



The Hamptons offer a perfect getaway surrounded by water.

EAST +



Vineyards nestled in valleys create breathtaking views in Sonoma County.

WEST

EXCURSIONS

SUMMER IN THE HAMPTONS

Vacationing in the Lap of Luxury

by Stephanie Moreland



The Montauk Lighthouse is over 200 years old making it the oldest lighthouse in New York state.

For years, the Hamptons have been America's summer playground for the rich and famous. The chance to hobnob with celebrities such as Stephen Spielberg, Jerry Seinfeld and Sarah Jessica Parker is only part of the draw. Located on the east end of Long Island, New York, in Suffolk County, this group of towns and seaside villages

exudes opulence. From golden beaches and palatial estates to fine dining, upscale boutiques and a vibrant nightlife, the Hamptons are a perfect mix of natural beauty, intrigue and sophistication.

The Hamptons include East Hampton, Southampton, Westhampton, East Quogue, Bridgehampton and Montauk. East Hampton is

considered to be the heart of the Hampton scene, with roughly 100,000 visitors every summer. Often regarded as the most exclusive area, notable celebrities and millionaires own homes there. East Hampton has been part of elite culture since the early 20th century when artists, writers and millionaires made the area their getaway.

Some of the villages in the Hamptons date back to the 1600s, each with unique historic landmarks. Halsey Homestead, circa 1648, is the oldest house in Southampton, featuring lush grounds and filled with beautiful 17th and 18th century antiques, early textiles and rare ceramics. Overlooking Shelter Island, Sag Harbor is one of the most historic villages in the Hamptons and also serves as Long Island's largest whaling port. The Sag Harbor Whaling & Historical Museum offers a special look at the right whale, as well as chronicles the history of Long Island's whaling

days. The museum includes an oil painting that Herman Melville deemed the most accurate portrayal of whaling life. This sleepy little village is full of charming restaurants and shops, and another great place to spot celebrities on their luxury yachts.

The Hamptons offer some of the best dining experiences anywhere. The Southampton Publick House is a great choice for casual dining, featuring an in-house microbrewery that offers home-brewed ales and lagers. Stop by the Lobster Roll in Amagansett, known by locals as "Lunch," to experience the quintessential family seafood joint, complete with delectable lobster rolls. A late dinner at Gosman's Dock in Montauk is a perfect ending to a day of exploring. It includes a restaurant, a clam bar, a top-side bar, a fresh seafood market and a spectacular view of the water, where guests can dine on the catch of the day as the last



Photo courtesy of Cain Nightclub

Cain Nightclub opened Memorial Day weekend in Southampton.



Enjoy an afternoon of shopping and browsing in Bridgehampton.

of the boats make their way inland.

Since 1975, more than 24 wineries have opened their doors in the Hamptons, as the climate in the region is ideal for growing grapes. Duck Walk Vineyard, located in Water Mill, is one of the region's best, offering a wide selection of varietals. It produces more than 25,000 cases of wine from 130 acres of vineyards and has been repeatedly recognized for excellence in national competitions. The Normandy Chateau-style building is a true Hamptons' landmark.

The Hamptons are an outdoor playground, with boating, fishing, hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing, scuba diving, swimming and golfing. The 200-acre Quogue Wildlife Refuge has a self-guided trail into the Pine Barrens, a distressed wildlife complex for rehabilitating animals. Hampton Bays, known for its parks, beaches and vibrant boating community, is another must-see. Harbor Tours, out of Long Wharf in Sag Harbor, offers 90-minute sightseeing tours on the 45-foot

wooden *American Beauty II*. The tours feature spectacular views of Sag Harbor and Peconic Bay, narrated by an ecological and historical expert.

But, if staying indoors sounds more enticing, make plans to extend a summer stay and rub shoulders with the film-making elite at the 15th annual Hamptons International Film Festival. This competitive celebration of long, short, fiction and documentary films takes place Oct. 17-21, 2007.

Nothing defines luxury vacationing more than staying in the best places. Gurney's Inn Resort, resting on the dunes of Montauk, has spectacular ocean views and a remote setting, with one of the nation's few true seawater pools. The inn at Box Farm in Water Mill is a historic 1600s colonial farmhouse, offering beautifully restored rooms, a gourmet breakfast and lively happy hour. The Village Latch Inn, a boutique hotel in Southampton, is on a five-acre estate that was formerly known as the annex to the famous

Irving Hotel, eastern Long Island's oldest established hostelry. Run by artists, it is sophisticated, romantic, eclectic and only a short walk from fine dining and upscale shopping.

For travelers desiring an extraordinary vacation experience, the Hamptons are the


place to find luxury, sophistication, natural beauty and plenty of summer excitement. For more information about Hamptons vacations, contact Pam Smithgall at South Shore Travel at 1-888-GO-AWAY-8. 



Photo by John Williams/Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau

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