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The World Of The Great Gatsby: Long Island's Gold Coast

by [Jessica Marati](#) ([RSS feed](#)) on May 24th 2012 at 4:30PM



The [official trailer](#) for Baz Luhrmann's new film adaptation of "The Great Gatsby" was released this week, inciting nostalgia across the Internet for the passion, parties and Prohibition-fueled recklessness of 1920s-era [New York City](#). The film doesn't come out until Christmas but if you're hankering for a preview, try visiting [Long Island's](#) Gold Coast, where F. Scott Fitzgerald lived, wrote and based his famous novel.

Geographically located on the North Shore of Long Island, the Gold Coast's grand mansions and landscaped gardens beckon visitors to explore the lives of the magnates and tycoons that called

them home. Former inhabitants include familiar names like the Vanderbilts, Roosevelts, Whitneys and Pratts, and nearly all of the estates are open to the public throughout the summer.

Gallery: [Gatsby's Gold Coast: Famous Mansions On Long Island's North Shore](#)



One Gold Coast must-see is [Old Westbury Gardens](#), a traditional English manor home that you'll recognize from films like "The Age of Innocence" and "Cruel Intentions." Built in 1906, the estate was once inhabited by financier John S. Phipps, who outfitted it with lavish furnishings and artwork. Guests are welcome to tour the home's interior or stroll around the estate's rose gardens, walled gardens and pond.

The Gold Coast's residents weren't all as traditional as the Phipps. A trip to the [Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum](#) reveals the eclectic nature of former inhabitant William K. Vanderbilt II. The 43-acre complex includes a marine museum, seaplane hangar, natural history habitats and a wide array of quirky ethnographic objects. The on-site planetarium is currently under construction, but it is expected to be one of the most advanced in the country once it is completed.

And if you're a true literature geek, you can't miss the Hempstead House or Falaise Mansion in [Sands Point](#), a part of Long Island that Fitzgerald referred to as the "East Egg" in "The Great Gatsby." Both homes are surrounded by wildlife, nature trails and picturesque spots that are perfect for setting out a picnic blanket and giving the classic novel a re-read.

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