

# A Year's Worth of Fun

Your Indispensable  
**LONG ISLAND**  
Fun Guide!

Our top 20 family must-do's for every season—consider it your annual bucket list, and refer to it often! By Niko Vercelletto



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# Top 20 Things to Do in Summer



**1. Crafty Kids**

With so much handiwork, the **Harborfest** craft fair at the Town Dock in Port Washington in early June is the perfect place for a family looking to admire (and create) crafts alongside musical performances and a pretty park on the Manhasset Bay waterfront. Visit [pwguide.com](http://pwguide.com) for details.

**2. Sailing the High Seas**

Arrr, Matey! Head to **The Pirate Festival** at the Long Island Maritime Museum in West Sayville, a weekend-long event in early to mid-June. Treasure hunts, a pirate costume contest, and lively live musical performances send everyone home yo-ho-happy. Check [nymetroparents.com/calendar](http://nymetroparents.com/calendar) for info closer to the event.

**3. Amityville History**

**Amityville Historical Society's Annual Heritage Fair** in mid-June is a celebration of Amityville's long and surprising history. Bring the whole family and enjoy trolley rides, food, music, and a host of enlightening activities geared toward kids. Visit [amityvillehistoricalsociety.net](http://amityvillehistoricalsociety.net) for details.

**4. It Never Gets Old**

Celebrate the start of summer near the end of June as Long Islanders have done for decades: at **Adventureland Amusement Park** in Farmingdale. Ride roller coasters, play in bumper cars, get chills in the Ghost House, and hang in the arcade. Find a full list of amusement parks in the area at [nymetroparents.com/amusementparks](http://nymetroparents.com/amusementparks).

**5. Fore!**

Go **miniature golfing** at Boomers Family Fun Center in Medford. Finish off the day racing in the go karts, practicing your swing in the batting cages, battling it out in the game room, or jumping on one of the kiddie rides with the littlest member of your family. Find more miniature golf courses in the area at [nymetroparents.com/minigolf](http://nymetroparents.com/minigolf).

**6. Sweet Summer**

**Pick your own berries** throughout the summer at Patty's Berries & Bunches in Mattituck or another berry farm on Long Island (go to [nymetroparents.com/berries](http://nymetroparents.com/berries) for our guide). This fun (and healthy)

outing will leave your kids wanting to grow their own.

**7. Oldie but a Goodie**

Take a spin on the historic **Heckscher Carousel** in Hempstead Lake State Park in West Hempstead. A timeless classic that only gets better with age, this carousel has a charm that families will find irresistibly fun. Get details and find more carousels in the area at [nymetroparents.com/li-carousels](http://nymetroparents.com/li-carousels).

**8. Giddyup!**

Take a **horseback riding lesson or ride a pony** at Island Hills Stables in Middle Island. Island Hills offers lessons that encourage children to build relationships with the ponies on-site. Visit [nymetroparents.com/horseback](http://nymetroparents.com/horseback) for details on more horse stables on Long Island.

**9. Lighting Up the Sky**

Get a front-row seat for the Fourth of July fireworks via the **Freeport Water Taxi**. The kids won't soon forget seeing the night sky light up directly overhead, reflecting off the water.

**10. Rubber Ducky, You're the One....**

Head to the **One Million Dollar Duck Race** at **Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck** in Center Moriches in mid-July to watch 7,000 small rubber ducks in a race for the top prize. They're faster than you'd think! Cheer on your favorite quacker and stay for the family-style duck barbecue afterward. Proceeds from this event benefit the children with special needs who attend Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck.

**11. On-Board Learning**

Hop aboard the Atlantis Explorer and become **Scientists for a Day** at the Long Island Aquarium & Exhibition Center in Riverhead ([nymetroparents.com/li-aquarium](http://nymetroparents.com/li-aquarium)). Collect and analyze data on local marine wildlife, just like a real marine biologist would, throughout the summer.

**12. Islander Standby**

Head to a nearby beach ([nymetroparents.com/beaches](http://nymetroparents.com/beaches)), soak up some rays, and enjoy the cool ocean (just don't forget the SPF!). **Jones**

**Beach State Park** in Wantagh offers 6.5 miles of ocean beach and two swimming pools, perfect for relaxing and enjoying the precious summer months. Don't go home without trying your hand at shuffleboard.

