

# summer california

## 100 AFFORDABLE THINGS TO DO

### YOUR 2009 VACATION STARTS HERE!

Joie de Vivre created *100 Affordable Things To Do* to help you bring back the magic of summer on your California vacation. It's chock-full of low-cost and free activities to fill the days and nights of your next vacation. From Sonoma to Orange County, there is something here that will allow everyone (even locals!) to experience California like never before. Your California vacation starts here!

## SAN FRANCISCO

### 1. GOLDEN GATE GREETER

[goldengategreeter.com](http://goldengategreeter.com)

When staying at a Joie de Vivre hotel, you have the unique opportunity to take a free, customizable tour with a Greeter in a neighborhood of your choice. See the city through the eyes of a local and experience hidden treasures that you won't find in a standard guide book. Advance booking is required.

### 2. GOLDEN GATE PARK

[sfgov.org/site/recpark](http://sfgov.org/site/recpark)

As one of the largest urban parks in the United States, there is no shortage of things to do. Boat, roller skate or take a free lawn bowling lesson. Sit in the Garden of Shakespeare's Flowers or visit one of the many museums. Ride on the carousel in the Children's Playground or visit the historic windmills and tulips at the west end of the park.

### 3. STRYBING ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

[sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://sfbotanicalgarden.org)

Delight in a peaceful oasis of beauty. Admire the Coast Redwoods and the diverse species of plants from around the world. There is a horticultural library and bookstore, and free guided walks are available daily at 1:30 p.m.

### 4. CRISSY FIELD

[parksconservancy.org/our\\_work/crissy](http://parksconservancy.org/our_work/crissy)

Stroll along the promenade; then have a picnic lunch while watching sailboats glide across the bay. Located along the northern shoreline of the Presidio, Crissy Field has a tidal marsh (a gathering spot for herons and other birds), sand dunes (a favorite place for sunbathers), and a community environmental center housed in a historic building.

### 5. SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR

[architecturesf.com](http://architecturesf.com)

Discover hard to find rooftop gardens, unique open spaces and historic landmarks in the architectural-rich Financial District with Rick Evans, the founder and owner of My Favorite City Tours.

### 6. ANCHOR STEAM BREWERY

415.863.8350 [anchorbrewing.com](http://anchorbrewing.com)

San Francisco's oldest brewery offers one free public tour each weekday (by reservation only) in its handcrafted copper brewhouse. The walking tour concludes with a beer tasting.

### 7. GRACE CATHEDRAL AND THE LABYRINTHS

415.749.6300 [gracecathedral.org](http://gracecathedral.org)

Famed for its Ghiberti doors ("The Gates of Paradise"), architecture and stained glass, this San Francisco landmark also has two labyrinths, medieval furnishings and an organ with 7,466 pipes. The cathedral welcomes people of all faiths.

### 8. SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

415.357.4000 [sfmoma.org](http://sfmoma.org)

From its vast collection of over 26,000 modern artworks, photographs and design objects, SFMOMA offers thought-provoking exhibitions, special presentations, tours and video screenings from famed and lesser-known artists. The first Tuesday of each month is free; Thursday nights are half price.

### 9. TEA TASTING AT RED BLOSSOM TEA COMPANY

415.395.0868 [redblossomtea.com](http://redblossomtea.com)

Settle in for a tea tasting at this family-owned and operated tea company in Chinatown. Sample white, green, black and many other varieties of quality teas.

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### 10. FARMER'S MARKET AT THE FERRY BUILDING

415.291.3276 [ferrybuildingmarketplace.com](http://ferrybuildingmarketplace.com)

On Tuesdays and Saturdays, the farmer's market offers an abundance of organic produce and artisan specialties such as breads, cheeses and jams from small regional farmers and ranchers. There are also many unique shops and restaurants in the historic Ferry Building that are open daily.

### 11. THE CAFFE TRIESTE SATURDAY CONCERT

415.392.6739 [caffetrieste.com](http://caffetrieste.com)

Get an expertly brewed espresso at Caffe Trieste in North Beach and listen to the Caffe Trieste Band at the longest-running show in San Francisco. The band uses many types of instruments including accordion, mandolin, slide trombone, bongos, flute, and even spoons.

### 12. DOLORES PARK MOVIE NIGHT

[doloresparkmovie.org](http://doloresparkmovie.org)

Join neighborhood residents for a locally themed movie, popcorn and tamales from a San Francisco icon, the Tamale Lady. Movies show the second Thursday of the month. Donations are appreciated.

