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Paterson is a city located in Passaic County, New Jersey, about 15 miles from New York City. It is the third-largest city in the state with a population of over 150,000 people. Paterson's nickname, "Silk City," comes from its historical significance as a major center for silk production in the 19th century. Paterson lies along the Passaic River, providing a beautiful natural setting with many parks and green spaces. The Great Falls of the Passaic River, a stunning waterfall in the heart of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, which celebrates the city's industrial past. Paterson is also known for its cultural diversity, with various communities contributing to its rich heritage. The city has a long history of immigration, and today, it remains a vibrant mix of different cultures and traditions. The city is known for its historical significance, natural beauty, and strong cultural roots. Paterson's legacy as an industrial hub, particularly for the silk industry, shaped its development and continues to influence its identity today. Wondering what to do in Paterson, NJ. Visit the Lambert Castle MuseumCredits: John Lee/FlickrLambert Castle MuseumLambert Castle MuseumCredits: John Lee/FlickrLambert Castle MuseumCredits Mountain Reservation, the castle is a stunning piece of architecture. Built in the late 1800s, it originally served as the residence of silk manufacturer Catholina Lambert. Now, it houses a museum showcasing Paterson's rich history and industrial past. The museum features exhibits on Paterson's role in the Industrial Revolution and its impact on the silk industry. Visitors can explore historical artifacts, antique furniture, and other interesting collections. The castle also hosts various events and educational programs throughout the year. One of the highlights is the castle's breathtaking panoramic views of the city and beyond. The surrounding grounds, including the beautifully landscaped gardens add to the charm of this historic spot. The castle is an ideal destination for history buffs and families interested in learning more about Paterson, NJ 075032. Visit Paterson Great Falls National Historical experience, don't miss out on a visit to Lambert Castle Museum. Address: 3 Valley Rd, Paterson Great Falls National Historical experience, don't miss out on a visit to Lambert Castle Museum. Address: 3 Valley Rd, Paterson Great Falls National Historical experience, don't miss out on a visit to Lambert Castle Museum. Address: 3 Valley Rd, Paterson Great Falls National Historical experience, don't miss out on a visit to Lambert Castle Museum. Address: 3 Valley Rd, Paterson Great Falls National Historical experience, don't miss out on a visit to Lambert Castle Museum. Address: 3 Valley Rd, Paterson Great Falls National Historical experience, don't miss out on a visit to Lambert Castle Museum. 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Address: 3 Valley Rd, Paterson Great Falley National Historical experience, don't miss out on a visit to Lambert Castle Museum. Address: 3 Valley Rd, Paterson Great Falley National Historical experience, don't miss out on a visit to Lambert Castle Falls is one of the largest waterfalls in the U.S. and a must-see when visiting Paterson, NJ. The falls are located on the Passaic River, and the sound of the water crashing against the rocks is truly awe-inspiring. The park was established as a National Historical Park in 2011 to preserve both the natural beauty and historical significance of the falls. The falls played a key role in Paterson's industrial history, providing power to the factories in the 19th century. You can learn more about this history by visiting the nearby visitor center. The park offers several observation areas where you can get close-up views of the falls. The best part is the beautiful scenery that surrounds the area. Whether you're taking a walk, snapping photos, or just sitting and listening to the water, there's something magical about the spot. Don't forget to visit the historical markers that explain the area's significance to America's industrial revolution. Address: 72 McBride Ave Ext, Paterson, NJ 075013. Walk Along the Great Falls Waterfall TrailThe Great Falls Waterfall Trail is a scenic pathway that leads visitors around the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. The trail is about 1 mile long and offers breathtaking views of the falls from several vantage points. This easy walk is perfect for people of all ages, and it's a wonderful way to experience the natural beauty of the area. As you walk along the trail, you'll encounter several observation decks. These spots are perfect for taking photos of the falls and the surrounding landscape. The trail also takes you past historical landmarks, such as the old mills that once powered the city's factories. You'll get a great sense of the area's history while enjoying the beauty of nature. The trail is also a great place for birdwatching and just soaking in the peaceful surroundings. You can walk the trail at your own pace and take in all the views. It's a perfect way to escape the hustle and bustle of the city for a little while. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes, as some parts of the trail can be a bit uneven. Address: 72 McBride Ave Ext, Paterson, NJ 075014. Check Out the Paterson Silk MuseumThe Paterson Silk Museum is an important stop for anyone interested in the city's rich industry in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The museum, located in a building that once housed a working silk mill, gives visitors a fascinating glimpse into the city's pivotal role in silk production. The museum's exhibits cover the entire history of silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery that helped the city become the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson. You'll learn about the innovative machinery than the leading silk manufacturing in Paterson intricate silk patterns. The museum also showcases historical documents, photos, and stories about the lives of the workers who powered the industry. For history buffs or those curious about Paterson's industrial past, the Silk Museum is a must-visit. It's educational, informative, and offers a unique look at a chapter of American history that helped shape the city.Address: 1036 Main St, Paterson, NJ 