**13. Quack! Home Run!**

Catch a **Long Island Ducks** minor league baseball game at Bethpage Ballpark in Central Islip throughout the summer. With individual game tickets being very well-priced (up to \$15 each), a Ducks game is an affordable way to enjoy America's pastime with the family. Plus, members of the Long Island Ducks' Kids Club (for ages 14 and younger) are invited to Kids Club Day, when they can tour the ballpark, run the bases, and meet some of the Ducks as well as the mascot, QuackerJack. Find more minor league teams at [nymetroparents.com/bball](http://nymetroparents.com/bball).

**14. Barnyard Bash**

What kid doesn't like critters? At the **Animal Farm Petting Zoo** in Manorville, yours will love spending time with, feeding, and yes, petting exotic and barnyard buddies. Find even more furry and feathered friends at [nymetroparents.com/zoos](http://nymetroparents.com/zoos).

**15. Musical Bliss**

At the **Great South Bay Music Festival** in Patchogue's Shorefront Park in mid-July, there is something for everyone. With more than 50 established and emerging performers, a petting zoo, arts-and-crafts stations, and other enticements, this festival is the place for music lovers of any age. Before you go, read about how to make the most of your child's live music experience at [nymetroparents.com/live-music](http://nymetroparents.com/live-music).

**16. The Name Says It All**

With a name like Summerfest, how could you not want to go? At the **Sayville Summerfest** in Downtown Sayville in early August, families will have a blast seeing the live musical performances, eating international food, checking out the car show, and much more. Check [greatersayvillechamber.com](http://greatersayvillechamber.com) for details.

**17. Kicking Up the Kilts**

The **Scottish Games** at Old Westbury Gardens ([nymetroparents.com/owgardens](http://nymetroparents.com/owgardens)) in late August is a great way to learn about Scottish culture. Enjoy pipe bands, taste shortbread, peruse stained glass and other craft displays, and compete in highland games.

**18. Something Fishy**

Turtles, snakes, trout, oh my! Many Long Island parents have fond memories of going to the **Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery and Aquarium** in Cold Spring Harbor on a grade-school field trip. It's still around, and more interactive, educational, and fun than ever.

**19. We All Scream for Ice Cream**

A hand-dipped cone is a staple of summer, and we think no place does it better than **Gooseberry Grove** on Main Street in Oyster Bay. With video games and a player piano to go along with the shakes, floats, and crazy number of homemade flavors, this is a kid's ice cream paradise.

**20. Come Pow Wow**

**Shinnecock Indian Nation Pow Wow**, held at the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, allows visitors to learn about the culture of Long Island's Native Americans. Traditional dances and a drum performance are only two of the entertaining, educational activities offered over the weekend-long festival, typically held in late August or early September. Visit [nymetroparents.com/festivals](http://nymetroparents.com/festivals) for details on this and more cultural celebrations in the area.

Cliff Matias

Courtesy Adventureland

# Top 20 Things to Do in Fall

Search Long Island family activities at: [nymetroparents.com/calendar](http://nymetroparents.com/calendar)



Mike Peilock

**7. Ciao, Bella!**

**Grande Festa Italiana**, held annually in early September at North Hempstead Beach Park in Port Washington, is both the largest and oldest Italian feast on Long Island. Along with the rides, fireworks, and live music, kids can enjoy sampling a variety of Italian foods and watching cooking demonstrations. Get details at [nymetroparents.com/festivals](http://nymetroparents.com/festivals).

**2. Sesame Street on Stage**

The **Sesame Street Live** tour ([sesamestreetlive.com](http://sesamestreetlive.com)) stops at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale for a few days in September and is *the* place to bring your little one. *Sesame Street* characters are loved by every child, and seeing them live adds that extra bit of fun that your child will always remember.

**3. Bushels of Fun**

**Pick fresh apples** (along with many other fruits and veggies) in September at Lewin Farms in Wading River. The first "pick your own" farm on Long Island, Lewin Farms is the place to make a childhood memory. Bake a pie with the bounty! And head to [nymetroparents.com/apples](http://nymetroparents.com/apples) for more picking places.

**4. A Walk through History**

The iconic **Long Island Fair** at Old Bethpage Village Restora-

tion has been going on since 1842 (yes, really!), making it the longest-running county fair in New York state. Happening in late September and early October, the fair features traditional music, wagon and pony rides, farm animals, fair food, and more. Find more info at [lifair.org](http://lifair.org).

