

BRENDAN T. BYRNE STATE FOREST

Explore the serenity, unique ecology and rich history of the New Jersey Pine Barrens at Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. With more than 38,000 acres, it is the state's second-largest forest, offering a vast and immersive landscape shaped by both nature and industry. There are 10 miles of Batona Trail within Brendan T. Byrne State Forest.

Visitors are welcomed by the fresh scent of pine drifting through the air. Today's forested terrain stands in striking contrast to the barren, cleared land of the mid-1800s, when the Lebanon Glass Works operated here from 1851 to 1867. The glassworks eventually closed after exhausting the enormous supply of wood needed to fuel its furnace. Subtle but powerful traces of that era remain—weathered stone and brick ruins, along with broad depressions in the earth that mark the foundations of a once-bustling glassworks and sawmill operation, as well as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that later occupied the site.

Sandy trails and old roads crisscross the forest, inviting hikers, mountain bikers and birders to explore. Along the way, pure, iron-rich streams wind through swampy lowlands, where dense stands of Atlantic white cedar rise from dark, peaty soil. The forest also supports a wide range of recreational activities, including camping, fishing and hunting.

For more information about camping and other recreational opportunities at Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, call the forest office at 609-726-1191.

Step Back in Time



In the 18th and early 19th centuries, a web of industrial centers thrived in what is now Wharton State Forest. Fueled by the natural resources, these centers produced iron, glass, lumber and paper.

While many are gone today, significant buildings and structures remain at Batsto Village and Atsion Recreation Area reflecting the ventures that existed during the 1800s.

WHARTON STATE FOREST

At more than 124,000 acres, Wharton State Forest is the largest state forest in New Jersey. There are 28.2 miles of Batona Trail within Wharton State Forest. It is the site of Batsto Village, a former bog iron and glassmaking industrial center from 1766 to 1867. Batsto currently reflects the agricultural and commercial enterprises that existed here during the late 19th century. Throughout Wharton are rivers and streams for canoeing, hiking trails, miles of unpaved roads for mountain biking and horseback riding, and numerous lakes, ponds and fields ideal for wildlife

observation. Bald eagles, ospreys, great blue herons, great-horned owls, turkeys, river otters, fox and northern fence lizards are only some of the wildlife that visitors might see.

For more information about camping and other recreational opportunities at Wharton State Forest, call the Batsto Visitor Center at 609-561-0024 or Atsion Office 609-268-0444.

BASS RIVER STATE FOREST



The State of New Jersey began acquiring land for the Bass River Forest Preserve in 1905 that later became

Bass River State Forest, New Jersey's first State Forest. The land was preserved for public recreation, water conservation and wildlife and timber management. There are 7 miles of Batona Trail within Bass River State Forest.



Pitch pine

In June 1933, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp No. 7 (later changed to Camp S-55) was built along East Greenbush Road and lasted until the CCC ended in 1942 with the onset of World War II. Lake Absegami, a 67-acre lake created in the 1930s by the CCC is the center of the forest's recreational activities and provides an area for swimming and a serene setting for boating, fishing and birding. A self-guided trail through the Absegami Natural Area wanders through a pine/oak woods and a small Atlantic white cedar bog.



Sweetgum



Post oak



Sassafras

There is also a self-guided trail through the remains of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp.

The forest is home to hundreds of acres of Pine Plains, a globally rare plant community with pitch pine trees that reach a height of only 5 to 6 feet. Camping opportunities include campsites, lean-tos, shelters and cabins.

For more information about camping and other recreational opportunities at Bass River State Forest, call the forest office at 609-296-1114.



Pitcher plant

BATONA TRAIL

Batona Trail began in 1961, when the Batona Hiking Club of Philadelphia (BACK-TO-NATURE) charted and cleared a trail from Carpenter Spring in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest (then known as Lebanon State Forest) to Batsto in Wharton State Forest. By 2012, the trail was lengthened and rerouted in several places and now stretches from Ong's Hat in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, through the Franklin Parker Preserve, Wharton State Forest, and on to Bass River State Forest, for a total of approximately 53 miles. The trail is maintained jointly by the Batona Hiking Club, the Outdoor Club of South Jersey and New Jersey State Parks.

Batona Trail travels through the Pinelands, a vast area of pine barrens habitat in South Jersey which is noted for its beautiful and unique plants and animals, some of which are found nowhere else in the world. Orchids and carnivorous plants can be found along streams and rivers and wild blueberries and huckleberries are abundant throughout. The trail covers various land features and forest types, including numerous streams and ponds along the way.

Many areas rich in history also lie along the trail, with names like Four Mile, Lebanon, Batsto and Martha, to remind us of the forgotten towns which once thrived here.

Batona Trail was planned as a wilderness hiking trail, and it is exactly that. Biking and horseback riding are not permitted. It is marked with pink rectangular blazes painted on trees and posts. The trail crosses many roads and can be reached by car at these points. This makes it possible to plan many different hiking routes.

