

# Kelly's Ritzzy Retreat

Pack a bikini — and high heels — and head for New York's most glamorous, celeb-studded summer escape



## WHY SHOULD I GO?

Where else can you spot Kelly Ripa, Jerry Seinfeld, Alec Baldwin, Renée Zellweger, Steven Spielberg and Diddy rubbing elbows? The Hamptons have long been a summer retreat for NYC's elite; millionaire moguls, celebrities and pretenders to the throne all head to this tony stretch on Long Island's eastern end. Yes, some might argue that the Hamptons are a tad overexposed (and overcrowded) in the summer, but there's a reason why the area never loses its appeal: Think fabulous restaurants and shops worthy of any Manhattan block, combined with beautiful beaches, gorgeous countryside and a laid-back, preppy-chic vibe. Some of the most visited towns and villages include Southampton, Bridgehampton, Water Mill, Sag Harbor, Wainscott, and most famously, East Hampton. Just be prepared for traffic come summertime, when a drive between

towns on the weekend can stretch up to 45 minutes.

## WHERE SHOULD I STAY?

If you don't own a mega-mansion, or decide to rent one for the summer, fret not: There are still ways to find a room. One of the area's few luxury resorts, East Hampton Point is ideally situated on a marina just off Three Mile Harbor Road. Guests can either stay in one of the properties' cottages, which come equipped with kitchens and private decks, or in the Palmer House, where most suites have fireplaces, marble bathrooms and flat-screen TVs. And while the resort doesn't have a beach, it does offer the all-important town beach pass for your car. Don't miss Sunday night "deck" dinner at the hotel, which kicks off





**Main:** East Hampton Point. Kelly Ripa (left) and husband Mark Consuelos, who own a home in Southampton, head east to the beach in the summer.

around 5 p.m. Sit close to the water, listen to some reggae music — and chow down on the delicious lobster rolls.

If you're a fan of historic properties, look no further than The Hedges Inn, one of the most intimate places to stay in East Hampton. Quaint, comfy rooms and beautiful English country gardens make this a real home away from home, with manager Carol doing everything she can to make you relax — and don't miss the hot buffet breakfast in the morning.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Two events distinctly mark the summer social calendar here: Super Saturday and the Mercedes-Benz Polo Challenge. The former can best be described as the world's most luxurious garage sale: Savvy shoppers can purchase Manolo Blahniks, a Marc Jacobs bag and a DVF dress, all for under \$500. This Water Mill event is



The Hedges Inn in East Hampton

hosted by celebs like Kelly Ripa, and shopping is guiltless because the proceeds benefit the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund. Bridgehampton Polo spans six weeks (this year it runs until Aug. 23), and the sporting competition is the perfect backdrop for summer schmoozing.

If the club scene is your thing, the Hamptons have it all. You'll often spot Leonardo DiCaprio at Dune in

Southampton, and Ryan Seacrest decided to hold his Fourth of

July soiree at The Estate in Sag Harbor. East Hampton's new hot spot is Lily Pond (Lauren Conrad left the hills of L.A. to check it out), with the exclusive Kobe Beach Club restaurant right next door.

The Grey Goose Manor, also in East

Hampton, has welcomed Nicky Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson.

East Hampton's restaurant scene does not disappoint. Celebs in the know always visit Nick & Toni's, the area's "it" dining establishment. Sarah Jessica Parker, Jack Nicholson, Barbra Streisand, Gwyneth Paltrow, Regis Philbin and Paul McCartney have dined here; reservations are nearly impossible, so if you can't score a table, at least pop in for a drink. For a low-key — yet equally as delicious — meal, pop into Turtle Crossing, just a five-minute drive from East Hampton Point. This laid-back barbecue joint does a mean takeout business, and tourists can sit at the picnic tables, where they can sample wings, brisket nachos and fried oysters. Matto, also in East Hampton, is a family-run traditional trattoria, where the wines, cheese and tiramisu are not to be missed.

Shoppers will find every designer name in the business in East Hampton. Gucci, Mulberry, Tumi, Intermix and Grueneyes (where you'll find luxury eyewear) line Main Street, while Catherine Malandrino,



Enjoy Sunday "deck" dinner at East Hampton Point.

Theory and Calypso dot Newtown Lane.

All good trips must come to an end — but if you're driving back to the city, make a stop at Almoncello in Wainscott. This adorable Italian restaurant has welcomed glamazons like Christie Brinkley and Donna Karan. Splurge on the salumi appetizer, homemade ravioli and veal Milanese — it's the perfect fortifying meal for the drive home.

OK!

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**OK!'S  
3 MUST-DO'S**  
1. "Deck" dinner at East Hampton Point  
2. Shopping along Main Street  
3. Wings at Turtle Crossing

**TRAVEL TIPS**

- > East Hampton Point; easthamptonpoint.com, 631-324-9191
- > The Hedges Inn; thehedgesinn.com, 631-324-7101
- > Almoncello; almoncello.com, 631-329-6700
- > Turtle Crossing; turtlecrossing.com, 631-324-7166
- > Matto; mattoreastaurant.com, 631-329-0200
- > Hampton Jitney; hamptonjitney.com

**HOW DO I GET THERE?** Visitors can either drive (it's a two- to three-hour trip, depending upon traffic), take the LIRR or hop on the Hampton Jitney, which offers direct bus service from Manhattan.

Al-fresco dining at Matto in East Hampton.