

10 New Things to Try for a Bucket List Summer

By Cassie Galasetti

Summer is the time of year when we're encouraged to enjoy the outdoors, soak up the sun and maybe even try something new. Here at the Jersey Shore we are lucky enough to have so many incredible options to do all of that and more.

Whether you're looking to attempt something daring, experience something you've always wanted to try or just looking to shake up your summer days, below are 10 unique ideas to try right here in our area.

1. Take a Surf Lesson

It's almost a guarantee that living, working or hanging out at the beach sparks the urge to hang ten... or at least try! Why not take the plunge? With six locations up and down the shoreline, Summer Time Surf offers lessons for all ages and levels. Whether you've never tried surfing or want to perfect your skills, Summer Time Surf is a great company with a great philosophy, "everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the joy of surfing." Visit summertimesurf.com to book your lesson.

2. Rent a Surrey Bike on the Boardwalk

Take your out-of-town guests on a leisurely bike ride down the boardwalk like its 1925. Brielle Cyclery on the Asbury Park Boardwalk has a fleet of surreys (multiperson bikes) for rental. An afternoon pedaling down the boards will give your guests a real look at the Jersey Shore, especially if you make your way through Ocean Grove! Visit their website at briellecyclery.com for more info.

3. Sweat it Out at a New Workout Class

Just because it's summer doesn't mean we can take a vacation from exercising. Perspirology, a boutique fitness studio on Ocean Avenue in Sea Bright offers one hour, full body, industrial strength workouts. The musically driven, dance-based workouts taught by creator and co-owner Katy Fraggos and her team will have you sweating like never before. Bonus: After class, you can walk across the street and take a dip in the ocean – you'll need it! Visit perspirology.com for their class schedule, first class is free.

4. Enjoy the Sights & Sounds from the River Belle Cruise

Starting July 1 through Labor Day climb aboard the River Belle, it sails six days a week through the inland waters of the Manasquan River. Enjoy their buffet and cash bar all while learning about the historical sites and points of interest along the river. Check the schedule on their website for extra special nights like "Pizza and Firework Cruises" or to take part in their Murder Mystery Cruise. riverboattour.com.

5. Learn to Fly a Helicopter

For the true daredevils out there, learn to fly an R22 Helicopter! At Core Helicopters you'll get an in-depth introduction on flight controls, instruments and safety from your personal flight instructor. You'll both slip into the cockpit and use what you've learned to control and fly a helicopter through the air. Make sure to choose the "Extended Flight Option" so you can fly above the ocean and get a beautiful view of the Manhattan skyline. Visit coreheli.com for more info on lessons.

6. Volunteer with Homeless Pets

Rescue Ridge, a last chance shelter here at the shore, is entirely funded through donations and fundraising efforts. All of the care for the animals is handled 100 percent by loving volunteers. In addition to training, grooming and transporting animals to events and appointments, the rescue is always in need of volunteers to walk and socialize with their adorable dogs and cats. This is a great way to help animals in need and get some exercise. And who knows, maybe you'll fall in love and adopt a pet of your own. Visit rescuerridge.com to fill out an application.

7. Visit a NJ Lighthouse

Explore The Twin Lights located in Highlands, on the Shrewsbury River and just five minutes from Sandy Hook. Not only can you trek to the top of the lighthouse but you can visit their newly renovated museum to see artifacts on loan from The



Highlands Historical Society. Great perk: If you sign up for an annual membership, you'll not only help preserve this historic landmark but receive special deals at local shops and restaurants in the area. Learn more at twilightslighthouse.com.

8. Take a Private Voice Lesson

Do you belt out your favorite song in the car on your way to work? If you answered yes, it's time to finally learn how to really sing that song you love. The Studio on 35, opening June 4 in Eatontown, offers training from experienced coaches, and even Broadway vets. Learn old Broadway standards to jazz, blues to country, to pop and rock 'n' roll. On location instruction is also available in the privacy of your own home. Visit thestudioon35.com for more info.

9. Sample Some of NJ's Finest Summer Brews

In the heart of Belford you'll find Belford Brewing Company located on Leonardville Road. This up and coming establishment is rapidly becoming the place to sample some of New Jersey's greatest brews. Try their Leonardville Lager -5 ABV 29 IBU, a light refreshing Lawnmower American Lager with a Wit-like aroma, perfect for hot summer days. Belford's new beer hall-style taproom will be opening in June which features long tables, new taps and more German-style beer that will be available at select times throughout the summer. belfordbrewing.com

10. Take an Art Class

Famous artist Joseph Beuys said that "Every man is an artist." The Guild of Creative Art in Shrewsbury is a great place to be an artist and show off those artistic skills or maybe learn a few. They offer drawing classes, watercolor painting, framing and more all taught by expert instructors. Classes are open to guild members and nonmembers. Keep in mind all students under the age of 18 will receive a discount on class tuition in case you want to make it a family event. Visit guildofcreativeart.org for their schedule of classes.