

PORTS OF CALL
[MONTAUK, CAPE COD, MARTHA'S VINEYARD]

THE MORE RUGGED STRETCHES OF COASTAL LONG ISLAND MAKE FOR A ROMANTIC, ALL-AMERICAN BOATING EXPERIENCE. SHIMMERING WATERS, QUIRKY ACCOMMODATION AND DELECTABLE SEAFOOD AWAIT

WORDS BY
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EAST COAST ENCHANTED

When you hit the silver-green surf of Long Island, Montauk is exactly the place you want to be. Beautiful and romantic, it has an old-fashioned notion of a seaside escape. A swathe of wilderness nestled on the island's easternmost point, it's where artists, dreamers and low-key celebrities came to disappear. Andy Warhol owned a summerhouse on a windswept bluff and hosted John Lennon and Jackie Onassis. Richard Avedon and Peter Beard lived up the road and shot iconic fashion shoots.

Once a scruffy fishing town, Montauk has evolved into the perfect blend of small-town sleepiness and urban sophistication, fizzing with retro-chic beach bars and eateries without the showy excess of the neighbouring Hamptons.

After checking into The Surf Lodge, a creamy-white-and-turquoise lair with vintage snaps and surfboards on the walls, my NYC friend Marion and I headed to the deck flowing with reggae music and mellow locals for sunset happy hour. After dark, the Montauk Yacht Club is the go-to for glamour by the sea before partying the night away at Ruschmeyer's, the buzziest new crash-pad-cum-clubhouse where seriously stylish New Yorkers decamp for surfing, chilling, dining and dancing under the stars.

TAKING A WINDOW PERCH AT THE CROW'S NEST, A RUSTIC LAKESIDE BISTRO WITH ROOMS, WE FEASTED ON TRUFFLE RISOTTO AND SIPPED JALAPENO MARGARITAS WHILE WATCHING THE SUN MELT OVER THE WATER

Waking up at first light, we wandered past surfers through the morning mist along Ditch Plains, Montauk's shimmering strip of the Atlantic. Montauk still offers unique old-school activities, from catboat sailing and wreck diving to horseback riding and clambakes on the beach. Brunch is the thing to do here on weekend mornings, and Joni's, a surf shack, is a fabulously unfussy place for breakfast burritos, exotic juices and veggie wraps with tongue-in-cheek names like Thai Me Up and The Greatful Veg.

Later, renting bikes we rode out to wilder shores to the old Montauk Point Lighthouse, where the only sounds you'll hear are the crashing waves and seagulls. On the way down, passing the Memory Motel, the roadhouse immortalised in the Rolling Stones song, I imagined what it must've been like in the 70s when Mick Jagger and the Studio 54 crowd hit the island like a hurricane. Taking a window perch at The Crow's Nest, a rustic lakeside bistro with rooms, we feasted on truffle risotto and sipped jalapeño margaritas, while watching the sun melt over the water and planning our adventure around the Cape.

Stepping off the boat, it's easy to see why people fall in love with Provincetown. An arty coastal community, it's perched on the tip of the Cape among miles of peaceful seashore and piney woods. Cape Cod consists of 15 small villages, each with its own homegrown charms, and P-Town, as the locals call it, is the perfect introduction to the wonders of the island.

Along the bustling strip of Commercial Street, we checked into the Salt House Inn, a cedar-shingled 19th-century former salt miners' lodging. The voluptuously white minimalist B&B is filled with antiques, claw-foot tubs and vintage curiosities, along with a tumble of terraces and vine-draped gardens where you can enjoy their swoon-worthy breakfast.

The historic town is famous for its raw, rugged beauty and shorelines dense with marine life. There are few more thrilling ways to experience the deep blue than a whale-watching excursion and catching a glimpse of a fin, a face with a fizz of spray, a playful flip. Afterwards we kicked back with mushroom fish-and-chips and white-grape sangrias on a communal table on the sand at The Canteen's surfer digs.



