

Condé Nast Traveller

July 2012

GO EAST The insiders' guide to London's coolest neighbourhoods

Condé Nast Traveller

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

WIN
A FABULOUS
HOLIDAY IN
MALAYSIA

JULY 2012 £3.99

Stylish hotels

15 European gems from
less than £100 a night

Rome

The 27 best restaurants
where the locals like to eat

Greek classic

The original Olympic
sites of the Peloponnese

Escape from New York

The Hamptons, Montauk & Shelter Island

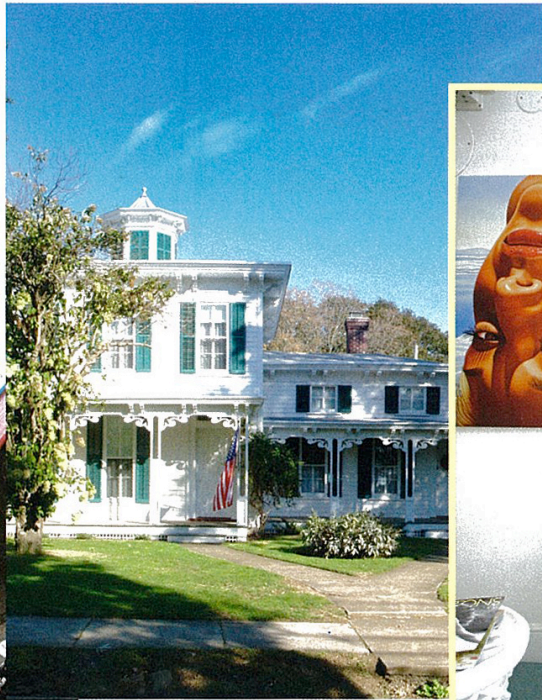
Cuba

Mojitos and
marlin



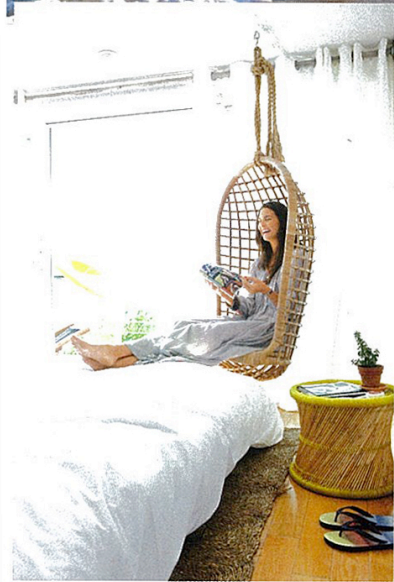
Top row from left: surfers on Ditch Plains Beach, Montauk; a house in Orient, on the North Fork; Rex the dog in the lobby of Capri, Southampton; Flying Point Beach in the Hamptons; in the sun on Ditch Plains Beach; a historic Sag Harbor house

Bottom row from left: the Capri pool; ice cream at Magic Fountain, Mattituck; Ditch Witch food truck, Montauk; room 10 at Montauk's Surf Lodge; designer Cynthia Rowley with her family on Ditch Plains Beach; lunch at LT Burger, Sag Harbor



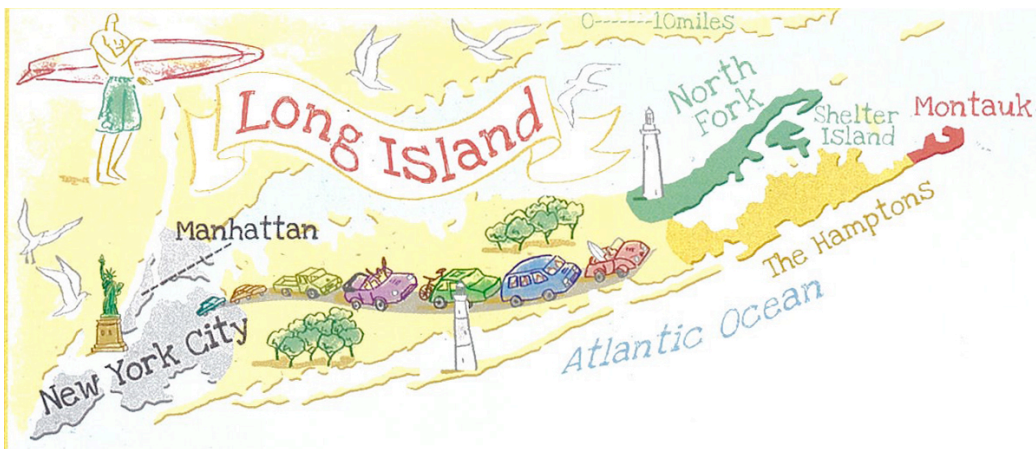
BEACH

With its boho surf scene, chic new boutique hotels and culinary delights, colourful Long Island



BREAK

is a true all-American summer idyll, says Nathan Lump. Photographs by Melanie Acevedo

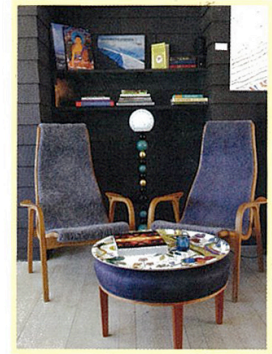


The tip of Long Island, the 118-mile stretch of land extending into the Atlantic Ocean from New York Harbor, is one of the USA's greatest vacationlands. Rural and largely agricultural until the 20th century, the island's western reaches became New York City suburbs with the advent of commuter rail and the automobile.

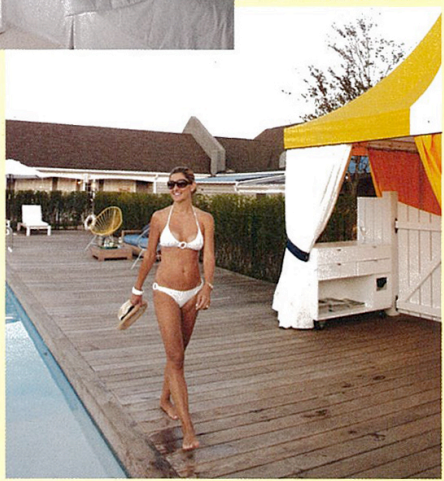
But the East End, too far from Manhattan for city workers to call home, retained much of its natural beauty and charm, becoming *the* place for New Yorkers, starved of sun, sea and sky, to escape to on summer weekends. While the East End is nowhere near as low-key or undeveloped as it was in the 1940s and 1950s, when artists such as Jackson Pollock lived and worked here, it still delivers genuine pleasures, both traditional and modern: long, sandy beaches and surf-ready waves; exciting wines and farm-to-table cuisine; high-wattage shopping and celebrity parties; windmills, shingled cottages and manicured gardens brimming with roses. In short, it's the kind of place where you can live the high life or barely stir from your beach chair – or both. Whatever your idea of summer heaven, chances are it's here.