075035. Discover the Paterson Free Public Library is a great place to visit for both locals and tourists. Located in the heart of Paterson, the library is a great place to visit for both locals and tourists. Located in the heart of Paterson, the library is a great place to visit for both locals and tourists. explore local history. The library is housed in a grand, historic building and offers an impressive collection of books, films, and multimedia resources. One of the highlights of the library is its archives. These include valuable collections that detail Paterson's role in industrial history, including its contributions to the American silk industry. The library often hosts programs such as author readings, film screenings, and even educational workshops for kids. In addition to its cultural offerings, the library has modern amenities like free Wi-Fi, study areas, and computers. Whether you're looking to learn something new or simply relax with a good book, this library is the perfect spot to unwind. The library is also involved in community outreach, helping to support literacy programs and cultural activities in Paterson. Address: 250 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 075016. Stroll Through Eastside Park is a peaceful green space that offers a relaxing break from the hustle and bustle of the city. It's the perfect spot for a leisurely stroll or a quiet moment in nature. Located in the heart of Paterson, the park is a beautiful mix of natural beauty and history. One of the park's main features is its large pond, which is home to ducks and other wildlife. You can sit by the water or take a walk along the park also has beautiful gardens, historic statues, and a large open space perfect for picnics or playing games. The walking paths are shaded by tall trees, making it a pleasant spot even on warm days. Eastside Park is also known for its historical monuments and buildings. The park was designed by the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed Central Park in New York. The park's peaceful atmosphere and natural beauty make it a perfect place to unwind and enjoy the outdoors. If you're looking for a place to relax and enjoy nature in Paterson, NJ 075017. Explore the Paterson MuseumCredits: Rollei35fan/FlickrPaterson MuseumThe Paterson Museum is a hidden gem in the city, offering a deep dive into Paterson's rich history and culture. It's an excellent stop for those interested in learning about the city's industrial past and its role in American innovation. The museum is located inside an old locomotive repair shop, adding to its historical charm. The museum showcases exhibits on Paterson's early industries, including the silk and textile industries that once made the city a hub for manufacturing. One of the museum's highlights is its collection of antique machinery, which gives you a sense of the scale of Paterson's industrial output. Another unique feature is the exhibit dedicated to the history of aviation in Paterson. The city played a significant role in the development of early aircraft, and you can see artifacts related to this history. The Paterson Museum is a great place to explore the story of the city in an intimate, hands-on way. It's a wonderful stop for history buffs, families, or anyone curious about Paterson's legacy. Best of all, admission is free! Address: 2 Market St, Paterson, NJ 075018. Explore the Garret Mountain Reservation is one of the best spots to experience nature in Paterson. It offers sweeping views of the Passaic River Valley and is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. The park features walking trails, picnic areas, and beautiful gardens. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely hike or relax by the waterfall. The 568-acre reservation is home to wildlife, including deer and various bird species. If you're looking for some history, Garret Mountain is also home to Lambert Castle, which offers spectacular panoramic views of the surrounding area. The park's peaceful atmosphere makes it a perfect place for a family day out or a solo nature retreat.Garret Mountain is accessible year-round, so it's great for different types of outdoor activities like hiking, jogging, or simply enjoying the beauty of nature. Whether you're hiking or enjoying a casual stroll, the park provides a refreshing escape from city life.Address: 8 Mountain Ave, Paterson, NJ 075039. Attend Events at the Paterson Arts CenterThe Paterson Arts Center is an exciting place to visit if you're a fan of the arts. It is located in the heart of Paterson and hosts a variety of cultural and artistic events. From theater performances to art exhibits, there's always something happening at the arts center. It's a vibrant community hub that celebrates creativity in all its forms. Throughout the year, the center organizes performances, art shows, dance recitals, and live music events. Whether you're into contemporary art or classic performances, the Paterson Arts Center has something for everyone. The center also offers art classes for children and adults, making it an excellent resource for local artists and families. If the center also offers art classes for children and adults, making it an excellent resource for local artists and families. you love the arts or simply enjoy a good performance, this center is a fantastic place to experience the creative side of Paterson. Make sure to check the center's schedule for upcoming events during your visit. Address: 1 Market St, Paterson, NJ 0750110. Visit the Historic District in Downtown PatersonThe Historic District in downtown Paterson. offers a unique glimpse into the city's past. This area is home to several architectural gems, including old mills, churches, and Victorian-era buildings. As one of the earliest industrial centers in the United States, Paterson played a key role in the country's Industrial Revolution. The Historic District highlights the city's transformation, with many buildings now restored to their original charm. Walking through the streets, you can see the influence of 19th-century industrial architecture. Sites like the Paterson Armory and the old Paterson Post Office are notable landmarks worth checking out. The district is not just about buildings. It's also the center of many local events and festivals throughout the year, adding to its lively and vibrant atmosphere. The district's blend of historic sites and modern-day activity makes it an interesting spot to visit. