



there magazine

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THE LUXURY ISSUE

**From mountain highs
to whisky galore**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

LIFE IS A BEACH

Raised on Long Island, **Jill Adams** provides an insider's guide to the Hamptons, a playground for the rich and famous on the eastern-most tip, where old money and young urbanites meet, and the simplest luxuries are sand, sea, and that magical light



he rich, as F Scott Fitzgerald famously said, are different from you and me. They summer in the Hamptons, for starters. Scott and Zelda lived on Long Island, the fish-shaped isle that nuzzles Manhattan. Queens, part of the city, inhabits the head. The tail splits into the quieter North Fork, with its vineyards and farms. The South Fork houses the legendary Hamptons.

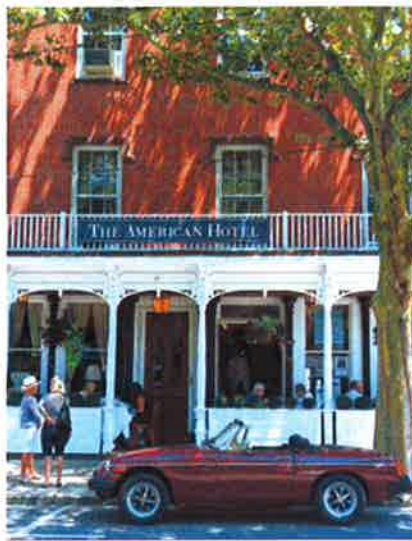
This string of small villages, with a total residential population under 15,000, is as far from Manhattan as you can get. While about money and power, its luxury directly contrasts with New York's. Power suits are traded for shorts, Louboutins for Havaianas. This may be where the movers and shakers come to chill, but the Hamptons are also a great destination for visitors seeking an idyllic coastal getaway.

Pristine beaches, fine white sand, stunning houses, posh shops and hip seaside hotels serving local produce cohabit easily. So while P Diddy hangs with wealthy socialites at poolside parties, others come to experience serene natural beauty and wild coastline. And it's within reach for any visitor with a bit of inside information.

Raised on 'the Island', as we call it (New York being 'the City'), on Gatsby's East Egg, I know the Hamptons well. Childhood memories include a million dodgy wooden steps to the beach, upside-down modern beach houses, glass-walled living areas upstairs, weathered grey bedroom walls downstairs smelling of sea. And most of all, falling asleep to the rhythmic sound of the surf, after long days stretching into twilight spent on the shore, salt on your skin, sun in your eyes.

And it's still like that. Because everything here is about the beach. And the light. That magical light, reflecting off the water, has long drawn artistic souls. Yet while New Yorkers crave space, they also want to be where 'everyone' is.

First of all, if you're not arriving by helicopter, you need wheels. Do not attempt to rent a car in town. Take the train. Or if you really want the *Sex and the City* experience, the Hampton Jitney, with pick-up spots dotted around Manhattan.



The American Hotel, Sag Harbor; Montauk Lighthouse faces west out over the Atlantic; Rushmeyer's in Montauk has a nautical theme; legendary Lobster Roll in Amagansett; modern 'glass box' architecture is a striking contrast to some of the more traditional old-money residences in the Hamptons



It's grown from a few buses to today's fleet of luxury coaches. Sip your complimentary juice, relax, and disembark 90 minutes later, at Riverhead's Tanger Mall Drive, where the forks split. While waiting for your rental car, stock up on beach gear at the Outlet, from J Crew to Barneys to Nike.

Head south, through Westhampton then cross the bridge and turn right on Dune Road, which stretches right through the beaches. Westhampton is architectural chaos, where each village has its own personality; Westhampton is college kids sharing rentals.

Half-hour after leaving Riverhead, you're on Cupsogue Beach, with public parking and a snack bar serving crab cakes and lobster. After a refreshing swim, turn back east along Dune Road. This skinny sand



bar, the last outwash of the receding Ice Age glaciers, takes the worst battering in storms, yet is the most expensive real estate in America. It is, essentially, the Hamptons.

