

00:18

A zoo for crawly animals at Tom's River.

The secret of the New York water towers.

A bike messenger in Manhattan.

A photographer on Coney Island.

An oyster-farmer off Long Island and a real-estate agent in the Hamptons.

There are a lot of interesting people and places along the New Jersey and New York coast.

01:13

In southern New Jersey there are quiet beaches, but there's also Atlantic City. Some may think it the perfect place to relax: with its casinos and shows. Others find it is the epitome of nerve-wracking entertainment.

01:38

50 miles north of Atlantic City, it's quiet again. At Tom's River, Lindsay Harrington is on an excursion. She and her colleague catch insects, spiders and other arthropods. Lindsay works for a zoo which exhibits the crawly animals that live in this area.

02:05 O-Ton Lindsay Harrington

I think it's just so much to offer in New Jersey. The Jersey shore is really beautiful and there's lot of different ecosystems that you can explore and it's not just cities and it's not just pavement.

There's a beautiful environment here in New Jersey.

02:18

A shrimp is in the net! Lindsay will take it back to the aquarium – while this little creature will be put back into the sea.

02:30

Lindsay spends part of her working-time at the museum and part of the time in nature.

02:36 O-Ton Lindsay Harrington

Most of the time what we are doing and when we are working at the museum we are going out and we are looking for bugs. So we are just trying to get a sense for what is out there. Are there new things in the bay that we should be learning or teaching people about at the museum? It's more of an educational thing. But we can also take the bugs to bring them back to the museum to feed our giant water bugs that we have there too.

03:00

Feeding takes up a lot of Lindsay's time. This scorpion devours a small cricket.

03:15 O-Ton Lindsay Harrington

Well, I think that it's important for people to realize that all bugs have a purpose. So just because I can't hug it or cuddle it like I would a cat, it doesn't mean that it's not an important animal.

They're not cute. Some of them are really ugly and some of them can be dangerous. But they all are an important part of my environment.

03:33

Lindsay's poisonous spiders are very dangerous. The bites of black widows can cause terrible pain and cramping.

03:46 O-Ton Lindsay Harrington

Black widows live in every single state except Alaska - in the United States, right now. They were actually brought over to New Jersey during lumber trade. So they're not necessarily native, but they do live here. They're not native, but they live in New Jersey. And they can be found in sheds, dark places, they like to live under logs. One of the things that they like to do, they like to play dead and that's when most people get bitten, because they think the spider's dead, they pick it up, they get bit in their hand or something like that and that's when they're in trouble.

04:18

Insectropolis is the name of the zoo – but there are not only insects: A green water dragon, a millipede, a tarantula, a praying mantis, a stick insect.

04:18

Lindsay has some favorite animals that she loves to show to visitors – the scorpion Julius, for example.

04:56 O-Ton Lindsay Harrington

So he has that blue color. Blue green color. When we are shining UV light on him. So you can see a stinger in the back. He wouldn't use it on us. He knows we are much bigger than him. But if he felt threatened...

05:11 O-Ton Lindsay Harrington

Her name is Pepper. And Pepper is a giant black millipede. Pepper, she can go to be as big as around a hot dog. And about as thick as my forearm. Now you had a really good question: ,does she grow or not.' And she does. As she grows she sheds her exoskeleton.

05:30 O-Ton Lindsay Harrington

Oh, my nickname here in the museum is already "Lighting Bug Lindsay", so there is a bug named after me. But that'll be interesting, hopefully one day, you know, professionally or just personally, you know, I could, I could make a name for myself in the field.

05:45

And then there's the little grey shrimp from the shore. Its new home is here – in the aquarium. But it's not food – it's the new housemate.

06:07

Not far from Tom's River there is Lakehurst, a US Navy base. 50 more miles and New York City appears on the horizon.

06:27

New York has more inhabitants than any other city in the United States. It has 5 boroughs: Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

06:38

The statue of Liberty was given to the United States by the French in 1886. From inside the crown one has a view of the Hudson River and Ellis Island. Ellis Island was the first federal immigration inspection station. Up until 1954, millions of immigrants passed through here on their way to a new life.

