



Santa Cruz-ing (Fun & Eats)

Fun

SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK

California's oldest amusement park is about as original--and memorable--as boardwalks come. The only major seaside amusement park on the Pacific Coast, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk blends old-time nostalgia with modern thrills. You can buy a bag of salt-water taffy, get your fortune told in the old-style arcade, take a road rage-releasing ride on the bumper cars, or test your mettle on the giant wood-framed roller coaster, The Big Dipper, whose unforgettable dips rival any extreme adventure in new theme parks. The Santa Cruz Boardwalk features a carousel and little cars and airplanes for the kiddies as well. Bring a swimsuit and a towel, as you'll be steps from a sandy, swimmable Santa Cruz beach. The Boardwalk is open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, weekends fall through spring. 400 Beach Street in Santa Cruz (831) 423-5590

THE MYSTERY SPOT

The Mystery Spot is a gravitational anomaly located in the redwood forests just outside of Santa Cruz. Within the Mystery Spot you will be stunned as your perceptions of the laws of physics and gravity are questioned. But don't take our word for it, go and decide for yourself! 465 Mystery Spot Road in Santa Cruz (831) 423-8897

LIGHTHOUSE STATE PARK

The fantastic waterfront park includes picnic tables and a Surfing Museum with trails that include a paved pathway along West Cliff Drive and unpaved trails throughout field area. Pedestrians and bicycles allowed as well as dogs on leashes. 701 West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz

CLUB ED SURF SCHOOL

Located on Cowell's Beach in front of the hotel. Offers Wetsuit and Surf Board rentals, as well as surfing lessons. (831)-464-0177

TAKE A STROLL DOWN PACIFIC AVENUE

Downtown is the Heart of Santa Cruz. It is filled with a wide range of boutiques, sidewalk cafés, over fifty restaurant choices, and an exciting nightlife with several music venues, cinema and live performances, Downtown truly has something for everyone!

WEST CLIFF DRIVE

Just steps outside the Coast Hotel, West Cliff offers 3 miles of mixed biking and pedestrian pathway along the Santa Cruz coast line. Path covers visual and physical access to: Surfing, cycling, walking, tide pools, beaches, fishing, sea otters, seals, whales and dolphins and monarch butterflies in season, coastal birds, and people of all ages enjoying themselves.

Restaurants

THE SHADOWBROOK

Located beside lush Soquel Creek in Capitola-by-the-Sea, Shadowbrook is best reached by its own quaint cable car or a meandering garden path. Epitomizing "A Special Occasion" since 1947, guests have a choice of several dining options including the original Shadowbrook Dining Room, with its massive windows, the creekside, sunlit Greenhouse, a cozy, wood-paneled Wine Cellar, the airy, glass-enclosed Garden Room, the Fireside Room, with hanging balcony, the rooftop Redwood Room, the secluded Owner's Private Reserve, and the delightful outdoor patios, overlooking the creek. The Shadowbrook Restaurant offers fine dining in a romantic seaside Santa Cruz area setting with a gourmet menu including seafood and steaks -- popular for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and banquets. 1750 Wharf Road in Capitola-by-the-Sea (831) 475-1511

THE CROW'S NEST

High above the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor is a Coast Guard lookout, traditionally called a “Crow’s Nest.” It serves as a weather station, observation tower and base for rescue operations. Directly underneath is one of Monterey Bay’s most popular restaurants, known by the same name. Featuring award-winning food, spirits & live entertainment from one of the most spectacular waterfront views on the Monterey Bay. Weekday lunches and nightly dinners in the downstairs dining room offer fresh seafood, pasta, Midwestern aged beef and daily chef’s specials. The upstairs Breakwater Bar & Grill offers a variety of appetizers and casual lunches throughout the day.

2218 E. Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, (831) 476-4560

THE BEACH STREET CAFÉ

A delightfully mellow establishment which takes you away from the hustle and bustle of the Santa Cruz boardwalk area. Open for breakfast, brunch and lunch. The place is legendary to residents of Santa Cruz and we recommend it wholeheartedly.

339 Beach Street in Santa Cruz, (831) 476-0636

GILDA’S SEAFOOD

Join all the old local people for lunch at Gilda’s - Gilda herself still greets guests although she must be 75 years old herself! This is a cheap & cheerful ‘fish & chip’ restaurant (they do serve other fresh seafood too) out on the pier in Santa Cruz. It’s a great lunch stop - especially if you get a window seat. Beach Boardwalk in Santa Cruz

SOIF

A hip, innovative restaurant that includes an extensive wine list. This restaurant is an amazing place to take a casual date. Don’t feel afraid to ask recommendations from their extensive wine lists, the waiters are well trained in food pairings and are happy to help out. 105 Walnut Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. (831) 423-2020

CASABLANCA

An upscale restaurant in Santa Cruz with historic views and amazing food. Expect the restaurant to be very traditional and elegant. 101 Main Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. (831) 423-1570

KIANTI’S PIZZA AND PASTA BAR

A great place to grab a pizza or some quality home cooked Italian food. This restaurant always receives great reviews from patrons. The special acrobatic shows put on by the staff every Friday and Saturday night is a nice addition to any comical evening. 1100 Santa Cruz Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (831) 469-4400

CARNIGLIA’S RESTAURANT

Fine Italian and seafood dining with a reasonable price tag attached. This restaurant includes ocean views and a classic Santa Cruz feel. It has been almost exclusively family run restaurant since 1950. 49a Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (831) 458-3600

EL PALOMAR

Family run Mexican restaurant. Known for excellent food with family recipes and Margaritas. The bar gets packed on weekends. 1336 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (831) 425-7575

Bars and Nightlife:

BLUE LAGOON COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Local bands rock the stage of the Blue Lagoon on Wednesdays and Fridays, but most other nights the club is open to those who are looking for dancing and good times. Although the Blue Lagoon Cocktail lounge used to be Santa Cruz’s ultimate gay bar, the scene has shifted to a different crowd. Monday’s dance night, “The Box,” has a mix of industrial gothic jams while Tuesday switches over to hip-hop beats. ‘80s on Thursday and “The Boom!” Top 40 on Saturdays round out the week for the Santa Cruz bar. 923 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (831) 423-7117

THE CATALYST

The Catalyst has seen some of the top rock bands in the world pass through its doors to play, as well as local Santa Cruz bands. The venue was a bowling alley in its previous life but now is a bar, pool hall, nightclub, and great place to catch a live show. With three bars, pool tables—free pool for bar patrons on Tuesdays—and plenty of drinking, there’s no better place to be in Santa Cruz than The Catalyst... no, not even the beach. 1011 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (831) 423-1336