Hamptons luxury is about simplicity. A roadside stand in Amagansett with a sign saying 'Lunch' is the legendary Lobster Roll. At the North Fork version, the old fashioned 'clam bake' – a pit dug in the sand – can now be catered for \$100 (£73) per person. But worth it, as a friend who summers in East Hampton explains: they arrange planning permission to cook on the beach.

Time is another luxury. And timing is everything. Avoid the weekend commute by



HANGING OUT IN THE HAMPTONS

GETTING THERE

✈ **Helicopter Flight Services Inc** will buzz you out to the Hamptons in 35 minutes from New York City. Prices from \$3,310/€2,453 one-way. heliny.com

✈ **Hampton Jitney** reservations: +1 212 362 8400. hamptonjitney.com

✈ **Car rental** Enterprise, 1076 Route 58 Riverhead, NY, +1 631 369 6300, enterprise.com

STAY

✈ **Topping Rose House One** Bridgehampton, Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton, NY, +1 631 537 0870, toppingrosehouse.com

✈ **Montauk Beach House** 55 S. Elmwood Ave, Montauk, NY, +1 631 668 2112, thembh.com

✈ **Solé East Beach** 107 South Emerson Ave, Montauk, NY, +1 631 668 6700, soleeast.com

✈ **Gurney's Resort & Spa** 290 Old Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY, +1 631 668 2345, gurneysin.com; Day & Night party schedule: dayandnightlife.com/new-york



✈ **Rushmeyer's** 161 Second House Road, Montauk, NY, +1 631 668 2877, kingandgrove.com

✈ **The American Hotel** 49 Main Street, Sag Harbor, NY, theamericanhotel.com

SWIM

✈ **Cupsogue Beach County Park** Dune Road, Westhampton, NY, +1 631 852 8111, suffolkcountyny.gov

✈ **Hither Hills State Park** 164 Old Montauk Hwy, Montauk, NY, +1 631 668 2554, nysparks.com

EAT

✈ **Navy Beach Restaurant** 16 Navy Road, Montauk, NY, +1 631 668 6868, navybeach.com

✈ **The Palm** 94 Main Street at the Huntting Inn, East Hampton, NY, +1 631 324 0411, thepalm.com/east-hampton

✈ **Nick & Toni's** 136 N Main Street, East Hampton, NY, +1 631 324 3550, nickandtonis.com

✈ **The Lobster Roll** Amagansett and the North Fork, lobsterroll.com

✈ **Briermere Farms** 4414 Sound Ave, Riverhead, NY, +1 631 722 3931, briermere.com



leaving on Thursday morning, early. The Hampton villages are connected by one main artery: Route 27, or Montauk Highway, one lane in each direction. I once drove back after dinner with friends in Montauk. Heading west, I breezed along, but the strobe effect of passing stationary cars heading out for the weekend almost induced a trance. Buy a map and nip off to the back roads, where you'll see the real Hamptons: forests, fields, farms, coast.

After Westhampton is Southampton, then East Hampton, which was the first English settlement in New York. Lion Gardiner (of Gardiners Island) bought the land from the Native Americans – hence several of the towns having Indian names, like Amagansett, Quogue, and Montauk.

“CHILDHOOD MEMORIES INCLUDE UPSIDE DOWN BEACH HOUSES, MAGICAL LIGHT, SALT ON YOUR SKIN, SUN IN YOUR EYES”

Clockwise from top: Eat right on the shore at the Navy Beach restaurant; take in the East Hamptons sights by bicycle; artist Jackson Pollock came here to work, inspired by the light; First Lady Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy was born in Southampton

The Montauketts controlled most of Eastern Long Island, and Chief Wyandanch's widow sold Montauk to the Brits for £100 (€117).

The evolution from English settlement to playground of the rich is relatively recent: the area was mainly undeveloped until Austin Corbin extended the Long Island Rail Road to Montauk in 1880. And relatively speaking, it helped that the Gardiners married most of the wealthy New York families. The distance from New York – the beautiful remoteness – helped keep this a

THE HAMPTONS



wealthy enclave. And let's face it: rich people like to be surrounded by other rich people. Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, for example, was born in Southampton Hospital.

