

# WEEKEND GETAWAYS



Escape the city at the drop of a sun hat with easy day trips and overnight excursions, from classic summer destinations like the Hamptons to just-opened gardens.

Edited by **Sarah Bruning**

## GOOD FOR:



ADVENTURERS



SUNSEEKERS



FOOD LOVERS



CULTURE HOUNDS



# DAY TRIPS FROM NYC

## ◀ Kerhonkson, NY 2hrs by car

Between its rugged landscape and forested pine-barrens area, upstate has some stellar natural spots, and Minnewaska State Park Preserve ([nysparks.com](http://nysparks.com)) is one of the best. The more than 22,000-acre spread has been converted into an egalitarian playground with 50 miles of trails, a new rock-climbing spot at the Dickie Barre cliffs, as well as old carriage roads well suited for mountain biking. Cool off with a swim in Lake Minnewaska or Lake Awosting, nestled between towering white bluffs and known for their translucent aquamarine color. Afterward, head to New Paltz for a break at the Water Street Market (10 Main St; 845-255-1403, [waterstreetmarket.com](http://waterstreetmarket.com)), where you can eat, shop, and take in art, outdoor movies on Monday nights (June–Aug) and free music on Thursdays. Historic Huguenot Street ([huguenotstreet.org](http://huguenotstreet.org)) is also

worth a gander; the road features seven 300-year-old stone houses from the original settlement and provides a tangible glimpse at the history of the town.—Rosie Haney



## Hamilton, NJ 1hr 20mins by NJ Transit

Wandering amid the 270 pieces of contemporary art at Grounds for Sculpture (18 Fairgrounds Rd; 609-586-0616, [groundsforsculpture.org](http://groundsforsculpture.org); \$12), five minutes by cab from the Hamilton station, makes for a serene escape, with playful surprises around every corner. Visitors are encouraged to snoop for secret spots among the 42 picturesque acres, such as the hidden hammock room near the Nine Muses sculpture (take a snooze without fear—the door locks from the inside), and keep an eye out for the many peacocks. The park's indoor galleries have four exhibits, including Brooklyn artist Jason Peters's found-object sculpture installation, and Jo Yarrington's photo history of the New Jersey State Fair and Grounds for Sculpture (both through Oct 6). End your day with upscale local cuisine at on-site restaurant Rat's. Nibble on the chorizo-and-chili-laced mussels (\$15) and the charcuterie platter (\$13), or sip a cocktail during happy hour (Tue–Fri 4–7pm). Imbibe on the patio overlooking a re-creation of Monet's iconically depicted bridge in Giverny, or even bring your drink out into the park.—Lauren Pro



## Hyde Park, NY 1hr–2hrs by Amtrak or Metro-North to Poughkeepsie

Gastronomes can step into the kitchens of the Culinary Institute of America (1946 Campus Dr; 845-452-9600, [ciachef.edu/newyork](http://ciachef.edu/newyork)), where famous chefs such as Charlie Palmer and Cat Cora first learned to cook. Classes (Sat 9:30am–2:30pm, \$250) on cooking Indian or Italian food, decorating cakes, grilling, making bread and more are offered when school is in session. If you prefer munching to *mise en place*, dine at one of the campus's four world-class eateries, including the new Bocuse Restaurant, which serves a modern take on classic French cuisine. You can also catch students at work during a tour of the campus and its facilities. On your way home, take a detour to Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park (Enter at 87 Haviland Rd, Highland, NY, or 61 Parker Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY; [walkway.org](http://walkway.org)), an abandoned railroad bridge that's now a pedestrian park with breathtaking views of the Hudson River.—Caren Oppenheim



## Weverton, NY 4hrs by car

Find legit whitewater rapids with Beaver Brook Rafting ([beaverbrook.net](http://beaverbrook.net); \$23–\$85), which runs three different tours down two rivers every day through October. Those with some experience can take the all-day trip from Indian Lakes in the Adirondacks to North River via the Hudson River Gorge, which covers 17 miles of river and class III and IV rapids. The route also includes a stop at Elephant Rock, where paddlers can cool off by jumping into calm waters from a small cliff, as well as a riverside meal at the Inn on Gore Mountain when you return. Newcomers can opt for the five-mile journey down the Sacandaga, which covers slightly less volatile terrain (class III and under). The ticket includes all your gear—wet suit, life jacket, paddle and shoes.—Sarah Rammos





