

Long Island

Long Island	
Native name: <i>Paumanok</i> ^[1]	
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Location within United States	
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Location within North America	
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Location within Earth	
Geography	
Location	Atlantic Ocean
Coordinates	40.8°N 73.3°W
Area	1,401 sq mi (3,630 km ²)
Administration	
United States	

Location within United States

State	New York
Demographics	
Demonym	Long Islander
Population	7,869,820 (2017)
Pop. density	5,617.3 /sq mi (2,168.85 /km ²)
Ethnic groups	54.7% White, 20.5% Hispanic or Latino of any race, 20.4% Black, 12.3% Asian, 8.8% other races, 3.2% from two or more races, 0.49% Native American, and 0.05% Pacific Islander

Interactive map of Long Island

Long Island is a densely populated island of the East Coast of the United States beginning at New York Harbor approximately 0.35 miles (0.56 km) from Manhattan Island and extending eastward into the Atlantic Ocean. The island comprises four counties in the U.S. state of New York. Kings and Queens Counties (the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, respectively) and Nassau County share the western third of the island, while Suffolk County occupies the eastern two-thirds. More than half of New York City's residents now live on Long Island, in Brooklyn and Queens.^[2] However, many people in the New York metropolitan area (including those in Brooklyn and Queens) colloquially use the term *Long Island* (or ***the Island***) to refer exclusively to Nassau and Suffolk Counties, which are mainly suburban in character, conversely employing the term *the City* to mean Manhattan alone.^[3]

Broadly speaking, "Long Island" may refer both to the main island and the surrounding outer barrier islands. North of the island is Long Island Sound, across which lie Westchester County, New York, and the state of Connecticut. Across the Block Island Sound to the northeast is the state of Rhode Island. To the west, Long Island is separated from the Bronx and the island of Manhattan by the East River. To the extreme southwest, it is separated from Staten Island and the state of New Jersey by Upper New York Bay, the Narrows, and Lower New York Bay. To the east lie Block Island—which belongs to the State of Rhode Island—and numerous smaller islands.

Both the longest^[4] and the largest island in the contiguous United States, Long Island extends 118 miles (190 km) eastward from New York Harbor to Montauk Point, with a maximum north-to-south distance of 23 miles (37 km) between Long Island Sound and the Atlantic coast.^[5] With a land area of 1,401 square miles (3,630 km²), Long Island is the 11th-largest island in the United States and the 149th-largest island in the world—larger than the 1,214 square miles (3,140 km²) of the smallest U.S. state, Rhode Island.^[6]

With a Census-estimated population of 7,869,820 in 2017, constituting nearly 40% of New York State's population,^{[7][8][9][10][11]} Long Island is the most populated island in any U.S. state or territory, and the 18th-most populous island in the world (ahead of Ireland, Jamaica, and Hokkaidō). Its population density is 5,595.1 inhabitants per square mile (2,160.3/km²). If Long Island geographically constituted an independent metropolitan statistical area, it would rank fourth most populous in the United States; while if it were a U.S. state, Long Island would rank 13th in population and first in population density. Long Island is culturally and ethnically diverse, featuring some of the wealthiest and most expensive neighborhoods in the Western Hemisphere near the shorelines as well as working-class areas in all four counties.

As a hub of commercial aviation, Long Island contains two of the New York City metropolitan area's three busiest airports, JFK International Airport and LaGuardia Airport in addition to Islip MacArthur Airport; as well as two major air traffic control radar facilities, the New York TRACON and the New York ARTCC. Nine bridges and 13 tunnels (including railroad tunnels) connect Brooklyn and Queens to the three other boroughs of New York City. Ferries connect Suffolk County northward across Long Island Sound to the state of Connecticut. The Long Island Rail Road is the busiest commuter railroad in North America and operates 24/7.^[12] Biotechnology companies^[13] and scientific research play a significant role in Long Island's economy, including research facilities at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook, the New York University Tandon School of Engineering, the City University of New York, and Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine

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History

Early history



Long Island Native American settlements

Prior to European contact, the Lenape people (named the *Delaware* by Europeans) inhabited the western end of Long Island, and spoke the Munsee dialect of Lenape, one of the Algonquian language family. Giovanni da Verrazzano was the first European to record an encounter with the Lenapes, after entering what is now New York Bay in 1524. The eastern portion of the island was inhabited by speakers of the Mohegan-Montauk-Narragansett language group of Algonquian languages; they were part of the Pequot and Narragansett peoples inhabiting the area that now includes Connecticut and Rhode Island.

In 1609, the English navigator Henry Hudson explored the harbor and purportedly landed at Coney Island. Adriaen Block followed in 1615 and is credited as the first European to determine that both Manhattan and Long Island are islands.

Native American land deeds recorded by the Dutch from 1636 state that the Indians referred to Long Island as *Sewanhaka* (*Sewanhacky* and *Sewanhacking* were other spellings in the transliteration of Lenape).^[14] *Sewan* was one of the terms for wampum (commemorative stringed shell beads, for a while also used as currency by colonists in trades with the Lenape), and is also translated as "loose" or "scattered", which may refer either to the wampum or to Long Island.^[14] The name " 't Lange Eylandt alias Matouwacs" (later shortened to "*Lange Eylandt*") appears in Dutch maps from the 1650s.^{[15][16]} Later, the English referred to the land as "Nassau Island",^[17] after the Dutch Prince William of Nassau, Prince of Orange (who later also ruled as King William III of England). It is unclear when the name "Nassau Island" was discontinued.

The very first settlements on Long Island were by settlers from England and its colonies in present-day New England. Lion Gardiner settled nearby Gardiners Island. The first settlement on the geographic Long Island itself was on October 21, 1640, when Southold was established by the Rev. John Youngs and settlers from New Haven, Connecticut. Peter Hallock, one of the settlers, drew the long straw and was granted the honor to step ashore first. He is considered the first New World settler on Long Island. Southampton was settled in the same year. Hempstead followed in 1644, East Hampton in 1648, Huntington in 1653, Brookhaven in 1655, and Smithtown in 1665.



The Old House in Cutchogue, built 1649, is the oldest English-style house in the state.

While the eastern region of Long Island was first settled by the English, the western portion of Long Island was settled by the Dutch; until 1664, the jurisdiction of Long Island was split between the Dutch and English, roughly at the present border between Nassau County and Suffolk County. The Dutch founded six towns in present-day Brooklyn beginning in 1645. These included: Brooklyn, Gravesend, Flatlands, Flatbush, New Utrecht, and Bushwick. The Dutch had granted an English settlement in Hempstead, New York (now in Nassau County) in 1644 but, after a boundary dispute, drove out English settlers from the Oyster Bay area. However, in 1664, the English returned to take over the Dutch colony of New Netherland including Long Island.



The c. 1806 Old Hook Mill in East Hampton is one of eleven extant windmills in Suffolk County.

