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# Top 20 Things to Do in the **SUMMER**



#### 1. Waterfront Celebration

With so much handiwork, the **HarborFest** craft fair at the Town Dock in Port Washington in early June is the perfect place for a family looking to admire (and create) crafts alongside musical performances and a pretty park on the Manhasset Bay waterfront.

#### 2. Avast, Ye Landlubbers!

Arrr, Matey! Head to **The Pirate Festival** at the Long Island Maritime Museum in West Sayville, a weekend-long event in mid-June. Treasure hunts, a pirate costume contest, and lively musical performances send everyone home yo-ho-happy.

#### 3. Amityville Tradition

Amityville Historical Society's Annual Heritage Fair in mid-June is a celebration of Amityville's long and surprising history. Bring the whole family and enjoy trolley rides, food, music, and a host of enlightening activities, such as Civil War reenactments geared toward kids.

#### 4. Adventure Awaits

Celebrate the start of summer near the end of June as Long Islanders have done for decades: at Adventureland Amusement Park in Farmingdale. Ride roller coasters, play in bumper cars, get chills in the Ghost House, and hang in the arcade. See our full list of amusement parks in the area for more thrill-seeking options.

#### 5. Fore!

Go miniature golfing at Boomers Family Fun Center in Medford. Finish off the day racing go-karts, practicing your swing in the batting cages, battling it out in the game room, or jumping on one of the kiddie rides with the littlest member of your family. Find more miniature golf courses in the area in our where-to guide.











#### 6. Where the Pickin's Good

Pick your own berries throughout the summer at Patty's Berries & Bunches in Mattituck or another berry farm on Long Island. This fun (and healthy) outing will leave your kids wanting to grow their own.

#### 7. Merry-Go-Riding

Take a spin on the historic Heckscher Carousel in Hempstead Lake State Park in West Hempstead. A timeless classic that only gets better with age, this carousel has a charm that families will find irresistibly fun. Get details and find more carousels in the area in our guide.

#### 8. A Horse, of Course

Take a horseback riding lesson or pony ride at Island Hills Stables in Middle Island. Island Hills offers lessons that encourage children to build relationships with the ponies on-site. See our where-to guide for details on more horse stables on Long Island.

#### 9. The Rockets' Red Glare

Get a front-row seat for the Fourth of July fireworks via the Freeport Water Taxis. The kids won't soon forget seeing the night sky light up directly overhead, reflecting off the water.

#### 10. Duck, Duck...

Head to the **One Million Dollar Duck Race** at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck in Center Moriches in mid-July to watch 7,000 rubber ducks in a race for the top prize. They're faster than you'd think! Cheer on your favorite quacker and stay for the family-style duck barbecue afterward. Proceeds from this event benefit the children with special needs who attend Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck.

#### 11. Peconic Pioneers

Hop aboard the *Atlantis Explorer* and become Scientists for a Day at the Long Island Aquarium & Exhibition Center in Riverhead. Collect and analyze data on local marine

wildlife, just like a real marine biologist would, throughout the summer.

#### 12. Beach Boys (and Girls)

Head to a nearby beach, soak up some rays, and enjoy the cool ocean (just don't forget the SPF!). Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh offers 6.5 miles of ocean beach and two swimming pools, perfect for relaxing and enjoying the precious summer months. Don't go home without trying your hand at shuffleboard.

#### 13. Peanuts and Quacker Jack

Catch a Long Island Ducks minor league baseball game at Bethpage Ballpark in Central Islip throughout the summer. With individual game tickets being very well-priced (up to \$15 each), a Ducks game is an affordable way to enjoy America's pasttime with the family. Plus, members of the Long Island Ducks' Kids Club (for ages 14 and younger) are invited to Kids Club Day, when they can tour the ballpark, run the bases, and meet some of the Ducks as well as their mascot, QuackerJack. Find more minor league teamsin our where-to guide.

