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Press Release

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LIRR

IMMEDIATE

MTA LIRR Celebrates 50 Years of Getaways With New Sightseeing Tours and Packages; Participants Can Win a Getaway or LIRR Tickets

The MTA Long Island Rail Road is celebrating fifty years of serving Long Island Tourism by offering a selection of new and popular one-day getaways and non-escorted packages this coming season. As part of the Golden Anniversary celebration, one lucky customer on each tour will find the One-Day Getaways anniversary seal in their itinerary, winning one free getaway of their choice for two or two round-trip rail tickets for a day on their own anywhere the LIRR travels.

The escorted Getaways and special non-escorted packages are listed below:

(NEW) Freeport Nautical Mile Package: Daily June 1-October 8. A fun place to land with friends, or a great family trip. Enjoy the four-acre waterfront park, boardwalk, and marina. Sit on a bench at the foot of the mile or play 18-holes at the Crow's Nest Mini Golf Course. Take a cruise or eat, drink and be merry at a host of waterfront restaurants and bars. Long Island Casinos, Inc. is a 400-passenger casino boat that provides off shore gambling. Show your rail ticket stub and receive discounted admission of \$10 off the regular \$20 price. This package includes discounted round-trip rail to/from Freeport Station and two taxi coupons. The casino boat is not included. The discounted ticket is \$14 for adults.

(NEW) Long Island Museum Row Package: Tuesdays-Saturdays starting June 1, Monday holidays /school break dates. Long Island's premier year-round educational complex offers three great museums in a row: Cradle of Aviation, Long Island Children's Museum, Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Education Center. Package includes discounted round-trip rail and LI Bus fare for adults and LI Museum Row voucher good at the museums for one day's use. The discounted ticket is \$24 for adults, \$15.50 for children 5-11 and under 44 inches tall.

(NEW) Foxwoods Package: Daily starting June 1. Experience "The Wonder of It All" at Foxwoods, the largest casino in the world. Foxwoods six casinos collectively offer more than 7,000 slot machines and an incredible 400 tables for 17 different types of table games, including 100 for poker. Package includes discounted round-trip rail to/from Ronkonkoma Station, shuttle buses, ferry to Connecticut plus the Foxwoods Casino Bonus: \$10 restaurant credit or full buffet coupon and \$20 Keno coupon. The discounted ticket is \$49 for adults 21 and older. Not available July 14, August 25, August 26 and December 25.

(NEW) Mohegan Sun Package: Daily starting June 1. Located in southeastern Connecticut, Mohegan Sun provides guests with a one-of-a-kind gaming, entertainment, dining and shopping experience, featuring more than 60 retail shops and dining venues, a ten-thousand seat arena, an intimate Cabaret Theatre, 34-story luxury hotel, world-class spa and much more. Package includes round-trip rail to/from Ronkonkoma Station, connecting shuttle buses and ferry service plus a Mohegan Sun Casino Bonus: \$10 restaurant/retail credit or full buffet coupon and two \$10 free bets on the Big Wheel. The discounted ticket is \$49 for adults 21 and older. Not available July 14, August 25, August 26 and December 25.

(NEW) Southampton Escape Escorted Tour: Saturdays, June 30 and July 28. Travel to the area known as Long Island's Riviera. Take in some of the incredible scenery while the bus winds through some Southampton Estate sections on the way to the first stop at St. Andrew's Dune Church, the only Long Island church situated on bluffs overlooking the Atlantic. The next stop is the Southampton Historical Museum with its artifacts that help bring to life the traditions of the South Fork of Long Island. While on your own in town, stop at the Parrish Art Museum (it's included in the price) and enjoy colorful paintings by prominent local artists as well as special exhibits. The discounted ticket is \$38 for adults, \$30 for children 5-11.

(NEW) Sunday Brunch Cruise Escorted Tour: Sundays, July 1, August 19. Board the Lauren Kristy, and join us for a beautiful cruise on the Great South Bay, with great views of Fire Island and the South Shore of Long Island. A tasty brunch will be served while you enjoy the sights of the Fire Island National Seashore. You'll also have an opportunity to walk off your sea legs in Sayville where you can window shop at many of the fascinating boutiques, grab a bite at a café or relax on a lazy, summer afternoon in the local park. The discounted ticket is \$64 for adults, \$59 for children 5-11.

