

In busy downtowns on the Hudson, at suburban shopping centers in Central New Jersey and in the shadow of Atlantic City's glittering casinos, people representing the rich heritage of Asia have made a distinct mark on the Garden State. In the process, they have transplanted to one of the smallest American states, a vast variety of sights, sounds and tastes from the diverse mosaic of cultures that make up the world's largest continent.

There are 480,276 New Jerseyans of Asian descent, according to the latest Census figures. Their diversity is an echo of the diversity of Asia itself.

The largest population is from the Indian subcontinent, with approximately 169,000 residents. Most are centered in the Woodbridge-Edison area and also farther north in Jersey City. In these areas one can find for sale the beautiful saris that Indian women wear or taste the myriad foods from the different regions of India.

The next largest group is Chinese, with about 100,000 residents. New Jersey's Chinese community is not centered in any one "Chinatown," but spread out throughout cities and suburbs, sprinkling the Garden State's landscape with specialty groceries, ethnic festivals celebrating China's millenary culture, and of course the traditional Chinese restaurants located in so many of our neighborhoods.

Filipinos make up the third largest group, with more than 85,000 residents. The fascinating civilization of the Philippines, with its blend of Spanish and American traditions combined with the native Tagalog culture, has enriched life in places such as Jersey City, where the largest congregation of Filipinos makes their home.

More than 65,000 Koreans make up the state's fourth largest Asian community. They are heavily concentrated in Palisades Park, where 35 percent of the residents are of Korean descent. A walk along Broad Avenue is almost like a stroll through a small town in Korea, with a wide variety of Korean shops and restaurants featuring the famously, spicy national cuisine. In Fort Lee, visitors can immerse themselves in Korean and Japanese culture. Fort Lee has the largest population of Japanese people in the state 2,091 in 2000. Here you can taste the refined, spare dishes of Japan or check out galleries of art from the Orient.

There are 15,000 Vietnamese residents in New Jersey with strong neighborhoods in Jersey City and Atlantic City. Visitors can experience Vietnamese culture and savor its cuisine, made of fresh, traditional Vietnamese ingredients prepared with French techniques.

There is little doubt that New Jersey's culture has been influenced by Asian-Americans, from India to Mongolia to Korea. All have brought a bit of their homelands here, and all welcome the visitor to explore the variety of traditional Asia right here in its New Jersey home.



*Scenes of Asian culture that flourishes in New Jersey: (top) Painting traditional Chinese scripture; (center) Trying on a Japanese dress kimono; (bottom) Celebrating at the Indian American festival at Sri Venkateswara Temple and Community Center in Bridgewater.*



*he cuisines of Asia are so varied and so different that it is almost a misnomer to speak of "Asian food" in anything but a geographic sense.*

*A traveler in New Jersey with a curious palate will find a wealth of Asian food to enjoy. Chinese restaurants, of course, have been a presence in just about every town in New Jersey for decades. But now Asian-American cuisine is as varied and exotic as the culture itself.*



*A participant in a dance performance at the Sri Venkateswara Temple and Community Center in Bridgewater.*

## CHINESE CUISINE

Chinese food is doubtlessly the most familiar Asian cuisine in New Jersey. Chinese restaurants in New Jersey range from the rare, gourmet delicacies of Chengdu 46 in Clifton to the familiar fare of the tiny restaurant down the block. Cantonese food, from the southeastern region that includes Hong Kong, was one of the first to become popular in the West; it has a reputation for being delicate and refined. Many of the dishes are cooked by using the traditional stir-frying techniques and served with steamed rice. Cantonese cuisine also includes dim sum, little dumplings and pastries stuffed with meats and vegetables that are served on carts, allowing diners to experiment with the many delicious varieties.

Another popular regional Chinese cuisine comes from the Beijing area, and is termed Mandarin. One difference between it and Cantonese is its reliance on wheat as the ingredient that ties it all together instead of rice. The result is a cuisine that features noodles and round, baked, or steamed buns stuffed with meats and vegetables. Both Mandarin and Cantonese food are fairly mild even though garlic and ginger are widely used ingredients, and that mildness distinguishes both from the spicy Szechwan and Hunan cuisines also widely available in the Garden State. Both regions, which neighbor each other in southwestern China, are famed for the use of garlic, scallions and chili.

Whichever regional style, and whether some like it hot or mild, a visitor is sure to find fine Chinese food throughout New Jersey.



## INDIAN CUISINE

With nearly 900 million people found in diverse settings, ranging from the snowy Himalayas to steaming jungles, India is a continent unto itself; its various cuisines prove it.

There are several common threads that run throughout Indian cuisine. Nearly all Indian dishes are extravagantly seasoned with herbs, condiments and spices—some hot, some not. Flatbreads are baked in traditional tandoori ovens, and dairy products are also widely used.





*Dinner is served at the Rosoi Indian restaurant in Jersey City.*

Indian dishes vary by region. Parsi cuisine, with its center in the Bombay area, has its roots in the cooking of ancient Persia, with its emphasis on lamb. Kashmir, high in the Himalayas, is famous for its subtle yet assertive rice dishes. Coconut milk is a favored ingredient in the south, while in Bengal the accent is on fish from the region's many rivers. Then there is Mughal cuisine, centered in Delhi and one of the most widely available of the regional styles. Because of Hindu religious beliefs against eating beef, many dishes are vegetarian—and chefs have created what may be called the greatest vegetarian cuisine in the world. A world apart is the cuisine of Goa, a former Portuguese colony where beef is widely available and dishes are often seasoned Portuguese style, with garlic and vinegar.

In New Jersey, Indian food (whether in a restaurant or a specialty grocer) can most easily be found in towns with large Indian populations such as Edison, Woodbridge and Jersey City. But more and more, newly opened restaurants are bringing the fabulous, flavorful spices of India to the rest of the Garden State.

## JAPANESE CUISINE

Formality and elegance are the hallmarks of classic Japanese cuisine, which is designed to be a culinary feast for the eyes as well as the palate. To a Japanese chef, the presentation of a dish is as important as its taste, which is why food in a Japanese restaurant—whether in Tokyo or Fort Lee—is artistically arranged so the scheme of colors and textures in the food itself forms a beautiful design.

Japanese dishes demand fresh seasonal ingredients, because cooking methods and seasonings are simple and straightforward to allow the taste of the main dish to shine through. And, of course, a sushi dish must consist of the freshest seafood available, since it is to be eaten raw. Seafood, whether raw, fried in batter or steamed is the treasure of Japanese cuisine. Vegetables are important too, lightly steamed or deep fried in tempura batter. Chicken is common as well, but beef is rare in Japanese cooking, because the country is so densely populated there is little farmland for cows to graze. The world-famous hand-massaged beef from Kobe is a rare and tremendously expensive treat for the most demanding of gourmets.

Japanese restaurants abound in New Jersey, particularly in Fort Lee, which has become the Garden State's capital of Japanese culinary arts. But even in places without large Japanese communities, a visitor will find a Japanese restaurant. In many of them, the chef will slice the food and cook it right at the table, on a large grilling surface.



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## KOREAN CUISINE

Korean food is known for spiciness offset by the mild taste of rice, which is considered the main course of the meal. The traditional Korean dinner is called hanjongsik, which means “full-course meal” and involves multiple side dishes. Aside from rice, it includes a variety of vegetables, seafood and meats. Indispensable among these is kimchi, the national dish. It consists of cabbage and white radishes spiced with red pepper and garlic, pickled in brine, and, in the most traditional recipes, buried in earthenware crocks and fermented for months. The result is a spicy, savory vegetarian platter that Koreans love to eat as a side dish.

Along with rice and kimchi, a hanjongsik would also include grilled fish and either beef or pork, often charcoal broiled and sliced thin. A typical seasoning is chili and sesame, which gives Korean food its defining characteristic of spiciness

combined with nuttiness.

In Fort Lee, and to an even larger extent in Palisades Park, a visitor will find several genuine Korean restaurants on the same block. The result is authenticity—as profoundly Korean as anything you might find in Korea itself.



*The Palisadium Restaurant in Cliffside Park offers diners a tremendous menu of Japanese and Korean specialties, as well as spectacular views of the New York skyline.*

## MALAYSIAN CUISINE

In Malaysia, the traditional dishes of the Malay people have merged with those of other cultures to form a “fusion” cuisine featuring elements both unique and familiar to residents of other Asian nations. Coconut milk is one of the most often used ingredients, lending the rich, nutty taste that is typical of Malaysian cuisine. One popular treat is *nasi lemak*, rice cooked in coconut milk and served with anchovies, squid, eggs and cucumber, made spicy by the addition of chili paste. Another well known preparation is *satay*, barbecued meat on skewers that is served with cucumber and dipped in a peanut sauce.

One interesting cooking style is known as *Nyonya*. It was developed 400 years ago in communities of mixed Malay and Chinese origin, and is characterized by the harmonious contrasts of spices, sweets and sour. Among the best-known *Nyonya* dishes are *otak-otak*, grilled spicy fish wrapped in banana



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leaf, and *itik tim*, duck with salted vegetables.

Malaysian restaurants are fairly new to New Jersey. Many will offer not only the traditional Malaysian dishes, but also Chinese, Indian and/or Indonesian food. The most famous Indonesian dish is the Dutch-influenced *rijstafel*, a smorgasbord that combines a dozen or more sweet or spicy fish, vegetable and meat dishes, with rice and condiments.

## FILIPINO CUISINE

Take Chinese cooking. Add Spanish cuisine. Add American dishes. Mix well and use indigenous Tagalog ingredients.

What you get is the traditional food of the Philippines, which has taken foreign elements and made them its own.

Filipino cuisine begins with the base of indigenous ingredients and the traditional Tagalog preference for subtle combinations of sweetness, saltiness and sourness. The latter flavor, in particular, is essential to Filipino cuisine. One typical technique is to use unripe local fruits such as guava, mango and tamarind as a souring agent.

The Chinese introduced stir-frying, along with Chinese-style noodles and soy sauces. Filipinos took those techniques and ingredients and made them local. For instance, *pansit* consists of Chinese noodles “Filipinized” by adding a squirt of *kalamansi*, a fruit that tastes somewhere between a lemon and an orange. Similarly, the Filipino version of egg rolls, called *lumpia*, are stuffed with meat or local vegetables and dipped in vinegar and soy sauce.

The Spanish cuisine that arrived in the 1500s underwent the same transformation. Spaniards brought their traditional *adobo*, a base of olive oil, garlic and bay leaves in which meats are sauteed. Filipinos kept the garlic and bay leaves, but added vinegar and soy sauce. Another dish dating from Spanish days is *lechon asado*, suckling pig slowly roasted over coals to make it crispy and served with a sweet-sour sauce simmered with vinegar, sugar and herbs.

And then there is the American influence, which began in 1898. A Filipino restaurant might serve hamburgers—but instead of catsup the condiment of choice will be vinegar and soy sauce.

A visitor to New Jersey is most likely to find Filipino restaurants in Jersey City, home to the largest Filipino community in the state, and in Bergenfield.

## THAI CUISINE

With its insistence on fresh ingredients and on harmonious combinations of spicy hot with the sweet and mild, Thai cuisine has become a trend-setter in the world of food.



Thai chefs demand dishes that balance the different flavors the human sense of taste can recognize—hot, sour, sweet, salty, bitter. For instance, a soup known as *tom yum gai* combines tartness from lime leaves, hot chilis, the creamy sweetness of coconut milk and a pungently salty fish sauce called *nam pla*, which has been called “the quintessential condiment” of Thai cuisine. It is made from anchovies dried in the sun and fermented in brine.