**5. Southampton of Olde**

Southampton embraces fall with a full weekend of art, music, food, entertainment, and history near the end of September. The aptly named **Southampton Septemberfest** allows residents and visitors to explore Southampton's rich cultural heritage and its close connection to agriculture and the sea. Adding to the entertainment are volunteers dressed in traditional outfits who sell locally grown produce, teach traditional crafts like basket weaving, and even hold class in a one-room schoolhouse.

**6. A Good Cause**

**Walk Now for Autism Speaks** at Jones Beach in Wantagh in early October is an amazing way to raise money for this increasingly prevalent condition. Your whole family can do a good deed for a great cause—and get some exercise while you're at it. Find more ways to get moving for a reason at [nymetroparents.com/walks](http://nymetroparents.com/walks).

**7. Boo-tiful Jack O' Lanterns**

**The Rise of the Jack O' Lanterns** at Old Westbury Gardens ([nymetroparents.com/owgardens](http://nymetroparents.com/owgardens)), presented throughout October, showcases the amazing work of dozens of local artists. Spend an hour walking through the trail and see more than 5,000 hand-carved Jack O'Lanterns light up the night.

**8. Pumpkin Picking Pleasure**

**Pick your own pumpkins** at Stakey's Pumpkin Farm in Aqueduct and enjoy a brisk walk through the 26-acre pumpkin farm throughout October. With more than 18 varieties of pumpkins to choose from right off the vine, this pumpkin and gourd paradise is well worth the drive. Head to [nymetroparents.com/pumpkins](http://nymetroparents.com/pumpkins) for details and to find more you-pick pumpkin farms in the area.

**9. Perfect Fall Festival**

The **Long Island Fall Festival** at Heckscher Park in Huntington is an ideal way to spend a sunny afternoon. Held in early October, families come from all over the island for the carnival games, farmer's market, old-time rides, and yummy homemade treats. For details, visit [lifallfestival.com](http://lifallfestival.com).

**10. Great Catch!**

For family-friendly fishing, check out the **Fall Family Fishing and Children's Festival** at Hempstead Lake State Park in West Hempstead in mid-October. Lessons in fly fishing and fish-cleaning, plus pumpkin decorating, pony rides, and a magic show make this one of the most popular fall festivals in Nassau. For updates on the next festival, search [nysparks.com](http://nysparks.com).

**11. Shell Game**

In Theodore Roosevelt Park in—where else?—Oyster Bay, you can shuck yourself silly (while the kiddos will find more kid-palatable fare) at the **Oyster Festival** ([theoysterfestival.org](http://theoysterfestival.org)). And it's not just shellfish. Find pirate shows, tall ships, and midway rides in mid-October.

**12. Spooky Museum Party**

The **Ghostly Gala** Halloween party at **Long Island Children's Museum** in late October is a fun, safe, and festive way to enjoy the holiday. With face painting, gallery trick-or-treating, and a costume party, this is one event you'll remember well past the spooky season.

**13. Autumn Landscapes**

Long Island has many beautiful hiking trails ([nymetroparents.com/hike-li](http://nymetroparents.com/hike-li)), and one of the best is **Garvies Point Museum and Preserve** in Glen Cove. Leading down to a quiet beach, this easy-for-kids trail is one of the most serene on the island.

**14. Haunted Halloween**

If you have older kids who are over the trip to the pumpkin patch, take an afternoon outing to **one of the most haunted places on Long Island**. A ride down Sweet Hollow Road in Huntington (just south of Jericho Turnpike), infamous for its ghost spotting, will be a creepy good time for all. Find many more ghoulish activities for all ages at [nymetroparents.com/halloween](http://nymetroparents.com/halloween).

**15. Outdoor Sculpture Garden**

Take a stroll through the 145 acres of fields, woods, and ponds at **The Nassau County Museum of Art** ([nassaumuseum.org](http://nassaumuseum.org)) in Roslyn Harbor and



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be amazed by the inspiring sculptures created by established artists. And if you're looking to do some leaf peeping outside the area, head to [nymetroparents.com/leaf](http://nymetroparents.com/leaf) for our suggested locations.

**16. Who Needs the Everglades?**

Relax, sit back, and enjoy as the Ward Melville Heritage Organization's **Discovery** boat takes you for a **cruise through Long Island's wetlands** (offered select dates, May through October). Learn about the history, geology, and ecology of the gorgeous area we call home. The pontoon departs from Stony Brook Harbor and cruises through the organization's 88-acre wetlands preserve for a 1½-hour tour. Find details at [stonybrookvillage.com/the-discovery-wetlands-cruise](http://stonybrookvillage.com/the-discovery-wetlands-cruise).