The 1664 land patent granted to the Duke of York included all islands in Long Island Sound. The Duke of York held a grudge against Connecticut, as New Haven had hidden three of the judges who sentenced the Duke's father, King Charles I, to death in 1649. Settlers throughout Suffolk County pressed to stay part of Connecticut, but Governor Sir Edmund Andros threatened to eliminate the settlers' rights to land if they did not yield, which they did by 1676.^[18]

All of Long Island (as well as the islands between it and Connecticut) became part of the Province of New York within the Shire of York. Present-day Suffolk County was designated as the *East Riding* (of Yorkshire), present-day Brooklyn was part of the *West Riding*, and present-day Queens and Nassau were part of the larger *North Riding*. In 1683, Yorkshire was dissolved and the three original counties on Long Island were established: Kings, Queens, and Suffolk.

18th and 19th centuries

Early in the American Revolutionary War, the island was captured by the British from General George Washington in the Battle of Long Island, a decisive battle after which Washington narrowly evacuated his troops from Brooklyn Heights under a dense fog. After the British victory on Long Island, many Patriots fled, leaving mostly Loyalists behind. The island remained a British stronghold until the end of the war in 1783.

General Washington based his espionage activities on Long Island, due to the western part of the island's proximity to the British military headquarters in New York City. The Culper Spy Ring included agents operating between Setauket and Manhattan. This ring alerted Washington to valuable British secrets, including the treason of Benedict Arnold and a plan to use counterfeiting to induce economic sabotage.

Long Island's colonists served both Loyalist and Patriot causes, with many prominent families divided among both sides. During the occupation British troops used a number of civilian structures for defense and demanded to be quartered in the homes of civilians. A number of structures from this era remain. Among these are Raynham Hall, the Oyster Bay home of patriot spy Robert Townsend, and the Caroline Church in Setauket, which contains bullet holes from a skirmish known as the Battle of Setauket. Also in existence is a reconstruction of Brooklyn's Old Stone House, on the site of the Maryland 400s celebrated last stand during the Battle of Long Island.

In the 19th century Long Island was still mainly rural and devoted to agriculture. The predecessor to the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) began service in 1836 from the South Ferry in Brooklyn, through the remainder of Brooklyn, to Jamaica in Queens. The line was completed to the east end of Long Island in 1844 (as part of a plan for transportation to Boston). Competing railroads (soon absorbed by the LIRR) were built along the south shore to accommodate travellers from those more populated areas. For the century from 1830 until 1930, total population roughly doubled every twenty years, with more dense development in areas near Manhattan. Several cities were incorporated, such as the City of Brooklyn in Kings County, and Long Island City in Queens.

Until the 1883 completion of the Brooklyn Bridge, the only means of travel between Long Island and the rest of the United States was by boat or ship. As other bridges and tunnels were constructed, areas of the island began to be developed as residential suburbs, first around the railroads that offered commuting into the city. On January 1, 1898, Kings County and portions of Queens were consolidated into The City of Greater New York, abolishing all cities and towns within them. The easternmost 280 square miles (730 km²) of Queens County, which were not part of the consolidation plan,^{[19][20][21][22][23][24]} separated from Queens in 1899 to form Nassau County.

At the close of the 19th century, wealthy industrialists who made vast fortunes during the Gilded Age began to construct large "baronial" country estates in Nassau County communities along the North Shore of Long Island, favoring the many properties with water views. Proximity to Manhattan attracted such men as J. P. Morgan, William K. Vanderbilt, and Charles Pratt, whose estates led to this area being nicknamed the Gold Coast. This period and the area was immortalized in fiction, such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, which has also been adapted in films.

20th century

Charles Lindbergh lifted off from Roosevelt Field with his Spirit of Saint Louis for his historic 1927 solo flight to Europe, one of the events that helped to establish Long Island as an early center of aviation during the 20th Century. Other famous aviators such as Wiley Post originated notable flights from Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, which became the first major airport serving New York City before it was superseded by the opening of La Guardia Airport in 1939. Long Island was also the site of Mitchel Air Force Base and was a major center of military aircraft production by companies such as Grumman and Fairchild Aircraft during World War II and for some decades afterward. Aircraft production on Long Island extended all the way into the Space Age – Grumman was one of the major contractors that helped to build the early lunar flight and space shuttle vehicles. Although the aircraft companies eventually ended their Long Island operations and the early airports were all later closed – Roosevelt Field, for instance, became the site of a major shopping mall – the Cradle of Aviation Museum on the site of the former Mitchel Field documents the Island's key role in the history of aviation.

From the 1920s to the 1940s, Long Island began the transformation from backwoods and farms as developers created numerous suburbs. Numerous branches of the LIRR already enabled commuting from the suburbs to Manhattan. Robert Moses engineered various automobile parkway projects to span the island, and developed beaches and state parks for the enjoyment of residents and visitors from the city. Gradually, development also followed these parkways, with various communities springing up along the more traveled routes.



Battle of Long Island



The Brooklyn Bridge, the first of multiple crossings constructed across the East River, connects Long Island with Manhattan Island (background)



Oheka Castle, a Gold Coast estate, is the second-largest private residence in the country



A post-war upper-middle class house

After World War II, suburban development increased with incentives under the G.I. Bill, and Long Island's population skyrocketed, mostly in Nassau County and western Suffolk County. Second and third-generation children of immigrants moved out to eastern Long Island to settle in new housing developments built during the post-war boom. Levittown became noted as a suburb, where housing construction was simplified to be produced on a large scale. These provided opportunities for World War II military veterans returning home to

buy houses and start a family



Grounds of the 1964 New York World's Fair in Flushing, Queens
Shea Stadium can be seen in the background on the upper left.

21st century

By the start of the 21st century, a number of Long Island communities had converted their assets from industrial uses to post-industrial roles. Brooklyn reversed decades of population decline and factory closings to resurface as a globally renowned cultural and intellectual hotbed. Gentrification has affected much of Brooklyn and a portion of Queens, relocating a sizeable swath of New York City's population. On eastern Long Island, such villages as Port Jefferson, Patchogue, and Riverhead have been changed from inactive shipbuilding and mill towns into tourist-centric commercial centers with cultural attractions.

The descendants of late 19th and early 20th-century immigrants from southern and eastern Europe, and black migrants from the South, have been followed by more recent immigrants from Asia and Latin America. Long Island has many ethnic Irish, Jews, and Italians, as well as an increasing numbers of Asians and Hispanics, reflecting later migrations.

Geography



Montauk Point is at Long Island's rural eastern tip.