The dominant spice is chili, which might be called *prik* in Thai restaurant menus. It adds eye-tearing hotness to any dish. But the spiciness is always offset by something mild on the same plate. Rice, of course, acts as a gentle agent in most Thai meals. But even rice is far from bland in Thai cuisine, as attested by the subtle perfume of jasmine rice. Rice is so important to Thai cooking that the very word for food, *gan kao*, is literally translated as “with rice.” A typical Thai meal also includes cucumber, which serves to cool and freshen the palate.

Since there are no large Thai neighborhoods in New Jersey, there is no single place where a visitor can go for a variety of restaurants within a few blocks of one another. Thai restaurants are sprinkled throughout the state, however, most are upscale and refined dining establishments.

## VIETNAMESE CUISINE

Like Filipinos, Vietnamese cooks historically combined indigenous ingredients with culinary traditions from China and Europe. But while in the Philippines the European influence came from Spain, in Vietnam it came from France. Vietnamese chefs are proud of their combined heritage, and some have referred to Vietnamese cooking as “the nouvelle cuisine of Asia.”

Rice is a staple, as throughout most of Asia, and so are noodles, which can be made of rice, wheat or mung beans. They are often put in a French-style consomme called *pho bo*. A number of terrines and sausages, also derived from French dishes, are also popular.

One thing for sure, Vietnamese food is healthy. No meal is complete without a fresh salad of cucumbers, bean sprouts, pepper, and sprigs of basil, coriander, mint plus traditional Vietnamese herbs. Dishes that combine meat and fresh fruits are also popular, such as a platter that uses green papaya and a kind of beef jerky. Beef dishes, as well as the many varieties of grilled shrimp, are often served with *nouc mam*, a fish sauce that is to Vietnamese cuisine what soy sauce is in other parts of Asia.

The Chinese influence shows in the widespread use of stir-frying, and in the variety of spring rolls. India influenced Vietnamese cuisine, too—coconut milk is an ingredient of many dishes.

New Jersey’s Vietnamese restaurant scene is just starting to grow. Some may be found in Vietnamese neighborhoods in Jersey City and Atlantic City, but because of the cuisine’s growing fame, restaurants may be found in many other communities across the state.

■ **NJ Online’s Dining Guide**  
[www.njo.com/restaurants](http://www.njo.com/restaurants)

■ **the Zagat Restaurant Guide**  
[www.zagat.com](http://www.zagat.com)

■ **the New Jersey Dining Guide**  
[www.njdiningguide.com](http://www.njdiningguide.com)

■ **New Jersey Internet Restaurant Directory**  
[www.restaurants-nj.com](http://www.restaurants-nj.com)

■ **New Jersey Restaurant Association website**  
[www.njra.com](http://www.njra.com)

# CHIA-SIN FARMS

*“Something Good, Something Good”*

*Asian produce entrepreneur Charlie Huang offers “something good” to visitors.*



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*Yellow watermelon, one of the specialty vegetables grown at Chia-Sin Farms.*

## **W**ant to get the freshest Asian vegetables possible?

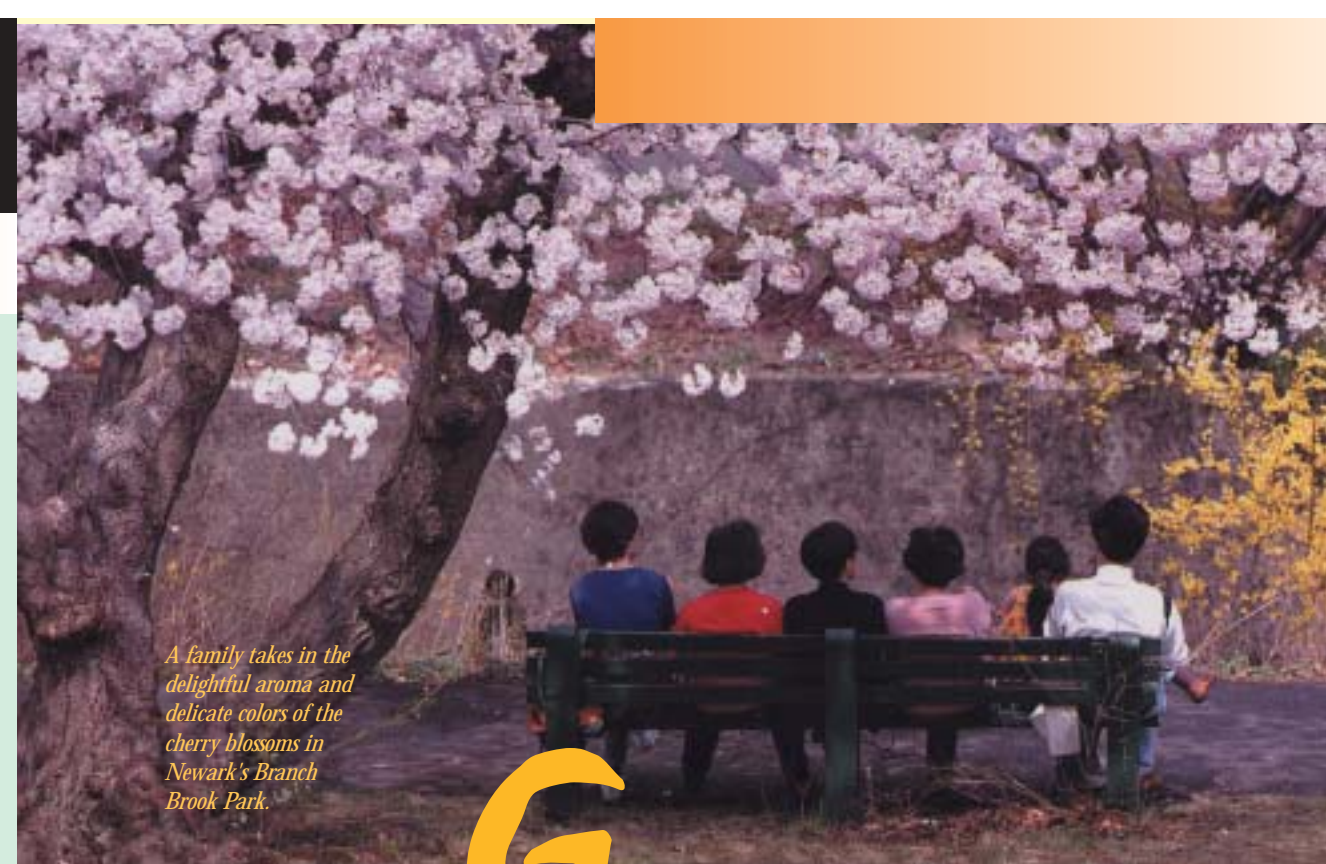
Then do like so many Asian people from New Jersey do, and head to Pittstown, in Hunterdon County.

That’s where Chia Cheng “Charlie” Huang has for 10 years owned a 40-acre pick-your-own farm that grows traditional vegetables and herbs from China and other parts of East Asia, such as Thai basil, yellow watermelon, Taiwan cabbage, Chinese cucumbers and specialty peppers.

Upon arriving, a visitor will see a stand of tall bamboo and a wooden sign with Chinese characters that says “Chia-Sin Farms,” which means “Something Good, Something Good.” During harvest season, throngs of people show up: families, friends, even tour groups from as far away as New York City. Many look at the visit as an outing to socialize in the country. Visitors walk down the rows of plantings, picking produce that may be hard to find elsewhere and are of course as fresh as can be found anywhere —right off the farm. You also will find a wide selection of flowers, both in the open air and in greenhouses.

Charlie Huang studied horticulture in his native Taiwan, where he was raised in a farming village. After graduating from college, he went to work for an orchid company that transferred him to Hunterdon County in 1974. His is the All-American story of immigrant success: He learned America was a land of opportunity, and after leaving the orchid company and spending 10 years farming on rented land, in 1992 he finally bought his own farm on Rt. 579, near Interstate 78.

And it’s not only during harvest season that people visit: Chia-Sin Farms also sells Christmas trees.



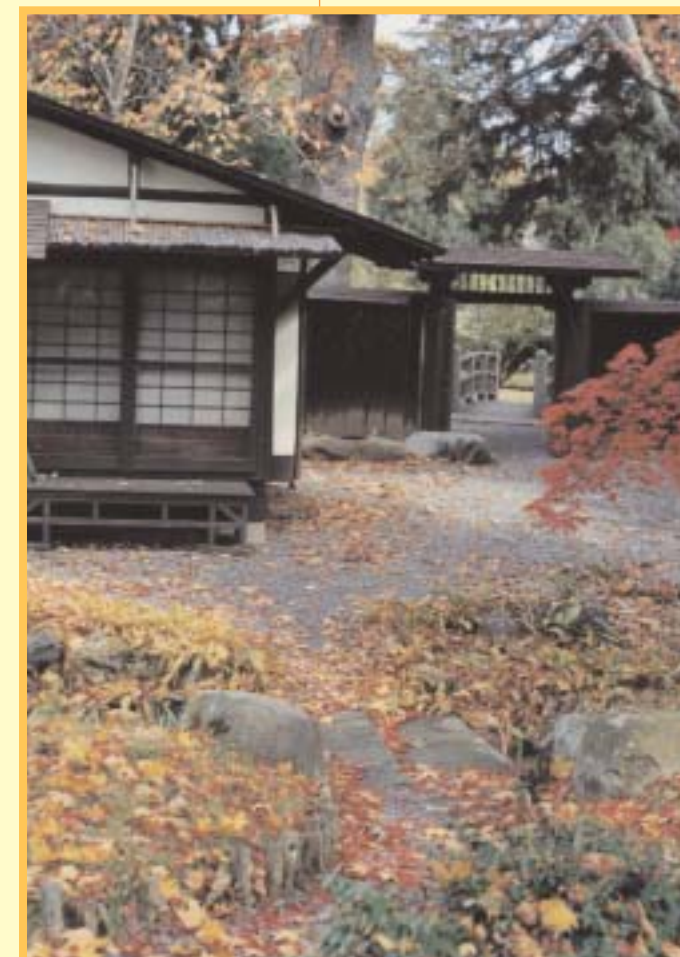
*A family takes in the delightful aroma and delicate colors of the cherry blossoms in Newark's Branch Brook Park.*

# G

*ardening is an art form in Japan, one rooted in spirituality and tradition. Japanese gardens reflect ancient Shinto religious practices, with the belief that the spirits of the gods are present in nature—in rocks, trees, mountains and waterfalls. Every tree, plant, and stone is deliberately placed to symbolize a*

*larger idea deeply connected to Japanese culture.*

*Man-made objects also feature prominently. Teahouses, bridges, lanterns and waterfalls are meant to enhance the tranquillity a visitor experiences in a Japanese garden, gently walled off from the rest of the world to form a place for relaxation and contemplation.*



*A peaceful autumn scene in the Japanese Garden at Georgian Court College, Lakewood.*

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*In the spring, irises, rhododendrons and a variety of other plants beautify the path through Georgian Court College's Japanese Garden.*

### Georgian Court College

900 Lakewood Avenue | Lakewood | 732-364-2200 Ext. 373  
[www.georgian.edu/aboretum](http://www.georgian.edu/aboretum)

Designed by Takeo Shiota and completed in 1910, this garden is set on about one acre of land surrounded on three sides by a yew hedge. To approach the "Sukiya" tea house, visitors take a curving path past gnarled old Japanese maples and across wooden footbridges that span an iris-lined dry stone stream. The tea garden includes a series of little hills, a waterfall, and a meandering brook. Among the plant varieties are Hinoki false cypress, Japanese cherry, weeping Higan cherry, Japanese maple, Japanese snowbell, yucca, peony and juniper.

