



DAY TRIP TO RARITAN LANDING

From New Brunswick · Middlesex County, New Jersey



Photo: Richard Arthur Norton, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0

MUSEUM OPEN WED–SUN

The townsite lies under Johnson Park, a Middlesex County park. The Low House on the bluff is a free county museum.

Raritan Landing makes an easy half day from New Brunswick, or an outing from New York. Start at the Cornelius Low House for the town's story, walk down to the river through Johnson Park, then see the finds and the old buildings at East Jersey Old Town Village. Come Wednesday to Sunday, when both are open.

A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 10:00 Drive over NJ 18 from New Brunswick. The route ends at Johnson Park's Violet Drive entrance; the Low House and its lot are about a third of a mile west on River Road.
- ☐ 10:15 Tour the Low House and look down from its lawn onto Landing Lane and River Road, the old town's crossroads.
- ☐ 11:30 Walk Johnson Park's lawns toward the river, where the warehouses stood.
- ☐ 12:30 Picnic in the park, then visit East Jersey Old Town Village when it opens at noon on weekends.

On a weekday the village opens at 10 a.m., so you can start there. From Lower Manhattan the drive takes about an hour in light traffic.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Low House.** Its sandstone front faces River Road. Step back across the lawn to fit the whole Georgian facade.
- **The crossroads.** The bluff by the Low House looks straight down on Landing Lane and River Road.
- **The river.** Johnson Park runs along the Raritan; the Landing Lane bridge marks the old crossing.
- **Drones.** Middlesex County has a drone policy for launching, landing and flying from county property, with a request form. Read it before you fly from the park.



USGS topographic map, 1888 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	3 mi, about 7 min each way from downtown New Brunswick. From New York: 37 mi, about 57 min.
OPEN	Cornelius Low House: Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. East Jersey Old Town Village: Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Both list closures on October 31 and November 14, 21 and 29, 2026.
ADMISSION	Free at both. The county says both are open year round.
TIME ON SITE	The county's pages don't say.
GUIDES	Historical interpreters work at the village from April to October. The county's Raritan Landing page links to a geocaching and augmented-reality tour, an educational guide, Yamin's book and a podcast.
RESTROOMS	The county's pages don't say. Ask at either museum.
FOOD AND WATER	No café is listed. Johnson Park has picnic tables, and the village's general store sells teas and honey.
ACCESS	The Low House's first floor is wheelchair accessible, with a video of the second floor and exhibit text in Braille. The village is wheelchair accessible. Call 732-745-3030 about accommodations.
EXHIBIT	In 2026 the Low House shows "Caught in the Crossfire: Divided Loyalties in Middlesex County," on the Revolution as a civil war that split local families.
WEBSITE	middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/departments-of-economic-development/the-arts-institute-of-middlesex-county/division-of-history-and-historic-preservation/raritan-landing

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 40.51056, -74.45639 • 40°30'38"N
74°27'23"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/new-jersey/raritan-landing/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.