#### 14. Critter Corral

What kid doesn't like critters? At the **Animal** Farm Petting Zoo in Manorville, yours will love spending time with, feeding, and yes, petting exotic and barnyard buddies. Plus, kids' pony rides are free with admission. Find where to see even more furry and feathered friends in our guide.

#### 15. Down by the Bay

At the Great South Bay Music Festival, held over several days in Patchogue's Shorefront Park in mid-July, there is something for everyone. With dozens of established and emerging performers, a kid zone, and other enticements, this festival is the place for music lovers of any age. Before you go, read about how to make the most of your child's live music experience.

#### 16. Nothing Says Summer Like...

With a name like Summerfest, how could you not want to go? At the Sayville Summerfest in Downtown Sayville in early August, families will have a blast with live musical performances, international food, a car show, and much more.

#### 17. Lots of Scots

The Scottish Games at Old Westbury
Gardens in late August is a great way to learn
about Scottish culture. Enjoy pipe bands,
taste shortbread, peruse vendors selling

Scottish gifts and goods, and compete in highland games.

### 18. Turtles, Snakes, Trout—Oh My!

Many Long Island parents have fond memories of going to the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery and Aquarium in Cold Spring Harbor on a grade-school field trip. It's still around, and more interactive, educational, and fun than ever.

#### 19. We All Scream for...

A hand-dipped cone is a staple of summer, and we think no place does it better than Gooseberry Grove on Main Street in Oyster Bay. With video games and a player piano to go along with the shakes, floats, and crazy number of homemade flavors, this is a kid's ice cream paradise.

#### 20. Down at the Pow Wow

Shinnecock Indian Nation Pow Wow, held at the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, allows visitors to learn about the culture of Long Island's Native Americans. Traditional dances and drum performance are only two of the entertaining, educational activities offered over the weekend-long festival, typically held in late August or early September. See our roundup for details on this and more cultural celebrations in the area.

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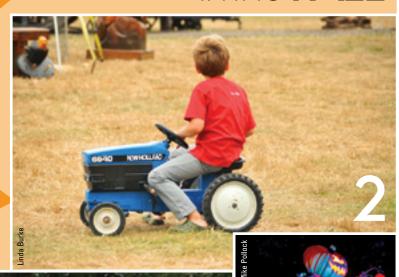




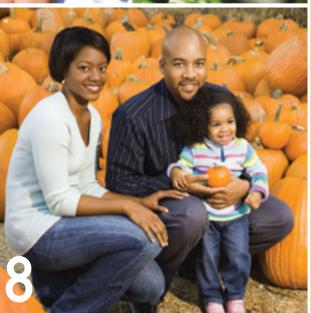
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### 4SEASONS ideas

### Top 20 Things to Do in the **FALL**













#### 1. Viva Italia!

Grande Festa Italiana, held annually in early September at North Hempstead Beach Park in Port Washington, is both the largest and oldest Italian feast on Long Island. Along with the rides, fireworks, and live music, kids can enjoy sampling a variety of Italian foods and watching cooking demonstrations.

#### 2. A Little Bit Country

Celebrate Long Island's rich history and traditions at the Hallockville Museum Farm's Fall Festival and Craft Show, which includes demos on basket weaving, yarn spinning, woodworking, blacksmithing, and more, plus more than 50 craft vendors. See livestock displays, farm machinery and tractor exhibits, and even a model railroad display.

#### 3. Apples Abound

Pick fresh apples (along with many other fruits and veggies) in September at Lewin Farms in Wading River. The first "pick your own" farm on Long Island, Lewin Farms is the place to make a childhood memory. Bake a pie with the bounty! And check our where-to guide for more picking places.

#### 4. A Blast from the Past

The iconic Long Island Fair at Old Bethpage Village Restoration has been going on since 1842 (yes, really!), making it the longest-running county fair in New York state. Happening in late September/early October, the fair features traditional music, wagon and pony rides, farm animals, fair food, and more.

#### 5. Fall Fest

Southampton embraces fall with a full weekend of art, music, food, entertainment, and history near the end of September. The aptly named Southampton Septemberfest allows residents and visitors to explore Southampton's rich cultural heritage and its close connection to agriculture and the sea. Adding to the entertainment are volunteers dressed in traditional outfits who sell locally grown produce, teach traditional crafts like basket weaving, and even hold class in a one-room schoolhouse.