### Duke Farms Gardens

Route 206 | Hillsborough | 908-243-3600

A collection of eleven gardens from diverse cultures and regions of the world. Doris Duke personally designed and began the creation of these display gardens. Italian, English, French, Chinese, Japanese and Indo-Persian designs are juxtaposed near desert, semitropical and jungle environments. The Japanese garden has a three-level design symbolizing heaven, man and earth. Open October 1 – May 31. Guided walking tour 12-3 p.m., reservations recommended.

In the **Japanese garden**, serenity is the objective, stimulated by a stylized, controlled naturalism. A narrow foot path leads from a display of dwarf bonsai trees past a tree house, leading the visitor through vegetation accented with red maple. The garden has a three-level design symbolizing heaven, man and earth.

Nearby in the tranquil **Chinese garden** you can follow a crooked walkway over a stream filled with goldfish, symbolizing good luck and long life. All around is a profusion of Chinese plantings: bamboo, Camphor trees, Bleeding hearts, hybrid tulips and jasmine. Stop and look at the bold rock formations, then across a pond to a mysterious grotto and a Moon Gate to lattice courtyard.

### Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossom

Branch Brook Park Alliance | Newark | 744 Broad Street (31st Floor)  
 973-643-1611

It's not technically a garden, but 2,700 cherry blossom trees that flower at Branch Brook Park make an unforgettable revelry of pink and white blooms. Half a million people visit it during the bloom in April, when the park hosts the annual Cherry Blossom festival.

The first cherry blossom saplings in Branch Brook were planted in the 1890s. as the park expanded, Caroline Bamberger Fuld gave a gift of 2,000 trees in 1927. Additional trees donated almost every year continue to make the spectacle grow. The park as a whole encompasses nearly 360 acres of land plus 36.6 acres of water. It stretches approximately two miles from Route 280 and Clifton Avenue in Newark to the Second River and Mill Street in Belleville. (See map & schedule of events on page 24)



### YOGA

Rooted in Hindu beliefs dating from around the 2nd century BC, yoga teaches one how to turn the senses from the outside world to the mind within. Adherents of the discipline believe it is a way to get to know your authentic self and achieve inner peace by liberating the mind from the limitations of the flesh, the senses and even thought. In addition, physical exercises involved in various branches of yoga can increase flexibility and improve health.

There are dozens of centers in New Jersey where one can learn or practice Yoga. Check the following web sites;

[www.kevala.co.uk/search/yoga\\_nj.html](http://www.kevala.co.uk/search/yoga_nj.html) or  
[www.self-realization.com/yoga\\_centers\\_new\\_jersey.html](http://www.self-realization.com/yoga_centers_new_jersey.html)

### CRICKET

Cricket, the most popular sport in the Indian subcontinent, is gaining popularity in New Jersey as communities from that region of the world bring their traditions alive in the Garden State.

Cricket has its origins in England during the 1780s. It spread throughout the British Empire, and today it attracts huge crowds in England, the Indian subcontinent, South Africa and the West Indies.

In the United States cricket was fairly popular until the advent of baseball. The earliest cricket club in the country is believed to have been the Union Cricket Club of Camden, founded around 1840.

Today there are two major cricket leagues that play regularly in New Jersey, in a season that extends from spring through early fall. The Cricket League of New Jersey (<http://njcricket.com/>) and the Garden State Cricket League (<http://gscl.org>), both use public parks. Matches take place at venues that include Warnanco Park in Elizabeth, Holmdel Park in Monmouth County, Johnson Park in New Brunswick, Newark's Branch Brook Park and Watsessing Park in Bloomfield.

New Jersey also hosted top-flight international cricket, when teams from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the West Indies, Bangladesh and England brought some of the best known players in the world to a tournament held in July 2001 in Jersey City's Lincoln Park.



### ANIME AND MANGA

In the United States, cartoons and comic books are mostly for kids. In Japan, however, they are a mass media phenomena enjoyed by every age group. Increasingly, Japanese animation films known as *anime*, as well as comic books called *manga* are growing in popularity in the United States.

Some of the best known anime and manga tell science fiction or fantasy stories. However, just about every genre may be found—romance, comedy, action/adventure and horror.

Anime and manga enthusiasts often join clubs to show favorite films, trade books or videos, and just discuss their hobby. There are several such clubs in New Jersey. The Anime Manga Project in Bayville meets periodi-

cally at the Ocean County Library Berkeley Branch, and may be contacted at <http://ampclub.tripod.com/>. The South Jersey Anime Society has a web site at [www.sjas.org](http://www.sjas.org) and has held meetings at the Collingswood Public Library. There are also student clubs at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark; Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken and Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

In addition, fans of one manga subgenre known as *shoujo*—mainly produced by female artists and aimed at girls and young women—have held their last two annual conventions at hotels in Newark and East Brunswick, featuring screenings, vendors selling comic books, animation cels and video games based on characters.

A number of shops in the state carry manga or anime. One of the largest selections may be found at **Kinokuniya**, in the Mitsuwa Plaza Mall in Edgewater on River Road. Just down the road you'll find JBC Books specializes in vintage manga. Other retailers include Fat Jack's Comicropt in Oaklyn and Knight Dreams Comic Realm, in Princeton.

## CHESS

With its kings, queens and bishops, the game of chess brings to mind images of medieval Europe. Its origins, however, are distinctly Asian.

Chess has its ancient roots in 6th century India, where a game called Chaturanga pitted armies featuring rajahs, elephants and other soldiers on a board of 64 squares. Chess historians believe that Buddhists fleeing persecution brought this game to China, where it was modified into Xiang Qi, a form of chess which is widely enjoyed in populous China.

A modified version of Chaturanga first appeared in Persia around 600 A.D. Known as Shatranj, it was this game that made its way to Europe in the 7th century, where it developed into the form of chess best known in the West. In addition to Xiang Qi, a number of other forms of chess developed in Asian nations, where they are still enjoyed: Changgi (Korea), Makruk (Thailand), Sittuyin (Myanmar), and Shogi (Japan).

In New Jersey, the Western form of chess enjoys a widespread following and opportunities abound for players to test their skill. The New Jersey State Chess Federation (NJSCF) annually hosts the U.S. Amateur Team/East Tournament, the New Jersey Open, New Jersey Individual Scholastic Championship and the New Jersey Team Scholastic Championship. In addition, dozens of chess clubs operating in the state bring aficionados of the game together on a regular basis. Information on tournaments and local club listings are available at the NJSCF's web site, [www.njscf.org](http://www.njscf.org).



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# Culture

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*Chinese warriors stand guard at The Art Museum, Princeton University.*

**ATLANTIC COUNTY**

**Stockton Performing Arts Center**

Richard Stockton College of New Jersey  
Jimmie Leeds Road  
Pomona  
609-652-9000  
www.stockton.edu/pac

Celebrating its 25th year of outstanding programming, the Stockton Performing Arts Center continues to be a cultural oasis in South Jersey. Featured on April 6 will be a performance of "The Song of Mulan."



< "Once Upon a Time in Chinese America" headlines a packed 2002 schedule at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

**BERGEN COUNTY**

**American Labor Museum/Botto House**

83 Norwood Street  
Haledon  
973-595-7953

The American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark offers free lending books, an audio and video cassette library, restored period rooms, changing exhibits, a museum store, Old World gardens, educational and cultural programs. Periodically the Botto House presents cultural exhibits.

**John Harms Center for the Arts**

30 North Van Brunt Street  
Englewood  
201-567-3600  
www.johnharms.org

Located just minutes from the George Washington Bridge, this northern New Jersey theater provides the perfect setting to showcase great entertainment. The John Harms Center for the Arts has been recognized as a "Regional Center for Arts Excellence" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The National Acrobats of Taiwan are scheduled to perform March 10.

**CAMDEN COUNTY**

**Garden State Discovery Museum**

16 N. Springdale Road  
Cherry Hill  
856-424-1233  
www.discoverymuseum.com

A museum for children where they enjoy learning and taking part in fun activities. Young visitors will giggle with delight when they experience the hands-on exhibits, special events, and annual celebrations.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

**Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center**

1325 State Highway 77  
Seabrook  
856-451-8393

Visitors will see exhibits depicting the multicultural history of Seabrook in the 1940s and 1950s, when Japanese-Americans and Japanese-Peruvians relocated from internment camps and settled there along with wartime refugees from Europe and migrant workers. There is a large-scale model of the village, exhibits of cultural artifacts, period photographs and printed and recorded memoirs.

**A little more about Seabrook---**

The town of Seabrook is 30 miles south of Cherry Hill, in the cul-de-sac that dead-ends into the Delaware Bay. It is surrounded by vegetable fields in an area so rural that a Seabrook family member said, "you can drive east for 40 miles without seeing a mall."

The town is named for Charles F. Seabrook, called the "Spinach King," and founder of what Life magazine called "the biggest vegetable factory on earth." He transformed a 57-acre farm purchased in 1893 by his father, Arthur, into a 20,000-acre facility for growing, processing and freezing vegetables. Charles's ingenuity was such that the press dubbed him "The Henry Ford of Agriculture."

It was in 1944 that Seabrook became notable not as the headquarters of an American industrial giant, but as home to a burgeoning Japanese-American community. It was in that year that World War II-era labor shortages prompted Charles Seabrook to search far and wide for workers. His quest led him to camps in the Western states where Japanese-Americans were interred for the duration of the war. Ignoring the virulent anti-Japanese sentiment that gripped the nation, Seabrook offered Japanese internees a going wage, a house with heat and utilities, and schools for children – in exchange for a six-month commitment to work at Seabrook Farms.

By 1946, more than 500 Japanese families took Seabrook up on his offer and began to build a community that blended Asian and American culture. Although the size of the Japanese-Americans community has dwindled over the years, it is a community that has tenaciously held on to its traditions. Institutions that include the Seabrook Buddhist Temple and Seabrook Community House are still the anchors for such events as the Bon Odori and Girl's Day festivals.

**ESSEX COUNTY**

**The Newark Museum**

49 Washington Street  
Newark  
973-596-6550 or  
1-800-7MUSEUM  
www.newarkmuseum.org

New Jersey's largest museum contains a wealth of cultural treasures including a world-renowned Tibetan art collection as well as important collections celebrating Asian cultures.

**New Jersey Performing Arts Center**

One Center Street  
Newark  
1-888-GO-NJPAC or  
973-642-0404  
www.njpac.org

Heralded by the media as one of the most prominent art centers in the country, NJPAC promises to provide the finest entertainment. NJPAC is the ultimate setting for award winning performances by Asian ensembles and artists.

**Seton Hall University Asia Center**

Alfieri Hall 29  
400 South Orange Avenue  
South Orange  
973-275-2305  
www.academic.edu/asiacenter

The mission of the Asian Center of Seton Hall University is to bridge the political and cultural divide between East and West. The Asian Center promotes research on Asian affairs, develops diplomat and scholar exchange programs, provides multicultural education opportunities, and sponsors forums and conferences.

**HUDSON COUNTY**

**Liberty Science Center**

Liberty State Park  
Morris Pesin Drive  
Jersey City  
201-200-1000  
www.state.nj.us/dep/forestry/parks/liberty.htm

This innovative learning resource for the lifelong exploration of nature, humanity and technology has dozens of hands-on exhibits for all ages, a 3-D laser light show, an IMAX theater and more. Nearby Liberty State Park is the launching point for ferry rides to the Statue of Liberty, a beacon to generations of immigrants, and Ellis Island, which houses a museum chronicling the immigrant experience.