**17. Get Lost in a Corn Maze**

With the exception of pumpkin picking, nothing says fall like a romp in an old-fashioned corn maze. One of the bigger examples on the island is the Maise at **Fairview Farm** ([nymetroparents.com/li-maze](http://nymetroparents.com/li-maze)) in Bridgehampton. The site also has a corn cannon and yes, it is as cool as it sounds.

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**18. Reptile World**

If your kids think cute and cuddly is boring, **Jungle Bob's Reptile World** ([nymetroparents.com/jungle-bob](http://nymetroparents.com/jungle-bob)) in Centereach is sure to please them. And the fact that there's no charge for admission will please you! This unique showroom allows you to see unusual creatures living in their own habitats.

**19. The Island Is Alive with Art**

From visual, musical, and performing arts to community festivals and epicurean delights, the annual **Arts Alive LI** festival in October is a month-long tribute to Long Island's arts and entertainment world. It takes place on stages, in galleries, at film houses, and in neighborhood restaurants across the island. For a full calendar of events and to purchase tickets, visit [artsalivelii.org](http://artsalivelii.org).

**20. Old-Fashioned Turkey Day**

The **Thanksgiving Celebration** at **Old Bethpage Village Restoration** in late November is as traditional as it gets. Brimming with goodies such as decorated pumpkin pies and turkey roasted over an open fire, this is a novel way to celebrate America's heritage. For details, keep an eye on [nymetroparents.com/calendar](http://nymetroparents.com/calendar) closer to the holiday.



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Dawn Roode



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# Top 20 Things to Do in Winter



## 1. Charlie Brown Would Approve

**Cut your own Christmas tree** at Mike's Christmas Tree Farm in Manorville, late November through Christmas Eve. Choose your favorite tree and chop it down yourself, making it feel like a country Christmas. Find details on Mike's and more tree farms near you at [nymetroparents.com/xmastrees](http://nymetroparents.com/xmastrees).

## 2. Historic Christmas

**Hallockville Christmas** at **Hallockville Museum Farm** in Riverhead sets a scene that will take your whole family back to a simpler time. In early December, you can tour historic homes decorated in Victorian and Depression-era style, try your hand at old-fashioned baking techniques, and take part in traditional children's Christmas games and traditions.

## 3. To Seal the Deal

**Seal Cruises** in Freeport, aboard the *Captain Lou Fleet*, show families these beloved creatures in their natural habitat. Bundle up: January is when the sightings are best. Learn about the biology and behavior of seals and other marine life on this scenic junket. Cruises are presented by **The Riverhead Foundation** and board on select weekend dates through April.

## 4. Plugged In

Watch little eyes light up with holiday joy during a **community tree or menorah lighting**, such as the Ronkonkoma Menorah Lighting at Raynor Beach Park, where families can enjoy potato latkes, chocolate gelt, and holiday togetherness to kick off the festival of lights. Check [nymetroparents.com/calendar](http://nymetroparents.com/calendar) for more holiday lightings.

## 5. Nothing Else Holds a Candle

Love the old-fashioned, understated look of a single candle lighting each of your home's windows during the holidays? Head to **Paint a Piece** in Commack to **create your choice of scented candle** (the pottery and glass creations make great holiday gifts, too).

## 6. Disney Magic

The **Disney on Ice** tour stops by Nassau Coliseum in January and is sure to wow with its trademark top-notch costumes, sets, music, and talent. Disney lovers and fans of ice-skating in general will enjoy seeing their favorite characters fly around the gigantic rink. Visit [disneyonice.com](http://disneyonice.com) for updates.

## 7. Island Natives

A **New York Islanders** ([islanders.nhl.com](http://islanders.nhl.com)) game at Nassau Coliseum, especially in January or February as the final games are approaching, is nonstop excitement. Support the sport of hockey and our local heroes by snagging one of the center-ice ticket packages. Who needs to schlep into the city to see that other team?

## 8. Blade Runners

Go **ice-skating** at Christopher Morley Park in Roslyn, voted best outdoor skating rink on Long Island by the viewers of *News 12 Long Island*. Enjoy the 200-foot rink, surrounded by forest, from November through March (weather pending). And find more indoor and outdoor rinks in the area at [nymetroparents.com/ice-skating](http://nymetroparents.com/ice-skating).



