



## The Pine Barrens

*By John McPhee*

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### **The Pine Barrens** By John McPhee

Most people think of New Jersey as a suburban-industrial corridor that runs between New York and Philadelphia. Yet in the low center of the state is a near wilderness, larger than most national parks, which has been known since the seventeenth century as the Pine Barrens.

The term refers to the predominant trees in the vast forests that cover the area and to the quality of the soils below, which are too sandy and acid to be good for farming. On all sides, however, developments of one kind or another have gradually moved in, so that now the central and integral forest is reduced to about a thousand square miles. Although New Jersey has the heaviest population density of any state, huge segments of the Pine Barrens remain uninhabited. The few people who dwell in the region, the "Pineys," are little known and often misunderstood. Here McPhee uses his uncanny skills as a journalist to explore the history of the region and describe the people and their distinctive folklore who call it home.

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## **The Pine Barrens** By John McPhee Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Contrary to popular opinion, the whole of New Jersey is not a continuous Superfund site enlivened solely by poorly labeled Turnpike exits and skanky diners. In fact, the largest essentially untouched wilderness east of the Mississippi comprises nearly half the state: the New Jersey Pine Barrens. This more than 1,000-square-mile region has only a few thousand inhabitants--the Pineys, whose way of life has remained essentially unchanged since the 17th century. McPhee--one of the finest American essayists of the 20th century--has written an extraordinarily compelling, informative, and insightful book about the botanical, cultural, hydrological, and historical peculiarities of this region. He also details the efforts to save it from the creeping urbanization of nearby Philadelphia and New York City. Very Highly Recommended.

### Review

"An outstanding reading experience." ?*Natural History*

"Using his fine eye, great ear and good heart" (Newsday), McPhee "tells how this geographic anomaly has come to be, describes its people and their distinctive folklore, and captures something of the dreamlike quality of this incredibly quiet land in the midst of the noisy clutter of mechanical civilization." ?*Kansas City Star*

"It will be a long time before another book appears to equal the literary quality and human compassion of this one." ?*The New York Times Book Review*

### About the Author

**John McPhee** was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and was educated at Princeton University and Cambridge University. His writing career began at *Time* magazine and led to his long association with *The New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer since 1965. Also in 1965, he published his first book, *A Sense of Where You Are*, with Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and in the years since, he has written nearly 30 books, including *Oranges* (1967), *Coming into the Country* (1977), *The Control of Nature* (1989), *The Founding Fish* (2002), *Uncommon Carriers* (2007), and *Silk Parachute* (2011). *Encounters with the Archdruid* (1972) and *The Curve of Binding Energy* (1974) were nominated for National Book Awards in the category of science. McPhee received the Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters in 1977. In 1999, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Annals of the Former World*. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Kimberly Rubio:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost

time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the publication untitled The Pine Barrens can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

**Pamela Acuna:**

Within this era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of several books in the top collection in your reading list is actually The Pine Barrens. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

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**Allison Lyon:**

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