



Warm welcomes

Nearby spring getaways and special deals for News readers

As the winter weather breaks, the itch to flee the city takes root. Country air, grass underfoot and the thwack of a screen door suddenly seem like essentials, not luxuries. A spring fling is what's called for — a change of scene, a new adventure — not too far away and for a price that will keep the spring in your step from bouncing away.

So we've done all the work for you. North, south, east, west and easy: Here are 14 guilt-free weekends within 100 miles of New York City, all under \$500 for two people — and a couple of extra deals exclusively for Daily News readers.

North, up the Hudson

Rhinebeck is one of those quaint historic towns chockablock with one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants with locally sourced food, and cheap antiques that make city dwellers green with envy. Stay at the **Olde Rhinebeck Inn**, a pre-Revolutionary B&B farmhouse stocked with ducks, goats and a breakfast of baked pear pancakes that you'll never forget.

★ Special for Daily News readers: Two can stay Friday and Saturday nights with full breakfast and two 30-minute massages for just \$500. Call (845) 871-1745 and mention The News. www.rhinebeckinn.com.

Who needs the Loire Valley when you can escape to **Le Petit Chateau**, and stay in the Loire Room, with its very own fireplace? The chatelaine, Valerie, enlists chefs from the nearby Culinary Institute of America to whip up all the fixings for a spring getaway: local farm breakfasts, afternoon refreshers of artisanal cheese and gourmet baskets of chef's delights (\$350 for the weekend, based on two



This woolly new resident of Sprout Creek farm is a sign of the season.



South, by the Shore

A quick pirouette away from three and Spa, is a gateway to the cultu N.J. The hotel is accessible via a fast pliments the area perfectly. The Hel tion, including commissioned pieces base for exploring. Stay two nights a King room is discounted to \$95.20 p over to spoil yourself with a day pac

On the first beach club in Ocean kept secrets along the Jersey Shore. in 2000 without losing a grain of its f front porch, or chill out with panora Have an appetite for water sports? T er level. A nifty-sounding Ghost Tou queen room, breakfast, two tickets t by, plus psychic readings for two. \$3!

Westward ho to the Poconos

Rittenhouse Square, is the gem of the five open-space parks William Penn strategically planned for Philadelphia during the 17th century. The 12-story historic AKA Rittenhouse Square overlooks the park's eastern side, as well as some great shopping on Walnut St. Within walking distance are the Franklin Institute of Science, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (home of the Philadelphia Orchestra), and Philly's famous cheese steaks, in addition to an emerging gallery scene. Studios with luxurious Egyptian cotton linens and lavish bathrooms start at \$175 per night. www.stayaka.com.

Looking for nonstop activities less than 45 minutes away? Check into **Minerals Resort and Spa**, in New Jersey's Sussex Skylands. With indoor basketball, racquetball, tennis, pools and a 12,000-square-foot fitness center, you'll never have to leave the premises. But if you do, you won't be disappointed — Diablo Mountain Biking Park, horseback riding, the Appalachian Trail and skydiving are nearby.

Rates from \$129 per night through May 14 include access to Minerals Sports Club with indoor/outdoor heated pools, saunas, lounge



Ocean Grove, N.J., offers a peaceful 19th century feel.



Weekend getaways

★ Mention it

... don't forge

Secluded along rustic Westbrook, **14**, overlooks Long Relaxation Packag put some spring ba night stay includes European facial an two in the hotel's a priced at \$335; ★ 1 additional \$99 if yc when booking at 1-dgersortandspa.c



Montauk Point Lighthouse dates to 1796.

East is East

Montauk is the very last gem on the string of famous Hamptons pearls, and **Gurney's Inn, 10**, is driven by that sense of place — as well as the Monte family, which has owned and operated it for more than 50 years. The Thalasso Spa at the Inn is the only one of its kind in the continental U.S., using seawater and marine-enriched products to cure what ails you and enhance good health. ★ A special deal for Daily News readers gets you two nights in an oceanview room, two breakfast and dinner credits and use of the Sea Water Spa and Thalasso Center facilities, for \$491. Call (631) 668-2345 to book and mention The News.

www.gurneysinnc.com.

Originally known as the Manor House, **Glen Cove Mansion, 11**, is set in the Dosoris Park area of Long Island's Gold Coast — home to those spectacular robber-baron estates from the 19th century. A Gatsbyesque getaway includes two romantic nights, chocolate-covered strawberries and chilled Champagne on arrival. Also included is a \$50 gift certificate for the Page One Restaurant in Glen Cove or the mansion's own Pub 1910, a third-floor restaurant with sweeping views of Long Island Sound. The cost is \$399 per couple; use promo code LOVE2 when booking online. www.glencovemansion.com.

The North Fork's only wine-licensed B&B, the waterfront **Stirling House, 12**, in Greenport, is within walking distance of the Jitney stop and LIRR, as well as restaurants, shops and galleries. It has teamed up with Long Island Wine Country to create La Vie en Rose, which includes a two-night stay, full breakfast and afternoon tea with home-baked goodies, Saturday barrel tastings for two at a local winery, plus a bottle from either the Old Field or Water's Crest Winery to take home. Valid weekends through April and May, it's priced at \$249.50 per person based on double occupancy. www.stirlinghouseandb.com.

The only crashing noises you'll hear at **Allegrria Hotel and Spa, 13**, are waves gently breaking against the shore. The first oceanfront luxury property in Long Beach, L.I., officially opens May 18, and promises spectacular views of the ocean and New York City skyline, along with organic cuisine from acclaimed Hamptons chef Todd Jacobs. A rooftop spa and infinity pool means you'll never have to bother with sand in your swimsuit, either. Rates from \$199. www.allegrriahotel.com.

Gurney's Inn in Montauk offers guests a beach massage.



The tranquil Water Conn., overlooking

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