

## A Day at the Beach



Silver Sands Beach State Park, Milford

Life along the shore is delightful and not just during the summer. Swimming, sunning, birding, biking, jogging and fishing are just some of the appeal of coastal Connecticut. For a waterfront tour of the region, you'll want to start at [Silver Sands Beach State Park](#). Though Charles Island is now home to a bird sanctuary, rumor has it Captain Kid used it as a hiding place for his treasure back in 1699. While Charles Island is clearly visible from the park and can be reached on foot during low tide, extreme caution is required to avoid being stranded when the tide rises. Check with park officials before heading out. As you mosey along the Milford shoreline, you'll pass Walnut Beach, the Downtown Milford Green/Milford Harbor, Gulf Beach, Pond Point and Anchor Beach. At Oyster River you will cross over to West Haven with its spectacular beaches.

On West Haven's [Bradley Point](#), Old Glory sways proudly in the breeze

over the Veterans Walk of Honor which includes memorials for both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The Point also marks the start of a 1.7 mile beachfront path.



Bradley Point Park, West Haven



Want to Know more?

[visitnewhaven.com](#)

203-777-8550

[info@visitnewhaven.com](mailto:info@visitnewhaven.com)

### Silver Sands Beach State Park

I-95, exit 35

Milford

203-735-4311

[portal.ct.gov/DEEP](http://portal.ct.gov/DEEP)

### Insider Tips

This waterfront escape offers free parking year-round.

### Where to Eat

#### Lazy Lobster Restaurant

6 Broadway

Milford

202-283-1864

[thelazylobster.com](http://thelazylobster.com)

#### Walnut Beach Creamery

17 Broadway #19

Milford

203-878-7738

[walnutbeachcreamery.com](http://walnutbeachcreamery.com)

#### Bradley Point

I-95, exit 42, West Haven

203-937-3651

[cityofwesthaven.com](http://cityofwesthaven.com)

### Insider Tips

Summer parking fee.

### Where to Eat

#### Jimmies of Savin Rock

5 Rock St.

West Haven

203-934-3212

[jimmiesofsaveinrock.com](http://jimmiesofsaveinrock.com)



## A Day at the Beach

Next stop: **Lighthouse Point Park**, the shining jewel of the New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees in the Morris Cove section of New Haven. There are two “must see” attractions on the beachfront property. The first, Five Mile Point Lighthouse, is impossible to miss. This imposing 70 foot lighthouse is constructed from sandstone quarried from East Haven with a solid brick interior. Its spiral granite staircase leads up to the lantern loft where the lighthouse lens was mounted. The current tower was built in 1845 replacing the original 1805 lighthouse.

The second gem on this leg of your journey is the fully restored **Lighthouse Point Carousel**. Built in 1916, the carousel is one of the few carousels from the era that is still operational. It has 69 horses, one camel and two dragon chariots. The outer rim of the carousel contains original oil paintings of local scenes of New Haven as well as various boats, trains, mermaids and lighthouses. Both the lighthouse and carousel are listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.



Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven

New Haven is home to a second lighthouse, the **Southwest Ledge Lighthouse**. On a perfect day, you might be able to catch a glimpse of the working lighthouse from Lighthouse Point Park. Your best bet is to view the lighthouse by boat.

Just a hop, skip and a jump on to East Haven, where you can find the local favorite beach spot, **Cosey Beach**. Features a fun splash pad for the kids!

### Lighthouse Point Park & Carousel

2 Lighthouse Rd.

New Haven

203-946-8027

Carousel Fee: 50 cents

New Haven Registered Vehicles: Free

Non-resident Vehicles: \$25 day

Out of State: \$30

[cityofnewhaven.com](http://cityofnewhaven.com)

### Insider Tips

For 50 cents, you can ride the carousel on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from noon to 4 p.m.

In December, the Park glows with the annual Easter Seals Fantasy of Lights display.

Long Wharf Drive in New Haven, CT is home of Food Truck Paradise the where customers can sample food from all over the globe.

### Cosey Beach

East Haven

203-468-3250

### Insider Tips

There is a covered picnic shelter and a playground area with swings for the kids.

### Where to Eat

#### Sandpiper Restaurant

161 Cosey Beach Ave.

East Haven

203-469-7544

[sandpipereasthaven.com](http://sandpipereasthaven.com)

#### Lobster Shack

3 Cosey Beach Ave.

East Haven

203-747-4997

[lobstershackct.com](http://lobstershackct.com)



## A Day at the Beach



Shore Line Trolley Museum

The **Shore Line Trolley Museum** in East Haven is a trolley fan's paradise. The Museum contains memorabilia from the trolley's heyday including nearly 100 vintage transit vehicles, nearly 30,000 photographic images, over 4,000 books and documents, and about 1,000 small artifacts such as tokens, hat badges and ticket punches. Shore Line Trolley is the oldest operating trolley trolley line in the United States, featuring 1.5 miles of track. Hours vary seasonally. Next stop Branford!



