

LIRR offering summer getaways that won't break the bank

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Tuesday, July 28th 2009, 4:00 AM



Montauk Point Lighthouse.

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The [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) wants Queens residents to get away - even amid grim economic times.

One-day sightseeing tours recently rolled out by the [Long Island Rail Road](#) encourage participants to save money on gas while enjoying the beaches, wineries and quaint shopping districts of [Nassau](#) and [Suffolk counties](#).

The packages, which range from about \$25 to \$60, offer round-trip rail fares from any LIRR station in [Brooklyn](#), Queens or [Manhattan](#) to some of the hottest spots on the island.

Some include bus or cab fare from [Long Island](#) stations to attractions - and coupons for nearby hotels, restaurants and stores.

"Especially in this economy, it's the most reasonable offer they're going to find," said LIRR leisure travel director [Diane Larsen](#). "Your vacation starts right away - no hassle."

For \$39, commuters can go to and from [Montauk](#) Village, where they pick among discounts from 12 hotels, 11 eateries, eight shops and local entertainment venues, Larsen said.

Nearby is the historic [Montauk Point Lighthouse](#), which was commissioned by [George Washington](#) and built in 1796.

"When you're in Montauk, you're away," said [Kristen Matejka](#) of the Long Island Visitors and Convention Bureau.

The train rides also cut out the confusion and stress of using maps on traffic-choked roadways to reach desired locations on Long Island.

"This is a kind of relaxing, easy way to get there," Matejka said. "You don't have to deal with 'Where do I have to turn?' or 'How do I get there?' or maps. This takes care of it for you."

A \$45 "Wine Country" package - which has three remaining dates, Aug. 8, Aug. 22 and Sept. 19 - directs passengers to the [Westhampton](#) LIRR station, where they switch to a bus for tastings at East End wineries.

The group then heads to the seaside village of [Greenport](#), where participants can shop or dine before boarding a bus and train back to the city.

Other deals whisk visitors to the [Splish Splash water park](#) in Calverton, and [Uniondale's Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum](#), home to concerts and [New York Islanders](#) hockey games.

"That's a vacation away from home without going away," Larsen gushed.

Visit www.mta.info/lirr/getaways/ for more info on packages.

Read more: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2009/07/28/2009-07-28_lirr_offering_summer_getaways_that_wont_break_the_bank.html#ixzz0MYqe8uKx