

Holidays

THE plot involves an impossibly doomed relationship during America's Roaring Twenties – between a flawed protagonist with a murky past and a beautiful but materialistic heiress who toys with men's emotions – and three deaths.

But when *The Great Gatsby* was published 100 years ago on April 10, 1925, it was poorly received by both critics and public alike. It started to gain success in the 1940s, before finally being recognised as one of the greatest US novels.

F. Scott Fitzgerald drew on Long Island and Manhattan, both in New York State, as the backdrop for his tragic tale. As the Tony Award-winning musical adaptation opens at London's Coliseum, here's how to bring its locations to life...

By Laura Millar

GREAT EGG HUNT

THE most important places in the novel are the nouveau riche enclave of West Egg, where mysteriously newly minted millionaire Jay Gatsby and narrator Nick Carraway live, with exclusive, old-moned East Egg being home to spoiled socialites Daisy and Tom Buchanan.

They were believed to be based on two small, charming communities set on opposite spits of land that jut into the Long Island Sound, separated by Manhasset Bay. Great Neck, where Fitzgerald

moved from nearby Manhattan with his wife Zelda and their baby daughter in 1922, stood in for West Egg. He wrote several chapters of the novel at their rented home on 6 Gateway Drive.

The Sands Point peninsula in Cow Neck was the inspiration for East Egg. It is still peppered with some of the historic mansions that wealthy Manhattan-based families constructed as summer retreats – the North Shore of Long Island being known as the Gold Coast, as a result.

You can book tours at Hempstead House and Falaise, both of which are on the sprawling, 216-acre Guggenheim estate (sandspointpreserveconservancy.org).

Drop into Gatsby's Landing, a bar in the ridiculously pretty village of Roslyn, for an Old Sport – a phrase Gatsby often uses – or Gatsby's Mule cocktail (gatsbyslanding.com).

TAKE TO THE WATER

THE Best way to get a sense of the fictional East and West Egg is to take the Great Gatsby Boat Tour around Manhasset Bay – director Baz Luhrmann took it when carrying out research for his film adaptation starring Leonardo DiCaprio, which came out in 2013.

The two-hour tour is narrated by Kevin C. Fitzpatrick, an award-winning author and a member of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society, and you will learn much more about the history and significance of these locations, as well as observing many of the imposing mansions from the water.

Tours run between May and September (greatgatsbyboattour.com).

HOMES AND GARDENS

FURTHER along North Shore are plenty more examples of some of the lavish houses belonging to America's aristocratic classes.

Old Westbury Gardens, an estate featuring a handsome, red-brick residence designed to look like an 18th century English stately home, bears a resemblance to the way Fitzgerald described the Buchanans' house in writing: 'A cheerful red-and-white Georgian Colonial mansion overlooking the bay.'

In real life, it belonged to John Phipps, the son of a wealthy industrialist, and his wife.

The formal gardens are designed in the style of an English country garden, planted with herbaceous

borders and plenty of beautiful blooms (oldwestburygardens.org).

Worth a slight detour – and with free admission making it a bargain – are the Untermyer Gardens to the north of Long Island.

Part of what used to be the Grey-stone Estate, owned by a former state governor, they are laid out in the style of a formal Persian garden, divided into four by a series of waterways.

In the 1920s, this was hailed as one of the most spectacular gardens in the country, with striking

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Have your own Great Gatsby extravaganza

On the 100th anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's acclaimed novel, follow in the author's glamorous footsteps around Long Island and Manhattan

views across to the Palisades – the steep cliffs that loom over the Hudson River (untermyergardens.org).

PARTY PEOPLE

AS FITZGERALD himself wrote of the Roaring Twenties, 'the parties were bigger, the pace was faster, the buildings were higher, the morals looser'.

In the novel, Gatsby throws increasingly opulent, over-the-top

gatherings in an attempt to showcase his newfound wealth and woo back his former lover, Daisy Buchanan.

Fitzgerald was no stranger to a Jazz Age soiree, and perhaps his biggest source of inspiration for the ones that Gatsby threw at his home was Oheka Castle, near the small town of Huntington.