### Hunter, NY 2hrs by car

Put some space between you and the ground on an adrenaline-revving three-hour zip-line excursion ([ziplinewyork.com](http://ziplinewyork.com)) at Hunter Mountain ([huntermtn.com](http://huntermtn.com)). Daredevils should check out the SkyRider Tour (\$119), an above-the-canopy course with more than two miles of whooshing fun split over five separate lines, each of which reaches a height of 600 feet and shoots riders along at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour. For something more low-key but still high up, try the Mid-Mountain Tour (\$89), which tops out at 60 feet and includes six lines, nine tree platforms and four rope bridges. Take your buzz to Cosmic Charlie's (7722 Main St; 518-263-6003, [cosmiccharliesny.com](http://cosmiccharliesny.com)), a local favorite that regularly hosts bands and offers discounts to those sporting a zip-lining wristband.—SR



### Warwick, NY 1hr 30mins by car

Sip on vino, liqueurs, spirits and hard ciders with live music as your soundtrack at the scenic Warwick Valley Winery & Distillery (114 Little York Rd; 845-258-4858, [www.winery.com](http://www.winery.com)). Tastings (\$5) include a souvenir glass and six to seven pours of house offerings, like the popular, semi-dry cider Doc's Draft, which comes in pear, framboise and sour cherry, among other varieties (this summer, you should also be able to find black currant). In between samplings, grab brick-oven pizzas, salads and sandwiches (\$10–\$15) made with local ingredients from the on-site Pané Café (Fri–Sun noon–5pm). Bob Dylan aficionados should plan to visit May 25–27, when the venue welcomes cover bands for a weekend honoring the singer-songwriter (\$15, advance \$10, three-day pass \$25, children \$5). If Mr. Zimmerman doesn't do it for you, there are four other music fests this summer, with tribute acts ranging from the '60s British Invasion (July 14) to the Grateful Dead (Aug 17, 18). Top the day off with homemade ice cream from Bellvale Farms Creamery (1390 Route 17A; 845-988-1818, [bellvalefarms.com](http://bellvalefarms.com)), where you can savor a scoop of Bellvale Bog, dark-chocolate ice cream with brownie pieces and a fudge swirl (\$3.50–\$4.50), while overlooking the farm's verdant pastures.—CO



### Fire Island, L.I. 1hr 30mins by LIRR and ferry

Those hoping for a languorous day tanning au naturel on the sand will have to skip federally managed areas on the island this year and derobe at community beaches instead; the National Park Service plans to enforce state nudity laws, in part because Hurricane Sandy destroyed the view-blocking, modesty-saving dunes. There's still plenty of fun to be had on the 31-mile barrier island, including lifeguard-supervised, all-ages swimming on Sailors Haven, Watch Hill, Davis Park and Atlantique. The bar scenes in Ocean Beach and Kismet draw crowds of attractive young professionals, while Cherry Grove and the Pines thrive with vibrant LGBT communities.—RH



**Short Hills, NJ****45mins by car**

Nudged up against the South Mountain Reservation, Greenwood Gardens (274 Old Short Hills Rd; 973-258-4026, [greenwoodgardens.org](http://greenwoodgardens.org); \$10; seniors, students and children under 12 \$5) presents a tranquil, isolated escape. The grounds have been around since the early 1900s, but not until this April, following several years of renovation, did they open to the public. Begin at the orientation center, a redbrick revival Georgian manor, and proceed to a formal Italianate garden marked by stone terraces and wooden pergolas. Follow stone paths to the rustic Arts and Crafts-style cottages, then wind your way to the three-foot-tall limestone chess pieces lining the steps to the teahouse. Seek out the summerhouse on your own and admire the resident swans, chickens and goats, or join a guide on a 45-minute walking tour. Come June, the gardens will offer Tuesday morning yoga classes. —*Jen Michalski*

