



LONG ISLAND

2026 DEVELOPMENTS

The new year will bring new hotels, restaurants, events and attractions to Long Island, making it a must-visit destination in 2026. In Garden City, Long Island's first [AC Hotel by Marriott](#) is scheduled to open near the Roosevelt Field Mall in fall 2026. The hotel will have four floors of lodging, a lobby bar and over 5,000 square-feet of meeting space. In January, [Destination KP Sports Park](#) will open a 44-acre, cutting-edge sports complex that will feature outdoor athletic fields, a multi-level indoor sports facility and a variety of supporting amenities, including retail shops, sports medicine clinics and recreational green areas. In winter, construction will begin on the [Long Island Greenway Trail Expansion](#), creating nearly 200 miles of new greenspace connecting Manhattan to Montauk. The Long Island Greenway will connect 27 communities and 26 existing parks, offering a safe and enjoyable space for visitors to bike, walk and run. The renowned [Tony's Di Napoli](#) will open its first location on Long Island in Manhasset in spring 2026. The restaurant is one of New York City's original family-style Italian restaurants, and has been celebrated for its authentic red sauce dishes for over 30 years.

Events reign supreme in 2026, and Long Island will host the 2026 [U.S. Open Championship at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club](#). Hosted by the United States Golf Association (USGA), the highly esteemed golf championship will take place at the Southampton golf course June 18 - 21. The [FourLeaf Air Show](#) on Jones Beach will move from its usual Memorial Day Weekend dates to Sunday, July 5 and Monday, July 6 to celebrate the America250 anniversary. Spectators will be dazzled with incredible feats by military and civilian aerobatic performers, including headlining act, the United States Navy Blue Angels. Returning events include the [Hampton Classic Horse Show](#) (August 23 - 30, 2026) and the [Hamptons International Film Festival](#) (October 2026).

DESCRIPTION

Though located just outside one of the world's most-visited metropolises, Long Island stands out on its own with 120 miles of sparkling ocean beaches, unique historic sites, quaint downtown villages, exclusive shopping and some of the best farm-to-table fare anywhere courtesy of incredible farmlands and bountiful waters. World-renowned Long Island Wine Country is rated one of the "Top 10 Wine Regions in the World" by *Wine Enthusiast*, and of course, the Hamptons on the island's South Fork are always buzzing.

In the fall, travelers can visit one of the many pumpkin patches and apple farms, such as [Harbes Family Farm & Vineyard](#) in Mattituck or [Lewin Farm](#) in Calverton. During the colder months, Long Island offers a unique charm that draws travelers in with its historic sites, quaint downtown villages and seasonal experiences.

Not far from NYC on Long Island's North Shore, travelers can discover [Gold Coast mansions](#). Built during the opulence of the "Roaring Twenties," nearly 200 of 500+ original mansions and estates still exist today. Discover some of the region's rich Revolutionary War history with General George Washington's "Culper Spy Ring," a secret group of men and women who ferried details of British activity to the Continental Army. Associated sites open to the public include the [Stony Brook Grist Mill](#) and [Three Village Inn](#) in Stony Brook and [Raynham Hall](#) in Oyster Bay.

Come summertime, the oceanfront is the place to be with [Jones Beach](#) and [Fire Island](#) state parks famed for miles of white-sand beach for swimming, surfing, fishing and bird watching. East Hampton's [Main Beach](#) and [Cooper's Beach](#) at Southampton are consistently ranked among the Top 10 Beaches in America by Dr. Beach. Montauk Point boasts some of the world's best fishing, with special events at [Montauk Point State Park](#) and many options for deep-sea fishing charters and excursions. One can even saddle-up and ride on the beach at [Deep Hollow Ranch](#), the oldest cattle ranch in the country.

Long Island is also a golfer's paradise, with an 18-hole pitch and putt at Jones Beach, one of America's top public courses at [Montauk Downs](#), and the challenging Black Course at [Bethpage State Park Golf Course](#) which has twice hosted the U.S. Open Championship and hosted the Ryder Cup in September 2025. [Bethpage State Park](#) also hosts world-class polo with a family-friendly setting.

With the Town of Southold, Long Island's oldest dating from 1640, there is plenty of history to go around. Take in the [Sag Harbor Whaling & Historical Museum](#) set in an 1845 whaler's mansion designed by prominent American architect Minard LaFever; [Montauk Point Lighthouse](#) on the eastern tip of Long Island, commissioned by George Washington in 1792; and [Walt Whitman State Historic Site](#) in Huntington Station, the birthplace of one of America's great poets, with a restored farmhouse, c. 1819, featuring 19th-century furniture and an interpretive center filled with artifacts. There is also the [Joysetta & Julius Pearce African American Museum of Nassau County](#) in Hempstead, which was named by *American Legacy* as one of the Top 10 unique and less well-known Black history museums in the U.S.

Surrounded by water and boasting one of New York State's largest and most preserved agricultural areas, Long Island has a rich tradition of offering the freshest seafood and farm-to-table dishes, all set against breathtaking views. Dotted with popular restaurants along its long stretch, visitors will enjoy delectable dishes from [The Frisky Oyster](#) in Greenport, [Prime](#) in Huntington, [Joe's Crab Shack](#) in Babylon or [Off the Hook](#) in Hampton Bay. Launched in 2025, the [Long Island Seafood Cuisine Trail](#) runs from Bay Shore to Montauk, highlighting establishments proudly serving and selling locally raised and sustainably harvested wild-caught seafood.

WHERE TO STAY

From luxury escapes to cozy retreats, Long Island offers an array of accommodation options for winter travelers. [Oheka Castle](#) on the Gold Coast offers a magical winter retreat where guests can take a guided tour of the castle's exquisite gardens or enjoy fine dining at the Oheka Bar & Restaurant. [The Garden City Hotel](#), an iconic AAA Four Diamond property, features an indoor pool and acclaimed dining at the Red Salt Room by David Burke. For spacious, comfortable rooms with views of the Peconic River, [Hyatt Place](#) in Riverhead is an ideal option, while [Sound View Greenport](#) offers waterfront accommodations with panoramic views, a private beach, and seasonal dining at The Halyard Restaurant for a serene winter getaway.

GETTING THERE

- 30 min-2 hours from NYC
- 9 hours from Niagara Falls
- 7 hours from Montreal
- [Long Island Rail Road](#) (LIRR) with service to 134 stations
- [JFK International](#) and [LaGuardia Airport](#) located in Queens accessible from Long Island Expressway (I-495) as well as [Long Island Islip MacArthur Airport](#)

COUNTIES

Nassau, Suffolk

MAJOR CITIES & TOWNS

Babylon, Bridgehampton, Fire Island, Greenport, Huntington, Jones Beach, Long Beach, Montauk, Northport, Oyster Bay, Sag Harbor, Setauket, Shelter Island, Southampton and Westhampton

CLIMATE

The diverse climate of New York State has four distinct seasons. Summers on Long Island are comfortable and warm, with daytime temperatures averaging in the mid-70s to mid-80s (degrees F.) and cooler evenings. The weather is moderately cool and sunny in springtime and autumn, when spectacular fall foliage attracts thousands of visitors. Cold, snowy winters create a wonderland of magnificent scenery in parks and villages.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more travel ideas and information, visit www.iloveny.com or Long Island's regional website: discoverlongisland.com

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