(NEW) Mansions & Gardens Escorted Tour: Sundays, July 15 and September 9. Relive the splendor of Long Island's Gold Coast. Visit two distinctive mansions and their magnificent gardens. The first stop is the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, a unique combination of mansion, marine and natural history museum, planetarium and park. Next, purchase lunch at several diverse eateries in Huntington. The final stop is Old Westbury Gardens where there will be a guided tour of the John Phipps mansion and gardens. "Love Story" and "North by Northwest" were two of the many movies filmed at this location. The discounted ticket is \$41 for adults, \$27 for children 5-11.

(NEW) Balloon & Music Fest: Special non-escorted packages, Friday through Sunday, August 10-12 to the 1st Annual Metro NY Balloon & Music Festival at Brookhaven Calabro Airport. This event will include more than 50 hot air balloons. On the concert stage, you can see and hear Joan Jett and the Blackhearts (Friday), The Black Crowes (Saturday), Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo (Sunday). A huge carnival midway, Garcia Brothers Big Top Circus, spectacular Grucci Fireworks (Friday and Saturday evenings), arts and crafts gallery, monster truck rally, aerial stunt planes and much more are included. Package includes discounted round-trip rail, shuttle buses and event general admission at \$35* for adults, \$25* for children 5-11. (*Prices and Festival activities are subject to change.)

(NEW) Harvest Hopping Escorted Tour: Saturday, September 29. The first stop is Sang Lee Farms of Peconic. Their specialty produce is grown naturally using only organically approved materials. They offer "Fresh-Lee-Cut" vegetables at their farm stand as well as specialty dressings, pestos and dips. The next stop is Hallockville's 27th Fall Festival held at the Hallockville Museum Farm. Eighteen buildings on 28 acres of farmland tell the story of 240 years of farming on the North Fork. There will also be antique tractors, hayrides and pony rides. The discounted ticket is \$37 for adults, \$29 for children 5-11.

Strawberry Festival Escorted Tour: Saturday, June 16. During your day at the Mattituck Strawberry Festival you'll have an opportunity to sample the fruit in all of its varieties from shortcake to strawberries covered in chocolate. The Festival is an old-fashioned country fair complete with carnival rides, games of chance, music, arts and crafts. The day's highlight is a super-sized serving of strawberry shortcake or three chocolate covered strawberries on us. On the way to the Festival, we'll stop at Anderson Farms where you can pick your own strawberries or purchase other fresh berries. The discounted ticket is \$37 for adults, \$30 for children 5-11.

Montauk Lighthouse Escorted Tour: Saturdays, June 23, July 21, August 18, September 8. Visit "the" seaside resort community at the tip of Long Island: Montauk. During your day on the East End, you'll visit Montauk Village, the Lighthouse and Gosman's Dock. The discounted ticket is \$42 for adults, \$32 for children 5-11.

Vineyard Harvest Escorted Tour: Saturdays, September 22 and October 20. Country farms, picturesque villages and wineries define Eastern Long Island's North Fork. You'll experience all three during your harvest time tour of this scenic region. The first stop is Wickham's Fruit Farm where you can pick your own apples and enjoy a guided tour of the orchard on a hayride. During a visit to the seaport village of Greenport, you can purchase lunch at one of several excellent restaurants then enjoy some of the sights including the East End Seaport Maritime Museum and the 1920's restored carousel. The final stop is Palmer Vineyards where you'll sample some of the best local wines available. The discounted ticket is \$42 for adults, \$30 for children 5-11.

Treasure Island Escorted Tour: Saturdays, June 9, July 14, September 15. Discover the riches of both the North and South Forks of Long Island on this extensive tour. You'll have the opportunity to sample six varieties of wine at Pindar Vineyards. For lunch there's a stop at the seaport village of Greenport where you can also check out the restored carousel, boutiques and art galleries. Then there's the ferry ride across scenic Peconic Bay to Shelter Island, for a picturesque bus tour. Back on the mainland, there's a final stop at Sag Harbor, a former whaling port with antique shops, boutiques and several areas for people watching. The discounted ticket is \$40 for adults.

