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5 Beach Towns Worth Visiting In The Off Season



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GREAT POINT BEACH, NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES - 2017/06/12: Great Point [+]

This winter has been particularly long and brutal for much of the United States. In fact, for many states, [April 2018 is one of the coldest on record](#). And while many of us are itching for warm weather summer Fridays, Memorial Day is still over a month away. But that doesn't mean you still can't book a beach getaway.

There are many sandy spots along the East Coast already open for business, and you don't have to pay high-season prices. You can eat at the best restaurants in town, check out local attractions, and stay at the best hotels without the crowds or price tags. So, where should you go before those prices soar and the hot spots get more crowded?

Here are five great off-season beach options.

1. Newport, Rhode Island



Summer mansion on the Cliff Walk, Cliffside Mansions of Newport Rhode Island (Photo by Visions of [-]

This New England seaside town has been a summer destination for the rich since the Gilded Age and still is. Mansions dubbed simple “summer cottages” dot the coast, and the upscale beaches are filled with sunbathers. But the quaint destination is just as stunning and entertaining now minus the aristocratic prices.

In a weekend, you can stroll along the famous Cliff Walk and pop into the [former seaside mansions of the Vanderbilt’s](#), visit the beautiful grounds of the [International Tennis Hall of Fame](#), and catch an independent film at the [Jane Pickens Theater](#). There’s plenty to keep you busy besides spending a day at the beach.

At night, enjoy a meal at one of the many neighborhood restaurants like [Stoneacre Brasserie](#) or the historic [White Horse Tavern](#). Then call it a night by staying at [The Chanler at Cliff Walk](#) where you can easily access all these hot spots using their complimentary chauffeur service. You’ll even feel like a Vanderbilt if you book one of their signature rooms.

2. Asbury Park, New Jersey



Asbury Hotel

Asbury Park has plenty to do in the off season. Photo: Nikolas Koenig

Much of the Jersey Shore closes up shop until Memorial Day rolls around, but Asbury Park is open for business. In April alone, the beach town has a ton of programming like the annual [Asbury Park Music & Film Festival](#) to suit buffs.

For over a century, Asbury Park has been a top music destination (Bruce Springsteen anyone?), and the music festival relishes in that culture by hosting names like Sublime with Rome, Danny DeVito, Built to Spill, Bobby Bandiera and more. Not to mention, [historic venue Stone Pony](#) has big-name performers popping by starting in March.

Even fitness fanatics have a reason to head to the shore. April 21 marks the [RunAPalooza](#), which includes the Asbury Park Half Marathon and The Jersey Shore Relay, where teams of 1 to 5 members will run from Seaside Heights to Asbury Park on a 26-mile oceanfront course.

Of course, there's plenty to eat and drink at spots like Moonstruck and Pop's Garage. Where to stay? Well, the whole area went through a revitalization over the past couple of years, and the opening of the [Asbury Hotel](#) was a highlight. The millennial-favorite is a blend of Victorian-era history and rock-n-roll present with a rooftop lounge and outdoor movie theater. Bonus: Through May 24, those who book one night will get the second night free.

3. Daufuskie Island, South Carolina



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You can stay at this charming lighthouse in Haig Point.

Made famous by author Pat Conroy's book "The Water is Wide," Daufuskie Island is a quirky destination near Hilton Head and Savannah, Georgia. You can only access it via a boat, and you'll find more golf carts in use than cars, adding to its charm. In just eight square miles, you can visit multiple (but miniature) museums paying homage to the Gullah and Civil War history and the workshops of Martha Stewart-famous artists like [Chase Allen](#).

You won't even miss the mainland for food options. [Morning High Coffee](#), which is located in the back of the old Mary Fields School where Conroy once taught, serves up homemade treats and freshly brewed coffee. Lucy Bell's has some of the best chili around, and the [Daufuskie Island Rum Company](#) recently opened as the island's distillery.

As far as where to stay, the island has a number of rental homes to book. But a favorite is the [Lighthouse](#) in the private Haig Point enclave. Built in 1872, the rental was the setting for a real-life love story and now is one of the most sought-after accommodations overlooking Calibogue Sound.

4. Nantucket, Massachusetts



Nantucket Town Centre. (Photo by Tim Clayton/Corbis via Getty Images)

Direct flights from New York to Nantucket start as early as May 4 making it easy to see the sweeping beaches before the crowds roll in. You won't have to wait on line at the famous fudge shops, ice cream parlors, or the Cisco Brewery. And spring is one of the best times to visit figuratively as more than three million daffodils bloom on the island.

Aside from checking out the flowers, you can visit the Whaling Museum, roam around charming neighborhoods, such as 'Sconset, and go lobstering with Captain Rob, a licensed U.S. Coast Guard who grew up on the water. Spend the night at [The Nantucket Hotel + Resort](#), the island's only all-season resort, complete with a heated outdoor hot tub and fire pit.

The idyllic New England escape, located 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, is constantly buzzing with new restaurants and developments increasing the vacation demand. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the [Nantucket Boat Basin](#) and the opening of the Lilly Pulitzer Cottage at the [White Elephant hotel](#), so you know it will only get busier.

But, despite all the development, almost half of the island remains under conservation and there's not a single traffic light to be found.

5. **The Hamptons, New York**



Main Street in East Hampton. Photographer: Gordon M. Grant/Bloomberg News

Every New Yorker heads “out East” every summer weekend, but they haven’t fully infiltrated the shoreline quite yet. That means you can grab a table at [Nick & Toni’s](#) without a problem, hike in the dunes without a mob scene, and do a wine tasting at the [Wolffer Estate Vineyard](#) without a wait. There are even performances throughout the spring at the [Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center](#) to check out.

For accommodations, you’ll love the Scandinavian-inspired [Maidstone](#). Located on Main Street in East Hampton, you’re within walking distance of all the shops and restaurants, but also have a cozy spot to return to when you’re done exploring. Some of the rooms even have their own fireplaces for those chilly spring nights.

And since the traffic isn’t as bad, you might even consider driving out to Montauk. [Gurney’s Montauk](#) is open year-round and has a spa where you can indulge in workout classes and massages. They even have spring programming like a wine and mixology series. Oh, and they’ll even arrange for you to visit another beach on this list. In under 15 minutes, you’ll land directly on [Gurney’s Newport](#) 22-slip marina in Rhode Island by seaplane.

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