

Escape from New York

Because even the most loyal New Yorker needs to flee the great city sometimes.

Fire Island Pines, NY



Sip some tea

Fire Island is a special kind of paradise for the LGBTQ community and its allies—a sexy summer camp, beach respite and nonstop party, all in one idyllic location. Start your afternoons at 4pm with what seems like the whole island at Low Tea (drinks and deck mingling) at **The Blue Whale**, then move into the restaurant for apps and seafood.

→ Harbor Walk (631-597-6500, pinesfi.com/bluewhale)

Class it up

For a more refined dining experience, head to the dim **Pines Bistro**, only a minute's walk from the Blue Whale (where you'll obviously be). Order calamari and martinis for the table, then choose from pizzas, pastas and seafood to coat your stomach for more socializing.

→ 36 Fire Island Blvd (631-597-6862, pinesfi.com/pinesbistro)

Dance over the rainbow

Get your body on the floor at **Sip.N.Twirl**, a casual nightclub where the music starts pumping at 10pm, and the shirts (and shorts) are off by midnight. Watch a drag show, and get a nice buzz before heading to the house party you're sure to be invited to, but don't forget to grab a slice from Pines Pizza downstairs first.

→ 36 Fire Island Blvd (631-597-3599, pinesfi.com/sipntwirl)

Rest your head

Many people rent house shares on the island with friends and if you missed that boat, there aren't many options for housing. **The Hotel by**

INSIDER SECRETS

Locals give it to you straight.



"It's illegal to be nude on the beach, but that doesn't stop anyone!"
—Jay

"Don't forget to pick up your clothes after the underwear party."
—Douglas

"Walking through the Sunken Forest is a soothing experience."
—Ethan

"Houses are leased by October the year ahead, so get planning!"
—Win



The Blue Whale

ShareGurl is absolutely no-frills, with bare-bones amenities, but its convenient location, nestled between all the Pines party spots and a quick walk from the beach, and affordability (which is a relative term on FI) can't be beat.
→ 49 Harbor Walk (917-336-9299, hotel.sharegurl.com)

Pop your cherry

Take the half-hour walk through the sands of the Meat Rack (this name actually shows up on Google maps) to get to Cherry Grove, which has a set of bars and parties all its own. But the waterfront **Cherry's on the Bay** is a favorite. At night, head to a slate of celebrations like Fridays' underwear party or August's Gay Prom Night, and stop by during the day to sip a giant mudslide in the sun.

→ 158 Bayview Walk (631-597-7859, cherryonthebay.com)
■ *Jillian Anthony*

FUN FACT

There are absolutely no cars on Fire Island. Take a ferry to get around!

DISCOVER!

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