07:01

Manhattan. In 1626 Dutch colonists bought the island from the Indians and called their settlement New Amsterdam. A few years later they lost it to the English who changed its name to New York.

07:17

Some New Yorkers say that the city's most typical feature are the wooden water towers on the rooftops. Every tall building has at least one. They continue to be built today – by a couple of New York companies. They need to be set up and maintained.

07:42

The men on the installation team have to work closely together; the job is extremely dangerous.

07:49

Clive Bushay has worked on most of Manhattan's skyscrapers. His colleagues call him 'Genius'.

08:06 O-Ton Clive Bushay

When you can make something out of nothing, make the impossible become possible, that's what makes you a genius. I started this job since like in 1985. Actually I didn't know anything about it. First time I saw it, I was like wow! But I'm used to climbing. So I'm not scared of heights.

08:28

When buildings are taller than six stories, the water pressure provided by the city is not strong enough. For the water to reach all stories it has to be pumped up from the basement into a water tank on the roof. From there it can go down and supply all floors. Many buildings have at least two tanks.

08:50 O-Ton Clive Bushay

One is for drinking and for the bathroom and everything, but that's not the only thing, because everything in the building, especially in a commercial building, runs from water. The sprinkler system, and for the standby system in case there is a fire and the cooling system need water, even the heating system need water, so any time we shut down the water, the whole building shut down.

09:26

The tools and the pieces of wood need to be small and light, because everything is brought up here by hand.

09:45

Steel tanks are not an option.

09:50 O-Ton Clive Bushay

Well, the steel it rust and it's not as natural as wood. The wood is a natural thing. You doesn't have to put no chemical and nothing in the wood, you just put the wood together, you put some steel bands around it and you tighten it and when it get a water it leaks a little bit but it swells up and it seals itself together.

10:14

Clive lives on the other side of the East River, in Brooklyn. Here the buildings are not as tall and don't need water towers.

10:27

The "genius" is a passionate do-it-yourselfer and likes to use old water-tower wood to build all kinds of things.

10:39

He also loves parties. His back yard is perfect for them. If the party gets loud, it's not a big problem: Brooklyn is an easygoing neighborhood.

10:54

Like Clive, many of his friends come from the Caribbean, and have been living in New York for years.

11:07 O-Ton Clive Bushay

I stick together with them, but then I met other people, people from many different parts of the world, especially after I got this job. So I'm a very flexible guy, so I was able to mix up with different culture, people from Poland, people from Russia, different people. I like people from different background.

11:27

There are over 8 million people in New York City. They have to be provided for - and the waste has to be disposed of.

11:37

New York City has about 6,000 miles of streets and highways. Most residents will use public transport.

11:48

For those who need small packages delivered, it's best to book a bike messenger like Austin Horse.

11:59

On a normal day Austin works 10 hours and covers 70 miles.

12:13 O-Ton Austin Horse

New York has a bigger zone than most any other city I've seen that messengers work in, so we have to go further distances and yeah to make money you have to, you should go fast. If you have a whole shot, you know, sorry, if you have a moon shot that's going to the Upper Westside or to Brooklyn or something like that, you wanna knock it out and come back quickly cause you're probably not gonna be making work, you're not gonna making money while you're out there.

12:40

This tour takes him into the heart of Manhattan – he is carrying a hard drive with important data.

12:49

Austin rarely sees his customers. Most of the time the delivery is handed over to a doorman.

This time it's different: the hard drive is picked up by the customer herself.

13:24

And off again! After all, Austin has got to keep up his reputation

13:29 O-Ton Austin Horse

So yeah, every year there is a world championships and couriers from around the world, they come together to compete and decide who... which bike messenger is not just the fastest but the

smartest. So who could do the most work in the shortest amount of time usually. And this year I won it. So I'm this year's best messenger.

13:51

Several bridges link Manhattan to Brooklyn where Austin has his apartment. Today he takes the Williamsburgh Bridge.