Flying Point Beach is a popular seaside spot in the Hamptons



Clockwise from right: the lounge at c/o The Maidstone, East Hampton; the hotel's porch; a smörgåsbord dish from its Living Room restaurant; the pool at Capri; room 24 at the hotel; the exterior of c/o The Maidstone



THE HAMPTONS

The Hamptons is the East End's most famous and privileged enclave, a collection of hamlets and villages primarily on the island's south shore, home to some of the country's most expensive real estate and those who can afford it. It is a place of polo matches and \$1,000-a-plate charity benefits, where media moguls, rap stars and old-money WASPs rub shoulders at the same restaurant, where confident young bucks come to party and society *grandes dames* settle in for elegant Champagne brunches.

The beauty of the place – or the opposite, depending on your point of view – is that when you tire of the beach there is a full complement of more urbane activities, from top-notch shopping to fine dining and late-night parties. The glamour quotient is high and everything is expensive, but, in true American democratic fashion, if you can afford the price of entry you're welcome to join in. And the emergence of several good hotels in the past few years has made the scene more accessible. (Previously you had to know someone or rent a house, usually for a season.) Traffic on the main road between villages is crazy-making in the height of summer, so pick somewhere you would like to spend most of your time. In general, the Hamptons get quieter the further east you go.

WHERE TO STAY

Capri, Southampton

The rebirth of old roadside motels (architecturally undistinguished one- or two-storey buildings, often with rooms arranged around a pool) as boutique hotels is a recent phenomenon in the Hamptons. They are usually quite simple, less about luxury than having a good time, and the Capri is no

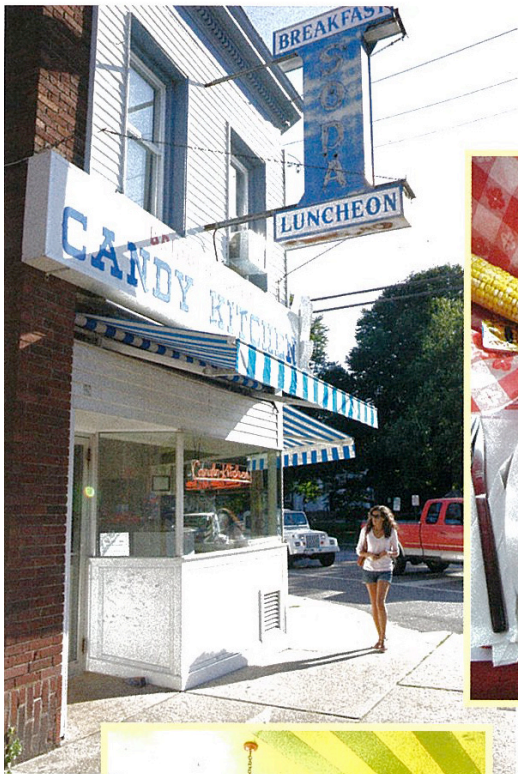
exception. The rooms are petite, fresh and beachy, with all-white beds and kaleidoscopic murals by the fashion designer Cynthia Rowley (who also has a small boutique at the hotel). Despite its sophisticated Nobu restaurant, the Capri feels like a party place: the music plays until 1am and the walls are thin, so if you want to stay here, it's probably best to join in. 281 County Road 39A, Route 27, Southampton (001631 504 6575; www.caprisouthampton.com). Doubles from \$228

c/o The Maidstone, East Hampton

Jenny Ljungberg, of the Swedish hotel company

Care of Hotels, gave this historic Maidstone inn a show-stopping makeover a few years ago. The decor (electric-blue walls, mid-century Swedish chairs, American Empire sofas upholstered in multicoloured Josef Frank fabrics) is invigorating, but it also feels relaxed and lived-in. There are vintage-style Kronan bicycles and fully loaded iPods for guests' use, yoga classes in the garden, interesting artwork and books strewn about, and a great restaurant. Each of the 19 rooms is named after a famous Scandinavian and they are all supremely comfortable, with Hästens beds, Malin+Goetz toiletries and hand-painted





Clockwise from top left:
 Bridgehampton Candy Kitchen; the house speciality at the Lobster Roll; inside WellNEST, Sag Harbor; Claudja Bicalho outside her Hamptons shop, Lazypoint; clam linguine at Tutto Il Giorno, Southampton; dining at Nick & Toni's, East Hampton; Harper Levine in his bookshop, Harper's Books; inside the J McLaughlin shop in Southampton



► clogs to wear in the garden. 207 Main Street, East Hampton (001 631 324 5006; www.careofhotels.com/maidstone). Doubles from \$545

The American Hotel, Sag Harbor This place is an institution in Sag Harbor, perhaps the least flashy (but still posh) of the Hamptons villages. Set in a 19th-century brick building on Main Street, the hotel is high Victorian style at its best, with dark wood, Tiffany lamps, nautical paintings

and imposing furniture. Rooms have brass bedsteads, tea-rose wallpaper, Empire bureaus and portraits of George Washington. All in all, it's traditional and very American, and if you get in the spirit, good fun. For a taste of Sag society, book a table for Sunday brunch at the restaurant and soak up the scene: everyone knows everyone and gossips over Bloody Marys. 49 Main Street, Sag Harbor (001 631 725 3535; www.theamericanhotel.com). Doubles from \$188

WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

Tutto Il Giorno, Southampton The new Southampton outpost of Gabby Karan's Sag Harbor restaurant is bigger and more comfortable than its predecessor, with a cosy yet industrial farmhouse look (lots of iron and rough wood). The simple Italian cuisine is excellent: homemade spaghetti with cherry tomatoes and basil; sea bream in white wine; 'chicken in a brick'. 56 Nugent Street, Southampton (001 631 377 3611). Dinner for two about \$115 without wine

