

LONG ISLAND

NEW YORK

[Long Island](#) is the largest island in the United States, located in southeastern [New York](#). It thrusts eastward from New York Bay to a point abreast of the Connecticut-Rhode Island state line, with Long Island Sound to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the south and east. The island's eastern end is split by Peconic Bay to form two narrow peninsulas, or forks. The northern fork is 43 km (about 27 mi) long and ends at Orient Point, and the southern fork is 68 km (about 42 mi) long, ending at [Montauk Point](#).

[Long Island](#) was built up by a glacier, which, as it melted and retreated, left deposits called moraine. The island features two separate moraines, running almost its entire length. Over most of Long Island, the two deposits are virtually indistinguishable from each other. At the eastern tip the two moraines are separated by water into the two forks.

The north shore of the island is hilly and deeply indented. On the south shore the ocean breaks on a narrow sandbar, backed by Great South Bay, Moriches Bay, and Shinnecock Bay. These bays are connected to the ocean through occasional breaks, or channels, in the protective sandbar. This ribbon of sand widens at various points to form virtual islands fronting the open sea. These islands have developed into a series of bathing beaches and summer colonies, including the [Fire Island](#) National Seashore.

[Long Island](#) marks the southernmost and easternmost part of New York State and comprises four counties: **Kings**, **Queens**, **Nassau**, and **Suffolk**. Kings County, which is coextensive with Brooklyn and is on the island's southwestern end, and Queens, at the island's western end, are also boroughs, or administrative units, of [New York City](#). These two counties account for more than half the island's population. Nassau is a sprawling, thickly settled suburban area adjacent to the great metropolis to its west. Suffolk, which comprises the eastern two-thirds of the island and is the largest in area, has many suburban communities. It is also the most productive agricultural county in New York State, with large farms, known especially for growing potatoes. In addition, Long Island has a large duck-raising industry and an important commercial fishing industry, in particular oyster and clam fishing.



MAP OF KINGS, QUEENS, NASSAU, & SUFFOLK COUNTIES