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply enjoy strolling through charming streets, the Historic District is a must-see on your Paterson itinerary. Address: Main Street & Broadway, Paterson, NJ 0750111. Visit the Williams Center The Williams Center is a cultural gem in Paterson. Named after the famous poet and physician Williams Center celebrates the arts and literature. It is a hub for performances, film screenings, and artistic events. The center hosts live theater productions, concerts, and poetry readings throughout the year. These events bring together local talent and renowned artists, creating a vibrant cultural scene. The space also features a gallery where visitors can view art exhibits from regional and international artists. For film lovers, the center includes a cinema that screens independent and classic films. It's a great spot to enjoy a unique movie experience in a cozy and intimate setting. The william Carlos Williams Center is a must-visit for those interested in the arts and the city's cultural history. Address: 1 Williams Plaza, Rutherford, NJ 0707012. Walk Along the Paterson River Walk is a scenic, relaxing trail that runs along the Passaic River. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors while taking in some of Paterson's most beautiful views. The walk is an easy path, making it perfect for anyone looking to get a bit of exercise or simply enjoy a quiet stroll. Along the River Walk, you'll pass by landmarks like the Great Falls, adding a dramatic element to your walk. The area has been developed to make it more accessible, with benches and look-out points where you can rest and enjoy the scenery. It's a perfect spot for walking, jogging, or even taking photos of the river and surrounding landscape. The Paterson River Walk is also connected to other parts of the city, offering easy access to nearby attractions. It's a peaceful escape from the urban environment, yet it's close enough to enjoy the energy of the city. If you're visiting Paterson, make sure to include the River Walk in your itinerary. It's a beautiful and tranquil spot that gives you a fresh perspective of the city. Address: Paterson River Walk, Paterson, NJ 0750113. Experience the Botto House National Landmark The Botto House National Landmark is a must-see in Paterson, NJ. This historic site tells the story of the Italian-American immigrant experience. The house was the home of the Botto family, who played a key role in the labor movement in the early 1900s. It's an important stop for anyone interested in the history of the Silk Strikes of 1913, a pivotal moment in the labor movement. The National Landmark status gives the site recognition for its role in American history. The house is preserved with original furniture, photographs, and exhibits that take you back to the early 20th century. Guided tours are available, and the museum often hosts events that highlight the rich cultural history of the area. It's a place where history comes alive, offering a deeper understanding of Paterson's legacy. If you enjoy history, this is a perfect place to connect with the past. It's a quiet and educational spot where you can step into the world of early 20th-century workers. Address: 83 N. Main Street, Paterson, NJ 0750514. Discover the Hinchliffe StadiumCredits: Daniel Lugo/FlickrHinchliffe StadiumHinchliffe Stadium is one of Paterson's most iconic landmarks. Built in 1932, it is a historic stadium that has hosted many important events over the years, including baseball games and track events. It is also famous for being the home of the New York Black Yankees, a Negro League baseball team. This connection to African American history makes Hinchliffe Stadium a significant site. Though the stadium has seen better days and is in need of restoration, it is still an important piece of Paterson's history. The stadium's past, including the athletes who once played there. The stadium's seating and field still hold a lot of charm, and it's easy to imagine the excitement that once filled the stands. If you're a fan of sports history or just want to check out a piece of local heritage, Hinchliffe Stadium Dr, Paterson, NJ 0750115. Visit St. Michael's ChurchSt. Michael's Church in Paterson is one of the city's oldest and most beautiful design. The church, built in 1860, is an iconic piece of Paterson's religious history. The neo-Gothic style of the church's architecture, it is a great spot for history lovers and anyone who appreciates beautiful design. makes it stand out in the city. As you walk through the church, you'll notice its grand stained-glass windows and impressive altar. The church is also known for its strong community presence, hosting various events and services, St. Michael's Church is also home to several events. These include religious celebrations, concerts, and cultural events that celebrate the diverse population of Paterson. The church's history and its role in the local community make it an essential visit for anyone exploring the city. Don't forget to check out the surrounding neighborhood. It's filled with historic buildings and a vibrant mix of cultures. Address: 65 Paterson Street, Paterson, NI 0750116. Explore the Paterson Farmers Market is a vibrant and lively place to visit. It's where locals come together to buy fresh produce and artisanal goods. The market is open year-round, making it a great destination no matter when you're in Paterson. You'll find fresh fruits, vegetables, and local products from nearby farms. Besides fresh produce, the market also offers unique items like homemade baked goods, cheeses, and crafts. It's a great spot to discover local flavors and handmade treasures. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, making it a pleasant stop for families and anyone interested in supporting local businesses. The market is a great way to experience the local culture of Paterson, where community and fresh produce come together. The variety of goods available also makes it easy to pick up some ingredients for a delicious homemade meal. If you're looking for an authentic local experience, the Paterson Farmers Market is the place to go. Address: 200 Ellison St, Paterson, NJ 0750517. Check Out the John P. Holland Submarine Memorial in Paterson is a tribute to the inventor of the modern submarine. John P. Holland Submarine Memorial in Paterson and played a key role in shaping naval warfare. The memorial reminder of how one person's ideas can change the world. Many visitors come to reflect on Holland's achievements and the lasting impact of his work. The site is also a peaceful place for those who enjoy history and innovation. It's an excellent way to connect with Paterson's legacy in science and technology. Address: 60-64 Grand St, Paterson, NJ 0750518. Visit the Passaic County Community College Art Gallery The Passaic County Community College Art Gallery is a hidden gem in Paterson. It's a place where you can explore a variety of art forms, including paintings, sculptures, and photography. The gallery showcases works by both local and international artists. It's a great spot to immerse yourself in the local arts scene and enjoy thought-provoking exhibitions. The gallery often hosts new exhibitions throughout the year. It provides a space for artists to display their work and for visitors to experience fresh, innovative art. Whether you're an art lover or just looking for something interesting to do, the gallery offers a welcoming space for all.In addition to exhibitions, the gallery also hosts events and workshops. These activities provide opportunities to learn more about art and meet the artists behind the work. It's a great place for those interested in culture and support the arts. Address: 1 College Blvd, Paterson, NJ 0750519. Take a Walk Through the Historic 3rd WardThe historic 3rd WardThe historic 3rd WardThe historic 3rd Ward feels like stepping back in time. The neighborhood features a mix of Victorianstyle homes and other historic buildings. Many of these structures date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As you stroll through the streets, you'll notice the intricate details on the homes, including ornate woodwork and stained-glass windows. The neighborhood reflects the wealth and craftsmanship of Paterson's early industrial era. The 3rd Ward also has lovely tree-lined streets, making it a pleasant area for a relaxing walk. This neighborhood isn't just about history. It's a vibrant part of the community, with local shops and cafes adding to its appeal. Exploring the 3rd Ward is a perfect way to experience Paterson's heritage while enjoying a peaceful and scenic environment. Address: 3rd Ward, Paterson, NJ 0750120. Explore the New Jersey Railroad and Transportation MuseumThe New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Museum is a must-visit for train and history enthusiasts. Located in Paterson, this museum celebrates the state's rich history in railroads and transportation. It features an impressive collection of artifacts, photographs, and models that tell the story of New Jersey's role in the development of railways. One of the museum is its detailed model train exhibits. These displays showcase the evolution of trains and their impact on the state's economy and communities. Visitors can also learn about the historical significance of railroads in connecting cities and towns. The museum regularly hosts educational programs and events. These include guided tours and interactive activities for children. It's a great spot for families or anyone curious about the history of transportation in New Jersey. The exhibits are well-curated and provide a fascinating glimpse into the past. Address: 188 Market St, Paterson, NJ 0750521. Take a Tour of the Passaic RiverCredits: Andrew Nelson/FlickrPassaic River is one of Paterson's most important natural landmarks. Taking a tour of the river offers a unique way to see the city from a different perspective. There are guided boat tours that take you along the river, providing a calm and scenic experience. On these tours, you'll learn about the river's historical significance to Paterson's industrial growth, particularly the role it played in powering the city's mills. The river itself is a reminder of the city's rich history and the hard work that fueled its growth. The Passaic River is a great option if you're looking to experience Paterson in a relaxed and informative way. A river tour offers a break from the urban hustle and gives you a fresh look at the city's waterfront. Address: Passaic River, Paterson, NJ 0750122. Attend the Annual Paterson International Food FestivalThe Paterson International Food Festival is a vibrant celebration of food, culture, and community. Held annually, this event brings together diverse culinary traditions from a variety of international cuisines. Visitors can enjoy food stalls with offerings from Latin American, Middle Eastern, Asian, and African cultures. Whether you're in the mood for spicy curries, sweet pastries, or savory meats, the festival has something for every palate. The event is more than just about food; it's a celebration of Paterson's rich multicultural heritage. In addition to the food, the festival features live music, dance performances, and family-friendly activities. It's a great way to experience the diversity that makes Paterson unique. If you're a foodie or simply love cultural experiences, this festival is not to be missed. It's also a wonderful opportunity to connect with the local community. Everyone gathers to enjoy good food, great company, and lively entertainment. Make sure to mark your calendar for this must-visit event! Address: Downtown Paterson, NJ (Location may vary each year) 23. Take a Walk Through the Paterson Memorial Park is a serene and beautiful space perfect for a peaceful walk. Located in the heart of the city, the park offers an escape from the urban hustle. The park is surrounded by greenery, with well-maintained paths that are perfect for walking or jogging. At the center of the park is a memorial honors those who gave their lives for the country. The park's calm atmosphere, combined with its historical significance, makes it a special place for both reflection and relaxation. Visitors can also enjoy the various trees and flowers that add color and beauty to the park throughout the seasons. The park is a great spot for a quiet break, a picnic, or just a leisurely stroll. It's especially lovely during the warmer months when you can sit and enjoy the outdoors. Paterson Memorial Park is a wonderful place to unwind and take in some fresh air while appreciating the local history. Address: 64 McBride Ave, Paterson, NJ 07501Final