### 13. A GAME OF TENNIS

[sfgov.org/site/recpark](http://sfgov.org/site/recpark)

Bring your racquet and play a match on one of the 132 free municipal tennis courts located throughout the city. Free lessons are also offered to children and adults year-round.

### 14. CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

415.379.8000 [calacademy.org](http://calacademy.org)

Get ready to be wowed by science. It's the only place on the planet with an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum, and a four-story rainforest all under one roof. The third Wednesday of each month is free.

### 15. MACONDRAY LANE

Begin at Leavenworth, between Union and Green

With its landscaping and small cottages, Macondray Lane feels as if it should be private gardens, but it is actually a public right-of-way. This secluded lane is just one of the many unique pathway/stairways in Russian Hill and is the setting for Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*.

### 16 CABLE CAR MUSEUM AND CABLE CAR RIDES

415.474.1887 [cablecarmuseum.org](http://cablecarmuseum.org) [sfcablecar.com](http://sfcablecar.com)

Learn about the cable car's heritage from its first run in 1873 to the present through a collection of historic cable cars, photographs and mechanical devices. The museum is located in a cable car barn and powerhouse and is free. Then experience a cable car first-hand. Hop on and ride through the city streets to Fisherman's Wharf, Ghirardelli Square, Union Square and the Financial District.

### 17. DE YOUNG MUSEUM

415.750.3600 [famsf.org](http://famsf.org)

After more than 100 years, San Francisco's oldest museum experienced a rebirth when it opened in a new state-of-the-art facility in Golden Gate Park in 2005. Go on the first Tuesday of each month when admission is free and check out collections that include American paintings, decorative arts and crafts. An exhibition showcasing works from the tomb of King Tut will be on view beginning late June.

## EAST BAY

### 18. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL GARDEN

510.643.2755 [botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

The botanical garden is a living museum open to the public. There are over 12,000 different kinds of plants from around the world displayed over 34 acres. There is an admission fee, but free docent tours are scheduled every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

### 19. JACK LONDON SQUARE

510.645.9292 [jacklondonsquare.com](http://jacklondonsquare.com)

Entertainment and events happen throughout the year at this waterfront plaza, including boat shows and an artisan's marketplace. Filled with shops, restaurants and a working waterfront, the square recaptures Oakland's maritime history and the spirit of legendary writer Jack London.

### 20. BERKELEY HISTORY CENTER

510.848.0181

Established in 1978 during the Berkeley Centennial Celebration, the Berkeley Historical Society celebrates the city's diversity and history through exhibits, a library and archives.

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### 21. PYRAMID ALEHOUSE & BREWERY

510.528.9880 [pyramidbrew.com](http://pyramidbrew.com)

Learn about the brewing process and history of Pyramid Breweries on a free tour that includes a tasting of some of their brews and their Thomas Kemper Soda for those under 21. From their renovated warehouse, they also serve a full menu of Brew House cuisine.

### 22. THE CAMPANILE AT UC BERKELEY

[berkeley.edu/visitors/campanile.html](http://berkeley.edu/visitors/campanile.html)

Known as the Campanile, the Sather Tower is an enduring symbol of the university. Completed in 1914, it stands 307 feet tall and houses a sixty-one bell carillon. Take an elevator to the top for views of the entire Bay Area and enjoy one of the three carillon concerts that take place every day.

### 23. AQUATIC PARK

510.981.5150

Kids will love the wooden castles and walkways in the fantasy playground, Dream Land for Kids. The wetlands and lake are a prime spot for bird-watching. There's also a rowing center, fitness exercise course, Frisbee golf in the meadows, picnic areas with BBQ, and trails for hiking and biking.

### 24. EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS

510.763.0141

Displayed in a three-story Victorian house is Northern California's most extensive permanent collection of African and African American antiquities and art. Included in the collection are hand-crafted baskets, sculpture, paintings, jewelry, masks and clothing. Tours are available.

### 25. WAT MONGKOLRATANARAM

510.849.3419

This small Thai Buddhist temple attracts people of all cultures. Enjoy delicious, authentic Thai food, attend temple worship or take part in one of the many cultural events.