#### 6. Walking with Purpose

Walk Now for Autism Speaks at Jones Beach in Wantagh in early October is an amazing way to raise money for this increasingly prevalent condition. Your whole family can do a good deed for a great cause—and get some exercise while you're at it. Find more ways to get moving for a reason in our roundup.

#### 7. Spooky Smiles

The Rise of the Jack O' Lanterns at Old

Westbury Gardens, presented throughout October, showcases the amazing work of dozens of local artists. Spend an hour walking through the trail and see more than 5,000 hand-carved Jack O'Lanterns light up the night.

#### 8. Gourds Galore

Pick your own pumpkins at Stakey's Pumpkin Farm in Aquebogue and enjoy a brisk walk through the 26-acre pumpkin farm throughout October. With more than 18 varieties of pumpkins to choose from right off the vine, this pumpkin and gourd paradise is well worth the drive. See our where-to guide for details and to find more u-pick pumpkin farms in the area.

#### 9. A Community Celebration

The Long Island Fall Festival at Heckscher Park in Huntington is an ideal way to spend a sunny autumn afternoon. Held in early October, families come from all over the island for the carnival games, farmer's market, old-time rides, and yummy homemade treats.

#### 10. Fish Frenzy

For family-friendly fishing, check out the Fall Family Fishing and Children's Festival at Hempstead Lake State Park in West Hempstead in mid-October. Lessons in fly fishing and fishcleaning, plus pumpkin decorating, pony rides, and a magic show make this one of the most popular fall festivals in Nassau.

#### 11. Oyster Overload

In Theodore Roosevelt Park in—where else?— Oyster Bay, you can shuck yourself silly (while the kiddos will find more kid-palatable fare) at the Oyster Festival. And it's not just shellfish. Find pirate shows, tall ships, and midway rides in mid-October.

#### 12. Halloween Hoopla

The Ghostly Gala Halloween party at Long Island Children's Museum in late October is a fun, safe, and festive way to enjoy the holiday. With face painting, gallery trick-or-treating, and a costume party, this is one event you'll remember well past the spooky season.

#### 13. Tis the Season to Explore

Long Island has many beautiful hiking trails, and one of the best is Garvies Point Museum and Preserve in Glen Cove. Leading down to a quiet beach, this easy-for-kids trail is one of the most serene on the island.

#### 14. Ghost Street

If you have older kids who are over the trip to the pumpkin patch, take an afternoon outing to **one of the most haunted places on Long Island**. A ride down Sweet Hollow Road in Huntington (just south of Jericho Turnpike), infamous for its ghost spotting, will be a creepy good time for all. Find many more ghoulish activities for all ages on our Halloween site.

#### 15. Autumn Art Walk

Take a stroll through the 145 acres of fields, woods, and ponds at The Nassau County Museum of Art in Roslyn Harbor and be amazed by the inspiring sculptures created by established artists. And if you're looking to do some leaf peeping outside the area, check our guide for our suggested locations.

#### 16. We're Out to Discover

Relax, sit back, and enjoy as the Ward Melville Heritage Organization's *Discovery* boat takes you for a cruise through Long Island's wetlands (offered select dates, May through October). Learn about the history, geology, and ecology of the gorgeous area we call home. The pontoon departs from Stony Brook Harbor and cruises through the organization's 88-acre wetlands preserve for a 1½-hour tour.

#### 17. The Best Way Out, Is Through

With the exception of pumpkin picking, nothing says fall like a romp in an old-fashioned corn maze. One of the bigger examples on the island is at Fairview Farm in Bridgehampton. The site also has a corn cannon and yes, it is as cool as it sounds.

#### 18. Slimy & Slithery

If your kids think cute and cuddly is boring, then Jungle Bob's Reptile World in Centereach is sure to please them. And the fact that there's no charge for admission will please you! This unique showroom allows you to see unusual creatures living in their own habitats.