Bridgehampton Candy Kitchen Another favourite Hamptons hangout, the Candy Kitchen is an old-fashioned ice-cream parlour and diner. It is worth a stop for a fresh Lime Rickey drink or an extra-thick milkshake. 2391 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton (001 631 537 9885). Lunch for two about \$20

Nick & Toni's, East Hampton This institution in East Hampton is still the restaurant to see and be seen in. If you are looking for celebrities, they are pretty much guaranteed here. The space is pleasant (check out the mosaics), the Italian food is good (fettucine with parsnips and guanciale bacon; quail with pomegranate sauce) and reservations are coveted

(you need to book in advance). 136 North Main Street, East Hampton (001 631 324 3550; www.nickandtonis.com). Dinner for two about \$125 without wine

The Lobster Roll, Amagansett This kitsch-looking restaurant is justifiably famous for its seafood. The lobster roll (chunks of lobster meat served cold tossed in mayonnaise or hot, tossed in butter, on a toasted hot-dog bun) is a regional delicacy, and this is the place to have one. Pull off the Montauk Highway when you see the 'lunch' sign and the striped awning. 1980 Montauk Highway, Amagansett (001 631 267 3740; www.lobsterroll.com). Dinner for two about \$75 without wine

LT Burger, Sag Harbor This casual, family-friendly restaurant serves fantastic, succulent hamburgers (try the Backyard, with bacon and pickle mayonnaise) and outrageous milkshake confections including the Fluffer, made with vanilla ice cream and toasted marshmallows. 62 Main Street, Sag Harbor (001 631 899 4646; www.ltburger.com). Dinner for two about \$65 without wine



The exterior of Tutto Il Giorno. Below, Sag Harbor Main Street

WHERE TO SHOP

The Hamptons is a shopper's paradise. In a relatively concentrated area there are outposts of nearly all the major international brands, plus interesting local boutiques. Our pick of the homegrown shops is listed here. It's also worth looking out for pop-up stores, open just for the summer season, the latest trend on the Hamptons retail scene.

J McLaughlin, Southampton This chain, which also has a Bridgehampton outlet, stocks über-preppy clothes for men and women: shorts with embroidered grasshoppers,

striped ribbon belts, printed-silk blouses and canvas totes. Women's shop: 2 Jobs Lane, Southampton (001 631 204 0183; www.jmclaughlin.com). Men's shop: 12 Jobs Lane (001 631 283 4050)

Lazypoint, Amagansett Although technically a pop-up, this well-curated shop from Brazilian expat Claudja Bicalho keeps reappearing in Amagansett. Favourites include her own-brand African-print swimwear, Bulgarian marbleised pottery and cotton Gypset dresses. 303 Main Street, Amagansett (001 631 604 2780; www.lazypointvariety.com)

WellNEST, Sag Harbor This beautiful shop, which promotes a sustainable, healthy lifestyle, stocks items including glassware, wooden iPhone cases and Le Labo scents. It also houses the Ash Center, dedicated to alternative medicine. 125 Main Street, Sag Harbor (001 631 899 4600; www.wellnest.us)



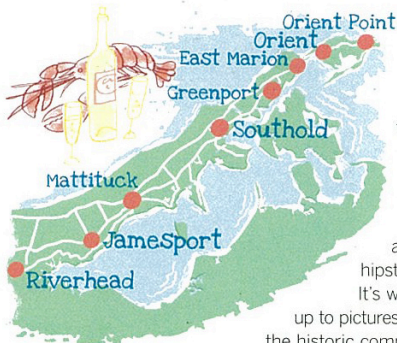
WHERE TO BEACH

The beaches at the Hamptons tend to look fairly similar, so unless you are very particular about size and shape, where you choose will depend primarily on what kind of atmosphere you're looking for. If you're driving you will generally need a permit to park; these can be purchased or hotels can often provide them. If you are looking for a cool, young scene check out **Flying Point Beach** in Water Mill or the more glamorous **Gibson Beach** in Sagaponack. Families should head to **Indian Wells Beach** in Amagansett or **Mecox Beach** in Bridgehampton. **Wainscott Beach** in Wainscott is a quieter option. East Hampton's **Two Mile Hollow** is a popular gay spot, and for those who can't decide, a good something-for-everyone choice is **Main Beach** in East Hampton.

NORTH FORK 101

The North Fork, the 30-mile peninsula that stretches from Riverhead to Orient Point, is the East End's agricultural centre. Today it is best known for its many wineries, which have slowly but surely been gaining in quality and renown not just on the East Coast but across the USA. And with the wine revolution has come food – ambitious restaurants that take advantage of the bounty of local produce, meat and seafood – making the North Fork a bona fide epicurean destination. Although there are beaches it offers more of a Napa-Valley-by-the-sea experience than a resort break, and is well worth a few days' visit.

Much of the action centres on Greenport, a once down-at-heel town which has received a boost from the boom in North Fork tourism in recent years. The town rewards a stroll, particularly if you're hungry. **Miche Bacher Sacred Sweets** is a fantastic bakery (coconut pound cake, *dulce de leche* brownies) and **The Frisky Oyster** is one of the region's most urbane and

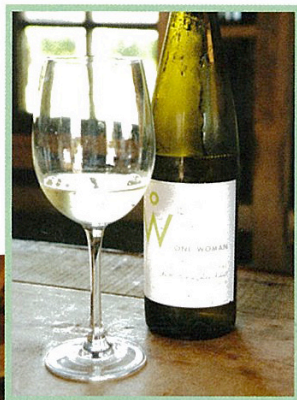


lively restaurants, serving cocktails and globally inspired dishes including yuzu-glazed pork belly and striped bass with *salsa cruda*. Sample an all-American breakfast at **Coronet Luncheonette**, a classic diner where you can get buttermilk pancakes and malted waffles. And on your way out of town visit the sailmaker **Wm J Mills & Co**

to pick up a canvas tote, a favourite of local preppies and Brooklyn hipsters alike.

It's worth driving up to picturesque Orient, the historic community at the tip of the North Fork (stop en route at **Lavender By The Bay** farm for all things fragrant). **Orient Beach State Park** has a wide, family-friendly strand and rocky **Truman Beach**, at the causeway where Orient connects to Marion, is beautiful at sunset.