### 26. BAKE SALE BETTY

510.985.1213 [bakesalebetty.com](http://bakesalebetty.com)

Indulge in delicious fresh baked goods while strolling the trendy Temescal district in Oakland. Go early on Saturday for one of Betty's incredible fried chicken sandwiches.

### 27. ALAMEDA POINT ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES FAIRE

[antiquesbybay.com](http://antiquesbybay.com)

For all things antique and collectible, make your way to the former Alameda Point Naval Air Station on the first Sunday of the month. Over 800 dealers set up their wares outdoors, making it the largest show of its kind in Northern California.

### 28. ROBERT SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE

888.EBPARKS [ebparks.org/parks/sibley](http://ebparks.org/parks/sibley)

Hike up Volcanic Trail, once a quarry haul road, to Round Top. Made up of lava and volcanic debris left over from a 10-million-year-old volcano, it is one of the highest peaks in the area. Learn about the preserve's geological features with their self-guided brochure available as the staging area.

### 29. PRESERVATION PARK

510.874.7580 [preservationpark.com](http://preservationpark.com)

For a glimpse back to the Victorian era, take a tour (self-guided history or walking) of the 16 historic buildings that are set among manicured lawns, lush plants, and streets with Victorian park benches and street lamps.

### 30. ROTARY NATURE CENTER

510.238.3739 [lakemerritt.org](http://lakemerritt.org)

Located at Lake Merritt, the center provides education and information about the natural environment and offers summer day camps instructed by naturalists. You can also observe migratory waterfowl up close and participate in interactive programs at America's oldest wildlife refuge.

### 31. CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND

510.238.6876 [fairyland.org](http://fairyland.org)

Children's literature comes to life in a ten-acre magical park on the shores of Oakland's beautiful Lake Merritt. For nearly 60 years, children and parents have enjoyed puppet shows, storybook sets, kid-sized rides and an arts-and-crafts center.

### 32. OAKLAND ZOO

510.632.9525 [oaklandzoo.org](http://oaklandzoo.org)

Nestled in the rolling hills of 525-acre Knowland Park, this premier wildlife park is home to more than 440 native and exotic animals. Adventure through an African Village and a rain forest and enjoy a performance at the WildLife Theater.

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### 33. OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

510.238.2200 [museumca.org](http://museumca.org)

With a graceful, three-tiered blend of spacious galleries, terraces, patios, sculpture gardens and ponds, the Oakland Museum of California is one of the most architecturally interesting museums in the country. The second Sunday of the month is free and they often offer a tour of the building and gardens.

### 34. CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

510.336.7300 [chabot.space.org](http://chabot.space.org)

Experience the wonders of the universe through hands-on exhibits, a planetarium, and a 70-foot dome-screen auditorium. Visit after dark to explore the night skies and star gaze at the Chabot Observatory.

## MARIN

### 35. MARIN HEADLANDS

415.331.1540 [nps.gov/goga/marin-headlands.htm](http://nps.gov/goga/marin-headlands.htm)

Part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the headlands boast vast hiking trails, Rodeo Beach, raptor migration in the spring and fall, and sweeping views of San Francisco and the coast. The visitor center's exhibits include an introduction to the area's natural and human history.

### 36. POINT BONITA LIGHTHOUSE

415.331.1540 [nps.gov/goga/pobo.htm](http://nps.gov/goga/pobo.htm)

Completed in 1855, this historic lighthouse in the Marin Headlands is still in operation today. Point Bonita has a wild landscape, geology and fascinating history. Tours of the lighthouse and the adjacent grounds are available.

### 37. BAY AREA DISCOVERY MUSEUM

415.339.3900 [baykidsmuseum.org](http://baykidsmuseum.org)

This one-of-a-kind indoor and outdoor interactive museum for children stands at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge. The museum places an emphasis on creativity through play, encouraging children from 6 months to 8 years old to be curious and adventurous.

### 38. MOUNT TAMALPAIS

415.388.2070 [mttam.net](http://mttam.net)

More than 50 miles of hiking and biking trails are within the 6,300-acre state park. You'll discover redwood groves and oak woodlands and be treated to spectacular panoramas of the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific from the many ridges, slopes and 2,571-foot high East Peak.

## SONOMA

### 39. ATTEND A FESTIVAL OR EVENT

[sonoma.com](http://sonoma.com)

There are many free and low-cost festivals during the summer throughout Sonoma County, including the Healdsburg Jazz Festival, Art at the Source Open Studios, and the Valley of the Moon Arts and Crafts Show. Other ongoing events that are fun for the whole family include the Geyserville Neighborhood Market, which has free live music, and viewing harbor seal pups at Goat Rock at the Sonoma Coast State Beach.