14:10

It's not hard to tell that his life revolves around bicycles. They make him feel free.

14:23 O-Ton Austin Horse

Many people who live here, they have the formula of their life, and it's, live where they live, get on a subway, go to work, and it's not a lot of freedom to go outside of that. And me and other messengers, we have a lifestyle that bypasses that, and so we go wherever we want. Or wherever we need to go. We cover a lot more geography, basically, and there is more freedom, actually, you know, I'm actually able now to go away and not work when I want to, and have work when I come back, and I get to ride my bike all day.

15:03

And off he goes to his next assignment.

15:15

New Yorkers say that the city has a unique light. The famous landmarks are in Manhattan: The Empire State Building, the New York Life Building, the small Paramount Building with the clock, Grand Central Station, Times Square and Seventh Avenue. Even during the night life in Manhattan never stands still.

16:04

When the last of the night owls get tired, Nigel Morris is often on his way to work. He is a portrait photographer

16:13

One of his favorite places is Coney Island, a peninsula in the southern part of Brooklyn. It's a well-known seaside town and amusement area.

16:25

Nigel sets himself up in the middle of the boardwalk where a great number of people will pass by.

16:38 O-Ton Nigel Morris

I look for mainly someone that might stick out from the crowd. You know, maybe... what people may not consider the most handsome guy in the crowd or the most beautiful woman in the crowd. But there's a quality about them that speaks to me. You know. I would say, it's almost like a spiritual thing.

16:58

Nigel has set his eyes on this man with his bike. He is seldom turned down. His photographs appear in books and magazines and are shown in exhibitions. Wherever Nigel works, people stop to watch.

17:38

Right next to the boardwalk is the famous amusement area. For over a hundred years New Yorkers have come to Coney Island to enjoy themselves. Some of the old rides have even been designated historic landmarks.

18:08

Nigel lives in another Brooklyn neighborhood not far from Coney Island.

18:16 O-Ton Nigel Morris

I grew up here in Brooklyn. I lived in Brooklyn for almost my whole life. My childhood was pretty good. I had a pretty good childhood. I grew up in a... that was sort of a rough neighborhood in the eighties. But the thing is, I feel like you shouldn't let where you're from define who you are or who you can become in this world. Because that's just a stepping stone on a journey.

18:40

Nigel has made a name for himself in Brooklyn. But he still has a long way to go to fulfill his dream:

18:47 O-Ton Nigel Morris

I would like to go down to history as like one of the greatest photographers that ever lived. That's my goal, yeah! That's my goal, but it's a lofty goal, but it's one, that you have to, you know, chase after.

19:00

New York is the city of big dreams – also for the passengers of the cruise liners on the Hudson River.

19:15

The journey continues northeast along Long Island. Visitors to Long Island will notice structures in the water all along the coast: these are oyster farms. In the mornings one can see scuba divers hunting for wild oysters. Kevin Joseph is one of them.

19:42 O-Ton Kevin Joseph

There is lots of oysters here, because fortunately in the last few years I think the water quality here has improved. There is, there is less pollution and a better consciousness of keeping things out of the water. And I think that allows the oysters have a chance to recover. And the conditions are great.

20:24

There are a lot of wild oysters around Long Island.

20:29 O-Ton Kevin Joseph

These oysters just sit on the bottom. There is lots of other shells around. And those get bigger and they lay around and the oysters are just here, there and everywhere. But they are not really attached to anything. They are sometimes attached to each other. But they don't really attach to the bottom or other... Sometimes on rock.

20:50

Oysters that have been hand-collected from the ocean bed are popular in New York restaurants. They bring in far more money than farmed oysters.

21:20

Kevin's main job is farming 'Long Island oysters'. He also organizes events around oysters like the New York Oyster Week.

21:39

It would be perfect if there sometimes were pearls in the oysters. But all Kevin ever finds are tiny lodgers.