The artist colony aspect helped keep the area culturally rich, with wealthy patrons like Peggy Guggenheim bridging the two worlds. Jackson Pollock was the first to live and work there, but was soon joined by Mark Rothko, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Larry Rivers, and later Andy Warhol.

Artists are still drawn to the area – the Artists and Writers Baseball Game has become an annual event. While East Hampton restaurants like The Palm, and Nick and Toni's are havens for celebrities and socialites, creative types are often found at the 'dives' in Montauk, or at an old Sag Harbor institution, the American Hotel.

Between South and East lies Bridgehampton, and hot new luxury hotel Topping Rose House. The contrast of classic white clapboard with 'beach modern' – black shutters, minimalist pool – perfectly sums up the Hampton paradox.

Then save the best for last, Montauk: surfer dudes, Warhol's favoured haunt, where the Stones wrote *Memory Motel*, hipsters from Brooklyn. This year's hottest spots are the Montauk Beach House – fashionista HQ – and Rushmeyer's, with its Caribbean vibe. Solé East, a 1960s motel on the beach, is cheerful but not cheap. The Navy Beach restaurant, on a private beach,



Top and bottom: Mixing heritage styles with beach modern, Topping Rose House in Bridgehampton appeals to the urban crowd

serves classics like clam chowder and fried chicken, with cool, clever twists. Stay at Gurney's Inn Spa, so you don't have to drive after their legendary 'Day & Night' parties.

If your hotel isn't on the beach, or your pocket won't allow, here's my best secret: Hither Hills state park. You can camp here, tents on the sand, driftwood fire by the surf. Parking is friendly to non-residents, and it's one of the most beautiful beaches on the planet.

Heading back, either retrace your steps, or explore the north side of the south fork. Or go full circle: take the world's shortest ferry ride to Shelter Island, then Orient Point on the North Fork. Then you can wind your way back at a leisurely pace through beautiful wine country to Riverhead.

But before you leave, make sure you queue up at an East End institution: Briermere Farms. They make the best pies here, and as the bright lights of the big city beckon once more, you'll be carrying home a bit of Hamptons sunshine on your lap.

FR LA VIE EST UNE PLAGE

Jill Adams nous guide dans le district des Hamptons, refuge estival des super riches. Sur cette côte de Long Island convergent l'élite américaine et les nouvelles célébrités

Les riches, comme le soulignait le célèbre écrivain F. Scott Fitzgerald, sont différents de vous et moi. Pour commencer, ils passent l'été dans les Hamptons. Scott et Zelda vivaient à Long Island, cette île en forme de poisson dont le nez pointe vers Manhattan. Le Queens, qui fait partie de New York, se trouve dans la tête. La queue se divise entre le North Fork, une contrée paisible avec ses vignobles et ses fermes. Le South Fork, lui, abrite les légendaires Hamptons.

Cette chaîne de petits villages, dont la population totale ne dépasse pas les 15.000 habitants, est la plus éloignée de Manhattan. Outre le fait que les riches et célèbres y viennent pour se détendre, les Hamptons constituent aussi une fantastique destination pour ceux qui recherchent une escapade idyllique le long du littoral.

Ici cohabitent en harmonie plages immaculées de sable fin, demeures somptueuses, boutiques chics et grands hôtels côtiers, où l'on peut savourer des produits locaux. Et lorsque le chanteur richissime P Diddy y passe son temps en mondanités, dans des fêtes glamour autour de la piscine, d'autres viennent y apprécier les beautés naturelles de la faune et de la flore. En effet, la plage est au centre de ce paysage. Ainsi que la lumière. Cette lumière magique dont les reflets sur l'eau émeuvent les artistes depuis la nuit des temps.

