



LONG ISLAND

DESCRIPTION

During the colder months, Long Island offers a unique charm that draws travelers in with its historic sites, quaint downtown villages and seasonal experiences. Nestled just outside one of the world's most-visited metropolises, Long Island distinguishes itself with charming holiday traditions along its scenic coastline, historic landmarks, and cozy winter wine-tasting experiences in the renowned Long Island Wine Country.

The holiday season brings a festive spirit to Long Island's communities, with events like Huntington's [Holiday Spectacular](#), hosted in the hometown of the "Christmas Queen" Mariah Carey. This winter highlight includes a storybook holiday market, Long Island's largest Christmas tree, and festive visits from Santa, making it an ideal destination for families. Additionally, the [LuminoCity Lights Festival](#) at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow offers an immersive holiday lights experience with large-scale art displays and attractions, creating a dazzling winter wonderland for visitors of all ages.

Long Island's winter landscape also provides a stunning snowy backdrop for seasonal beach activities, with many of its beaches hosting unique winter events. The [Magic of Lights](#) at [Jones Beach State Park](#) offers a festive drive-through light show with holiday tunnels, intricate displays, and a Holiday Village featuring food, drinks, and ice skating. Another beloved tradition is the annual [Polar Bear Splash](#) at [Long Beach](#) which draws participants to brave the chilly Atlantic waters in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For nature enthusiasts, [Cupsoque Beach County Park](#) in Westhampton Beach offers guided seal-watching walks led by the [Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island \(CRESLI\)](#), providing visitors a rare chance to observe seals in their natural habitat.

Long Island's winter offerings extend well beyond its beaches. Snowkiting, an exhilarating sport offered by the [NY Kite Center](#), is a must-try for adventurers, who can harness the wind to glide over snow-covered terrain. For those who prefer a slower pace, the North Fork's vineyards transform into cozy winter havens, with snow-dusted vines creating a picturesque setting for wine tastings. Guests can sip local wines at top vineyards such as [One Woman Wines and Vineyards](#), [Suhru Wines](#), [Coffee Pot Cellars](#), [Sparkling Pointe](#) or [Kontokosta](#), where guests can take in stunning views of the snow-dusted Long Island Sound.

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.

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.

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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