



Travel along the North Shore Heritage Trail (25A) and Discover the Secrets Hidden in its Backroads and Byways!

Cold Spring Harbor, Huntington

- Select an itinerary for the day or stay for a few days and undertake a comprehensive excursion.
- Avis Car Rental at the Huntington Hilton Long Island Hotel at 631-896-2423.
For a special discount mention code: H786700. If you prefer to reserve your car online at Avis@hiltonhotel and enter location code: ME2. The special rate is available only at Avis@hiltonhotel.
- For Package Vacations, Events and Members' Listing visit our homepage.

As you travel east along Rte 25A between Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor, stop off at the **Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery and Aquarium (Route 24A and Rt 108 Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724; 516-692-6768)** to see the trout hatchery at work, and to learn about Long Island's aquatic animals including turtles, snakes and fish. They have the largest living collection of New York State freshwater, reptiles, fishes and amphibians. Visitors can tour their two aquarium buildings and eight outdoor ponds, feed the hungry trout, and try their "Catch & Keep" fishing. An interpretive sign on the property talks about how President George Washington helped raise a new country's early school when he stopped here during its construction, on his ride along 25A in 1790 to thank the people who helped him during the Revolutionary War.

Across the road, visit the world-famous **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (One Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724; 516-367-8800)**, and take a tour of their campus gardens and state-of-the-art research center that brings scientists from around the world carrying out genetic and neurological research. This 1 ½ hour guided tour is offered March – November and reservations are required. CSHL also offers special lectures and concerts throughout the year. “Bungtown Road” which runs through the campus, takes its name from Bungtown, a small settlement where barrels for whale oil were made.

As you continue east along 25A, around the head of the harbor, you are passing the former site of shipyards, oyster houses and sail lofts which served the village’s fleet of whale ships and coastal cargo vessels in the 1800s. Stop to enjoy these waters and have a picnic at **Billy Joel Park** and then hike along the **Greenbelt Trail**, which starts in the **Cold Spring Harbor State Park** across the street.



Billy Joel Park, 25A Cold Spring Harbor- Picnicking along the harbor you will see the docks which had their share of unloading rum. Visitors here can also use the fishing pier and boat ramps.



Harbor Mist Restaurant- previously known as Van Ausdall Hotel and used as a brothel (Photo Credit: "Ghosts of Long Island" Stories of the Paranormal, by Kerriann Flanagan Brodsky).

The Harbor Mist Restaurant (105 Harbor Road Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724; 631-659-3888) was once Van Ausdell’s Hotel, a tavern and brothel serving the sailors from visiting ships. Today the restaurant offers a panoramic view of the harbor featuring a wide variety of menu items such as fresh seafood, prime meats and daily specials. If you dine at the Harbor Mist, imagine Otto Kahn’s 200 plus foot fast commuter boat, “Oheka” docked in the harbor in the early 1900’s, so he could commute to Wall Street. The Oheka’s crew was generous with the leftovers from the “Tea” he enjoyed every afternoon on his

way home; local children learned to swim by the boat to get treats like lobster salad or peach shortcake.

A ride up **Shore Road** will take you past “**Eagle Dock**” – the old steamboat pier. In 1923, an inquisitive resident noticed suspect activity at Eagle Dock and approached the men unloading unmarked cases from a motorboat. He approached the operators with a proposition: his silence could be assured for a bottle of whiskey. Needless to say this

ploy did not work: a gun was put against his stomach, and he was told to sit down until they were done. The runners handed him an empty flask and told him, “have a drink on me, smarty.” (The Long Islander, 1923)

Next drive along to see the former **Casino of the Glenada Hotel**. Now a private beach and tennis club, the **Glenada** was one of the several resort hotels popular in the late 1800s. Young men from the city would board with local families during the summer, and frequent the dances and socials at the Casino to meet young ladies.

Drive a little farther on 25A and discover the quaint hamlet of **Cold Spring Harbor** where **Main Street** was once known as “**Bedlam Street**” during its rowdier days. Today, stroll through its eclectic collection of shops and boutiques specializing in clothing, crafts, gifts, then pay a visit to the **Firehouse Museum (84 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724; 631-367-0400)**, housed in its original 1890 structure.

