

Going 'local' in Hermosa Beach

Kathy Strong | June 4, 2016

Dining, nightlife and beachy boutiques are within strolling distance just two blocks from the hotel on Pier Avenue, making a surf board more of a necessity than a car during your entire stay.

The hotel offers 96 suites adjacent to a desirable portion of the Strand, the 26-mile coastal path that cuts through sandy beaches with ocean waves lapping just beyond. Most rooms boast full or partial views of the Pacific from private balconies or patios. From the sand-touching terraces, guests look out onto the glistening expanse that provides non-stop people watching with a parade of bikers, skaters, surfers, volleyball players, dog walkers and sun worshipers. Guest rooms are designed with a private "cottage" feel with separate bedroom and living spaces, fireplaces, wet bars, microwaves, refrigerators, goose down comforters, Frette linens and robes, high-definition flat screen televisions and more.

After a day at the beach, reserve a spa treatment in the room or in the hotel's intimate spa area, convenient and private to guest rooms. Every morning, slip downstairs for a complimentary hearty continental feast in the breakfast room.

Be a beach dweller

Be a local and plan to spend the day at the beach. Hermosa's smog-free air combined with stress-free beach access mean that beach-going is a cinch in this friendly, casual spot. Hermosa is an ideal place for water fun or wandering the shops in the nearby plaza at the pier. Enjoy the antics of pelicans and dolphins, warm yourself in the sunshine and be sure to find a special spot to view each evening's spectacular show as the sun makes a tangerine-shade drop into the Pacific.

Consider a bike ride along the Strand or simply take a leisurely stroll down the shoreline path. Hermosa Beach is the training ground for some of the world's best pro-circuit volleyball players, and the city's "laid back" attitude allows the novice and pro to play together at the volleyball courts that lie directly in front of the hotel, which is also a front-row seat for the AVP professional tournament held each year. World famous surfing spots are just steps away, as well as yoga on the beach. After some beach fun, soak in the hotel's outdoor hot tub.

Laughs on Sunday with Leno

Along with the "sandy" attractions, this lively beach village offers up ample nighttime entertainment, including The Hermosa Beach Playhouse and the Lighthouse with live music. However, the nearly 33-year-old Comedy and Magic Club is a must for anyone craving an evening of astounding magic and comedy from a variety of entertainers. In fact, many famous comedians choose this off-Hollywood club to hone their skills. Jerry Seinfeld and Bill Maher drop by regularly, and Jay Leno often performs here on Sunday nights. Make it a full evening with dinner and a show; the prices are surprisingly reasonable.

If you are staying at the Beach House on a Sunday night, try a luxe stay with a lot of laughs. For an additional \$60, the hotel's "Laugh Out Loud Sundays" package includes two VIP Comedy & Magic Club tickets on the night you are apt to grab an appearance by Leno himself.

After the show, grab a gelato right next door to the club at Paciugo Gelato & Caffe. The 32 fresh flavors, handmade daily, provide a sweet way to top off a delicious night of comedy and sleight of hand.



Creative seafood dining & shopping

There are dining options to delight every palate – from seaside bistros around the pier to a lingering dinner by moonlight. A surprising dinner discovery is Chef Melba's Bistro, a tiny eatery overseen by chef/owner Melba Rodriguez who churns out cutting edge, organic and fresh creations in her open demonstration kitchen to the delight of diners. Melba brings in fresh fish daily, uses only vine-ripened produce and puts it all together with a creative flair. (www.chefmelbasbistro.com)