

Santa Monica

BY LARENÉ GRISOM

In the early 1900s, residents of Los Angeles and its inland areas took the Pacific Electric Railway's Red Car to Santa Monica's white-sand beaches and famous pier. Even though the Red Car is long gone, this 8.3-square-mile pedestrian-friendly oasis nestled between Malibu to the north and Venice to the south continues to attract visitors from all over the world. With an average of more than 340 sunny days per year, Santa Monica remains one of the L.A. area's premier places to play, hang out, and relax.

PLAY Peruse contemporary art exhibits or participate in a workshop at the **Santa Monica Museum of Art** 1, located, along with more than 30 galleries, at the Bergamot Station Arts Center. 2525 Michigan Avenue. (310) 586-6488; smmoa.org. Rent a bike or take a guided tour from **Perry's Café and Rentals** 2 to

To Do

- **Downtown farmers markets**
Wednesdays and Saturdays
- **Ice at Santa Monica (skating)**
November 5–February 14, 2011

enjoy the scenery along the South Bay Bicycle Trail. 2400 and 2600 Ocean Front Walk. (310) 452-7609; perryscafe.com. Learn about local marine

life at the **Santa Monica Pier Aquarium** 3. 1600 Ocean Front Walk. (310) 393-6149; healthebay.org/smpa. Enjoy a family outing on the world's first solar-powered Ferris wheel at **Pacific Park** 4 on the pier. 380 Santa Monica Pier. (310) 260-8744; pacpark.com.

SHOP Stroll the pedestrian-only **Third Street Promenade** 5, where big-name and independent shops are interspersed with numerous dining choices. *Third Street between Wilshire Boulevard and Broadway.* thirdstreetpromenade.com. Just south of the promenade, explore the newly updated **Santa Monica Place** 6 and enjoy city and ocean views from the rooftop dining deck. 395 Santa Monica Place. (310) 260-8333; santamoniacplace.com.

EAT Dine with an ocean view at **Back on the Beach Café** 7 in the Annenberg Community Beach House. 445 Pacific Coast Highway. (310) 393-8282; backonthebeachcafe.com. Sup by candlelight at **Fig Restaurant** 8 in the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, where chef Ray Garcia prepares entrées with California ingredients. 101 Wilshire Blvd. (310) 319-3111; figsantamonica.com. **W**

Interstate 10's western terminus is located in **Santa Monica**, about four miles west of Interstate 405. For a free Los Angeles Central & Western Area map, visit your local Auto Club branch. For driving directions, go to aaamaps.com.



Please call to check hours and availability of businesses, attractions, and events before you visit. Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau: (800) 544-5319; santamonica.com.