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Where to Dig Into Lobster Rolls, Take a Beach Hike, and Party in Montauk

This famous fishing town outside of NYC is surprisingly cool.

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Montauk, New York | haveseen/Shutterstock

TWO DAYS AWAY

Montauk, once most popular among fishermen and surfers, today, offers an eclectic mix of parties, share houses, live music, breweries, lobster rolls, and, yes, still some of the best fishing and surfing in the Northeast.

About 120 miles from NYC, Montauk is accessible by train, but I prefer to spare myself the *Hunger Games*-like madness that ensues at Penn Station on a Friday afternoon and hit the road instead. For this trip, I rented a car from Turo, which is essentially an Airbnb for car-sharing, because I'd take the Hamptons traffic over the Long Island Rail Road's crowded train cars any day.

If you don't do anything else: Lobster rolls in Montauk

The most important stop you'll inevitably make is for a lobster roll, and there's a plethora of popular spots to choose from. So many, that some people even engage in lobster roll crawls.

In fact, you may overhear heated debates on who has the best one. Is it Bostwick's Chowder House? The Clam Bar at Napeague? Someone will likely confidently pronounce The Lobster Roll (a.k.a. Lunch) as the winner. Personally, I'm Team Clam Bar, but, really, you can't go wrong with any of them.