The westernmost end of Long Island contains the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn (Kings County) and Queens (Queens County). The central and eastern portions contain the suburban Nassau and Suffolk Counties. However, colloquial usage of the term "Long Island" usually refers only to Nassau and Suffolk Counties. For example, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has a district named "Long Island (Nassau-Suffolk Metro Division)."^[25] At least as late as 1911, locations in Queens were still commonly referred to as being on Long Island.^[26] Some institutions in the New York City section of the island use the island's names,

like Long Island University and Long Island Jewish Medical Center. In 1985, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *United States v. Maine* that Long Island, while geographically an island, was not an island for legal purposes, given that New York State's boundaries contained its offshore soil and seabeds.^{[27][28][29]}

Nassau County is more densely developed than Suffolk County. While affluent overall, Nassau County has pockets of more pronounced wealth with estates covering greater acreage within the Gold Coast of the North Shore and the Five Towns area on the South Shore. South Shore communities are built along protected wetlands of the island and contain white sandy beaches of Outer Barrier Islands fronting on the Atlantic Ocean. Dutch and English settlers from the time before the American Revolutionary War, as well as communities of Native Americans, populated the island. The 19th century saw the infusion of the wealthiest Americans in the so-called Gold Coast of the North Shore, where wealthy Americans and Europeans in the Gilded Age built lavish country homes.

In its easternmost sections, Suffolk County remains semi-rural, as in Greenport on the North Fork and some of the periphery of the area prominently known as The Hamptons, although summer tourism swells the population in those areas. The North Fork peninsula of Suffolk County's East End has developed a burgeoning Wine Country region.^[30] In addition, the South Fork peninsula is known for beach communities, including the Hamptons, and for the Montauk Point Lighthouse at the eastern tip of the island. The Pine Barrens is a preserved pine forest encompassing much of eastern Suffolk County.



The four counties of Long Island include two independent counties (Nassau and Suffolk) and two New York City boroughs (Brooklyn and Queens).



The bluffs of the North Shore

Geology

A detailed geomorphological study of Long Island provides evidence of glacial history of the kame and terminal moraines of the island which were formed by the advance and retreat of two ice sheets.^[31] Long Island, as part of the Outer Lands region, is formed largely of two spines of glacial moraine, with a large, sandy outwash plain beyond.

These moraines consist of gravel and loose rock left behind during the two most recent pulses of Wisconsin glaciation during the Ice Ages some 21,000 years ago (19,000 BC). The northern moraine, which directly abuts the North Shore of Long Island at points, is known as the Harbor Hill moraine. The more southerly moraine, known as the Ronkonkoma moraine, forms the "backbone" of Long Island; it runs primarily through the very center of Long Island, roughly coinciding with the length of the Long Island Expressway.

The land to the south of this moraine to the South Shore is the outwash plain of the last glacier. One part of the outwash plain was known as the Hempstead Plains and this land contained one of the few natural prairies to exist east of the Appalachian Mountains.^[32] The glaciers melted and receded to the north, resulting in the difference between the topography of the North Shore beaches and the South Shore beaches. The North Shore beaches are rocky from the remaining glacial debris, while the South Shore's are crisp, clear, outwash sand. Jayne's Hill, at 401 feet (122 m), within Suffolk County near its border with Nassau County, is the highest hill along either moraine; another well-known summit is Bald Hill in Brookhaven Town, not far from its geographical center at Middle Island. The glaciers also formed Lake Ronkonkoma in Suffolk County and Lake Success in Nassau County, each a deep kettle lake.



The intersection of Long Island, Manhattan, and the continental mainland

Countyscapes



The Downtown Brooklyn skyline at the western end of Long Island. The Manhattan Bridge (far left) and the Brooklyn Bridge (near left) are seen across the East River from Lower Manhattan at sunset in 2013.



The expanding skyline of Long Island City, Queens, one of New York City's fastest growing neighborhoods,^[33] seen facing the East River at blue hour in 2015. At left is the Queensboro Bridge connecting Queens to Manhattan.



The Village of Freeport on Baldwin Bay in Nassau County.



A beach in The Hamptons of Suffolk County.

Climate

Under the Köppen climate classification, Long Island lies in a transition zone between a humid subtropical climate (Cfa) and a humid continental climate (Dfa).^[34] The climate features long hot summers, with occasional thunderstorms, mild spring and fall weather, and cool to cold winters with a mix of snow and rain and stormier conditions. Springs can be cool and sometimes gloomy due to the relatively cooler temperatures of the Atlantic Ocean. The ocean also brings afternoon sea breezes that temper the heat in the warmer months and limit the frequency and severity of thunderstorms. Long Island has a moderately sunny climate, averaging 2,400 to 2,800 hours of sunshine annually.^[35]

Due to its coastal location, Long Island winter temperatures are significantly milder than most of the state. The coldest month is January, when average temperatures range from 30 to 35 °F (−1 to 2 °C), and the warmest month is July, when average temperatures range from 70 to 80 °F (21 to 27 °C).^[36] Temperatures seldom fall below 5 °F (−15 °C) or rise above 95 °F (35 °C). Long Island temperatures vary from west to east, with the western part (Nassau County, Queens, and Brooklyn) generally warmer than the east (Suffolk County). This is due to several factors: the western part is closer to the mainland and more densely developed, causing the 'urban heat island' effect, and Long Island's land mass veers northward as one travels east. Also, daytime high temperatures on the eastern part of Long Island are cooler on most occasions due to moderation of the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound. On dry nights with no clouds or wind, the Pine Barrens forest of eastern Suffolk County can be almost 20 degrees Fahrenheit (11 degrees Celsius) cooler than the rest of the island due to radiational cooling. Average dew points, a measure of atmospheric moisture, typically lie in the 60–70 °F (16–21 °C) range during July and August.



Cumulus congestus cloudcover
Long Island on a summer afternoon

Precipitation is distributed fairly uniformly throughout the year, with approximately 3–4 inches (76–102 mm) on average during each month. Average yearly snowfall totals range from approximately 20 to 35 inches (51 to 89 cm), with the north shore and western parts averaging more than the south shore and the east end. In any given winter, however, some parts of the island can see up to 75 inches (190 cm) of snow or more. There are also some very quiet winters, in which most parts of the island could see less than 10 inches (25 cm) of snow.

On August 13, 2014, flash flooding occurred in western-central Suffolk County after a record-setting rainfall deposited more than three months' worth of precipitation on the area within a few hours.^[37]



Stripped boardwalk in Rockaway Beach after Hurricane Sandy in 2012

Long Island is somewhat vulnerable to tropical cyclones.^[38] While it lies north of where most tropical cyclones turn eastward and out to sea (most landfalls on the East Coast of the USA occur from North Carolina southward), several tropical cyclones have struck Long Island, including a devastating Category 3, the 1938 New England Hurricane (also known as the "Long Island Express"), and another Category 3, Hurricane Carol

in 1954. Other 20th-century storms that made landfall on Long Island at hurricane intensity include the Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944, Hurricane Donna in 1960, Hurricane Belle in 1976, and Hurricane Gloria in 1985. Also, the eyewall of Hurricane Bob in 1991 brushed the eastern tip. In August 2011, portions of Long Island were evacuated in preparation for Hurricane Irene, a Category 1 hurricane which weakened to a tropical storm before it reached Long Island.^[39]