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MARTHA'S VINEYARD IS WEATHER-BEATEN AND IDYLLIC, MANY PEOPLE'S FANTASY OF NEW ENGLAND. BETWEEN THE BEACHES, MEADOWS AND MARSHES, THIS SLEEPY HOLLOW IS THE LOVELIEST PART OF THE CAPE

Following a walk on Race Point Beach spotting sunning seals along the shore, we ended the night at the Shipwreck Lounge, a snug parlour with squishy sofas that offers the perfect storm of both cocktails and cats.

Further down the coast, we holed up at Chatham Bars Inn in the postcard-pretty town of Chatham, en route to Martha's Vineyard. The ultimate waterside hotel it looks like something out of *The Great Gatsby* – all old-world decadence and dark woods, with the ocean in its backyard.

Tucked seven miles off the Cape, Martha's Vineyard is weather-beaten and idyllic, many people's fantasy of New England. Between the beaches, forests, meadows and marshes, this preserved sleepy hollow is the wildest and loveliest part of the Cape.

The Vineyard is divided into up-island, the western rural hamlets, and down-island, the larger historical districts on the eastern side. Going down-island, we stayed at The Charlotte Inn, a Victorian manor with a secluded garden in Edgartown. During the summer weekends flock across Edgartown Harbor for sailing, warm-water swimming, windsurfing and exploring its hidden coves. The Hollywood blockbuster *Jaws* was filmed between Edgartown and nearby Oaks Bluffs, setting off Martha's Vineyard's chrysalis from a rough-and-tumble bohemian patch to haunt of presidents, poets and pop stars.

Seeing Oak Bluffs for the first time is like stepping into a fairytale. Its main street is lined with kitschy ice-cream parlours, five-and-dimes and gothic gingerbread houses painted in parfait shades with white picket fences. Oak Bluffs, once a Methodist retreat, still has its original tabernacle and turn-of-the-century carousel. Looking for somewhere wonderful for dinner, we stumbled on the Red Cat Kitchen. A soulful sitting room with snug window seats and paintings of seascapes, it slings out artfully prepared surf-and-turf fare with seasonal ingredients sourced from local farms and fishermen. Down the street, the 20byNine, the island's first craft-beer and whisky tavern, is another friendly, folksy hangout with American-made spirits and eclectic small plates.

Venturing up-island towards the farming towns and golden beaches, the last night was spent at the Beach Plum Inn, a sweet hilltop folly surrounded by rolling pastures and edging the seashore. You can either stay in little cottages or the main house, whipped up out of salvaged wood from shipwrecks. Menemsha is a tiny, quaint fishing port dotted with fish shacks and colourful little boats. Winding our way up sandy roads through a maze of dune-grasses, we sat on a cliff to catch the fabled deep-orange sunset. When it began the boats honked their horns, the gulls cried in unison and, like so much of this enchanting coastline, it was captivating.



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MONTAUK, THE HAMPTONS

MONTAUK YACHT CLUB

A favourite among the boating community with a craft capacity of 200ft and a maximum of a 12+ft draft. The marina features amenities including boardwalks and railings, water, electricity hookups, TV, Wi-Fi, showers and laundry facilities. It also boasts private charters and a sailing school.

Tel: +1 631 668-7702
montaukyachtclub.com

STAR ISLAND YACHT CLUB

One of the most popular marinas on the island, this former boatyard offers a ship's store, tackle shop and diesel dock. Transient dockage to 90ft side boarding is available and full-service repair and parts centre. The pool and sundeck overlook Montauk Harbour.

Tel: +1 631 668-5052
starislandyc.com

THE CROW'S NEST

Occupying a picturesque spot on the shore of Lake Montauk, this boutique hotel offers a choice of rooms with rates starting from \$195 per night. The minimalist interiors are brightened up with Moroccan inspired furnishings to create a relaxed and informal feel.

Tel: +1 631 668-2077
crowstnstmk.com

THE SURF LODGE

The sun-kissed rooms at The Surf Lodge offer a revitalising environment in smart surroundings. With an excellent restaurant, wellness events and entertainment all on site, unwinding is made easy and effortless.

