



Read the **Hideaway Report Online** for additional reviews and a slide show of hotels featured in this newsletter

Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report®

June 2009 | Our 31st Year

www.AndrewHarper.com

OPINIONATED REVIEWS BY A WRITER WHO TRAVELS INCOGNITO AND ALWAYS PAYS HIS OWN WAY

Touring the Picturesque East End of Long Island

Built as a private residence in 1652, THE HEDGES INN has long served as an inn and restaurant. Acquired by a new owner three years ago, it has been completely renovated. A white clapboard structure, it has dark-green shutters, trim lawns, colorful gardens and a big front verandah with rocking chairs. The interior pulls off the remarkable trick of informing a traditional aesthetic with elements of a contemporary sensibility. The woodwork is detailed and beautifully painted in soothing low-key colors such as buttercream; polished wood floors are partly covered with plain sisal-like carpets; and the period furniture and accessories have been judiciously selected.

Each of the 12 individually decorated rooms features beadboard wainscoting and beach colors such as silver sage. Adding to their character are antiques and vintage mirrors. Spacious baths have marble floors, mahogany and marble vanities equipped with vessel sinks, and combined bath-showers. Overall, the accommodations are unpretentious, uncluttered and very comfortable. (When booking, inquire about the dimensions of the various rooms as, unsurprisingly for an old house, the sizes vary.)

Although an excellent continental breakfast is served in the sunlit dining room, the inn no longer has a full-service restaurant. However, be sure to take advantage of innkeeper Carol Schnittlich's vast local knowledge. Friendly and efficient, she will help plan your days from start to finish. During the summer, the inn provides beach towels, chairs and umbrellas for visits to Main Beach, just a short drive away. ✈ 88 King Room, \$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$ (depending on the season) www.thehedgesinn.com

The East End ~ When and How

DURING SUMMER, the weather is reliably hot, the ocean is deliciously cool — and everyone knows it. Spring and fall are lovely. The peak of the year is September.

From Manhattan, you can drive on the Long Island Expressway, the world's biggest parking lot in July and August. Other routes head east, but eventually, on the South Fork, the two-lane reality of Montauk Highway is inevitable. To avoid the drive from the city, you can take the Long Island Rail Road (www.mta.info/lirr/) to any number of stops on either the North or South Fork and rent a car, which will also cost hundreds of dollars less than one rented in the city.

If you fly into Kennedy Airport, you can jump on the AirTrain from any of the terminals to the Long Island Rail Road's Jamaica station and from there catch a connecting train to either the North or South Fork. Both Southwest and US Airways fly into Long Island's MacArthur Airport, which is much closer to the East End than JFK.

New York Helicopter (www.newyorkhelicopter.com) operates a "share-ride" service from Manhattan's Downtown Heliport to the East End, with prices ranging from \$550-\$715 a person.

If you are coming from Connecticut or southern New England, there are two ferry options. From Bridgeport, you can take a ferry across the Long Island Sound to Port Jefferson. From New London, you can catch a ferry to Orient Point.