On October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy caused extensive damage to low-lying coastal areas of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Brooklyn, and Queens, destroying or severely damaging thousands of area homes and other structures by ocean and bay storm surges. Hundreds of thousands of residents were left without electric power for periods of time ranging up to several weeks while the damage was being repaired. The slow-moving "Superstorm Sandy" (so-nicknamed because its winds weakened below hurricane intensity as it made landfall) caused 90% of Long Island households to lose power and an estimated \$18 billion in damages in Nassau and Suffolk Counties alone.^{[40][41]} The storm also had a devastating impact on coastal communities in the Brooklyn and Queens portions of the island, including Coney Island in Brooklyn and the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, although estimates of monetary damages there are usually calculated as part of the overall losses suffered in New York City as a whole. The extent of Sandy's damages is second only to those caused by the 1938 Long Island Express, when adjusted for inflation. Although a lower central pressure was recorded in Sandy, the National Hurricane Center estimates that the 1938 hurricane had a lower pressure at landfall.^{[42][43]} Hurricane Sandy and its profound impacts have prompted the discussion of constructing seawalls and other coastal barriers around the shorelines of Long Island and New York City to minimize the risk of destructive consequences from another such event in the future.^{[44][45]}



Clear skies in autumn over the Great Peconic Bay, with the Atlantic Ocean as its primary inflow, separating the North Fork and South Fork at the East End of Long Island

[illegible]

[illegible]

Climate data for JFK Airport , New York (1981–2010 normals, ^[c] extremes 1948–present)													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	71 (22)	71 (22)	85 (29)	90 (32)	99 (37)	99 (37)	104 (40)	101 (38)	98 (37)	90 (32)	77 (25)	75 (24)	104 (40)
Mean maximum °F (°C)	56.8 (13.8)	57.9 (14.4)	68.5 (20.3)	78.1 (25.6)	84.9 (29.4)	92.1 (33.4)	94.5 (34.7)	92.7 (33.7)	87.4 (30.8)	78.0 (25.6)	69.1 (20.6)	60.1 (15.6)	96.6 (35.9)
Average high °F (°C)	39.1 (3.9)	41.8 (5.4)	49.0 (9.4)	59.0 (15)	68.5 (20.3)	78.0 (25.6)	83.2 (28.4)	81.9 (27.7)	75.3 (24.1)	64.5 (18.1)	54.3 (12.4)	44.0 (6.7)	61.6 (16.4)
Average low °F (°C)	26.3 (−3.2)	28.1 (−2.2)	34.2 (1.2)	43.5 (6.4)	52.8 (11.6)	62.8 (17.1)	68.5 (20.3)	67.8 (19.9)	60.8 (16)	49.6 (9.8)	40.7 (4.8)	31.5 (−0.3)	47.3 (8.5)
Mean minimum °F (°C)	9.8 (−12.3)	13.4 (−10.3)	19.1 (−7.2)	32.6 (0.3)	42.6 (5.9)	52.7 (11.5)	60.7 (15.9)	58.6 (14.8)	49.2 (9.6)	37.6 (3.1)	27.4 (−2.6)	16.3 (−8.7)	7.5 (−13.6)
Record low °F (°C)	−2 (−19)	−2 (−19)	4 (−16)	20 (−7)	34 (1)	45 (7)	55 (13)	46 (8)	40 (4)	30 (−1)	19 (−7)	2 (−17)	−2 (−19)
Average precipitation inches (mm)	3.16 (80)	2.59 (66)	3.78 (96)	3.87 (98)	3.94 (100)	3.86 (98)	4.08 (104)	3.68 (93)	3.50 (89)	3.62 (92)	3.30 (84)	3.39 (86)	42.77 (1,086)
Average snowfall inches (cm)	6.3 (16)	8.3 (21)	3.5 (9)	0.8 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.2 (1)	4.7 (12)	23.8 (60)
Average precipitation days (≥ 0.01 inch)	10.5	9.6	11.0	11.4	11.5	10.7	9.4	8.7	8.1	8.5	9.4	10.6	119.4
Average snowy days (≥ 0.1 inch)	4.6	3.4	2.3	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	2.8	13.6
Average relative humidity (%)	64.9	64.4	63.4	64.1	69.5	71.5	71.4	71.7	71.9	69.1	67.9	66.3	68.0
Source: NOAA (relative humidity 1961–1990) ^{[48][51][52]}													

Additional islands

Several smaller islands, though geographically distinct, are in proximity to Long Island and are often grouped with it. These islands include Fire Island, the largest of the outer barrier islands that parallels the southern shore of Long Island for approximately 31 miles (50 km); Plum Island, which was home to the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, a biological weapons research facility; as well as Robins Island, Gardiners Island, Fishers Island, Long Beach Barrier Island Jones Beach Island Great Gull Island, Little Gull Island, and Shelter Island

Demographics

Long Island is one of the most densely populated regions in the United States. As of the United States 2010 Census, the total population of all four counties of Long Island was 7,568,304, which was 39% of the population of the State of New York. As of 2017, the proportion of New York City residents living on Long Island had risen to 58%, given the 5,007,353 residents living in Brooklyn or Queens.^[2] Furthermore, the proportion of New York State's population residing on Long Island has also been increasing, with Long Island's Census-estimated population increasing 4.0% since 2010, to 7,869,820 in 2017, representing 39.6% of New York State's Census-estimated 2017 population of 19,849,399^[61] and with a population density of 5,617.3 inhabitants per square mile (2,168.9/km²) on Long Island. Long Island's population is greater than 37 of the 50 U.S. states.

As of the 2010 census, the combined population of Nassau and Suffolk Counties was 2,832,882 people; Suffolk County's share being 1,493,350 and Nassau County's 1,339,532. Nassau County had a larger population for decades, but Suffolk County surpassed it in the 1990 census as growth and development continued to spread eastward. As Suffolk County has more than three times the land area of Nassau County, the latter still has a much higher population density and is growing faster in the 21st century, given its proximity to New York City. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey, Nassau and Suffolk Counties had the 10th and 26th highest median household incomes in the nation,



One of numerous Chinatowns in Brooklyn (布魯克林華埠) (above)^[53] and Chinatowns in Queens (皇后區唐人街) (below). Chinese Americans constitute the fastest-growing nationality on Long Island (enumerating half million^[54]), and in New York State,^{[55][56][57][58]} with large-scale Chinese immigration continuing into Long Island and the New York City region, home to the largest metropolitan Chinese population outside of Asia.^{[59][60]} The Long Island Koreatown (롱 아일랜드 코리아타운) sprawls eastward of the Flushing Chinatown (法拉盛華埠) in Queens and into Nassau County

respectively.^[62]

Population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau *Census 2010*^[63] show that whites are the largest racial group in all four counties, and are in the majority in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. In 2002, *The New York Times* cited a study by the non-profit group ERASE Racism, which determined that Nassau and Suffolk Counties constitute the most racially segregated suburbs in the United States.^[64]

In contrast, Queens is the most ethnically diverse county in the United States and the most diverse urban area in the world.^{[65][66]}

According to a 2000 report on religion, which asked congregations to respond, Catholics are the largest religious group on Long Island, with non-affiliated in second place. Catholics make up 52% of the population of Nassau and Suffolk, versus 22% for the country as a whole, with Jews at 16% and 7%, respectively, versus 1.7% nationwide.^[67] Only a small percentage of Protestants responded, 7% and 8% respectively, for Nassau and Suffolk Counties. This is in contrast with 23% for the entire country on the same survey, and 50% on self-identification surveys.^[67]

A growing population of nearly half million Chinese Americans now live on Long Island.^[54] Rapidly expanding Chinatowns have developed in Brooklyn (布魯克林) and Queens (皇后), with Chinese immigrants also moving into Nassau County,^{[68][69][70]} as did earlier European immigrants, such as the Irish and Italians. More recently, a Little India (लघु भारत) community has emerged in Hicksville, Nassau County,^[71] spreading eastward from the more established Little India enclaves in Queens.