ThoughtsPaterson provides a diverse experience. Its welcoming community and deep-rooted traditions make it a special place to unwind and take in some fresh air while appreciating the local history. Address: 64 McBride Ave, Paterson, NJ 07501Final ThoughtsPaterson provides a diverse experience. Its welcoming community and deep-rooted traditions make it a special place to unwind and take in some fresh air while appreciating the local history. Address: 64 McBride Ave, Paterson, NJ 07501Final ThoughtsPaterson provides a diverse experience. Its welcoming community and deep-rooted traditions make it a special place to visit. If you're looking for an authentic and dynamic New Jersey. experience, Paterson should be at the top of your list for exploration. Don't miss the chance to discover its many treasures! While you may have never heard of Paterson, New Jersey, the city holds a distinction that's quite remarkable — it has the second-highest density of any city in the United States with a population over 100,000, falling only behinded in the condition of th New York City. Its story stretches back pretty far, and has some notable dots along the timeline of America's history. The land was once home to a Native American tribe, though the Dutch would go on to claim the region, as would the British. The Paterson Falls area would later play a humongous role in the separation of the infant United States from Britain, economically, as Alexander Hamilton (yes, that Hamilton) would spearhead an organization to harness the fall's energy to support manufacturing, thus allowing the earliest Americans to no longer rely on the British for industry. In fact, some say that the city of Paterson was largely responsible for the American industrial revolution. Later on, Paterson would become a hub for immigrants from many lands, making it a spot great for not only historical significance, but also ethnic diversity. So, what can you expect when planning a visit to Paterson? Here are the best things to do in Paterson? Here are the best things to do in Paterson Great Falls National Historical Significance, but also ethnic diversity. Historic Park Of course, you can't go to Paterson without visiting Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park. Visitors can enjoy self-guided tours, and be sure to capture plenty of pictures of the falls. You can download a free walking tour app, or even dial in to a cell phone tour. 2. Upper Raceway Park Source: flickrUpper Raceway Park Nearby to the falls is the Paterson Raceway, now part of Upper Raceway, now part of Upper Raceway Park. When Alexander Hamilton founded the Society for Establishing Usefull Manufactures, and after Hamilton founded the Society for Establishing Usefull Manufactures, the same architect who designed Washington, D.C., also designed a "raceway," which diverted water away from the falls, and to the very first mill built on the raceway looks a little abandoned, but totally cool, making it perfect for the "abandoned Americana" adventurer. 3. Allied Textile Printers Source: Jeffs4653 / flickrAllied Textile Printers These are now some of the oldest building stock within Paterson's historic district, as they were constructed in 1836. At first, a nail factory stood on the land, but then, the Patent Arms Manufacturing Company tore the nail factory down, and built the four-story brownstone structure that you see today. What was created here, which would turn out to be a huge deal for the city, as silk became one of its major exports. 4. Lambert Castle Source: Ken Lund / flickrLambert Castle was built during the booming height of the silk industry in Paterson, when a wealthy manufacturer and his wife moved into the area. The castle was partially built because that same manufacturer had an impoverished childhood, growing up in England, where he would frequently pass the castles of the very wealthy. When he could afford it, then, he built his own. It cost about \$1 a day. Many famous people stopped by for a visit, over the castle's lifetime, including President McKinley. Unfortunately, during the manufacturer's old age, his empire began to crumble, and after his death, the castle was sold to the city. Now, it lies in the hands of the Passaic County Historical Society, and you can easily visit it on most afternoons. Plus, there's a great view of the Passaic County Historical Society, and you can easily visit it on most afternoons. Plus, there's a great view of the Passaic County Historical Society, and you can easily visit it on most afternoons. Plus, there's a great view of the Passaic County Historical Society, and you can easily visit it on most afternoons. Created in the early 1900s, the Paterson Museum began with a small collection of natural history artifacts, which, while starting in a library, eventually moved on to the carriage house of a former mayor. The collection has obviously grown quite a bit, and now the museum resides at the restored Thomas Rogers Locomotive and Machine Shop, which dates back to 1873. You'll find a great number of interesting documents, artifacts and other items, all commemorating this city's fascinating industrial history. 6. William Paterson University Source: Scott McDonough / flickrWilliam Paterson Univ educational event while you're there. The university hosts a number of interesting conferences, theatrical performances, concerts, exhibits, lectures, athletic events and more throughout the year, which are open to the public. Whether you prefer jazz, comedic plays or talks from world-renowned thinkers, you'll find a little bit of everything available. 7. Saddle River County Park Source: panoramioSaddle River County Park If you've had your fill of the falls and want to get out and about somewhere else in Paterson, maybe try out Saddle River County Park. There are almost 600 acres of land, with multiple ponds, playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts and even a roller hockey rink. There's a walking and cycling trail that's nearly 7 miles long, and it takes you over five different bridges, for a varied view of the park includes Easton Tower, which is a 20-foot rotary mill and very good for photos, and the "Hill," a notoriously steep trail. Fishing is available at some of the ponds. 