



YOU ARE  
HERE

# Long Island

With 2.8 million people and a length of 118 miles, Long Island covers four distinct areas (North Shore, South Shore, North Fork, South Fork — aka the Hamptons) and essentially two counties (Nassau and Suffolk). In other words, this cornucopia of elite hot spots, rural landscapes, sleepy suburbs, pristine beaches, and quaint fishing villages is difficult to pin down. But that's never stopped us from trying.

**Best Hamptons Stay Rates** at the ③ **1708 House** in Southampton start at \$225 in the high season, which is a bargain for the area, and the surest way to gain entry to a Hamptons house.

**Best Hot New Hamptons Restaurant** Water Mill's sleek, Greek seafood restaurant ⑤ **Trata East**, which opened last December, is a great place to bump into real estate magnates, movie stars, and supermodels who, granted, might sue you for bumping into them. Some of the seafood is flown in from the Mediterranean — first class, of course.

**Best Lighthouse** There are 18 lighthouses on Long Island, only two of which you can enter. The ① **Fire Island Lighthouse**, which is reachable by car, is the only one that allows you to go to the very top. The railing is low, so be careful once you're up there.

**Best Place To Stay Like a King** ① **Oheka Castle Hotel & Estate** on the Gold Coast is the second-largest mansion in the United States (behind the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina). Rooms start at \$295, but if money is no object, the \$15,000 Ultimate Evening includes butler service and the run of the place.

**Best Place To Spot Celebrities** Pan-Asian "supper club" ④ **Madame Tong's** at J.L. Beach Club in Southampton has quite the buzz, particularly on Saturday nights. For reservations, you might have to try the "I'm Keith Lopez, Jennifer's brother" story. It'll sound fishy, but if you're intent on stalking P. Diddy or Lindsay Lohan, you truly have nothing left to lose.

**Best Place To Drink Like a King ... Um, Prince** In the late '90s, Prince Marco and Princess Ann Marie Borghese bought the North Fork vineyard (Long Island's first) and changed the name to ② **Castello di Borghese Vineyard & Winery**. Try the pinot noir — few L.I. vineyards make it — on the semicircular lawn outside the tasting room mere feet from the vines.

**Best Place To Be Forewarned** Hackers beware: ⑥ **Bethpage Black**, the only public golf course to play host to the U.S. Open, has a sign on the first tee warning that it's for "highly skilled golfers" only. The large bunkers lining several fairways constitute one of several additional wake-up calls.

**Best Place To Get Lost** Take Route 25 east and pass through idyllic North Fork villages and farm stands selling everything

from peaches and tomatoes to strawberries and cauliflower. Not that you care where you go at this point — 'cause the drivin' is easy — but try the roasted corn at ⑦ **Harbes Family Farm**, then navigate their challenging eight-acre corn maze.

**Best News for Beer-Bellies** Every item on the menu of the ① **Southampton Publick House** ("the East End's first microbrewery restaurant") goes well with beer. If you're watching your weight but still want the ale-battered onion rings, opt for the Montauk Light at about 100 calories a glass.

**Best Baseball Team** The Mets didn't make the playoffs last year (again), but the **Long Island Ducks** in the Atlantic League did (again). Sure, it's the minors, but you wouldn't know it from the fan fever that grips ⑦ **Citibank Park** in Central Islip every spring and summer.

**Best World War II-Themed Restaurant** The ③ **56th Fighter Group**, which sits along the Republic Airport Runway, has a unique atmosphere replete with 1940s music in the dining room and Winston Churchill speeches in the bathroom hallway. While eating a pilot's cut of filet mignon, you might catch a vintage cargo plane lumbering down the runway.



# Long Island

DETAILS

## HOTELS

- 1 Ohka Castle Hotel & Estate, 135 W. Gate Drive, Huntington, (631) 659-1400
- 2 Garden City Hotel, 45 Seventh St., Garden City, (516) 747-3000
- 3 1708 House, 126 Main St., Southampton, (631) 287-1708

## RESTAURANTS

- 4 Madame Tong's, 256 Elm St., Southampton, (631) 204-0300
- 5 Trata East, 1020 Montauk Highway, Water Mill, (631) 726-6200
- 6 56th Fighter Group, Republic Airport Route 110, Gate No. 1, East Farmingdale, (631) 694-8280
- 7 Polo Restaurant, 45 Seventh St., Garden City, (516) 877-9352
- 8 Clam Bar at Napeague, 2025 Montauk Highway, Amagansett, (631) 267-6348
- 9 The Lobster Roll, 1980 Montauk Highway, Amagansett, (631) 267-3740
- 10 Cyril's Fish House, 2167 Montauk Highway, Amagansett, (631) 267-7993

## NIGHTLIFE

- 11 Southampton Publick House, 40 Bowden Square, Southampton, (631) 283-2800
- 12 Posh Ultralounge, 45 Seventh St., Garden City, (516) 248-4100
- 13 The Crazy Donkey, 1058 Route 110, Farmingdale, (631) 753-1975
- 14 Live Trax, 242 Pettit Ave., Bellmore, (516) 783-0663

## ATTRACTIONS

- 15 Bethpage Black, Bethpage State Park, Farmingdale, (516) 249-0700
- 16 Castello di Borghese Vineyard & Winery, Route 48 (Sound Avenue) and Alvah's Lane, Cutchogue, (631) 734-5111
- 17 Citibank Park, 3 Court House Drive, Central Islip, (631) 940-3825
- 18 Fire Island Lighthouse, Robert Moses State Park, Fire Island, (631) 669-0470
- 19 Harbes Family Farm, Main Road, Route 25, Jamesport, (631) 722-2022
- 20 Jones Beach State Park, Ocean Parkway, Wantagh, (516) 785-1600

**Most Elegant Hotel** The 2 Garden City Hotel is to Long Island what The Breakers is to Palm Beach, but with more history. If you can't swing reservations at this western Long Island classic, try brunch at the 7 Polo Restaurant (the best on Long Island), or at least have a drink at 12 Posh Ultralounge.

**Most Egalitarian Beach** There are stretches of sand in the Hamptons so exclusive you can't even pay to lay down your towel. But at 20 Jones Beach State Park, everyone is welcome. And they all seem to gather here on July 4 for Long Island's largest and best fireworks show.

**Best Impersonation of the Other Coast** Surfing on Long Island? Yep, and the waves are pretty big, too, which is why you'll need one of Surf2Live's half-day surfing camps, where the student-to-instructor ratio is 3-to-1. [www.surf2live.com](http://www.surf2live.com)

**Interesting Factsoids** Long Island is the site of the first radio transmission, the first suburb (Levittown), and the first supermarket (King Kullen).

**Best Seafood ... Along Montauk Highway** Locals swear by the lobster sandwich at 9 The Lobster Roll, one of many seafood shacks that dot the "highway" (aka Main Street). The Cajun calamari at 10 Cyril's Fish House and the chowder at the 8 Clam Bar at Napeague are two other proven specialties.

**Best Live Music** There aren't many live-music venues on Long Island, but 13 The Crazy Donkey in Farmingdale ("the perfect mix of club and pub") serves food until 1 a.m. and has an outside deck that rocks the summer with barbecue happy hours, body painters, and the occasional high-wire act. Tribute-band aficionados can get their fill with faux Allman Brothers Band, Santana, et al, at the completely renovated 14 Live Trax in Bellmore.