#### 19. Art Fest

From visual, musical, and performing arts to community festivals and epicurean delights, the annual Arts Alive LI festival in October is a month-long tribute to Long Island's arts and entertainment world. It takes place on stages, in galleries, at film houses, and in neighborhood restaurants across the island.

#### 20. Turkey Day Parade

Arguably the world's most famous parade, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade boasts behemoth balloons, beautiful floats, and the biggest names in entertainment—and it all takes place a train ride away, in the heart of Manhattan.

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## Top 20 Things to Do in the **WINTER**

#### 1. Oh. Christmas Tree

Cut your own Christmas tree at Mike's Christmas Tree Farm in Manorville, late November through Christmas Eve. Choose your favorite tree and chop it down yourself, making it feel like a country Christmas. Find details on Mike's and more tree farms near you in our where-to guide.

#### 2. Skate Date

Go ice-skating at Christopher Morley Park in Roslyn, voted best outdoor skating rink on Long Island by the viewers of News 12 Long Island. Enjoy the 200-foot rink, surrounded by forest, from November through March (weather pending). And find more indoor and outdoor rinks in the area in our guide.

#### 3. Visions of Sugar Plums

It's not hard to find performances of *The Nutcracker* in late November and early December, but there's only one version done by the Long Island Ballet Theatre. Savor the local spin on this classic ballet in Port Washington in early December. Tickets are much less expensive than Lincoln Center, too!

#### 4. Let There Be Light

Christmas tree lighting festivals, like the one at the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport in late November or early December, can make even the Scroogiest among us embrace the holidays. Enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, carols, and a holiday-mood jumpstart.

#### **5. Christmas Past**

Hallockville Christmas at Hallockville Museum Farm in Riverhead sets a scene that will take your whole family back to a simpler time. In early December, you can tour historic homes decorated in Victorian and Depression-era style, try your hand at old-fashioned baking techniques, and take part in old-time children's Christmas games and traditions.

#### 6. Crafty Giving

Love the old-fashioned, understated look of a single candle lighting each of your home's windows during the holidays? Head to Paint a Piece in Commack to create your choice of scented candle (the pottery and glass creations make great holiday gifts, too).







#### 7. No Humbugs Here

The **Dickens Festival** in Port Jefferson in early December is a holiday treat that celebrates the author of *A Christmas Carol*. From costumed characters to Victorian entertainment and food, this event will surely bring out the Christmas spirit.

#### 8. Snow Day Solution

When the snowflakes fly, take advantage by going **sledding**. The hill in Eisenhower State Park in East Meadow is ideal because of its gentle slope and thrilling length—perfect for the littlest snow bunnies. Find more sledding spots in our roundup.

#### 9. On the Slopes

Head to a nearby mountain for skiing and snowboarding. Belleayre Mountain in Highmount is great for families because of its Learning Zone, a designated retreat for first-timers ages 8 to adult.

#### 10. Firefighters for a Day

House fires peak in December and January. Honor our everyday heroes (and learn essential fire safety) at the Nassau County Firefighters Museum and Education Center in Garden City. This destination teaches all about the work and sacrifices of firefighters by letting visitors put on actual firefighter uniforms and go through obstacle courses.

#### 11. It's Souper

You don't need to know how to run or tackle to be part of Port Washington's Souper Bowl. All you need to do is make a stop at each of the soup stations, taste as many different soups as you can—all of which are donated by participating Port Washington restaurants—

and then vote for your favorite soup. You can also bring non-perishable food items with you to donate to the Twin Pines food pantry. The festival is held in late January or early February.

#### 12. Cruising with Captain Lou

Seal Cruises in Freeport, aboard the *Captuin Lou Fleet*, show families these beloved creatures in their natural habitat. Bundle up: January is when the sightings are best. Learn about the biology and behavior of seals and other marine life on this scenic junket. Cruises are presented by The Riverhead Foundation and board on select weekend dates through April.