Likewise, the Long Island Koreatown (롱 아일랜드 코리아타운) originated in Flushing, Queens, and is expanding eastward along Northern Boulevard^{[72][73][74][75][76]} and into Nassau County.^{[70][73][74]}

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1790	37,108	—
1800	42,907	15.6%
1810	48,752	13.6%
1820	56,978	16.9%
1830	69,775	22.5%
1840	110,406	58.2%
1850	212,637	92.6%
1860	379,788	78.6%
1870	540,648	42.4%
1880	743,957	37.6%
1890	1,029,097	38.3%
1900	1,452,611	41.2%
1910	2,098,460	44.5%
1920	2,723,764	29.8%
1930	4,103,638	50.7%
1940	4,600,022	12.1%
1950	5,237,918	13.9%
1960	6,403,852	22.3%
1970	7,141,515	11.5%
1980	6,728,074	−5.8%
1990	6,861,474	2.0%
2000	7,448,618	8.6%
2010	7,568,304	1.6%
Est. 2017	7,869,820 ^{[8][9][10][11]}	4.0%

Long Island is home to two Native American reservations, Poospatuck Reservation and Shinnecock Reservation, both in Suffolk County. Numerous island place names are Native American in origin.

A 2010 article in *The New York Times* stated that the expansion of the immigrant workforce on Long Island has not displaced any jobs from other Long Island residents. Half of the immigrants on Long Island hold white-collar positions.^[77]

A large, multi-story Tudor-style house with a dark roof and white timber framing, set on a green lawn. The house features multiple gables, chimneys, and a prominent front porch. The surrounding landscape includes manicured lawns, shrubs, and trees.

A mansion on Long Island's wealthy Gold Coast, which along with The Hamptons and Brooklyn's western waterfront (facing Manhattan) provides Long Island with some of the most expensive residential real estate in the Western Hemisphere

County	Population 2010 census	% white	% black or African American	% Asian	% Other	% mixed race	% Hispanic Latino of any race
		Race					Ethnicit
<u>Kings</u>	2,504,700	42.8	34.3	10.5	9.3	3.0	17
<u>Queens</u>	2,230,722	39.7	19.1	22.9	13.7	4.5	27
<u>Nassau</u>	1,339,532	73.0	11.1	7.6	5.9	2.4	14
<u>Suffolk</u>	1,493,350	80.8	7.4	3.4	5.9	2.4	16
Long Island Total	7,568,304	54.7	20.4	12.3	9.3	3.2	20
NY State	19,378,102	65.7	15.9	7.3	8.0	3.0	17
USA	308,745,538	72.4	12.6	4.8	7.3	2.9	16

Source for religious groups: ARD



Cathedral Basilica of St. James, part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, one of the largest in North America



Ultra-Orthodox Jewish (יהודי) residents in Brooklyn. Brooklyn has the largest Jewish community in the United States and growing from approximately 600,000 individuals, about 23% overall, as of 2010.^[81]



Buddhist temple (佛教寺廟) in Flushing, Queens Long Island is home to a large and growing Buddhist population.



Sri Maha Vallabha Ganapati Devasthanam (Tamil: ஸ்ரீ மகா வல்லப கணபதி தேவஸ்தானம்), in Queens, the oldest Hindu temple in the United States.



Mosque (Arabic: مسجد بالمنيا) in Queens serves Long Island's Muslim population.

Economy

Long Island has played a prominent role in scientific research and in engineering. It is the home of the Brookhaven National Laboratory in nuclear physics and Department of Energy research. Long Island is also home to the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, which was directed for 35 years by James D. Watson (who, along with Francis Crick and Rosalind Franklin, discovered the double helix structure of DNA). Companies such as Sperry Rand, Computer Associates (headquartered in Islandia), Zebra Technologies (now occupying the former headquarters of Symbol Technologies, and a



Brookhaven National Laboratory is a major US Department of Energy research institution

former Grumman plant in Holtsville), have made Long Island a center for the computer industry. Stony Brook University of the State University of New York and New York Institute of Technology conduct advanced medical and technological research.

Long Island is home to the East Coast's largest industrial park, the Hauppauge Industrial Park, hosting over 1,300 companies which employ more than 71,000 individuals. Companies in the park and abroad are represented by the Hauppauge Industrial Association. As many as 20% of Long Islanders commute to jobs in Manhattan. The eastern end of the island is still partly agricultural. Development of vineyards on the North Fork has spawned a

major viticultural industry, replacing potato fields. Pumpkin farms have been added to traditional truck farming. Farms allow fresh fruit picking by Long Islanders for much of the year. Fishing continues to be an important industry, especially at Huntington, Northport, Montauk, and other coastal communities of the East End and South Shore.

From about 1930 to about 1990, Long Island was considered one of the aerospace manufacturing centers of the United States, with companies such as Grumman Aircraft, Republic, Fairchild, and Curtiss having had their headquarters and factories on Long Island. These operations have largely been phased out or significantly diminished.

Government and politics

Nassau County and Suffolk County each have their own governments, with a County Executive leading each. Each has a county legislature and countywide-elected officials, including district attorney, county clerk, and county comptroller. The towns in both counties have their own governments as well, with town supervisors and a town council. Nassau County is divided into three towns and two small incorporated cities (Glen Cove and Long Beach). Suffolk County is divided into ten towns.

Brooklyn and Queens, on the other hand, do not have county governments. As boroughs of New York City, both have borough presidents, which have been largely ceremonial offices since the shutdown of the New York City Board of Estimate. The respective Borough Presidents are responsible for appointing individuals to the Brooklyn Community Boards and Queens Community Boards, each of which serves an advisory function on local issues. Brooklyn's sixteen members and Queens' fourteen members represent the first and second largest borough contingents of the New York City Council^[82]

Law enforcement

Queens and Brooklyn are patrolled by the New York City Police Department. Nassau and Suffolk Counties are served by the Nassau County Police Department and Suffolk County Police Department, respectively, although several dozen villages and the two cities in Nassau County have their own police departments. The Nassau County Sheriff's Department and Suffolk County Sheriff's Office handle civil procedure, evictions, warrant service and enforcement, prisoner transport and detention, and operation of the county jail. New York State Police patrol state parks and parkways.

