

Historic Hamptons/Montauk Tour

Introduction

Hi. Welcome to iziTRAVEL's Historic Hamptons/Montauk Tour, presented by ListenUp Audio. We're so glad you'll be joining us today! I'm _____ and I'll be your guide. A few notes before we get started. This tour takes approximately an hour and a half to complete. You can stop at any time and start again at the same spot later. If you'd like, you can put your phone in your pocket and just listen from here. I'll be giving you clear directions and the audio will automatically start playing when you get close to the next point of interest. If a site is closed or your path is blocked, don't worry. Just go around it. The tour will pick up at the next location. And this is important: PLEASE make sure you stay aware of your surroundings at *all* times and obey *all* traffic signals.

(pause)

Welcome to Hamptons/Montauk, New York! Founded in the mid-1600s by farmers and fishermen, this group of colonial villages and hamlets has grown considerably over the years, quickly becoming one of the U.S.'s most luxurious summer resorts. Here in this community of old lineage and new wealth, we'll explore the bulk of Long Island's East End, stopping to learn about some of its most veritable landmarks. **Whenever you're ready to begin, please make your way to the corner of James Ln and Maidstone Ln. Just off Highway 27, our tour begins at the small cottage here at 14 James Ln, otherwise known as the Home Sweet Home Museum.**

Home Sweet Home Museum

We begin our historic tour of Montauk and the Hamptons with a visit to the Home Sweet Home Museum. Built sometime during the 1720s, this quaint, little cottage along James Lane has quite the story to tell, originally thought to be the birthplace of actor, poet, and playwright John Howard Payne. Believed by many to be the playwright's greatest inspiration, local legend stated for many years that the home was named for the climactic number Payne so famously wrote for an 1823 opera.

Yet while this legend reigned supreme well into the early 21st century, new evidence collected during this time has proven these claims to be false. Angry letters written by Payne's grandnephew have touted the museum's legend to be fiction, and meticulous research into the home's true owners has unearthed some surprising discoveries. Moving forward with this evidence, the Home Sweet

Home Museum now honors the couple of Gustav and Hannah Buek. Shown to have purchased the home during the early 1900s, scholars now believe the couple did so on account of this very same legend, with many of its decorations reflecting this influence. Converted into the present-day museum in the late 1920s, the Home Sweet Home Museum is a showcase of early 20th century luxury. Colonial Revival decorations span all four corners of the home, with Mrs. Buek's lusterware dishes and dining room table being a key favorite.

In addition to the home itself, the grounds of the Home Sweet Home Museum lay claim to one of Montauk's most iconic features. Known as the "Old Hook Mill," this towering relic of Montauk's past was built in the early 1800s, operating seasonally well into the 1950s. Faithfully restored in recent years, it now caters to seasonal tours alongside the museum, both landmarks adding to the sense of pleasantry and romance so often associated with the Hamptons.

Whenever you're ready to continue, merge onto Main St. at the end of James Ln, bearing east. Passing the Ralph Lauren Polo outlet on your right, take the next right onto The Cir. Stay on the Cir, taking a left back onto Main St. Just before Davids Ln, you should see a sign for the Osborn Jackson House. Our next destination is here at 101 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937.

Osborn Jackson House

Moving right along, we find ourselves now at the Osborn Jackson House. Named for its first and last owners, this colonial house along Main Street was built right around the year 1800, comfortably used by the Osborn family for six generations. Faithfully restored to resemble life in the 1870s, the home beckons to 19th century elegance, representing the time when Sylvanus Osborn was its primary owner. As the town's elected Trustee, Clerk, ornithologist, and more, Sylvanus was a busy man. Indeed, stories tell of how he would often ride back and forth between local Sag Harbor, carting summer boarders in his horse and carriage to their homes along the beach.

As a representative of one of East Hampton's early gentry families, history shows that Sylvanus hailed from a long line of farmers and businessmen. In fact, the Osborns were known as active shepherders, and their many holdings in horses and cattle made them a significant name throughout the island. Making their fortune with local merchants trading along the West Indies, the Osborns lived comfortably within the residence until it was sold in the late 1960s. Purchased shortly thereafter by the East Hampton Historical

Society, the home now operates as their local headquarters. Open year-round, the home acts as a window into the past, keeping the history of the Osborns and the East Hamptons alive Monday-Friday.