8. Ice Vault Arena Source: tripadvisorIce Vault Arena This iceskating arena offers two rinks open all year round. You can enjoy public skating sessions, figure skating, open hockey and more. In addition, it can seat more than 600 spectators, and hosts an elevated restaurant above the ice, with 190 feet of glass overlooking the skaters below. 9. Westfield Garden State Plaza Source: mapquestWestfield Garden State Plaza Get in a little extra shopping time during your visit to Paterson, with a trip to Westfield Garden State Plaza, which is located only five miles from the Paterson city center. This two-story shopping complex has all of your favorites, of course, but it also has a luxury collection you won't want to miss. These top-notch providers include brands like Burberry, Gucci, Drybar, Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co. and Versace. 10. Fabian 8 Cinema to catch one of the latest movies in one of their premier theaters. 11. Paul's Bar and Bowling Source: foodnetworkgossipPaul's Bar and Bowling, where you can get in a few rounds of not only bowling, but also pool, darts and bowling, where you can get in a few rounds of not only bowling, where you can get in a few rounds of not only bowling, but also pool, darts and Bowling, where you can get in a few rounds of not only bowling, but also pool, darts and bowling, but also pool, darts and bowling, but also pool, darts and bowling is a few rounds of not only bowling. a little hole in the wall — exactly what you're driving around a small, older New Jersey town. It's a taste of nostalgia, where you're sure to find lots of locals! 12. Bonfire Mofongo House Source: bonfire-restaurantBonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 12. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 12. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 13. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 14. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to find lots of locals! 15. Bonfire Mofongo House Source to see when you're sure to see whe House, where they're serving up Caribbean cuisine, intermingled with a fusion of all kinds of other flavors from everywhere from Africa to East India to China. Some of their most popular menu item ingredients include plantains, cassava, coconut and fish. The specialty is, of course, the mofongo, a dish hearkening back to the West African Fufu. Alongside the delicious food, you'll find plenty of great cocktails as well, like the Caribbean Devil and the Tropical Breeze. Step inside, and you won't even know you're still in New Jersey! 13. Hinchcliffe Stadium Source: paul-p / flickrHinchcliffe Stadium This historic stadium was built in 1932, and has a dramatic little spot over the Great Falls. It actually is one of the very few surviving stadiums in the country that hosted Negro league baseball during the Jim Crow years. It's currently a National Historic Landmark, and is being restored, making it yet another place in Paterson where you can get a taste of abandoned Americana. 14. Danforth Memorial Library Source: flickrDanforth Memorial Library The Danforth Memorial Library, now the Paterson Free Public Library's main branch, at 250 Broadway, was built in 1905 and is significant for several reasons. First, it was designed by architect Henry Bacon, who also designed the Lincoln Memorial. Now, the building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, the library is home to a collection of American and European art from the 1800s, which was bequeathed to the library by several important philanthropists. 15. Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Source: Joseph / flickrCathedral of St. John the Baptist is a historic Roman Catholic Church built in the late 1800s. It was critical for the area of Paterson at the time, as the local Catholic population was exploding, thanks to primarily a large number of Irish immigrants that were flocking to the city, that it soon became known as the Dublin section of Paterson. A local Irish priest worked with the Society of Establishing Useful Manufactures (the same one founded in part by Hamilton) to gain the land for the church, and then it began construction, with the aim being to build a structure that would have no other equal in the entire state. About \$200,000, nearly half of what was spent on the Lambert Castle discussed above, was spent to build the church. 16. Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they'll want to be sure to swing by the Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they'll want to be sure to swing by the Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they'll want to be sure to swing by the Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they'll want to be sure to swing by the Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they'll want to be sure to swing by the Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they'll want to be sure to swing by the Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they'll want to be sure to swing by the Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they'll want to be sure to swing by the Passaic County Court House For those with a love of architecture, they is a love of a architects Samuel Burrage Reed and Fred Wesley Wentworth, and they boast Classical Revival and Dutch Baroque Revival styles. The courthouse did receive a little restoration in 2014, but the complex is now entirely open. 17. Paterson City Hall Source: flickrPaterson City Hall Another architectural landmark in Paterson is the City Hall, which was built in 1896 and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by a New York firm, it's modeled after the French Hotel de Ville in Lyon, which just so happens to be the capital of the European silk industry (or at least it was at the time). Catch the parallels the designer was trying to make? The hall boasts three statues honoring important men who have impacted the city. These include two past mayors, and then a former VP of the United States, Garret Hobart. 18. Center City Mall! There are 320,000 square feet of retail and entertainment over three stories, plus if you're driving a rental car, you'll have plenty of parking within the 600-spot garage. There's a movie theatre, and anchor stores include The Children's Place, Modell's Sporting Goods and Marshalls. Plus, the mall is home to one of the most celebrated restaurants in Paterson, Hamilton & Ward Steakhouse. 