Courtesy: New York Islanders



Courtesy: MSG Entertainment

## 9. Ghost of Christmas Present

The **Dickens Festival** in Port Jefferson in early December is a holiday treat that celebrates the author of *A Christmas Carol*. From costumed characters to Victorian entertainment and food, this event will surely bring out the Christmas spirit. Check [portjeff.com](http://portjeff.com) for updates on the next festival.

## 10. Nutty for 'The Nutcracker'

It's not hard to find performances of **The Nutcracker** in December ([nymetroparents.com/li-nutcracker](http://nymetroparents.com/li-nutcracker)), but there's only one version done by the Long Island Ballet Theatre. Savor the local spin on this classic ballet in Port Washington in early December. Tickets are much less expensive than Lincoln Center, too!

## 11. It's All Downhill from Here

When the snowflakes fly, take advantage by going **sledding**. The hill in Eisenhower State Park in East Meadow is ideal because of its gentle slope and thrilling length—perfect for the littlest snow bunnies. Find more sledding spots at [nymetroparents.com/sled-long-island](http://nymetroparents.com/sled-long-island).

## 12. Frosty Adventure

Head to a nearby mountain for **skiing and snowboarding**. Belleayre Mountain in Highmount is great for families because of its Learning Zone, a designated retreat for first-timers ages 8 to adult. Visit [nymetroparents.com/ski](http://nymetroparents.com/ski) to find more nearby slopes.

## 13. Heroes Near Home

House fires peak in December and January. Honor our everyday heroes (and learn essential fire safety) at the **Nassau County Firefighters Museum and Education Center** in Garden City. This destination teaches all about the work and sacrifices of firefighters by letting visitors put on actual firefighter uniforms and go through obstacle courses.

## 14. Harbor History

The **Harborfest** festival in Sag Harbor in early February is a celebration of the maritime history of Sag Harbor. There will be whaleboat racing, clam chowder tasting, underwater archaeological exploration, and many other activities in which the whole family can partake.

## 15. Polar Bear Super Bowl Splash

Watch the most hardcore people jump into the freezing Atlantic Ocean on Super Bowl Sunday when the **Long Beach Polar Bear Club** raises money for charity. Maybe you'll even want to join them!

## 16. Lights, Action!

Any kid will say lasers are awesome. So **Long Island Laser Bounce** in Levittown is a no-fail way to thrill the kids on cold winter days. The arcade includes a laser tag arena filled with glow-in-the-dark obstacles and cool special effects lighting systems.

## 17. Soaring to New Heights

Highlighting Long Island's contributions to flight, which many people don't know much about, **The Cradle of Aviation Museum** ([nymetroparents.com/aviation-museum](http://nymetroparents.com/aviation-museum)) in Garden City aims to get kids excited about the science and beauty of flying planes. Make a day of it by stopping by the nearby Long Island Children's Museum and Historic Nunley's Carousel.

## 18. Cabin Fever Cure

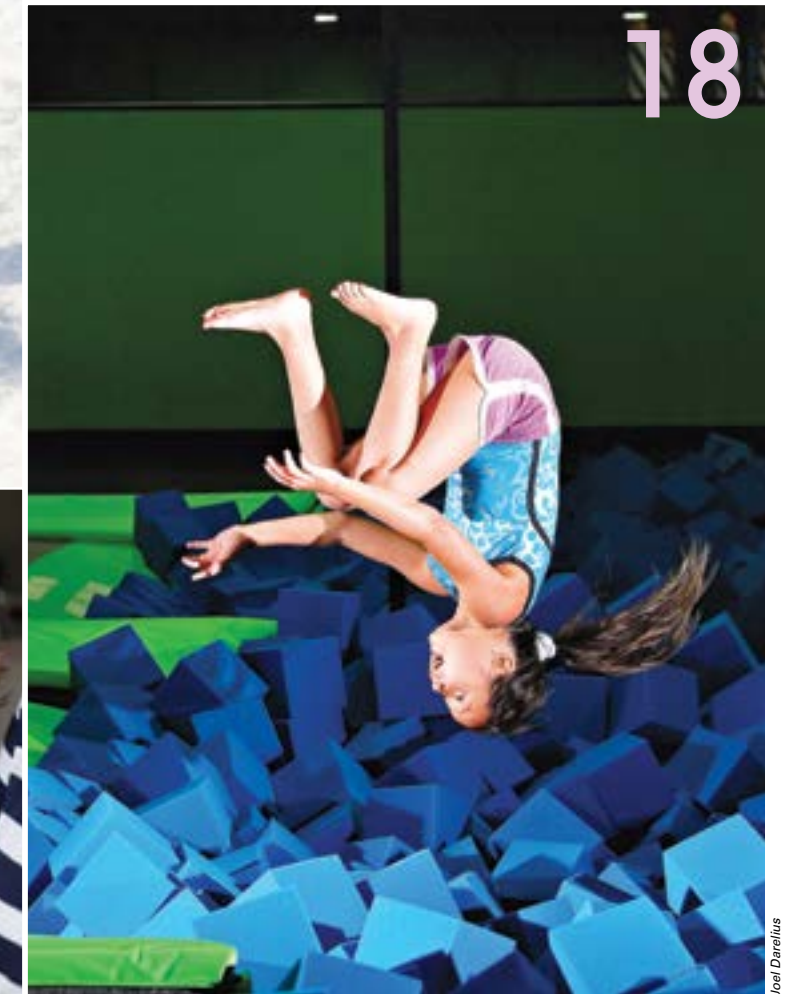
By the time February rolls around, everyone is getting a