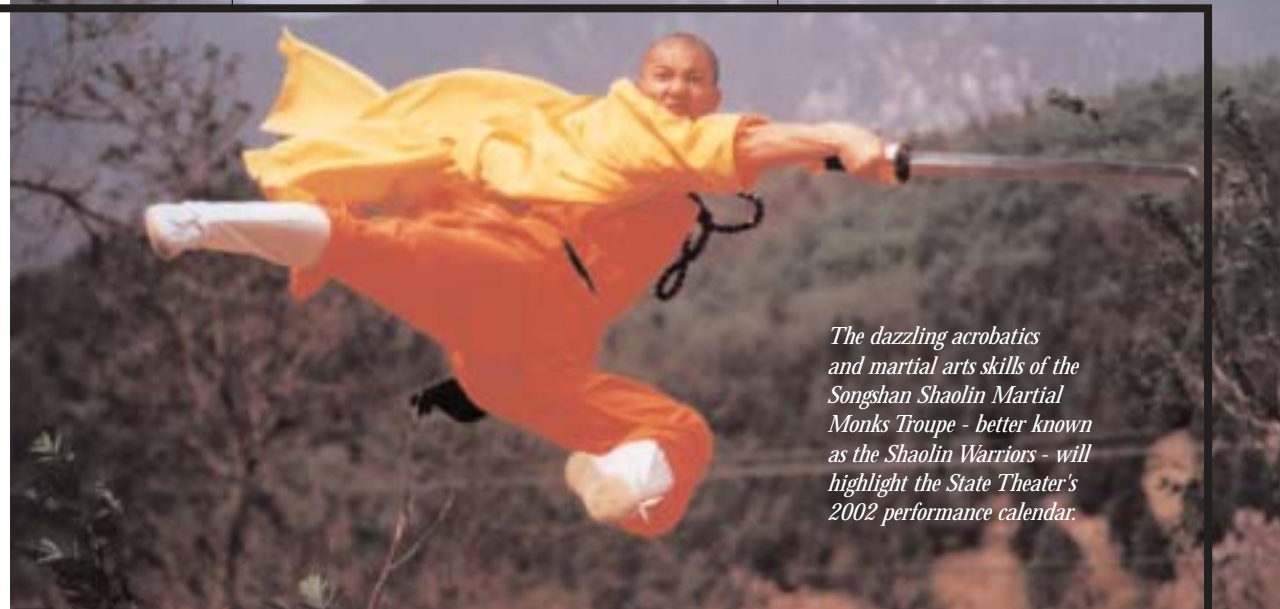


The Newark Museum features an extensive collection of Asian art, including a Tibetan Buddhist altar (left) and a beer jug from Eastern Tibet featuring iron, gold and silver decorations.



Exhibits at the Liberty Science Center, in Jersey City, are sure to excite both young and old as they teach and entertain.





*The dazzling acrobatics and martial arts skills of the Songshan Shaolin Martial Monks Troupe - better known as the Shaolin Warriors - will highlight the State Theater's 2002 performance calendar.*

**MERCER COUNTY**

**Princeton University Art Museum**  
McCormick Hall  
Princeton  
609-258-3788  
<http://webware.princeton.edu/artmus/>

The museum offers an impressive range of art from ancient to modern times. Among the greatest strengths are the collections of Chinese art, with important holdings in bronzes, tomb figures, paintings and calligraphy.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

**Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum**  
Rutgers University  
71 Hamilton Street  
New Brunswick  
732-932-7237  
[www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu](http://www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu)

The Zimmerli Museum has holdings of 60,000 works of art from various cultures, dating from the 16th century to the present.

**The State Theater**  
15 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick  
732-247-7200 ext. 542  
877-STATE11  
[www.StateTheatreNJ.org](http://www.StateTheatreNJ.org)

Some of the best performances from around the world grace the stage of The State Theatre.



*Tori Kotondo's Rain, a woodcut at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum.*

**MORRIS COUNTY**

**The Morris Museum**  
6 Normandy Heights Road  
Morristown  
973-971-3714  
[www.morrismuseum.org](http://www.morrismuseum.org)

Founded in 1913, the Morris Museum explores and celebrates the arts, sciences and humanities through exhibitions, educational programs, theatrical productions and special events. The Morris Museum is the third largest in the state of New Jersey.

**MONMOUTH COUNTY**

**New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center**  
Grounds of PNC Arts Center  
Holmdel  
Garden State Parkway, Exit 116  
800-648-8387 or  
732-335-0033  
[www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org)

The Vietnam Era Educational Center is the first educational center and museum of its kind in the United States. Dedicated in September 1998, the center is devoted to gaining an understanding of the conflict in Southeast Asia and the surrounding political strife in America.

*Arrival of American Ships: Picture of a Gathering of Feudal Retainers, 9/1/1889. At the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum*



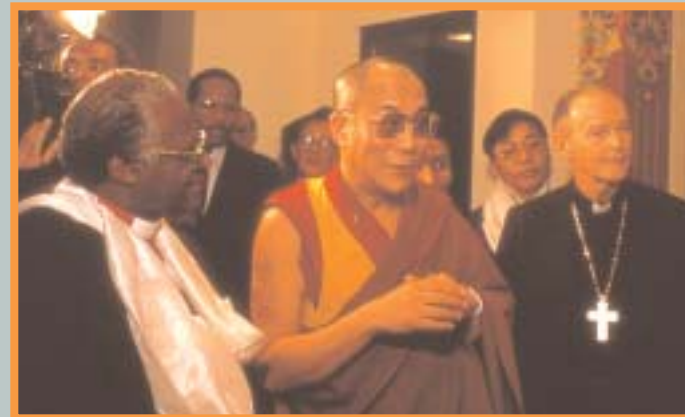
**Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum**  
Rutgers University  
71 Hamilton Street  
New Brunswick  
732-932-7237  
[www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu](http://www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu)

**India: Contemporary Art from Regional Private Collections**  
April through July 2002

Approximately 60 works of art from about 12 collections, emphasizing the art production of the post-independence era, from 1947 to the present are on display. The exhibition is an acknowledgement of two converging recent phenomena. The first is the blossoming of contemporary art in India, and the second is the tremendous increase, as indicated by the census, of the Asian American population of central New Jersey. The exhibition of contemporary Indian art will act as a catalyst for the regional community.

**Japonisme: Highlights and Themes From the Collection**  
Through Spring 2002

In the early phase of Japonisme (from 1860s to the 1880s), Western artists created their own romanticized visions of Japan, often by incorporating images of Japanese objects in their works. This exhibition illustrates the mutual influence and fascination of Japanese and Western art in the late nineteenth century with prints, oil paintings, photographs, sculpture and stained glass as well as rare woodblock prints from Japan.



*His Holiness XIV Dalai Lama with the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu and the Most Reverend Theodore McCarrick, consecrated the Newark Museum's Tibetan Buddhist Alter in 1990.*

### Permanent Asian Collections

#### Tibet

The most extraordinary collection of Tibetan art in the Western Hemisphere is on view in eight permanent galleries at this museum, the centerpiece of which is a Buddhist altar consecrated in 1990 by His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama.\* The collection has its origins in a remarkable group of items brought from the Sino-Tibetan borderland in 1911 by Dr. Albert L. Shelton, a medical missionary, with additional objects collected between 1914 and 1920.

The museum also acquired three other missionary collections from northeastern Tibet, enriching its holdings in ethnographic and ceremonial art. Paintings, sculptures, ritual objects, dance masks, tents, saddles, headdress and weapons are among the featured objects.

\* The consecration by His Holiness, the XIV Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of the Tibetan people and 1989 Nobel Peace Laureate, completed the process of constructing a sacred space.



#### Japan

The magnificent Asian Collections, representing the major cultures of East and South Asia, was established in 1909 with the acquisition of the museum's first objects, the Rockwell Collection of Japanese Art, giving the museum one of the major Japanese collections in the eastern United States. It includes paintings, sculpture, *netsuke*, *ojime*, and *inro*, and is strong in *ukiyo-e* prints in exceptional condition.

#### China

Wide-ranging holdings encompass textiles, metalwork, enamels, lacquer-ware, wood and stone carvings and ceramics, as well as Buddhist pieces.

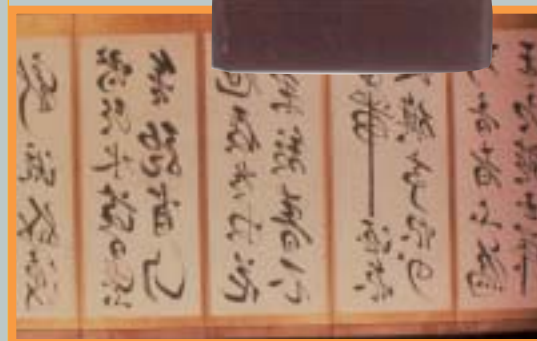
#### Korea

The Korean collection, begun in 1913, has notable examples of pottery and porcelain dating from the fourth to the seventeenth century, and has recently been enhanced by additions of textiles, folk painting on panels and screens, sculpture, furniture and architectural elements.

#### India

Monumental stone and wood sculpture from India highlight the holdings. The sculpture and related paintings represent three major religions of India: Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, with examples dating from the second century A.D. to the seventeenth century.

*On this page: The Newark Museum's Asian collection includes such diverse pieces as (far left) a Tibetan hair ornament made of turquoise set in gilt silver; (top center) a copper statue of Buddha from China; (bottom center) a six panel paper screen featuring Japanese ink calligraphy; and (top right) a Buddha figure on plaid cotton cloth from 13th century Asia.*

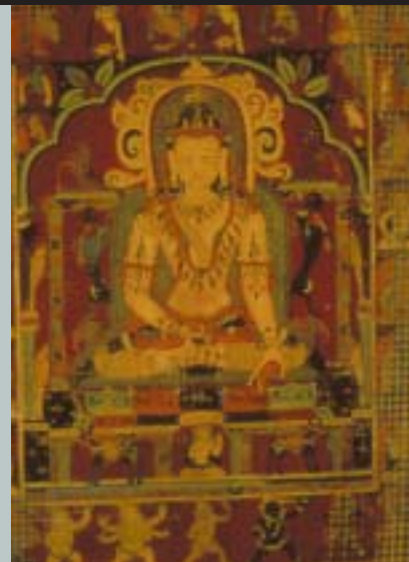


### Special Asian Exhibits

#### Poetry, Proclamations and Propaganda: Chinese Calligraphy

Through November 25, 2001

These examples of calligraphy are evidence of the uses of "beautiful writing" in poetry, memorial tributes, imperial edicts and government propaganda. A special feature in the exhibit will be calligraphy from the early Communist era, 1940s to 1960s.



#### In a Gentleman's Study: Korean Calligraphy and Scholarly Pursuits

Through December 2001

The exhibition is designed to suggest a gentleman's private study in nineteenth century Korea. Items such as screens painted with Confucian quotations, a desk for storing books and other artifacts are typical of an educated, well-to-do man's personal things. Also on view are paper, brushes, and ink cake, used to create finely written documents and scrolls.

#### Fair Winds and Clear Water: Japanese Poetic Calligraphy

Through December 2001

Screens and hanging scrolls in the classical tradition with work by famous Japanese poets and intellectuals of the 17th through 19th centuries. One outstanding example is the six-panel screen by Rai Sanyo that features the striking effect of 12 lines of bold black ink characters.



*Asian-inspired ceramics by Albert Green.*

#### You, Me and Them

October 2001

#### AMERICAN LABOR MUSEUM/BOTTO HOUSE

83 Norwood Street  
Haledon  
973-595-7953

An extended photographic essay by Thomas B. Morton on how culture is created, reshaped and attacked in our multicultural society. It includes images of Cambodian Buddhist monks and Korean girls over a span of years getting ready for performances of traditional dance and for a friend's wedding. There are also images of Hmong and Vietnamese and many others.

#### Glaze Techniques of Albert Green: New Jersey Potter

Through November 18, 2001

THE MORRIS MUSEUM  
6 Normandy Heights Rd.  
Morristown  
973-971-3700  
www.morrismuseum.org

Albert Green incorporates his love of Abstract Expressionism with the simplicity of Asian art, creating a distinct and moving style. Inspired by Japanese ceramist Shoji Hamada, Green has exhibited in Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Malaysia.