### 40. LAKE SONOMA

[parks.sonoma.net](http://parks.sonoma.net)

For picture perfect picnics, wonderful hiking trails and a great place to swim, head to this beautiful lake nestled at the end of Dry Creek, one of the world's most prestigious wine growing regions. Lake Sonoma also hosts the Don Clausen Fish Hatchery, which is the most modern fish hatchery in California. The hatchery is located behind the visitor center, which has a variety of exhibits and programs.

### 41. BIKE SONOMA

707.545.0153 [bikesonoma.org](http://bikesonoma.org)

Bike along winding country lanes and take in the sights and smells of the vineyards and eucalyptus trees. The Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition has lots of great rides and biking resources available on their website. They also offer various community events throughout the year.

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### SACRAMENTO

#### 42. CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL MUSEUM

916.324.0333 [capitolmuseum.ca.gov](http://capitolmuseum.ca.gov)

Get in touch with your political side by touring the beautiful capitol building. Home to our state legislators, it also houses an extensive collection of historical California artifacts, artwork and antique furnishings. The museum also hosts activities and special exhibits throughout the year.

#### 43. SACRAMENTO RIVERTRAIN

800.866.1690 [sacramentorivertrain.com](http://sacramentorivertrain.com)

Roll through the “Woodland Branch” countryside while enjoying brunch, lunch or dinner on a train that sports a sparkling gold exterior and blue waves to reflect the area’s Gold Rush heritage. Participate in one of their popular Murder Mysteries or Saturday Great Train Robberies.

#### 44. OLD SACRAMENTO

916.442.8575 [oldsacramento.com](http://oldsacramento.com)

Situated along the Sacramento River is a 28-acre National Historic Landmark District and State Historic Park. Set within the time of the California Gold Rush and the Transcontinental Railroad, the district today is filled with historical attractions museums, shopping, dining and entertainment.

#### 45. OUTDOOR THEATER

916.966.3683 [fairoakstheatrefestival.com](http://fairoakstheatrefestival.com)

Sit among the famous free-roaming chickens and roosters at the summertime Fair Oaks Theatre Festival where plays are performed under the stars in an amphitheater in the historic Fair Oaks Village.

#### 46. SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK

[2nd-sat.com](http://2nd-sat.com)

Immerse yourself in the vibrant Sacramento art scene. Galleries keep their doors open late and invite the public to grab a bite to eat and walk from gallery to gallery to view brand new art works and hear live music.

#### 47. CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME MUSEUM

916.653.7524 [californiamuseum.org](http://californiamuseum.org)

The California Museum and California First Lady Maria Shriver created the California Hall of Fame to recognize legendary people who embody the innovative spirit of California and influenced history. The museum provides educational activities and hosts Family Fun Days inspired by inductees like Dr. Seuss, Alice Waters and Julia Morgan.

#### 48. JELLY BELLY CANDY FACTORY TOURS

800.JB.BEANS [jellybelly.com](http://jellybelly.com)

The first thing you’re sure to notice as you approach the factory is an enormous Jelly Belly jelly bean. Inside, it’s full of color, excitement and sweet smells. Take the walking tour to see and learn how they create their famous jelly beans and over 150 of their other treats.

#### 49. RALEY FIELD

916.376.4676 [raleysfield.com](http://raleysfield.com)

Watch the Sacramento River Cats in a game of minor league baseball or check out one of the many concerts by bands like Journey. There’s even an annual brewfest.

#### 50. WINE TASTING

916.321.1231 [sacwineregion.com](http://sacwineregion.com)

Less crowded, and perhaps overlooked, is the Sacramento Wine Region. Over 200 wineries surround the city, from the foothills to the Delta to Lodi. Attend one of the many release parties, seminars, or wine and food pairings offered by the wineries and local chefs.

#### 51. IMAX THEATRE

916.443.IMAX [imax.com/sacramento](http://imax.com/sacramento)

For an intense and larger-than-life movie-going experience check out a film at the Esquire IMAX Theatre. Feel like you’re part of the action in current blockbusters and documentary films like *Under the Sea 3D*.

