

# BROKERS WEEKLY

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THE RESIDENTIAL MARKETPLACE

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## FAVORITE THINGS

# Heading for the beach

BY LINDA O'FLANAGAN

Memorial Day gave some of us a chance to kick back and head for the beach over the weekend, so this week, we invited brokers to tell us about their favorite beach.

Here's what they had to say ...

"Jones Beach," said **Maria Patricia Slee of Ideal Properties Group**. "I love the grand scale of the whole park, the Art Deco architecture of the buildings and water tower, the wildness of the West End beaches and dunes.

"It's close and easy to get to, yet we all rarely make it out there."

**CitiHabitats' Leslie Valdez** said her favorite beach would have to be Jones Beach, too ... and Miami Beach.

**Barak Realty's Michael Daus** is another Jones Beach lover. "It's very clean, with showers and bathrooms free for the public, easy to get to and very convenient parking. It doesn't hurt that it also has a beautiful crowd."

**Victoria Shtainer**, a senior vice president at **Prudential Douglas Elliman** told us, "I love Coney Island and Brighton Beach. We had an apartment there and I grew up in Sheepshead Bay. I love going there it reminds me of my childhood."

And **Jan L. Percival**, also of **Citi Habitats** gave the Long Island oasis her vote as well.

"Jones Beach is serene enough that you feel completely removed from the city, but it's close enough to still get back into Manhattan for dinner with friends.

"You'll always find a spot on the sand so that you're not literally on top of the beach-goer next to you. The different bathhouses and parking lots to choose from also make it really convenient.

"The food at the concession stands is a great stand-by if you don't have time to pack a meal or snacks. I especially enjoy going to concerts at the Jones Beach Amphitheater and being in the sun right next to the ocean."

**Cammy Cutler**, vice president at **A.C. Lawrence & Company**, heads for Virginia Beach when she gets the chance.

Why? "It holds a lot of memories. My family

used to drive down twice a year and it was always amazing," said Cammy.

"The beaches are beautiful and the hotels are fantastic with amazing ocean views. I try to go at least once a year to carry on tradition, but the summer months are my busiest and while everyone else is vacationing I'm out tending to my clients and potentially new clients. When I do sneak away, my Blackberry is always in hand!"

**A.C. Lawrence broker Cheryl Greenberg** is a fan of Atlantic City. "The beach is beautiful and the boardwalk is scenic. There are excellent restaurants; the shows are most entertaining and walking on the boardwalk watching all the people go by is a blast."

**AJ Hughes** at **Barak** told us, "Asbury Park on the Jersey Shore, home to the stone pony, has so much more character than anything

you'll find in the Hamptons. It's going through a great rejuvenation right now, as well."

**Greg Bibens** of **Barak Realty** remembers family trips to Ocean City at the Jersey Shore fondly.

"Saltwater taffy, Mac and Manco's Pizza, and hermit crabs were the highlights. We still have an old home movie with me asking my dad for a piece of pizza at the age of four because I wanted to feed the seagulls."

**Charles Botensten**, an agent with **Platinum Properties**, said, "Growing up on Long Island, my favorite beach is clearly the water sanctuary of Montauk. Just over an hour away, the sprawling sand and Atlantic waves offered me and my friends an all day event."

**Gabriela Vatamanu-Turnauer** of **Century 21 NY Metro** likes Long Beach. "Maybe because I have friends living there and I know a local bar and the bartender where we always stop for a good burger or sandwich and a margarita.

"Also, the beach itself is very clean and quiet during the week.

"I also have to mention Coney Island as I live in Brooklyn and have been there quite often. I love it more for its cultural and historic importance than for anything else. I've been on the Astroland several times, enjoyed a Nathan's hot dog, played minigolf, rode on bumper cars ... There are so many fun things to do in Coney Island.

"I have been to the aquarium there and also ate at what is still debatably the oldest pizzeria in New York: Tottono's."

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— GABRIELA VATAMANU-TURNAUER

**Barak Realty's Vonya Galunic**, said, "Although not the typical answer, my favorite beach is a private beach on the Broadhead Creek in Pennsylvania. You can relax to the sound of the waterfalls, and snorkel in the crystal clear water. You can even catch the fish with your bare hands ... no really!"

As far as **Natasha Vardi** is concerned, there's really no need to go to the beach this year — that is, not if you live in a condo built by **The Moinian Group**.

"Who needs the beach when The Moinian Group has the nicest terraces in the city?" said Vardi, director of residential rental properties at The Moinian Group.

"All of Moinian's downtown properties, like Dwell95, The Downtown Club and 90 Washington, have great terrace amenities on the setbacks that are available to everyone who lives in the buildings."



CHERYL GREENBERG

MICHAEL DAUS

CHARLES BOTENSTEN