

Step Forward Through Time: A Walking Tour Through Historic New Castle

1. Start with New Castle's oldest building, the Dutch House of the New Castle Historical Society. Take a tour from one of the excellent guides.
2. From the Dutch House, walk down 3rd Street towards the center of town. After half a block, you'll see an alleyway on your right that cuts back to 4th Street. On the corner of 4th and Delaware, you can take a tour of the stately Amstel House.
3. When you've finished your tour of the Amstel House, turn right on Delaware Street, where a walk of a half-block will take you to the interesting Velocipede Museum. They're only open on Saturday or by appointment, so plan ahead if you'd like to visit. Even if they're closed, the storefront is worth a look.
4. Leaving the Velocipede, walk down Delaware Street towards the center of town. Take a break at the town Green, laid out in the 17th century, or have lunch in one of the historic restaurants or taverns in the center of town.
5. After lunch, visit the New Castle Court House Museum, a National Historic Landmark site. This 1732 court was the meeting place of Delaware's first courts and Assembly. Guided tours and exhibits illustrate Delaware's rich cultural history.
6. Leaving the courthouse, continue down Delaware Street to the Delaware River. Pause at Battery Park to soak up the sunshine or watch the boats pass on the river. There is a playground in the park where children can run off some of their extra energy.
7. Pass some of New Castle's magnificent townhomes as you walk down The Strand, site of New Castle's greatest disaster, the fire of 1824. Tour the grand Read House and Gardens of the Historical Society of Delaware, truly one of the gems of the town.
8. Sneak through numerous alleys on your way back to the Green, where unique shops line the streets facing the park and the Courthouse. Take home an antique as a souvenir of your visit.

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