

MEN'S JOURNAL

TRAVEL

How to Experience Montauk and the Hamptons Like a Local

by [Ashley Mateo](#)

At this point, no one would argue that the Hamptons are a scene. When New York City empties out on summer weekends, you can bet that majority of them are headed east to the towns, villages, and hamlets along the eastern end of Long Island—including Montauk, East Hampton, Southampton, Bridgehampton, Amagansett, and Sag Harbor.

If you're not a local (or a summer loyalist), it's easy to get stuck on trendy spots that'll empty your wallet and threaten your sense of personal space when tourism is at its peak from June through September. (P.S. Any regular will tell you the best time to visit the Hamptons is in September, when the number of visitors thins but the weather remains idyllic.)

Heading east and want a more enjoyable experience—one that's not reminiscent of what you'd get in NYC? These local recommendations will help you beat the crowds and have a more authentic experience on eastern Long Island.



Marram Montauk

Where to Stay

Not everyone can afford a pricey Hamptons summer share. And the prices per night at luxury hot spots like Bridgehampton's [Topping Rose House](#), Easthampton's [The Maidstone](#), as well as Montauk's [Ruschmeyer's](#) and the [Surf Lodge](#) can be through the roof during the crowded summer months. Fortunately, there's a slew of other hotels that are just as cool. (If you don't have a car, get from NYC to eastern Long Island via the [Hampton Jitney](#) or the [Long Island Rail Road](#).)

In Sag Harbor, rest your head at [Baron's Cove](#), a historic hangout for legendary figures like Truman Capote, [Paul Newman](#), Art Garfunkel, Billy Joel, and Jackson Pollock. The intimate harborfront property is a short walk from Main Street in the charming hamlet, which shouldn't be overlooked for it's louder, buzzier neighbors.

Across the way in Bridgehampton, [Room at the Beach](#) is a former motel turned 10-room boutique hotel that opened in May. The 1.5-acre lot is shaded by towering redwood trees originally planted by one-time owner Martha Stewart (Donna Karan was also a previous owner). This iteration feels like a woodsy escape, even though it's just a mile from the beach.

For a quieter weekend experience in Montauk, book a room at [Marram](#), the area's newest boutique hotel, which opened in mid-August. The oceanfront resort features cedar buildings, muted colors, and airy, open spaces that maximize the natural setting. It's a much calmer vibe than most Hamptons hotels. There's morning yoga, nightly bonfires, and a surf program run by nationally renowned surfers from the area.