Tel: +1 631 483-5037
thesurflodge.com

LA FINE

Only the freshest seasonal ingredients from local farms and fisheries are used in La Fine's authentic Italian dishes. Residing within the landmark Montauk Manor on Signal Hill, it's the perfect place to sip prosecco and admire Montauk's spectacular sunsets whilst enjoying live music and fantastic food.

Tel: +1 631 483-5888
lafineli.com

PROVINCETOWN, CAPE COD

LONG POINT MARINA

Long Point offers transient and seasonal (May-October) dockage for vessels from 35 to 140ft on sturdy, pile-held, floating deep-water docks. It's the only private marina in town that provides slip-dockage for vessels greater than 70ft. Amenities include water, 30/50/100 amp power, Wi-Fi, docking assistance and 24/7 site supervision. Diesel fuelling is available for berthed vessels via tanker truck.

Tel: +1 774 593-5120
marinaprovincetown.com

FLYER'S BOAT RENTAL

One of the oldest boatyards, the marina offers moorings in Provincetown Harbor for boats up to 100-feet long, for a few hours or the entire season. It also offers repairs on vessels and a sailing school.

Tel: +1 508 487-0898 (ext 205)
ffyersboats.com

SALT HOUSE INN

White-washed walls with contemporary, nautical-inspired décor promise a refreshing night's sleep at the Salt House Inn, with rates starting at \$175 per night. Devour the delicious breakfast buffet from a peaceful spot in the private gardens, or on the sun terrace.

Tel: +1 508 487-1911
salthouseinn.com

SEAGLASS INN & SPA

Calm and spacious rooms from \$135 per night offer a welcome retreat from the busy harbor front. Unwind with a hot stone massage, or reinvigorate with a eucalyptus scrub at the Seaglass Spa to leave feeling sated and serene.

Tel: +1 508 487-1286
seaglassinnandspa.com

THE CANTEEN

New England clam chowder, BBQ pulled pork, shrimp sliders and a Raw Bar all feature on the menu at this hip harbor-front eatery. Wash it all down with a Cape Cod Beach Blonde beer, then walk it off with a stroll along MacMillan Pier.

Tel: +1 508 487-3800
thecanteentown.com

MARTHA'S VINEYARD

VINEYARD HAVEN MARINA

Vineyard Haven, on the north coast, is the main port and has slips and moorings available. It offers all facilities, including fuel, pump-out, laundry, Wi-Fi, chandlery, hardware store, bar and restaurant, car and bike rentals. Reservations required.

Tel: +1 508 693-0720
vineyardhavenmarina.com

OAK BLUFFS MARINA

Oak Bluffs is the largest marina in the Vineyard offering berths, moorings and all facilities including fuel, pump-out, Wi-Fi and dinghy dock. Launch service for boats on moorings (VHF ch. 77) 8am-12am (in the summer high season), weekends only (out of season). Foreign-flagged vessels can moor free during the low season (October-April).

Tel: +1 508 693-4355
oakbluffsmarina.com

THE CHARLOTTE INN

Edwardian elegance and an interior filled with fine art and British antiques makes The Charlotte Inn an endearing residence. Room rates start at \$395 and include goose down pillows, beach towels and luxury toiletries.

Tel: +1 508 627-4751
thecharlotteinn.com

WINNETU OCEANSIDE RESORT

Winnetu Oceanside Resort offers a family-friendly environment without compromising on luxury. Accommodation options range from studio rooms, to suites and private homes. Activities are aplenty with programmes to keep children entertained around the clock.

Tel: +1 508 310-1733
winnetu.com

THE BEACH PLUM INN & RESTAURANT

The Beach Plum Inn & Restaurant in Menemsha offers 13-rooms and private cottages, atop the Vineyard Sound. Tennis courts, access to the private Lucy Vincent Beach and a restaurant serving simple, locally sourced cuisine make this a popular respite.

Tel: +1 508 645-9454
beachpluminn.com

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