

# BEACHES & Beyond

A Southern California paradise home to more water than land, Newport Beach has a stretch of shore for everyone. It's a waterfront playground, with epic swells that attract attention from surfers around the globe and 10 miles of pristine coastline perfect for sunbathing, posh picnics and leisurely strolls on the sand. What's more, water-centric experiences extend well beyond the award-winning beaches. From the West Coast's largest recreational harbor to the biggest remaining estuary in Southern California, every corner of the sun-soaked destination offers a new way to luxuriate by the sea.

## BEACHES

Dreamy beach days begin and end in Newport Beach, where miles of surf and sand beckon up and down the coast. Idyllic conditions make the waves near 56th Street perfect for year-round surfing, before the wide open waters give way to Little Corona's rocky reefs and protected coves. No two stretches are exactly alike and, with the exception of private residential islands in the harbor and a few enclaves in Corona del Mar, all of the city's beaches are accessible to the public. While there are dozens of sandy spots to relax and rejuvenate, follow this guide from north to south for the local landmarks all travelers will want to know.



**BALBOA PENINSULA**

This 3-mile scenic stretch is uniquely positioned with the harbor to the east and some of the destination's most popular beaches to the west. Youthful and fun, the peninsula offers beachgoers activities and amenities ranging from bike rentals to private surf lessons for the whole family. Two piers provide awe-inspiring views, as well as a place to skate, surf, bike and fish before catching a stunning sunset.

**"Don't Miss"**

**Explore Newport Pier, Balboa Pier, waterfront restaurants and biking the boardwalk – a fusion of coastal charm and culinary excellence.**



**THE WEDGE**

Monstrous swells define this famous surf spot at the tip of Balboa Peninsula. Waves as high as 30 feet are as captivating to watch as they are to ride, drawing experienced surfers, bodyboarders and bodysurfers from around the world.

**"Don't Miss"**

**Come during the summer and fall to catch the highest surf.**



**CORONA del MAR**

A family-friendly gem, Corona del Mar State Beach is located just south of the channel connecting Newport Harbor to the ocean. Known as Big Corona, the half-mile, crescent-shaped stretch between rugged cliffs and a rock jetty treats swimmers and sunbathers to sights of sailboats, yachts, sea lions and even dolphins. Nearby, Little Corona is a secluded corner of the coast down a steep, sweeping path. The crystal clear tide pools are a treat for families during the day, but couples will want to pack a picnic to enjoy views of the sun sinking below the horizon.

**"Don't Miss"**

**Take the stairs down to Pirates Cove, a coastal hideaway where scenes from Gilligan's Island were filmed.**



**CRYSTAL COVE STATE BEACH**

Rows of vintage cottages add nostalgic charm to this sliver of coastline where time stands still. Home to Moro, Reef Point, the Historic District and Pelican Point, this dynamic state beach offers a serene escape where visitors can delight in open space and 3.2 miles of coastline. Delight in an underwater world during a tide pool walk, take in breathtaking views of coastal bluffs, or step back to the 1940s with Crystal Cove's raising of the martini flag, a storied tradition that takes place every night as the clock strikes 5 p.m.

**"Don't Miss"**

**Tide pools, dining above the sand at the Beachcomber Cafe, and a 11,140-acre underwater park for snorkelers and scuba divers just off-shore**

# GETTING HERE

**From Los Angeles (50 miles)** - Take the 5 or 405 freeway south to the 55 freeway south towards Newport Beach. Take the 55 freeway south towards Newport Beach. Take the 55 freeway all the way down until the freeway ends at Newport Blvd.

**From San Diego (85 miles)** - Take the 5 freeway north to the 405 freeway north. Take the 55 freeway south towards Newport Beach until the freeway ends at Newport Blvd.

**From Inland Empire (Temecula, Riverside, San Bernadino)** - Take the 15 freeway north to the 91 freeway west. Keep left towards the 55 freeway south towards Newport Beach until the freeway ends at Newport Blvd.

**For Balboa Peninsula:** Keep going straight ahead on Balboa Blvd. Turn right onto 22nd Street to park at the Newport Pier or continue and turn right on Palm to park at the Balboa Pier. Look for signs to guide you, or just park at any meter along Balboa Blvd.

**For Corona Del Mar:** Take the Coast Highway exit off Newport Blvd. south toward Laguna Beach. Turn right onto Marguerite Ave. then right onto Ocean Ave, and the parking lot will be on your left.

**For Crystal Cove State Park:** Take the Coast Highway exit off Newport Blvd. and head south towards Laguna Beach. Continue down Pacific Coast Highway, then turn left on Los Trancos to reach the parking lot.