

## Best in Boat

The best the island has to offer for boaters to leave it all behind-without really leaving home.

Author: Jeff Bono | Published: Wednesday, May 26, 2010



Thousands of native New Yorkers have never visited the Statue of Liberty. Or taken a ride on the Staten Island ferry. Many have been to Manhattan numerous times without ever seeing it from the top of the Empire State Building.

Similarly, there are plenty of Long Island boaters who have taken trips to Atlantic City, cruised up the Hudson River, even gone as far as Florida, yet have rarely—if ever—explored the many historic, cultural and exciting locations in their own backyards.

If you've got the boat, our Island makes it easy for singles, couples and families alike to enjoy a multitude of pleasures on both its northern and southern shores. There are many great destinations including Long Beach, Point Lookout, Connetquot River, Greenport, Stony Brook and Huntington, to name a few.

Our picks are just the tip of the iceberg, but will keep you busy exploring all summer. Just remember that Long Island's many waterways have different navigational requirements and it's important to know what to expect before making any trip. Using any popular search engine, it's relatively easy to learn what you need. Also, it's always advisable to check local marinas or dockage facilities before visiting to find out about space availability and size accommodations, as well as docking fees.

### **MONTAUK POINT**

For the boating family, Montauk is truly a "do-it-all" vacation spot, whether for one day or several. While the world-famous Montauk Point Lighthouse and Museum is the best-known attraction, residents and regulars also take great pride in the town's reputation as the sportfishing mecca of the Northeast. Big game—such as tuna, marlin, and sharks—abound in the waters, and both private charters and party-fishing excursions are readily available.



Not into fishing? Then sprawl out or stroll along Montauk's miles of beautiful ocean beaches. Explore Hither Hills State Park or one of the five state, county and town parks. At Montauk Point State Park, you can take a guided tour to see as many as four species of wintering seals, as well as diverse bird populations and other marine wildlife. After your brisk walk, indulge yourself at Gurney's Inn and Seawater Spa, the only true thalassic spa in the US.

There's so much to enjoy all day, including kayaking, surfing, golf, horseback riding and more. The kids will adore the baby animals at Rita's Stable Petting Farm, as well as the over-600 daylilies in bloom at Montauk Gardens. However, when the sun goes down, things really start heating up, nowhere more so than the Backyard at Sole East restaurant and bar, just a half-mile or so outside the Village proper. From the "Flying Buffet" Happy Hour and Sunday Jazz Brunches to their famous Burlesque Show, there's never a dull moment here.

Of Particular Interest: Deep Hollow Ranch (America's oldest cattle ranch) | Gurney's Inn and Spa | Hither Hills State Park | Montauk Lighthouse & Museum | Montauk Yacht Club | Star Island Yacht Club | US Coast Guard Station (Tours)