#### 13. Frosty Fête

The Harborfrost festival in Sag Harbor in early February is a celebration of the maritime history of Sag Harbor. There will be whaleboat racing, clam chowder tasting, underwater archaelogical exploration, and many other activities for the whole family.

#### 14. Super Bowl Splash

Watch the most hardcore people jump into the freezing Atlantic Ocean on Super Bowl Sunday when the Long Beach Polar Bear Club raises money for charity. Maybe you'll even want to join them!

#### 15. Spa Party

Princesses-in-training can get pampered at **Darlings & Divas** in Amityville, which hosts special events throughout the year, including pampering parties near Valentine's Day. Activities typically include manicures, glittery makeup, and a runway show.

#### 16. Lasers in Levittown

Any kid will say lasers are awesome. So Long Island Laser Bounce in Levittown

is a no-fail way to thrill the kids on cold winter days. The arcade includes a laser tag arena filled with glow-in-the-dark obstacles and cool special effects lighting systems.

#### 17. L.I.'s Air & Space Museum

Highlighting the island's contributions to flight, which many people don't know about, The Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City aims to get kids excited about the science and beauty of flying planes. Make a day of it by stopping by the nearby Long Island Children's Museum and Historic Nunley's Carousel.

#### 18. Bouncing Off the Walls

By the time February rolls around, everyone is getting a case of cabin fever. Have the kids jump off the stir-crazies at **Bounce! Trampoline Sports** in Syosset. Aside from plain old jumping, they can play trampoline basketball, dodgeball, and fly into ginormous foam pits. Talk about a cure for cabin fever!

#### 19. Summer in Sight

A real eucalyptus tree brought in from California stands at a height of 18 feet in Once Upon A Treetop in Plainview. Playing in the treehouse makes summer seem that much closer. Little ones can also roam around in a pint-size village complete with a train station, grocery store, and other interactive "stops."

#### 20. Puppet Play Time

The Long Island Puppet Theatre in Hicksville gives your kids a taste of entertainment you probably enjoyed all the time as a kid. The shows use both marionettes and traditional hand puppets. Craft workshops are also available.

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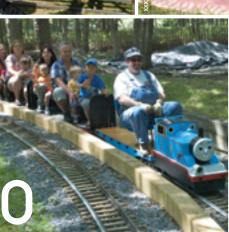


## Top 20 Things to Do in the **SPRING**









#### 1. Sweet Spot

Maple Sugaring Day at Benner's Farm in East Setauket is an experience to remember for anyone with a sweet tooth. Nobody but Mother Nature knows exactly when the sap will run, but the four-to-six-week season typically starts in late February or early March. Learn how to make maple syrup, candy, and other sweets from the farm's maple trees. Check our roundup for other places where you can find the sweet stuff!

#### 2. Party 101

In mid-March, head to the free Celebrate! Party Showcase at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale to plan any and all milestone occasions you have coming up for the year. Whether it's a special birthday party, bar or bat mitzvah, wedding, or any other special event, you'll find more than 100 party specialists to help you plan it all in one place.

#### 3. Beachside Bunnies

Beach State Park's annual Easter Egg Hunt is worth the trip for the novelty of hunting seaside. The Big Rabbit himself will be there to greet the wee hunters, ready to hand out prizes for those who discover the special eggs at this event, which changes dates according to when the holiday falls.

#### 4. April Staple

The All Kids Fair at the Melville Marriott in late April is half resource expo, half fun family outing that delivers a trove of educational vendors for parents. Kids get to enjoy balloontwisting clowns, kiddie yoga classes, and magicians while you peruse the offerings.





#### 5. Mother (Nature) Knows Best

The Arbor Day Family Festival in late April at Coe Hall Mansion in Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay is a combo of learning and fun. With plenty of space for wiggly kiddies to romp, they'll go home happy and tired—and with a better understanding of the importance of trees.

#### 6. The Chocolate Cure

April showers bring...a need for rainy-day ideas for kids. And what's better than eating chocolate? Making your own fresh. Kron Chocolatier in Great Neck allows you to do just that. From chocolate popcorn to chocolate truffles, a visit to this old-world candy crafter will satisfy the biggest sweet tooth.