Wine Country Escorted Tour: Saturdays, June 2, July 7, August 4. A visit to Long Island's North Fork begins at Bedell Cellars Wineries in Cutchogue where participants will learn about the wine making process from vine to bottle and sample the finished product. The next stop is the seaport village of Greenport where lunch can be purchased and a variety of local shops can be browsed. The last stop is the North Fork's New Duck Walk Vineyards tasting room in Cutchogue. The discounted ticket is \$40 for adults.

Splish Splash: A special non-escorted package. Weekends and holidays starting June 2, daily June 15 through September 4, except August 25 and 26. Located in Riverhead on more than 90 acres, Splish Splash is Metro New York's largest family water park. Voted one of America's top 5 water parks by the Travel Channel, Splish Splash features one-of-a-kind water rides like the Dragon's Den, the Hollywood Stunt Rider and the new Alien Invasion. Package includes discounted round-trip rail to/from Ronkonkoma Station, connecting shuttle bus and attraction admission. The package ticket is \$54 for adults, \$42.50 for children 4-11. Children must be under 48 inches tall.

Cruisin' On The Sound Escorted Tour: Sundays, July 8, August 5. The day begins with a visit to Port Jefferson, where the morning will be spent browsing the many shops and boutiques in this charming village, then a stop for a buy-your-own lunch at a popular eatery. The second part of the itinerary includes a cruise across Long Island Sound passing pleasure boats and lighthouses along the way, en-route to a docking in Bridgeport, Connecticut. There'll be some time to relax before sailing back to Port Jeff for more browsing. A great one-day escape. The discounted ticket is \$40 for adults, \$20 for children 5-11.

Shinnecock Pow Wow: A special non-escorted package. Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2. This is the Shinnecock Nation's 61st annual Pow Wow. There's the Grand Procession, a photographer's dream featuring scores of Native Americans and representatives of Central and South American tribes dancing and chanting in gloriously colorful costumes. Over the next several hours, they will compete in continuous song and dance contests. Food and arts and crafts can be purchased from over 100 vendors. The package includes discounted round-trip rail to/from Southampton Station and admission to the Pow Wow. A free shuttle bus is provided by the event. The discounted ticket is \$29 for adults, \$8.50 for children 5-11.

Oyster Festival: A special non-escorted package. Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14. The Oyster Festival is Long Island's largest annual street and waterfront fair. There's an abundance of oysters and other seafood. The oyster eating contests are legendary. If you're hungry for other types of food, 23 vendors are available to satisfy your cravings. Enjoy 150 arts and crafts booths, along with a variety of musical performances, tall ships, and other waterfront exhibits. The package includes discounted round-trip rail fare to/from Oyster Bay Station, vouchers for three free oysters on the half-shell for adults and free admission to the Slide for children. All exhibits are within walking distance of the station. The discounted ticket is \$14 for adults, \$2.50 for children 5-11.

Tickets for the Getaways (escorted and non-escorted) can be purchased in advance at the LIRR's gray, full-service ticket machines using cash, credit and ATM/debit cards. Select "Getaways & Packages," then "One Day Getaways" followed by the tour or package of your choice. Tickets can be purchased up to midnight on Thursday of the week of the tour. LIRR ticket offices currently accept cash or personal checks only. Before then customers can call the Sales & Promotions Office at 718-558-7498 to pay by credit cards and have tickets mailed. Tickets go on sale seven days before each trip and can be purchased up to 30 minutes before the train leaves at open ticket offices. Please consult our website, www.mta.info for updated information. Before you leave call the LIRR's Travel Information Center at 718-217-LIRR, 516-822-LIRR or 631-231-LIRR to confirm tour status. For a copy of the "2007 One-Day Getaways" brochure contact the LIRR's Travel Information Center at the phone numbers listed above.