#### Seeing Double: Copies and Copying in the Arts of China

Through November 4, 2001

#### PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

McCormick Hall  
Princeton University  
Princeton  
609-258-3788

An overview of the way Chinese artists have traditionally copied, imitated, and alluded to earlier works in the technical production and aesthetic appreciation of art is the focus of the exhibition.

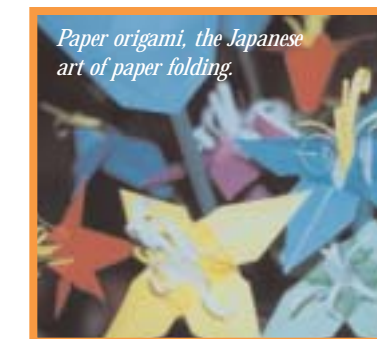
#### Celebration of Asian Arts

October 2001

#### MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY

125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan  
October 27, 2001  
732-431-7242

*Paper origami, the Japanese art of paper folding.*



A month-long celebration of Asian arts will include:

Demonstration of the art of **bonsai**, or Japanese tree sculpting.

Demonstration and instruction of **haiku**, the Japanese verse form notable for its compression and suggestiveness. It consists of three unrhymed lines of five, seven and five syllables.

Demonstration of **origami**, the Japanese art of folding paper into ships, animals, birds, and flowers.



Internationally renowned mime artist Yass Hakoshima blends the classic tradition of mime with the mystery and fatalism of Japanese theater and the athleticism of modern dance. He is a frequent performer at New Jersey venues. As director of the Yass Hakoshima Mime Theater and the New Jersey Center for Mime, Yass leads workshops teaching students the art of body statement. For more information, visit [www.yasshakoshima.com](http://www.yasshakoshima.com) or call 973-783-9845.

Scenes from performances by the King Lai Cultural Dance Theater, a New Jersey-based troupe that promotes Chinese heritage through the art of classical and folk dance. The group is a regular at events throughout the state and offers a strong educational component for budding dancers. For more information, visit <http://kinglaidance.bizland.com/> or call 201-767-8046.

Music from China, an ensemble combining traditional and contemporary Chinese instruments and sounds, at a performance held as part of the Raritan River Music Festival, a multicultural event held annually. For more information, visit [www.raritanrivermusic.org](http://www.raritanrivermusic.org) or call 908-213-1100.

**NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

One Center Street, Newark  
888-GO-NJPAC

**Ju Percussion**  
October 12, 2001  
Victoria Theater

Taiwanese percussion ensemble melds expert Western percussion with Chinese gong-drum music and other Asian musical traditions.

**Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company**  
November 2, 2001  
Prudential Hall

The internationally acclaimed traditional folk dance company organized to preserve the Philippines's rich musical heritage.

**Guangdong Modern Dance Company** -  
November 2-3, 2001  
and November 4, 2001  
Victoria Theater

Mainland China's first and foremost contemporary dance company, praised by critics for its unique dynamic range, athletic thrust and contained elegance. They combine Chinese traditions and Western influences with a modern sensibility.

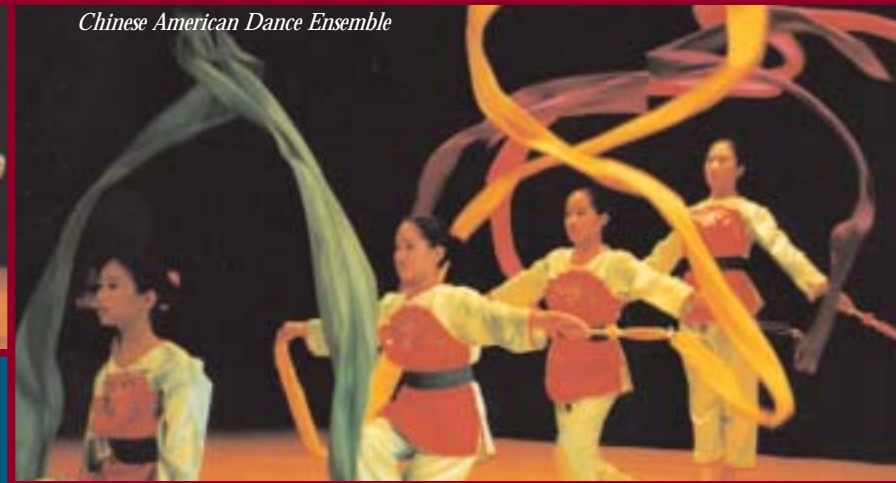
**Year of the Horse by Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company**  
February 2-3, 2002

Children aged 6 to 14 can ring in the "Year of the Horse" with this dazzling program of folk and contemporary music and dance, performed in traditional costume by a New Jersey-based ensemble.

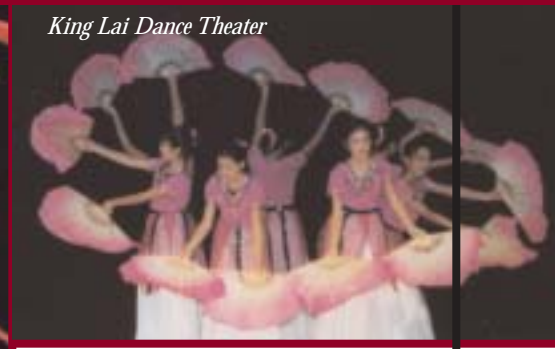
Chinese American Dance Ensemble



Chinese American Dance Ensemble



King Lai Dance Theater



**COMMUNITY THEATRE**  
100 South Street, Morristown  
973-539-8008  
[communitytheatre.nj.com](http://communitytheatre.nj.com)

**Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company**  
November 1, 2001

A performance of traditional music and dance that the New York Times called "completely different from anything that has been shown hereabouts...an evening of enchantment."

**Midori**  
January 11, 2002

This young musician referred to as a genius and one of the world's foremost violinists performs here.



Midori

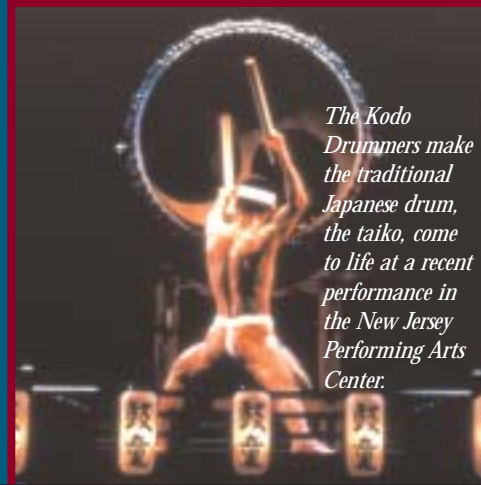
**Acrobats of China**  
March 21, 2002

Mind-boggling athletic feats and endless creativity have made this troupe famous throughout the globe.

**Tokyo String Quartet**  
April 10, 2002

This string quartet captivates audiences and critics around the world. They perform works by Schubert, Mozart and Brahms.

The Kodo Drummers make the traditional Japanese drum, the taiko, come to life at a recent performance in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.



**McCARTER THEATRE CENTER**

91 University Place, Princeton  
609-258-2787  
[www.mccarter.org](http://www.mccarter.org)

**Guangdong Modern Dance Company**  
November 6, 2001

The standard-bearers for modern dance in China, with their captivating, hypnotizing style that

draws upon Chinese symbolism in abstract form as they dance to eclectic music reflecting Chinese and Western culture.

**Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company**  
November 7, 2001

The traditional folk dances of the Philippines, with their uniquely expressive vocabulary of movement, maintain their ancient indigenous authenticity on a modern stage.

**McCARTER THEATRE CENTER**

*Continued*

**C. Lang Lang**  
March 4, 2002

*The 18-year-old Chinese pianist Lang Lang has taken the musical world by storm. The Chicago Tribune calls Lang the biggest, most exciting young keyboard talent encountered in years. The recital includes works by Schubert, Liszt, Mendelssohn and Chopin.*

**The Peking Acrobats**  
March 17, 2002

*Enjoy the hoop diving, plate spinning, bowl balancing, pole climbing—direct from the People's Republic of China their performances captivate audiences.*

*Shaolin Warriors*



**Indian Music Festival**  
May 7, 2002

*Tabla drum virtuoso Zakir Hussain and special guest Ustad Sultan Khan, master of the stringed sarangi, perform with an ensemble of India's leading percussionists on a wide variety of folk instruments.*

**STATE THEATRE**

15 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick  
877-STATE11  
www.StateTheatreNJ.org  
**Shaolin Warriors**  
February 6, 2002

*The famed holy men, whose hand-to-hand combat skills are strictly used for self defense. Brandishing weaponry with exquisite style, speed and flexibility, they display the fruits of their life long devotion in crowd pleasing performances for people of all ages.*

**JOHN HARMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

30 North Van Brunt Street  
Englewood  
201-567-3600  
www.johnharms.org  
**National Acrobats of Taiwan**  
March 10, 2002

*The 35 members of this troupe perform an exhilarating mix of acrobatics, juggling, tumbling, and balancing combined with ancient and modern theatrics.*

**MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM**

South Mountain Avenue  
Montclair  
Sponsored by New Jersey Chamber Music Society  
973-746-6068  
**Chamber Music with Wu Han**  
March 16, 2002

*Pianist Wu Han and cellist David Finckel join the NJCMS Classical Ensemble to perform Bach, Vivaldi, Rachmaninoff, Schumann and Poulenc.*

**STOCKTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

The Richard Stockton College  
Pomona  
609-652-4935  
**The Song Of Mulan**  
April 6, 2002

*This musical adaptation of the classical folk tale from ancient China is an inspiring, fun-filled adventure for children.*



**NAI-NI CHEN DANCE COMPANY**

P.O. Box 1121 Fort Lee 201-947-8403

*The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company was founded in 1988 by choreographer/dancer, Nai-Ni Chen, to bring the Chinese American heritage into the contemporary dance world. The company has developed more than 20 works with themes from ancient Chinese poetic drama that reflect issues of the present time to highly abstract, contemporary dances inspired by the art of Chinese calligraphy.*

The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company's Scheduled Performances:

**Dragon's Tale**  
November 3, 2001  
Count Basie Theatre  
99 Monmouth Street  
Red Bank  
732-224-8778  
www.countbasie  
theatre.org

**The Year of the Horse**  
February 2-3, 2002  
New Jersey  
Performing Arts Center  
One Center Street  
Newark  
888-GO-NJPAC

**Dragon's Tale**  
March 3 – April 2, 2002  
Cumberland  
County College  
College Drive, Vineland  
856-691-8600 ext.391  
www.ccnj.net

# Festivals



Branch Brook Park



**Cherry Blossom Festival Schedule, 2002:**

**Opening Day**  
 Sunday, April 7  
 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A visit from Japan's 14<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Queen kicks off festivities. Activities include demonstrations of martial arts and Japanese handicrafts such as origami, flower arranging, calligraphy, and bonsai. There will also be traditional dance and music, horse and carriage rides, an arts and crafts show, an antique car exhibit, caricatures, balloon sculpting and face painting.

**Concert**  
 Friday, April 19  
 from 5 to 10 p.m.

"An Evening with Cole Porter."  
 For ticket information, please call 973-643-1611

**Community Day**  
 Saturday, April 20  
 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A day of fun for the entire family featuring music, martial arts demonstrations, plus hands-on arts and crafts for children.

**2002 Cherry Blossom Run**  
 Sunday, April 21  
 from 9 a.m. to noon

Participants will enjoy the scenic runs through blossoming cherry trees in three races: a Children's Fun Run at 9 a.m., a 10K run at 10 a.m. and a Disabled Run at 10:10 a.m. Sponsored by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. For more information or to obtain an application, please call 973-268-3500.