Thimble Islands, Branford CT—Kindra Clineff

Undoubtedly the **Thimble Islands**, off the coast of Branford, are the stars of this quaint seaside village. Board the Volsunga IV, the Sea Mist or the Adriaen B. for 45 minute narrated tours of the islands. Enjoy the views of the stunning vacation homes or travel back in time while you listen to pirate stories.

### Shore Line Trolley Museum

17 River St., East Haven  
203-467-6927  
[shorelinetrolley.org](http://shorelinetrolley.org)

### Insider Tips

Several weekends a year, the museum offers a guest operator program where you can drive the trolley.

### Where to Eat

#### Sugar Bakery

Winner Food Network Cupcake Wars  
422 Main St.  
East Haven  
203-469-0815  
[thesugarbakery.com](http://thesugarbakery.com)

### Thimble Island Cruises

Stony Creek Dock, Branford  
Volsunga IV  
203-481-3345  
[thimbleislands.com](http://thimbleislands.com)  
Sea Mist  
203-488-8905  
[thimbleislandcruise.com](http://thimbleislandcruise.com)  
Adriaen B  
203-483-6659  
[thimbleislandsferry.com](http://thimbleislandsferry.com)

### Insider Tips

In March, Volsunga IV Thimble Island Cruises offers special seal watching excursions by reservation.

### Where to Eat

#### Lenny's Indian Head

205 South Montowese St.  
Branford  
203-488-1500  
[lennysnow.com](http://lennysnow.com)



## A Day at the Beach

**Downtown Guilford** is next on your shoreline tour. Here, you can take a spin on your shoreline adventure. Glide through the historic district and the marina (great views of Long Island Sound, Falkner and Grass Islands as well as the Tidal Wetlands) with Shoreline Segway. Rather shop? The Guilford Green is home to a number of locally owned and operated retail stores. For a truly unique shopping experience be sure to visit Evergreen Fine Crafts, M! X Design Store, BSK Gallery, Vera Wolf Jewelry, Flutterby, Lulu's Boutique, The Purple Bear...you get the idea. Now, on to Madison.

For beach lovers, Madison offers the best of the Connecticut State Parks. **Hammonasset Beach State Park**, the state's largest shoreline park, offers over 2 miles of beach to enjoy swimming, strolling along the boardwalk, or just relaxing in the sun and surf. If you just can't get enough of Hammonasset Beach, the park is home to over 550 grassy campsites perfect for the nature enthusiast. Here visitors can enjoy wetlands and woodlands perfect for walking, biking, kayaking, fishing, swimming, bird watching, kite flying, and picnicking.

**Madison Beach Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton** is set on the scenic Connecticut shoreline in the picturesque town of Madison. The property is near a private beach with walking, biking, kayaking, fishing and bird-watching options. The hotel offers the ideal setting for sophisticated weddings, social events and corporate retreats. Stunning outdoor spaces with unobstructed views of Long Island Sound or the four meeting rooms with panoramic views and accommodates up to 200 guests.

The big finale! Check out **Joy Ride Charters** for either an hourly, half or full day sailing charter ride in Westbrook.



Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

### Downtown Guilford

Shoreline Segway  
1310 Boston Post Rd.  
Guilford  
203-453-6036  
[segwaytoursandrentals.com](#)

### Insider Tips

Every July the Green is home to the Guilford Craft Expo.

### Where to Eat

**Guilford Mooring**  
505 Whitfield St.  
Guilford  
203-458-2921  
[guilfordmooring.com](#)

### Insider Tips

#### Hammonasset Beach State Park

1288 Boston Post Rd,  
Madison  
203-245-2785

[portal.ct.gov/deep](#) Check out Meigs Point Nature Center to learn more about the local wildlife and conservation efforts.

### Where to Eat

#### Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale Restaurant

1301 Boston Post Rd.  
Madison  
203-245-7289  
[ljfishtale.com](#)

### Insider Tips

Visitors of Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale can also take a ride on the Magical Charity Carousel.

This attraction is a joint charitable venture of the Madison and Westbrook Lenny & Joe's Fish Tales. Open 7 days a week, weather permitting and all proceeds go to charity!

#### Madison Beach Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton

94 West Wharf Rd.  
Madison, CT 06443  
203-245-1404  
[hilton.com](#)

