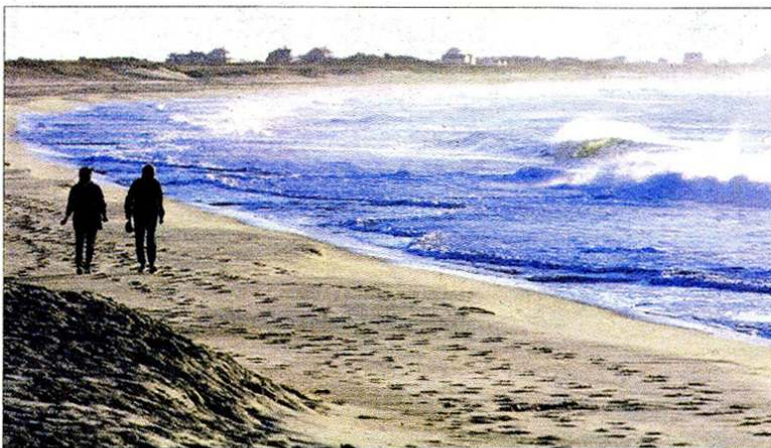




TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2010

TRAVEL

Nantucket offers low-key glamour



Nantucket's beautiful beaches draw kayakers and beach-hoppers all summer long.

(GETTY)

BY TINA BENITEZ

Special to amNewYork

Unlike Martha's Vineyard, its swanky neighbor to the west, celebrities and politicians opt for Nantucket, Mass., as a relatively low-key, upscale summer getaway.

Buildings on the island are no taller than five stories, mom-and-pop shops rule and everything moves at a slower pace. Just ask fans such as Tommy Hilfiger, Chris Matthews, Bill Clinton and John Kerry.

To stay

The 14-room **Union Street Inn** (7 Union St., unioninn.com) dates back to 1770 and is a 10-minute walk from the ferry past cobblestoned Main Street. Car rentals are available to explore the island for \$49 per day.

Up late? Stop downstairs for complimentary late-night coffee or tea, homemade cookies and carrot cake muffins. (Prices: \$140-\$579.)

To do

Looking for stars? Check out the **Nantucket Film Festival** (June 17-20, nantucketfilmfestival.org), which



Each of Union Street Inn's rooms is uniquely decorated.

includes an opening-night screening of "Toy Story 3."

To eat

American Seasons (80 Centre St., americanseasons.com), housed in a one-level wooden home, is hidden on a country road. Co-owner and sommelier Orla Murphy-LaScola is usually on hand to welcome you. (Her husband, Michael, is executive chef.) Dishes include a lobster and mushroom pancake (\$14.50) and cornmeal-crust oysters (\$14). More than 500 wines are available.

Getting there

Hyannis is a six-hour drive from NYC. From there, one- and two-hour ferries are available (islandferry.com). Also, JetBlue flights



The island is full of quaint cobblestoned streets.

CELEB-SPOTTING

These two Nantucket spots are good bets for celeb-spotting:

- **Lo La 41° (lola41.net):** Known for a hopping bar scene and swanky customers, this eatery offers sushi and bistro menus that are tasty, if pricey.
- **The Pearl (thepearlnantucket.com):** This French-Asian fusion spot is known for inventive cocktails and seasonal seafood.

Also, JetBlue flights leave from Kennedy Airport (from \$69 each way). Delta and US Airways leave from LaGuardia. The seasonal flights are about one hour and 10 minutes.