Whenever you're ready to continue, make your way back towards Main St, turning right to bear towards Davids Ln. Turn left onto Davids Ln. Turn right onto Egypt Ln. Turn left onto Further Ln. It'll wind around, but take the next right onto Indian Wells Hwy. Turn left onto Bluff Rd. Just down this way, you'll soon see signs for the East Hamptons Town Marine Museum. This museum marks our next destination.

East Hampton Town Marine Museum

Telling the unique story of Long Island's East End community, we take a moment to explore the East Hampton Town Marine Museum. Quite a mouthful on its own, this particular museum along Bluff Road is easily one of East Hampton's largest, spanning three floors of exhibitions. Separated by category, each floor tells a different part of East End's legacy, specializing in maritime artifacts, displays, photographs, and models. As these artifacts come together, they paint a much larger picture, one that outlines the special relationship between Long Island's East End and the adjacent sea.

Indeed, many of the museum's best exhibitions rank as such due to differing perspectives. Its newest gallery for example, titled the *Claus Hoie Gallery of Whaling*, is a perfect representation of this. Here visitors can see an incredible selection of watercolor and pento-ink paintings, depicting the story of a 19th century whaling expedition on its way out from Sag Harbor. Likewise, the museum's artifacts and photographs hail from all parts of Long Island. With so many of these pieces coming from different areas, the diversity lends itself to the overall impact of the museum. It acts as the perfect window, showcasing the ocean's role in the social, economic and recreational life of citizens from all walks and backgrounds. Open seasonally from April to Columbus Day, the museum continues to invite visitors to revel in East End's fascinating maritime history.

Leaving the Museum, continue down Bluff Rd. Merge onto Montauk Highway / 27, bearing east. After roughly 4 miles, you should see signs on your left pointing towards Hither Hills State Park. Turn left at Highway to Napeague, bearing in mind that we'll come out of the park on this same road, continuing east along 27 to continue the tour. This park marks our next destination.

Hither Hills State Park

Making our way towards Montauk, we take a small detour to explore Hither Hills State Park. Spread out across 1,755 acres, this scenic park along Long Island's southern shore offers some of the best views on the island. Accentuated by its sandy beach, Hither Hills remains a popular destination for those seeking a more private Oceanside experience. Locals and visitors often take time to hold large gatherings and picnics here, taking advantage of the nearby playing fields. Adding to the experience, the park functions as one of the best campgrounds on the island, offering many the chance to pick and choose their spot along 168 acres of pristine camping grounds.

If that weren't enough, woodland trails throughout the park offer some of the best hiking and biking to be found on the island, complete with breathtaking scenery. From Russian olive, to oak and pine, many of these trails are simply unmatched on the island, lending to an unforgettable experience as winter comes in and cross-country skiing becomes available. Venturing further east, visitors might even catch a glimpse of the famous "walking dunes" of nearby of Napeague Harbor, where Anglers can stop in from year-round fishing opportunities. With so much to see and do, it's no wonder that Hither Hills remains such a popular destination for islandgoers. Making our way back out the way we came, we'll explore more of these Long Island treasures, stopping first at oldest structure in Montauk.

Leaving Hither Hills, continue east along Highway 27 towards Montauk. Right as we enter the community, you should see signs for the Oceanside Beach Resort on your right. Turn left at the signs for Second House Museum, just across from the Oceanside Beach Resort. Our next destination is this small, cottage museum just across the highway Oceanside, otherwise known as the Second House Museum.

Montauk Historical Society / Second House Museum

Preserving the history of Montauk and all its residents, both past and present, the Montauk Historical Society remains one of the most educational destinations on our tour. Established in the early 1960s, it chronicles the surging development of Montauk, one that saw it transform from a mere summer to resort to a year-round community. Privately funded and organized as a non-profit, the organization runs the Second House Museum, officially recognized as the oldest structure in Montauk. Originally built in the 1740s, the Second House Museum dates all the way back to Montauk's earliest beginnings, to the time when Montauk was used solely as a pastureland for cattle.

