



## LONG ISLAND

### Table of Contents

[General Description](#)

[New Developments](#)

[Surprising Facts](#)

[Sports and Outdoors](#)

[Art, Architecture, and Culture](#)

[History](#)

[Unique Lodging](#)

[Nature Centers](#)

[Convention Centers and Meeting Spaces](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Further Information](#)

[Counties](#)

[Major Regions](#)

[Climate](#)

[Shopping](#)

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Just outside of the most visited metropolis in the world, you'll find 120-miles of sparkling ocean beaches, historic sites including "America's First Spy Ring", quaint downtown villages, exclusive shopping, world renowned Long Island Wine Country – rated one of the "Top 10 Wine Regions in the World" by *Wine Enthusiast* - and of course, the famed Hamptons. Southampton's Cooper Beach is ranked #2 on Dr. Beach. Enjoy some of the best farm-to-table fare available in the United States, courtesy of Long Island's incredible farmlands and bountiful surrounding waters.

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

#### New Lodging

A treasured Long Island landmark founded in the 17th century, the newly renovated [Canoe Place](#) is America's oldest established inn. Opening this summer, it will offer 20 guest rooms in five completely rebuilt guest cottages in an elevated yet approachable destination with a luxurious and inviting aesthetic in Hampton Bays.

The [Northport Hotel](#) is a boutique hotel with 26 well-appointed rooms in the quaint village of Northport. With close proximity to a walkable town, a newly opened Italian steakhouse and several attractions, this hotel provides travelers with everything for a charm-filled maritime stay.

[The Pridwin Hotel and Cottages](#) is set to reopen in the heart of Shelter Island this June and will be celebrating their 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This waterfront hotel, owned by the Petry family and located near

Crescent Beach, is made up of 49 rooms and 16 cottages. Thanks to two years of renovations, the hotel provides guests with a historic stay while providing modern and contemporary updates, allowing guests to enjoy a private beach, pool services, water activities including sailing and fishing, a full-service spa, and a restaurant.

On a quaint, tree-lined street in the town of Southold on the North Fork sits [The Shoals](#), a new waterfront hotel situated dockside on a marina overlooking the Peconic Bay and Shelter Island. The Shoals features 20 hotel suites and 20 boat slips, making it accessible by both land and sea. The apartment-style accommodations at the property are fit for families and larger groups. The Shoals is partnering with local favorite and female-owned, family business, Little Ram Oyster Company, for a robust oyster program, including turning The Shoals Food Truck into a 'Shuck Truck' – a delectable oyster happy hour, as well as hosting offsite farm tours and private shucking workshops.

### **SURPRISING FACTS**

**History with a View** – Long Island is home to some of the oldest lighthouses in the United States including the Montauk Lighthouse, authorized by President George Washington in 1792. Public access varies by lighthouse with many accessible only through boat tour while others, like the [Montauk Point Lighthouse](#) and [Fire Island Lighthouse](#), allow visitors to climb to the top for a spectacular view. Still others like Greenport's "[Bug Light](#)" and Mamaroneck's [Execution Rocks Lighthouse](#) allow for special request dinners and even overnight stays.

**Catch a Day at Sea** - Surfers flock to our shores each year to conquer east coast waves at Long Beach or Montauk and sailors, yachtsmen and fishermen alike enjoy some of the deepest water ports the Northeastern seaboard has to offer boasting waters teeming with life. Across Long Island you can find top rated fishing charters, fishing tournaments and tons of water sport rentals including boats, jet skis, paddle boards, kayaks and more. Dig your toes into the shallows to come up with clams the size of your fist, hop on board an inshore charter for fluke, bass or flounder or head offshore in search of shark, tuna or marlin.

