



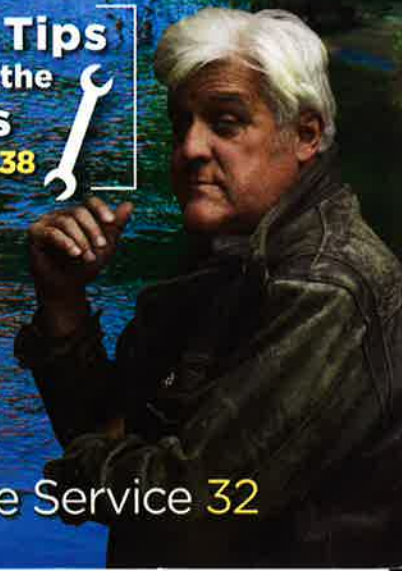
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Hit the Road

6 Fabulous New York Day Trips

by Jill Fergus



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Need a quick escape? Even if you don't have time for a weekend getaway, there are plenty of destinations throughout the great state of New York that make for ideal day trips—perhaps the nautical enclave of City Island in the Bronx or the Victorian village of Nyack in the Hudson Valley. Here are six ideas to put on your list for when you just need to get out of town.

Gold Coast Mansions

Immerse yourself in the Gilded Age by touring Long Island's North Shore mansions. The waterfront Sands Point Preserve is home to the Guggenheim-owned Falaise, while Old Westbury Gardens is anchored by a 70-room English manor and surrounded by 100 acres of formal gardens. And marvel at the splendor of Oheka Castle, a 127-room estate built by banker Otto Kahn (teens know it as the setting for Taylor Swift's "Blank Space" video).

Don't Miss: Take a tour of Sagamore Hill, President Theodore Roosevelt's home from 1885 until his death in 1919; there's also a museum on the grounds.

Lunch Break: Dig into the seafood dishes at Louie's Oyster Bar & Grille in Port Washington, which has outdoor tables overlooking Manhasset Bay.



Hempstead House at Sands Point Preserve.

Lake Erie Wineries

Visit some of Chautauqua County's wineries along the Lake Erie Wine Trail in western New York. Not far from the village of Westfield on the Lake Erie shoreline are charming family-run wineries and vineyards like Johnson Estate Winery, Noble Winery and Vetter Vineyards, which produce riesling and cabernet sauvignon, among others. A bit farther north in Portland is 21 Brix Winery.

Don't Miss: Go horseback riding at Double D.A.B. Riding Stable in nearby Ripley. Take a scenic trail ride or sign the kids up for a pony ride.

Lunch Break: In the town of Mayville, on Lake Chautauqua, is Webb's Captain's Table restaurant—ask to be seated in one of the wooden booths.



Grapes on the vine at a Lake Erie vineyard.

City Island Seafood

People never cease to be amazed that City Island, a tiny seaside village in the Bronx, exists. This former shipbuilding enclave during the 19th and 20th centuries is now known for its marinas, yacht clubs and seafood restaurants. Learn about its maritime roots in the City Island Nautical Museum, see model sailboats at Trader John's and soak up the lovely Long Island Sound views.

Don't Miss: Just over the City Island Bridge is Pelham Bay Park, the largest park in NYC, which has a large beach, hiking trails and two golf courses.

Lunch Break: There are seafood restaurants galore here so you can't go wrong—the Sea Shore and the City Island Lobster House are popular spots.



The City Island Lobster House.

Lake George Forts



Fort William Henry in Lake George.

The forts on either end of 32-mile-long Lake George are rich in history. At Fort William Henry (on the southern end) you can tour the rooms of the former British outpost and watch daily musket firings, while at Fort Ticonderoga (on the northern tip) you can learn how the star-shaped fort was captured from the British in 1775 during the Revolutionary War.

Don't Miss: A cruise along Lake George is an ideal way to see this glacial lake once called “the most beautiful water I ever saw” by Thomas Jefferson.

Lunch Break: Soups and sandwiches are on the menu at the Adirondack-style Lakeside Lodge and Grille in Bolton Landing on the lake's western shore.



Fire Island Lighthouse.

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Fire Island Beaches

To visit this barrier island on Long Island's South Shore is to step into a Norman Rockwell painting. There are no cars allowed (you arrive via ferry), and locals and visitors cart their luggage and beach gear in red wagons. The largest village is family-friendly Ocean Beach, which has a handful of restaurants and inns, but the main draw is, of course, the miles of pristine, dune-filled beaches.

Don't Miss: Climb to the top of the Fire Island Lighthouse offering incredible views of both the bay and the ocean (a fun way to reach it is via water taxi).

Lunch Break: Just steps away from the ferry dock is Matthew's Seafood, overlooking Great Bay Harbor with lobster rolls and fish tacos on the menu. ■

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