

FACT SHEET

Santa Monica, California

Santa Monica is where the city meets the sea. With its incomparable oceanfront setting, world-class dining and vibrant cultural scene, Santa Monica combines the laid-back appeal of a classic California beach town with big-city sophistication to create a destination that is unlike anywhere else in the world.

LOCATION

Santa Monica sits perched on the Pacific Ocean at the crossroads of Pacific Coast Highway and California Interstate Highway 10. Set along 3.5 glistening miles of coastline, the city is bordered by Malibu and Venice and is easily accessible from Los Angeles International Airport (8 mi./13 km), Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport (30 mi./49 km) and Los Angeles Amtrak (13 mi./ 20 km).

SIZE

8.3 square miles (22 square km)

POPULATION

93,000

COASTLINE AND BEACHES

Broad, glistening beaches stretch for 26 miles along the scenic Santa Monica Bay, with 3.5 of those miles falling within Santa Monica proper. Primary beaches include Santa Monica State Beach and Will Rogers State Beach, both of which are popular for swimming, surfing, running and beach volleyball.

CLIMATE

Santa Monica enjoys a year-round mild, balmy, humidity-free climate with refreshing ocean breezes and over 280 days of sunshine annually. Winter temperatures average between 53°F (12°C) and 67°F (19°C), with January temperatures often climbing above 70° (21°C).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Santa Monica is home to some of the most unique, celebrated hotels in all Southern California. The city's incomparable hotel collection is made up of 41 hotel properties with more than 3,500 hotel rooms that range from high-style boutique hideaways to world-famous oceanfront resorts to budget-friendly options. Many of the hotels offer stunning ocean views and are within walking distance from Santa Monica's famous beaches, Pier, shopping, dining and leisure activities.

MEETING FACILITIES

The atmosphere of a Southern California beach town combined with the sophistication, cutting-edge culture and business amenities of a big city, paired with over 100,000 square feet of unique, offsite function space have produced a top-tier destination for corporate meetings and events. Santa Monica is noted for its diverse meeting venues including: Hotel Casa del Mar's Colonnade Ballroom, Annenberg Community Beach House, Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows' driveway underneath a historic fig tree, Pacific Park's Seaside Pavilion, Bergamot Station's art galleries, and the carousel building at the Santa Monica Pier.

DINING

Santa Monica emerged as an international culinary destination in the 1980s and has remained in the top echelon of American dining thanks to its many celebrity chefs and the new generation of culinary innovators who continue to invigorate the city's dining scene with over 400 restaurants offering an abundance of outdoor dining. In 2022, Santa Monica boasted four Michelin recognized restaurants including two 2023 Michelin Guide California restaurants featuring Mélisse with two stars and Citrin with one star; the 2023 Michelin Guide Bib Gourmand list for California features restaurants that offer a full menu with two courses, a glass of wine and dessert for \$49 or less. Santa Monica's two Bib Gourmands are Colapasta and Tumbi. The city was on the vanguard of the local foods movement long before it became mainstream, and the use of sustainable, organic ingredients is central to the cooking approach of leading chefs around town. As a result, the local restaurants offer some of the freshest and most varied dining options in the country. From organic, vegetarian fare and California fusion to fresh seafood and top-rated steak, there are options for every palate and budget.

SHOPPING

Santa Monica's collection of global retail brands, haute boutiques and unique local offerings has turned the beachside city into an internationally celebrated shopping destination. From Downtown's Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place to upscale boutiques along the lauded Montana Avenue and the fun, eclectic retail mix on Main Street and Pico Blvd - a day of shopping in Santa Monica offers something for everyone and truly immerses the visitor in the diverse character of the city.

TOP ATTRACTIONS

- ***Santa Monica Pier***: This true Southern California icon was built in 1909 and is one of Santa Monica's most beloved and well-known landmarks. It is home to an amusement park and the Heal the Bay Aquarium, in addition to dining options that range from gourmet fare to cotton candy and ice cream.
- ***Pacific Park***: Pacific Park is a full-service amusement park located on the Pier with rides and attractions such as the five-story West Coaster roller coaster, the nine-story Pacific Plunge tower ride, and the nine-story Pacific Wheel, the only over-water Ferris wheel in California.
- ***Pacific Wheel***: Pacific Park's nine-story Pacific Wheel is the world's first and only solar-powered Ferris wheel. The Ferris wheel's 174,000 energy efficient LED lights create a 90-foot high computer-generated light show for nighttime beach-goers to enjoy. It also provides riders with spectacular views of the Santa Monica coastline and is a central focal point on the Santa Monica Pier.
- ***Third Street Promenade***: The sprawling Third Street Promenade is the bustling hub of Downtown Santa Monica. This pedestrian-only, open-air shopping destination is only two blocks from the city's popular beaches and is noted for its weekly farmers' market, terrific shopping, street performers, ample dining options, and of course, people watching.