**Savor Local Flavor** – Unsurprisingly, Long Island cuisine focuses heavily on seafood harvested from the surrounding waters. Depending on the season, fluke, striped bass, sea bass, flounder, bluefish and blackfish can be found on restaurant menus and in fishmonger's ice trays. Shellfish like clams, mussels, oysters and both bay and sea scallops are also abundant, the most well-known of which are the Blue Point oyster and the Peconic Bay scallop. The soil and climate provide the perfect conditions for a wide range of fruits and vegetables grown on the island's various farms, many of which are produced to strict organic standards and are available at the innumerable farmer's markets and farm stands. Many farmers also raise chickens, pigs, cows and ducks allowing for succulent meats, fresh eggs and cheeses. Many restaurants feature menus entirely created from local ingredients and most farms are open to the public to purchase goods.

**The "Gold Coast"** – On Long Island's north shore, just outside of New York City, you'll find the [Gold Coast mansions](#). Built during America's "Roaring 20's" (the 1920s) during a time of opulence, almost 200 of the once over 500 mansions and estates survive today. A mansion, by definition, must be over 7,000 sq. ft. with 30+ rooms, 7+ bedrooms, separate staff quarters and large entertaining rooms. The inspiration behind F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, the Gold Coast mansions do not disappoint in their breathtaking splendor; while some are still private homes, many are open to the public for visitation, overnight stays, events and tours.

**America's First Spy Ring** – Long Island has a rich Revolutionary War history but none so important as the creation of then General George Washington's "Culper Spy Ring", a secret group of Long Island men and women who ferried information on British activity to the Continental Army. Sites associated with the spy ring include the [Brewster House](#), the [Thompson House](#) and [Raynham Hall](#); all are open to the public.

**Wine Country** – New York is the third largest wine growing region in the United States and with over sixty wineries, [Long Island](#) has quickly become the epicenter of the state’s premium vinifera wine grapes. Listed as one of the “Top 10 Wine Regions in the World” by *Wine Enthusiast* magazine, Long Island’s East End benefits from a long growing season, maritime climate, moderate temperatures and ideal soil conditions. The region produces over 500,000 cases of wine annually and the most popular varietals include Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling as well as many award-winning blends.

**Imbibe and Unwind** – Wine isn’t the only way to experience Long Island’s local beverages. Beer connoisseurs will enjoy over three dozen award-winning craft breweries and beer bars and gastropubs featuring brews made with local ingredients and farm grown hops. Brewery tours and tastings are available all year long and several companies like [Brew Crew Cycles](#) offer group bicycle tours with multiple brewery stops. Long Island is also home to cideries and distilleries making moonshine, vodka and whiskey. [LiV](#) distillery, the first craft distillery to open on Long Island since the 1800’s, serves potato vodka, whiskey, gin and sorbetta all made with local ingredients.

### **SPORTS & OUTDOORS**

Enjoy fishing, swimming, sailing, kayaking, surfing and stand up paddle boarding, as well as seaside bike trails and nature walks.

**Beaches:** [Jones Beach](#) & [Fire Island](#) are famous oceanside state parks, with miles of white-sand beach for swimming, surf fishing and bird watching. Jones Beach has six miles of ocean beach and a nature center. Ferry from Sayville or Patchogue to Fire Island.

The Hamptons, on the South Fork, were named the ultimate summer playground by *Conde Nast Traveler*. East Hampton’s [Main Beach](#) and [Cooper’s Beach](#) at Southampton consistently make Dr. Beach’s annual list of the Top 10 Beaches in America.

**Fishing:** Montauk Point boasts some of the world’s best surf fishing. Special events at [Montauk Point State Park](#) include fishing tournaments. Many deep-sea fishing charters and excursions set off from Long Island.

**Golf:** Long Island is a golfer’s paradise. Golfing includes spectacular ocean views at [Montauk Downs](#), one of America’s top public courses. [Bethpage State Park](#) features the challenging Black Course, two-time site of the U.S. Open and host of the Ryder Cup in 2025. Jones Beach has an 18-hole pitch and putt golf course.

**Horseback Riding:** Saddle-up for a ride on the beach at [Deep Hollow](#), a 350-year-old working cattle ranch. Living history tours via horse-drawn wagons.

**Horseracing:** [Belmont Park](#) racetrack, in Elmont, hosts thoroughbred racing and the famous Belmont Stakes.

**Polo:** World-class polo at Bethpage State Park, June through mid-October, with a family-friendly setting and prices.

### **ART, ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE**

[Heckscher Museum of Art](#) (Huntington). Regional fine arts museum.