Statehood proposals

The secession of Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island from New York State was proposed as early as 1896, but talk was revived towards the latter part of the twentieth century^[83] On March 28, 2008, Suffolk County Comptroller Joseph Sawicki proposed a plan that would make Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island the 51st state of the United States of America.^[84] Sawicki claimed that all of the Nassau and Suffolk taxpayers'



Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on the North Shore of Nassau County is an internationally renowned biomedical research facility and home to eight scientists awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.



Viticulture has become a major industry on the North Fork of Long Island, home to more than 30 vineyards.



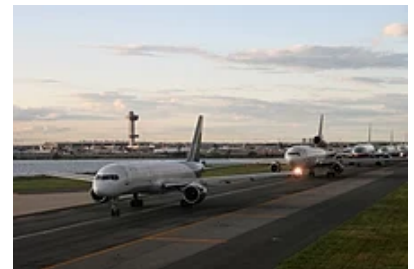
A commemorative half-dollar coin issued in 1936 for Long Island's tercentenary

money would remain locally, rather than the funds being dispersed all over the entire state of New York, with these counties sending to Albany over three billion dollars more than they receive back.^[85] The state of Long Island would have included nearly 3 million people (a larger population than that of fifteen other states). Nassau County executive Ed Mangano came out in support of such a proposal in April 2010 and commissioned a study on it.^[86]

Transportation

Every major form of transportation serves Long Island, including aviation from John F. Kennedy International Airport, LaGuardia Airport, and Long Island MacArthur Airport, and multiple smaller airports; rail transportation on the Long Island Rail Road and the New York City Subway; bus routes from MTA Regional Bus Operations, Nassau Inter-County Express, and Suffolk County Transit; ferry service from NYC Ferry and multiple smaller ferry companies; and several major highways. There are historic and modern bridges, and recreational and commuter trails serving various parts of Long Island.

There are ten road crossings out of Long Island, all within New York City limits at the extreme western end of the island. Plans for a Long Island Crossing at various locations in Nassau and Suffolk Counties (a proposed bridge or tunnel that would link Long Island to the south with New York or Connecticut to the north across Long Island Sound) have been discussed for decades, but there are no firm plans to construct such a crossing.



John F. Kennedy Airport in Queens is the busiest international air passenger gateway to the United States.

Public transportation



A 7 train in Queens

The MTA implements mass transportation for the New York metropolitan area including all five boroughs of New York City, the suburban counties of Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester, all of which together are the "Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District (MCTD)".

The MTA is the largest public transportation provider in the Western Hemisphere. Its agencies serve 14.6 million people spread over 5,000 square miles (13,000 km²) from New York City through the southeastern section of the state (including Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley), and Connecticut. Combined the MTA agencies now move more than 2.6 billion rail and bus customers a year while employing some 70,000 workers.

Rail

The Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) is the busiest commuter railroad system in North America, carrying an average of 282,400 passengers each weekday on 728 daily trains. Chartered on April 24, 1834, and operating continuously since, it is also the oldest railroad in the U.S. that is still operating under its original charter and name. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has operated the LIRR as one of its two commuter railroads since 1966, and the LIRR is one of the few railroads worldwide that provides service all the time, year round.^{[87][88]} In July 2017, a \$2 billion plan to add a third railroad track to the LIRR Main Line between the Floral Park and Hicksville stations in Nassau County was approved.^[89] Other LIRR projects, such as the Ronkonkoma Branch Double Track Project, are also underway.^{[90][91]} Five "readiness projects" across the LIRR system, which will cost a combined \$495 million, are also under construction in preparation for expanded peak-hour LIRR service after the completion of East Side Access, which will bring LIRR trains to Grand Central Terminal.^{[92][93][94]}



Schematic map of LIRR system

Bus

Nassau Inter-County Express (NICE) provides bus service in Nassau County, while Suffolk County Transit, an agency of the Suffolk County government, provides bus service in Suffolk County. In 2012, NICE replaced the former Long Island Bus in transporting Long Islanders across Nassau County while still allowing them to use MTA MetroCards as payment.^[95]

Roads































A Nassau Inter-County Expressbus

The Long Island Expressway, Northern State Parkway, and Southern State Parkway, all products of the automobile-centered planning of Robert Moses, are the island's primary east-west high-speed controlled-access highways



Long Island Expressway in Nassau County

Major roads of Long Island

Direction	Route shield	Name
West-East		Nassau Expressway <u>northern section</u>
		<u>Montauk Highway</u>
		Sunrise Highway *
		Belt Parkway / Southern State Parkway
		<u>Hempstead Turnpike</u>
		<u>Babylon–Farmingdale Turnpike</u>
		Grand Central Parkway/ Northern State Parkway
		Long Island Expressway
		<u>Jericho Turnpike/Middle Country Road</u>
		<u>Northern Boulevard</u>
South-North		Brooklyn-Queens Expressway
		Van Wyck Expressway
		<u>Nassau Expressway</u> southern section
		Clearview Expressway
		Cross Island Parkway
		Meadowbrook State Parkway
		Wantagh State Parkway
		<u>Newbridge Road</u>
		<u>Cedar Swamp Road/Broadway/Hicksville Road</u>
		Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway
		<u>Broad Hollow Road</u>
		<u>Deer Park Avenue</u>
		Robert Moses Causeway
		Sagtikos State Parkway
		Sunken Meadow State Parkway
		<u>Islip Avenue</u>
		<u>Nicolls Road</u>
		William Floyd Parkway
<p>Roads in boldface are limited access roads.</p> <p>Sunrise Highway is only limited-access from western Suffolk County eastwards.</p>		

Ground transportation

Being such a large, populous island with several airports connecting the island to the rest of the world, there are several hundred transportation companies that service the Long Island/New York City area. Winston airport shuttle, the oldest of these companies in business since 1973, was the first to introduce door-to-door shared-ride service to and from the major airports, which almost all transportation companies now utilize.^[96]

Education

Primary and secondary education

Many public and private high schools on Long Island are ranked among the best in the United States.^{[97][98]} Nassau and Suffolk Counties are the home of 125 public school districts containing a total of 656 public schools. It also hosts a number of private schools such as Friends Academy, Chaminade High School, Kellenberg Memorial High School, St. Anthony's High School, and North Shore Hebrew Academy, as well as parochial schools many of which are operated by the Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre

In contrast, all of Brooklyn and Queens are served by the New York City Department of Education, the largest school district in the United States. Three of the nine specialized high schools in New York City are in the two Long Island boroughs, those being Brooklyn Latin School, Brooklyn Technical High School (one of the original three specialized schools), and Queens High School for the Sciences. Like Nassau and Suffolk Counties, they, too, are home to numerous private schools, such as Poly Prep Country Day School, Packer Collegiate Institute, and Saint Ann's School, and Berkeley Carroll School and parochial schools operated by the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn



The academic mall across Stony Brook University's main campus

Colleges and universities

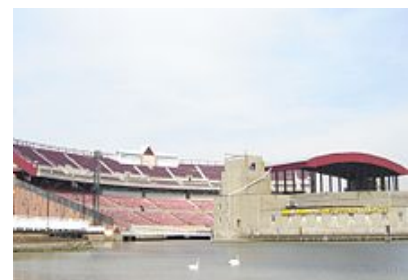
Long Island is home to a range of higher-education institutions, both public and private. Brooklyn and Queens contain five of eleven senior colleges within CUNY, the public university system of New York City and one of the largest in the country. Among these are the notable institutions of Brooklyn College and Queens College. Brooklyn also contains private colleges such as Pratt Institute and the New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering an engineering college that merged with New York University in 2014.

