



Fact Sheet: Santa Monica, Calif.

The iconic city of Santa Monica is an urban beachside getaway that defines the California lifestyle. Offering visitors a laidback luxury experience heightened by unparalleled natural beauty, the coastal enclave offers world-class dining, endless shopping and a vibrant cultural scene. A leader in sustainability, home to a plethora of incredible hotels and always at the forefront of the hottest wellness trends, its sandy beaches and sunny skies beckon millions of travelers to the destination each year.

LOCATION

Santa Monica sits beside the Pacific Ocean at the crossroads of the historic Pacific Coast Highway and California Interstate Highway 10. Set along 3.5 glistening miles of coastline, the city is bordered by Malibu to the north and Venice Beach to the south, easily accessible from Los Angeles International Airport, LAX (8 miles/13 kilometers), Hollywood Burbank Airport (30 miles/49 kilometers) and Los Angeles Amtrak (13 miles/ 20 kilometers).

SIZE

8.3 square miles (22 square kilometers)

POPULATION

90,000

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. The ever-popular Santa Monica State Beach is a must-visit for sun seekers- swimming, surfing, running and beach volleyball under the Southern California sun.

CLIMATE

Santa Monica offers a mild, low-humidity climate with refreshing ocean breezes from the Pacific and approximately 300 days of sunshine annually. Winter temperatures average between 50°F (10°C) and 66°F (19°C), with January temperatures sometimes even climbing above 70°F (21°C).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Santa Monica boasts 40 hotel properties all within four miles of the city's sandy shores. With more than 3,500 hotel rooms available for travelers from around the globe, accommodations

range from posh luxury properties and world-famous oceanfront resorts to stylish boutique hideaways and affordable, budget-friendly options. The lively areas and diverse communities of Santa Monica make it the perfect choice for a stay in the region.

MEETING FACILITIES

The serene atmosphere of a Southern California beach town combined with the sophisticated business amenities of a big city makes sunny Santa Monica a top destination for meetings and events. The city is home to over 120,000 square feet of unique venue spaces that allow attendees 8 square miles of walkable access to the city's renowned restaurants, arts and entertainment venues, and of course, stunning coastline. Just some of these incredible venues include Hotel Casa Del Mar's Colonnade Ballroom, the Annenberg Community Beach House, Bergamot Station's art galleries and the historic carousel at the Santa Monica Pier.

DINING

Santa Monica is a culinary hotbed with over 400 restaurants admired by locals, visitors and food critics alike. The city proudly houses 18 Michelin-recognized eateries, a myriad of innovative chefs and a consistent influx of new openings. Santa Monica is at the forefront of cutting-edge culinary trends like California-fusion using fresh, healthy ingredients from local award-winning farmers markets. From exciting bars and nightlife to exquisite fine-dining and casual eateries, there are ample options for every palate and budget. The city's near-perfect weather also makes it an ideal location for al fresco dining with many locations offering outdoor patios for diners to take in the ocean breeze.

SHOPPING

Santa Monica is home to nearly 700 brick-and-mortar stores ranging from independent boutiques to high-end luxury locations covering 21 square miles. From Downtown's Third Street Promenade and the boutiques along upscale Montana Avenue to the hidden gems of Ocean Park Boulevard and the eclectic retail mix on Main Street, visitors will find an immersive shopping experience across the city.

TOP ATTRACTIONS:

- **Santa Monica Pier** This Southern California icon was built in 1909 and is one of the city's most beloved and well-known landmarks. The eye-catching location has also served as a backdrop in beloved films like "Forrest Gump," "Iron Man" and Her which have reached viewers around the world. With its spectacular views of the coastline, it is home to the Santa Monica Aquarium and the full-service amusement park Pacific Park featuring attractions like the nine-story Pacific Wheel – the world's first and only solar-powered Ferris wheel. Visitors taking a leisurely stroll on the Pier will find kitschy shops and dining options from gourmet fare to classic cotton candy and ice cream cones.
- **Third Street Promenade** The sprawling Third Street Promenade serves as the bustling hub of Downtown Santa Monica. This pedestrian-only, open-air shopping destination is only two blocks from the city's stunning coastline and is known for its weekly farmers'