[Northwell Jones Beach Theater](#) (Jones Beach State Park). Presents top stars in performances and concerts overlooking the bay. The open-air Nikon Theater stage is right on the ocean with seats sloping down to the sea.

[Old Westbury Gardens](#) (Old Westbury). Formal gardens, ponds, and an historic mansion on a 200-acre Gold Coast estate. Events include concerts and family programs.

[Parrish Art Museum](#) (Water Mill). Works by artists from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the present, including Roy Lichtenstein, Jackson Pollock, Lee Krasner, Willem de Kooning, William Merritt Chase and Fairfield Porter.

[Pollock-Krasner House](#) (East Hampton). Guided tours of the country home and studio of Jackson Pollock, leader of the Abstract Expressionist movement.

[Sands Point Preserve \(Port Washington\)](#). 216-acre park with three historic mansions: Irish castle, French-style castle, and English country manor. Scenic nature trails.

[Tilles Center for the Performing Arts](#) (Brookville). Premier concert hall presents world-renowned artists in music, theater and dance such as Yo-Yo Ma, James Taylor and the New York Philharmonic.

## HISTORY

[African American Museum of Nassau County](#) (Hempstead). History and culture of African Americans on Long Island. *American Legacy* magazine named it one of the Top 10 unique and less well-known black history museums in the US.

[Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum](#) (Cold Spring Harbor). Highlights Long Island's seafaring past; set in a picturesque village of galleries, boutiques and historic houses.

[Cradle of Aviation Museum](#) (Garden City). Exhibits on Long Island's 100 years of aviation heritage, from early biplanes to a full-size lunar module; IMAX theater.

[Montauk Point Lighthouse](#) (Montauk). On the eastern tip of Long Island. Commissioned by George Washington in 1792. Local history museum at the lightkeeper's house.

[Old Bethpage Village](#) (Old Bethpage). Recreated 1800s farm village with restored homes, shops and farms. Costumed townspeople demonstrate skills like sheep shearing and churning butter. Battle reenactments, concerts, family programs.

[Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Site](#) (Oyster Bay). Historic 65-room mansion on 409-acre Gold Coast estate: arboretum, greenhouse and nature trails.

[Sag Harbor Whaling Museum](#) (Sag Harbor). Whaling history and artifacts in an 1845 whaler's mansion designed by prominent American architect, Minard LaFever.

[Sagamore Hill National Historic Site](#) (Oyster Bay). Home and "Summer White House" of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States.

[Walt Whitman State Historic Site](#) (South Huntington). The birthplace one of America's great poet's, Walt Whitman. Built c. 1819, this newly restored farmhouse features historic nineteenth-century furniture, and also an interpretive center which includes more than 100 portraits, original letters, manuscripts, and artifacts.

## UNIQUE LODGING

[Danford's Hotel & Marina](#) in Port Jefferson is surrounded by boat docks and splendid water views.

[Gurney's Montauk Resort & Seawater Spa](#) Situated on Montauk's most pristine stretch of oceanfront real estate, Gurney's is a Hamptons icon and the only year-round resort in Montauk. Providing guests with direct access to a 2,000-foot private sand beach, Gurney's features 146 rooms, suites, and beachfront cottages, all delivering dramatic ocean views.

[Journey East Hampton](#) in East Hampton features secluded cottages and 22 newly redesigned rooms, all outfitted with Frette linens and towels. There's also an outdoor pool and a welcoming lobby lounge. Its Great Lawn is a perfect spot for picnics and s'mores around the fire pit.

[Oheka Castle](#), the former country home of Otto Kahn and inspiration for *The Great Gatsby*, is now a luxury hotel where guests dine like royalty and a popular extravagant wedding venue.

[Shou Sugi Ban House](#), is the first wellness retreat and destination spa of its kind in the Hamptons, is the brainchild of co-founder Amy Cherry-Abitbol. Shou Sugi Ban House is an innovative experience that blends timeless wellness philosophies with state-of-the-art practices - individualized experiences that bring awareness to mind, body and spirit.

