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### **Fact Sheet Santa Monica, Calif.**

Santa Monica is a charming seaside town with all of the culture, events and urban amenities of a bustling metropolis. The blend of Santa Monica's natural beauty, award winning dining, incomparable hotel collection and famed shopping options, all on one of California's most iconic stretches of shoreline, creates a truly unforgettable seaside destination.

#### **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**

94,000

#### **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 300 days of sunshine annually. Winter temperatures average between 53°F (13°C) and 67° F (21° C), with January temperatures often climbing above 70°.

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Santa Monica is home to some of the most unique, celebrated hotels in all of Southern California. The city's incomparable hotel collection is made up of 36 hotel properties with more than 3,500 hotel rooms that range from high-style boutique hideaways, to world-famous oceanfront resorts, and comfortable and surprisingly affordable hotel properties. 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 unique meeting venues including: Hotel Casa Del Mar's Colonnade Ballroom, Annenberg Community Beach House, Fairmont Miramar Hotel's driveway underneath a historic fig tree, Pacific Park's Seaside Pavilion, Bergamot Station's art galleries, and the Carousel 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. Santa Monica 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 the 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 pallet, taste and budget.

## **SHOPPING**

Santa Monica's tempting 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 celebrity-filled Montana Avenue and the fun, eclectic retail mix on Main Street, 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 Santa Monica Aquarium, in addition to dining options that range from gourmet fare to cotton candy and ice cream cones.
- 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 160,000 energy efficient LED lights create an 85-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.
- Tongva Park: A new, 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: At 22 miles long, the South Bay Bicycle Trail is the world's longest oceanfront bike path. It begins 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 reopened in 2010 after an extensive remodel as a three-story, entirely outdoor shopping mecca, located just two blocks from the beach and steps away from the famous Third Street Promenade. The Place was inspired by Santa Monica itself – sunny open spaces, ocean breezes, and an airy central plaza. Anchored by Bloomingdales and Nordstrom, Santa Monica Place also features a wide range of luxury and specialty shops such as Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Michael Kors, Emporio Armani, and more. A third floor rooftop deck features gorgeous ocean views and an entire floor of dining, including 'The Market', where diners will find artisanal cheese, wines, chocolates, olive oils, fresh produce and flowers, and more.

## QUICK FACTS

- National Geographic ranked Santa Monica as one of the "Top Ten Beach Cities in the World" – putting Santa Monica in a class with Barcelona, Sydney and Rio de Janeiro.
- The city has been an artistic center for Southern California for generations, and a remarkable 43% 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, earning Santa Monica the nickname of 'Silicon Beach'.
- Santa Monica's 8.3 square miles have been made to be extremely bike-friendly with well-marked lanes and routes. Bicycles are one of the most scenic and economical ways to navigate the city.
- Santa Monica has been recognized as one of the top ten sustainable cities in the United States.