Walk east on Main Street to “**Captain’s Row,**” to stroll among the picturesque neighborhood of historic houses, most associated with captains of local ships. The Captain James Wright property is now home of the **Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum (279 Main Street Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11742; 631-367-3418)** which offers exhibits of the hamlet’s whaling history and explores the ongoing relationship between Long Islanders, the sea and its resources. The museum offers a full calendar of special educational programs for children and families.

As you continue your journey east toward **Huntington**, you are following the path of many a rumrunner’s delivery, as Cold Spring Harbor was better suited to clandestine landings than busy Huntington, which supported a number of speakeasies.

Huntington, New York

Continue east along **Rte 25A** until you reach the town of **Huntington**. **Gold Coast Bank (315 Main Street Huntington, NY 11743; 631-923-1720)** can take care of your banking needs when traveling the North Shore of LI, with locations in Huntington, Setauket, and Islandia.

As you make your way into the village, turn onto **Wall Street** and visit **Finnegan’s Restaurant and Tap Room, (5 Wall Street, Huntington, NY 11743; 631 423-9696)** the oldest continuous operating bar in Huntington. It was at one time a speakeasy. In fact, # 5 and #7 Wall Street were at one time the same businesses: **Finnegan’s, est. 1912.**



*Finnegan’s Restaurant, Wall Street, Near Main-
photo just after the repeal of prohibition.
Finnegan’s was established in 1912 by Andrew
Finnegan. During Prohibition there were two
entrances: one door was for cigars and tobacco and
the other was a secret door to enter a “speak easy.”
Finnegan’s will celebrate its 100th anniversary in
2012.*

During Prohibition there were two entrances: one door for cigars and tobacco and the other was a secret door to enter a “speak easy.” Mr. Finnegan made his own whiskey and gin. They would also get their signature drink of whiskey by way of rumrunners smuggling it in from Canada into **Huntington Harbor**. There was a trap door behind the bar. Word has it that Finnegan’s was a stopping place for **Teddy Roosevelt Rough Riders**. Be sure to see the whiskey bottle framed on the wall. If the manager, Tom Forte is not busy, ask him to tell you the tales of this former speakeasy. Tell him “**Joe Sent Me**” for their special menu.

The supply of whiskey doesn’t stop here, as it made its way all the way up Main Street to **New York Ave and Main Street**. Drive up **Main Street Rte 25A** and see where there was an operating pharmacy that was mysteriously robbed for its stash of rye whisky- 45 cases worth, (Long Islander, 1926).

Be a Prohibition detective! Can you determine which of the four corners in Huntington housed the pharmacy? Also...did you know that Huntington Main Street was known as the “White Light District?” (Long Islander) Was this a reference to “white lightning”? You decide!

After the American Revolution, drinking was on the rise. The colonial era and life during that time is available for view by the **Huntington Historical Society (209 Main Street Huntington, NY 11743; 631-427-7045)** at their historic properties.

The opportunities being with the **Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Building (228 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743; 631 427-7045)** described as “the cutest little library you have ever seen” during it’s tenure as the Town’s public library, is fully restored and offers exhibits year round. On your way out, take a stroll through the **Old Burial Ground**, dating back to the late 17th century, and give a little salute to **Fort Golgotha** the Revolutionary War Soldier’s grave that served as the home of the British soldiers during their occupation. Perhaps stop by the **c. 1750 David Conklin Farmhouse (2 High Street, Huntington, NY 11743; 631 427-7045)**, where the colonial, Victoria, and Federal time periods are illustrated through artifacts and furniture, including the table & chair that President George Washington used during his tour of Long Island in 1790.

Also, be sure to visit the **c. 1795 Dr. Daniel Whitehead Kissam House (434 Park Ave, Huntington, NY 11743, 631 427-7045)** to learn what the “K.” in William K. Vanderbilt stands for!