[Marram](#) in Montauk offers an upscale wellness retreat with muted colors and natural furnishings. The Marram is a screen free intimate lodging that offers a peaceful sense of comfort reflecting the light, minimalist natural beauty of the destination. This boutique resort sits right on the ocean amid rolling dunes.

## NATURE CENTERS:

[Long Island Aquarium](#) (Riverhead). Named a Top 10 Aquarium for children by *Parents* magazine. Open year round with over 100 indoor and outdoor exhibits and interactive experiences.

[Long Island Game Farm Wildlife & Children's Zoo](#) (Manorville). Exotic to domestic animals include a giraffe, red kangaroos, kinkajous, cougars, peacocks, lemurs, monkeys, zebras, camels and alligators. Nature trails, petting zoo, pony rides.

[Sweetbriar Nature Center](#), on 54 acres in Smithtown. Features wildlife and hundreds of plant species as well as hiking trails, butterfly house, gardens, birdwatching.

[Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center](#) (Jones Beach State Park). Birdwatching and other local wildlife viewing along scenic trails.

**State Parks:** At [Montauk Point State Park](#), one of Montauk's five state parks, visitors can fish, swim, hike the nature trails or simply relax and watch the seals on the rocks offshore. Climb the lighthouse commissioned by George Washington in 1792, for a spectacular view. Park events include fishing tournaments.

## CONVENTION CENTERS AND MEETING SPACES

Don't choose between an urban or beach experience, give your guests the best of both worlds when you choose Long Island, New York City's Beachfront Backyard. A 30-minute Long Island Rail Road ride from Manhattan, two Connecticut connection ferry services and easily accessible by JFK International, LaGuardia and Long Island MacArthur Airports, Long Island combines big city convenience with small

town charm. Long Island's [hotel properties](#), [creative meeting facilities](#), and [event spaces](#) offer 1.5 million square feet of meeting space and over 18,000 guest rooms.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Land:

30 min-2 hours from NYC

9 hours from Niagara

7 hours from Montreal

Long Island Rail Road with service to 134 stations

### Air

JFK International and LaGuardia Airport located in Queens accessible from Long Island Expressway (I-495) as well as Long Island Islip MacArthur Airport

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more travel ideas and information, visit [www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com) or Long Island's regional website: [www.discoverlongisland.com](http://www.discoverlongisland.com)

## COUNTIES

Nassau, Suffolk

## MAJOR REGIONS

The fish-shaped island is divided into six distinct regions, each with their own unique assets and attractions. The [North Shore](#), bordering the Long Island Sound, features the Gold Coast Mansions, high end shopping and some of the top rated and celebrity chef-owned restaurants on the island. The [South Shore](#), bordering the Atlantic Ocean, boasts big wave beaches, trendy downtowns and villages and incredible entertainment venues and complexes. [Fire Island](#), the premiere LGBT destination in the northeastern United States, offers miles and miles of preserved land and is a true beach community accessible only by walk-on ferry, no cars permitted. The [North Fork](#) represents the heart of wine country and farming with historic waterfront villages full of restaurants serving up local fare and shops selling locally made wares. [Shelter Island](#) is one of several smaller islands found in between the North and South Forks and is the only inhabited one allowing for a true escape from busy life with quiet streets, hideaway B&Bs and uncrowded beaches. Perhaps the best known, the [South Fork](#) is famous for The Hamptons and Montauk, the island's glitziest towns and beaches where celebrity spotting, fine dining and exclusive lodging are part of the landscape.

## CLIMATE

The diverse climate has four distinct seasons. Summers 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.

## SHOPPING

Fantastic shopping options range from roadside farmstands selling fresh local produce to [Americana Manhasset's "Miracle Mile"](#) of posh designers. Find fashionable clothes, gifts and home furnishings at amazing discounts amid 165 shops at [Tanger Outlets](#) in Riverhead. Main Street shops, boutiques and galleries offer relaxed browsing in villages such as Cold Spring Harbor, Garden City, Greenport, The Hamptons, Hicksville, Port Jefferson, Port Washington and Stony Brook.