

10 BEST: EAST HAMPTON'S A GREAT BEACH TOWN

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Celebs & debs can have their A-List parties but you don't need either to have fun here



The Hamptons...

Glamorous? Perhaps, but to the locals, it's just home. Outside Diddy's surfside "white parties" and paparazzi snapping the summer stream of celebs for which this small community is renowned is a *real* beach town, one that's

been enjoyed by native Long Islanders for ages (though perhaps moreso when the hordes are mercifully absent) and one that still exists if you bother to look.



Idyllic Main Beach: one of five in this quaint, seaside burg.

Photo Credit: [KKMPhoto/discoverlongisland.com](https://www.discoverlongisland.com)

East Hampton has been both home and haven since 1648 and its appeal over time has become a unique amalgam of pastoral and pelagic. Centuries-old farmhouses and lovely beach houses (granted, some painfully garish) coexist in a community rife with historic landmarks like the photogenic Hook Windmill, built in 1806.

Captured in the mist, the Hook Windmill makes East Hampton feel more like Sleepy Hollow.

Photo Credit: [Sylvia Muller/discoverlongisland.com](https://www.discoverlongisland.com)

East Hampton's beautiful beaches notwithstanding, other pursuits offer a departure from summer crowds, as well as immersion into the other landscapes of Long Island. The 305-acre Quogue Wildlife Refuge, a picturesque 25-mile drive from East Hampton, boasts seven miles of nature trails through beautiful Pine Barrens, bogs and other rare and lovely habitats and is home to such inhabitants as the bobcat, falcon, hawk and fox.

Closer still, just two miles east in Amagansett, lies a longtime hub of revelry: the [Stephen Talkhouse](#). Like most local venues, it's at its priciest and most crowded on summer weekends, but it's always friendly, never fancy, and brings the music and the culture loud and proud, if occasionally inebriated. Good times.