Camping along Batona Trail is permitted only in designated campsites. Campsites are available in Wharton State Forest at Buttonwood, Batona and Lower Forge campgrounds, in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest in the family or group campgrounds, and in Bass River State Forest a short distance from the southern terminus of the trail also in the family or group campgrounds. A valid camping permit must be prominently displayed at the campsite. Permits can be obtained at the appropriate forest office. Campfire regulations will be explained when the permit is issued.

Please note that all trail users are subject to the rules and regulations of New Jersey State Parks when traveling through state lands. Please enjoy the beauty of the Pinelands, taking only your experience and leaving only your footprints.

If you would like to participate in trail maintenance activities, please reach out to the appropriate forest office.



High-bush blueberry

THE PINELANDS NATIONAL RESERVE
America's First National Reserve and
an International Biosphere Reserve

The U.S. Congress established the Pinelands National Reserve (PNR) in 1978 as the country's first National Reserve. It was a bold act of stewardship—protecting an ecologically sensitive region while respecting the heritage and lives of over 700,000 residents who live within its boundary.

The PNR covers approximately 1.1 million acres containing portions of seven counties and all or parts of 56 municipalities. This internationally important ecological region occupies 22% of New Jersey's land area. It is the largest remaining body of open space on the Mid-Atlantic seaboard between Richmond and Boston. The PNR lies within the most densely populated state and region in the country, yet, if you stand on Apple Pie Hill (the highest point in the PNR), your view will be of a canopy of trees that stretches as far as you can see.

Ecologically, the PNR is mostly pine barrens – with sandy, acidic, nutrient-poor soils, pitch pines and scrub oaks. But it is much richer than it sounds! Cranberry bogs, tea-colored streams and rivers, a few meadows, and white sand roads are dispersed throughout this landscape, along with Atlantic white cedars in pristine freshwater swamps. This region, with few villages, sparse population and vast

forests, offers you a chance to experience the distinctive New Jersey Pine Barrens cultural and natural heritage.

Beneath the PNR lies a huge natural reservoir of pure water, known as the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system, estimated at 17 trillion gallons. This is enough water to cover New Jersey in a lake 10 feet deep and is the region's primary source of drinking water. The Pinelands National Reserve is also home to over 850 plant and 500 animal species, including many that are threatened or endangered.

In 1979, New Jersey formed a partnership with the federal government to preserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of this special place. UNESCO, an agency of the United Nations, designated the area a U.S. Biosphere Reserve in 1983. In 1988 it was subsequently recognized as an International Biosphere Reserve. Today, with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, the region is protected in a manner that maintains its unique ecology while permitting recreational opportunities and compatible development.



Explore Trail Tracker
The Interactive Trails
Map of NJ State Parks

TRAIL tracker
spstrailtracker.nj.gov

This brochure was funded by the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Wharton State Forest
31 Batsto Road
Hammononton, NJ 08037
609-561-0024 (Batsto Office)
609-268-0444 (Atsion Office)

Bass River State Forest
762 Stage Road
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
609-296-1114

Brendan T. Byrne State Forest
PO Box 215
New Lisbon, NJ 08064
609-726-1191

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites
New Jersey State Parks

STATEPARKS.NJ.GOV
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TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY

Before you hike...

- ☐ Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.
- ☐ Know your route.
- ☐ Know your ability/limitations.
- ☐ Check the local weather forecast.

Be prepared:

- ☐ Map/compass/GPS
- ☐ Flashlight/headlamp
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Watch
- ☐ Sunscreen and sunglasses
- ☐ Cell Phone (Service availability may be limited.)
- ☐ Comfortable footwear/appropriate clothing
- ☐ Food/snacks/water
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Extra batteries

Some other suggestions...

Trail Markings: Official trails are marked by colored blazes on posts and trees. For your safety and habitat protection, please stay on the trails and do not alter trail markings or create new trails. Be aware of changing trail conditions.

Hunting: Sections of the forest are open to hunting. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season.

Pets: Pets must always be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets and take the waste with you.

Keep It Clean and Green: Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!

Tick & Chigger Protection: Use insect repellent, wear light-colored clothing, tuck pants into socks, stay on trails, check yourself thoroughly, shower and launder clothes immediately.

Bear Aware: Black bears are found throughout New Jersey. Do not approach or attract bears by making food available. Feeding bears is dangerous and illegal. Never run from a bear! To report an aggressive bear, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) immediately. Please report any damage or nuisance behavior to the park office. Visit the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife at dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears for additional information on bear safety.

