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Press Release

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LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### LIRR 'Summer Getaways' Offer Long Island's Cheapest Thrills

#### *New Destinations Include Gold Coast Film Fest, Casino Cruise, Polo Matches and Oyster Bay Village Tour*

The MTA Long Island Rail Road is introducing five new Long Island Getaways to its lineup of escorted sightseeing tours, travel packages and deals this year, offering more unique ways to enjoy the area's many attractions. For the first time, LIRR customers can enjoy discounted travel packages for an OPUS Casino Cruise, the exciting new gambling and entertainment venue that sails from Freeport; the Gold Coast International Film Festival in Port Washington; and a tour of historic Oyster Bay Village, including the Sagamore Hill home of Teddy Roosevelt.

Package trips to Bethpage State Park and Hallockville Fall Festival on the North Fork round out the list of new destinations. They join longtime favorites among those who know that the LIRR, the nation's busiest commuter line, is the better way to get away this summer.

Don't miss the annual Strawberry Festival in Mattituck in June, the special wine tours to the great vineyards on the North Fork of Suffolk County and the fun at Splish Splash, the popular water park all summer long.

The LIRR's escorted Long Island Getaways and special non-escorted packages for the summer season are listed below:

#### **(NEW) Gold Coast International Film Festival – June 1-5 (non-escorted)**

The Gold Coast of Long Island, where Natalie Portman and Francis Ford Coppola grew up, has a film festival all its own. It is running the first week of June in venues in towns Port Washington, Great Neck, Manhasset and Roslyn. The film festival's inaugural year will feature a mixture of studio, independent and foreign-language films and will include narrative & documentaries, short programs and sidebar screenings. For information on screenings and events visit: [www.goldcoastfilmfestival.org](http://www.goldcoastfilmfestival.org)

Package includes \$5 off movie admission (used code LIRR when ordering tickets in advance), off-peak round-trip rail and a Participating Merchants Coupon for deals from local vendors. Two packages are available by station for adults. Port Washington Branch (for travel to Great Neck, Manhasset or Port Washington) \$14.50. Roslyn is \$16.50.

#### **(NEW) OPUS Casino Cruise - Daily Thursday – Sunday (non-escorted)**

Less than an hour away from any location, this fun-filled adventure sails out of the "Nautical Mile" in Freeport. The OPUS Casino Cruise liner features 220 slot machines, mostly on the first deck, including the latest reel and video slots as well as video poker. The second deck features over 17 live table games including: Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, Mini-Baccarat, and 3-Card Poker. On the third deck, you'll find Texas Hold'em tables plus dining & dancing.

The package includes: Round-trip rail ticket to/from Freeport Station (late night drop-off may be to Baldwin Station). Two one-way All Island Taxi coupons and an OPUS Casino Cruise coupon to exchange at their office for the following: a \$15 off regular cruise admission (normally \$35; \$50 Saturday evenings), \$40 free slot play, free sumptuous hot & cold buffet & dessert.

#### **(NEW) Oyster Bay Village – Fri., Sat., Sun. May 28- September 4 (non-escorted)**

The Oyster Bay Railroad Museum is proud to introduce their new "Spend a Day in Oyster Bay" program. Take any off-peak train to historic Oyster Bay and an Oyster Rides vehicle will meet and transport you to the Museum's Visitor Center. Customers can turn in their coupon for an "electronic wand" that features audio info about each location, a map for a walking tour, as well as discount coupons good at local restaurants and stores.

The Oyster Rides van will make a continuous loop to and from the following attractions: Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Sanctuary, Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, The Waterfront Center & Planting Fields Arboretum.

Package includes round-trip rail to and from Oyster Bay, Taxi and a LIRR Deals Coupon to exchange at the Museum's Visitor's Center. The cost is \$31.50 for adults and \$9.50 for children.

#### **(NEW) Hallockville Fall Festival – September 17**

Go back in time when things were simpler at the 31st Annual Hallockville Fall Festival. The Hallock Museum was created to preserve and interpret the history of farming on the North Fork of Long Island. Enjoy an old time country fair featuring artisan vendors, food, music, children's games, animals, and demonstrations of traditional crafts. Customers will also have the opportunity to stroll over to Martha Clara Vineyards on their own to taste and purchase a variety of wines. The cost is \$42 for adults and \$32 for children 5-11.

