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By Adam Maron

Summer Solstice Celebration at the Getty Welcoming the Longest Day of the Year

The arrival of the Summer Solstice has been celebrated for thousands of years as a symbol of light, renewal, creativity, and the beginning of summer. On June 21, 2026, the world will once again mark the longest day of the year, and the iconic Getty Center is joining the festivities with a special Summer Solstice Celebration designed for visitors of all ages.

Perched high above Los Angeles in the hills of Brentwood, the Getty Center is already one of Southern California's most breathtaking destinations. Designed by renowned architect Richard Meier, the museum combines world-class art collections, stunning gardens, spectacular architecture,

outdoor sculptures, and take in some of the most spectacular views in Southern California.

The Summer Solstice Celebration also serves as a reminder of the Getty's commitment to making art and culture accessible to everyone. Admission to the Getty Center remains free, although advance timed-entry reservations are required. Visitors can explore galleries featuring European paintings, decorative arts, photography, manuscripts, and contemporary exhibitions while participating in seasonal activities throughout the campus.

Those planning a visit may wish to extend their experience by attending one of the Getty's popular summer programs. The museum's annual "Off the 405" concert series returns in 2026 with a lineup of acclaimed musicians performing under the stars, offering another opportunity to enjoy warm summer evenings at one of Los Angeles' most inspiring cultural destinations.



and panoramic views that stretch from downtown Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean. On the summer solstice, these elements come together to create a uniquely magical experience.

The Getty's Summer Solstice Celebration is scheduled for June 21, 2026, and will feature free family-friendly activities and art-making experiences that encourage visitors to connect with nature, creativity, and the changing seasons. The event is part of Getty's broader summer programming, which includes exhibitions, workshops, extended hours, and special performances throughout the season.

One of the most memorable aspects of any summer visit to the Getty is the opportunity to experience the campus during the golden hours of late afternoon and sunset. As the sun slowly descends over the Santa Monica Mountains, the museum's white travertine buildings glow with warm light while the famous Central Garden comes alive with color and fragrance. Visitors can wander through pathways lined with flowers, enjoy



Whether you're an art lover, a family looking for a unique outing, or simply someone seeking a beautiful way to welcome summer, the Getty's Summer Solstice Celebration promises an unforgettable day. Surrounded by art, architecture, gardens, and stunning California sunsets, visitors can embrace the spirit of the season while celebrating one of nature's most remarkable annual events.

Getty Center Summer Solstice Celebration: June 21, 2026
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www.getty.edu

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Whales, Waves, Creeks, Pools and Beachside Magic

Southern California was made for summer on the water. From the sparkling Pacific to hidden canyon streams, from luxury hotel pools to desert mineral springs, SoCal offers a rare kind of warm-weather adventure: you can whale watch in the morning, paddle a lake by afternoon, watch a movie on the sand at sunset, and end the weekend soaking in a secret hot spring under desert stars.

This summer, the best water adventures are not limited to one kind of traveler. Families can rent swan boats at Lake Balboa, kids can learn to surf in Malibu, couples can escape to boutique mineral pools in Desert Hot Springs, and thrill-seekers can head to Pyramid Lake for boating and water skiing. Add in Island Packers whale watching, waterfall meetups, kayaking, water parks, and resort pools, and Southern California becomes one long, sun-splashed invitation to dive in.

Whale Watching with Island Packers

For a true Southern California bucket-list experience, start with Island Packers in Ventura Harbor. Island Packers is the official boat concessionaire serving Channel Islands National Park, and its trips offer one of the best ways to experience the dramatic waters of the Santa Barbara Channel.

Summer is an especially exciting season because blue whales and humpback whales may be seen in the region, along with dolphins, sea lions, seabirds, and rugged island scenery. Some trips are wildlife cruises only, while others connect visitors to island landings where hiking, kayaking, camping, and photography become part of the adventure.

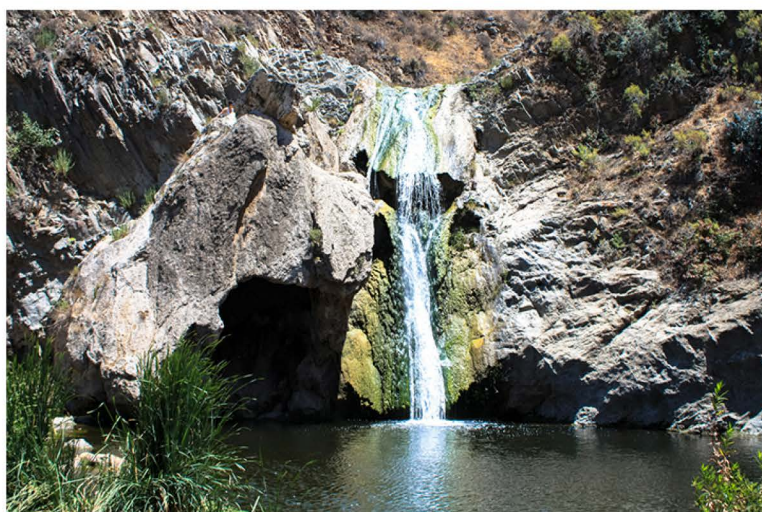
The Channel Islands are often called California's Galápagos because of their rare wildlife, isolation, and wild beauty. Even if you never step onto an island, the boat ride itself can feel like a voyage into another world. Dolphins sometimes race alongside the vessel, sea lions lounge near rocky shorelines, and whale spouts can appear suddenly on the horizon. www.islandpackers.com

Kayaking the Coast and Sea Caves

Kayaking gives visitors a slower, quieter relationship with the water. Instead of watching the ocean from the sand, paddlers move through it, close enough to hear the splash of sea lions, the call of seabirds, and the rhythm of waves against rock.

The Channel Islands are among the most unforgettable kayaking destinations in California. Guided sea cave tours allow paddlers to explore arches, cliffs, kelp forests, and dramatic volcanic formations. Santa Cruz Island is especially popular for sea cave kayaking, with routes that may include narrow passages and glowing blue-green water on calm days.

For those who want something easier, Newport Harbor, Marina del Rey, and Ventura Harbor offer gentler paddling with less exposure to open ocean conditions. These are excellent choices for beginners, families, and anyone who wants a relaxing afternoon on the water without committing to a full wilderness expedition. www.islandkayaking.com



Zen Creeks and Waterfall Meetups

Not every summer water escape requires saltwater. Some of SoCal's most peaceful places are found along creeks, shaded trails, and waterfall hikes.

Calabasas Creek Park is a charming local stop

with old California atmosphere, water features, gardens, and a connection to the historic Leonis Adobe area. It is not a swimming destination, but it is ideal for a calm stroll, photography, family exploring, or a quiet wellness meetup.

Nearby Malibu Creek State Park offers a larger wilderness experience with trails, canyon views, seasonal water, and iconic filming history. It is a favorite for hikers who want a creekside escape without driving far from the Valley or Malibu.

Paradise Falls in Thousand Oaks is another favorite for waterfall lovers. Located in Wildwood Regional Park, the hike offers views, shaded stretches, and a dramatic waterfall setting. Switzer Falls in the Angeles National Forest is another classic, especially for those who enjoy forested canyon hikes.