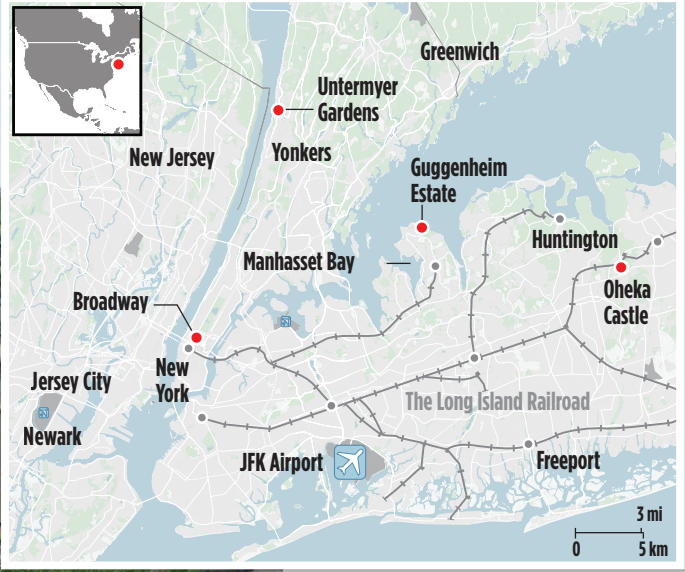
Financier Otto Hermann Kahn – who used opening letters from his name for Oheka's title – had it constructed between 1914 and 1919 in the style of a French cha-

teau. It had 127 rooms spread out over 109,000sq ft, and the formal gardens were designed by the Olmsted brothers, who also

created Central Park. Kahn threw legendary parties – attended by celebrities of the day such as Charlie Chaplin, Douglas

TRAVEL FACTS

Direct flights from London Heathrow to JFK cost from £449 return (virginatlantic.com). Double rooms at the boutique Northport Hotel start from £315 per night. Double queen rooms at The New Yorker hotel in Manhattan start from £123 per night (newyorkerhotel.com). For more information, visit discoverlongisland.com and iloveny.com.



STATELY: Long Island's Old Westbury Gardens, left. Far left: Leonardo DiCaprio as Gatsby

Fairbanks and the composer George Gershwin – that were supposedly so raucous that Kahn's wife Addie would head back to their home in Manhattan to avoid them.

Today the house is a five-star hotel, with a grand staircase where pop star Taylor Swift filmed her video for the song Blank Space. Pop in for a discounted drink during Gatsby Hour at the OHK Bar (oheka.com).

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

REACHED from Long Island by the Long Island Rail Road, which was used by Carraway in the novel, New York was probably the place Fitzgerald knew best.

He moved there in 1919 to pursue a career in advertising, then married Zelda the following year.

After the success of his first novel, *This Side Of Paradise*, they lived in luxury in a series of hotels, including the Biltmore and, more famously, The Plaza. The latter featured in a pivotal scene in the novel as the setting for a crucial confrontation between Gatsby and Tom Buchanan.

Do as Gatsby did and order a mint julep at The Palm Court, where the Fitzgeralds often socialised (the hotel, much to the author's delight, managed to get round the no-alcohol rule during Prohibition). And while you are in Manhattan, bag a ticket for the hottest Broadway show in town. Yes, you guessed it, *The Great Gatsby* (broadwaygatsby.com)

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RICH REWARDS: Untermyer Gardens offer striking views to the Palisades

Literary charms of trendy Tenby

DINBYCH-Y-PYSGOD ('little fort of the fish'), or Tenby as it's better known, was once one of Wales's most important fishing ports.

And when bank holidays were introduced in the late 1800s, this pocket of Pembrokeshire became the coveted seaside destination.

Its appeal persists today – some two million people visit every year, and it is not too difficult to see why.

In any season it's a joy to walk among Tenby's 13th century walls and pastel cottages, and along the vast sandy beaches.

Tucked off Upper Frog Street, Fuchsia is an ideal morning stop-off. We load up for the day with huge cups of coffee and a full



TENBY, WALES

Welsh – remarkably similar to its English sister, as far as I can tell.

A brief march up Castle Hill lands us at Tenby Museum and Art Gallery, teeming with local art, biological artefacts and DIY postcards sketched by visitors.

The museum explains Tenby's literary links: Roald Dahl and Beatrix Potter spent summers here, and Dylan Thomas gave one

of few readings of Under Milk Wood in a local pub.

Now well-versed in Tenby's history, we walk back into town. From here, it's a brief ten-minute stroll back to St Mary's Hill, the converted 19th century chapel where we're staying.

Paternoster Farm is a 20-minute drive from Tenby and is open for dinner on Friday and Saturdays, and occasional Sundays in the summer. The brainchild of Michelle Evans, the exquisite but unpretentious set menu changes every evening.

'The road is part of the experience,' says our taxi driver



WATERCOLOURS: Tenby's pastel-hued harbour

as we turn on to what looks like a farm track and trundle up to the converted cowshed.

Sipping on pisco sours, we eat trout and caramelised onions,

smoked hake and Welsh rarebit on sourdough, and wild garlic mash with faggot meatballs.

As Dahl once declared: 'An Easter holiday is hardly an Easter holiday without Tenby.' A lot has changed since he visited in the early 1900s, but the town's charm is just as palpable today.

TRAVEL FACTS

Return trains from Paddington to Tenby from £105 (gwr.com). Coastal Cottages offers St Mary's Hill Chapel from £855 for a three-night stay for up to ten people (coastalcottages.com).

GENIE HARRISON