And don't forget about the LIRR's perennial favorites:

#### **Bethpage Golf, Polo & Tennis – Daily starting June 1 (non-escorted)**

New this year, the grounds at Bethpage State Park thunder with the excitement of polo every Sunday between June and October. Gates open 2 PM; games begin at 3 PM and end at 5 PM. You can also play the golf course that was home to the 2009 U.S. Open. There are five courses open to the public. Tennis courts are available too. The package costs \$22 (Adults only).

Package includes discounted round-trip to Farmingdale Station (not Bethpage), a short taxi ride to Bethpage State Park and 15% off coupon on your lunch or dinner menu at Taste 99 located in the Oak Room inside the clubhouse.

#### **North Fork Villages (non-escorted):**

The beautiful waterfront villages of Riverhead, Mattituck, Southold and Greenport offer a relaxed escape and are home to a world class wine region. Sample the fruits of the area on a winery tour; enjoy the shops, restaurants and attractions. Extend your stay at one of the cozy Bed & Breakfasts or hotels.

Package includes off-peak round-trip to and returning from Riverhead, Mattituck, Southold or participating merchants. Coupon is good on day of travel or up to a week for overnight guests.

Special North Fork events include:

Long Island Wine & Food Festival – June 24-26

Meet local & celebrity chefs. Enjoy the wines and fare in the region.

Polishtown Street Fair & Polka Festival : August 21-23 (Riverhead)

More than 250 stands featuring polish foods, arts & crafts and polka dance music.

Greenport Maritime festival: Sept. 24-26

In its 21st year, enjoy the parade, clam chowder contest, kayaking, old fashioned games and more.

#### **Montauk Village & Golf – Daily except St. Pat's Parade Day March 25 (non-escorted)**

Discover the natural beauty at the tip of our Island. A short taxi ride to the Village lets you experience the unique shops, restaurants, parks, trails, beaches and fishing – it's like being in paradise. Montauk's laid back atmosphere will have you coming back time and time again. If golf is your passion, try the legendary championship course with spectacular views of the ocean at Nassau Downs State Park.

Package includes discounted round-trip rail to/from Montauk Station, two Lindy's Taxi stubs to/from the center of town or the harbor, and a LIRR Montauk Deals Coupon; good for discounts or special offers at [participating merchants](#). Coupon is good for day of travel and up to one week for overnight guests; can be presented only once at each vendor. Coupon has no cash value. The price is \$42 for adults and \$11.50 for children ages 5-11.

#### **Nautical Mile – Starting May 28 (non-escorted)**

Freeport's Nautical Mile can be an interesting date location, a fun place to hang with friends, or a great family trip. Enjoy the 4 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. Package includes discounted round-trip rail to and from Freeport Station and two taxi coupons for All Island Taxi. The price for adults is \$20.

Special event: Nautical Mile Festival, June 4 (rain date June 5). Enjoy face-painting, carnival rides, live bands and tons of seafood at this annual event.

#### **Splish Splash – Weekends from June 4; Daily from June 18 – Sept. 5 (non-escorted)**

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 TravelChannel, Splish Splash has 19 water slides, 2 wave-pools, kiddie areas and many one-of-a kind water rides. Package includes discounted round-trip rail to and from Ronkonkoma Station, connecting air conditioned shuttle bus and park admission. The price is \$62 for adults and \$48.50 for children ages 4-11. Children must be less than 48 inches tall.

#### **Strawberry Festival – June 18 (escorted)**

During your day at the Mattituck Strawberry Festival, you'll have the opportunity to sample the fruit in all of its varieties – as shortcake, pie and covered with chocolate. The festival is an old-fashioned country fair in rural Long Island complete with carnival rides, games of chance, music, arts and crafts. The cost is \$45 for adults and \$32.50 for children.

