

East Hampton: Beaches, Bucolic Main Street, Rural Vibes Draw Buyers

Stacey Altherr | August 26, 2024



Main Beach in East Hampton is a popular haunt and regularly ranked among the most beautiful in the country. Credit: Gordon M. Grant

THE SCOOP Abstract artists such as Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning created some of their most important works in East Hampton. Socialite Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis spent her summers there as a child, and domestic innovator Martha Stewart called it a summer home until she sold her Lily Pond Lane estate for a reported \$16.5 million.

But it's more than the celebrity sightings that make people want to live in East Hampton. It is the rural feel of the farming landscape, the beauty of the beaches, bays and oceans, and a charming Main Street reminiscent of a Normal Rockwell painting.

"It has the feel of a small village with options for everyone both in shopping and dining," said B.B. King, a listing agent at Town & Country Real Estate, touting the village's "many

wonderful restaurants" and access to "the freshest seafood and prime steaks" for home cooking.



Main Street in East Hampton is home to small boutiques and eateries, as well as designer stores. Credit: Gordon M. Grant

One of the most expensive places to live on not only on Long Island, but in the state, East Hampton Village has a median house price of \$1.395 million.

East Hampton is both a town and village. The Town of East Hampton consists of other communities, including Amagansett, Montauk, Springs and Wainscott and includes East Hampton Village. Situated to the east of the Town of Southampton on Long Island's South Fork, East Hampton sits more on the tail of the "fish," with 70 square land miles but also has approximately 70 miles of waterfront.

Of course, the village is well known for its beaches, including Main Beach, consistently named one of the most beautiful in the United States, according to coastal scientist Stephen Leatherman, also known as "Doctor Beach." There are other residential beaches along its shoreline, including two more with lifeguards: Georgica Beach and Two Mile Hollow Beach.



Main Beach is one of many that dot the roughly 70 miles of East Hampton's waterfront. Credit: Gordon M. Grant

Despite its reputation as a posh retreat, East Hampton Village has a small hometown feel. Each August the East Hampton Fire Department holds a large fireworks show at Main Beach. At the same beach each Tuesday in the summer, the village hosts free live music, drawing up to 5,000 people.

It is also known for its Hamptons International Film Festival, which annually draws leading actors and directors from across the globe.

This year's — its 34th annual — will be held Oct. 4-14.



Main Beach is one of many that dot the roughly 70 miles of East Hampton's waterfront. Credit: Gordon M. Grant

Rentals in East Hampton are mostly for the summer. The Town of East Hampton has about 28,000 year-round residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, but the population swells to much larger numbers in the summer. Rentals can cost as much as \$1 million or more a season, but more modest rentals can be found at around \$15,000 a month.



Egypt Lane is home to residential areas and borders the East Hampton Village Nature Trail and Wildlife Sanctuary. Credit: Gordon M. Grant

CONDOS AND CO-OPS There are no condos or co-ops on the market.