**April**

**Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossom Festival**  
 744 Broad Street (31st Floor)  
 Branch Brook Park Alliance  
 Newark  
 973-643-1611

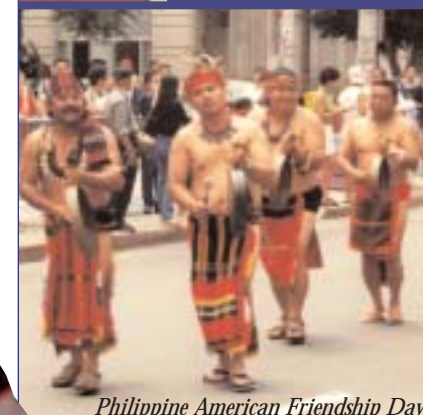
The annual celebration is timed to coincide with the flowering of the famed Japanese cherry blossom trees. The festival has included a variety of Japanese cultural activities and demonstrations such as origami, calligraphy, bonsai, martial arts and traditional dance and music.



*A woman models a traditional Japanese dress kimono at the Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossom Festival.*



*The Samahan Cultural Heritage Performers put on a Philippine singkil dance.*



*Philippine American Friendship Day*



*Philippine Flag Day*

**June**

**Philippine Flag Raising**  
 Jersey City  
 City Hall  
 201-547-5522  
[www.cityofjerseycity.com](http://www.cityofjerseycity.com)  
 Passaic City Hall  
 973-365-5500  
[www.cityofpassaic.com](http://www.cityofpassaic.com)

The towns of Jersey City and Passaic holds annually flag-raising ceremonies during the third week in June to mark the Philippines' Independence Day.

**Philippine-American Friendship Day Parade**  
 Parade begins at  
 Lincoln Park  
 West Side Avenue  
 Jersey City  
 Recreation & Cultural Affairs  
 201-547-4582

Floats, beauty queens, traditional Ifugao and Ati-Atihan costumes and music highlight the parade, held annually on the fourth Sunday in June. The route takes marchers five miles from Lincoln Park on West Side Avenue to Exchange Place.

**A**sian nations have their own distinctive holidays, full of pageant and color, unique customs and typical foods. New Jerseyans with ties to those nations often maintain those traditions, and share them with other people in the state.



**ASIAN HOLIDAYS**

One of the best known Asian holidays is Chinese New Year, a time for fellowship and celebrations with fireworks, papier-mache dragons and costumes. Chinese-Americans decorate their homes with symbols of good fortune: bright red symbolizes happiness in the coming months, golden ornaments stand for desired wealth, while fruits like oranges and tangerines are associated with good health. One of the most traditional dishes is jai, a combination platter of ginkgo nuts, black moss, dried bean curd, bamboo shoots, noodles and scallions. Since it depends on the lunar calendar, the date of Chinese New Year changes each season, although it usually falls in late January or February.

In India, one festive holiday is Holi, the celebration of the color of spring in February or March. During the mornings, people celebrate by shooting colored water at each other with a device called a pichkari, while in the

evenings colored powders called Gulal are smeared on people. Children eat sweet treats, often made of herbed nuts with sugar, and families sit before a bonfire along with friends and neighbors. In the fall, Dasher and Diwali are religious festivals 18 days apart. During Dasher, Hindus pray and exchange presents and messages of good will. During Diwali, people decorate their homes with rows of lamps and exchange presents.

In Japan, the New Year's holiday known as Shogatsu takes place over the first three days in January. People eat osechi ryouri, a dish packed in a Jubako box artfully presented in several layers: prawns for long life, sweet black beans for health, herring roe for fertility, sweet chestnuts and mashed sweet potatoes for happiness. A particularly Japanese celebration is Otsukimi, or "Moon Viewing." On the first full moon night in September, people enjoy a countryside picnic with rice cakes, fruits and vegetables. Originally, it was meant to give thanks for the harvest.

Koreans have their own Thanksgiving, an ancestral harvest festival known as Chusok, held the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, which usually turns out to be in mid-August. Families take three days off from work to give thanks and share songphyun, rice cakes with beans, sesame seeds, and chestnuts. Children dance and sing traditional songs, and many families visit the tombs of their ancestors with offerings.

Navidad, or Christmas, is an important celebration in the Philippines, Asia's only predominantly Catholic country. Filipinos enjoy a mix of indigenous and colonial Spanish customs. After church service, celebrants drink salabat, a ginger tea, and eat puto bumbong, a violet glutinous rice steamed in tubes served with sugar and grated coconut. In addition, many Filipinos prepare roast pig for Christmas dinner, also a tradition in Latin America. As in much of the Spanish-speaking world, celebrations last until January 6, Three Kings Day.

Dance at the Indian American Festival in Bridgewater

**July**

**Indian American Festival**

Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir) and Community Center  
Bridgewater  
908-725-4477

A fun-filled carnival of Indian food, music and entertainment that is also held to help the community become more involved in American governance. This annual event is scheduled in 2002 for July 13 and 14.

**August**

**Jersey City Indian Parade**

City of Jersey City  
Recreation & Cultural Affairs  
201-547-4582

Annual celebration of Indian heritage, with a parade from Newark Avenue to Leonard Gordon Park.



**Philippine Fiesta**

Meadowlands Exposition Center, Secaucus  
August 17-18, 2002  
212-682-6610

An annual business-oriented trade show, with exhibitors from the Philippines and the U.S. There will be business and educational seminars, a job fair and much opportunity for networking. Also featuring an on-the-spot painting contest, photo and art exhibits, martial arts, plus international and local entertainers.



Children in traditional Indian dress at Sri Venkateswara Temple and Community Center

**Carnival India**

Brookdale Park, Bloomfield  
Coalition of Indian Organizations New Jersey  
973-285-0311

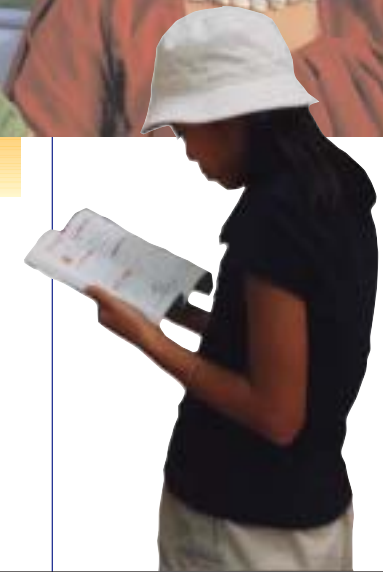
Held on the weekend closest to Indian Independence Day, (August 15), this open-air celebration features Indian dance, music, fashions, cuisine, handicrafts, jewelry and "Mehendi" artists.

**August-September**

**Sino Monthly Magazine Chinese Festival**

18 Sheppard Place  
Edison, New Jersey  
732-650-7466

Annual Chinese book and CD show, with appearances by authors and concerts by musical artists. Check for date and location. Different themes and locations each year.



**Dushahra Festival**

East Freehold Park, Freehold  
www.dushahra.com  
732-360-2059

A celebration of the "Victory of Good Over Evil," marking the traditional homecoming of Lord Rama, hero of the epic "Ramayana," after his victory over Ravana, king of Lanka. There will be dance programs with talented boys and girls, tall tales of Ram and Ravana, games and rides, and fireworks featuring the spectacular burning of a 40-foot-tall Ravana effigy imported from India.

**Jersey City Chinese Festival**

Exchange Place  
City of Jersey City  
Recreation & Cultural Affairs  
201-547-4582

Annual festival of Chinese culture.

Indian festivals held in the United States. There will be food from various regions of India, games, activities, vendors selling jewelry and hand-crafts, plus lots of dance and music.

**Asian Moon Festival**

Morristown Community Theater  
100 South St., Morristown  
October 20, 2001  
201-947-8403

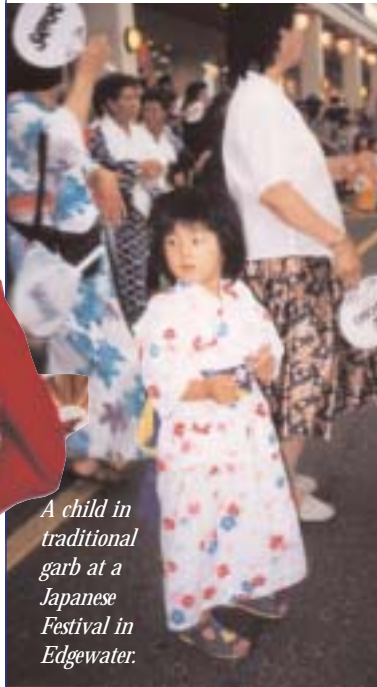
The ancient Asian celebration of the Harvest Moon is the basis for this event, organized by the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. There also will be a performance by mimes from the Yass Hakoshima Movement Theater.

*Mime artist Yass Hakoshima.*

**Asian Arts Festival**

Monmouth County Library  
125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan  
October 27, 2001  
732-335-1116 or  
732-212-1890

A gala performing and visual extravaganza celebrating the arts and culture of China, India, Japan, Korea and the Philippines. Artists from those nations will showcase their music, crafts, poetry, dance and drama.



*A child in traditional garb at a Japanese Festival in Edgewater.*

**Diwali**

Edison Jewish Community Center/Temple Beth El  
91 Jefferson Boulevard  
Edison  
201-933-8963

Hindus and Sikhs share the Festival of Lights, Diwali. There will be a ceremonial lighting of traditional lamps by young people, a youth fair, entertainment, games, surprises, ethnic foods and a live DJ with dance music.



