocean City which is typical of those found in the commercial pound camp. They were known as fish camp houses. The building served as the office to the fish camp owner and as a place to house and feed the fishing crew which generally numbered six men. This type of structure was an asset to the interior as it was an asset to the exterior. The house had four rooms, the office, kitchen and two upstairs bedrooms. There were no closets and no luxuries only the bare essentials. Meals were served to the fishermen at 4 a.m., 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. In 1915, the pound fisherman was paid seven dollars a week. The ground floor was later cement blocked and converted into a small apartment.

Right next door you will find...

19. Henry's Hotel
101 South Division Street

Formerly known as "Henry's Colored Hotel," this is the last surviving hotel to serve only African-American visitors. Charles Henry and his wife Louisa purchased the hotel in 1926, when access to the beach for what was then called the "colored" population was severely restricted and only minorities stayed here. The property is no longer a hotel.

We are almost to the last stop of our journey of downtown Ocean City. Heading south on Baltimore Avenue, the last stop is at the inlet to see...

20. The Inlet Indian - At the Inlet

This monument, representing the Assateague Indian, was sculpted by Peter Toth and given to the people of Maryland as a gift. The statue is to pay homage to his heritage and to raise the nation's consciousness as to the plight of the Indian. The monument, carved from a 100-year-old oak, was completed in 1976. The Assateague, along with other Indian tribes in the area, were pressured by colonists to move northward out of the region. Their migration led them through Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, and finally into Canada where they lost to history.

It is the hope of the Downtown Association that you have enjoyed your tour of this historic area of Ocean City, Maryland, and we look forward to your next visit downtown.