## 19. Dreaming of Summer in a Treehouse

A real eucalyptus tree brought in from California stands at a height of 18 feet in **Once Upon A Treetop** in Plainview. Playing in the treehouse makes summer seem that much closer. Little ones can also roam around in a pint-size village complete with a train station, grocery store, and other interactive "stops."

## 20. Old-Time Memory

**The Long Island Puppet Theatre** in Hicksville gives your kids a taste of entertainment you probably enjoyed all the time as a kid. The shows use both marionettes and traditional hand puppets. Craft workshops are also available.



Joel Danelius

# Top 20 Things to Do in Spring

## 1. Sweet Satisfaction

**Maple Sugaring Day** at Benner's Farm in East Setauket is an experience to remember for anyone with a sweet tooth. Nobody but Mother Nature knows exactly when the sap will run, but the four-to-six-week season typically starts in late February. Learn how to make maple syrup, candy, and other sweets from the farm's maple trees. Where else can you find the sweet stuff? Check [nymetroparents.com/maple-sugaring](http://nymetroparents.com/maple-sugaring).



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## 2. Under the Big Top

The **Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus** stops at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale for a few days in March. This tour brings the kooky clowns, cool stunts, and awe-inspiring creatures that thrilled you as a kid and (admit it!) still do. For details, visit [ringling.com](http://ringling.com).



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## 3. All About the Kiddos

The **All Kids Fair** at the Melville Marriott in April is half resource expo, half fun family outing that delivers a trove of educational vendors for parents. Kids get to enjoy balloon-twisting clowns, kiddie yoga classes, and magicians while you peruse the offerings.

## 4. On the Hunt

Orient Beach State Park's annual **Easter Egg Hunt** is worth the trip for the novelty of hunting seaside. The Big Rabbit himself will be there to greet the wee hunters, ready to hand out prizes for those who discover the special eggs at this event, which changes dates according to when the holiday falls; check [nymetroparents.com/li-easter](http://nymetroparents.com/li-easter) for updates.



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## 5. Nature Calls

The **Arbor Day Family Festival** in late April at Coe Hall Mansion in Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park ([nymetroparents.com/planting-fields](http://nymetroparents.com/planting-fields)) in Oyster Bay is a combo of learning and fun. With plenty of space for wiggly kiddies to romp, they'll go home happy and tired—and with a better understanding of the importance of trees.

## 6. Tiptoe through the Tulips?

**Huntington Tulip Festival** at Heckscher Park ([nymetroparents.com/heckscher](http://nymetroparents.com/heckscher)) in early May is a family-oriented, floral bonanza that showcases more than 20,000 tulips. Hands-on children's activity booths, art exhibitions, and musical entertainment are all featured among the blooms.

## 7. To the Moms!

The **Mother's Day Picnic** at Belmont Park in Elmont over Mother's Day weekend is a unique way to celebrate the special ladies in your life. Pack your own picnic and watch the horse races with Mom and Grandma before heading over to the playground and petting zoo. Check [nyra.com](http://nyra.com) for details on this event.

