

DESTINATIONS

By Jennifer Marjolein Jewski



Shopping the quaint streets of the Hamptons is a popular pastime.

The Hamptons

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

Stretching 120 miles into the Atlantic Ocean from Eastport to Montauk Point, the quaint hamlets and villages nestled on the South Fork of Long Island, New York, make up the Hamptons, a peaceful beach escape rich with history and charm. With Quogue's stately Victorian mansions and contemporary homes, Remsenburg's charming country homes and cottages, and Sag Harbor's quaint village of homes and shops that have changed little in the last three centuries, the Hamptons offers a getaway for every taste.

The Hamptons' mystique extends far beyond architecture. Visitors can keep up with the latest trends while shopping in the chic boutiques on Westhampton Beach's Main Street, search for one-of-a-kind memorabilia in more than a dozen antique shops in Eastport or browse for a new accent piece for their homes in the art galleries in Southampton Village.

In addition to its miles of pristine beaches, world-class golf courses and abundant fishing opportunities, outdoor enthusiasts will appreciate the Hamptons' many hiking and nature trails. Spend the afternoon spotting bald eagles, ospreys, ducks, geese and seals while walking along the dune-swept nature trails in Montauk Point State Park, visiting the animals being rehabilitated at Pine Barrens, a Distressed Wildlife Complex in the Quogue National Wildlife Refuge, or watching for pheasant, deer, blue heron and red-tailed hawk in Red Creek Park in Hampton Bays.

From east to west, the Hamptons' wide range of historical sites will keep history buffs busy. In Montauk, the Hampton's easternmost point, visitors can take the 137-step climb to the beacon of Montauk Point Lighthouse, New York State's oldest operating lighthouse, or search for whales, dolphins and seabirds on a Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation Whale Watching Cruise.

Moving west, stop by the Sag Harbor Whaling Museum for a glimpse of Sag Harbor's days as a bustling whaling port, complete with an historical boat collection, ship models, scrimshaw and whaling tools and artifacts. Created in 1803, Sag Harbor is also home to the oldest volunteer fire department in New York, and the Sag Harbor Fire Department Museum displays equipment dating to the nineteenth century.

Further on the journey, head to the Old Water Mill Museum to work the lathe and learn the art of quilting and weaving while visiting the oldest operating water mill in Long Island. For a glimpse of life in post-Civil War Southampton, visit the Southampton Historical Museum. Housed in the Albert Rogers Mansion, an 1843 whaling captain's home furnished in the period, the grounds feature a carriage house, blacksmith and carpentry shops, an apothecary store, a saloon and a one-room schoolhouse. For the freshest local seafood, head to Hampton Bays, home to the second largest commercial fishing fleet in New York State. Dine

on lobsters, shrimp or fish while enjoying a spectacular waterfront view at Oakland's Restaurant & Marina on Shinnecock Inlet or The Inn Spot on the Bay on Shinnecock Bay. Wine aficionados will enjoy sampling the award-winning and high-rated Merlot, Chardonnay and Cabernet varieties created locally at Channing Daughters Winery in Bridgehampton, Duck Walk Vineyards in Water Mill and Wölffer Estate in Sagaponack and touring the picturesque vineyards.

No matter which of The Hamptons' villages or hamlets you choose to visit, bed and breakfasts, hotels and resorts abound. Historic Montauk Manor, a 140-condominium-apartments resort, features indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a private health club, three tennis courts and a golf driving range and putting green. For more intimate accommodations, try The 1708 House, a historic bed and breakfast in Southampton furnished with antiques that features 15 guest rooms as well as a formal parlor, reading room and brick patio where guests can gather. And airports on each end of the South Fork, including the East Hampton Airport (HTO) and Westhampton Beach's Francis S. Gabreski Airport (FOK), make getting to the Hamptons a breeze. During your stay, both airports' FBOs will take care of all of your aviation needs.

While on Long Island, be sure to fly over to the Republic Airport (FRG) in Farmingdale, which houses the American Airpower Museum. At the museum, you can explore a hanger full of World War II's big iron birds, such as a P-47 Thunderbolt and a P-44 Hawk, and even experience a flight in one of the fully restored planes. From there, a short 25-minute drive to Garden City will bring you to the Cradle of Aviation Museum, which depicts the history of aviation, from the birth of flight through the Space



The Cradle of Aviation Museum walks its visitors through the history of aviation.

Age. Housed in three restored airplane hangers, the air and space museum features such treasures as Charles Lindbergh's first plane, a Curtiss Jenny; an F-14 Tomcat; and one of three lunar landing modules in the world.

With everything from beaches and vineyards to antique shops and art galleries, The Hamptons offer countless treasures for you to discover on your next getaway.

For more information about The Hamptons, contact the Long Island Convention & Visitors Bureau at 877-386-6654 or visit www.funoli.com.



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