Emergency Numbers:
1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911

TRAILS

BATONA TRAIL



NEW JERSEY STATE PARKS



BATONA Trail

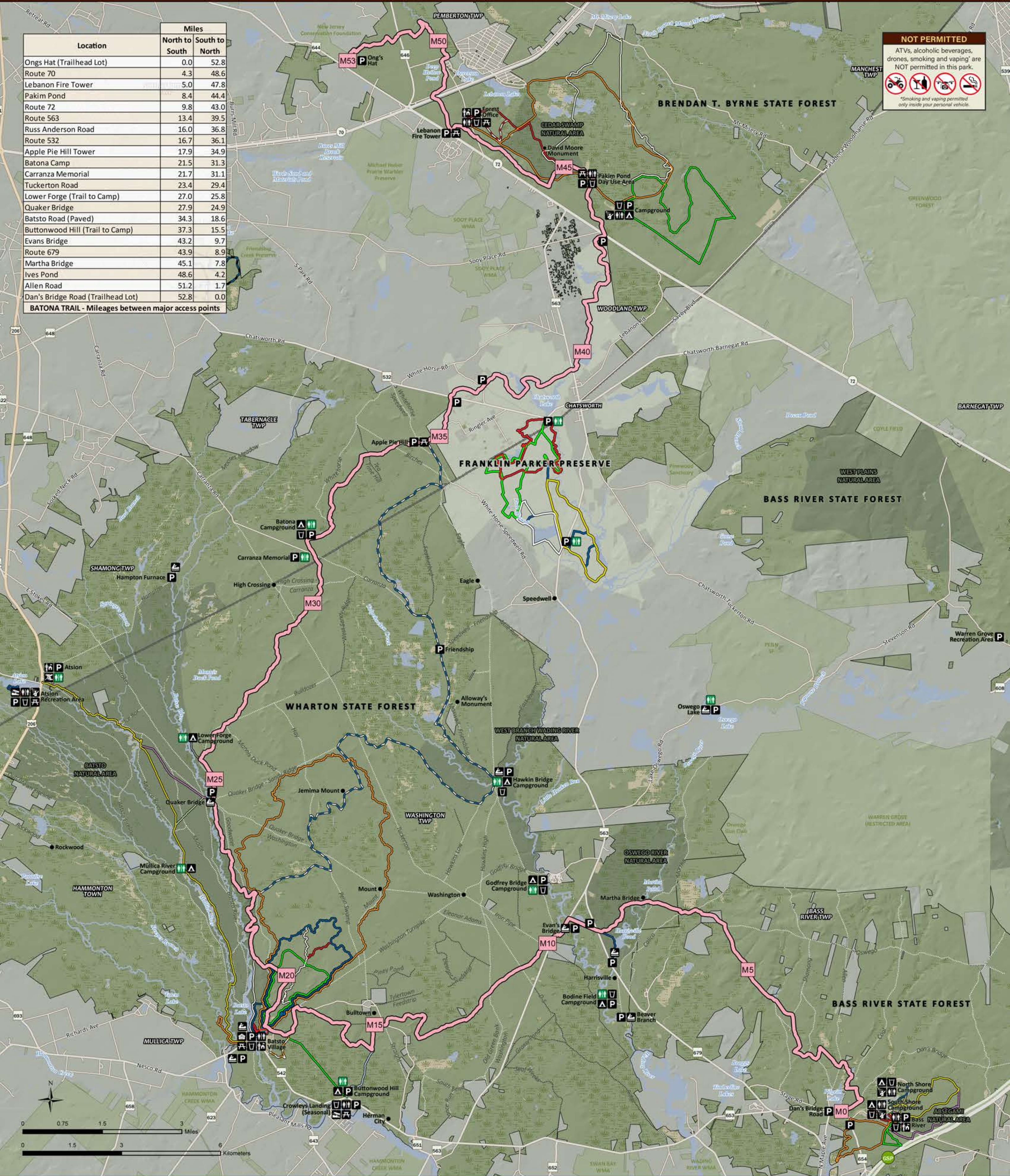
Location	Miles	
	North to South	South to North
Ongs Hat (Trailhead Lot)	0.0	52.8
Route 70	4.3	48.6
Lebanon Fire Tower	5.0	47.8
Pakim Pond	8.4	44.4
Route 72	9.8	43.0
Route 563	13.4	39.5
Russ Anderson Road	16.0	36.8
Route 532	16.7	36.1
Apple Pie Hill Tower	17.9	34.9
Batona Camp	21.5	31.3
Carranza Memorial	21.7	31.1
Tuckerton Road	23.4	29.4
Lower Forge (Trail to Camp)	27.0	25.8
Quaker Bridge	27.9	24.9
Batsto Road (Paved)	34.3	18.6
Buttonwood Hill (Trail to Camp)	37.3	15.5
Evans Bridge	43.2	9.7
Route 679	43.9	8.9
Martha Bridge	45.1	7.8
Ives Pond	48.6	4.2
Allen Road	51.2	1.7
Dan's Bridge Road (Trailhead Lot)	52.8	0.0

BATONA TRAIL - Mileages between major access points

NOT PERMITTED

ATVs, alcoholic beverages, drones, smoking and vaping are NOT permitted in this park.

*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.



Open Field or Grass

Natural Area

Forest

Water

Wetland

Municipal/County/Highway Road

Unimproved Road

Motorized Hunting Access (for in season, licensed hunters only)

M# Batona Trail (with Mile Marker)

Other Trails