**Freeport, L.I. 1hr by car**

This sleepy, bucolic town is the perfect location to while away a day casting a line. Take a four-hour fluke-fishing excursion on a 100-foot-long supercruiser with the Captain Lou Fleet (28 Woodcleft Ave; 516-623-5823, [captloufleet.com](http://captloufleet.com); daily 8am–noon, 1–5pm; \$40, includes bait and tackle, rod rental \$3). Just walk up and prepare to relax. To stay on land, head to Sea Isle Tackle (495 Guy Lombardo Ave; 516-868-8855, [seaisletackle.com](http://seaisletackle.com)), grab freshly shucked clams (\$4) for bait, and make for the dock at the Town of Hempstead Marina (we hear striped bass and fluke are biting). For dinner, try halibut sautéed with mushrooms and chopped lobster (\$35) at the cozy Nautilus Café (46 Woodcleft Ave; 516-379-2566, [nautiluscafe.com](http://nautiluscafe.com)), and if you're not the designated driver, stop by fisherman shanty Jeremy's Ale House (239 Woodcleft Ave; 516-623-0204, [jeremysalehouse.com](http://jeremysalehouse.com)) for a 32-ounce Styrofoam cup of the house ale (\$8). Just mind the signed bras hanging from the ceiling—you don't want to be the one getting hooked. —*Christopher Ross*

**Atlantic City, NJ 2hrs by car or 2hrs 30mins by bus**

A spate of post-Sandy reports last November had many believing A.C. had been washed out to sea. But the casino town remains lively as ever, and several new boardwalk features—such as volleyball courts and two public-art sites curated by the Artlantic project, currently festooned with a mixture of organic and metal sculptures—prove it's possible to spend a pleasant day here without ending up at the blackjack table. On June 26, the

annual Atlantic City Airshow ([atlanticcitynj.com/acairshow](http://atlanticcitynj.com/acairshow); free) provides an opportunity to sprawl on the beach while watching vintage planes take stomach-dropping nosedives over the ocean. At night, be sure to see *Boardwalk Beat*, an eight-and-a-half minute 3-D sound-and-laser light show projected onto the side of Boardwalk Hall (2301 Boardwalk; [boardwalkhall.com](http://boardwalkhall.com); every 30 mins 8–11pm; free). Later, relax by a Buddha statue at the Foundation Room (801 Boardwalk; 609-343-4523, [showboatac.com](http://showboatac.com)), a Tibetan-inspired lounge serving small plates such as *sriracha*-infused spicy ahi tuna wraps (\$14) and hibachi-grilled, bacon-wrapped dates (\$10)—escape by 10pm on Saturdays, when the place turns into a nightclub. —*Alex Schechter*





### Cold Spring, NY 70mins by Metro-North

The Hudson Highlands have lush landscapes, peaks and breathtaking hikes for all levels. Little Stony Point Loop (3011 Route 9D; 845-265-0058, [littlestonypoint.org](http://littlestonypoint.org)) offers a relaxed jaunt along a flat peninsula where you can wade into the Hudson River at the beach. Explore old ruins, including a crumbled mansion and defunct dairy farm, on the gradually sloping, partially unpaved Cornish Estate Trail, which starts opposite Little Stony Point Loop, marked by blue blazes. The adventurous should tackle the steep climbs and rock scrambles that lead to the summit of Breakneck Ridge for an impressive 360-degree vista of Storm King Mountain, Bannerman Castle and, on clear days, the Catskills. For detailed guidebooks and maps, check out New York–New Jersey Trail Conference ([nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org)), Open Space Institute ([osiny.org](http://osiny.org)) and Appalachian Mountain Club ([outdoors.org](http://outdoors.org)), and bring water and appropriate footwear, even for the simpler treks. —Nadia Chaudhury



