

Delaware beach town is a blessing

Rehoboth turns peace, good times into a winner

Rehoboth Beach is a slice of heaven tucked away off Route 1. It's a small town blessed with a Norman Rockwell appeal.

Trees line the streets. Serenity fills the air. The locals welcome you into their tiny village and leave a lasting impression.

Few things are more relaxing than a morning walk in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. It often begins on the boardwalk and meanders through a series of streets comprised of beautiful homes, stunning landscaping and cordial visitors. Dogs walk in step with their owners. They stop to say hello.

Cross a small bridge over a calm, pristine lake. Mansions surround the waterway. They sit like castles and add to the ambiance. It makes you wonder how beautiful this setting must be during the holidays.

Rehoboth Beach warms your heart and raises your spirits. The sun awakens from the horizon of the Atlantic. Puffy clouds dot blue skies. Your day begins with a smile and ends the same way. It's fulfilling and deserved. Rehoboth meets any challenge travelers might offer.

It's teeming with mom-and-pops that only enhance its reputation as a family destination. Have breakfast at a cozy diner; lunch at a legendary greasy spoon; and dinner at an



SERENITY NOW – Mansions sit around a calm lake in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Image: Frank Verdecchia. AAA.

intimate restaurant.

Hundreds of locally owned businesses take up residence throughout town. Bars and eateries have eclectic themes and menus, satisfying the tastes of all who visit. Shops sell unique jewelry, clothing and other items. Motels snugly fit among their peers. They're small and comfy. Some have patios that rise above Rehoboth Avenue. People-watching doesn't get much better.

The gem among eateries, meanwhile, is a scruffy diamond. It opened in 1956. Owners rebuilt it following a storm six years later. It's doubtful it's been updated since.

This is Gus & Gus Place – the iconic joint on the corner of boardwalk and Wilmington Avenue. Burgers, hot dogs, sausages, eggs and other sandwich meats sizzle on a worn grill engulfed in flavors engraved by past

ingredients. Delectable aromas envelop the area for blocks. Lines form early and don't end until the final order is taken.

The star of this show is the cook – also known as the GOAT. He hovers over the grill. A bad back keeps him from standing upright, but it doesn't deplete his skills. He works a full grill the way Michael Jordan worked helpless defenders. How he never botches an order is amazing.

He's an interesting character among Rehoboth's fairytale setting. It's a lengthy cast meant to engrain special memories and make sure you return.

Conversations spark at watering holes. The grapefruit crush ranks atop Rehoboth's list of signature cocktails.

Obie's By the Sea plunges the fruit in front you. The establishment highlights the northern end of the boardwalk. The scent of saltwater wafts from the ocean and tickles your nostrils. It doesn't get much better.

Grotto Pizza can be found throughout Rehoboth, including the boardwalk. Order a slice or a whole pie. You won't be dissatisfied, either way.

Enjoy a bucket of fries. Have an ice cream cone. Or just find a seat and people-watch.

And don't forget about the beach – miles of wonderful sand. Take up residence under an umbrella, grab a book and allow your concerns to wash away.

This isn't a dream. It's Rehoboth.

Deck the hauls: Keep your tree secure

Use proper tools, practice safety when moving

It's better to find out what is under the Christmas tree rather than finding out what it might be under.

AAA found that an estimated 85 million Americans plan to purchase a real Christmas tree and face the task of getting it home safely. It's a chore that shouldn't be taken lightly.

It's no different than moving furniture, appliances or other large objects; and if it's not secured properly, the tree could damage a vehicle's paint, door seals and window frames. Even worse, it could become dislodged from the vehicle and become a danger to other drivers. Previous AAA research found that road debris caused more than 200,000 crashes during a four-year period, resulting in nearly 39,000 injuries and 500 deaths.

A AAA study revealed that 84 million Americans plan to purchase a real Christmas tree. It also found that 44% of those Americans would transport it by using unsafe methods. This includes 20% who would tie the tree to the roof without using a roof rack and 24% who planned to place it in the bed of a pickup truck unsecured.

AAA offers these helpful tips to



KEEP IT TIGHT – Be sure to properly secure the tree to your vehicle on your way home. Image: Supamotion. Adobe Stock.

safely transport home a tree:

- Be sure to bring strong rope or nylon ratchet straps before leaving to purchase a real Christmas tree. Also bring a blanket, gloves and the proper vehicle. One with a roof rack is ideal, but a pickup, SUV, van or minivan can work, as well.
- Have the lot wrap the tree before loading it. Loose branches can also be secured with rope or twine to help protect the tree from damage.
- Place the tree on the roof rack or in the bed of the truck facing the front of the vehicle. If it doesn't have a roof rack and is a SUV,

CUV, van or minivan, place the tree inside. It might be more viable to borrow or rent a pickup if you don't have one.