Several colleges and universities within the State University of New York system are on Long Island, including Stony Brook (which noted its health sciences research and medical center), as well as Nassau Community College and Suffolk County Community College that serve their respective counties. Private institutions include the New York Institute of Technology, Hofstra University and Adelphi University (both in the Town of Hempstead), as well as Long Island University (with its C.W. Post campus, on a former Gold Coast estate in Brookville, and a satellite campus in downtown Brooklyn). Long Island also contains the Webb Institute, a small naval architecture college in Glen Cove. In addition, the island is home to the United States Merchant Marine Academy a Federal Service Academy in Kings Point, on the North Shore.

Culture

Music

Music on Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk) is strongly influenced by the proximity to New York City and by the youth culture of the suburbs. Psychedelic rock was widely popular in the 1960s as flocks of disaffected youth travelled to NYC to participate in protest and the culture of the time. R & B also has a history on Long Island, especially in areas close to New York City. In the late 1970s through the 1980s, the influence of radio station WLIR made Long Island one of the first places in the U.S. to hear and embrace European New Wave bands such as Depeche Mode, the Pet Shop Boys, and Culture Club. In the 1990s, hip-hop became very popular with rap pioneers Rakim, EPMD, and Public Enemy growing up on Long Island. More recently, newer bands have been making a name for themselves originating from Long Island, including Brand New, Austin Schoeffel, Jon Bellion, and Envy on the Coast.



Northwell Health at Jones Beach Theater

Famous rock bands that originated on Long Island include The Rascals, The Ramones (from Queens), Dream Theater, Blue Öyster Cult, Twisted Sister and guitar virtuosos Donald (Buck Dharma) Roeser, John Petrucci, Steve Vai and Joe Satriani, as well as drummer Mike Portnoy. Rock and pop singer Billy Joel grew up in Hicksville, Long Island and his youthful life there is reflected in some of his music.

The [Nassau Coliseum](#) and [Northwell Health at Jones Beach Theater](#) are venues used by national touring acts as performance spaces for concerts. [Northwell Health at Jones Beach Theater](#) is an outdoor [amphitheatre](#) at [Jones Beach State Park](#). It is a popular place to view summer concerts, with new as well as classic artists performing there during the summer months. It hosts a large [Fourth of July](#) fireworks show every year which fills the stands. People also park cars along the highway leading to the show and others watch from the nearby beaches.^[99]

Long Island is also known for its school music programs. Many schools in Suffolk County have distinguished music programs, with high numbers of students who are accepted into the statewide All-State music groups, or even the National All-Eastern Coast music groups. Both the Suffolk County and Nassau County Music Educator's Associations are recognized by [The National Association for Music Education](#) (NAfME),^{[100][101]} and host numerous events, competitions, and other music-related activities.

Cuisine

Long Island has historically been a center for fishing and seafood. This legacy continues in the [Blue Point oyster](#), a now ubiquitous variety that was originally harvested on the [Great South Bay](#) and was the favorite oyster of [Queen Victoria](#). Clams are also a popular food and [clam digging](#) a popular recreational pursuit, with [Manhattan clam chowder](#) reputed to have Long Island origins.^[102]

Of land-based produce, Long Island [duck](#) has a history of national recognition since the 19th century, with four duck farms continuing to produce 2 million ducks a year as of 2013.^[103] Two symbols of Long Island's duck farming heritage are the [Long Island Ducks](#) minor-league baseball team and the [Big Duck](#), a 1931 duck-shaped building that is a historic landmark and tourist attraction. In addition to Long Island's duck industry, [Riverhead](#) contains one of the largest [buffalo](#) farms on the East coast.^[104]

Long Island is well known for its production of alcoholic beverages. Eastern Long Island is a significant producer of wines. Vineyards are most heavily concentrated on Long Island's [North Fork](#), which contains 38 wineries. Most of these contain tasting rooms, which serve as popular tourist attractions for visitors from across the New York metropolitan area.^[105] Long Island has also become a producer of diverse [craft beers](#), with 15 [microbreweries](#) existing across Nassau and Suffolk Counties as of 2013. The largest of these is [Blue Point Brewing Company](#), best known for its [toasted lager](#).^[106] Long Island is also globally known for its signature cocktail, the [Long Island Iced Tea](#), which purportedly was invented at the popular Babylon, Oak Beach Inn nightclub in the 1970s.^[107]



The Big Duck, Flanders, New York



A winery and tasting room in a 1690 farmhouse near Stony Brook, New York

The eateries on Long Island are largely a product of the region's local ethnic populations. [Asian cuisines](#), [Italian cuisine](#), [Jewish cuisine](#), and [Latin American cuisines](#) were the most popular categories of ethnic cuisine on Long Island as of the second decade of the 2000s.^{[108][109]} Asian cuisines are predominantly represented by [East Asian](#), [South Asian](#), and [Middle Eastern](#) cuisines.^[108] Italian cuisine is found in ubiquitous [pizzerias](#) spread throughout the island, with the region hosting an annual competition, the [Long Island Pizza Festival & Bake-Off](#). Jewish cuisine is likewise represented by [delicatessens](#) and [bagel](#) stores. Latin American cuisines span their geographical origins,^[109] ranging from [Brazilian rodizios](#) to [Mexican taquerias](#).

Sports

Major league sports



Citi Field, home of the New York Mets in Queens

The [New York Mets](#) baseball team plays at [Citi Field](#) in [Flushing Meadows-Corona Park](#), Queens. Their former stadium, [Shea Stadium](#) was also home for the [New York Jets](#) football team from 1964 until 1983. The new stadium is designed with an exterior façade and main entry [rotunda](#) inspired by Brooklyn's famous [Ebbets Field](#) (see below). The [New York Mets](#) had planned to move their Double-A farm team to Long Island, as part of the ambitious but now-defunct plan for Nassau County called [The Lighthouse Project](#). The [Brooklyn Cyclones](#) are a [minor league baseball](#) team, affiliated with the New York Mets. The Cyclones play at [MCU Park](#) just off the boardwalk on [Coney Island](#) in Brooklyn. An [artificial turf](#) baseball complex named [Baseball Heaven](#) is in [Yaphank](#).

The [Barclays Center](#), a sports arena, business, and residential complex built partly on a platform over the [Atlantic Yards](#) at [Atlantic Avenue](#) in Brooklyn, is the home of the [Brooklyn Nets](#) basketball team and the [New York Islanders](#) hockey team. The move from New Jersey in the summer of 2012 marked the return to Long Island for the Nets

franchise, which played at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale from 1972 to 1977. The Islanders played at Nassau Coliseum from their 1972 inception through 2015.