market, terrific shopping, talented street performers, ample dining locations, and of course, unbeatable 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 sets the tone for local dining and the city's emphasis on fresh and healthy farm-to-table cuisine.
- **Tongva Park** Designed by James Corner Field Operations, the team behind New York City's celebrated High Line, Tongva Park is a seven-acre greenspace in the heart of Santa Monica. Named for the indigenous Tongva community who called the coast home, Tongva Park is 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.
- **Marvin Braude Bike Trail** At 22 miles long, the Marvin Braude Bike Trail is the world's longest oceanfront bicycle path. It begins just north of the city and scenically winds its way past Santa Monica State Beach, the famous Santa Monica Pier, along the Venice Boardwalk and the Venice Pier.
- **Santa Monica Place** Santa Monica Place is a three-story, open-air shopping haven located just two blocks from the beach in Downtown Santa Monica and steps away from the famous Third Street Promenade. The upscale collection of luxury stores and boutiques includes Nordstrom, Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co., The Gourmandise School, Cayton Children's Museum and more.
- **Metro Expo Light Rail** Metro's E-Line runs from the hillsides of East Los Angeles to buzzing center of Downtown Santa Monica. Opened in 2016, the light rail train allows riders to take advantage of daily service between Downtown Los Angeles and Downtown Santa Monica in only 46 minutes, beating the region's notorious traffic even during rush hour and allowing for a car-free experience. Additionally, Metro offers travelers connections to popular attractions like Universal Studios Hollywood and an updated connection to LAX is currently underway.
- **Bergamot Station Arts Center** Approaching its 30th anniversary in September 2024, Bergamot Station Arts Center has served as a pillar of the Santa Monica arts and culture community by offering numerous free-to-the-public experiences and 18 fine art galleries. Visitors will enjoy large-scale installations, thought-provoking live music and theatre performances, knee-slapping comedy shows and more.

- **Original Muscle Beach** The Original Muscle Beach is located on Ocean Front Walk in Santa Monica and features ropes, parallel bars, swings and more. Its history dates to the early 1930s with ties to fitness legends like Jack LaLanne and famously serving as a backdrop in classic Hollywood films. This must-see outdoor gym is still popular with locals, tourists, acrobats, gymnasts and bodybuilders today. For those visiting with active children, multiple playgrounds like the neighboring Pier Playground can be found along the sand in walking distance to Original Muscle Beach.
- **Museum of Flying** Located in the Ocean Park neighborhood of Santa Monica just south of the Santa Monica Airport, the Museum of Flying pays homage to the city's rich past with the Douglas Aircraft Company. Flying enthusiasts and history lovers will find an array of interactive aviation exhibits and art featuring vintage and modern aircraft and even a Wright Flyer replica on display.
- **Eight Unique Neighborhoods** Santa Monica is home to the following eight neighborhoods: Downtown, Main Street, Mid-City, Montana Ave., Ocean Park Boulevard, Pico Blvd., Pier/Ocean Ave. and Montana Ave. Each of these distinctive districts is infused with a wealth of personality and attractions such as dining, shopping and more. With so much to see, these neighborhoods offer travelers the opportunity to extend their trips and spend more time in the city exploring as a local would.

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 and Sydney.
- Santa Monica houses a total of 30 miles of well-marked bike lanes that make the city one of the most bike-friendly areas for both residents and visitors. Bicycles are one of the most scenic and economical ways to navigate the city.
- Santa Monica is recognized as a top sustainable city in the United States. In 2022, the city achieved the renowned Platinum certification under the LEED for Cities program by the U.S. Green Building Council. Additionally, the city features upwards of 60 Certified Green Businesses, a 2023 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in sustainable water recycling and an ambitious goal to be 100 percent carbon neutral by 2050.
- An arts and culture hub, Santa Monica has over 170 street art murals with vibrant, colorful displays found in each of the city's eight neighborhoods.
- The world-famous Route 66 highway ends in Santa Monica with a must-see “End of the Trail” sign found on the Santa Monica Pier and in Palisades Park next to our visitor kiosk. Route 66 will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026. Those who complete the iconic Route 66 drive can receive a special free certificate at this location.

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ABOUT SANTA MONICA TRAVEL & TOURISM

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism is a nonprofit organization chartered to strengthen the local economy by promoting our community as a vibrant, accessible and inclusive travel destination. For more information, visit santamonica.com, email info@santamonica.com, or follow us on Instagram ([@SeeSantaMonica](https://www.instagram.com/SeeSantaMonica)), Facebook ([@VisitSantaMonica](https://www.facebook.com/VisitSantaMonica)) and X/Twitter ([@GoSantaMonica](https://twitter.com/GoSantaMonica)).