After this busy day, top off your evening and relax at **Mac’s Steak House (12 Gerrard Street, Huntington, NY 11743; 631-549-5300)** for dinner. Tell the hostess “**Joe Sent Me**” and he will give you their sexy prohibition-era menu offering New American cuisine.

A must do cultural experience is a visit inside **The Heckscher Museum of Art (2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743; 631-351-3250)** located in historic **Heckscher Park**. The Museum and park were given to the Town of Huntington in 1920 by philanthropist August Heckscher. Today, the Museum maintains a permanent collection of more than

2,000 works from the Renaissance to contemporary Long Island artists. View the special and permanent collection exhibitions which change throughout the year. If you are in town the first Friday of the month, be sure to stop in the Museum for the “**First Friday**” program – free viewing hours from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with a free musical performance at 7:00 p.m.



Douglas Fairbanks, Otto Hermann Kahn and Charlie Chaplin at Otto Hermann Kahn's Estate (now Oheka Castle), circa 1920s- An investment banker, collector, philanthropist and patron of the arts, Kahn also supported the repeal of Prohibition.

Stay in the Gatsby Suites or Chateau Rooms at **Oheka Castle (135 West Gate Drive, Huntington, NY 11743; 631-659-1400)**, where the guest rooms were inspired by the beautiful and elegant designs of the French Chateaus of France, and the gloriously decadent days of Long Island's Golden Age.

In the 20th century, Otto Herman Kahn built his spectacular 127-room **Oheka Castle** a few miles to the south of Rte 25A, but kept his fast commuter boat of the same name in Cold Spring Harbor so he could commute to Wall Street. The *Oheka's* crew was generous with the leftovers from the 'Tea' he enjoyed every afternoon on his way home; local children learned to swim by the boat to get treats like lobster salad or peach shortcake.

You too can enjoy Afternoon Tea with goodies from the pastry kitchen at Oheka Castle by taking a guided tour of the estate and gardens. Tours are by appointment only so be sure to contact Oheka Castle at 631-658-1400 or tours@ohekacastle to reserve your guided tour. Reserve the Otto and Addie Kahn Oheka Tour to include champagne and chocolate dipped strawberries!

In 1926, the Castle was featured in the news as a touring car crashed in front of the property. The driver of the Pierce Arrow leapt out and flagged down a passing motorist to hitch a ride to Smithtown only to hitch yet another car going in the other direction- thereby confusing authorities on his tail. What the motorist did leave for authorities was his overturned and abandoned car, which proved to be loaded with liquor



Photo Left: *Oheka Castle, circa 1925- A short distance from this former Otto Hermann Kahn Estate, some very interesting chases took place between Huntington police and rumrunners driving Pierce Arrows.*

Walt Whitman is widely recognized as America's Greatest Poet. Visit his beautiful and historic farmhouse, **The Walt Whitman House (246 Old Walt Whitman Road Huntington,**

NY 11746; 631-427-5240), where in 1819, Whitman was born, and learned about American life and society on the cusp of change. Then visit **Coindre Hall Park** - a 33-acre park and 80,000 square foot mansion overlooking **Huntington Harbor**. Coindre Hall offers group tours by appointment (please call 631-751-0339).

Federal agents attempted to shakeup the widespread bringing, unloading and then “transshipping” of liquor in Huntington Harbor. They first captured the great vessel, the Arco Falaise II. The results were that the next shipment- brought in a far smaller boat than the Falaise- was the best rum that had been brought all winter, and the subsequent cargo that arrived was such rotten stuff though that it could not compare with any of the former shipments.” (The Long Islander, 1926)

Caumsett State Historic Park (631-423-1770) is located in Lloyd Neck – just north of Huntington and offers 1500 acres of hiking, saltwater fishing and a bridle path.

You may be interested to know that the following films and TV shows were shot in the Cold Spring Harbor/Huntington area:

Mildred Piece (2011)
Rubicon (TV) (2010)
Eat Pray Love (2010)
Royal Pains (TV) (2009)
What Happens In Vegas (2008)
The Emperor’s Club (2002)
The Others (2001)
The Objet of My Affection (1998)
In & Out (1997)
The Day Trippers (1996)
The Anderson Tapes (1971)