To this end, both the Society and the Museum chronicle Second House's larger purpose, being of the three "First" houses built in Montauk during this time. As each house's owner was in charge of their own section of the land, the owner of Second House was in charge of tending sheep to the west, while also keeping an eye on eastern cattle. Making sure to keep the two from crossing over, Second House's owner saw to it that everything between the three houses ran smoothly. In short, this was an enormously important job, one that the Montauk Historical Society takes pleasure in chronicling. Likewise, the Society takes equal pride in its annual Art & Crafts Fairs that take place on Second House's grounds. Running at the tail end of July, these fairs provide a welcome addition to an island already so full of excitement and opportunity.

Leaving the Second House museum, make your way back onto Highway 27, bearing east towards Montauk. Take a right onto S Embassy St. Turn left onto South Elmwood Ave. Turn left onto S Edgemere St. At the corner of S Edgemere St and South Elmwood Ave., you should see a large, orange tiki statue standing upright against the Montauk Beach House. This statue marks our next destination.

Ronjo/Montauk Beach House

Just across from the Montauk Chamber of Commerce, we find ourselves at The Montauk Beach House, home to one of the island's most iconic statues. Known as "Ronjo," this Hawaiian-inspired tiki statue standing against the Beach House has a long history with the island, one that dates all the way back to a time when Ronjo and the Beach House were one and the same. Known then as the Ronjo Resort, history shows that this quirky 1950s motel was one of the top destinations on the island, namely for the unique nature of the motel itself. Sporting the signature statue you see before you, the Ronjo attracted droves of beachgoers and tourists, many of whom enjoyed their stay for a number of years.

Sadly however, like all relics of the past, the Ronjo quickly fell into disrepair. Guests began complaining about the quality of their stays, and the city council of Montauk ultimately realized something *had* to be done. Not wanting to completely decimate the property due to its legacy, council members took the necessary steps to transfer the resort to new ownership. Reopening as the now famous "Montauk Beach House" a short time later, the reception has been nothing less than outstanding. Guests are now treated to what the Beach House calls a "laid-back East Coast vibe," and countless entertainment, special events, and happenings now dominate its summer season. Officially known as one Montauk's hottest "boutique" hotels, all signs point towards a bright future for the Beach House and its resident mascot.

Whenever you're ready to continue, turn right just past the statue onto The Plaza. Continue around The Plaza, turning right to go north along South Edgemere Street. The large, 6 story tower to your immediate left marks our next destination.

The Montauk Tower

Towering high into the sky across from the Montauk Beach House, we take a look now at one of the community's other iconic properties. Known locally as "The Montauk Tower," this imposing building above the village green dates all the way back to the mid-1920s, to the time when a man by the name of Carl Graham Fisher first purchased the entirety of the Montauk peninsula. Officially regarded as Montauk's tallest building, it has gone by several other names, beginning with the Carl Fisher Office Building, and later as the Montauk Improvement Building. As one of the buildings most associated with Fisher and his business dealings, it once served as Fisher's headquarters, privy to the plans and wild imagination of the man who would come to be known as Montauk's primary developer.

Indeed, Fisher had *many* plans for Montauk, and records show that his ultimate dream was to turn Montauk into the "Miami Beach of the North." Though this dream was ultimately cut short by the Great Depression, the tower nonetheless stands as a legacy to his work. Fully renovated in recent years, it now acts as a six-story condominium complex housing some 40 units. Adding a sense of intrigue to the Tower, stories tell of "hidden rooms" and "ghosts" in mysteriously "inaccessible" portions of its 6th floor. Though many residents of the island take these stories with a grain of salt, it hasn't stopped a few tourists from attempting their own investigations.

Whenever you're ready to continue, continue north along South Edgemere St. As South Edgemere St. becomes Edgemere St, look to your left for signs pointing towards The Surf Lounge. This bohemian resort marks out next destination.