Veillez toutefois à planifier votre parcours. Évitez la cohue des week-ends et partez tôt le jeudi matin. Les villages des Hamptons sont tous reliés par une unique artère principale : la Route 27, ou Montauk Highway, à une seule voie dans chaque sens ! Et si vous désirez découvrir la dimension authentique de la région avec ses forêts, ses champs, ses fermes et ses vignobles, il vous suffit d'acheter une carte et de sortir des sentiers battus.

Cette colonie anglaise, à l'origine, n'est devenue que récemment le rendez-vous balnéaire des Américains fortunés : la région est restée sous-développée jusqu'à l'extension du chemin de fer de Long Island à Montauk, en 1880. La distance de New York a contribué à maintenir ce lieu comme une enclave de gens riches : c'est bien connu les nantis apprécient se retrouver entre eux.

Le côté « colonie d'artistes » a également permis de préserver la richesse culturelle de la région – des mécènes fortunés comme Peggy Guggenheim ont établi des ponts entre les deux mondes. Jackson Pollock est le premier à s'y être installé et à y travailler, vite rejoint par Mark Rothko et plus tard Andy Warhol. Aujourd'hui, bon nombre d'artistes sont toujours attirés par ce lieu pour la magie de sa lumière.

NL THE HAMPTONS ANDERS BEKEKEN

Jill Adams gidst ons langsheen The Hamptons, het speelterrein op Long Island van de rich and famous dat vandaag dienst doet als ontmoetingsplekje voor de welgestelden en het jonge, hippe volkje

Volgens de beroemde quote van F. Scott Fitzgerald zijn de rijken niet zoals u en ik. Voor de beginnelingen onder u: ze brengen de zomer door in The Hamptons. Scott en Zelda woonden op Long Island, het visvormige eiland dat grenst aan Manhattan; Queens bevindt zich in de kop van de vis en de staart splitst uiteen in het rustigere North Fork met zijn wijngaarden en boerderijen en in de legendarische Hamptons.

Dit kleine groepje dorpjes met minder dan 15.000 inwoners bevindt zich ver weg van Manhattan. Ze lenen zich niet alleen als toevluchtsoord voor de jetset die wil ontsnappen aan de drukte, maar zijn eveneens een uitstekende bestemming voor een stranduitstapje.

Ongerepte stranden met fijn, wit zand gaan naadloos over in prachtige huizen, luxeuze winkels en hippe strandhotels die de heerlijkste plaatselijke gerechten serveren. Hier socialiset P Diddy tijdens pool parties met andere VIP's. Anderen komen hier dan weer de prachtige, rustige natuur en ongerepte kustlijn ontdekken.

En dan is er het licht. Dat magische licht dat weerspiegelt op het water en dat sinds jaar en dag tal van artistieke zielen aantrekt.

Timing is hier alles. Vermijd de drukke weekenduittocht. Vertrek donderdagochtend vroeg. The Hamptons zijn met elkaar verbonden via de Route 27, ook wel de *Montauk Highway* genoemd. Het betreft 1 baan met één enkele rijstrook in beide richtingen. Andere wegen zijn er niet. Koop een kaart, neem een van de vele zijwegjes en ontdek de echte Hamptons: wouden, velden, boerderijen en wijngaarden.

De evolutie van Engelse nederzetting tot speelterrein van de rijken is relatief recent: tot voor de uitbreiding van de Long Island spoorweg tot Montauk in 1880 was het gebied in hoofdzaak onontgonnen. De afstand tot New York zorgde ervoor dat dit gebied een enclave voor de rijken is en blijft en de rijken laten zich graag omringen door andere rijken.

Het statuut van de buurt als kunstenaarskolonie droeg bij aan het behoud van de culturele rijkdom van de buurt, met welgestelde topfiguren zoals Peggy Guggenheim die beide werelden met elkaar verzoent. Jackson Pollock kwam hier als allereerste leven en wonen, kort daarna gevolgd door Mark Rothko en later Andy Warhol. Vandaag de dag trekken kunstenaars nog volop naar The Hamptons, enkel al voor dat speciale licht dat je er vindt.

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