21:47 O-Ton Kevin Joseph

So this is a oyster crab or a pea crab. I've heard them called it a ghost crab, too, because they are so light. And they are translucent. And they have no eyes. And it has grown its whole life inside this oyster, as the oyster filters nutrients phytoplankton, zooplankton, algae. This crab gets its little pieces sometimes too. And somehow this crab got to a place inside this oyster when it was tiny larvae, that the oyster didn't eat it. So this crab is kind of a miracle.

22:18

There are not enough wild oysters to meet the great demand. That's why they breed oysters at Blue Island Oyster Farm.

22:28

Young oysters grow up in these tubs. They are just one month old, produced right here from eggs and sperm – by artificial insemination.

22:41 O-Ton Kevin Joseph

This is one of the places in the world, where blue point oysters came from. Blue point oyster is the most famous kind of an oyster. And it is historically an oyster that comes from the proximity of Blue Point New York. Blue point oysters became extinct, they overfished them and the bay got polluted in the 40s and 50s and we've brought it back.

23:04

It takes about two years until they are big enough to be sold.

23:12

But before that, they have to be transferred to the Atlantic Ocean; there's a transfer station on the dock at Blue Point. These sturdy bags protect the oysters from predators.

23:52

The oysters' new home is close to the dock. At low tide one can walk there. The oysters cannot simply be left alone. They need to be cared for. They have to be turned over, cleaned and sorted.

24:27 O-Ton Kevin Joseph

Well, the spring and fall are the best times. In this winter there isn't a lot of algae in the water. So they starve. And they get real thin. And in the summer they're spawning.

24:41

They are regularly put into the tumbler: This chips off the edges of the shell and makes the oysters fat instead of flat. Oysters with deep cups sell best.

24:56 O-Ton Kevin Joseph

Yeah. How do you make money with oysters? You sell them to restaurants, in Manhattan, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Toronto, Tokyo, Beijing, everywhere. And you provide oysters at events,

when people want to have oysters at a party, a wedding, a birthday party, we come and we open oysters and we tell you about them and we serve them to you.

25:24

After work, on the seashore, with friends. A typical Long Island picnic.

25:42

Long Island is 120 miles long. The farther out you go, the wealthier it gets. At the very end of the island are the Hamptons – the towns of West- South- and Easthampton. Property out here is extremely expensive.

26:08

Angela Boyer-Stump worked as a model all over the world before she settled down here.

26:14

For generations, the Hamptons have been a popular seaside resort for the upper-class.

26:24 O-Ton Angela Boyer-Stump

I think that the initial appeal is perhaps, 'oh, the celebrities go there' or 'that's where everyone kind of has to be seen type of place'. And then when you get here, you realize just how understated it is and just how kind of special and private, our beaches are virtually empty. I remember being on the beach with my husband years ago and we ordered a pizza and they delivered it to us on the beach and we looked over and Paul McCartney was sitting there, hanging out at the beach. It was, and nobody was surrounding him, there was no paparazzi, there was no 'Ooh, there is Paul'.

27:08

Angela Boyer-Stump became a real-estate agent, and sells luxury properties.

27:17

This house has just come on the market. The owners only use it for a few weeks each year. Now they want to get rid of it... and buy a larger one. Angela already has a potential customer. It won't take long for the property to change owners. Many customers belong to New York's financial elite, and spend their weekdays in Wall Street boardrooms.

27:53

This home still belongs to an older couple, and will cost at least 28 million dollars

28:04 O-Ton Angela Boyer-Stump

Well, it's an older house, it's been redone, so the property was purchased by a family that's been in the community since the early 1900's. So in that way it's a very typical Hampton house. In other ways, the aesthetics of the interior are very European. So you have a European flair with an exterior that's very Hamptons. The shingled houses, the shingled rooflines, the balconies...

28:32

Close to the shore, close to the golf course, close to celebrities. The market for luxury homes is booming. Long Island and the Hamptons will always be attractive.

28:45 O-Ton Angela Boyer-Stump

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I really do love Long Island and everything that it offers. I love what I do. And I do enjoy looking at houses every day and the beauty never, never seems to overwhelm me. It's, it's always wonderful. So I think until, until... I imagine I will be selling real estate well into my 70's.