Ebbets Field, which stood in Brooklyn from 1913 until its demolition in 1960, was the home of the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team, who moved to California after the 1957 Major League Baseball season to become the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Dodgers won several National League pennants in the 1940s and 1950s, losing several times in the World Series—often called Subway Series—to their Bronx rivals, the New York Yankees. The Dodgers won their lone championship in Brooklyn in the 1955 World Series versus the Yankees.

Despite this success during the latter part of the team's stay in Brooklyn, they were a second-division team with an unspectacular winning record for much of their history there – but nonetheless became legendary for the almost-fanatical devotion of the Brooklynites who packed the relatively small ballpark to vigorously root for the team they affectionately called, "Dem Bums". Loss of the Dodgers to California was locally considered a civic tragedy that negatively affected the community far more than did the similar moves of other established teams to new cities in the 1950s, including the Dodgers' long-time arch-rival New York Giants, who also left for California after 1957.

Minor league and college sports

Long Island is also home to the Long Island Ducks minor league baseball team of the Atlantic League. Their stadium, Bethpage Ballpark is in Central Islip. The Brooklyn Cyclones minor league baseball team, affiliated with the New York Mets, plays in the Short-Season A classification New York–Penn League. The Cyclones play at MCU Park just off the Coney Island boardwalk in the New York City borough of Brooklyn. The New York Dragons of the Arena Football League played their home games at Nassau Coliseum. The two main rugby union teams are the Long Island RFC in East Meadow and the Suffolk Bull Moose in Stony Brook.

The New York Sharks is a women's American football team that is a member of the Women's Football Alliance. The New York Sharks home field is at Aviator Sports Complex in Brooklyn.

Long Island has a professional soccer club, the New York Cosmos, who play in the Division 2 North American Soccer League at James M. Stuart Stadium in Hempstead.

Long Island has historically been a hotbed of lacrosse at the youth and college level, which made way for a Major League Lacrosse team in 2001, the Long Island Lizards. The Lizards play at Mitchel Athletic Complex in Uniondale.

Other sports

Long Island has a wide variety of golf courses found all over the island. Two of the most famous are the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club and the public Bethpage Black Course that both has hosted multiple U.S. Open tournaments as well as several other top level international championships. Queens also hosts one of the four tennis grand slams, the US Open. Every August (September, in Olympic years) the best tennis players in the world travel to Long Island to play the championships, which is held in the USTA National Tennis Center, adjacent to Citi Field in Flushing Meadows Park. The complex also contains the biggest tennis stadium in the world, the Arthur Ashe Stadium.



Preparing for a horse race at Belmont Park, home of the Belmont Stakes, the final leg of the Triple Crown

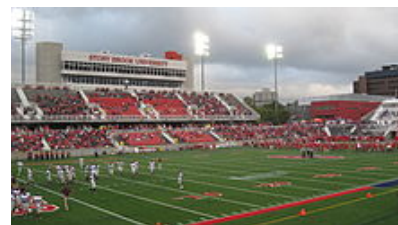
Long Island also has two horse racing tracks, Aqueduct Racetrack in Ozone Park, Queens and Belmont Park on the Queens/Nassau border in Elmont, home of the Belmont Stakes. The longest dirt thoroughbred racecourse in the world is also at Belmont Park. Another category of sporting events popular in this region involves firematic racing events, involving many local volunteer fire departments.

Notable sportspeople and teams

Long Island is home to numerous famous athletes, including Hall of Famers Jim Brown, Julius Erving, John Mackey, Whitey Ford, Nick Drahos, and Carl Yastrzemski. Others include Gold Medalists Sue Bird, Sarah Hughes and Derrick Adkins, D'Brickshaw Ferguson, Billy Donovan,



Barclays Center, home of the Brooklyn Nets and New York Islanders in Brooklyn



The Stony Brook Seawolves during their 2012 homecoming game



Bethpage Ballpark, home of the Long Island Ducks minor league baseball team

Larry Brown, Rick Pitino, John McEnroe, Jumbo Elliott, Mick Foley, Zack Ryder, Matt Serra, Boomer Esiason, Vinny Testaverde, Craig Biggio, Frank Catalanotto, Greg Sacks, Rob Burnett, Steve Park, Frank Viola, Chris Weidman, Marques Colston and Speedy Claxton

Several NHL players were born and/or raised on Long Island, such as Vancouver Canucks Christopher Higgins and Matt Gilroy, Nashville Predators Eric Nystrom, Toronto Maple Leaf Mike Komisarek, Pittsburgh Penguin Rob Scuderi, and New Jersey Devil Keith Kinkaid. Both Komisarek and Higgins played on the same Suffolk County Hockey League team at an early age, and later played on the Montreal Canadiens together. Nick Drahos was an All Scholastic and All Long Island honoree at Lawrence High School, Nassau Co. in 1936 and 1937, and a two-time Unanimous National College All-American in the years of 1939 and 1940 at Cornell University

Club	City	Sport	Founded	League	Venue(s)	Championships
<u>Brooklyn Nets</u>	<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Basketball</u>	1967	<u>National Basketball Association</u>	<u>Barclays Center</u>	2 (1974, 1976)
<u>New York Islanders</u>	<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Ice hockey</u>	1972	<u>National Hockey League</u>	<u>Barclays Center</u>	4 (1980, 1981, 1982, 1983)
<u>New York Mets</u>	<u>Queens</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	1962	<u>Major League Baseball</u>	<u>Citi Field</u>	2 (1969, 1986)
<u>Brooklyn Cyclones</u>	<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	1986	<u>New York–Penn League</u>	<u>MCU Park</u>	2 (1986, 2001)
<u>Long Island Nets</u>	<u>Uniondale</u>	<u>Basketball</u>	2015	<u>NBA G League</u>	<u>Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum</u>	0
<u>Long Island Ducks</u>	<u>Central Islip</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	2000	<u>Atlantic League</u>	<u>Bethpage Ballpark</u>	3 (2004, 2012, 2013)
<u>New York Cosmos</u>	<u>Hempstead</u>	<u>Soccer</u>	2010	<u>North American Soccer League</u>	<u>James M. Shuart Stadium</u>	0
<u>New York Lizards</u>	<u>Hempstead</u>	<u>Lacrosse</u>	2001	<u>Major League Lacrosse</u>	<u>Shuart Stadium and Icahn Stadium</u>	3 (2001, 2003, 2015)

See also

- Geography of New York City
- List of films shot on Long Island
- List of Long Island recreational facilities
- List of Long Islanders famous residents of Nassau and Suffolk
- List of people from New York City, including famous residents of Brooklyn and Queens
- List of references to Long Island places in popular culture
- Long Island (proposed state)
- New Netherland
- Timeline of town creation in Downstate New York

Notes

- Mean monthly maxima and minima (i.e. the expected highest and lowest temperature readings at any point during the year or give month) calculated based on data at said location from 1981 to 2010.
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- Long Island travel guide from Wikivoyage
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