The wineries are the main attraction here, and you could easily spend several days visiting them all. (Saturdays in summer are very popular for tastings, with wedding parties in particular, and are best avoided.) In general, you will find some of the finest wines at the smaller, less commercial estates. Among the best are: **Sherwood House Vineyards**, with

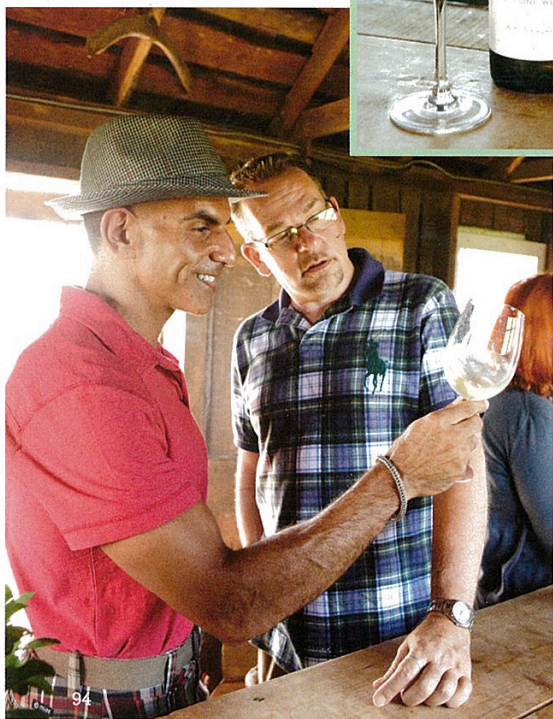


tastings in a pretty space that doubles as an antiques shop; **Pamanok**, for stellar whites; **Roanoke Vineyards**, which has a rustic feel and turns out a nice selection; **Croteaux Vineyards**, for its very good rosé; **One Woman Wines & Vineyards**, which proves

Left, wine tasting at One Woman Wines & Vineyards. Right, the porch at Corey Creek Vineyard. Opposite, from left: the menu at the Frisky Oyster, Greenport; diners in the restaurant; the Village Cheese Shop in Mattituck

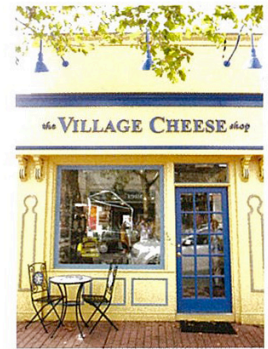


MAP: ROBERT LITTLEFORD





Long Island can make a fine Grüner Veltliner; and **Corey Creek Vineyard**, known for its Chardonnay. **Shinn Estate Vineyards** produces some of the North Fork's top wines and is also the best place to stay, with four comfortable rooms in a late-19th-century farmhouse amid the vines. (To be closer to the bustle of Greenport, check out the friendly, Victorian-style **Orient Inn**.) For a picnic lunch to enjoy with a bottle at one of the vineyards, pick up a selection of cheeses and charcuterie from **The Village Cheese Shop** in Mattituck, or sit down at the casual **Love Lane Kitchen** for a good burger. **The North Fork Table & Inn** is the area's most ambitious restaurant;



try **The Lunch Truck** in its carpark at midday, but don't miss dinner, for beautifully balanced dishes such as corn soup with chanterelles and popcorn leaves. And for a real in-the-know treat, stop at **Magic Fountain**, an ice-cream parlour in Mattituck. The salted caramel flavour is out of this world.

Miche Bacher Sacred Sweets (00 1 631 477 6762; www.sacredsweets.com). **The Frisky Oyster** (00 1 631 477 4265; www.thefriskyoyster.com). Dinner for two about \$120 without wine). **Coronet Luncheonette** (00 1 631 477 9834; www.coronetrestaurant.com). **Wm J Mills & Co** (00 1 631 477 1500; www.millscanvas.com). **Lavender By The Bay** (00 1 631 477 1019; www.lavenderbythebay.com). **Sherwood House Vineyards** (00 1 631 779 2817; www.sherwoodhousevineyards.com). **Paumanok** (00 1 631 722 8800; www.paumanok.com). **Roanoke Vineyards** (00 1 631 727 4161; www.roanokevineyards.com). **Croteaux Vineyards** (00 1 631 765 6099; www.croteaux.com). **One Woman Wines & Vineyards** (00 1 631 765 1200; www.onewomanwines.com). **Corey Creek Vineyard** (www.bedellcellars.com). **Shinn Estate Vineyards and Farmhouse** (00 1 631 804 0367; www.shinnestatevineyards.com). Doubles from \$219). **Orient Inn** (00 1 631 323 2300; www.orientinn-ny.com). Doubles from \$225). **The Village Cheese Shop** (00 1 631 298 8556; www.thevillagecheeses.com). **Love Lane Kitchen** (00 1 631 298 8989; www.lovelanekitchen.com). Lunch for two about \$40). **The North Fork Table & Inn** (00 1 631 765 0177; www.northforktableandinn.com). Dinner for two about \$136 without wine). **The Lunch Truck** at The North Fork Table & Inn (lunch for two about \$20). **Magic Fountain** (00 1 631 298 4908; www.magicfountainlongisland.com)

MONTAUK

There's a lot of talk these days in Montauk, the village at the tip of the East End's South Fork, about Old Montauk versus New. It was always the anti-Hamptons, a place where fishermen, surfers and loners came to kick back, take in the sea air and ride killer waves. In recent years, however, it has become cool with certain New York crowds: the fashion flock, the gallery denizens, the Brooklyn scenesters. With them have come glammed-up motels, chic shops and the kind of restaurants never previously seen east of the Hamptons. For visitors this isn't a bad thing; and for all the change that the old timers rue, Montauk still feels less 'done' than the Hamptons. But now you can get a good cocktail and a perfect rocket salad, and dance the night away.



WHERE TO STAY

The Surf Lodge

In certain circles it is a point of debate whether the Surf Lodge, which opened in 2008, reflected the emergence of New Montauk or created it.