- *Farmers Markets*: Santa Monica offers four weekly farmers' markets where the city's residents and chefs pick up the country's freshest produce, flowers, meats, cheeses, nuts, fish, and more. Named the best in the country by Travel + Leisure, the Santa Monica Farmers Market truly sets the tone for local dining and the city's emphasis on farm-to-table cuisine.
- *Bergamot Station*: Bergamot Station is Southern California's largest art gallery complex and cultural center, located on eight acres in the heart of Santa Monica featuring contemporary art galleries, architecture and design firms, a café, and a frame shop.
- *Street Murals*: Santa Monica is an arts and culture hub, home to 170 plus street art murals all within its walkable 8.3 square miles and eight neighborhoods.
- *Tongva Park*: A seven-acre park in the heart of Santa Monica. Designed by James Corner Field Operations, the team behind New York's celebrated High Line, Tongva Park was inspired by the Southern California arroyo landscape of washes and ravines that once defined the site. The urban landscape features an abundant and ambitious plant scheme, contemplative walking paths, soothing water elements, and two viewing platforms offering majestic views of the Pacific Ocean.
- *South Bay Bicycle Trail (known to locals as "The Strand" or Marvin Braude Beach Trail)*: At 22 miles long, the South Bay Bicycle Trail is the world's longest oceanfront bike path. It begins in Santa Monica at Will Rogers State Beach, the northernmost point of Santa Monica, then scenically winds its way past Santa Monica State Beach, the famous Santa Monica Pier, through the Venice Boardwalk and past the Venice Pier, all the way through Hermosa and Redondo Beaches to end at Torrance County Beach.
- *Santa Monica Place*: Santa Monica Place is a dynamic three-story, entirely outdoor shopping mecca, located just two blocks from the beach and steps away from the famous Third Street Promenade. SMP was inspired by Santa Monica itself — sunny open spaces, ocean breezes, and an airy central plaza. Anchored by Nordstrom and Nike, Santa Monica Place also features a wide range of luxury and specialty shops such as Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, Rolex, Tory Burch, Hugo Boss, Coach, and more. With over 80 stores and restaurants, a third-floor rooftop dining deck featuring gorgeous ocean views, an indoor/outdoor food court, there is something for everyone's distinct taste.
- *Metro Light Rail*: When Metro's long-awaited E Line (Expo) light rail opened in Downtown Santa Monica in May of 2016, it began providing rail service to the city for the first time in over 50 years. Riders can now take advantage of daily service between Downtown Los Angeles and Downtown Santa Monica in only 46 minutes, even during rush hour.

QUICK FACTS

- National Geographic ranked Santa Monica as one of the “Top Ten Beach Cities in the World” — putting Santa Monica in the ranks with Barcelona, Sydney and Rio de Janeiro.
- The city has been an artistic center for Southern California for generations, and a remarkable 50 percent of local residents work in creative businesses — believed to be the largest concentration in any American city.
- In recent years, a wave of tech and Internet start-up companies have rolled into town, including tech trendsetters Microsoft, YouTube, Hulu, AirMap, Tastemade, GumGum, GoodRx, PatientPop and Headspace have all set up shop. Video gaming companies headquartered here for quite some time include Activision, PlayStation, Naughty Dog, Treyarch and newcomer, PlayQ. Games like Call of Duty, Guitar Hero, the Tony Hawk’s series, and Star Citizen are imagined in Santa Monica.
- Santa Monica’s 8.3 square miles have been made to be extremely bike-friendly with more than 119 miles of well-marked lanes and routes. Bicycles are one of the most scenic and economical ways to navigate the city.
- Santa Monica is the birthplace of Beach Volleyball and will be a site for the 2028 Summer Olympics taking place in Los Angeles. Numerous public volleyball courts are first-come, first-served courts that are situated at various locations north and south of the Pier.
- In 2022 Santa Monica celebrated the honor of its very own Downtown Farmers Market placing #10 in the top 10 winners list in the Best Farmers Market category in USA Today’s 10Best Farmers Market in the United States.
- Santa Monica has been recognized as one of the top-ten sustainable cities in the United States. Its City Hall is considered one of the greenest in America and was designed to meet Living Building Challenge criteria that surpasses the highest LEED certification requirements. And in 2022, Santa Monica became the first city to achieve Platinum-level certification under the LEED for Cities program, making it a leader in sustainability for global travel.