The Surf Lodge

Adding to Montauk's beachside legacy, we come now to The Surf Lodge. Built in the late 1960s, the Lodge has quickly garnered international fame, known most especially for its relative comfort and raw, untouched coastline. Often regarded as the "ultimate summer surf and family destination," it caters to those seeking a one-of-a-kind experience, priding itself on exceptional dining capabilities, a perfectly relaxed atmosphere, and unparalleled sunset views. Fully integrated into Montauk's fishing community, many

at The Surf Lodge marvel at the private decks provided as part of each room. Cooking stoves and refrigerators larger than most hotels add another sense of luxury, and its lounge walls are lined with a varied assortment of original books and artwork.

True to the Lodge's mission to provide a surfer's paradise, an impressive shopping experience is never too far around the corner. A specialty bazaar is set up just to the right of the check-in, and its "beachy-cool" collection of designer swimsuits never fails to impress. With accommodations set up to handle private events and parties for up to 250 people, The Surf Lodge marks the perfect destination for those seeking true bohemian sophistication.

Whenever you're ready to continue, keep north on Edgemere St. Just a little ways up, keep right to stay on Edgemere St. Just past the Montauk Fire Dept. take a right onto Essex St. At the corner of Essex St and Fenwick Pl, you should see tennis courts, along with an entrance to Montauk Manor. Take this entrance. This large resort marks our next destination.

Montauk Manor

Adding a more refined experience to island lodging, Montauk Manor marks a return to the vision and imagination of entrepreneur Carl Fisher. Having made his mark on the island in land development, Fisher long dreamed of creating the "most fabulous summer resort ever imagined in the western world." Officially opened in the late 1920s, Montauk Manor became that vision's reality, and the result has been one of the island's most esteemed constructions to date. Dubbed the "Castle on the Hill," the resort spans an incredible 10,000 acres, boasting a yacht club, a golf course, a half-mile boardwalk, and much more.

Between its 200 rooms, ballroom, and dining experiences said to rival those found in *The Great Gatsby*, Montauk Manor earned a reputation as a veritable fairy tale castle. Stories from The Roaring 20s painted the resort as nothing short of breathtaking, and older Montauk residents can still recall the fabulous displays visible from beneath Sugar Hill. Though the onset of The Great Depression hit the resort hard as well, it has since bounced back to its former glory. Fully restored in recent years, it now offers limited accommodations to 140 condominium apartments. Just as well, guests at Montauk Manor can now take part in the resort's surfing, golfing, horseback riding, and hiking opportunities, splitting those activities between a wide range of others. Given its setting, the resort is also home to some of the island's most beautiful wedding ceremonies. With so much history and beauty tied to one place, Montauk Manor remains one of the most welcoming experiences to be found on Long Island's East End.

Leaving Montauk Manor, turn right near the tennis courts onto Fenwick Pl. Turn right onto S Essex St, bearing south back towards Highway 27. Turn left back onto Highway 27, bearing east. Turn left onto Long Field Rd. The ranch here marks our next destination.

Deep Hollow Ranch

Officially recognized as the “oldest working ranch in the U.S.A.,” Deep Hollow Ranch is not only a special piece of Montauk history, but of American as well. Established in the late 1650s, the ranch prides itself on being the “birthplace of the American Cowboy,” resting on almost 1200 acres of beautiful, New England soil. Currently leased by the Keogh family of Montauk, the ranch is home to no less than 53 horses, with two ponies and other animals happily roaming the grounds. Home to the historic Third House property (neighbor to the Second House mentioned previously on our tour), Deep Hollow Ranch offers all the services of a working ranch plus a little extra.

Sporting some of the most beautiful scenery found on the island, Deep Hollow is also home to a number of the island’s best trails and hiking paths. Navigating these trails on horseback, visitors can easily catch a glimpse of Montauk’s most spectacular sites, and proprietors at the ranch remain devoted to making the experience unforgettable. Likewise, Native American presentations offer a glimpse into Montauk’s earliest inhabitants. Here families and children of all ages can learn about the peoples of Montauk’s past, taking part in special rituals that tell of how these tribes once lived upon the island. If that weren’t enough, Deep Hollow’s Trading Post offers the chance to dress and look the part of a real cowboy. From signature hats, to specialty shirts, the Trading Post has you covered on all the gear you could ever need to make the experience a bit more authentic. With all this and more to offer, it’s no wonder that Deep Hollow Ranch remains such a treasured icon of Long Island’s East End.

