

How to Spend the Perfect Long Weekend in the Hamptons

BY AMY LOUISE BAILEY | AUGUST 22, 2019



PHOTO: COURTESY OF GURNEY'S RESORTS

In the summer, New Yorkers are packing their white linens and heading to the Hamptons. The eastward summer Friday migration sees groups of 20-somethings piling onto the Jitney (a dedicated bus to the Hamptons) and the Long Island Railroad, equipped with rosé to set the scene. Some weekenders will opt to hack the traffic and drive out from the city, which can be convenient for getting around once you're actually there. And, some will splash out on helicopter rides and seaplanes for the most glamorous of arrivals.

Each year, the Hamptons attracts groups of friends, families, and the 0.001% that escape to the kind of properties seen in Sotheby's catalogues where eight-figure listings are the norm. Different crowds gravitate towards different areas: in Montauk it's all about the music, surfing, and late nights; East Hampton and Southampton tend to draw more refined groups, couples, and billionaires; and Sag Harbor has traditionally been more low-key and family-oriented.

The region has very stringent building regulations, so unlike many seaside holiday destinations, you won't find any hotel chains, which, in many ways, adds to its charm. It does, however, make it essential to plan well in advance due to limited accommodation options. Timeshares are one way to go (but you generally need a solid group and it can be quite expensive), and Airbnb also has a presence, but what you get for your money could often be better spent on a long weekend in the Caribbean. There are several boutique hotels that are highly recommended, but getting in early is vital as they tend to book out. Similarly, it's worthwhile making reservations at popular restaurants in advance as crowds escalate during the height of the season and getting a good table on a Saturday night can be dicey.

But, like the concrete jungle itself, the Hamptons seems to reinvent itself each year and the start of each season brings new bars, restaurants, hotels, and pop-ups that quickly become hotspots, ready to be geotagged. Whether you're interested in the new or the time-honored establishments, we've charted the best places to visit in the Hamptons.

Where to stay

Gurney's Star Island Resort & Marina



PHOTO: COURTESY OF GURNEY'S RESORTS



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[Gurney's Star Island](#), a 107-room resort that is located on the largest marina in the Hamptons, is a new player to the scene. The luxury enclave features a private beach, two outdoor pools, a kids' club, and an upscale restaurant called Showfish, which has a menu built around seasonal ingredients and seafood delivered directly to the docks by local fisherman.

Shou Sugi Ban House

The launch of [Shou Sugi Ban House](#) marked the Hamptons' first comprehensive wellness retreat, filling a glaring gap in the market. The private three-acre sanctuary has thirteen guest studios, a spa with hydrotherapy pools and a roof deck, a fitness center, organic vegetable gardens, a library, and a Healing Arts Barn. Holistic wellness practices are customized to each guest and designed to revive even the most jaded New Yorker.

Baker House 1650

One of the most gorgeous B&Bs in the Hamptons is [Baker House 1650](#), which is like being welcomed into the home of a friend with excellent taste. It's cozy yet luxurious with plush furnishings, well-appointed suites, sprawling gardens, a spa, and three pools. If you were looking for a wedding venue or a place to host a special event or a garden party, this would be a great location.

Topping Rose House

[Topping Rose House](#) is one of the stateliest properties in Bridgehampton and one of the few hotels that remains open year-round. There is a pool, a Jean-Georges restaurant, a spa, a library and a complimentary car service that transports guests from the beach to dinner and anywhere else they may desire within a 2-mile radius.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF TOPPING ROSE HOUSE

Sunset Beach

[Sunset Beach](#) is one of the latest projects by legendary hotelier, André Balazs — the man behind Chateau Marmont, The Mercer, and The Standard. It's located on Crescent Beach in Shelter Island and it has only twenty guest rooms, so it's an intimate escape. The style is low-key but elevated — perfect for couples.

Gurney's Montauk

[Gurney's](#) is the only luxury hotel in the Hamptons that is located right on the beach — a major highlight that has kept it firmly set at number one. The resort has 146 rooms, suites, and beachfront cottages, each with panoramic ocean views and access to The Beach Club, which packs out early during summer weekends, especially if you're wanting to secure a cabana. It's also home to Scarpetta Beach, an Italian restaurant which is one of the best dining experiences out east.

Baron's Cove



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BARON'S COVE



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[Baron's Cove](#) underwent a major renovation in 2015, and the result is an elegant, nautical-inspired resort with 67 guest rooms and suites. Highlights include the waterfront pool framed with sun loungers, a tennis court, the seafood-centric restaurant (in particular, the fresh lobster rolls), and the cocktail bar, complete with a pianist. There's also live entertainment every night during the summer and guests can enjoy yoga sessions and various watersport options.

Hero Beach Club

Definitely one for younger groups and those setting out to embrace Montauk's party scene, [Hero Beach Club](#) is a low-key hotel with 34 rooms that look like they've been outfitted entirely in West Elm. It has a pool surrounded with daybeds, and is located right by the beach.