

A VISITOR GUIDE TO THE LA SOUTH BAY

SOUTH BAY WEEKENDS

Seven beach cities, one good weekend.

VISITOR GUIDE · NOVEMBER 2026 EDITION · SOUTHBAYWEEKENDS.COM

WELCOME

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The South Bay is the curve of coast at the southwest corner of Los Angeles — seven cities strung along the sand from El Segundo to San Pedro. This guide pulls together the best of our directory: the top-rated places in each city, three ready-made itineraries, the year's big annual events, and the practical basics that make a beach day easy.

INSIDE

- Seven city pages — the short version of each city, with its top picks
- Three itineraries — a family morning, a free morning, and a jazz evening
- The annual calendar — the signature events worth planning a trip around
- The practical pages — parking, beach rules and getting here

Everything here is checked against the businesses and official sources, and the full directory — every listing with hours, addresses and maps — lives at **southbayweekends.com**. Hours change; confirm with the business before you go.

THE SEVEN CITIES

MANHATTAN BEACH



The South Bay's polished front porch. Known for: 100-year-old pier · Free Roundhouse Aquarium · Tue & Thu farmers markets.

TOP PICKS FROM THE DIRECTORY

PLACE	KIND	GOOGLE RATING
Fishing With Dynamite	Restaurant	★ 4.8
Tin Roof Bistro	Restaurant	★ 4.7
Polliwog Park	See & do	★ 4.6
FishBar	Restaurant	★ 4.6

Full listings, hours and addresses: southbayweekends.com/manhattan-beach/

THE SEVEN CITIES

HERMOSA BEACH



Hermosa is the smallest beach city with the biggest pulse. Pier Plaza anchors the nightlife, The Strand runs past pro volleyball courts, and Pier Ave holds everything from a 1949 jazz landmark to smashburger counters and Baja-leaning seafood. Daytime is families and surfers; after dark it's the South Bay's party block.

TOP PICKS FROM THE DIRECTORY

PLACE	KIND	GOOGLE RATING
Good Stuff	Restaurant	★ 4.8
Hermosa Beach Historical Museum	See & do	★ 4.8
Mama D's Italian Kitchen	Restaurant	★ 4.7
Baran's 2239	Restaurant	★ 4.7

Full listings, hours and addresses: southbayweekends.com/hermosa-beach/

THE SEVEN CITIES

REDONDO BEACH



Redondo splits into two worlds: the working harbor and International Boardwalk on one side, and Riviera Village's boutiques and wine bars on the other. It's the most family-oriented of the beach cities — boats, sea lions, fried seafood on the pier — with a Thursday farmers market on the Esplanade.

TOP PICKS FROM THE DIRECTORY

PLACE	KIND	GOOGLE RATING
Riviera Village	See & do	★ 4.8
Japonica	Restaurant	★ 4.7
The Standing Room	Restaurant	★ 4.6
Bettolino Kitchen	Restaurant	★ 4.6

Full listings, hours and addresses: southbayweekends.com/redondo-beach/

THE SEVEN CITIES

TORRANCE



Torrance is the South Bay's largest city and its best-kept food secret: a dense strip of Japanese izakaya, ramen shops and yakiniku houses, Oaxacan kitchens, dim sum halls, and more craft breweries than any city in LA County. Add Wilson Park's twice-weekly farmers market and the 400-acre Del Amo center and you get a full weekend without ever seeing the ocean.

TOP PICKS FROM THE DIRECTORY

PLACE	KIND	GOOGLE RATING
Monkish Brewing Co.	Brewery	★ 4.8
Wilson Park	See & do	★ 4.7
Torrance Bakery	Restaurant	★ 4.7
Aunty Maile's Hawaiian Food	Restaurant	★ 4.7

Full listings, hours and addresses: southbayweekends.com/torrance/

THE SEVEN CITIES

EL SEGUNDO



El Segundo is the quietest beach city — five and a half square miles of century-old bungalows, a real downtown on Main St, silent-movie organ concerts, and a cluster of taprooms that punch far above the town's size. It's the easy parking, no-crowd alternative to its neighbors.