19. Little Lima Source: wikipediaLittle Lima Have a taste for all things South American, Dom't miss Paterson's Peruvian enclave, known as Little Lima is very close to the Mexican, Dominican, Italian and Puerto Rican neighborhoods in Paterson (didn't we tell you this was an ethnically diverse city?), it's distinct all in its own right. You'll find authentic Peruvian Festival and Peruvian Festival Andrew Festiv Lambert Castle, you're situated to also visit Garrett Mountain Reservation. This is the major recreational area for the entire county, not just Paterson, and you'll find huge fields, lots of running trails, sports fields, fishing and even places perfect for horse riding. Birdwatchers also love the reservation, as it is a stopover point for migration song birds and throughout the rest of the year, you can spot more than 150 species without doing really any difficult work. 21. Dey Mansion, also known as Bloomsbury Manor. This home is worth the easy drive, as it played a huge role in the Revolutionary War! It was built in the 1770s and was the headquarters for Washington on more than one occasion. The spacious home was originally built on 600 acres. Now, the mansion was restored in 2016, but the original wood frames and floors are still there. Also, the original kitchen burnt down at some point, but a 1930s rendition accurately portrays a summer kitchen for a colonial family of some means. Other buildings on the property include a forge, spring house and a courtyard. 22. Cianci Park This park is notable for one primary reason — it pays homage to one of Paterson's most notable residents, Lou Costello was born in the city in 1906, and would later become part of famous comedy duo Abbott and Costello. The life-size statue is bronze and sits on a little grassy square, great for a quick photo op while you explore the rest of the city. 23. Al-Basha Restaurant Source: albashausaAl-Basha Restaurant Paterson has a huge Arabic population, which is guessed to be somewhat similar in size to that of Dearborn, Michigan. Al-Basha Restaurant is a result of this influential population in the city, and has been called "one of the best Middle Eastern restaurants in the western hemisphere." The decor features real Arabic artwork and lamps, and the recipes have been passed down from generation. The specialty? The Al-Basha Platter, which gives you a little sampling of all the menu greats. 24. Hamilton & Ward Steakhouse Source: businessfinder.njHamilton & Ward Steakhouse We said it was one of the greats, and we meant it. You'll want to be sure you stop by this steakhouse for their fantastic Kobe beef and dry-aged steaks. They have seafood as well, and you should be advised that you'll want to come with your wallet open. The menu isn't exactly cheap, but you get what you pay for — and the quality is well worth it. 25. Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find yourself in Little Lima during your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay, eat at Griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay is the griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay is the griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay is the griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay is the griselda's Restaurant If you happen to find your stay is the gri staff usually aren't English-friendly. However, this family-run restaurant sees plenty of tourists along with their locals, and you'll find tons of awesome Peruvian favorites. Try the alfajores, paella and, of course, a pisco sour. Grab some cash from an ATM first, as credit cards aren't accepted at this little down-home taste of Latin America. The famous Cosmos soccer team is back and are now calling Paterson home! July 12, 2025 Silk cloth and steam locomotives; textiles and continuous paper rolls; firearms and aircraft engines. What do these things have in common? All were manufactured in the same place - Paterson, NJ. In 1792, Paterson was established as America's first planned industrial city. centered around the Great Falls of the Passaic River. From humble mills rose industries that changed the face of the united States. It has a rich history as the Nation's first planned industrial city, as well as containing some of the country's oldest textile mills and businesses. In 1792, Alexander Hamilton formed an investment group called the Society of Useful Manufactures (the "SUM") whose funds would be used to develop a planned industrial city in the United States that was later to become Paterson. Hamilton believed that the United States needed to reduce its dependence on foreign goods and should instead develop its own industries. The industries developed in Paterson were powered by the 77-foot high Great Falls of the Passaic, and a system of water raceways that harnessed the power of the falls. The district originally included dozens of mill buildings and other manufacturing structures associated with the textile industry and later, the firearms, silk, and railroad locomotive manufacturing industries. In the latter half of the 1800's, silk production became the dominant industry and formed the basis of Paterson's most prosperous period, earning it the nickname "Silk City." Paterson was also the site of historic labor unrest that focused on antichild labor legislation, safety in the workplace, a minimum wage, and reasonable working hours. If you live in New Jersey, you can't but help falling over history. Since the early days of the founding of our country, Paterson, New Jersey has been in the discussion. After winning our independence, America was forced to break ties with Great Britain, a global powerhouse in the international trade. Paterson became the birthplace of the new revolution, the Industrial Revolution. Mr. Local History looks back at some of the stories of Paterson town" by the State of New Jersey for William Paterson, an ardent supporter of Hamilton's vision (right). After the war for American independence ended, Alexander Hamilton began promoting his views on the economic needs of the new nation, serving as the first Secretary of the Treasury from 1789 to 1795. Concerned by the lack of manufacturing in the United States, he believed a chartered by the New Jersey legislature in 1791 as the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures (SUM); the city was named for Governor William Paterson, one of the framers and signers (1789-90), and governor of New Jersey (1790-93). He also served as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1793 