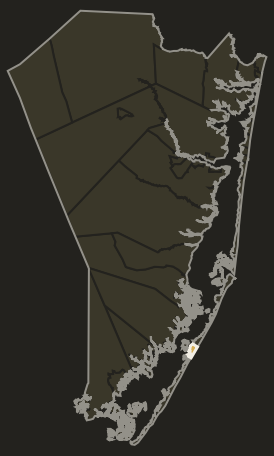
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AN IN DEPTH TOWN GUIDE

Living in Ship Bottom, NJ

A short history, the sections of town, homes and taxes, where to shop and eat, things to do, and a moving checklist for your new home.



Frana & Silk Real Estate Group

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This guide goes deeper than our website: the history, the sections of town, a moving checklist and worksheets for your visits. Keep it, mark it up, and call either of us with questions.

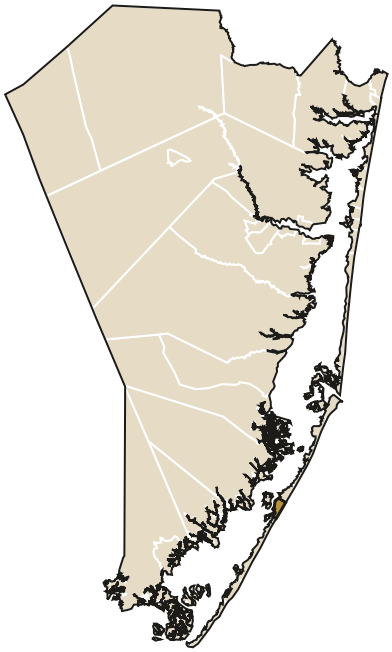
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AT A GLANCE

Ship Bottom at a glance

County	Ocean
Population	About 1,100 (2020 census)
Size	About 1 square mile, including water
Setting	Oceanfront and bayfront on Long Beach Island, at the end of the Route 72 causeway
Main roads	Route 72 over the Manahawkin Bay Bridge; Long Beach Boulevard; Parkway Exit 63 in Stafford



Ship Bottom in gold, in Ocean County

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A SHORT HISTORY

The story of Ship Bottom

Ship Bottom takes its name from a shipwreck in March 1817. As the story goes, a ship washed up capsized on the beach, and rescuers cut through the bottom of the hull with axes to free a woman trapped inside. The spot was known as Ship Bottom from then on. It later became the place where the railroad, and then the road from the mainland, reached Long Beach Island.

The borough was incorporated on March 3, 1925, as Ship Bottom Beach Arlington, formed from part of Long Beach Township and taking in the Beach Arlington area. In 1947 the name was shortened to Ship Bottom. Today Route 72 crosses Manahawkin Bay and ends here, making this borough of about a square mile the island's front door.

KEY DATES

Timeline

1817	Rescuers cut through the hull of a capsized ship to free a woman inside, giving the place its name.
1914	An automobile causeway is built across the bay beside the railroad trestle, opening the island to cars.
1925	Ship Bottom Beach Arlington is incorporated as a borough from part of Long Beach Township.
1947	The borough's name is shortened to Ship Bottom.

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SECTIONS OF TOWN

Ocean side, bay side

The oceanfront. Streets along the ocean beach, which runs from 3rd Street to 31st Street, with homes behind the dunes on the east side of Long Beach Boulevard.

Around Route 72. Where the causeway from the mainland lands and meets Long Beach Boulevard, the main crossroads of town, with shops and businesses close by.

Beach Arlington. The bay side blocks from about 13th to 16th Streets, an older locality whose name lives on in Beach Arlington Park and its bay beach.

The bay side. Streets west of the Boulevard toward Manahawkin Bay and Barnegat Bay, lined with small bayside parks, piers and homes near the water.

> Ship Bottom is one of six separate municipalities on Long Beach Island. It borders Surf City to the north and Long Beach Township, and across the bay it meets Stafford Township on the mainland.

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HOMES AND TAXES

What you will find

Oceanfront and ocean block homes on the streets closest to the beach, behind the dunes.

Bayfront homes facing Manahawkin Bay on the western side of the island.

Shore houses single family homes on the numbered streets between the ocean and the bay.

Second homes many homes are used seasonally.

Worth knowing: Flood risk is the first question on any Ship Bottom home, ocean side or bay side. The Army Corps of Engineers beach replenishment project for the island started here and in Surf City. Get the flood zone, the elevation certificate and the flood history, which New Jersey sellers must disclose, and we will go over all three with you.