TOP PICKS FROM THE DIRECTORY

PLACE	KIND	GOOGLE RATING
Old Town Music Hall	See & do	★ 4.9
El Segundo Brewing	Brewery	★ 4.7
Calo Kitchen + Tequila	Restaurant	★ 4.6
The Slice & Pint	Restaurant	★ 4.6

Full listings, hours and addresses: southbayweekends.com/el-segundo/

THE SEVEN CITIES

PALOS VERDES



The Palos Verdes Peninsula is the South Bay's slow lane: wildflower trails, a famous glass chapel, tide pools at Abalone Cove, and resort dining at Terranea. Weekends here mean a morning hike at George F Canyon, afternoon at the Botanic Garden, and golden hour at Point Vicente.

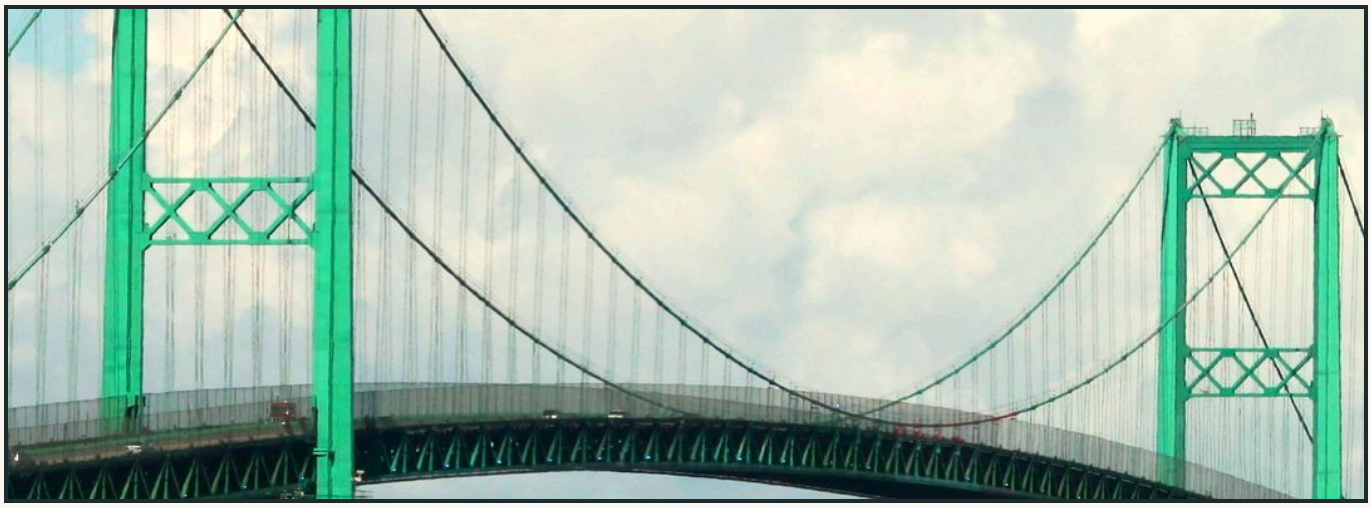
TOP PICKS FROM THE DIRECTORY

PLACE	KIND	GOOGLE RATING
Point Vicente Lighthouse & Interpretive Center	See & do	★ 4.8
Wayfarers Chapel	See & do	★ 4.8
Terranea Resort & Pelican Cove	See & do	★ 4.7
South Coast Botanic Garden	See & do	★ 4.7

Full listings, hours and addresses: southbayweekends.com/palos-verdes/

THE SEVEN CITIES

SAN PEDRO



San Pedro is the South Bay's wild card — a port town with a battleship, an aquarium, a sunken neighborhood fenced off at the cliffs, and some of the best cheap Mexican and Italian food in LA. The waterfront is changing fast around AltaSea and the Warner Grand, which makes now a good time to go.