### Sleepy Hollow, NY 30–45mins by Metro-North to Tarrytown

Take a five-minute cab ride from the station to Philipsburg Manor Upper Mills's living-history museum (381 N Broadway; 914-631-3992, [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org); \$12, children \$6)—a farm and mill dating back to 1750—to try hands-on activities. Staffers in period costume demonstrate grinding grain in the gristmill, threshing wheat and preparing goods for shipping with traditional instruments. The visit also provides a sobering reminder that slavery was not confined to the South, which guided tours highlight. Explore the dairy, kitchens and bedchambers in the main house, then bask in the rustic scenery from the bridge overlooking the pond. Take the 15-minute walk to the Bridge View Tavern (266 Beekman Ave; 914-332-0078, [bridgeviewtavern.com](http://bridgeviewtavern.com)) for craft brews, pub grub, and views of the bridge and stretch of the Hudson River known as the Tappan Zee. —LP



### Montauk, L.I. 2hrs 30mins by car, 3hrs 15mins by LIRR, 3hrs 30mins by Hampton Jitney

Known to locals as “the End,” the chilled-out Hamptons village at the easternmost reach of the South Fork offers some of the best surfing in the region. Rent a board—fiberglass, foam or epoxy (\$40)—and a wet suit (\$20) from the family-owned Air and Speed Surf Shop (795 Montauk Hwy; 631-668-0356, [airandspeedsurf.com](http://airandspeedsurf.com)). Drive your gear to Ditch Plains beach for a lesson with local fixture and professional instructor Corey Senese (516-639-4879, [coreyswave.com](http://coreyswave.com); 90min lesson \$175–\$200; reservations required, e-mail [info@coreyswave.com](mailto:info@coreyswave.com)). Towel off and refuel at Ditch Witch (40 Deforest Rd, no phone), a beloved food truck slinging breakfast burritos (\$4), addictive Asian sesame noodles (\$9) and Zen Blend iced green tea (\$3). Before you head home, join everyone else in town at the Montauket (88 Firestone Rd, 631-668-5992), a neighborhood joint where you can sip a pint of Blue Point toasted lager (\$6) while watching the sun melt into the rippling horizon of Fort Pond Bay. —CR





# WEEKEND TRIPS

Little Whiteface mountain in Lake Placid, NY

## Rehoboth Beach, DE

**Why go:** This town's old-timey charm, boardwalk, white-sand beaches and historic cottages make it a classic summer destination.

**What to do:** After sunning yourself, swimming in the ocean and strolling the esplanade, rent bikes from Bike to Go (174 Rehoboth Ave; 302-227-7600, [biketogo.com](http://biketogo.com); \$9–\$135) and explore the Junction and Breakwater Trail, a six-mile stretch of secluded woods and waterfront. Hit the town's Clear Space Theatre (20 Baltimore Ave; 302-227-2270, [clearspacetheatre.org](http://clearspacetheatre.org)) for campy repertory performances. On rotation this summer (June 27–Sept 7 at 7:30pm): *Le Cage aux Folles*, the original *Radio Gaga: A Gleeful Musical Event* and *The Sound of Music*. An hour away, you'll find the Biggs Museum of American Art (406 Federal St, Dover, DE; 302-674-2111, [biggsmuseum.org](http://biggsmuseum.org)), where you can inspect 18th- to 20th-century paintings and illustrations.

**Local favorite:** Quaint eateries abound, but try Shorebreak Lodge (10 Wilmington Ave; 302-227-1007, [shorebreaklodge.tumblr.com](http://shorebreaklodge.tumblr.com)) for its twists on standard menu items, such as a surf and turf of braised short ribs and seared scallops (\$24).

**Where to stay:** The intimate Beach View Motel (6 Wilmington Ave; 302-227-2999, [beachviewmotel.com](http://beachviewmotel.com); from \$169) affords easy ocean access without a hefty price tag, along with a hot breakfast, free wine (5–7pm) and gratis house-made chocolate-chip cookies laid out at 8pm.

## Lake Placid, NY

**Why go:** Winter travelers flock to this village, but those in the know relish the off-season appeal of sunny mountaintops and a relaxing shoreline.

