


Hamptons Berry

PLAN A RELAXING
RETREAT THIS
HOLIDAY
SEASON

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The holidays are a special time in the Hamptons. Picture-perfect towns are dressed up in their holiday finest, with homes and trees adorned with shimmering lights. Beaches take on a different cast, with the icy-blue sky and ocean making a vivid contrast to the white sand and dunes. And art galleries and museums put on events to excite even the most casual viewer. The Hamptons are especially conscious of the safety and health of its visitors. Masks are required in restaurants, shops and during tours and are requested to be worn in all public places. Be sure to check changing requirements and schedules when making reservations.

Holiday Eats

The pandemic has extended the variety of Hamptons restaurants staying open through the fall and winter seasons. Many have created indoor and outdoor dining experiences and additional

takeout options where seasonal menus are enhanced with local beer and wines.

Baron's Cove (31 W. Water St., 844.227.6672) Sag Harbor the Harborview restaurant at Baron's Cove resort offers a "Chef's Table" culinary series with holiday-themed dinners. Part of an all-inclusive three-day hotel package, each meal features what is seasonally best from local farms and purveyors, with personal attention from Chef Nick Vogel. **Bistro Été** (760 Montauk Hwy., 631.500.9085) in Water Mill is year-round go-to for Hamptonites, Bistro Été goes all out for the holidays with seasonally inflected dishes and homemade desserts. Chef Arie Pavlou's smoked pork chop is a sculptural feat, topped with a pumpkin cup filled with greens. Seasonal pumpkin flavors also appear in homemade ice cream. Cocktails similarly reflect the season — try the truffle martini if it's available.

Shopping and Culture

Shopping is more than a casual pastime in the style-obsessed Hamptons. Small Business Saturday®, sponsored by American Express, takes place two days after Thanksgiving and invites visitors to explore the boutiques and one-of-a-kind shops that pepper the South Fork towns. Plan to visit the **Artisan Market at the Southampton Chamber of Commerce** (76 Main St., 631.283.0402)

for handcrafted works from locals. On December 12 and 13, the By Hand Artisan's 22nd Annual Holiday Gift Show invites you to enjoy more handmade gift options including knits and felted wool, sea glass art, skincare and soaps, mosaics, wooden toys, original jewelry and ceramics in East Hampton's historic Ashawagh Hall. **28th Annual Hamptons B&B Inn, Restaurant & Attraction Holiday Tour** (members.easthamptonchamber.com/events/) for two days on December 5 and 6, a privileged few are invited to enter some of the most popular destinations in The Hamptons. All tours are guided and limited in number. Tickets are required and can be purchased online. **Southampton Arts Center (SAC)** (25 Jobs Ln., 631.283.0967) benefit for The Collectors Sale presents art pieces donated by more than 180 artists. For the little ones, SAC offers Zoom Bedtimes Stories, read by the authors themselves through December 20.

Breezy Resorts

Bring the whole gang to the **Southampton Inn** (91 Hill St., 631.283.6500) for a Thanksgiving mini-holiday with a special overnight package and a four-course turkey dinner at Claude's Restaurant. You may want to extend your stay at the family-friendly inn, which offers the personal attention of a bed and breakfast with a hotel's services. The 90 guest

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rooms each have a slightly different décor. The inn's restaurant is popular for its signature weekend brunch which features locally sourced ingredients. The elegant **Baker House 1650** (181 Main St., 631.324.4081) in East Hampton embraces the winter season with 'Intimate Moments at Baker,' focusing on togetherness and family. A striking bed and breakfast with architecture inspired by 17th-century Cotswolds, the Baker House was originally built in 1648 and has a storied history. It also provides a mix of refinement and comfort with indulgent amenities including an onsite spa. Popular during the colder months, Baker House's fire pit is a go-to for guests to enjoy hot beverages while wearing inn-provided pashminas.

The Berkshires

The Berkshire Mountain area of western Massachusetts is a prime getaway during the holidays, starting with striking foliage and pumpkin festivals and continuing with sparkling Christmas lights. While many of the Berkshires' popular attractions are closed due to COVID, there's plenty to do to satisfy all ages. Be sure to pack your cold-weather gear and some sturdy walking shoes.

Holiday Dining

At **Café Boulud at Blantyre** (16 Blantyre Rd., 413.637.3556) Michelin-

starred Chef Daniel Boulud continues his successful residency at the luxurious Blantyre country manor. Using fresh and local ingredients, Boulud offers seasonal French classics with a New England twist. Dress your best for one of the area's finest dining experiences. On Thanksgiving, the restaurant's three-course prix fixe dinner includes pumpkin soup with gruyère espuma (foam) and Berkshire turkey with shallot-rosemary gravy. In a setting marked by woods and landscaped gardens, **John Andrews Farmhouse Restaurant** (224 Hillsdale Rd. (Route 23), 413.528.3469) is a Berkshires delight. The restaurant sits in a structure dating from the late 1700s on the original farmstead. An outdoor fire pit invites diners to enjoy a relaxing cocktail even in the coldest of temperatures. The menu epitomizes the farm-to-table concept, with seasonal ingredients sourced from local farms and food artisans. Chef Dan Smith's focus is one of taste-of-place dining, ensuring that you have a truly Berkshires experience with a menu built around regional producers of the moment.

Family Fun in the Berks

There's no shortage of activities to fill your days and nights over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. An annual sellout, **Winterlights at Naumkeg** (5 Prospect Hill Rd., 413.298.8138) is an illuminated wonderland of thousands of lights at Stockbridge's Naumkeag, a 44-room Gilded Age "cottage" with stepped gardens. Trees are covered with shimmering holiday lights of many colors and overhead balloons and other lit designs wow visitors of all ages. Timed tickets are required for the outdoor experience and must be purchased in advance. Pittsfield's living history museum **Hancock Shaker Village** (1843 W. Housatonic St., 413.443.0188) is beautiful in the winter months. The twenty historic buildings

and numerous walking trails offer a deep dive into the simplicity and quality of Shaker life from the 1780s to the mid-20th century. Some seasonal events include: Enjoy *Thanksgiving on the Farm* on November 27 and 28 with some woodworking and blacksmithing demos, Turkey Walk & Talk (registration required), hikes and children's activities like smashing pumpkins and feeding them to the farm's hungry pigs. On Saturday, December 12, the annual *Village Family Day* invites visitors to decorate cookies and make ornaments. Artisan demos, a gingerbread contest, storytime with Santa (registration required), a visit with the animals in the barn, caroling and Shaker talks are scheduled throughout the day.

Where to Stay

Newly opened in the Berkshires, **Miraval Resort & Spa** (55 Lee Rd., 413.881.1234) is known for its fitness and wellness focus. Activities including aerial yoga, hiking, biking and snowshoeing make for a diverse and indulgent experience at the expansive property. Spa programming is an integral part of the Miraval journey, combined with a culinary emphasis on balance. When the cold weather hits, the historic **Red Lion Inn** (30 Main St., 413.298.5545) looks like it stepped out of Norman Rockwell's painting of Main Street in Stockbridge, *Home for Christmas*. One of only a few American inns operating continuously since before 1800, The Red Lion appeals to Americana buffs with its decorated Rockwell-esque front porch and holiday carolers regaling guests on the steps. Indoors, live Christmas trees, Christmas kissing balls, poinsettias, yards of garland and handmade wreaths on every guestroom door create the holiday mood. For much of December pianists and harpists play holiday favorites in the lobby.