TOP PICKS FROM THE DIRECTORY

PLACE	KIND	GOOGLE RATING
Compagnon Wine Bistro	Restaurant	★ 4.9
Battleship USS Iowa	See & do	★ 4.8
Korean Bell of Friendship	See & do	★ 4.8
J. Trani's Ristorante	Restaurant	★ 4.7

Full listings, hours and addresses: southbayweekends.com/san-pedro/

READY-MADE ROUTES

THREE ITINERARIES

Short chains of stops in one city, in the order you would actually do them — every stop a checked listing from the directory.

DINNER AND LIVE JAZZ IN HERMOSA BEACH

ITINERARY · 3 STOPS · ONE EVENING, ALL ON FOOT · HERMOSA BEACH

Dinner on Pier Ave, live jazz two doors down, and a walk on the pier after — three blocks, no car needed once you park.

A FAMILY MORNING IN MANHATTAN BEACH

ITINERARY · 3 STOPS · ONE MORNING, 9AM–1PM · MANHATTAN BEACH

The pier and the free aquarium first, pancakes at a 55-year-old counter, then burgers for lunch — a morning that works with little kids in tow.

A FREE MORNING IN SAN PEDRO

ITINERARY · 3 STOPS · ONE MORNING, 9AM–12PM · SAN PEDRO

Cliff views, a free aquarium, and coffee at a bakery — a whole morning in San Pedro for the price of a pastry.

All itineraries: southbayweekends.com/itineraries/

PLAN A TRIP AROUND ONE

THE ANNUAL CALENDAR

The South Bay's signature annual events. Dates for the next edition of each are posted on its page as soon as the organizer announces them.

EVENT	CITY	WHEN
Fiesta Hermosa	Hermosa Beach	Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, Saturday to Monday
Manhattan Beach Holiday Fireworks	Manhattan Beach	Sunday, December 13, 2026, 3–8pm; fireworks at 7pm
Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair	Manhattan Beach	Saturday–Sunday, October 9–10, 2027, 10am–6pm (dates posted by the fair)
LA Fleet Week	San Pedro	Memorial Day weekend each year, Friday to Monday
BeachLife Festival	Redondo Beach	Friday, April 30 – Sunday, May 2, 2027 (dates posted by the festival)
Torrance Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival	Torrance	A Sunday in late March each spring, 11am–4pm
Hermosa Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade	Hermosa Beach	The Saturday before St. Patrick's Day, stepping off at 11am
Manhattan Beach Pumpkin Race	Manhattan Beach	A Sunday in October; the festival starts at 12pm and races begin at 2pm
San Pedro Día de los Muertos Festival	San Pedro	A Sunday in late October, in the afternoon and evening

Full pages: southbayweekends.com/events/

BEFORE YOU GO

THE PRACTICAL PAGES

Hermosa Beach is the exception. Its beach is city-owned, with its own rules: Leashed and unleashed dogs, cats and all other pets are prohibited on the beach at all times, with exceptions for service animals. On the Strand, pets are allowed but must remain on a leash at all times, and owners must pick up after their pet. Dogs are also prohibited on the Pier, on or off leash.
Palos Verdes runs its own shoreline too: Rancho Palos Verdes' official beach-access guide states: 'NO DOGS ALLOWED AT THE BEACH.'

Parking rates, dog and alcohol rules, beach hours and Metro access for all seven cities — with the official source for every fact — are on **southbayweekends.com/plan/**.

SOUTH BAY WEEKENDS

THE THURSDAY RUNDOWN, IN YOUR INBOX

One email every Thursday: the weekend's events, new listings, and the happy hours worth leaving the couch for. Free, no spam, unsubscribe anytime.

southbayweekends.com

Visitor Guide · November 2026 edition. Listing data compiled November 2026 — always confirm hours with the business.