

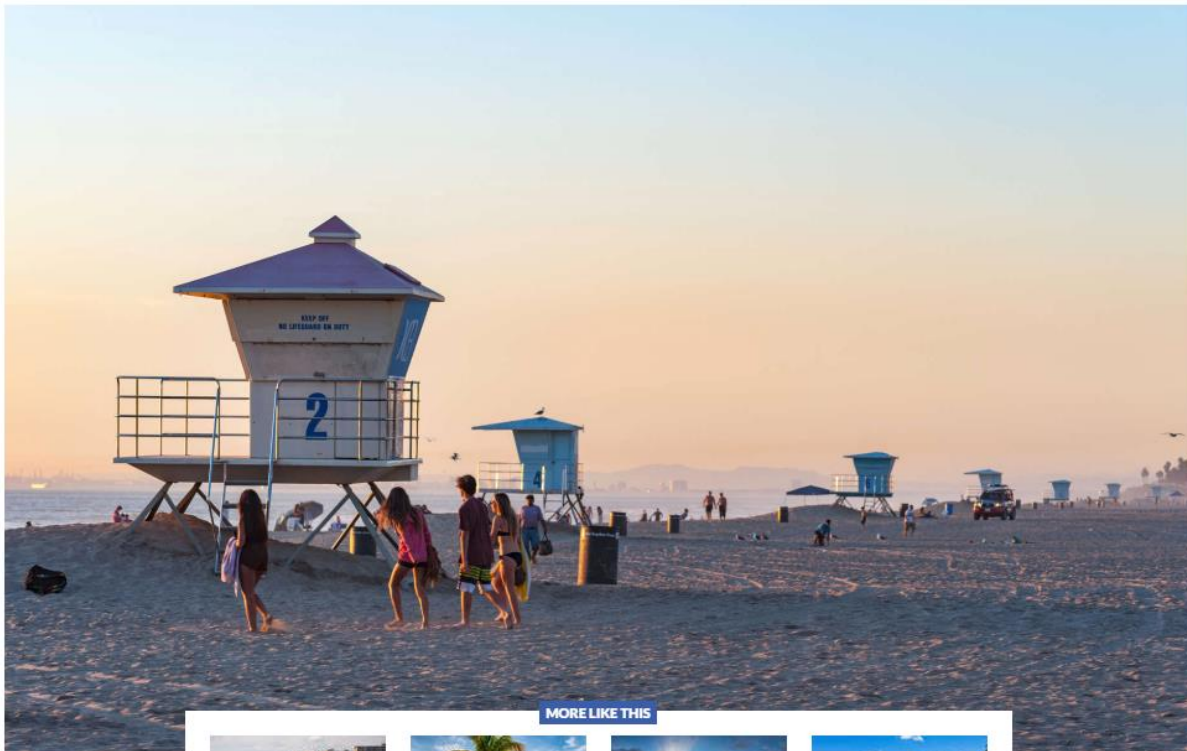
TRAVEL

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Hard Seltzer

California's Best Beaches to Visit This Summer



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The California coastline is 840 miles long, and has more than 420 public beaches. This means there are sandy beaches and rocky beaches, sunny beaches and foggy beaches, crowded beaches and secluded beaches. Buzzy beaches near [LA](#), [San Diego](#), and [San Francisco](#), and mellow beaches far from the urban cacophony. Beaches where you can swim in an itsy-bitsy bikini, and beaches where you can swim in nothing at all.

With so many beaches to choose from, it's hard to narrow down our favorite spots. That said, we thought long and hard about all of the things we look for in a beach, and how those things are often totally contradictory, and went from there. Whether you're looking for a sweet surf spot, spectacular views, a place you can safely swim, or quality people-watching, there's a beach here for you. We've also highlighted some of the best nearby places to grab a meal or a drink, along with some helpful tips you might not think of before showing up, like whether you can bring alcohol and your four-legged friends.

The result: 15 perfect beaches up and down the California coast, and only one Beach Boys reference. Fun, fun, fun! (OK, make that two).



[Gianfranco Vivi/Shutterstock](#)

Hermosa Beach

Los Angeles

Great waves, beautiful people, and a perpetual summer vibe

Hermosa Beach is all about die-hard volleyball players, surfing, and really, really attractive people. Like, "really, really, ridiculously good-looking" people. But even if you're more of a loungeur than a *Zoolander* model or "let's play paddleball" kind of person,

this spot can still be your jam thanks to the mile-and-a-half of clean white sand and comfortably warm water. If you do get inspired to exercise, The Strand, a 22-mile paved path for bikers, hikers, joggers, and rollerbladers (yes, they still exist) runs right along the beach.

Know before you go: Don't worry about bringing your bike, skates, boogie board, or even your umbrella or beach chair; you can rent everything you need for a fun day at the beach at [Hermosa Cyclery](#). And you'll find showers and restrooms next to the pier and at 24th Street.

Where to eat/drink: [Good Stuff](#), a beachside restaurant with super tasty Baja fish tacos and a decent selection of craft beers, and even has special dishes just for four-legged friends. You'll also find a ton of places to eat and drink along Pier Plaza; hit up [Palmilla Cocina Y Tequila](#) for upscale Mexican or [Tower 12](#) for casual fare, like burgers, wood-fired pizzas, handcrafted cocktails, and 30 local beers on tap, all with ocean views.