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### SILICON VALLEY

#### 52. SAN JOSE FLEA MARKET

408.453.1110 [sjfm.com](http://sjfm.com)

A California tradition for over 4 decades, the Flea Market has grown into the biggest open-air market in the U.S., featuring 8 miles of colorful alleys and treasure-laden corridors where over 2,000 vendors hawk their wares. Admission is free, and on Saturdays and Sundays, you'll be treated to live Mariachi groups. Other entertainment groups also perform during festivals and other events.

#### 53. MUSIC IN THE PARK

408.279.1775

This free summertime concert series is the most anticipated of the year in San Jose. For more than 20 years, people have come to Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park to listen to the sounds of reggae, Latin jazz, rock, pop, and alternative rock.

#### 54. COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM

650.810.1010 [computerhistory.org](http://computerhistory.org)

Discover how computers changed the way we live at the largest museum of its kind in the world. Computer History Timeline, Visible Storage, and Internet History are some of the many informative exhibits presented by the museum.

#### 55. NASA EXPLORATION CENTER AT MOFFETT FIELD

650.604.5000 [nasa.gov/centers/ames](http://nasa.gov/centers/ames)

Experience NASA technology and the adventures of space missions first hand through exciting exhibits. Then dazzle yourself with panoramic views of Mars and Saturn's ring and eye-popping movies on the largest Immersive Theatre on the West Coast. The center is free of charge.

#### 56. THOMAS FOGARTY WINERY

650.851.6777 [fogartywinery.com](http://fogartywinery.com)

From its perch in the Woodside hills 2000 feet above sea level, this award-winning winery offers amazing vineyard views and sweeping panoramas of Silicon Valley. The winery produces Pinot Noirs, Chardonnays, Merlots and Cabernets. After admiring the surrounding beauty, step into the tasting room and for a reasonably priced fee, enjoy wines that reflect the character of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

#### 57. HAKONE JAPANESE GARDENS

408.741.4994 [hakone.com](http://hakone.com)

Learn about ancient Japanese tea ceremonies, Japanese gardening or Tai Chi at one of the many ongoing classes at the oldest Japanese and Asian estate garden in the Western Hemisphere. Or simply absorb the tranquility, peace and harmony of the beautifully landscaped gardens nestled in the hills of Saratoga.

#### 58. KELLEY PARK

408.277.2757 [sjparks.org](http://sjparks.org)

Once a private estate with cherry and walnut orchards, Kelley Park is now one of San Jose's most diverse facilities. Walk through the Japanese Friendship Garden and see koi-filled ponds, enjoy a BBQ in the picnic areas, or take a historical journey and eat old fashioned ice cream at History San Jose.

#### 59. INTEL MUSEUM

408.765.0503 [intel.com/museum/visit.htm](http://intel.com/museum/visit.htm)

Discover the history and innovation of Intel through more than 30 interactive exhibits, educational programs, and docent-led tours. Located in the company's headquarters, the 10,000-square-foot museum offers a memorable experience.

#### 60. STANFORD UNIVERSITY

650.723.2300 [stanford.edu](http://stanford.edu)

Stanford University owns 8,183 acres which makes it the largest university campus in the world. One highlight to visit is the Papua New Guinea Sculpture Garden which has wooden sculptures carved by natives of Papua New Guinea while they were in California. There is a frequent Sunday tour lead by the Cantor Arts Center.

#### 61. WEEKEND FARM TOURS AT HIDDEN VILLA

650.949.8650 [hiddenvilla.org](http://hiddenvilla.org)

This nonprofit educational organization uses its organic farm, wilderness, and community to teach and provide opportunities to learn about the environment and social justice. Explore their farm and gardens, hike on eight miles of trails, or take part in one of the many programs offered.

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### SANTA CRUZ

#### 62. HENRY COWELL REDWOODS STATE PARK

[parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

The park looks much the same as it did 200 years ago when Zayante Indians once lived here. Amongst the 15 miles of hiking and biking trails is a Redwood grove and other old-growth woods, including Douglas firs and Ponderosa pines. Have lunch in the picnic area above the San Lorenzo River.

#### 63. BERRY PICKING

831.425.8919 [swantonberryfarm.com](http://swantonberryfarm.com)

Located along the coast, south of San Francisco and north of Santa Cruz, near a tiny town called Davenport is Swanton Berry Farm. Their Farm Stand sells fresh-picked strawberries, homemade jams, chocolate dipped strawberries, strawberry shortcake, blackberry cobbler, and more. Or better yet, take your family and pick your berries yourself!