Whatever your position, it remains one of the hottest places in town, and is a great introduction to the sexy, beach-casual aesthetic of Montauk. Housed in a couple of

nondescript motel buildings on Fort Pond, the property is a tribute to surf culture. You will find a bar of Mr Zogs Sex Wax ('the best for your stick') on your bed, along with a copy of *The Surfer's Journal* magazine; old surf flicks play all day on a movie screen in the lobby, and surfboards are stored in the rafters above the bar. Bright colours abound, along with cane, rattan, driftwood and coral; rooms are simple but comfortable, dominated by

big white beds facing the water. The Surf Lodge could probably get away with just being pretty, but in fact it's a thoughtfully run hotel, with a proper restaurant, good DJs playing in the bar, bicycle rentals and, of course, surfing lessons. 183 Edgemere Street (001 631 668 1562; www.thesurlodge.com). Doubles from \$325 ➤



The deck at the Surf Lodge, Montauk. *Opposite*, hostess Karen Desouza in the dining area of the Surf Lodge

PHOTO: ROBERT LITTLEWOOD





Clockwise from this picture: a surfer on Ditch Plains Beach; Melet Mercantile, Montauk; a surfboard repair sign; Cynthia Rowley's boutique in Montauk



WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

The Surf Lodge The hotel's casual restaurant, right beside the water, looks good – painted wood floors, oversized nautical lights, director's chairs in vibrant colors – and serves chef Chris Rendell's creative takes on seafood. Try the mussels in Thai coconut broth or blackened cod with delicate 'chilli water'. 183 Edgemere Street (00 1 631 668 1562; www.thesurflodge.com). Dinner for two about \$110 without wine

Ditch Witch This food truck, which usually parks beside Ditch Plains Beach, has a cult following among surfers for its breakfast burritos (stuffed with egg and ham, with a cumin-spiked hot sauce). Get there early for a taste of true Montauk, where scruffy

surfers pay by pulling a couple of dollars from expensive Goyard wallets. Otis Road parking lot

Navy Beach This smart, nautical-themed restaurant right on Navy Beach serves tweaked classics (flake sashimi, buttermilk fried chicken, lobster tagliatelle), but is equally popular come sunset for potent, well-made cocktails by the water. 16 Navy Road (00 1 631 668 6868; www.navybeach.com). Dinner for two about \$100 without wine



WHERE TO SHOP

Surf Bazaar The shop at the Surf Lodge may be tiny but it's packed with all the makings of a boho-chic beach holiday: cute cover-ups, printed tops and swimwear; sailcloth bags; Soludos espadrilles. 183 South Edgemere Street (00 1 631 668 8131; www.thesurfbazaar.com)


Cynthia Rowley The American fashion designer is a Montauk summer resident and her low-fi boutique stocks a location-appropriate selection of her creations, along with Neoprene surf tops, glittery bikinis and batik-print bags. Don't miss the Shack in the Back, which showcases a rotating collection of pieces from other designers. 696 Montauk Highway (00 1 631 668 8077; www.cynthiarowley.com)

Melet Mercantile Perhaps the most original shop on the East End, the Montauk branch of this Manhattan-based showroom is a treasure trove of vintage clothing and objets, artfully arranged by themes (African Safari, Black Power, Rainbow) in an industrial garage next to a taxi dispatch centre. Expensive but fascinating, it's a must-see. 102 Industrial Road (00 1 631 668 9080)

GETTING THERE & AROUND

- Tackling summer traffic to Long Island from New York City is a challenge. Hotelier André Balazs' new **StndAir** (www.stndair.com) service takes 45 minutes from Manhattan to Shelter Island and East Hampton on a Cessna seaplane. Seats can be bought via the 'flight board', with the first sold for \$29, increasing to \$375. Only flights with eight confirmed passengers make the journey.
- **The Long Island Rail Road** (www.mta.info/lirr) leaves from New York's Penn Station. Its summer Hamptons Reserve Service has shorter travel times and reserved seating.
- **The Hampton Jitney** (www.hamptonjitney.com) coach service has the most frequent departures between Manhattan and both the North and South Forks.
- **Enterprise** (www.enterprise.com) has car-hire outlets at or near most train stations.

WEATHER TO GO

 May to September are the warmest months. The summer season traditionally runs from late May to the end of August.

24 HOURS ON SHELTER ISLAND

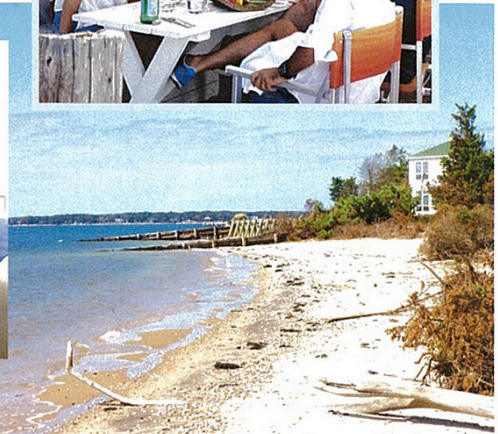
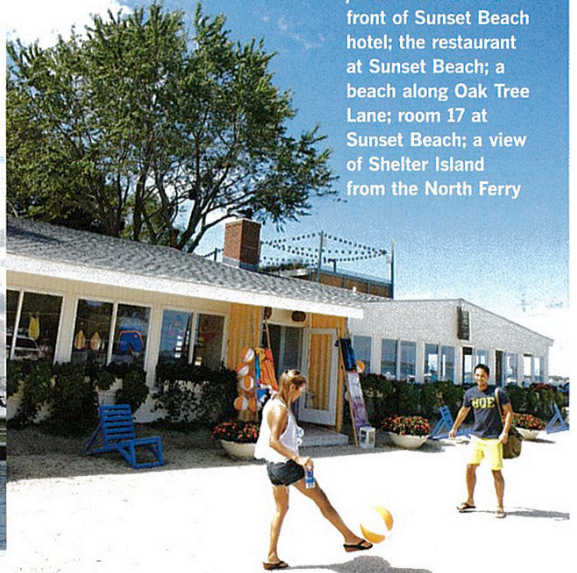
This 8,000-acre idyll in the sound between the East End's North and South Forks has always been an in-the-know kind of place. People went to Shelter Island if they had a house there, or knew someone who did. And that was a big part of its appeal: quiet streets, a handful of mom-and-pop shops and restaurants, some pretty beaches that never got too crowded. That all changed in the 1990s when hotelier André Balazs (of Standard Hotels and Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles) took an ugly old motel by the island's best beach on Shore Road and transformed it into Sunset Beach, the kind of barefoot-chic beach club you find (or hope to) in Saint-Tropez. Although Shelter Island today has more of a glamour factor, it is largely confined to Sunset Beach, and the island as a whole still holds fast to its small-town charms. If you want to get away from it all, you could happily spend a whole week on the island, but it also makes a peaceful add-on to a longer East End break. Here's how to make the most of 24 hours.