to 1806. The city was named in his honor as, at the time, he was the state's Governor. Paterson would become the national hub of manufacturing and was one of the first planned industrial cities in the United States. The New Jersey legislature chartered the enterprise in 1791 as the Firearms, Automotives, Diners, Submarines, and Comedy were ALL manufactured in Paterson. We visited the Paterson Museum to take in some of the best stories of Paterson's past. There was even a diner display at the end of 2023 highlighting the history of diner manufacturing and those iconic Art Deco stainless steel diners that everyone remembers. Just a few of the Paterson Museum exhibits and contributions to our collective New Jersey, where we gather and share stories while enjoying our favorite American culture food. Paterson played an important part in our diner history as the world's manufacturing capital for stainless steel diner cars. I Yes the Tick Tock Diner was made in Paterson. In 1886, Everett Abbott Cooper began a carriage and wagon business in Paterson, New Jersey, then a thriving industrial town on the banks of the Passaic River. As times changed, so did the Cooper family's business, evolving into an automobile, truck, and bus body manufacturer early in the 20th century. In 1927, the Paterson's primary industry, as from the late 19th century into the 20th century, the city was the center of the silk industry in the United States. The original Tick Tock was a stainless steel Silk City diner car built by the Paterson Vehicle Company of Paterson and installed in 1952. Business flourished at the diner, and in 1956, Silk City installed a modular dining room extension to keep u Abbott Cooper and his Paterson Vehicle Company started building Silk City Diner cars in 1927. Silk City Diners was unique as they offered a four-year payment plan at a time when such financing was the exception and not the norm. While other diner manufacturers came and went, some lasting just a year or two - the Paterson Vehicle Company continued to manufacture diners until 1964 (or 1966, depending upon the source), ultimately assembling around 1,500 of the gleaming monuments to culinary diversity. 1946 advertisement for a Silk City diner. Financing available. Across town, Arthur E. Seiber, who left Silk City, launched the Paramount Dining Car Company across the Passaic River at 450-500 Broadway in Haledon, NJ. The two would be built and delivered to thousands of diners who are still around today across the world. They've become a "collectible" given their portability. A stainless diner has actually made it to Euro Disney. It is the former Westfield, NJ Excellent Diner made by the Jerry O'Mahony Diner Company of Elizabeth, New Jersey, another Jersey roadside diner manufacturer from 1917 to 1952. In Jersey, both the White Manna in Hackensack and the Whi the White Mana in Jersey City, New Jersey. Delivered to their sites in 1946, they're still serving today. This White Tower Hamburgers was a fast-food restaurant chain founded in 1926 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. With its similar white fortress-like buildings and menu, it is considered an imitator of the White Castle chain, which was founded in 1921. Another Paterson classic eatery - Johnny and Hange's on River Street. A working-class town and working-class food at affordable prices was the call. Here, we honor White Tower, Johnny, and Hange's. Get your own piece of Paterson, New Jersey history with our "Wear Local History Collection." Would you wear some great Paterson history? Check out the Mr. Local History "Wear Paterson local history" collection - Clothing, Stickers, pads, all dedicated to the rich history of Paterson. Click Here. Paterson's fortunes continued on an uneven course through the twentieth century. The Great Depression, as did the manufacturing slump that followed World War II, hit the city hard. During periods of conflict, however, industries survived and thrived through military contracts and defense manufacturing pullouts, Paterson has suffered. But in 2024, there seems to be a bit of a renaissance coming to Paterson. Every time we visit Paterson for another story, we find some project where the town looks to be fighting back. The latest we recall is the beautiful restoration of Hinchcliff Stadium (perhaps a future modification). The falls area is now a beautiful park, and it looks like the area down by the former Colt Manufacturing plant is ready for a beautiful springtime picnic. We also plan to visit the planned Great Falls Center across the street from Paterson Falls. The entire district seems always to be "next on the list." Only time will tell. Lost Raceways of New Jersey - Paterson's Hinchcliffe Stadium The Great Falls Center Project On the left is a Paterson map from 1919. As you can see, not much has been lost. MLH has been working with Google, local library archives, and the public to find some of those lost stories, photos, and markers that bring Paterson's history back to life. Take a look at the interactive map on the right and click to see what we've been finding from some of the key historic sites in Paterson. Oh, and YES, Patsy's Tavern is HISTORIC, and they still pump out incredible pizzas! Our research trips always include a stop at Patsy's. Not only has Paty's been making Italian comfort food for over 90 years (since 1931), but even El Presidente made a stop at Patsy's (See below as he gets into the history!). 1931 - Pasquale "Patsy's (See below as he gets into the history!). 1931 by Pasquale "Patsy" Barbarulo and his wife Mary, Patsy's Tavern & Restaurant has served several generations of classic, handmade Italian cuisine... Currently slinging pies, Steve Barbarulo, the grandson of "Patsy" and Steve's wife Jill, the restaurant is here to serve every one of any age. Go for a visit and tell Steve the 1994 Blarney Stone "New York Ranger" fan guy said to stop by. After all, the Mr. Local History Project's credo is "History with a Social Twist." Col. Samuel Colt Got His Start in New Jersey Bring Auto Racing Back to Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson New Jersey White Tower Hamburger System - In Search of New Jersey Locations Seven Wonders of the World from Historic New Jersey The Brothers' Bridges and Their Family's New Jersey Burger Dynasty

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