Waterfall meetups have become popular with yoga groups, walking clubs, meditation circles, photographers, and families looking for a nature-based morning. The best advice is to go early, bring water, check trail conditions, and never climb slick rocks near falls. www.cityofcalabasas.com www.malibucreek-statepark.org www.conejovalleyguide.com

Malibu Surf Camp and Novice Surfing Spots For many kids and adults, summer in Southern California means learning to surf. Malibu is one of the most iconic surf regions in the world, but beginners should choose instruction carefully and stick to safer, sandy-bottom areas. Malibu Makos Surf Club offers surf camps and lessons at Zuma Beach, one of the area's best beginner-friendly beaches. Zuma's wide shoreline, open space, and sandy bottom make it a favorite for first-time surfers. Aloha Beach Camp also offers Malibu surf camp programs for kids and teens,

including beach activities and surf instruction. Other beginner-friendly surf spots include Doheny State Beach in Dana Point, La Jolla Shores in San Diego, and San Onofre's gentler longboard breaks. Beginners should avoid powerful reef breaks, crowded expert areas, and days with rough surf or strong rip currents. A surf lesson is not just about



standing up on a board. Good instructors teach ocean safety, how to fall, how to read waves, how to avoid other surfers, and how to respect the lineup. www.malibumakos.com alohabeachcamp.com malibu-surf-camp.html www.malibusurfing.com

school.com

Pyramid Lake Water Skiing and Rentals

For families who want more speed, Pyramid Lake is a classic summer boating destination north of Santa Clarita. The lake offers boating, swimming, fishing, picnic-ing, and access through Emigrant Landing, which includes marina facilities, boat rentals, a launch ramp, beach area, and picnic spots.

Pyramid Lake is especially appealing for water skiing, tubing, wakeboarding, and boat days. Visitors can find rentals through lake concessionaires and private watercraft rental companies.

As always, reservations, safety rules, boater cards, age requirements, deposits, and lake conditions should be checked before going.

Weekends and holidays can get crowded, so early arrival is wise. Bring sunscreen, shade, snacks, towels, and plenty of drinking water. Pyramid Lake can feel like a mini-vacation without leaving Los Angeles County's northern edge.

www.water.ca.gov/What-We-Do/Recreation/Pyramid-Lake-Recreation

re-ation/Pyramid-Lake-Recreation

www.rockymountainrec.com/lake-facilities/listing/pyramid-lake

www.boatrentalslakepowell.com/pyramid-lake

Movies on the Beach

Few summer experiences are more Southern California than watching a movie on the sand after a beach day. Families bring blankets, low chairs, sweatshirts, snacks, and sometimes full picnic setups as the sun drops and the screen lights up.

LA County Beach Movie Nights at Dockweiler Youth Center offer free family-friendly screenings by the waves during summer. Long Beach also hosts Moonlight Movies on the Beach, with screenings at locations such as Granada Beach. Hermosa Beach has also offered Movies at the Beach, creating a relaxed coastal evening perfect for families and date nights.

The best part is the atmosphere. Kids play in the sand before the movie, parents relax with ocean breezes, and the Pacific becomes the backdrop. Even familiar movies feel special when viewed under the stars.

www.beaches.lacounty.gov/beachmovie-nights www.moonlightmoviesonthebeach.com www.hermosamovies.com

A colorful poster for 'SUMMER CAMP RAINFOREST FALLS'. The title is in large, stylized letters. Below it, it says 'Exploring the Nature of God' and 'VBS IS FOR KIDS K- 5TH GRADE'. The dates 'JULY 20 - 24 9AM-12PM' are at the bottom. The background features a QR code, a tiger, a monkey, a frog, and various tropical plants and animals.

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Exploring the Nature of God

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First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills 10400 Zelzah Ave. Porter Ranch, CA 91326

JULY 20 - 24 9AM-12PM

Lake Balboa Paddle Boats

Lake Balboa in Van Nuys is one of the easiest water outings in the San Fernando Valley. At Anthony C. Beilenson Park, visitors can rent swan pedal boats and enjoy a slow ride around the lake. It is simple, cheerful, and perfect for families, couples, grandparents, and kids.

The swan boats are operated by Wheel Fun Rentals, and LA City Parks lists rentals as available year-round, weather permitting. The lake is surrounded by walking paths, grassy areas, picnic spots, and views that feel surprisingly peaceful for such an urban location.

Because Lake Balboa is not a swimming lake, the paddle boats are the main water attraction. It is a wonderful choice when you want something affordable, local, and low-stress.

www.recreation.parks.lacity.gov/aquatic/balboa

www.wheelfunrentals.com/-ca/van-nuys/lake-balboa-boats

Southern California Water Parks

When the temperature climbs, water parks become summer lifesavers. Southern California has options for toddlers, teens, thrill-seekers, and adults who simply want a lazy river.

Wild Rivers in Irvine has returned as one of Orange County's major water park destinations, with slides, raft rides, splash areas, and

family attractions. Raging Waters Los Angeles in San Dimas remains a classic for big slides and wave-pool fun. Knott's Soak City in Buena Park offers a beachy water park experience near Knott's Berry Farm. Great Wolf Lodge Southern California in Garden Grove is especially popular because its indoor water park works in almost any weather.

Water parks are best when planned ahead.

Buy tickets online, check height restrictions, reserve cabanas early if desired, and arrive before peak afternoon crowds.

www.wildrivers.com

www.ragingwaters.com

www.knotts.com/soak-city

www.greatwolf.com/southern-california

Desert Hot Springs Secret Pools

For a completely different water experience, head inland to Desert Hot Springs. This desert community is famous for natural mineral water, boutique spa hotels, and quiet soaking pools. It feels worlds away from the beach, yet it remains one of Southern California's most relaxing summer escapes.

Azure Palm Hot Springs offers mineral pools, spa treatments, day-use options, and

desert views from Miracle Hill. Two Bunch Palms is an adults-only wellness resort known for its peaceful setting and natural hot springs. Miracle Springs Resort & Spa offers multiple mineral pools in a more traditional resort layout.

The magic of Desert Hot Springs is the contrast: warm mineral water, dry desert air, mountain views, and quiet nights. Summer days can be very hot, so morning, evening, and overnight soaks are often the most comfortable.

www.azurepalm-hotsprings.com

www.twobunch-palms.com

www.mira-clesprings.com

Best Hotel Pools in Southern California

Sometimes the best water day is not rugged at all. It is a chaise lounge, a poolside lunch, a good book, and an ocean view.

The Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport Coast is famous for its Coliseum Pool, a spectacular circular pool overlooking the Pacific. Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes offers dramatic cliffside views, multiple pools, and coastal walking trails. Montage Laguna Beach combines luxury with one of the most beautiful oceanfront settings in California. Hotel

del Coronado in San Diego offers historic charm and beachfront poolside relaxation. Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach in Dana Point brings upscale coastal resort life with beach access and elegant pools.

These hotels can feel like full vacations without the stress of major travel. They are ideal for anniversaries, birthdays, family splurges, or a summer weekend reset.

www.pelicanhill.com

www.terranea.com

www.montage.com/lagunabeach

www.hoteldel.com

www.waldorfastoriamonarchbeach.com

The Perfect SoCal Water Weekend

A dream itinerary might begin Friday evening with movies on the beach. Saturday could start with Island Packers whale watching in Ventura, followed by dinner near the harbor. Sunday might mean Malibu surf lessons, a creek walk in Calabasas, or swan boats at Lake Balboa. For a longer escape, add Pyramid Lake boating or a Desert Hot Springs mineral-pool overnight.

That is the beauty of Southern California. Summer on the water is not one thing. It is wild whales, calm lakes, beginner waves, secret pools, canyon creeks, hotel cabanas, beach movies, and laughter echoing across the water.

Whether you want adventure, wellness, romance, family fun, or pure relaxation, SoCal offers a summer water world waiting just outside your door.