**What to do:** Pick up an Olympic Sites Summer Passport (\$32) at the ORDA Store (2426 Main St; 518-523-1420, [whitefacelakeplacid.com](http://whitefacelakeplacid.com)). The booklet gets you a gondola ride to the summit of Little Whiteface mountain, a tour of the ski-jump complex, entry to the Olympic museum and discounts on attractions like the bobsled ride down the Olympic track (\$56, usually \$70), piloted by a pro driver and brakeman. Nature lovers can take advantage of hiking trails, a Lake Placid boat tour (June 22–Sept 7, \$15) and sailing on Mirror Lake (prices vary, visit [mlboatrental.com](http://mlboatrental.com) for details).

**Local favorite:** Homey restaurant Chair 6 (5993 Sentinel Rd; 518-523-3630, [chair6.com](http://chair6.com)) is a go-to for its seasonally driven New American dinners (Maine scallops, grass-fed beef).

**Where to stay:** Art Devlin's Olympic Motor Inn (2764 Main St; 518-523-3700, [artdevlins.com](http://artdevlins.com); from \$86) combines proximity to Olympic sites with a swimming pool and a rustic vibe. Spring for one of the rooms with a private balcony (\$86–\$279).

## Omni Mt. Washington Resort Bretton Woods, NH

**Why go:** Enconced in the scenic White Mountains, this resort has on-site recreation (much of which is free), eateries and choice digs.

**What to do:** Mountain-oriented options include hiking, of course, but also an extensive zip-line network, a ski lift to the resort's namesake peak followed by a free guided tour, and mountaintop ATV rental (\$35, guests \$32). Horseback riding (\$60, guests \$50), tennis (\$18, guests free) and swimming in a pool that's heated year-round will vie for your time as well. You can also ride the historic Cog Railway (end of Bay Station Rd; 800-922-8825, [thecog.com](http://thecog.com); \$64, seniors \$59, children \$39) up Mount Washington, where a majestic view of the Presidential Range and a small natural-history museum await.

**Local favorite:** For a traditional country-inn splurge, book a table at the Bretton Arms Dining Room (Omni Bretton Arms Inn, 173 Mt. Washington Hotel Rd; 603-278-3000, [omnihotels.com](http://omnihotels.com)). Its refined American menu rotates with the seasons, but keep an eye out for Maine lobster and Long Island duck.

**Where to stay:** We like the stately, 1902-built Omni Mt. Washington Resort Hotel (310 Mt. Washington Hotel Rd; 603-278-1000, [omnihotels.com](http://omnihotels.com); from \$199). It's been extensively refurbished and offers an outdoor heated pool.

## Georgetown, ME

**Why go:** Find quintessential lobster shacks nestled in the remote calm of Maine's small-town, island-studded shoreline.

**What to do:** Explore Reid State Park (207-371-2303, [maine.gov](http://maine.gov)), whose Mile and Half Mile

beaches feature classic sandy stretches flanked by dunes. Charter a boat to Seguin Island Lighthouse (207-443-4808, [seguinland.org](http://seguinland.org); \$25–\$30), on an island two-and-a-half miles offshore, or hike through the 119 acres of forest, meadows and rocky outcroppings at Josephine Newman Audubon Sanctuary (207-781-2330, [maineaudubon.org](http://maineaudubon.org)).

**Local favorite:** Five Islands Lobster Co. (1447 Five Islands Rd; 207-371-2990, [fiveislandslobster.com](http://fiveislandslobster.com)) is no tourist magnet, and its lobsters come straight from the harbor it sits on. It's tough to resist a "big boy" lobster roll, served on a toasted split-top bun and dressed with mayo (*market price*).

**Where to stay:** The turreted Grey Havens Inn (96 Seguinland Rd; 207-371-2616, [greyhavens.com](http://greyhavens.com); from \$130), perched on a hill that slopes into a classic Maine inlet, offers charming rooms, an in-house restaurant and, best of all, a wraparound veranda on which to take in the views. —Lee Magill



Reid State Park in Georgetown, ME