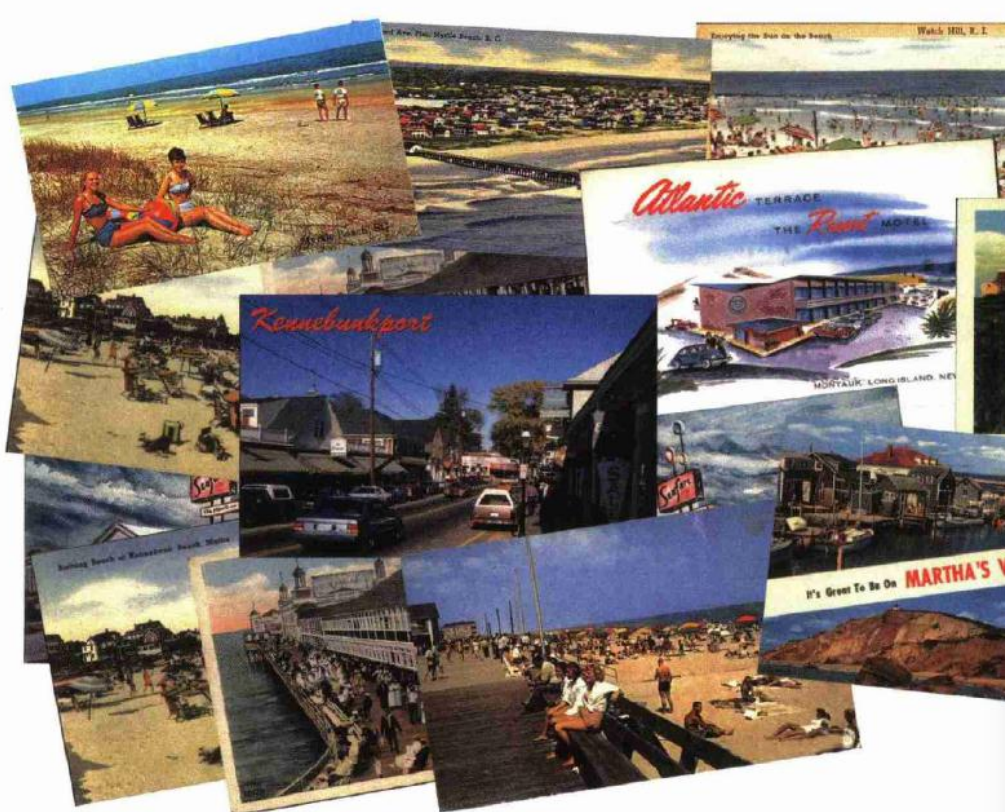


Smart Luxury TRAVEL

By ShermansTravel.com



Chic Retreats

Going coastal doesn't mean you have to forgo life's little luxuries. At these stylish spots, you'll have access to some of the Atlantic's best-maintained beaches.

Kennebunkport, Maine

Why Go Now In the 1600s, this shipbuilding village in the southern part of Maine was populated with sea captains who built massive homes on its sloping shores—many of which have since been re-imagined as inns. Although people traditionally shop and stroll through the galleries along Dock Square, several enterprising retailers have recently turned the town's previously “undiscovered” Lower Village into a new hub.

Where to Stay The 21-room Tides Beach Club, housed in a 100-year-old Victorian on Goose Rocks Beach, opens its doors this summer. Famed designer Jonathan Adler decorated two of the suites, so expect a whimsical mix of understated—Adler's bright white lamps make an appearance—and downright wild touches, like zebra-styled rugs. Meanwhile sister property, Hidden Pond, unveils a new tree house spa and a restaurant helmed by James Beard Award-winning chef Ken Oringer. tidesbeachclubmaine.com

Postcard-Perfect East Coast Beaches

Things are heating up on the Eastern seaboard—and not just because summer's *finally* here. In beach towns spanning Maine to Florida, a wave of new hotels and offerings is coaxing sun-seekers to plant their beach umbrellas. We've whittled the field down to our top dozen destinations. **BY AMANDA PRESSNER**