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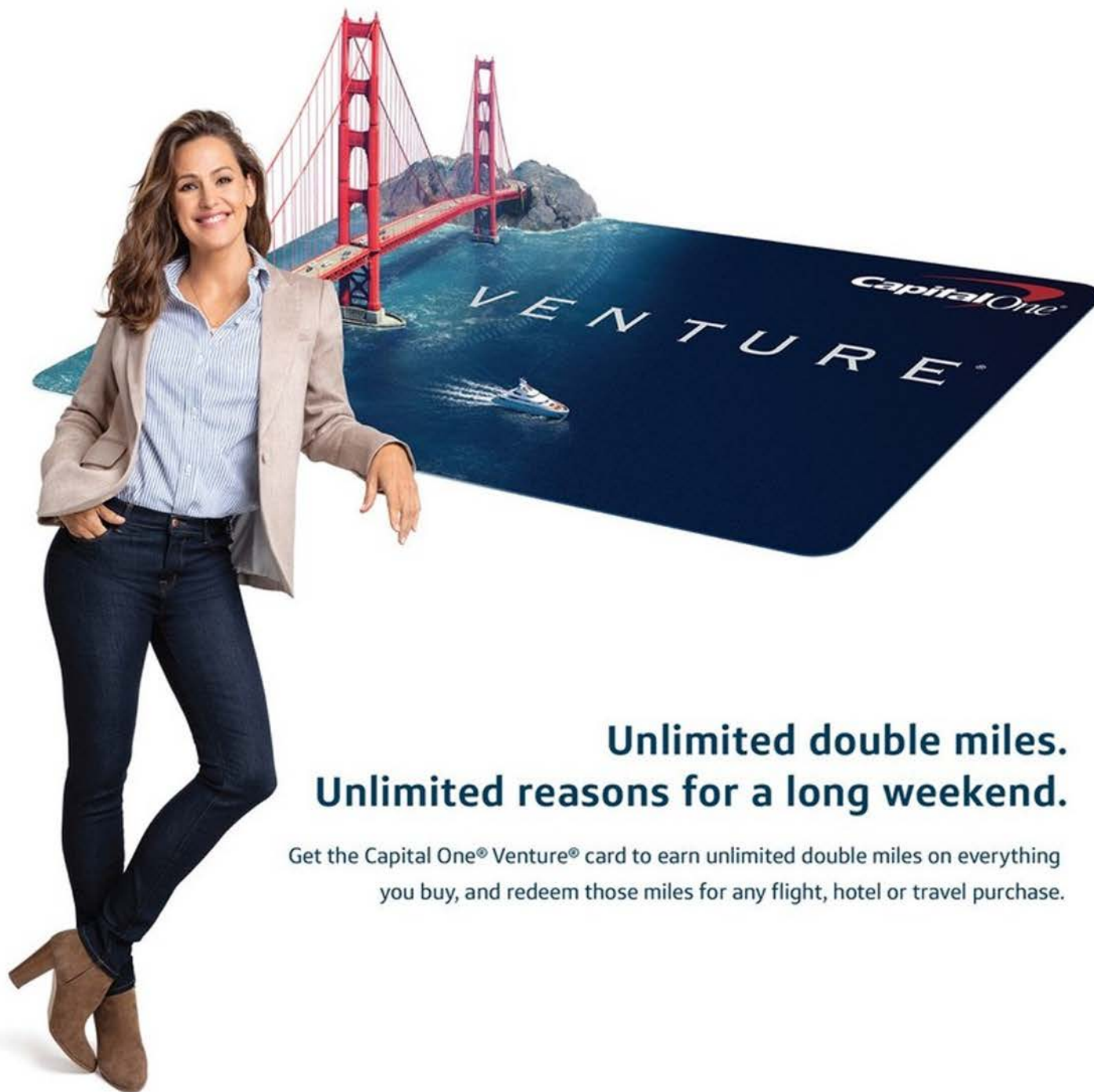
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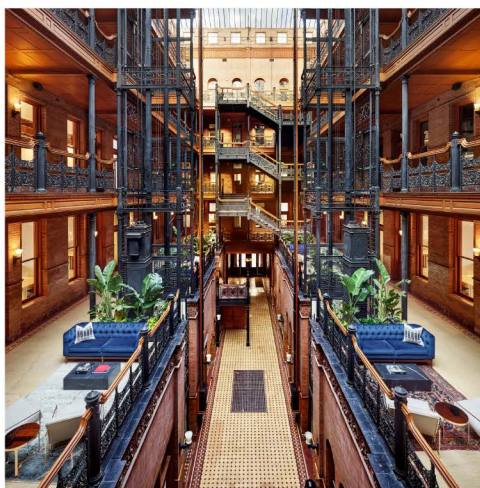
Not-So-Secret Secrets in Los Angeles

By Andy Parah

Nature lovers often discover serenity at the Korean Bell of Friendship in San Pedro. Perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the massive bronze bell sits within a traditional Korean pavilion and offers breathtaking coastal views. It is one of the

Los Angeles is famous for Hollywood, Rodeo Drive, and its world-class beaches, but longtime Angelenos know that some of the city's most memorable attractions are hiding in plain sight. These "not-so-secret secrets" are places locals love to share with visitors looking for a deeper connection to the City of Angels.

One of the most fascinating is the historic Bradbury Building in Downtown Los Angeles. Built in 1893, this architectural masterpiece is famous for its stunning ironwork, marble staircases, open-cage elevators, and sunlit atrium. Movie fans may recognize it from films such as Blade Runner, but even those unfamiliar with its cinematic history are often captivated by its Victorian-era beauty. Today, it remains one of Downtown's most photographed landmarks.



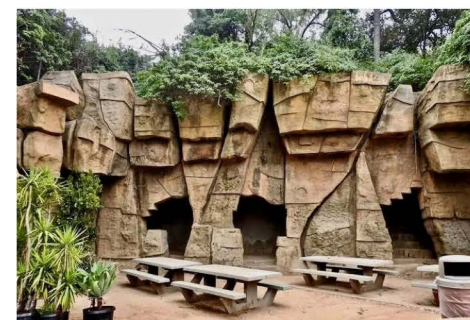
Just a few blocks away sits Angels Flight, often called "the world's shortest railway." This charming funicular has carried passengers up and down Bunker Hill since 1901. The ride lasts less than a



minute, but it offers a delightful glimpse into old Los Angeles while connecting visitors to nearby attractions such as Grand Central Market and the Broadway Theater District.

For those seeking something a little stranger, Griffith Park hides the remains of the Old Los Angeles Zoo. Opened in 1912 and abandoned when the new zoo opened in 1966, the site now consists of empty animal enclosures, caves, and picnic areas tucked into the hills. Visitors can walk through the old cages and explore one of the city's most unusual historical landmarks. The eerie atmosphere has made it a favorite location for photographers, hikers, and filmmakers.

Another remarkable treasure is the Watts Towers, a collection of 17 interconnected sculptural towers built by Italian immigrant Simon Rodia over a span of 33 years. Constructed from steel, concrete, broken glass, shells, and pottery fragments, the towers rise nearly 100 feet into the air and stand as one of Los Angeles' greatest examples of outsider art. Despite international recognition, many Southern Californians have never visited this extraordinary landmark.



most peaceful spots in Los Angeles and remains surprisingly uncrowded compared to many tourist attractions.

Of course, even iconic locations can contain hidden surprises. While millions visit Griffith Observatory each year, far fewer venture onto the surrounding trails that reveal spectacular views of the city, the Hollywood Sign, and the mountains beyond. These quieter corners provide a different perspective on one of Los Angeles' most beloved landmarks.

Los Angeles rewards curiosity. Beyond the red carpets and celebrity hotspots lies a city filled with forgotten history, remarkable art, and unexpected beauty. These not-so-secret secrets remind us that some of the best adventures happen when you venture just a little off the beaten path.

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The San Fernando Valley offers a wide variety of family-friendly activities and community events throughout July, making it a great time for children and parents to enjoy summer together. While specific schedules may vary by neighborhood and organization, several recurring programs and seasonal events are commonly available across the Valley.

One of the most popular summer traditions is outdoor movie nights in local parks.

Communities such as Northridge, Woodland Hills, Encino, and Granada Hills often host family movie screenings during the summer months. Families can bring blankets, lawn chairs, and picnic dinners while children enjoy pre-show activities and games. These events are typically free and provide a relaxed atmosphere for residents to connect with neighbors.



Many Valley parks and recreation centers also offer summer programs designed specifically for children. Facilities operated by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks frequently host day camps, sports clinics, arts and crafts workshops, swimming lessons, and youth fitness programs throughout July. Popular locations include Balboa Sports Center, Reseda Park, and Van Nuys Recreation Center. These programs help children stay active while learning new skills and making friends during school vacation.

