



Many wineries on Long Island's North Fork offer tours and tasting.

## Long Island: Fun for Everyone

The Long Island region has grown tremendously over the past three decades to include new attractions and adventures that make visiting New York more exciting than ever. Traditionally known for its beaches and amazing golf, Long Island is now enticing visitors with a thriving wine country, which started in 1975 with just one vineyard. Today it encompasses 30 wineries open to the public for tasting and tours, along with over 60 vineyards growing fine merlot, pinot noir, cabernet and chardonnay, among other varietals.

Recognizing that children especially love a beach vacation, Long Island has increased the number of family attractions it offers. These include Splish Splash Water Park in Riverhead, rated the "number one Water Park in the Tri-State area" by the *New York Post*. The Atlantis Marine World, also in Riverhead, allows visitors to sign up to be a "Sea Lion Trainer for the Day," or have an up-close experience with a shark dive, which involves descending in a cage directly into the shark tank for a first-hand look at these fascinating creatures from the deep.

Also new on Long Island is the North Shore Heritage Trail. Here visitors can embark on a journey along the trail and take a remarkable trip through the past. The area's scenic splendor is rivaled only by its historic significance. The North Shore of Long Island offers visitors historic sites, quaint harborside villages, scenic vistas overlooking the Long Island Sound, beachfront parks, 19th-century "castles" and public gardens.

## Love in Western New York

For adventurers, Western New York offers visitors an unusual and exciting array of attractions. The Spencer, for instance, is a small, literary-themed boutique hotel located on the grounds of the illustrious Chautauqua Institution. This Victorian turn-of-the-century gem (100

years old in 2007) has undergone a \$3 million renovation and operates as a small, independent hotel property with a distinctive literary theme. Rooms are decorated in honor of renowned authors. The C.S. Lewis room, for example, contains a mural dedicated to *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and the Isak Dinesen Room, a play on the *Out of Africa* theme, allows guests to slumber under their very own dreamlike safari tent. Nearby, Peek'n Peak Resort and Conference Center opened as a ski resort in 1964 and includes a variety of lodging options and two 18-hole golf courses. The Upper Course plays host to the Nationwide Tour in June, a televised PGA Tour event. Under new ownership, the resort has undergone \$8 million in capital improvements already, with plans for an additional \$280 million over the next ten years.

Love is a prevailing theme in New York State. Jamestown is the hometown of Lucille Ball, star of the television show *I Love Lucy*. Opened in 1996, the Lucy-Desi Museum has welcomed more than 200,000 visitors to Jamestown from every state in the U.S. and some 30 countries. The museum features Lucy and Desi's wardrobes, props from their television show, awards (including an Emmy), family photographs and more. Jamestown's newest Lucy-Desi attraction, the Desilu Playhouse, which opened in 2005, features exact replicas of Lucy and Ricky's New York City apartment.

Everyone loves Lucy; this much is clear. And everyone, as 30 years of travel history have proved, loves New York as well. ■



Lucy-Desi Museum, Jamestown, NY

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