Leaving Deep Hollow Ranch, make your way back onto Highway 27, bearing east. Turn right at Camp Hero Rd, at the second entrance to Camp Hero. Keep in mind you’ll exit through this entrance later in order to continue with the tour. This former military base marks our next destination.

Camp Hero State Park

Nearing the end of our tour, we take a moment to explore one of Montauk’s most mysterious and intriguing sites. Officially known as Camp Hero, this former military base just off the main highway was originally commissioned by the U.S. Army in the early 1940s.

Established just as the U.S. was entering World War II, the base served as a deterrent against invasion, as many believed that Montauk Pointe remained a likely target for German U-boats. Touting a number of coastal artillery pieces and concrete bunkers, the site remains a firm reminder of World War II's global impact, with the camp still possessing much of its self-contained town to this day. Touring the bulk of the facility, visitors can still see remnants of its barracks, recreational facilities, and even its personal power plant, each of which served to help train soldiers for inevitable warfare overseas.

Though the Camp also served a purpose during the Cold War, it is perhaps most famously known for the conspiracy theories that continue to surround it to this day. Thanks in large part to a documentary titled "The Montauk Project," residents, tourists, and internet enthusiasts alike have become privy to the alleged "experiments" that are said to have occurred at the Camp. Though much of this information was published in the late 1980s, it hasn't deterred would-be investigators from digging further, and many swear by the documentary's portrayal of secret government cover-ups regarding the Camp and its surrounding areas. Talk of time-travel, mind control, and contact with extraterrestrials remains a constant theme whenever Camp Hero is brought into discussion. Likewise, famed internet stories of the fabled "Montauk Monster" can trace their origins to Camp Hero as well. Despite these allegations, Camp Hero remains first and foremost a historic site upon the island, offering visitors the chance to explore one of the U.S. Army's most prolific bases.

Leaving Camp Hero, wind around David Ln back onto Camp Hero Rd. We'll turn east once again onto Highway 27, making our way towards our final destination. Turn right onto Lighthouse Rd. The lighthouse here at the tip of the island marks our final destination.

Montauk Point Lighthouse

Saving the best for last, we finalize our tour with a visit to the famous Montauk Point Lighthouse. Built in the late 1790s, this historic landmark at the tip of Long Island's East End was commissioned under the authorization of President George Washington. Officially known as the oldest lighthouse in New York State, it serves as an aid to navigation, acting as a beacon and helping to keep ships along New York's eastern shore from crashing into the coast during potentially dangerous weather.

Faithfully operated by members of the U.S. Lighthouse Service and the U. S. Coast Guard, the lighthouse also serves as one of Montauk's most historic gathering places. Generations of Montauk residents and tourists make the trek to the lighthouse each year, and the grounds are home to some of Montauk's hottest events. Wildlife shows are a regular occurrence here at the lighthouse, and

triathlons, family events, and special lighting ceremonies are never too far around the corner. Of these lighting events, perhaps no other is as famous as the lighthouse's annual Christmas celebration. Running through the month of December, visitors can gaze in awe as the lighthouse and keeper's dwellings are fully illuminated in Christmas spirit, giving the entire area a warm, holiday glow. Just up the road from the lighthouse, enthusiastic shoppers can even take a moment to explore the souvenir shop and museum, collecting an assortment of Montauk items and memorabilia. Operated year-round and especially glorious to see in clear weather, the Montauk Point Lighthouse provides the perfect bookend to our historic tour of New York's Long Island.

This concludes our historic Montauk/Hamptons Tour. We hope you've enjoyed yourself, and should you wish to continue back to where we began, simply continue along I-27 as it loops back around towards Deep Hollow Ranch. Continue along the highway for about an hour, and you'll find yourself right back where we started at the Home Sweet Home Museum.