Public libraries across the San Fernando Valley are another excellent source of family activities. Branches often participate in summer reading programs that encourage children to maintain reading habits during the break. Libraries may host storytelling sessions, science demonstrations, puppet shows, educational performers, and hands-on workshops. Many of these events are free and suitable for a range of age groups, from preschoolers to teenagers.

Families interested in nature and outdoor exploration can visit the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, which offers opportunities

for bird watching, walking trails, and educational programs. Environmental organizations occasionally host family-oriented activities that introduce children to local wildlife and conservation. Nearby parks and open spaces may also feature guided nature walks and outdoor learning experiences during the summer season.

Community festivals and neighborhood celebrations are common throughout July as well. Local chambers of commerce, neighborhood councils, and civic organizations often organize summer fairs featuring food vendors, live entertainment, arts and crafts booths, and children's activity zones. These events create opportunities for families to experience local culture while supporting small businesses and community groups.

For families seeking educational entertainment, museums and cultural

centers in and around the Valley frequently offer special summer programming. Children's workshops, interactive exhibits, and creative arts activities provide engaging experiences that combine learning and fun. Some venues may offer discounted admission days or family-focused events during the summer months.

Farmers markets are another enjoyable option for families. Several Valley communities host weekly markets where children can learn about healthy foods, meet local farmers, and participate in occasional craft activities or live demonstrations. These markets provide a welcoming environment for families to spend a morning or afternoon together while supporting local agriculture.

Before attending any event, families should check official websites or community calendars for current dates, registration requirements, and admission details. July is typically one of the busiest months for family programming in the San Fernando Valley, offering numerous opportunities for children to stay active, engaged, and connected with their community throughout the summer.

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By Alex Flech

29TH ANNUAL DANCES WITH FILMS RETURNS TO TCL CHINESE THEATRES HOLLYWOOD JUNE 18-28



It's mid-June in Los Angeles, and that means June gloom lifts and Dances With Films (DWF) has come back to the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. The film festival runs June 18-28 at 6925 Hollywood Blvd. The plucky indie festival with the peculiar name "was created at a time when the Park City, Utah 'dance'—aka Sundance—had so many satellite festivals swirling around it," quips DWF co-founder Leslee Scallon. "We thought it would be funny to be the summer film festival called Dances With Films."

29 years on, DWF has grown to become one of Los Angeles' flagship festivals, showing a staggering 279 films, including 36 world premieres, and they've already reported sold-out houses this year. "Each year, DWF has grown organically in size and momentum," adds co-founder Michael Trent. "After all, what's 29 years to become an overnight success?"

Those 279 ultra-indie films include DWF's critically acclaimed Midnight (Horror and Genre) and Pilots sections, as well programming that celebrates music and dance in the Downbeat section and family-friendly projects in the Kidz section.

The festival opens Thursday, June 18 with the world premiere of Jay Silverman's drama Yale. The film focuses on a woman who must find and ask for help from the

father who abandoned her when she was a child in order to save her son, who needs an emergency kidney transplant. The film stars Caitlin McGee, Dominic Leeder, Kevin Dunn, and Rachael Harris.

Sunday, June 28, DWF offers the world premiere closing feature, Adam Hoelzel's drama Tender. Tender follows a couple who discover a stash of gold hidden within the walls of their home. Their lifeline quickly spirals into danger as they devise a high-stakes plan to escape financial ruin. The cast includes Jesse Garcia, Jess Weixler, David Koechner, Robert Longstreet, Mark St. Cyr, Keli Price, Stephen Ellis, Robert Peters, and Sonja O'Hara.

Additional highlights among the world premiere features include Brad Dickson and Daniel Katz's cringe comedy mockumentary Dave vs. Hollywood, which follows an actor who moves to Los Angeles completely devoid of connections and contacts and tries to make his mark by unethical or even amoral means. The film stars Preston Tyler Ward, Vincent Spano, Chloe Paige Flowers, Eric Roberts, and Greg Standifer.

David Ketterer Spencer's Souvenir focuses on two estranged friends whose unexpected encounter leads to a day-long adventure through New York City as they attempt to return a dead self-help guru's lost

wallet. The cast is led by Ruby Cruz and Eric Berryman, featuring Janeane Garafalo.

In Jonathan Oster's psychological thriller Jane's Not Here, Jane Hayes (Amelia Barr) wakes from a coma after a devastating accident plagued by memories of a husband and son that no one else remembers. As she leans on her brother to rebuild her life, her search for answers begins to fracture her sense of reality. Also stars Steve Mallers and Nicole Weber.

D.J. Hale's Rescued follows Tyler, an unhoused man, whose once-stable life has unraveled through addiction, isolation, and self-destruction, who finds redemption after forming a bond with a stray dog named Angel. The cast includes Hale, Lindsey Shaw, David DeLuise, Elissa Kapneck, Marques Buford, T.K. Richardson, Jillian Tremaine, Gianna Gomez, Rachele Highbrou, and C.J. Dewey.

Also making its world premiere is Marcus Neihaus' timely Tales From The Crypto, which follows a young programmer, Ravi, who turns to cryptocurrency trading during the pandemic to save his parents' farm in India. But in a world rife with scammers, rug pullers, and naysayers, he finds that trading is much more than he bargained for. Stars Neihaus and Aryaan Ohri.

Dances With Films: LA has an equally strong slate of documentaries, with a number of films making their world premieres. One

is Cam Lui and Michael Schnee's Better Call Babs which invites viewers into Babs Fry's iconic van for a ride-along, witnessing her Red-Cross award-winning work recovering lost pets and rehabilitating feral dogs. Also making its world premiere is Boaz Dvir's To Kill a Nazi, which follows the saga of Michel Cojot's journey to find Klaus Barbie and get revenge for Cojot's father's death at Auschwitz. Finally, Jon Bolerjack's Stan Lee: The Final Chapter looks at Lee's experiences at conventions where his signatures and memorabilia were converted into millions of dollars, and rival hucksters double-crossed each other to control his fortune.

DWF's prodigious shorts lineup includes: the world premiere of Alyssa Limperis and Emily Murnane's homecoming drama Going Home, starring Limperis and Patton Oswalt; Katherine Connor Duff's This Little Piggy Goes to Market, which explores parasocial relationships, female financial autonomy, and the effect of the insatiable gaze of social media; Darcy Miller's Captain Milo, a touching look at a child's defensive fantasies; and Autumn Palen's outrageous, coming-of-age EDM romp Breakfast At Berghain, produced by DWF's own Frankie Campisano.

For more information about the Dances With Films lineup, events, passes, and tickets, go to: <https://danceswithfilms.com>



Summer Music Events Near The Coast in Southern California

By Adam Julles

Few places combine sunshine, ocean breezes, and live music quite like Southern California. As summer 2026 unfolds, coastal communities from Redondo Beach to Dana Point and Long Beach are hosting an exciting lineup of concerts and festivals that transform beaches, parks, and waterfront venues into unforgettable entertainment destinations.

One of the region's most anticipated events is the BeachLife Festival in Redondo Beach. Held steps from the Pacific Ocean, BeachLife has become Southern California's premier beach music festival, attracting major national acts while maintaining a laid-back coastal atmosphere. Festivalgoers can enjoy live performances, ocean views, gourmet food offerings, and a uniquely Southern California vibe that celebrates surfing, beach culture, and great music. The festival returns to Redondo Beach in 2026 and remains one of the largest coastal music events in the state.

Further south, Orange County's coastline comes alive with the popular OC Parks



Summer Concert Series. Running throughout the summer, these free outdoor concerts take place at several scenic locations, including Bluff Park at Salt Creek Beach in Dana Point. Visitors can bring blankets and lawn chairs while enjoying tribute bands, classic rock, pop favorites, Latin music, and family-friendly entertainment as the sun sets over the Pacific. The series features multiple concerts between July and September and offers one of the best free music experiences near the coast.

Long Beach also shines during the summer concert season. The Love Long Beach Festival returns in July, blending live music, wellness experiences, art installations, and community activities. Known for its welcoming atmosphere and diverse musical lineup, the festival has become a favorite among locals looking for a more intimate alternative to larger music events. Set against the backdrop of the waterfront, it captures the creative spirit of Southern California's beach communities.