For more information visit santamonica.com, email info@santamonica.com, or follow SMTT on Instagram ([@SeeSantaMonica](https://www.instagram.com/SeeSantaMonica)), Twitter ([@GoSantaMonica](https://twitter.com/GoSantaMonica)) or Facebook ([@VisitSantaMonica](https://www.facebook.com/VisitSantaMonica)).

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What's New in Santa Monica

The World of Barbie at Santa Monica Place

The World of Barbie made its way to Santa Monica Place on Friday, April 14, and - due to high demand - extended its stay into September 2023. The global toy maker Mattel collaborated with entertainment company Kilburn Live and fashion company IMG to produce the 20,000 square-foot attraction for all generations. Visitors can enjoy interactive installations from Barbie's Dreamhouse, Space Center and more. The immersive experience also features new after-hours and special events from Movie Days and Sips After Sunset.

ARTE Museum to Open at Santa Monica Place

Set to open in early 2024, this will mark the first U.S. flagship location for global art and technology phenomenon ARTE MUSEUM. The 48,000 square-foot immersive art destination will replace the former ArcLight Cinema on Santa Monica Place's third level. ARTE MUSEUM is Korea's most popular media art exhibition space, attracting more than 3.7 million visitors in the 26 months since its debut in 2020.

Regent Santa Monica Beach replaces Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel

This is the first destination in the Americas for the reimagined Regent Hotels & Resorts – part of IHG's luxury and lifestyle portfolio. Poised to open in late 2023, Regent Santa Monica Beach will welcome a new era of experiences to the California coastline. The resort will feature tranquil rooms and suites, a stunning beachfront pool deck with multiple pools and a destination spa and wellness center. Additionally, Regent Santa Monica Beach will offer a restaurant concept created in collaboration with an acclaimed celebrity chef as well as a high-end artisanal marketplace.

The Pierside Hotel

A new lifestyle hotel situated steps from the beach, The Pierside offers a true taste of California coastal living with panoramic views of the Santa Monica Pier. The hotel features seven floors and 132 rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows designed with natural textures and ocean-inspired colors, taking cues from Santa Monica's lush landscape and unique style. Amenities include a multi-story mural by Artist Shepard Fairey, an outdoor saltwater pool and on-site activity outfitter for surfboard, skateboard, and GoPro rentals. The hotel will also debut a new restaurant called The Surfing Fox, the casual hideaway will feature local flavors and familiar favorites that will activate and enliven the Colorado Esplanade with a large outdoor dining area.

The Beacon

Hotel Shangri-La bids farewell to Santa Monica and Sonder's The Beacon takes its place. The tech-focused hotel features a digital concierge and self-check-in, ideal for the digital nomads and families looking for extended stays. Each room has modern amenities with a classic touch including a soaking tub, Roku TV and access to the fitness room, pool and cabanas.

The Return of The Georgian Hotel

The famous Georgian Hotel, known for its 1940's Old Hollywood glamour, recently completed renovations. The design revitalization serves as a homage to the hotel's story and Santa Monica's rich history. Some of the highlights include two open-to-the-public restaurants; dining terraces; a library; lobby bar; an art collection by Sharon Stone; and archival images procured from the Santa Monica History Museum.

The Viceroy Santa Monica

The Viceroy Santa Monica, a 169-room beachfront lifestyle hotel on the Southern California coast, has wrapped up an extensive, \$21 million renovation project. Guest rooms, suites and public spaces have all been redesigned, an expansive outdoor space has been added, and the new Sugar Palm restaurant and bar has debuted. A new art collection of commissioned pieces, as well as interactive augmented reality works, are on display as well.

Frieze Los Angeles

In February 2023, internationally renowned art fair Frieze Los Angeles relocated from Beverly Hills to Santa Monica Airport's Barker Hangar, with the goal of hosting a larger event comparable to its London, Seoul and New York fairs. Featuring more than 120 galleries and an expansive program of artist projects, the show received its highest attendance in Los Angeles to date, and will look to host Frieze Los Angeles once again in Santa Monica next year.