
HAMPTONS

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The Edge of the World

SKINNYGIRL AUTHOR, CHEF AND REAL HOUSEWIVES STAR BETHENNY FRANKEL IS HAVING A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE VERY END OF THE EAST END.

I'VE BEEN COMING to the Hamptons since I was 18 years old, when I was fortunate enough to have an older boyfriend with a share house in Westhampton. The following year I stayed in Quogue, and as I got older the houses my friends rented moved farther east. Two years ago I rented a home on Dune Road in Westhampton and loved the proximity to the city; more importantly, I loved the privacy.

Last year, on the last day of summer, I took a road trip to Montauk and stumbled upon the Montauk Yacht Club. For years I had been looking for a destination hotel with a great restaurant and comfortable rooms, a place I'd like to stay at a while. I vowed that the Yacht Club would be my home the following summer.

This summer, thankfully, I could afford to stay where I wanted, so I chose to reside there whenever I wasn't traveling. As you get older you want your weekends to be more relaxing and away from the hoopla, but with the luxury of dipping into the hype when you want—and MYC was perfect.



FROM LEFT: The Montauk Yacht Club's lighthouse; a waterfront room

Sunny days began with a healthy breakfast at Joni's (a freshly baked muffin, perhaps), or at the Four Oaks Deli by the harbor, where a local family serves up the best breakfast. Afterward I went surfing at Ditch Plains, took a golf lesson at Montauk Downs or swam right at the lake at the MYC. There are buoys right there, so a swim back and forth was a great morning workout.

The poolside scene at the MYC is also fun. There were hotel guests, the boating crowd (families who stay on their boats for the summer) and the daytrippers. The main pool has a great band, and the bartenders make the meanest Skinnygirl margarita in town.

In the afternoon I'd take an MYC kayak for a spin, or take one of their bicycles into town for an ice cream. You won't find a Starbucks anywhere in sight; there's a harborside village where you can have a lobster roll on the waterfront at Gosman's dock while watching fishermen who inspire thoughts of shows like *Deadliest Catch* and films like *The Perfect Storm*.

For a great lunch that'll have you singing Billy Joel's "The Downeaster 'Alexa,'" go a stone's throw from the Yacht Club and visit the Hideaway, a Mexican shanty accessible via a bait-and-tackle shop, or have some sushi and Italian (an odd combo, but both are great) at the West Lake Clam & Chowder House.

Whether it's for a day or a weekend trip, head to the tip of Long Island and book a Montauk Yacht Club villa or waterfront room. You'll be only 90 miles away from the city but feel like you're nowhere near home. **H**

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVEN A. HENRY/WIREIMAGE.COM (FRANKEL)