Jazz enthusiasts can look forward to the Long Beach Jazz Festival, a beloved annual tradition that brings acclaimed performers to the Long Beach Amphitheater. The festival combines world-class musicianship with ocean breezes and waterfront scenery, creating an elegant yet relaxed summer experience for music lovers.

For those seeking classical performances, SummerFest at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center in La Jolla offers four weeks of concerts featuring internationally recognized musicians. While not directly on the beach, the venue sits just minutes from the Pacific Ocean and provides one of the most prestigious summer music experiences in coastal Southern California.

Summer evenings along the Southern California coast offer more than just music.

Visitors can enjoy waterfront dining, sunset strolls, and cool ocean breezes before and after performances. Whether your tastes lean toward rock, jazz, classical, tribute bands, or emerging artists, the region's coastal music scene offers something for every listener.

From Redondo Beach and Long Beach to Dana Point and La Jolla, Southern California's summer music calendar proves that great concerts sound even better with the Pacific Ocean as the backdrop. As the sun dips below the horizon and the music fills the air, these coastal events deliver some of the most memorable nights of the season.

For event schedules and tickets, visit:

BeachLife Festival

www.beachlife festival.com

OC Parks Summer Concert Series

www.ocparks.com/news/oc-parks-presents-2026-summer-concert-series-and-sunset-cinema-film-series

Love Long Beach Festival

www.lovelongbeachfestival.com

Long Beach Jazz Festival

www.longbeachjazzfestival.com

SummerFest La Jolla

www.theconrad.org/summerfest



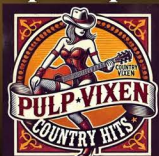
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By Melissa Stefan

Deep Sea Tourism

Exploring Earth's Final Frontier

For centuries, humans have explored mountains, deserts, jungles, and even outer space. Yet one of the least explored places on Earth lies beneath the ocean's surface. Deep sea tourism is emerging as one of the most fascinating luxury travel experiences, offering adventurous travelers a rare opportunity to descend thousands of feet below the waves and witness a world few people have ever seen.

The deep ocean covers more than 70 percent of the planet, yet scientists estimate that much of it remains unexplored. Recent advances in submarine technology have made it possible for private citizens to experience these hidden realms firsthand. What was once reserved for marine researchers and military personnel is now becoming available to wealthy travelers seeking unforgettable adventures.

One of the most famous destinations in deep sea tourism is the wreck of the RMS Titanic Sinking. Located approximately 12,500 feet below the surface of the North Atlantic



Ocean, the legendary shipwreck has become a bucket-list destination for some of the world's most adventurous travelers. Specialized submersibles equipped with advanced navigation systems, pressure-resistant hulls, and panoramic viewing

windows can transport passengers into the darkness of the deep ocean where the Titanic rests.

Beyond shipwrecks, deep sea excursions often showcase extraordinary marine life rarely seen by humans. Bioluminescent creatures, giant squid, deep-water sharks, and colorful coral ecosystems thrive in these extreme environments. Many species have adapted to crushing pressures, near-freezing temperatures, and complete darkness, creating

a truly alien landscape that rivals anything imagined in science fiction.

Luxury tourism companies have also expanded their offerings to include underwater exploration in locations such as the Caribbean Sea, the South Pacific Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean. Some expeditions focus on scientific discovery, allowing guests to assist researchers with data collection and marine observations. Others emphasize comfort and exclusivity, combining private yachts, gourmet dining, and custom-designed submersible experiences.

Safety remains a major focus within the industry. Modern submersibles undergo extensive testing and are operated by highly trained pilots and support crews. Following several high-profile incidents in recent years, regulators and operators have increased attention on engineering

standards, maintenance procedures, and passenger safety protocols. Responsible operators now emphasize transparency and rigorous safety practices to ensure safe exploration of the ocean depths.

Environmental stewardship is another important consideration. Conservationists encourage operators to minimize disturbance to fragile ecosystems and educate passengers about ocean protection. Many deep sea tourism companies partner with scientific organizations to support marine research and conservation initiatives.

While deep sea tourism remains expensive, with some expeditions costing hundreds of thousands of dollars per person, industry experts believe costs may gradually decrease as technology improves. Similar to early commercial space travel, these pioneering experiences may eventually become more accessible to a broader audience.

As technology continues to advance, deep sea tourism offers a glimpse into the future of adventure travel. For those fortunate enough to participate, descending into the mysterious depths of the ocean provides an unparalleled opportunity to witness one of Earth's last great frontiers—a hidden world filled with wonder, discovery, and endless fascination.

"Modern deep-sea tourism combines cutting-edge technology, scientific discovery, and luxury adventure, allowing travelers to explore one of the last truly unexplored regions of Earth."

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20TH
ANNIVERSARY



By Fred Merck

GARAGISTE WINE FESTIVAL 11TH ANNUAL URBAN EXPOSURE

Wine lovers looking for something beyond the usual tasting-room experience should mark their calendars for the 11th Annual Garagiste Wine Festival: Urban Exposure, taking place on June 20, 2026, at the historic Glendale Civic Auditorium. Widely regarded as one of California's premier showcases for small-production wineries, the festival offers a rare opportunity to meet the winemakers themselves and sample limited-production wines that are often unavailable in stores or traditional tasting rooms.

Unlike many wine festivals that focus on a single region or grape varietal, Urban Exposure brings together more than 30 boutique wineries pouring over 100 wines from nearly every major wine-growing region in California. Guests can explore everything from Cabernet Sauvignon and

Chardonnay to lesser-known varietals and innovative blends crafted by passionate artisan producers.

One of the festival's biggest attractions is its intimate atmosphere. Because ticket sales are intentionally limited, attendees can spend time speaking directly with winery owners and winemakers rather than fighting crowds. Many participating wineries

vendors, a silent auction featuring rare wines and winery experiences, and opportunities to purchase exclusive bottles. Proceeds from the auction help support future winemakers through the Garagiste Scholarship Fund at California Polytechnic State University.

The Garagiste Festival has earned national recognition over the years, includ-



ing being voted a top wine festival by readers and praised for highlighting innovative, small-lot winemakers. Its mission remains focused on discovering and celebrating California's most exciting under-the-radar wine producers.

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produce only a few hundred cases annually, and some have no public tasting rooms at all, making this event one of the few opportunities to experience their wines firsthand.

For serious collectors and enthusiasts, the Rare & Reserve Early Access tasting offers an elevated experience. Guests gain entry an hour before the general public and enjoy special reserve wines, library selections, club-only releases, and other hard-to-find pours. Only 150 Rare & Reserve tickets are available, making it one of the most sought-after wine experiences of the summer.

The event also includes complimentary cheese and charcuterie offerings, artisan

Event Details

Date: June 20, 2026

Location: Glendale Civic Auditorium,
1401 N. Verdugo Road, Glendale, CA
91208

Rare & Reserve Early Access: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Grand Tasting: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: Starting at \$75; Rare & Reserve tickets \$100 (limited availability).

For wine enthusiasts seeking unique discoveries, personal interaction with winemakers, and access to some of California's most elusive bottles, the 11th Annual Urban Exposure promises an unforgettable afternoon of tasting and exploration.

www.garagistefestival.com



HIGH DESERT BEER AND WINE FESTIVAL SAYS

We're just one desert over!" Ahead of 4th Annual Festival June 20

By Seth Jayes

Who knew that Palmdale got its name from mistaken identity? Apparently, arriving settlers were told they'd see palm trees when they neared the ocean and mistook the area's yucca trees for palms. 140 years later, Palmdale's the jewel of the high desert in the northernmost reaches of LA County, a symbol of resilience atop the San Andreas Fault, and "Aerospace capital of the US."

