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Why Bermuda Is On Track to Become the New Hamptons, Nantucket, or Martha's Vineyard

Thanks to its proximity, fewer crowds, and better deals, a growing number of stylish East Coasters are spending their summer free time here

British-born New Yorker Stephen King was still working in finance when he began traveling to Bermuda, eventually buying a house at Tucker's Point, where he'd summer with his family while all his colleagues jetted off to the Hamptons. When King began contemplating a career change into hotel development, he knew exactly where he wanted to plant his first flag. And it wasn't Long Island.

There were several reasons. The cost. The crowds. The traffic. The weather. "The problem with the Hamptons is that the season is so painfully short," he says. "In June, you've still got on a sweater and you're by the fire," he says. "So that leaves July and August—and literally everyone in New York is there with you."

Bermuda, by contrast, begins to perk up around April, with reliably sunny days through October and November, and often into December. The water is clear and warm; there are dolphins. It's in hurricane territory but big hits are rare; only seven major storms have passed within 40 nautical miles of Bermuda since records began in 1851. And although it's technically international travel, it's an easier commute than New Yorkers have to the Hamptons or most New Englanders have to Nantucket or Martha's Vineyard: 90 minutes by air from New York and under two hours from Boston. Most airlines that fly to the island operate just one flight a day, which makes immigration a breeze. You can attend a morning meeting in Manhattan and be at 1609 at the Hamilton Princess hotel in time for a fashionably late lunch. As any New Yorker without a helicopter knows, that's not happening on your average Amagansett-bound Friday.

Rhode Islander Gina Tarini and her family began vacationing in Bermuda several times a year seven years ago, often spending two weeks at a time even in the summer months—and even though her family has a place on the ocean back home. This year, they began looking into property, favoring Newstead Belmont Hills for its convenient but remote location—on a far side of the island that's just five minutes to Hamilton by water taxi. She and her husband like that the island is refined but unfussy, with plenty of upscale restaurants where they can dress up and just as many more casual spots that welcome their two-year-old. "Bermuda feels special and different, the weather's always great, and it's just so easy," says Tarini. "It's the perfect mix for us."