

Many of Malibu's best destinations are visible from PCH, including renowned restaurants with ocean views, from the casual (Malibu Seafood) to the upscale (Nobu Malibu). Adjacent to the Malibu Lagoon and Bird Sanctuary, the Adamson House is filled with historic tile. The celebrity-frequented Malibu Country Mart serves as the area's town square. Together with the adjacent Malibu Village and Malibu Lumber Yard, there are plenty of shops and restaurants for whiling away an afternoon.

Inland, nearing Calabasas, is wine country, where you can sample the local vino at tasting rooms such as Malibu Wines.

TOPANGA + PACIFIC PALISADES

In the 1960s, hippies and musicians such as Neil Young hid out in idyllic Topanga, accessible by Topanga Canyon Boulevard from Pacific Coast Highway. Removed from urban activity, it retains its bohemian vibe and independently owned businesses. Hiking

trails allow visitors to bask in Topanga's woodsy beauty, and restaurants such as Inn of the Seventh Ray accommodate creekside dining.

The Getty Villa

There's more than initially meets the eye in seemingly sleepy, family-friendly Pacific Palisades, south of Topanga on PCH and accessed from Temescal Canyon Road. Hikers love the shady trails in Temescal Gateway Park, and cafés and upscale mom-and-pop shops can be found between Via de la Paz and Monument Street near Sunset Boulevard. The Self-Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine on Sunset is a 10-acre oasis with a lush garden and koi- and swan-filled lake. The crown jewel of the Palisades is the Getty Villa. Styled as a Julius Caesar-era villa, it's filled with Greco-Roman antiquities.

VENICE

Abbot Kinney won in a coin toss the land that would become Venice. He sought to develop it as an American version of the Italian city; the canals are still

there, lined with multimilliondollar bungalows. His namesake Abbot Kinney Boulevard is Venice's coolest section, where Gjelina, Intelligentsia Coffee & Tea and boutiques such as Bazar, Heist and Huset are the main attractions. Rose Avenue is also coming up, thanks to the emergence of hot restaurants such as reborn Rose Café-Restaurant and Café Gratitude, plus a smattering of hip shops including Parachute and new Monrow. Visitors strolling Ocean Front Walk get an eyeful, what with performers, vendors and Muscle Beach bodybuilders.

BRENTWOOD

Marilyn Monroe once called this affluent enclave northeast of Santa Monica home; it remains a favorite celebrity stomping ground. San Vicente Boulevard functions as the neighborhood's main street, with copious independent shops, bakeries, cafés and restaurants. The petite Brentwood Country Mart, a charming open-air shopping center built in 1948, keeps retail offerings upscale.

The area's biggest draw is the Getty Center, the hilltop museum that boasts J. Paul Getty's spectacular art collection and a beautiful central garden.

MARINA DEL REY

Marina del Rey's main attraction is the marina, the largest man-made small-craft harbor in the world. Restaurants such as Cast & Plow and Cafe del Rey are positioned to take advantage of the views, and at the New England-style Fisherman's Village, boat-rental and cruise companies such as Hornblower offer visitors assorted ways to get out on the water.



insider tips

SEASIDE SIPS

These beachside bars and restaurants offer refreshing cocktails and unbeatable ocean views.

Geoffrey's Malibu

27400 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 310.457.1519

The Lobster

1602 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica, 310.458.9294

Malibu Farm Restaurant

23000 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 310.456.8850

Mastro's Ocean Club

18412 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 310.454.4357

Moonshadows

20356 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 310.456.3010

Nobu Malibu

22706 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 310.317.9140

On the Waterfront Cafe

205 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, 310.392.0322

Terrazza Lounge

Hotel Casa Del Mar, 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica, 310.581.5533

→FOR **BOLD** ITEMS, SEE THE WHERE GUIDE. FOR NEIGHBORHOOD MAPS, SEE PAGE 92.