What's "on tap?" First, guests can sample a variety of craft beers from top brewers in the region with unlimited tastings. Breweries confirmed so far include Altar Society Brewing Company; Antelope Valley Brewery; Bravery Brewing Company; Cerveza Cito Brewery; Brewery Draconum; Enegren Brewing Co.; Local Craft Brewery; Luchador Brewing; Lucky Luke Brewing; Malibu Brewing Company; Montucky Cold Snacks; Red Engine

and That's a Pretzel. Additional vendors include: Rycebunnie Trinkets; Endless Dreams and More; and Queen Necessities Brown Sugar.

Eat and drink to the beat! Live music and entertainment: Enjoy performances from local and regional artists, including the original and first Bruno Mars tribute band, Uptown Funk, Reality Check, Wildfire Arts and DJ Aone Morris (DJ Aone), "educator by day, DJ by night."

Lawn games and interactive experiences are also available to ensure there is something for everyone at the festival.

"With the festival only a week away now, we're hugely gratified by the outpouring (!) of support from our local and regional businesses," said Mayor Eric Ohlsen. "With a stacked lineup of beer and wine, food and beverage options, music and activities, we're expecting the best Festival ever. We are excited to welcome the community and visitors to celebrate right here in Palmdale while supporting the

businesses, makers and partners that help our region thrive."

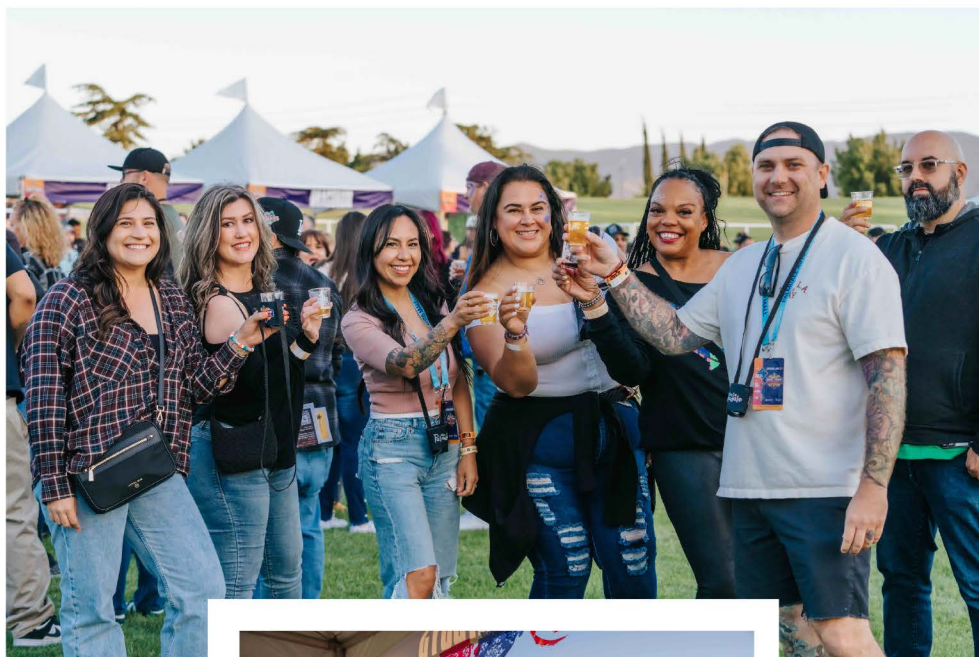
Mayor Pro Tem Austin Bishop added, "The High Desert Beer and Wine Festival is a great example of how Palmdale brings people together through memorable experiences. Events like this celebrate our community, support local businesses and give residents and visitors another opportunity to enjoy the energy and hospitality that make our city stand out."

What to expect

First, the festival is 21 and over, and ID's are required upon entry.

Second, tickets start at \$63 and include unlimited beer and wine tastings. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and festivities commence at 5 p.m. for VIP entry and 6 p.m. for general admission. Note: VIP tickets include early access, a special entry lane, specialty tastings, concert seating and more. The event concludes at 10 p.m. Parking is \$13 plus advance fees; \$20 on site and is located on Rancho Vista Blvd. and 25th Street West (Highland Street).

See you there!



As the expression goes, then, "It looks like you could use a drink," and Palmdale is only too happy to oblige with the High Desert Beer and Wine Festival, which recently

finalized its lineups for beer, wine, beverage, food and vendor participants as it returns for its fourth annual outing, Saturday, June 20, from 5-10 p.m. at the Palmdale Amphitheater, located at 2723 Rancho Vista Blvd.

Billed as "The High Desert's Biggest Beer and Wine Party," this signature summer event is the perfect place to sample the finest craft brews and wines in California, savor local culinary delights, and dance the night away to live music in the burgeoning high desert.



Brewing Company; Santa Cruz Brewing; Shadow Grove Brewing; Tortugo Brewing Company; and Two Tracks Cellars Brewery.

Is the fruit of the vine more your style? Discover exquisite wines

from California's finest wineries with unlimited tastings. Wineries/beverages confirmed so far include Antelope Valley Winery; Barrett Cellars; Honey Pot Meadery; Le Vigne Winery; Stephen Hemmert Wines; Rafael Tovar Wines; and Tehachapi Winery.

Food and beverage options abound, including The Artisan Woodfired Pizza; Chopped Craft BBQ; The Chubby Corn; Dirty Dan's Beverage Company; Freedom Juice; Kona Ice of Lancaster; Lobo Coffee Roasters; Luv N Popcorn LLC; Old School Dogs; Tacos El Superior;

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HEALTH & BEAUTY BY THE BEACH

By Sam Shafer

Southern California's coastline has long been synonymous with healthy living, but in 2026 the region's beach communities are taking wellness, beauty, and self-care to a whole new level. From oceanfront spas and luxury wellness resorts to beach yoga, cold plunges, and advanced skincare treatments, the coast has become a destination where health and beauty go hand in hand.

One of the biggest wellness trends of 2026 is the blending of traditional spa experiences with science-backed health treatments. Coastal resorts throughout Santa Monica, Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach, and Rancho Palos Verdes now offer programs that combine fitness, nutrition, recovery therapies, and beauty treatments in one package. Guests can enjoy ocean-view yoga sessions, guided meditation, healthy cuisine, and rejuvenating facials designed to restore both body and mind.

Among Southern California's premier wellness destinations is Terranea Resort, perched on dramatic coastal bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The resort has become known for its luxury spa, oceanfront fitness programs, hiking trails, and wellness-focused experiences that emphasize stress reduction and holistic health.

Further north, Santa Monica continues to evolve as a center for coastal wellness. Luxury properties such as Regent Santa Monica Beach and Shuttters on the Beach attract visitors seeking high-end spa services, personalized skincare treatments, and beachfront relaxation. Wellness-focused amenities, including advanced facials, recovery therapies, and customized beauty programs, have become major attractions for visitors seeking both relaxation and rejuvenation.

Orange County's beach communities are also embracing the health-and-beauty movement. Properties such as Pasea Hotel & Spa and The Waterfront Beach Resort offer luxury spa experiences just steps from the sand. Visitors can enjoy massages, skin treatments, fitness classes, and wellness programs while taking advantage of Huntington Beach's year-round sunshine and ocean breezes.

Natural beauty also remains a major focus. Many wellness experts continue to emphasize the benefits of outdoor exercise, ocean air, and sunshine when combined



with proper skincare and hydration. Beach walks, paddleboarding, swimming, and guided coastal hikes provide enjoyable ways to stay active while enjoying Southern California's spectacular scenery.

The popularity of wellness tourism shows no signs of slowing in 2026. Travelers are increasingly seeking experiences that improve their physical health, mental well-being, and appearance all at once. Whether

it's a luxury spa weekend, a beachfront fitness retreat, or simply a relaxing day beside the ocean, Southern California's coast offers countless opportunities to look and feel your best.

As wellness and beauty continue to evolve, one thing remains constant: few places combine sunshine, ocean views, healthy living, and luxury experiences quite like Southern California's beaches. For residents and visitors alike, the coast remains one of the best places to recharge, refresh, and embrace a healthier lifestyle in 2026.