- Secure the tree at its bottom, center and top by using strong rope or nylon ratchet straps. Avoid using the twine offered by many tree outlets. Use fixed vehicle tie-down points and loop the rope and strap around the tree trunk above a branch to prevent side-to-side or front-to-rear movement.
- Once tied down, give the tree several strong tugs from various angles to make sure it is secured in place and will not come loose.
- And drive slowly and take secondary roads, if possible. Higher speeds can create significant airflow that can damage a tree or challenge even the best tie-down methods.

Purchasing a Christmas tree adds to the magic of the holiday. It's a family tradition filled with memories and yuletide cheer.

Complacency isn't an option and it could put you on the naughty list.

Be safe and Deck the Hauls.

EV Escalade includes the highest IQ

Unveiling of 2025 model ups the ante on EV luxury

Cadillac has set the standard for American luxury vehicles for generations – and nothing seems to be slowing it down.

It recently unveiled its first all-electric full-size SUV – the 2025 Escalade IQ. The vehicle brims with iconic design, the highest level of craftsmanship and the most recent automotive technology. It has a Cadillac-estimated range of 450 miles on a full charge, Super Cruise driver assistance technology, bidirectional-charging capability, zero tailpipe emissions and much more.

Escalade IQ elevates the driving experience with a curved pillar-to-pillar, 55-inch total diagonal LED display. It's built on General Motors' modular EV propulsion architecture, the Ultium Platform, and incorporates the automaker's Ultifi software platform to support and deliver ongoing updates to its expansive technologies.

Its dedicated EV architecture enables a bold design and performance characteristics, from its expressive silhouette and generous space to its driving performance. The SUV features independent front and rear drive motors that work in conjunction with an eAWD system.

A 24-module Ultium battery serves as the foundation of the Escalade IQ, producing more than 200 kWh of available energy. It also employs a flexible, high-voltage architecture that enables 800-volt DC fast charging, the quickest form of charging available, providing up to 100 miles of



IT'S ELECTRIC – The 2025 Cadillac Escalade IQ brings added luxury to the EV driving experience. *Image: NewsPress USA.*

range in 10 minutes.

The powerful electric-propulsion configuration, consisting of the battery pack, power electronics and a two-motor eAWD system, offers elite power on demand and surprising performance, including:

- Up to 750 horsepower (with driver-selectable Velocity Max)
- Up to 785 lb-ft of torque (with driver-selectable Velocity Max)
- 0-60 mph in less than five seconds (with driver-selectable Velocity Max)
- Up to 8,000 pounds of towing capability

Super Cruise enables drivers to travel

hands-free on more than 400,000 miles of compatible roads in the U.S. and Canada. When engaged, Escalade IQ's LiDAR map data, real-time cameras, radars and GPS keep the vehicle traveling along the lane path for a hands-free driving experience. These systems work together through "sensor fusion" to create a sensory field around the vehicle that assists in keeping it centered in the lane.

Super Cruise accelerates or brakes the vehicle to maintain a selected following gap from a vehicle ahead and steers to maintain lane position. It also can perform driver and system-initiated lane changes

to pass slower traffic and to move from a lane that might be ending, while monitoring the driver's head position and/or eyes in relation to the road to ensure the driver's attention.

Escalade IQ electric architecture enables a sleeker profile, but one with a silhouette that remains instantly recognizable. The new design pushed the wheels farther to the corners for a more powerful-looking and planted stance. Starting with a long, dynamic hood and ending with a faster-sloping roofline at the rear, all of which contributes to a sportier aesthetic.

Escalade IQ's exterior details include:

- Available power and open-and-close exterior door entry system.
- Motorized charge port doors that open automatically with a touch.
- Large eTrunk compartment under the hood with 12-cubic feet of storage.
- Dynamic 24-inch wheel designs.

The SUV's interior is highlighted by a large LED display, but also includes Smart Controls like Universal Remote control for when pulling up to the garage. Its integrated infotainment experience is further personalized and enhanced with Google Assistant, Google Maps and Google Play.

Escalade IQ boasts features like stowable tray tables, 12.6-inch-diagonal personal screens, a rear-command center screen, wireless phone-charging pads, USB-C and HDMI ports and massaging seats.

There seems to be no end to Escalade IQ's amenities. Pricing begins at \$130,000.