Take a **car ferry** to the island in the mid- to late afternoon – they run every 10 to 20 minutes from Greenport on the North Fork and North Haven on the South Fork – and head to 'town', around Grand Avenue, for a stroll. Pop into shops including **Zach & Chance** (new and vintage clothes for women), **Thé à la Menthe** (pretty homeware, soap

and candles) and the wonderfully old-fashioned **Bliss Department Store**. Check into one of the simple, white and blond-wood rooms at **Sunset Beach** to be in the centre of the action (or if you prefer a quieter spot book into **La Maison Blanche**, new last year, on Stearns Point Road). Snag a perch on the upper terrace at Sunset Beach's restaurant and unwind with a cocktail or a glass of rosé as you watch the sun go down over Crescent Beach. You could happily eat here, but if you fancy something more ambitious head to **Vine Street Café** on South Ferry Road for brilliantly prepared seafood such as diver scallops with edamame succotash. Next morning, drive to **Reddings Market** on North Ferry Road for

coffee and homemade pastries, and pick up the ingredients for a picnic lunch. If you would like some outdoor activity continue to **Mashomack Preserve**, the nature reserve that covers almost one third of the island, for a hike. If the seaside is more your speed, settle in for people-watching at **Crescent Beach** or drive along **Oak Tree Lane** to find a quiet, narrow strip of sand that you will have all to yourself. Later on, as you head back to the ferry dock, stop at **Boltax Gallery** to take in some cutting-edge contemporary art.

Clockwise from this picture: the strand in front of Sunset Beach hotel; the restaurant at Sunset Beach; a beach along Oak Tree Lane; room 17 at Sunset Beach; a view of Shelter Island from the North Ferry



MAP: ROBERT LITTLEFORD

North Ferry Co (00 1 631 749 0139; www.northferry.com). **The South Ferry Company** (00 1 631 749 1200; www.southferry.com). **Zach & Chance** (00 1 631 749 0967; www.zachandchance.com). **Thé à la Menthe** (00 1 749 5250). **Bliss Department Store** (00 1 631 749 0041). **Sunset Beach** (00 1 631 749 2001; www.sunsetbeachli.com). Doubles from \$345; dinner for two about \$95 without wine). **La Maison Blanche** (00 1 631 749 1633; www.maisonblanchehotel.com). Doubles from \$225). **Vine Street Café** (00 1 631 749 3210; www.vinestreetcafe.com). Dinner for two about \$135 without wine). **Reddings Market** (00 1 631 749 0003; www.reddingsmarket.com). **Mashomack Preserve** (00 1 631 749 1001). **Boltax Gallery** (00 1 631 749 4062; www.boltaxgallery.com)



WHERE TO STAY

1708 House, Southampton For a grown-up experience in Southampton, it's hard to beat 1708 House. The colonial-style inn, which has 12 rooms and three two-bed cottages, is enviably located in the middle of town, and is an easy stroll to the shops and restaurants. Staying here is a full-tilt Americana experience, with period antiques and wide-plank floors; it's not for lovers of contemporary style, although rooms have all the mod cons including Wi-Fi. 126 Main Street, Southampton (00 1 631 287 1708; www.1708house.com). Doubles from \$175

The Inn at Windmill Lane, Amagansett When it opened in this exclusive, laid-back Hamptons hamlet in 2009, the Inn at Windmill Lane (formerly known as the Reform Club) set a new bar for luxury in the area. Built in the vernacular shingle style, the property has beautifully maintained gardens of mature trees, sculpted hedges and climbing roses. Its seven suites and three cottages are elegantly decorated, with white walls, dark wood floors, sumptuous marble bathrooms and wood-burning fireplaces; contemporary artworks from the owner's private collection hang on the walls. Guests are encouraged to treat the place as home (breakfast is a buffet in the communal kitchen), and the effect is both luxurious and casual. 23 Windmill Lane, Amagansett (00 1 631 267 8500; www.innatwindmilllane.com). Doubles from \$420

WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

Nobu at Capri, Southampton The Hamptons outpost of Nobu Matsuhisa's temple to Japanese cuisine delivers the kind of fresh, expertly prepared dishes his fans have come to expect (the fluke sashimi with red miso, yuzu and dried garlic is particularly good). The only difference is that here the staff wear Lacoste uniforms, and the pretty interior – all sisal and blond wood – is more beach house than boardroom. 281 County Road 39A, Southampton (00 1 631 504 6575; www.caprisouthampton.com). Dinner for two about \$130 without wine

Southampton Social Club Although you can dine on the somewhat standard food in the club's long, narrow dining room, which is festooned with chandeliers, the place to be is seen in on the terrace and around the fire-pits in the back garden, mingling with the Hamptons *jeunesse dorée* holding court over drinks. Magnums will be ordered: count on it. 256 Elm Street, Southampton (00 1 631 287 1400; www.southampton-socialclub.com)

Silver's, Southampton This lunch-only bistro, with its black-and-white tiled floor and eclectic artwork, is a great pit-stop when shopping in Southampton. Go for simple dishes such as the clam chowder or BLT. 15 Main Street, Southampton

THE HAMPTONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 93

(00 1 631 283 6443; www.silversrestaurant.com). Lunch for two about \$76

Sip'n Soda, Southampton Amid all the glitz and glamour of Southampton, it's a wonder to find this classic American diner, where you can get a simple burger and a milkshake made with homemade ice cream (for a unique treat try a malted one, with malt powder added). 40 Hampton Road, Southampton (00 1 631 283 9752). Lunch for two about \$16

Dish, Water Mill Don't let its location in a nondescript Water Mill strip mall put you off. This gem of a restaurant, with just 12 seats, serves excellent farm-to-table dishes including sea bass with homemade tagliatelle, asparagus, olive tapenade and *beurre blanc*. Dish is dinner-only (with a four-course, *prix-fixe* menu) from Friday to Sunday, so book well in advance. 760 Montauk Highway, Water Mill (00 1 631 726 0246). Dinner for two about \$100 without wine

Almond, Bridgehampton This lively restaurant moved location last year. The new premises are attractive – pressed-tin ceilings, subway tiles, zebra-print wallpaper, schoolhouse lamps – and the classic menu is just as good. The well-prepared dishes include steamed mussels, steak frites, and macaroni and cheese with prosciutto and truffles. One Ocean Road, Bridgehampton (00 1 631 537 5665; www.almond-restaurant.com). Dinner for two about \$100 without wine

