

Atlantic Kayak Tours

Brigantine Wildlife Refuge

Tour Description

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- Meeting Times:** 9:30 AM Saturday morning. Most people come on Friday and stay at the campground for two nights. Have equipment ready to leave for paddling.
- Meeting Place:** Bass River Campground, by campground registration (609) 296-1114
- Distance:** 6-10 miles a day.
- Skill Level:** Previous paddling experience required. Moderate to choppy seas.
- Equipment:** Always dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Bring extra clothing. If you bring your own kayak it must be a minimum of 14 feet long and have bulkheads. Canoes are acceptable for the river day.
- Meals:** Meals are not included. The group goes out for the Saturday dinner. Others can choose to cook at the campground. Bring a lunch and plenty to drink for each day paddle.
- Accommodations:** Accommodations are not included. Most will be staying at the Bass River State Campground. This is one of the best camp grounds we have ever stayed at. It is clean, beautiful and inexpensive. See other side for information on J.D. Thompson Inn
- Directions:** From Southern N.J., take the Garden State Parkway North to exit #50. Make a left at the exit. Follow directions below.
From Northern NJ take the Garden State Parkway South to the first exit after the New Gretna toll plaza (exit #52). Bear right at the exit and follow the directions below.
Continue about 1 mile then take a right, following signs to Bass River State Park. In another mile the park will be on the left.
- lat/lon:** N39.6210/W74.4230 (campground)
- Great Bay Blvd. Launch Site** N39.5216/W74.3187
Left out of campground onto Stage Road. In 3.8 miles Turn right at Giffordtown Lane. Crossing Route 9, Giffordtown Lane will turn into Olk Lane. Follow to the end and turn right onto Great Bay Blvd. Follow Great Bay Blvd. for 5.2 miles and there will be a parking area on the right with a launch site on the left just before a bridge. You can drop off your kayak at the launch site or carry it from the parking area.
- Oswego Takeout** N39.6650/W74.5242
Right out of campground onto Stage Road. In 1.3 miles make a slight left at County Rd. 653/Leektown Road. In 1.1 miles a slight right at Chatsworth Rd./County Rd. 679. In 4.2 miles you will see the parking area at Harrisville Pond.
- Oswego Launch** N39.7345/W74.4910
From takeout continue on Chatsworth Rd. (Rt. 679) for 1.4 miles which goes into Greenbank Chatsworth Rd. In 1.4 miles turn right onto Lake Oswego Road. Continue for 3 miles. Parking area will be on the right just after the lake.

Description

We will do two different day trips. Many of us will camp in the Pine Barrens at Bass River State Forest. If desired, you can stay elsewhere and meet the group at the camp ground each morning. Brigantine is a large marsh area with many small channels and large bays. It is an ideal area for bird watching.

One of the days we will paddle in open water near Great Bay and Brigantine Wildlife Refuge. It is an ideal area for bird watching. The weather of the day will determine where we go but we will try to have lunch on Brigantine Island.

On calm days we head out through a small marsh channel to the northern end of Brigantine Island and into the open water of the Atlantic Ocean. We usually split into two groups, with more adventurous paddlers looking for some rough water to play in. Lunch is on a Sandy Beach facing the ocean on this 8-12 mile trip. On windy days we stay in the marsh and large bays of the area with lunch on one of the marsh islands.

The other day will be spent on a river in the Pine Barrens. These are small winding grade 1 or 2 rivers. Your skills will be tested as we maneuver around many downed trees and tight turns. The cedar trees tint the water to a nice tea color. This is a one way trip with a shuttle. The Oswego is an 8-9 mile trip.

Note: Bass River Campground operates on a first come first serve basis. Off season there is usually more than enough sites. They also offer cabins and lean-tos which fill up early so you need to book them well ahead of the program. The campground has great hiking, running, biking trails so arrive on Friday to explore the park.

The lean-tos are closed in with two bunk rooms which have two bunk beds each. No electric or water in the lean-tos.

J.D. Thompson Inn

A nice B&B(609) 294-1331 at 149 E. Main Street in Tuckerton, NJ. It's 5 miles from the Bass River State Forest campsites. Directions: From Garden State Parkway South - Take Exit 58 - "State Road 539". Go South (left) on 539 for 3.5 miles to Route 9 in Tuckerton. Turn left. Inn is 2 blocks up on left.

From Tuckerton Inn to Bass River State Campgrounds. Go South thru Tuckerton on Route 9 for 9/10 mile to Stage Road. Go right on Stage Road and continue 4 miles to Bass River State Forest entrance.