#### 7. Tiptoe through the Tulips

Huntington Tulip Festival at Heckscher Park in early May is a family-oriented, floral bonanza that showcases more than 20,000 tulips. Hands-on children's activity booths, art exhibitions, and musical entertainment are all featured among the blooms.

#### 8. Mom's the Word

The Mother's Day Picnic at Belmont Park in Elmont over Mother's Day weekend is a unique way to celebrate the special ladies in your life. Pack your own picnic and watch the horse races with Mom and Grandma before heading over to the playground and petting zoo.

#### 9. Toe Chic

Spring is the start of pedicure season! Looking for a bonding experience with your little girl? Lipstick & Lollipops has you covered. Located in Mount Sinai, this one-of-a-kind spa not only offers all the latest in nail styles, but glitter tattoos to show off with tank tops, too.

#### 10. Steaming Up

Around mid-May, Long Island Live Steamers in Brookhaven kicks off its seasonal Public Run Days, when train lovers (aka kids) can catch a

ride Harry Potter-style. Relive the glory days of the railroad as you chug along 8 acres of tracks. And in honor of National Train Day, which typically coincides with Mother's Day weekend, check out our full list of train rides and exhibits in the area.

#### 11. Konnichiwa, Spring!

The Sakura Matsuri Cherry Blossom Festival at the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University in May is a wonderful way to learn about Japanese culture. With workshops in origami, martial arts, taiko, dance, and painting, this fest will wow kids as well as grown-ups.

#### 12. Street Strolling

As the weather warms, thoughts turn to strolling—and Downtown Glen Cove is a really good place to do just that. Meander past boutiques, restaurants, specialty food markets, a movie theater, and a marina. And don't miss Justin's Toys, a store that offers workshops in which kids create their own playthings.

#### 13. Treetop Adventure

If your family is on the adventurous side, take a trip to The Adventure Park in Wheatley Heights. Consisting of eight different ropes courses amidst 5 acres of trees, this park will satisfy any andrenaline-fueled family.

#### 14. Local Landmark

A calming and relaxing experience, visiting the Fire Island Lighthouse is a must for any Long Island family. Walk the scenic boardwalk, visit the museum, and climb to the top of the tower that's become one of Long Island's bestknown symbols.

#### 15. All-in-One Nature Site

Where can you find exotic animals, a fitness trail, an ecology center, a picnic area, and three pools? Only at the Town of Brookhaven's Ecology Site, Park & Animal Preserve in Holtsville. Check our where-to guide for more nature sites in the area.

#### 16. Canine Capers

Sure to bring a smile to your child's face, the Long Island Kennel Club Annual Dog **Show** in mid-May—recently relocated to Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay-features a breed showcase and a "My Dog Can Do That" event. Bring your own talented pooch!

#### 17. Homegrown Flora & Fauna

Audubon Center in Oyster Bay comes to life in spring. You'll find birds of prev as well as reptiles and amphibians native to our area. Consider an Owl Prowl or other guided hike.

#### 18. A Colorful Sight

The **Bayard Cutting Arboretum** in Great River is awash with color in May. Five different nature walks are available next to the Connetquot River. Kids will surely stop at the duck and chicken pens. Find more info on Bayard and other nearby nature centers in our where-to guide.

#### 19. Round and Round We Go

Remember Nunley's Carousel in Baldwin? A historic landmark and place of fondest childhood memories for many of us, the amusement park closed in 1995. But the cherished carousel continues to spin in a beautiful dedicated building at Museum Row in Garden City. Find carousels on Long Island in our roundup.

#### 20. Planes on Parade

The Bethpage Air Show, a Memorial Day staple at Jones Beach in Wantagh, is a can't-miss Long Island event that showcases world-class military and civilian fliers. Pack a lunch and some sunscreen, and witness the incredible feats of amazing pilots and parachuters (be sure to bring earplugs for the youngest in your brood and for kids with sensitivities).







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