Property taxes

0.702%

$8,591

2025 average residential tax bill

2025 effective tax rate, as a share of market value

A home worth $1,200,000 on today's market would pay roughly $8,424 a year at Ship Bottom's 2025 effective rate. Your actual bill depends on your assessment, so we pull the real tax record for any home you are considering.

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GROCERIES, DINING AND SHOPPING

Where Ship Bottom shops and eats

Ship Bottom has no full supermarket, so grocery shopping means a short drive. There is an Acme a few miles south on Long Beach Boulevard, and the rest of the big stores are just over the Route 72 causeway in Manahawkin.

Grocery stores

SOUTHWEST	**Acme**	9600 Long Beach Boulevard, Long Beach Township
NORTHWEST	**Acme**	609 East Bay Avenue, Stafford (Manahawkin)
NORTHWEST	**ShopRite**	733 Route 72, Stafford (Manahawkin)
NORTHWEST	**ALDI**	451 Martin Truex Jr. Boulevard, Stafford (Manahawkin)

Checked October 2026. Stores open, close and move, so call ahead before a first trip.

Dining

Long Beach Boulevard in Ship Bottom. Most of the borough's restaurants line the Boulevard, many of them close to the Route 72 intersection.

West 8th Street. A few more places to eat near the foot of the causeway, on the way on and off the island.

Beach Haven. South on the Boulevard, the island's oldest resort town, with the largest cluster of restaurants on the island.

Viking Village, Barnegat Light: North on Long Beach Boulevard to the fishing docks at the top of the island, where old fishing shacks now hold restaurants and shops.

Shopping

Ship Bottom has beach and surf shops along Long Beach Boulevard. Over the causeway, Route 72 in Stafford near Parkway Exit 63 has two large shopping centers, Stafford Park and Manahawkin Commons, with big box stores, a movie theater and chain restaurants.

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GETTING AROUND

Roads and commuting

Route 72 is the only road onto Long Beach Island. It crosses Manahawkin Bay on the Manahawkin Bay Bridge, formally the Dorland J. Henderson Memorial Bridge, and ends in Ship Bottom. A second span opened in 2016 and the original bridge was rebuilt by 2019. On the mainland, Route 72 meets the Garden State Parkway at Exit 63 in Stafford Township. Long Beach Boulevard, County Route 607, runs north and south through town and the length of the island. The free LBI Shuttle runs along the Boulevard, and Ocean Ride runs a local Long Beach Island route. There is no passenger rail. Daily shopping is in town and over the bridge in Stafford.

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THINGS TO DO

Things to do in and around Ship Bottom

Ship Bottom ocean beach. The borough's ocean beach from 3rd Street to 31st Street, guarded from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily in season. Beach wheelchairs and a beach taxi can be reserved through lifeguard headquarters.

Beach Arlington Park and Bay Beach. A bay beach from 13th to 16th Streets with a playground, public restrooms and the Sunset Point Gazebo.

Ship Bottom Waterfront Park. The bayfront park at West 10th Street and Shore Avenue with the municipal boat ramp, a playground and a gazebo, plus a fishing and crabbing pier and boardwalk from 10th to 12th Streets.

4th Street Remembrance Park. A park dedicated to the victims of September 11, with gardens and a scenic walk along the bay.

John J. Guld Jr. Recreation and Ball Field. The borough's recreation park at West 5th and 6th Streets and Barnegat Avenue, with tennis courts, bocce, shuffleboard, horseshoes and a baseball field.

25th Street pier and Sunset Point. A bayside fishing and crabbing pier with a pavilion at 25th Street, and Sunset Point, a small park on Barnegat Bay known for its purple martin colony.

Ocean County Library, Long Beach Island Branch. The island's public library branch a short drive north at 217 South Central Avenue in Surf City.

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MOVING CHECKLIST

Setting up your home in Ship Bottom

Tick each one off as you go. Most of these take one phone call or a few minutes online.

- [ ] **Borough hall.** Ship Bottom Borough Hall, 1621 Long Beach Boulevard, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008.609-494-2171. https://shipbottom.org

- [ ] **Property taxes.** Tax office phone 609-494-2171, ext. 101 or 102. The tax collector is at Borough Hall, 1621 Long Beach Boulevard. New Jersey property taxes are paid quarterly, due February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1, with a 10 day grace period before interest is charged back to the due date. Payment must arrive by the end of the grace period, since a postmark does not count. The borough says its tax office is not notified of ownership changes, so new owners should call to confirm where bills will be sent.

- [ ] **Water and sewer.** Borough of Ship Bottom Water Utilities. 609-494-2171, ext. 101 or 102. The borough provides water and sewer service. Metered accounts are billed quarterly, due January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15; non metered residential accounts are billed yearly in two payments, due May 1 and October 1. Ask Borough Hall about a final reading and account transfer at closing.

