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# The Best Beaches for a Long Weekend Trip From New York City

Summer in New York City means outdoor festivals, al fresco dining, and day-long picnics in the park. But it also means mystery street smells, sidewalks so hot they could melt diamonds, and the dreaded subway car with a broken AC. Even die-hard New Yorkers need a weekend away from the mayhem, and when the weather is warm, there's no better place to escape than the beaches near New York City.

Outside of the city, the beach takes on various forms. Choose from lively port towns with bustling boardwalks and Atlantic islands that feel more serene. Head upstate, and it's possible to sun on sandy shores of freshwater lakes or float down rivers on their way out to sea. The best part? New York's go-to beach getaways are only a few hours away, and sometimes, you can take public transit to get there.

From Maine to Maryland and everywhere in between, here are 10 dynamic waterfront retreats where you can leave the city grind behind and set your clock to beach time.

# Newport, Rhode Island



Long before the Hamptons became an iconic summer escape for New York's wealthy set, there was one destination prized above the rest: Newport.

In the 1850s, business tycoons began building palatial mansions along the town's rugged coast, inspired by extravagant European architecture. Today, the remaining fortresses (which their owners once referred to as "summer cottages") appear like an American Versailles. Spend a weekend touring properties once owned by families like the Astors and Vanderbilts to gawk at the Gilded Age glamor.

Mansions aside, the reason Newport became a summer sanctuary remains. Stroll along the Cliff Walk, a 3.5-mile seaside esplanade hugging the town's prized homes, to be hypnotized by the rocky shoreline and salty air. Easton's Beach, located steps from the Cliff Walk, is where families construct sand castles to quell their real estate envy. For something more serene, head to Sachuest Point — a 242-acre wildlife refuge where migratory birds like harlequin ducks stop over for their own weekend getaways.

At Bowen's Wharf, it's clear that money never left Newport. Yachts line the docks like floating palaces, and well-heeled visitors dine on calamari (a local delicacy) at upscale eateries like [Clarke Cooke House](#). Get a feel for how the other half lives by taking sailing lessons at [Sail Newport](#). Dress the part by wearing a nautical-striped sweater and your best boat shoes — you'll blend right in.

## Where to stay



Splurge for a night at [The Chanler](#) — the only hotel on Newport's Cliff Walk. The building, built in 1873 for New York Congressman John Winthrop Chanler, retains its original opulence with historical decor while boasting modern amenities suitable for contemporary travelers.