Terranea Resort

www.terranea.com

Regent Santa Monica Beach

www.santamonica.regenthotels.com

Shuttters On The Beach

www.shuttersonthebeach.com

Pasea Hotel & Spa

www.paseahotel.com

The Waterfront Beach Resort, a Hilton Hotel

www.hilton.com/en/hotels/hub-whhf-the-waterfront-beach-resort



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By Samuel Winter

Valley Opera and Performing Arts Presents Bizet's Carmen at the El Portal Theatre

A Passion-Fueled Production Featuring A Powerhouse Cast
And The Acclaimed VOPA Orchestra

Valley Opera and Performing Arts (VOPA) concludes its 20th Anniversary season with one of opera's most beloved and electrifying masterpieces: Georges Bizet's Carmen, presented June 13–21, 2026, at the historic El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood.

she finds that she's teased the wrong bull in Don Jose, who transforms from an innocent, loving son to an animalistic killer.” VOPA's production showcases its commitment to providing the community with accessible, high-quality opera in Los Angeles, bringing together extraordinary vocal and dramatic

Presented by: Valley Opera and Performing Arts (VOPA)
Dates: June 13, 14, 20, 21, 2026
Venue: El Portal Theatre
5269 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood
Directed by: Dylan F. Thomas
Conducted by: Noreen Green
Featuring: The VOPA Orchestra
Tickets and additional information are available at www.VOPArts.org.
About Valley Opera and Performing Arts
Valley Opera and Performing Arts (VOPA) is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit performing arts organization committed to

providing accessible, diverse, and high-quality theatrical and musical performances that engage, challenge, and unite audiences, artists, and supporters, celebrating the transformative and timeless beauty of the human spirit expressed through the performing arts. In addition to opera, VOPA also presents fully-staged musical theater productions, as well as concerts in varying musical genres, including classic rock, jazz and big band, folk, and more. Through community-centered programming, VOPA seeks to make the performing arts accessible, inclusive, and engaging for audiences of all ages, backgrounds, and identities.



Directed by Dylan F. Thomas and featuring the VOPA Orchestra under the baton of conductor Noreen Green, Carmen invites audiences to immerse themselves in a world where thievery is a way of life, a mama's boy gets caught between innocence and raw animal instinct, and the femme fatale doesn't always come out on top. Filled with some of the most recognizable music ever composed—including the "Habanera," the "Seguidilla," and the "Toreador Song", Carmen is often considered ideal for opera first-timers, as the music is familiar and exciting, with drama that keeps the audience engaged throughout. "For me, Carmen is not a bull to be tamed, as she's typically depicted; she is the matador, controlling everyone around her," says Director Dylan F. Thomas. "Ultimately,

talent from across the country. Lead singers have performed in some of the most prestigious opera companies in the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Gimmerglass Opera, and Los Angeles Opera, to name a few. Conducted by Maestra Noreen Green, Founder and Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, the VOPA Orchestra will bring Bizet's vibrant score to life with all its color, energy, and emotional intensity. Whether attending opera for the first time or returning to a longtime favorite, audiences will experience an unforgettable evening of soaring music, compelling drama, and timeless storytelling.
Performance Information
Carmen (rated PG-13)
Music by: Georges Bizet

One Iconic Role TWO Extraordinary Artists

Which Carmen will capture YOUR heart? Christina Pezzarossi Ramsay as Carmen— June 13 & 21
Jessica Mamey as Carmen – June 14 & 20
Each mezzo soprano brings her own fire, charisma, and interpretation to opera's most dangerous femme fatale. True opera lovers won't want to miss either performance!
Celebrate opening weekend of Carmen with the stars of the show, and support VOPA in the process! After the matinee performance on Sunday June 14th, head on over to CPK Burbank for dinner. Mention that you're there for the VOPA fundraiser, and 20% of your final bill will be donated to Valley Opera and Performing Arts!

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By Ben Clemons

Sycamore Springs And Luxury Places To Stay Nearby In Malibu

Nestled along Malibu's spectacular coastline, Sycamore Springs—more commonly associated with the beautiful Sycamore Canyon and Sycamore Cove area within Point Mugu State Park—is one of Southern California's most scenic natural escapes. Located where the Santa Monica Mountains meet the Pacific Ocean, the area offers visitors rugged hiking trails, secluded beaches, dramatic coastal cliffs, and a peaceful retreat from the bustle of Los Angeles. The Sycamore Canyon region is particularly popular among hikers, campers, cyclists, photographers, and anyone seeking a quieter side of Malibu.

One of the highlights of the area is Sycamore Cove Beach, where visitors can stroll along the shoreline, explore tide pools, and enjoy panoramic ocean views. The nearby trails wind through coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, and canyon landscapes

ultra-exclusive experience. This intimate property combines traditional Japanese design with modern luxury, offering private accommodations just steps from the Pacific Ocean. Guests enjoy personalized service, serene surroundings, and access to the renowned Nobu culinary experience.

Another outstanding option is Calamigos Ranch Resort & Spa. Tucked within the Santa Monica Mountains, the resort blends luxury accommodations with natural beauty. Guests can enjoy spa treatments, private cottages, lush gardens, and easy access to both Malibu's beaches and mountain trails. Its tranquil setting makes it an ideal base for exploring Sycamore Canyon during the day and relaxing in comfort at night.

Travelers seeking a stylish boutique experience may also enjoy The Surfrider Hotel. Overlooking the iconic Malibu Pier, the hotel offers a chic coastal



that showcase California's natural beauty year-round. Spring brings wildflowers, while summer offers warm beach weather and spectacular sunsets.

For travelers looking to combine outdoor adventure with luxury accommodations, Malibu offers several exceptional properties within easy driving distance of Sycamore Canyon.

The premier oceanfront choice is Malibu Beach Inn. Located on Malibu's famous Carbon Beach, this boutique luxury hotel places guests directly on the sand. Spacious oceanfront rooms feature private balconies where guests can watch dolphins, surfers, and breathtaking sunsets. The intimate atmosphere and world-class dining make it one of Southern California's most sought-after coastal retreats.

For travelers seeking Japanese-inspired elegance, Nobu Ryokan Malibu delivers an

atmosphere with beautifully designed rooms and a celebrated rooftop lounge perfect for sunset cocktails.

For a more contemporary coastal retreat, provides modern accommodations near western Malibu's beaches and scenic attractions. Its relaxed luxury atmosphere appeals to travelers looking for comfort and convenience while exploring the area's outdoor adventures.

Whether you're hiking through Sycamore Canyon, exploring tide pools at Sycamore Cove, or simply enjoying Malibu's legendary coastline, the combination of natural beauty and world-class accommodations creates an unforgettable Southern California getaway. From oceanfront luxury to mountain serenity, the Sycamore Springs area offers a perfect blend of adventure, relaxation, and coastal elegance.

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Photo by Diane Edmonds

Anacapa Island Shoreline Cruises

Photo by Doug Mangum

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Celebrity Tennis Exhibitions Serve Up Summer Fun Along Southern California's Coast

By Amy Scott

While the desert's famous Desert Smash charity tournament has become synonymous with celebrity tennis, summer tennis enthusiasts looking for ocean breezes rather than desert heat have plenty of opportunities closer to Southern California's coastline. Throughout July, exclusive tennis exhibitions, charity tournaments, and celebrity pro-am events take place from Los Angeles to San Diego,

Los Angeles' celebrity tennis scene remains centered around the historic Los Angeles Tennis Club and the renowned Palisades Tennis Center. Over the years, these courts have attracted celebrities including actress Charlize Theron, actress Kate Hudson, actress Elisabeth Shue, actress Donna Mills, actor Chad Lowe, actor Will Ferrell, comedian Kevin Hart, actress Yvonne Orji, and actor Joshua Morrow, many of whom regularly participate in charity and exhibition tennis events.

and charitable auctions.

