

JOIN THE (BEACH) CLUB



CARIN LEVY

From nostalgic to trendy, these meccas for members only are a popular option for sun-loving daytrippers.

by *Leslie Pepper*



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ANT TO enjoy the beach without draining your kids' college fund for a summer in the Hamptons? You're in luck. Just about 25 miles outside of Manhattan, dozens of beach clubs offer you a chance to feel the sand beneath your toes and the sun on your face—plus a hot shower to rinse off the sunscreen before heading back to the car. Here's an inside look at three of our favorites in Atlantic Beach.

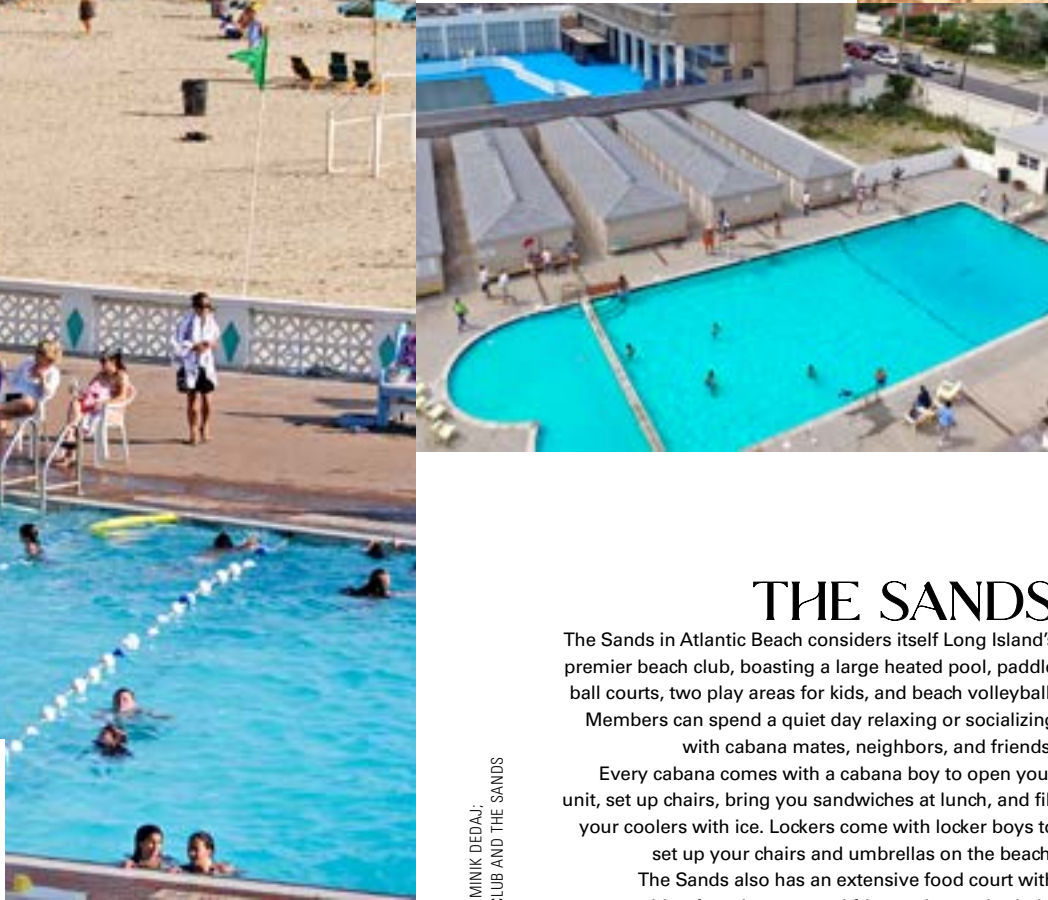
Left: Colorful flags and benches flank the Olympic-sized pool at Catalina Beach Club. Above: Cabanas await guests at Catalina.



CATALINA BEACH CLUB

Walk onto the grounds of this club in Atlantic Beach and you'll swear you've been transported back to the 1950s. The Art Deco-style stucco building; long, sculptured promenades; and balconies stretching toward the sea have been featured in TV shows such as *Royal Pains*, films such as *Goodfellas*, and even on a Beyoncé album cover. The club also offers an Olympic-sized pool, tennis courts, a steam room, and a day spa, as well as family activities such as mommy-and-me classes and a day camp for children ages three to seven.

Prices range from simple \$2,600 lockers/bath cabins to tony \$12,000 ocean-view upper cabanas, which are restricted to families with children over age seven. 2045 Ocean Blvd. near Daytona St., 516.239.2150, catalinabeachclub.com



LEFT: CARYN LEVY; FROM TOP: DOMINIK DEDAJ;
COURTESY CLEARWATER BEACH CLUB AND THE SANDS



CLEARWATER BEACH CLUB

The largest club in Atlantic Beach offers a lot of room to spread out. Clearwater prides itself on making its members top priority. Whether it's charming a pouting child or making a run to the surf shop for goggles, management here says they'll do whatever it takes to create an unforgettable summer for everyone.

Multiple generations of families can enjoy the over-the-counter restaurant, beach bar, and loads of entertainment, including an Olympic-sized pool and courts for basketball, bocce ball, and horseshoes. The club even offers yoga on Sundays.

Lockers average \$2,500 per family, while beachfront cabanas, which include valet service and personal beach space reserved for members and their guests, run \$9,000. 1875 Ocean Blvd., 516.239.5511, clearwaterbeachclub.com

THE SANDS

The Sands in Atlantic Beach considers itself Long Island's premier beach club, boasting a large heated pool, paddle ball courts, two play areas for kids, and beach volleyball.

Members can spend a quiet day relaxing or socializing with cabana mates, neighbors, and friends.

Every cabana comes with a cabana boy to open your unit, set up chairs, bring you sandwiches at lunch, and fill your coolers with ice. Lockers come with locker boys to set up your chairs and umbrellas on the beach.

The Sands also has an extensive food court with everything from burgers and fries to chopped salads. And the club offers towel service (at an extra cost) so you don't have to worry about bringing your own.

Prices start at \$2,100 for a half locker and top out at \$15,000 for a full cabana with a prime ocean view. 1395 Beech St., 516.371.4000, thesandsbeachclub.net