The Living Room, East Hampton The restaurant at c/o The Maidstone is a destination in its own right. The intimate room, with its graphic wallpaper, chairs slip-covered in Josef Frank

fabric and low light from crystal chandeliers and brass sconces, is gorgeous. Chef James Carpenter's Swedish-inflected dishes – try the *smörgåsbord* of gravlax, herring and shrimp *skagen* or the lamb meatballs with ricotta dumplings – are earthy and sophisticated, and include ingredients from local producers. 207 Main Street, East Hampton (00 1 631 324 5006; www.careofhotels.com/maidstone). Dinner for two about \$115 without wine

Scoop du Jour, East Hampton This little joint in the heart of East Hampton is an ice-cream parlour, but the real reason to go is for the doughnuts, which in the morning are hot, fresh and delicious. 35 Newtown Lane, East Hampton (00 1 631 329 4883)

East Hampton Grill New last year in the space that housed the famed Della Femina restaurant, East Hampton Grill is the quintessential power-dining

destination. It has a clubby interior and good food that riffs on American classics: fried oysters with creamed spinach and artichokes, prime rib roast, pan-fried Arctic char, key lime pie. 99 North Main Street, East Hampton (00 1 631 329 6666; www.easthampton-grill.com). Dinner for two about \$125 without wine

Levain Bakery, Wainscott It is worth stopping by this branch of the Manhattan-based bakery to sample a cookie or two. The dark-chocolate-chip is amazing. 354 Montauk Highway, Wainscott (00 1 631 537 8570; www.levainbakery.com)

Townline BBQ, Sagaponack When you get tired of expensive cuisine, head to this Hamptons interpretation of a Texas roadhouse for some great beef and pork ribs, or a pulled-pork sandwich. Corner of Townline Road and Montauk Highway, Sagaponack (00 1 631 537 2271; www.townlinebbq.com). Dinner for two about \$60 without wine





Above, Sag Harbor Main Street. Right, a farm stand in East Hampton. Opposite, on the beach in Montauk



WHERE TO SHOP

Tenet, Southampton

This is Southampton's coolest clothes shop for men and women. It stocks bright swimming trunks by Saltbox, Apolis bags, check shirts from Gitman Bros, openwork cotton tops from Etoile by Isabel Marant and simple Gryphon dresses. 91 Main Street, Southampton (00 1 631 377 3981; www.tenetshop.com)

Mackenzie Childs, Southampton

This new interiors shop is an Alice in Wonderland riot of colour

and pattern. Products include floral-printed tote jars, pots and planters, chequer-board teapots, and fanciful candles shaped like asparagus spears and honeycomb. 31 Main Street, Southampton (00 1 631 283 1880; www.mackenzie-childs.com)

Edit Summer, Southampton This shop has a good collection of sophisticated sportswear for women – tunics and loose dresses, tailored shirts and jackets, denim and khakis – from labels including Current/Elliott and J Brand. 28 Jobs Lane, Southampton (00 1 631 287 1110; www.editnewyork.com)

Maison 24, Bridgehampton Playful Maison 24 sells home furnishings with a mod aesthetic – Keith Haring cushions, a gold-coloured rollerskate ornament – plus vintage-inspired menswear. 2424 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton (00 1 631 537 2488; www.maison24.com)

Henry Lehr, East Hampton The Hamptons' outpost of Lehr's Manhattan shop has a great selection of women's sportswear including nautical-striped shirts, linen tunics, skinny trousers, jeans and large Tyvek beach bags. 16 Newtown Lane, East Hampton (00 1 631 329 5424)

Roberta Freymann, East Hampton

It's practically a Hamptons requirement to have at least one piece from

Roberta Freymann's range of bright, Indian-inspired, printed cotton tops and tunics. The shop also stocks some interesting jewellery, a small selection of menswear and children's clothing. There is also an outlet in Southampton, 21 Main Street, East Hampton (00 1 631 329 5828; www.roberta-freymann.com)

Steven Alan, East Hampton The edgy, urban-preppie look of this New York City shop is repeated in its East Hampton outlet. But it is reinterpreted for the beach, with espadrilles, pleated bow ties, pastel linen shirts and printed sundresses. 75 Main Street, East Hampton (00 1 631 604 1726; www.stevenalan.com)

The Monogram Shop, East Hampton This classic store is a source for all things monogrammed: towels, stationery, napkins, and even plastic cups. 7 Newtown Lane, East Hampton (00 1 631 329 3379; www.themonogramshops.com)

Harper's Books, East Hampton This excellent vintage bookstore has a fantastic selection of rare and collectible art and photography books. It also doubles as a gallery, with interesting photography exhibitions. 87 Newtown Lane, East Hampton (00 1 631 324 1131; www.harperbooks.com)

Rube, Amagansett

There is a diverse selection of art books at Rube, as well as more urbane sportswear than is usual in the Hamptons: jersey-knit T-shirts for women; SeaVees sneakers for men. 156 Main Street, Amagansett (00 1 631 267 6117)

Ruby Beets, Sag Harbor

This is one of the best antiques and design shops in Sag Harbor, with an eclectic mix of new and old artwork, pottery and furniture. Be sure to also visit JED next door for its superb antiques collection. 25 Washington Street, Sag Harbor (00 1 631 899 3275; www.rubybeets.com)

WHAT TO SEE

Parrish Art Museum, Southampton It is worth visiting this small but interesting museum, which displays American art and runs garden tours. 25 Jobs Lane, Southampton (00 1 631 283 2118; www.parrishart.org)

East Hampton galleries

Whether you're in the market for a big purchase or just want to take a look, there are several galleries where you can get your fill of modern art, from Picasso to de Kooning. These include: **Vered Gallery** (68 Park Place; 00 1 631 324 3303; www.veredart.com); **Gallery Valentine** (63 Main Street; 00 1 631 329 3100; www.galleryvalentine.com); and **Birnam Wood Galleries** (48 Park Place; 00 1 631 324 6010; www.birnamwoodart.com). In addition **The Fireplace Project** (851 Springs-Fireplace Road; 00 1 631 324 4666; www.thefireplaceproject.com) stages thought-provoking contemporary-art shows.