- [ ] **Electric.** Atlantic City Electric. 1-800-642-3780 (customer service); 1-800-833-7476 (outages, 24 hours).

- [ ] **Gas.** New Jersey Natural Gas. 1-800-221-0051 (customer service); 1-800-427-5325 (gas leaks, 24 hours).

- [ ] **Trash and recycling.** Trash is collected by a private hauler under contract with the borough. The current recycling calendar is posted on the Trash and Recycling page of shipbottom.org. For missed pickups, the borough's recycling coordinator can be reached at 609-494-2171, ext. 131.

- [ ] **Driver's license and voting.** New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 39:3-36) requires drivers to report a new address to the Motor Vehicle Commission within one week, and the MVC prefers that you do it online. To register to vote or update your address, use the state's online voter registration or send a paper form to the Ocean County Commissioner of Registration or Superintendent of Elections. Registration closes 21 days before an election. The Ocean County Clerk handles vote by mail ballots.

- [ ] **Flood zone.** Look up any address on the FEMA Flood Map Service Center at msc.fema.gov. New Jersey sellers must disclose a home's flood zone and flood history. In Ship Bottom both the ocean side and the bay side carry flood risk, so ask for the elevation certificate on any home. The borough takes part in FEMA's Community Rating System, which can lower flood insurance premiums; it entered in 1992 and was listed at Class 7 in the state's 2019 hazard mitigation plan. Ask the borough for the current class.

- [ ] **Library.** Ocean County Library, Long Beach Island Branch (nearest branch), 217 South Central Avenue, Surf City, NJ 08008.

Checked October 2026. Phone numbers and schedules change, so confirm with each office.

WHEN YOU SELL

The certificate every sale needs

New Jersey requires a Certificate of Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Compliance before a one or two family home is sold (N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.3). It is issued by the local fire safety enforcing agency after an inspection, so apply well before closing. Since February 3, 2025 (P.L. 2025, c.19), a portable fire extinguisher is no longer part of this certificate for one and two family homes. Ship Bottom also has its own resale certificate of occupancy: the Building and Zoning Office posts a CO Application Resale form. To schedule the inspection, call 609-494-2171, ext. 121.

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QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Questions people ask us about Ship Bottom

How did Ship Bottom get its name?

The name comes from a shipwreck in March 1817. Rescuers reached a wrecked ship and cut through the bottom of the hull to free a woman trapped inside.

Is Ship Bottom part of Long Beach Township?

No. Ship Bottom was formed from part of Long Beach Township in 1925 and has been its own borough since. It is one of six municipalities on Long Beach Island, each with its own government and property tax rate.

How do you get to Ship Bottom?

Ship Bottom is the first town you reach on Long Beach Island. From Garden State Parkway Exit 63, take Route 72 east through Stafford Township and over the Manahawkin Bay Bridge. The bridge ends in Ship Bottom at Long Beach Boulevard.

Does Ship Bottom have a bay beach?

Yes. The borough's bay beach runs from 13th to 16th Street, west of Barnegat Avenue, with lifeguards, shallow water, a pavilion and a playground.

Where is the closest grocery store to Ship Bottom?

There is no full supermarket in Ship Bottom itself. The closest is the Acme at 9600 Long Beach Boulevard in Long Beach Township, a few miles south on the island. Over the Route 72 causeway in Manahawkin, part of Stafford Township, there are an Acme on East Bay Avenue, a ShopRite on Route 72 and an ALDI on Martin Truex Jr. Boulevard.

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TO FILL IN ON YOUR VISITS

Touring the sections of town

Drive or walk each part of town at different times of day. Note the streets you liked, the traffic, the water and anything to ask us about.

The oceanfront	
Around Route 72	
Beach Arlington	
The bay side	

Is Ship Bottom right for you?

HOW WELL DOES THE TOWN FIT?	GREAT FIT	OKAY	NOT A FIT
Getting to work and family	☐	☐	☐
Groceries and everyday errands	☐	☐	☐
Restaurants and things to do	☐	☐	☐
Parks and time outdoors	☐	☐	☐
Being on or near the water	☐	☐	☐
Flood zone and insurance	☐	☐	☐
Property taxes	☐	☐	☐
The kinds of homes available	☐	☐	☐
Traffic and summer crowds	☐	☐	☐
How it feels on the streets you saw	☐	☐	☐

Streets or homes to look at again

Questions to ask us

TALK IT THROUGH

Call or text either of us

Thinking about moving to Ship Bottom, or selling a home there? Call or text either of us. We will tell you what we know about the town, honestly, and help you plan the next step.



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More guides and our town guides at **franasilk.com**

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