

# Southern California weekend

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## Day trip Manhattan Beach

**Why go now:** This is the summer spot for big waves, white-sand beaches, pro surfers, and volleyball fanatics. **Event not to miss:** International Surf Festival (Jul 31–Aug 2; Manhattan Beach Pier; [surffestival.org](http://surffestival.org)). **Orientation:** MB is one of three major South Bay beach towns, along with Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach. **Dress code:** Board shorts and flip-flops. **Flip a coin:** According to town history, developer John Merrill named the beach for his New York hometown after winning a coin toss in 1902. **More local lore:** Waikiki Beach is made up of white sand shipped over from MB's sand dunes. **For beachy style:** A Summer Place (1401 Highland Ave.; 310/545-7080), for scented soaps and linen place-mats. **Afternoon snack:** Crispy asparagus tempura at Sashi sushi and sake lounge (\$\$; 451 Manhattan Beach Blvd.; 310/545-0400). **Walk it off:** The Strand is a 20-mile paved path along the beach. For a challenge, try walking the 100-foot-high sandy slope at Sand Dune Park (members of the L.A. Kings sometimes train here).

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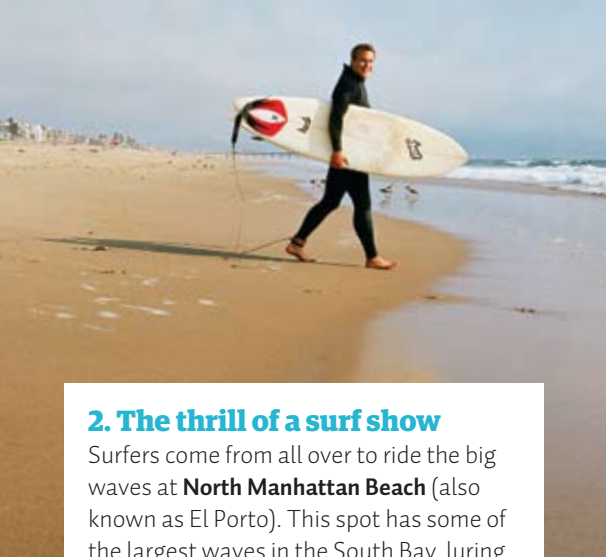
### 1. On the pier

For nearly 90 years, the Manhattan Beach Pier has stretched 928 feet into the ocean, with coastal views all the way north to Malibu. The red-roofed Roundhouse Marine Studies Lab and Aquarium sits at the pier's end, with a 3,500-gallon shark tank holding species native to Santa Monica Bay—leopard, swell, and horn sharks. 3 p.m.–sunset Fri, 10 a.m.–sunset Sat–Sun; \$2–\$4 donation suggested; [roundhouseaquarium.org](http://roundhouseaquarium.org)

BY JENNIE NUNN | PHOTOGRAPHS BY GINA SABATELLA

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### 2. The thrill of a surf show

Surfers come from all over to ride the big waves at **North Manhattan Beach** (also known as El Porto). This spot has some of the largest waves in the South Bay, luring die-hard surfers mornings and early evenings. Pack a picnic and snag a front-row seat on the beach, or opt for a shaded spot under an umbrella at nearby **Alfredo's Beach Club** ([alfredosbeachclub.com](http://alfredosbeachclub.com)). Beach parking at the end of 45th St.; surf report at [surfline.com](http://surfline.com)



### Take home a treat

At **Cake Bakeshop**, a classic American bakery, take your pick of yummy short-bread cookies, coconut macaroons, red velvet cake, Black Magic bars, and brown-sugar bourbon pound cake. Using organic ingredients (and recipes passed on from the owners' grandmothers), everything is baked on-site. 3319 Highland Ave.; 310/545-2253.

### 3. Where the locals lunch

The terrace at **Zinc Lounge** in the Shade Hotel is good for people-watching—its seafoam-hued curtains frame a view of Metlox Plaza, one of the town hubs. Try the blackened fish tacos served with fresh guacamole and chips. On a warm afternoon, order the Asian Breeze, with litchi vodka, grapefruit juice, and guava nectar. \$\$; 7 a.m.–11 p.m.; 1221 N. Valley Dr.; 310/546-4995.



### 4. Best beach decor

Batik cotton linens by John Robshaw, botanical-printed coasters, capiz shell chandeliers, vintage ceramic table lamps, and outdoor patio tables and chairs by Janus et Cie are just a few of the beach-inspired finds at **Waterleaf Interiors**. Owners and interior designers Suzanne Ascher and Jill Johnson also do custom reupholstering. 1210 Morningside Dr.; 310/545-3175.



### Getting there

To reach Manhattan Beach from I-405, exit on Rosecrans Ave. and head west to Highland Ave. **INFO** [citymb.info](http://citymb.info)

## 3 other cool-off spots in and around the South Bay

#### HERMOSA BEACH

A 15- to 20-minute walk south along the Strand from Manhattan Beach is Hermosa Beach's **Pier Avenue**. Nearly a dozen bars and eateries are set along the plaza, but our favorites are Sangria Restaurant (\$\$; 310/376-4412), for its outdoor patio and salty margaritas, and Mermaid Restaurant (\$\$; 310/374-9344), for the old-school local dive-bar vibe and ocean views.

#### REDONDO BEACH

About a mile south of the Hermosa Beach Pier, **Marina Bike Rentals** (505 N. Harbor Dr.; 310/318-2453) has a large selection of cruiser bikes and in-line skates. Continue south to pick up the bike path along the beach, or travel a mile farther to South Redondo Beach's Riviera Village ([rivieravillage.org](http://rivieravillage.org)), lined with breweries and beach-inspired boutiques.

#### MARINA DEL REY

For an on-the-water experience 15 minutes north of Manhattan Beach, **UCLA Marina Aquatic Center** offers three-hour kayak classes. The course includes instruction in the marina or the ocean, a kayak, gear, and wetsuit. *Taste of Sea kayak clinics* \$35; *reservations required*; 14001 Fiji Way; [marinaaquaticcenter.org](http://marinaaquaticcenter.org)



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