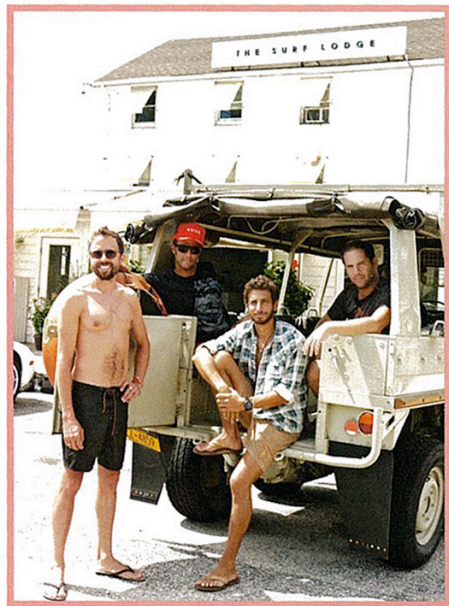
Pollock-Krasner House, East Hampton

You can visit the house and studio where Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner lived and worked on Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons during the summer. 830 Springs-Fireplace Road, East Hampton (00 1 631 324 4929; www.pkhouse.org)

South Fork wineries

Although the North Fork is better known for its wines, there are some great vineyards being turned out in the Hamptons. **Wölffer Estate** (139 Sagg Road, Sagaponack; 00 1 631 537 5106; www.wolffer.com) is known for its rosé, and **Channing Daughters** (1927 Scuttlehole Road, Bridgehampton; 00 1 631 537 7224; www.channingdaughters.com) is making a mark with its reds and whites.

MONTAUK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 98



WHERE TO STAY

The Crow's Nest Inn & Restaurant The hotel impresario Sean MacPherson (of Manhattan's Jane and Bowery hotels) quietly opened this inn and restaurant last year, and it quickly became the place of choice for those looking for a more low-key hideaway than the Surf Lodge. Rooms are in a typical old motel building and have earthy colours with a vaguely African feel: slip-covered sofas, printed textiles, woven rugs. If hanging out on a chaise on a wide lawn overlooking Lake Montauk sounds like your idea of fun, this is the place for you. 4 Old West Lake Drive (00 1 631 668 2077; www.crowsnestmtk.com). Doubles from \$195

Ruschmeyer's The people behind the Surf Lodge also created last year's big hit, Ruschmeyer's. The formula is the same – cool design, an excellent restaurant and bar, fun things to do – but this time you're away from the water, in the woods, and the theme is 'summer

camp for grown-ups'. The rooms, which are simply done, with rattan bedsteads, rope hammock seats and wooden bureaus painted olive green, resemble posh barracks. They are arranged in little wooden bungalows around a glen festooned with Japanese lanterns. The restaurant has a fine menu designed by the team behind Manhattan's 'locavore' favourite the Fat Radish, and the bar is a tented fantasy called the 'Electric Eel. Both were last summer's hottest tickets, drawing celebrities

by the carload, as well as late-night revellers from the Hamptons. But the beautiful thing about Ruschmeyer's is that despite the hype and the crowds it still delivers simple pleasures: sipping a cocktail at a picnic table while a cellist plays Bach before dinner, playing a game of table tennis or bocce at the outdoor bar afterwards. And, come morning, as a guest you have the place practically to yourself, to take a yoga class on the lawn, or just sit for a while in the teepee. 161 Second House Road (00 1 631 668 2877; www.kingandgrove.com). Doubles from \$230



Top, Robert McKinley (centre), designer of the Surf Lodge, with friends. Above, a caravan on Ditch Plains Beach.

Montauk Yacht Club If you're more of a full-service hotel person, the rejuvenated yacht club provides an alternative to the motel/boutique hotels popular in this area. The club has 107 rooms but, owing to their generous size and crisp nautical decor – ship models, lots of navy and white, campaign desks – it manages to be genuinely comfortable

without trying too hard. 32 Star Island Road (00 1 631 668 3100; www.montaukyachtclub.com). Doubles from \$149

WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

Harvest on Fort Pond With its pretty terrace and wraparound windows, this is the place for a quieter, more civilised meal away from the party scene. Get a seat facing the water and order one of the classic dishes: steamed mussels, skirt steak or grilled pizza. 11 South Emery Street (00 1 631 668 5574; www.harvest2000.com). Dinner for two about \$50 without wine

Joni's Nearly everybody in Montauk seems to pass through this little place to dine on organic flax and coconut waffles, mixed-berry smoothies and tuna-salad sandwiches. 9 South Edison Street (00 1 631 668 3663). Breakfast or lunch for two about \$20

Duryea's Lobster Deck Come here to sample a classic interpretation of a fresh lobster roll – with mayonnaise, celery and dill – on a deck overlooking the water. 65 Tuthill Road (00 1 631 668 2410; www.duryealobsters.com). Lunch for two about \$50

The Hideaway This terrific Mexican restaurant is tucked away in a corner of the Diamond Cove Marina. Order a Margarita and fish tacos, and listen to the local salty dogs boast about their latest catch. 364 West Lake Drive (00 1 631 668 6592; www.thehideawaymontauk.com). Lunch for two about \$40

The Crow's Nest Inn & Restaurant The open-air restaurant at the inn of the same name is both

glamorous and casual. It serves simple, excellent food including whipped ricotta with sage and orange zest on grilled bread, and whole fluke with smashed potatoes. 4 Old West Lake Drive (00 1 631 668 2077; www.crowsnestmtk.com). Dinner for two about \$140 without wine

Ruschmeyer's Big and vaulted like an upmarket mess hall, the restaurant at this hotel is a see-and-be-seen place, where actors and media types rub shoulders at oversized booths and visit each other between courses. And those courses are very good: from smoky bluefish paté to porterhouse steak with grilled vegetables, the focus is on letting the ingredients shine. 161 Second House Road (00 1 631 668 2877; www.kingandgrove.com). Dinner for two about \$76 without wine

Montaco This roving food truck serves fantastic fish, shrimp and steak tacos, and tasty quesadillas. It is a popular pit-stop for beachgoers in search of sustenance. Follow on Twitter (@MontacoTruck) for precise locations. Lunch for two about \$20

WHERE TO SHOP

'Share With... French expat Joelle Klein's well-edited boutique stocks nautical-style striped T-shirts, pretty, white cotton sundresses, Tata Harper skincare and kitchenware with graphic anchor motifs. 764 Montauk Highway (00 1 631 668 2205; www.sharewith.org)

Salt Box For a different take on a classic souvenir shop, stop by this new store for a vintage-style silkscreen-printed Montauk T-shirt, and check out the changing display of local artwork. 34 South Etna Avenue (00 1 631 668 8094)