#### 64. FIRST FRIDAY ART TOUR

831.227.5971 [firstfridayarttour.com](http://firstfridayarttour.com)

Take a self-guided tour of local art venues that regularly showcases the work of local artists. The walk was started by the founders of Santa Cruz Institute of Contemporary Arts and spans venues from the Tannery to the wharf, from the westside to the eastside and UCSC.

#### 65. FRIDAY NIGHT BAND ON THE BEACH

831.423.5590 [beachboardwalk.com/concerts](http://beachboardwalk.com/concerts)

If there's one thing that brings Santa Cruz locals and visitors together, it's the Boardwalk's Free Friday Night Bands on the Beach concert series. Watch bands like the Fixx, the Knack, and Loverboy play their classic hits at the Beach Bandstand.

#### 66. SANTA CRUZ SURFING MUSEUM

831.420.6289 [santacruzsurfingmuseum.org](http://santacruzsurfingmuseum.org)

Located in the Mark Abbott Lighthouse, this unique little museum chronicles over 100 years of local surfing history through a collection that includes redwood "plank" surfboards and early wetsuits. You'll also be treated to wonderful views of Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay while overlooking Steamer Lane, a well-known surfing site.

#### 67. SEYMOUR MARINE DISCOVERY CENTER

831.459.3800 [seymourcenter.ucsc.edu](http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu)

Visit a working marine laboratory and get the opportunity to hold a sea star and see elephant seal sculptures just like a scientist. Tours are offered several times a day, and there are exhibit halls, an aquarium and touch tanks to explore.

#### 68. COWELL BEACH

Steps from the Santa Cruz Dream Inn Hotel is one of Santa Cruz's most popular surf beaches and one of the best places to learn how to surf. Take a leisurely stroll along the beach or join in on a volleyball game.

#### 69. SANTA CRUZ FARMER'S MARKETS

831.454.0566 [santacruzfarmersmarket.org](http://santacruzfarmersmarket.org)

Make a picnic basket to take on a hike or to the beach with fresh fruits and veggies, many of them organic, grown by local farmers at one of the three markets in Santa Cruz: Live Oak, Felton, and Westside.

#### 70. THE MYSTERY SPOT

831.423.8897 [mysteryspot.com](http://mysteryspot.com)

From cones of metal being secretly buried here to a magna vortex, there are many theories about the cause of this gravitational anomaly located in the redwood forests outside of Santa Cruz. Be stunned and baffled as the laws of physics and gravity cease to exist in this circular area.

#### 71. LIGHTHOUSE FIELD STATE BEACH

[santacruzstateparks.org/parks/lighthouse](http://santacruzstateparks.org/parks/lighthouse)

Check out the sea lions on the offshore rocks and watch birds soar through the skies, including the rare Black Swift. Also known as Point Santa Cruz, this fantastic waterfront park also has picnic tables, paved trails along West Cliff Drive and unpaved trails throughout field area.

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### BIG SUR

#### 72. ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK

831.667.2315 [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

With an area of 4,766 acres, this is Big Sur's largest state park. There are over 20 miles of trails that give hikers access to the Big Sur River mouth and estuary, Molera Beach, and vibrant ecosystems. The Big Sur Ornithology Lab serves as an education center and bird observatory.

#### 73. POINT SUR LIGHTHOUSE

831.625.4419 [pointsur.org](http://pointsur.org)

Built in 1889 and rising 270 feet above volcanic rock, the lighthouse is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is a California landmark. Three-hour guided tours and a few select Moonlight Tours are available.

#### 74. PFEIFFER BIG SUR STATE PARK

831.667.2315 [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

Big Sur's oldest park is the perfect escape from the coastal summer fog and is an excellent place for a redwood forest hike. There is also an abundance of conifers, sycamores, cottonwoods, and maples. But perhaps the best thing to do is to take a plunge into one of Big Sur's most beloved swimming holes.

#### 75. JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS STATE PARK

831.667.2315 [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

This state park combines the dramatic coastal and mountain features that characterize the ultimate Big Sur experience. Occupying nearly 4 square miles, the park boasts rocky points rising thousands of feet above underwater canyons, with streams flowing down steep gorges that are shaded by ancient redwoods.