*Children dancing at a Diwali Show at the Bridgewater Indian American Festival*

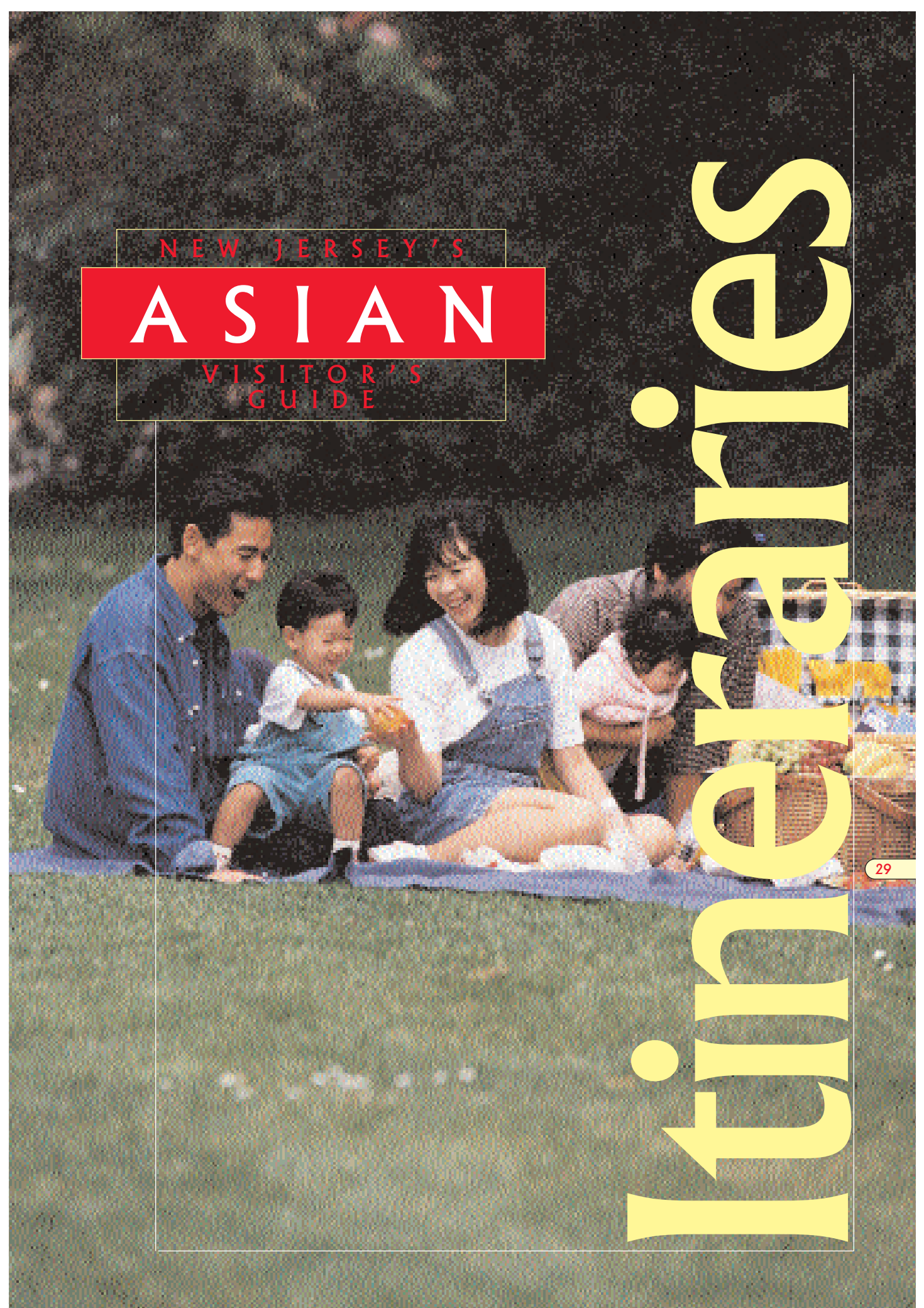


**Millennium Navratri**

Raritan Center,  
Fieldcrest Avenue, Edison  
Four weekends beginning  
732-283-9696

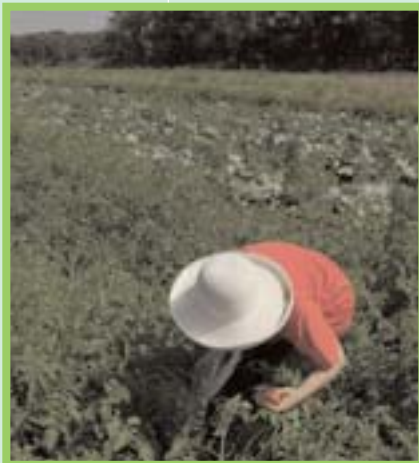
This centuries-old religious festival, celebrated throughout India, has become one of the largest annual

NEW JERSEY'S  
**ASIAN**  
VISITOR'S  
GUIDE



**Itineraries**

*Pick your own vegetables at Chia-Sin Farms, as you explore the natural sites of Hunterdon County*

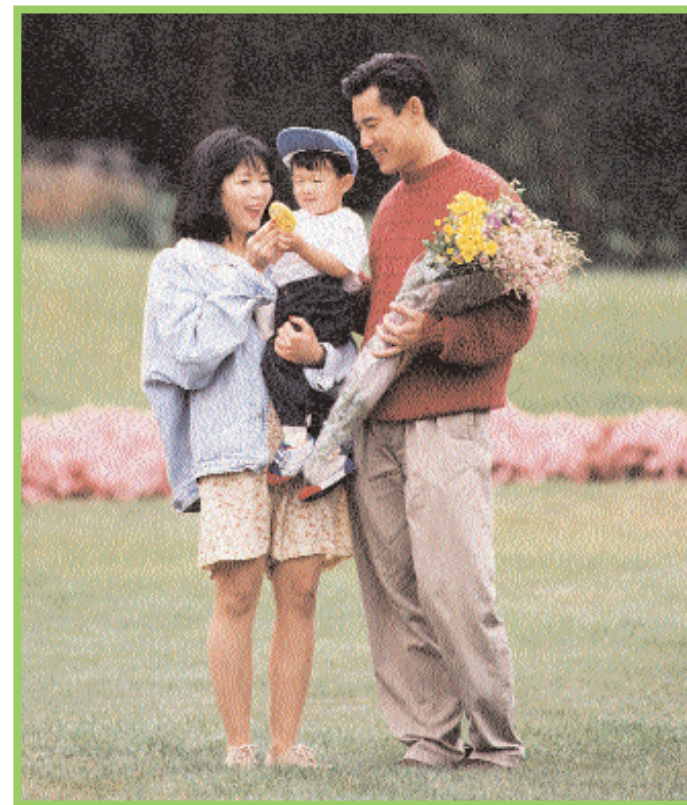


*Skiing is one of the Skylands Region's most popular attractions*

**T**ravel back to New Jersey's past in the northwest of the state, dotted with small towns that retain the charm of the colonial era. Try the antique stores in Andover, Lafayette or Stillwater, or stroll through the tiny but enchanting town centers in Hope and Blairstown. In Lambertville, right on the Delaware River, you can spend an afternoon shopping at arts and crafts boutiques and then dine at gourmet restaurants. For more modern findings at bargain prices, don't miss Flemington's discount outlets, with housewares, clothing and many other items at factory prices.

Enjoy nature as you drive along the winding country roads that connect the different towns through forests and mountains. Head up Route 23 to High Point, the highest place in New Jersey, where the border meets New York and Pennsylvania. Enjoy the panoramic view from the lookout. Further south is the Delaware River National Recreation Area, and in Morris County you will find the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Altogether there are some 60,000 acres of state parkland that include a section of the Appalachian Trail.

It's the outdoors for all seasons. During the warm months you can hike, camp or just observe nature. In the winter there's downhill skiing and snowboarding at Hidden Valley and Mountain Creek, plus cross-country skiing at the High Point Cross Country Ski Center.



*The vibrant centers of New Jersey's Asian American communities are located here in New Jersey's most populous and diverse region.*

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

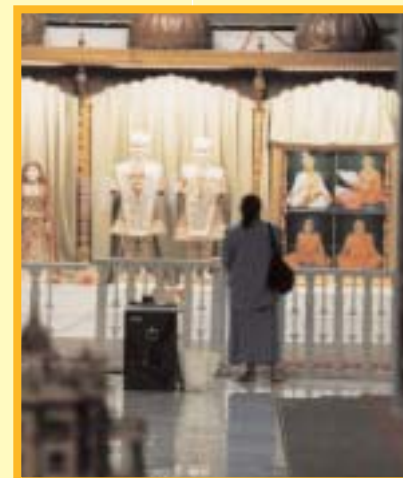
**T**he state's largest community of Indian-Americans makes its home in the Woodbridge-Edison-Iselin area. Plenty of neighborhood shops and restaurants enable the visitor to enjoy—or get to know for the first time—the ancient culture of the Indian subcontinent.

Start your visit at the Oak Tree Road Center in Edison, a five-to six-block area off Rt. 27 that is full of Indian restaurants and shops. The restaurants are amazingly diverse: You can delight in the fine Indian cuisine of your choice from the various regions of southern and northern India.

In the shops nearby you can pick up pastries made with goat milk and ghee. Have an elegant sari custom-designed to your taste, from silk or satin fabrics interwoven with gold threads and elaborately embroidered with pearls and sequins. Walk down a few stores and select from some of the elaborate and beautifully carved gold jewelry in Indian design to compliment your newly acquired wardrobe. Indian bookstores, travel agencies, insurance brokers, lawyers, doctors, dentists and other services and offices are all on or near Oak Tree Road.

If you head north you will be magically transported east—you'll still be in Edison but will also have traveled from the Indian subcontinent to East Asia and the Kam Man Food Center on Old Post Road between Rt. 1 and Vineyard Road. You'll find a mini Chinatown that also carries a good selection of Filipino, Vietnamese, Thai and Malay groceries. The cluster of indoor stores features a bakery for fresh Chinese pastries, a supermarket for Asian fruits, fresh Chinese vegetables, staples like rice, noodles, soy milk, or fresh tofu, plus live fish you can pick and have prepared to your specifications. You can also buy freshly cooked food sold by the pound to take home. The large supermarket at the center also offers china and porcelain wares, kitchen utensils and other Chinese household items, many of which make great gifts.

The center also features a bookstore where calligraphy supplies and Chinese newspapers can be purchased, an optical center, a video and audio rental store, an herbal/pharmacy center, and jewelry stores.



*A visit to Middlesex County brings the traveler into the heart of New Jersey's Indian American community. (top) Luxurious Indian dress material at a boutique; (center) Squeezing sugar cane juice at an Indian restaurant; (bottom) inside an Indian temple.*



*Shopping at one of New Jersey's Asian grocery stores.*



*An Indian language class at a Central Jersey temple*



Just across the street you will find a Korean/sushi restaurant and the Ah Reum Korean Mart, where you will find fresh kim chi, prepared fish and vegetables, Korean and Japanese groceries, and household items.

Another East Asian shopping experience can be had at the Chinese Crossroads on Rt. 27 and Plainfield Avenue. Stop by the Shi Sheido cosmetics counter for a makeover and facial grooming. Walk across the parking lot into the Raritan Florist to select bonsai as well as hard-to-find Asian indoor and outdoor plants. For the home, stop at Redwood Furniture a bit south on Rt. 27. You will find Asian-style carved redwood sofas, cabinets, dining room sets, bedroom sets, and gold embossed screens. Across from the furniture store is the Asian Food Center with a gigantic selection of fresh fruit, vegetables, and Chinese fresh groceries.

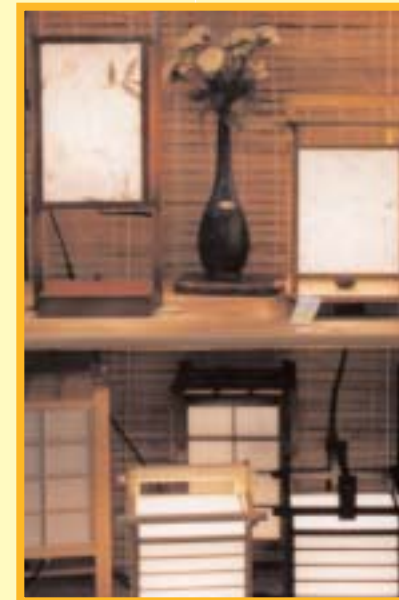
In a mood for snacks Shanghai style, or an authentic Thai meal? A five-minute drive takes you into the heart of Highland Park, where you can try fresh hand rolled pastries at Shanghai Park or a feast in authentic Thai atmosphere at Pad Thai.



B E R G E N C O U N T Y

**T**he Far East also extends an invitation to visit Bergen County. For an intense Asian-American experience in the Garden State, you cannot do better than downtown Palisades Park. Nearly half of Palisades Park population is of Asian descent—the largest percentage in New Jersey—with most of these residents being of Korean origin. On Broad Avenue, a visitor can find nearly anything Korean. Choose from the wide selection of restaurants serving kim-chi and other delicacies or take home your own specialty cuts from the Korea Meat Market. Buy a book or a comic at Seoul Comic Books. Check out the furniture and home decorations at Grand Furniture, or pick up a movie at Koam Video.

Fort Lee also has a strong Korean presence in its main shopping district is also noted for its pan-Asian diversity. Within a few blocks you will find more than a dozen restaurants featuring the cuisines of Korea,



*A variety of products are available on shopping expeditions in New Jersey's Asian communities.*



China, India, Vietnam and Japan. And just below, in Cliffside Park, is the Palisadium, a luxurious Korean spa/health club specializing in massage and body scrubs with herbal treatments. When you are done pampering yourself, head upstairs to the main dining room which overlooks the Hudson and the New York City skyline. Lunch and dinner are served buffet style. You can also have a Korean barbecue right at your table.