#### **Long Island Wine Country Tours – July 16, August 6, September 10 (escorted)**

To provide our customers with a greater sampling of Long Island wine and spirits, this year we will offer different flights. Enjoy several varieties of wine at each of these locations. Once we arrive in Greenport you will have the opportunity for beer tasting at Greenport Harbor Brewing Company. You will travel east, taking in some of the local color. As we proceed to the seaport village of Greenport, you'll be able to buy a late lunch and browse the variety of shops lining the streets. Includes North Fork Deals Coupon. The cost for adults is \$48.

#### **Montauk Lighthouse – July 23 and August 20 (escorted)**

Visit the "ultimate" seaside resort community at the tip of Long Island: Montauk. During your day on the East End, you'll visit three distinct areas: Montauk Village, the Lighthouse and Gosman's Dock. Your visit to the Montauk Point Lighthouse Museum can include a 137-stop climb up the spiral staircase in the lighthouse tower, with a spectacular view from the top. The cost is \$44.50 for adults and \$31.50 for children 5-11.

Special Event: August 20 is Montauk Lighthouse's Family Fun Weekend

#### **Sunday Brunch Cruise – July 31 and August 28 (non-escorted)**

Come aboard 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 buffet brunch will be served as we sail toward our destination of West Sayville. After the cruise, walk off your sea legs in the heart of

Babylon Village. Visit the shops, grab dessert or just relax by Argyle Lake. The cost is \$65 for adults and \$57.50 for children ages 5-11.

#### **Orchard Harvest – August 13 (escorted)**

Country farms, picturesque villages and wineries define eastern Long Island's North Fork. You'll experience two during your harvest time tour of this scenic region. At our first stop, Wickham's Fruit Farm, enjoy a guided tour of the orchard on a hayride. Pick your own fruits of the season and take them home; included in the price. You may also want to purchase delicious homemade items including donuts and pies. Our next stop is Sang Lee Farms of Peconic, where you'll have the opportunity to purchase "Fresh-Lee-Cut" vegetables. Our last stop is at the seaport village of Greenport. Purchase a late lunch at one of the several excellent restaurants. Then enjoy some of the many points of interest, including the East End Seaport Maritime Museum, or the 1920s restored carousel. If you would like to stay, there is a train leaving Greenport at 6:11 PM. The cost is \$45.50 for adults and \$35.50 for children 5-11.

#### **(NEW) QuikSilver Pro New York - World Professional Surfing Competition at Long Beach, September 1-15**

Surf Industry giant Quiksilver will bring world-class surfing to Long Beach with the QuikSilver Pro New York, the first-ever Association of Surfing Professionals competition on the East Coast. Surfing legends, including 10-time World Champion Kelly Slater, will be competing for a \$1 million dollar prize purse, an amount unprecedented in the sport. And be sure to cheer on Long Beach's own native son Balam Stack as he participates in the surf competition. Packages include rail and a coupon for deals from participating merchants (list will be available prior to the event). For special details checkout [QuikSilver.com](http://QuikSilver.com). Long Beach will be charging beach admission through Labor Day (\$12 at the beach). To save money for events on the beach through September 5, purchase the LIRR Quiksilver Pro NY package with beach admission. Customers that do not purchase the package with discounted beach admission will have to pay \$12 for beach entry at Long Beach. The cost from Penn Station and Brooklyn is \$21 with beach admission and \$16.50 without beach admission.

#### **Buying Tickets**

Tickets for the Long Island Getaways can be purchased in advance at LIRR ticket offices or from LIRR's blue, green or gray ticket machines. Select "Deals & Getaways, then "Long Island Getaways" followed by the tour or package of your choice. Escorted tour tickets can be purchased up to midnight on Thursday of the week of the tour.

#### **For More Information**

Please consult our website [www.mta.info/lirr](http://www.mta.info/lirr) for updated information, or call the LIRR's Travel Information Center at 718-217-LIRR (5477). If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use your preferred relay service provider or the free 711 relay to reach LIRR at 718-217-5477.

Copies of the LIRR's [2011 Long Island Getaways brochures](#) are available at LIRR stations.