## 8. All Aboard!

Around mid-May, **Long Island Live Steamers** in Brookhaven kicks off its seasonal Public Run Days, when train lovers (aka kids) can catch a ride Harry Potter-style. Relive the glory days of the railroad as you chug along 8 acres of tracks. And in honor of National Train Day, which typically coincides with Mother's Day weekend, check out our full list of train rides and exhibits in the area at [nymetroparents.com/trains](http://nymetroparents.com/trains).

## 9. Asian Influence

The **Sakura Matsuri Cherry Blossom Festival** at the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University in May is a wonderful way to learn about Japanese culture. With workshops in origami, martial arts, taiko, dance, and painting, this fest will wow kids as well as grown-ups.

## 10. Flying High

The **Bethpage Air Show** ([bethpageairshow.com](http://bethpageairshow.com)), a Memorial Day staple at Jones Beach in Wantagh, is a can't-miss Long Island event that showcases world-class military and civilian fliers. Pack a lunch and some sunscreen, and witness the incredible feats of amazing pilots and parachuters (be sure to bring earplugs for the youngest in your brood and for kids with sensitivities).

## 11. Chocolate Lovers Unite

April showers bring...a need for rainy-day ideas for kids. And what's better than eating chocolate? Making your own fresh. **Kronch Chocolatier** in Great Neck ([kronchchocolatier.com](http://kronchchocolatier.com)) allows you to do just that. From chocolate popcorn to chocolate truffles, a visit to this old-world candy crafter will satisfy the biggest sweet tooth.

## 12. Strolling Along

As the weather warms, thoughts turn to strolling—and **Downtown Glen Cove** is a really good place to do just that. Meander past boutiques, restaurants, specialty food markets, a movie theater, and a marina. And don't miss Justin's Toys ([justinstoys.com](http://justinstoys.com)), a store that offers workshops in which kids create their own playthings.

## 13. Mother-Daughter Date

Spring is the start of pedicure season! Looking for a bonding experience with your little girl? **Lipstick & Lollipops** ([lipstick-and-llollipops.com](http://lipstick-and-llollipops.com)) has you covered. Located in Mount Sinai, this one-of-a-kind spa not only offers all the latest in toe chic, but glitter tattoos to show off with tank tops, too.

## 14. Swinging through the Treetops

If your family is on the adventurous side, take a trip to **The Adventure Park** ([nymetroparents.com/li-adventure-park](http://nymetroparents.com/li-adventure-park)) in Wheatley Heights. Consisting of eight different ropes courses amidst 5 acres of trees, this park will satisfy any adrenaline-fueled family.

## 15. Landmark Worth a Stop

A calming and relaxing experience, visiting the **Fire Island Lighthouse** is a must for any Long Island family. Walk the scenic boardwalk, visit the museum, and climb to the top of the tower that's become one of Long Island's best-known symbols.

## 16. From Farm to Fitness

Where can you find exotic animals, a fitness trail, an ecology center, a picnic area, and three pools? Only at the **Town of Brookhaven's Ecology Site, Park & Animal Preserve** in Holtsville. Find more nature sites at [nymetroparents.com/zoos](http://nymetroparents.com/zoos).

## 17. Woof!

Sure to bring a smile to your child's face, the **Long Island Kennel Club Dog Show** in

mid-May—recently relocated to Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay ([nymetroparents.com/planting-fields](http://nymetroparents.com/planting-fields))—features a breed showcase and a "My Dog Can Do That" event. Bring your own talented pooch!

## 18. In Teddy's Footsteps

**Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center** in Oyster Bay ([ny.audubon.org/trsanctuary](http://ny.audubon.org/trsanctuary)) comes to life in spring. You'll find birds of prey as well as reptiles and amphibians native to our area. Consider an Owl Prowl or other guided hike.

## 19. Plant Yourself Here

The **Bayard Cutting Arboretum** in Great River is awash with color in May. Five different nature walks are available next to the Connetquot River. Kids will surely stop at the duck and chicken pens. Find more info on Bayard and other nearby nature centers at [nymetroparents.com/zoos](http://nymetroparents.com/zoos).

## 20. Ah, the Golden Ring!

Remember **Nunley's Carousel** in Baldwin? A historic landmark and place of fondest childhood memories for many of us, the amusement park closed in 1995. But the cherished carousel continues to spin in a beautiful dedicated building at Museum Row in Garden City. Go to [nymetroparents.com/carousels](http://nymetroparents.com/carousels) for more info.

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