For an authentic Japanese experience, visit the Mitsuwa Marketplace on River Road in Edgewater. It is a large indoor shopping center that caters to the many Japanese families who live nearby, but it welcomes everyone with a taste for things Japanese. There is an extensive Japanese market with fresh vegetables, specialty rice and noodles, plus an excellent variety of fish and fish products not found elsewhere. Stop by the exquisite counters of the Kitchoan Sweet Shop and taste sweets made with fruit or bean fillings.

Walk to the other side of the mart and watch waffles made on the spot with red bean fillings, a perfect snack anytime or a great breakfast treat. For lunch, there is no better value than the take-out cafeteria with sushi, sashimi, shrimp tempura or a mixed platter that comes with miso soup and salad for less than \$10.

You can also pick up souvenirs and novelties at the Mitsuwa gift shop or at the nearby Utsuwa No Yakata. Wares at the Mitsuwa gift shop runs the gamut from hand-made paper screens and lamps to small lacquer tables to futons, kimonos and sandals. Utsuwa offers exquisite hand-painted porcelain tea sets, platters, and bowls, as well as an excellent variety of lacquer items. After shopping enjoy lunch or dinner at nearby Matsushima, Japanese restaurant with a waterfront view.

Over in Bergenfield, a small but growing Filipino community offers the visitor a variety of restaurants and shops along Washington Avenue.

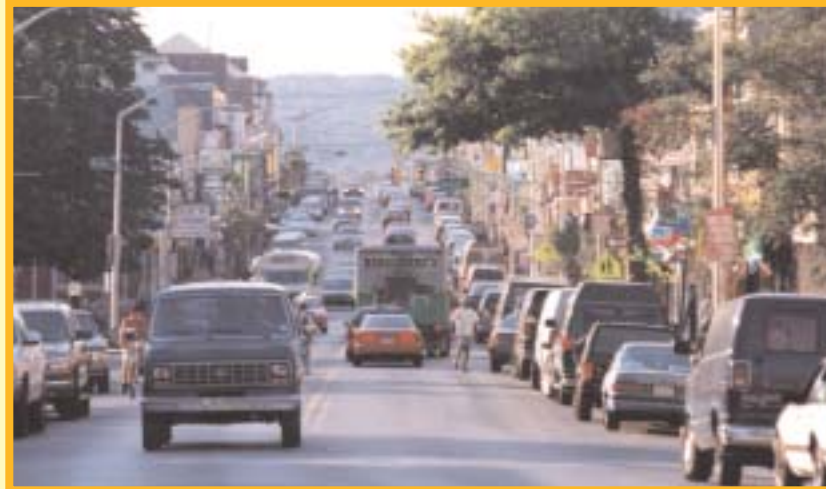


HUDSON COUNTY

**J**ersey City is home to a substantial Indian population as well as the state's largest concentration of Filipinos. One of the largest Indian neighborhoods is centered around the intersection of Tonnele and Newark Avenues, where you will find family run groceries, fabric and clothing stores and jewelry shops. Try the Rasoi Restaurant, which specializes in rasoi chicken and mango lassi.

The Filipino community is more spread out throughout the city, but you will find several restaurants and shops in a number of neighborhoods. On Newark Avenue near the county courthouse, you will find Casa Victoria, a community center home to an elegant restaurant as well as an exhibition space for Filipino artists. There is also the Philippine Bread House, which started out as a small bakery and has now become a mini-mall for

Filipinos seeking authentic home cooking, products and services. Another neighborhood to try is the southern section of Jersey Avenue, where the aroma of hot pandesal bread wafts from bakeries. You can also visit Manila Avenue, formerly known as Grove Street. During the Christmas season residents decorate their homes with traditional parol lanterns. On the corner of Second Street and Manila Avenue is Philippine Plaza, with a bust dedicated to Philippine American veterans of World War II.



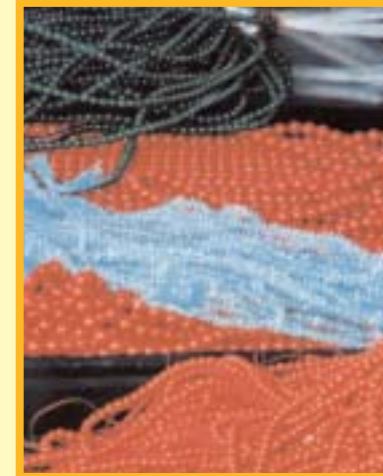
*Hudson County's streets are filled with a wide array of stores and restaurants where one can sample Asian products and cuisine*

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

**T**here is plenty to see and do in the Gateway Region. There is Liberty State Park, with its views of the statue of Statue of Liberty and easy access to the fascinating immigrant museum at Ellis Island, where more than 12 million immigrants entered the United States between 1892 and 1954. Be sure to visit the Liberty Science Center, which has dozens of hands-on exhibits for all ages, a 3-D laser light show, an IMAX® theater and more.

Of course there is the shopping for which the region is famous. Check out the upscale Mall at Short Hills, the huge Garden State Plaza in Paramus, the Jersey Gardens Mall in Elizabeth and the discount outlets in Secaucus, near Giants Stadium and the rest of the Meadowlands Sports Complex.

Urbanized and suburbanized as it is, the Gateway Region still leaves room for nature. Within sight of the New Jersey Turnpike and the skyscrapers of New York City is DeKorte State Park, where a boardwalk trail leads a visitor through marshes teeming with dozens of species of birds. Another nature spectacle not to be missed is the fall migration flight in the skies above the Montclair Hawk Watch, on Edgecliff Road in Upper Montclair. Every autumn, tens of thousands of birds of prey on their way south fly above the cliff on which the Hawk Watch is located.



*Indian women use dyes from mehendi, a plant better known as henna, to beautify their hands and feet before such big occasions as weddings and holidays.*

**B**egin your tour in Princeton, home to one of the world's most prestigious institutions of higher learning. Enjoy a stroll through the campus with its mix of colonial, neo-Gothic and modern buildings. Then cross Nassau Street and discover the unique shops there and along Palmer Square. And be on the lookout for a classical concert, a stimulating lecture or a play, all part of the wealth of cultural and intellectual offerings that the university opens to the public. Visit the Princeton



University Museum, which has an impressive collection of Chinese bronzes, tomb figures, paintings and calligraphy.

Take a short drive to Trenton, where you can visit the State Museum and the capitol, originally built in 1792. Its distinctive golden dome was added in the mid-19th century, and recently a major renovation was

completed. Nearby, visit the Old Barracks, which housed British troops during the Revolutionary War.

Then drive farther south to Camden and its waterfront, which features the New Jersey State Aquarium and the Camden Children's Garden, a four-acre interactive horticultural playground where people of all ages can explore and discover the natural world. Visit the floating museum housed in the historic battleship U.S.S. New Jersey as well as a 6,500-seat ballpark offering minor league baseball.



*Explore the natural world at Garden State Discovery Museum located in Cherry Hill*



*Stationery in an Asian shop*

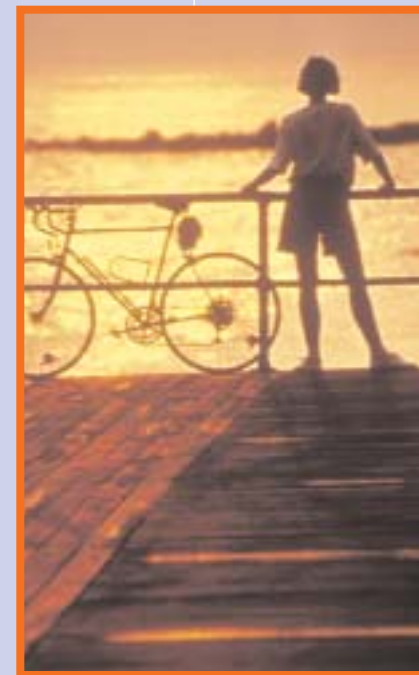
**Y**our tour of the Shore Region starts inland, with quiet reflections at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center at the PNC Arts Center in Holmdel. There is also the PNC Bank Arts Center itself, which frequently hosts ethnic festivals featuring music, food and crafts from different Asian countries, enabling these communities to enjoy their culture and share it with others.

Be sure and visit the Japanese Garden at Georgian Court College in Lakewood. Enjoy the traditional teahouse surrounded by a winding path that features gnarled old Japanese maples, cherry trees and other typical plants.

Then you can hit the beach, for nothing is more New Jersey than "going down the Shore." The Garden State has 71 miles of surf and 35 sandy beaches in Monmouth and Ocean counties alone. There is Sandy Hook, where you can swim or fish; the lively boardwalks and amusement piers of Point Pleasant or Seaside Heights; quiet residential towns like Spring Lake, Lavallette and Ship Bottom; and the natural solitude of Island Beach State Park.

Back inland, you can spend a day at Six Flags Great Adventure, in Jackson. After the kids thrill to the hair-raising rides, drive

through the Wild Safari, where the entire family can see animals from across the world; don't be surprised if some come right up to your car. And don't leave the area without stopping at the Six Flags Factory Outlet Center.



The famous resort town of Atlantic City is home to one of New Jersey's largest Vietnamese communities. Sample the delicious fare at one of the several Vietnamese restaurants in town. Then marvel at the six-mile Boardwalk, with its casinos and amusement rides. Try the famous saltwater taffy. While on the Boardwalk, take the family shopping in Ocean One, where you'll find 125 shops, restaurants and a family amusement arcade all under one roof.

In the evening take in dinner and a show at the casinos. Call the Atlantic City Convention Center for information on restaurants (1-888-222-3683).

There are also numerous attractions that can be enjoyed at a more leisurely pace, like the Renault Winery, America's oldest. Storybook Land in Cardiff is a great family attraction. The nature lover should be sure to visit Brigantine's Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge and its 2,200 acres of pristine habitat. Also in Brigantine is the Sea Life Museum-Marine Mammal Stranding Center, where travelers can see how dolphins, whales and other aquatic creatures are rescued and returned to their habitats.



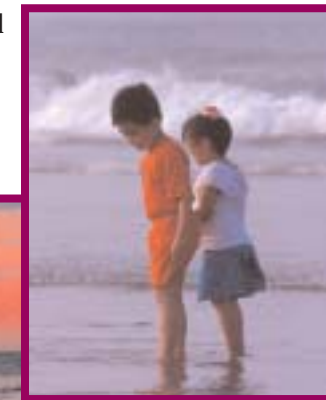
*Exciting nightlife and world-class entertainment await visitors at Atlantic City's famed casinos*

Kick off your tour at the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, which tells the story of one of New Jersey's first Asian American communities. Photographs, cultural artifacts and a model village reflect the history of the Japanese-Americans and Japanese-Peruvians who settled in Seabrook in the 1940s and 1950s after relocating from war-time camps.

From there make your way to Cape May, one of the oldest shore resorts in the United States, with quaint shops, restaurants and more than 600 charming Victorian houses, many of which have been renovated as bed-and-breakfasts. Ride the local trolley or take a tour in an old-fashioned horse-drawn cart. In the spring and fall, be sure to bring binoculars and join the bird-watchers from all over the world who flock to Cape May to witness the spectacle of migration. Experts gather to watch tens of thousands of hawks fly by at a



*Beaches, birding and wildlife watching are popular attractions in Cape May County*



platform that fronts the beach in the State Park. Or take a whale-and-dolphin-watching tour off the coast on comfortable boats.

For another Southern Shore experience, drive a few miles north on the Parkway to Wildwood, where you can enjoy food, games, rides and water parks along the two-mile Wildwood Boardwalk. When the sun has set, dozens of nightspots help you continue the fun. There's also



Ocean City, where a 2.5 mile boardwalk of amusements and frequent festivals add to the town's appeal as a vacation destination. A bit farther north is the Cape May County Park and Zoo. Its exhibits of numerous mammals, birds and reptiles would make a big city proud.

