



Day Trips from New York City

The Hamptons p313

New York's version of Malibu is a star-studded coastline with opulent mansions and see-and-be-seen parties, but with plenty of surprises – including Native American sites, charming village main streets and windswept state parks.

Fire Island p317

A favored gay getaway roars with dancing drag queens and a carefree summer club scene. Escape the mayhem by long walks on the seemingly endless beach.

North Fork p318

Wine tasting at Long Island's vineyards is a fun day's ramble, capped by main-street strolling and alfresco dining at waterside Greenport.

Hudson Valley p320

You could spend weeks exploring this region, with great hiking, mind-blowing art installations, charming towns and historic homes of American greats (Irving, Roosevelt and Vanderbilt included).

Woodstock & Saugerties p323

Supplement your pilgrimage to hippiedom with a round of antiques and quiet walks in protected parks.

The Hamptons

Explore

For most of the summer this little jut of land becomes a frenetic scene mobbed with jetsetters, celebrities and throngs of curious wannabes. Luckily there's still plenty of opportunity for outdoor activity, from kayaking to mountain biking – and yes, even a few untrammelled beaches. There's no shortage of boutique shops, trendy eateries and celeb-heavy clubs in summer, and absolutely everything costs a pretty penny out here, with most inns charging well over \$300 a night. Summer is high season; prices do drop a wee bit and traffic jams disappear about a month after Labor Day. This lessening of crowds, combined with the balmy weather of the fall harvest season, makes autumn an appealing time to visit.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** Southampton Historical Museum (p314)
- ➔ **Place to Eat** Lobster Roll (p315)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Sloppy Tuna (p316)

Top Tip

Those in search of summer solitude should plan a visit on a weekday, as the weekends are stuffed to the gills with big-city refugees seeking to escape the stifling heat of the urban jungle.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Car** Take the Midtown Tunnel out of Manhattan onto I-495/Long Island Expwy. Follow this for about 1½ hours to exit 70 to Sunrise Hwy East/Rte 24. After about 10 miles merge onto Montauk Hwy/Rte 27, which goes directly to Southampton.

Continue along Rte 27 to get to all towns east of there.

- ➔ **Bus** The Hampton Jitney (☎212-362-8400; www.hamptonjitney.com; one way \$30) is a 'luxury' express bus. Its Montauk line departs from Manhattan's East Side: 86th St between Lexington and Third Aves (in front of Victoria's Secret), then 69th St, 59th St and 40th St. It makes stops at villages along Rte 27 in the Hamptons.
- ➔ **Train** The Long Island Rail Road (LIRR; ☎718-217-5477; www.mta.info/lirr; one-way off-peak/peak \$20/27) leaves from Penn Station in Manhattan, and Hunterspoint Ave Station and Jamaica Station in Queens, making stops in West Hampton, Southampton, Bridgehampton, East Hampton and Montauk. You can buy tickets in advance online and reserve round-trip trips in summer (a boon on Sunday night).

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area Code** ☎631
- ➔ **Location** 100 miles east (East Hampton) of Manhattan; 2½-hour drive
- ➔ **Tourist Office** (☎631-283-0402; www.southamptonchamber.com; 76 Main St, Southampton; ☎10am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat)

SIGHTS

The Hamptons is actually a series of villages, most with 'Hampton' in the name. Those at the western end – or 'west of the canal,' as locals call the spots that are on the other side of the Shinnecock Canal – include Hampton Bays, Quogue and Westhampton. They are less frenzied than those to the east, which start with the village of Southampton.

DETOUR: LONG BEACH

Beautiful Long Beach, 30 miles from New York City (and much closer than either Jones Beach or Fire Island), is one of the best stretches of sand you can find. It's easily accessible by train and has clean beaches, a hoppin' main strip with shops and eateries within walking distance of the ocean, a thriving surfing scene and many city hipsters. The downside: the city charges \$12 per person for out-of-towners. The **Long Island Rail Road** (LIRR; ☎718-217-5477; www.mta.info/lirr; 1-way fare to Long Beach \$9-12.50, 'summer beach getaway' incl round-trip fare and beach admission \$23) runs 'beach getaways,' which include discounted admission and round-trip train fare during the summer, with departures from both Penn Station and Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn.