



Day Trips from New York City

The Hamptons p319

New York's version of Malibu is a sweeping coastline studded with opulent mansions that host see-and-be-seen summer parties. Surprises include Native American sites, charming village main streets and wild state parks.

Fire Island p321

This car-free getaway ramps up in summer with tiny rental bungalows, chill beach bars and, at one end, a famous gay scene, roaring with drag queens and a carefree clubs. The wild setting, with sand streets and miles of beaches, restores calm.

North Fork p323

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 p325

You could spend weeks exploring this region, with great hiking, open-air sculpture, charming towns and historic homes of American greats (Irving, Roosevelt and Vanderbilt included).

Woodstock & Saugerties p328

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

The Hamptons

Explore

This string of villages on Long Island's South Fork is a summer escape for Manhattan's wealthiest, who commute to mansions by helicopter. The beaches are lovely, but the towns are a frenetic scene of jet-setters, celebrities and curious wannabes, and absolutely everything costs a pretty penny out here, with most inns charging well over \$300 a night in summer. Prices do drop a 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, make autumn an appealing time to visit. Montauk, out at the end of the island, is a generally calmer scene year-round.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** Parrish Art Museum (p320)
- ➔ **Place to Eat** Westlake Fish House (p321)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Montauket (p321)

Top Tip

Those in search of summer solitude should plan a visit on a weekday, as the weekends are stuffed to the gills with refugees from 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 until you reach 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 \$32) is a 'luxury' express bus. Its Montauk line departs from Manhattan's East Side: Lexington Ave between 85th and 86th Sts, 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; ☎511; www.mta.info/lirr; furthest zone one way off-peak/peak \$20.50/28.25) leaves

from Penn Station in Manhattan, and Hunterspoint Ave and Jamaica Stations in Queens, making stops in West Hampton, Southampton, Bridgehampton, East Hampton and Montauk. (But these communities are difficult to appreciate without a car.) You can buy tickets in advance online and reserve round-trip fares in summer.

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area Code** ☎631
- ➔ **Location** 100 miles east (East Hampton) of Manhattan
- ➔ **Information** (☎631-283-0402; www.southamptonchamber.com; 76 Main St; 11am-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 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.



Southampton

Compared with some of its neighbors, Southampton is an old-money, rather conservative spot. It's home to sprawling old mansions, a main street with no 'beachwear' allowed, and some lovely beaches. Pick up maps and brochures about the town at the Southampton Chamber of Commerce, squeezed among a group of high-priced, artsy-crafty shops and decent restaurants.

SOUTHAMPTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

MUSEUM

(☎631-283-2494; www.southamptonhistoricalmuseum.org; 17 Meeting House Ln; adult/child \$4/free; ☎11am-4pm Wed-Sun Mar-Dec) Before the Hamptons was the Hamptons, there was this clutch of nicely maintained old buildings, including a whaling captain's mansion.