#### 76. PARTINGTON COVE

[hikinginbigsur.com/hikes\\_partingtoncove.html](http://hikinginbigsur.com/hikes_partingtoncove.html)

Take a short hike through a tree-lined canyon to a scenic rocky beach and through a 60-foot tunnel to the secluded Partington Cove. Originally used as a loading point for tanbark around the turn of the nineteenth century, the cove's history comes alive as you observe the inside of the tunnel and emerge at the cove at the end.

### LOS ANGELES

#### 77. GETTY CENTER

310.440.7300 [getty.edu](http://getty.edu)

Against a backdrop of striking architecture, peaceful gardens and spectacular views is a wonderful collection of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present. Exhibits change frequently and various tours, talks and events are offered regularly. There is a parking fee per car, but admission is free.

#### 78. THE ORIGINAL LOS ANGELES FARMER'S MARKET

323.933.9211 [farmersmarketla.com](http://farmersmarketla.com)

Without doubt, this is one of LA's most enduring landmarks. It started in 1934 with farmers selling produce from their trucks and over the years has transformed into an open-air bazaar of diverse food stands and gift shops. Celebrity sightings and people watching make for great entertainment.

#### 79. LIVE TV SHOWS

866.66.1iota [1iota.com](http://1iota.com)

Get free tickets to TV shows like Jimmy Kimmel Live, Last Call with Carson Daly, and America's Best Dance Crew simply by signing up and requesting tickets to available shows on the company's website.

#### 80. VENICE BEACH

[venicebeach.com](http://venicebeach.com)

Bodybuilders working out at the outdoor gym and performers juggling chainsaws and walking on broken glass are just some of the interesting sites to take in at this quirky beach. There's also plenty of biking, rollerblading, sunning and volleyball too.

#### 81. KODAK THEATRE

323.308.6300 [kodaktheatre.com](http://kodaktheatre.com)

For a taste of the celebrity life, take a tour of the home to the Academy Awards. Step behind the velvet rope, walk the red carpet and enter into the opulent theatre to see where your favorite movie stars sat during the ceremony and learn what goes on behind the scenes to make the Oscars come to life.

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# summer california

## 100 AFFORDABLE THINGS TO DO

### 82. EXPOSITION PARK

213.744.7458 [expositionpark.org](http://expositionpark.org)

Originally an agricultural park when it was created in 1872, the city has transformed these 160 acres into a remarkable collection of world-class museums, sports facilities and recreational areas where you can enjoy diverse cultural, entertainment and educational activities.

### 83. SANTA MONICA PIER

310.458.8900 [santamonicipier.org](http://santamonicipier.org)

Take a spin on a historic carousel, get your thrill on the rides of Pacific Park or explore sealife at the interactive aquarium. Besides the street performers entertaining on the planks of the pier, various musical festivals and events are offered at the Pier. And don't miss some of the most beautiful sunsets along the California coast.

### 84. CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM

310.548.7562 [cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://cabrillomarineaquarium.org)

Designed by legendary architect Frank Gehry, this historic aquarium displays the largest collection of Southern California marine life in the world. Located adjacent to the amazing setting of the Cabrillo Beach Coastal Park, the aquarium engages visitors in education, recreation and research through a natural and interactive approach.

### 85. PINK'S HOT DOGS

323.931.4223 [pinkshollywood.com](http://pinkshollywood.com)

For a truly LA experience and a trip to the past, head to the corner of Melrose and La Brea and look for the crowd queuing up for Pink's famous chili dogs. Everyone from struggling musicians to movies stars to rich businessmen driving up in Rolls Royces can be seen at this stand that has been a local institution for more than 70 years.

### 86. GRIFFITH PARK

323.913.4688 [lacity.org](http://lacity.org)

Providing more than 4,107 acres of natural terrain, Griffith Park is the largest park and urban wilderness area in the United States. An amazingly large portion of the park remains virtually unchanged from the days when Native American villages occupied the area's lower slopes. Today's Griffith Park offers family attractions, educational and cultural institutions, and miles of hiking and horseback riding trails.

### LONG BEACH

#### 87. LIFEGUARD MUSEUM

562.570.1360

The Long Beach Fire Department hired its first lifeguard in 1906. At this small, quirky museum located in Marine Stadium, the lifeguard legacy is being honored through memorabilia, photos and equipment. The museum is only open a few days during the summer; call the Long Beach Lifeguard Association for more information.

#### 88. BEER TASTING

562.628.0455 [yardhouse.com](http://yardhouse.com)

For the largest selection of beers on tap in the world, make your way to the Yard House, located in scenic Shoreline Village overlooking Rainbow Harbor. There's a transparent keg room that contains over 600 barrels of beer from classic lagers to more obscure ales and stouts. Grab a pint and listen to the classic rock and roll sounds.

#### 89. PICNIC AT DOWNTOWN MARKETPLACE

866.GOOD.VEG [goodveg.org](http://goodveg.org)

The freshest produce as well as arts, crafts and entertainment are available at the afternoon Downtown Marketplace, held Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. along the downtown Promenade.

#### 90. MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART

562.437.1689 [molaa.org](http://molaa.org)

The newly renovated MOLAA is the only museum in the western United States that exclusively features contemporary Latin American art. In addition to viewing the many artworks and exhibitions, take a stroll through the beautiful sculpture garden. There are various programs for adults and children, including Storytime and Art. See their website for free events.

#### 91. EARL BURNS MILLER JAPANESE GARDENS

562.985.8885 [csulb.edu/~jgarden](http://csulb.edu/~jgarden)

Designed by landscape architect Edward R. Lovell and dedicated in 1981, the 1.3 acre garden was built through the generosity of Mrs. Loraine Miller Collins in memory of her late husband. The garden reflects Cal State University Long Beach's continuing interest in international education.

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# summer california

## 100 AFFORDABLE THINGS TO DO

### 92. CATALINA ISLAND

310.510.1520 [catalina.com](http://catalina.com)

Time seems to slow down here. Enjoy crystal clear waters, sunlit beaches and the relaxing sensation of “island time”. Rent a golf cart or explore quaint shops, dining and a historical casino in the City of Avalon. Spot a buffalo on the bus ride across the island to the village of Two Harbors.

## ORANGE COUNTY

### 93. BOLSA CHICA STATE BEACH AND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

714.846.1114 [bolsachica.org](http://bolsachica.org)

“Bolsa Chica” means “little pocket” in Spanish, as the area was once part of a historic Spanish land grant. The Beach is the spot folks come for surf fishing for everything from perch to sand shark. Keep an eye out for the unique sport of bare-handed fishing for California grunion.

### 94. OCEAN INSTITUTE, DANA POINT

949.496.2274 [ocean-institute.org](http://ocean-institute.org)

The Ocean Institute is nationally known for its hands-on marine science, environmental education and maritime history programs. Weekends are your chance to get a dose of ocean science when the Ocean Institute opens its doors to the public.

### 95. INTERNATIONAL SURFING MUSEUM

714.960.3483 [surfingmuseum.org](http://surfingmuseum.org)

The International Surfing Museum located in Huntington Beach, is home to a collection of some of the most significant artifacts in the history of surfing.

### 96. PACIFIC MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

949.494.3050 [pacificmmc.org](http://pacificmmc.org)

Have fun observing and learning about California sea lions, Northern elephant seals, harbor seals and fur seals at this nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of marine mammals stranded along the Orange County coastline. Admission is free.

### 97. MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

949.234.1315 [missionsjc.com](http://missionsjc.com)

Experience culture and history in many ways - from audio tours, to educational tour booklets, fun exhibits and historical re-enactments.

### 98. CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK

949.494.3539 [crystalcovestatepark.com](http://crystalcovestatepark.com)

Breath-taking! Three miles of Pacific coastline, plus wooded canyons, open bluffs, and offshore waters designated as an underwater park. It is an amazing feeling of being “away from it all” despite being so near to one of the largest populated centers in the US.

### 99. 1000 STEPS BEACH

[lagunapages.com/beach/thousand/thousand.asp](http://lagunapages.com/beach/thousand/thousand.asp)

If the local residents had it their way, this spot is only for those in-the-know. It has a friendly, cool beach scene of surfing and volleyball accessible via a steep set of stairs. There aren't really 1000 steps, but actually about 230 steps that feel like 1,000 given their steep nature.

### 100. PETER BLAKE GALLERY

949.376.9994 [peterblakegallery.com](http://peterblakegallery.com)

This nationally and internationally acclaimed gallery opened in 1993 with a philosophy that a gallery shouldn't just be about retail. It specializes in showcasing the contemporary and modern works by established and talented emerging California artists. Exhibits rotate monthly.