Recent celebrity tennis events in Southern California have featured appearances from professional stars including Naomi Osaka, Novak Djokovic, Aryna Sabalenka, and Nick Kyrgios alongside entertainers such as Jason Derulo, Gavin Rossdale, and producer Mustard. These crossover events continue to attract media attention while raising significant funds for charitable organizations.

For visitors planning a Southern California vacation in July 2026, tennis exhibitions

offer a unique way to experience the region's luxury coastal lifestyle. Between matches,

guests can enjoy beachside dining, oceanfront resorts, yacht excursions, and some of the finest summer weather in the country.

Whether watching former Grand Slam champions compete, spotting Hollywood

celebrities on the court, or supporting worthwhile charitable causes, Southern California's coastal tennis exhibitions continue to deliver a winning combination of sports, entertainment, and summertime glamour. With the Pacific Ocean as a backdrop and celebrity guests never far away, these events remain among the most enjoyable summer attractions on the West Coast.



Tennis Fans Comedian Kevin Hart And Actor Will Ferrell

attracting athletes, entertainers, and devoted tennis fans alike.

One of the most iconic coastal tennis venues is the historic La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club in San Diego County. Situated directly on the Pacific Ocean, the club has hosted generations of professional players, celebrities, and exhibition matches. The beachfront setting provides one of the most picturesque tennis backdrops in America, making it a natural destination for summer tennis showcases.

Celebrity tennis exhibitions have become increasingly popular because they blend athletic competition with fundraising and entertainment. Fans can often watch current and former professional tennis stars team up with Hollywood personalities in doubles matches that are both competitive and highly entertaining. Unlike major professional tournaments, these exhibitions allow spectators to interact more closely with participants through autograph sessions, VIP receptions,



Actress Yvonne Orji, Tennis Player Victoria Azarenka, Tennis Player Frances Tiafoe And Actress Charlize Theron

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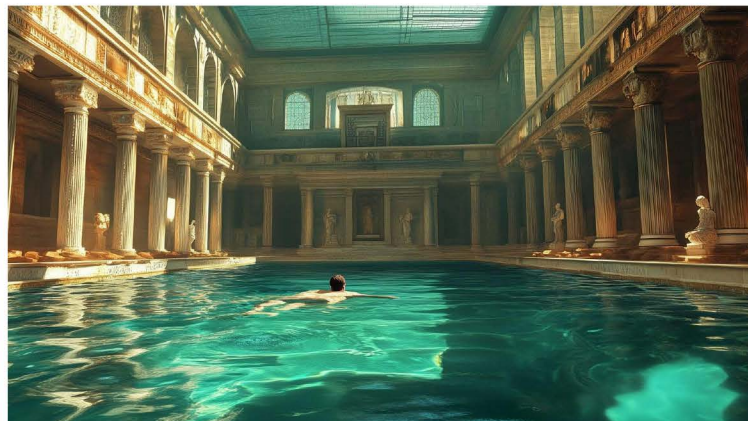
THE HISTORY OF SWIMMING FROM ANCIENT BEGINNINGS TO RENAISSANCE DEVELOPMENTS

By Kate Deed

Swimming is one of humanity's oldest physical activities, dating back thousands of years before modern pools, competitive races, or recreational water parks existed. Throughout history, people learned to swim for survival, transportation, military purposes, and eventually for enjoyment. The story of swimming reflects the development of civilizations and their relationship with rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans.

Ancient Origins

Evidence of swimming dates back at least 10,000 years. Some of the earliest depictions appear in prehistoric cave paintings discovered in the "Cave of Swimmers" in southwestern Egypt. These remarkable images show human figures appearing to move through water, suggesting that swimming was already an important skill during the Stone Age.



As civilizations emerged, swimming became a practical necessity. Ancient Egyptians lived along the Nile River and depended on water for transportation, agriculture, and daily life. Artwork and inscriptions reveal that swimming was common among both children and adults. The ability to

navigate waterways helped communities thrive in a landscape dominated by rivers and canals.

Swimming in Ancient Greece

The ancient Greeks viewed swimming as an essential component of education and physical fitness. Young men were expected to learn

both reading and swimming as part of a well-rounded upbringing. Greek philosophers and writers frequently referenced swimming, demonstrating how deeply it was woven into daily life.

The Greeks also celebrated athletic achievement and physical excellence. While swimming was not included in the ancient Olympic Games, it was widely practiced for recreation, training, and military preparation. Greek soldiers often needed to cross rivers and coastal waters during campaigns, making swimming a valuable survival skill.

The Roman Influence

The Romans expanded upon many Greek traditions and elevated public bathing culture to new heights. Throughout the Roman Empire, elaborate bath complexes served as centers of social life, relaxation, and exercise. Many facilities included large pools where citizens could swim and train.

Roman military leaders recognized the strategic value of swimming. Soldiers were often taught to cross rivers while carrying weapons and equipment. This training

increased mobility and effectiveness during military operations. The Romans also constructed aqueducts, harbors, and water systems that strengthened society's connection to aquatic environments.

The Middle Ages

Following the decline of the Roman Empire, organized swimming became less common in many parts of Europe. Concerns about disease, changing social customs, and reduced public bathing contributed to a decline in swimming instruction. However, the skill never disappeared entirely.

Fishermen, sailors, merchants, and military personnel continued to rely on swimming throughout the medieval period. In coastal communities and river towns, knowledge of water safety remained essential. Across Asia and the Middle East, swimming traditions continued to flourish, preserving techniques and knowledge that would later influence Europe.

Renaissance Revival

The Renaissance brought renewed interest in science, education, and physical activity. Scholars began studying human movement and documenting practical skills, including swimming. One of the most influential works was a swimming manual published in 1538 by Nikolaus Wynmann. His book, often considered the first printed swimming guide, aimed to reduce drowning and teach safe aquatic techniques.

Renaissance thinkers increasingly recognized swimming as both a valuable life skill and a healthy form of exercise. As exploration expanded and maritime trade flourished, the importance of water competence became even more apparent.

Legacy

The foundations established by ancient civilizations and Renaissance scholars paved the way for modern swimming. What began as a survival skill evolved into a recreational pastime, competitive sport, and lifelong fitness activity enjoyed by millions worldwide. From Egyptian riverbanks and Greek training grounds to Roman baths and Renaissance manuals, the history of swimming demonstrates humanity's enduring connection to water and the remarkable journey of one of our oldest physical skills.



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Precious Puppies: The Chiwinnie

By Maria Wylde

The Chiwinnie, sometimes spelled Chiweenie, is one of the most lovable and entertaining designer dog breeds around. A cross between a Chihuahua and a Dachshund, the Chiwinnie combines the fearless attitude of the Chihuahua with the playful curiosity of the Dachshund. The result is a small dog with an enormous personality and a loyal heart.

Originally bred in the United States during the 1990s, Chiwinnies quickly gained popularity among dog lovers looking for a compact companion that was both affectionate and adaptable. Since they are a mixed breed, no two Chiwinnies are exactly alike. Some inherit the long body and short legs of the Dachshund, while others resemble a Chihuahua with slightly elongated features.

Most Chiwinnies weigh between 5 and 12 pounds and stand about 6 to 10 inches tall. Their coats can be short, medium, or even long-haired, and they come in a wide variety of colors including black, tan, brown, cream, white, and combinations of these shades.

One of the breed's biggest attractions is its intelligence. Chiwinnies are quick learners and often develop strong bonds with their owners. They enjoy puzzle toys, interactive games, and learning simple commands. While they can sometimes display a stubborn streak inherited from both parent breeds, positive reinforcement and consistency usually produce excellent results.

These dogs thrive on companionship and love being part of family activities. Many Chiwinnies become devoted lap dogs and will happily spend hours curled up next to their favorite human. Their

alert nature also makes them surprisingly effective watchdogs. They may be small, but they are rarely shy about announcing the arrival of visitors.

Exercise needs are moderate. Daily walks and indoor play sessions are usually enough to keep a Chiwinnie healthy and happy. Because of their small size, they are well-suited for apartment living, although they still enjoy access to safe outdoor spaces where they can explore and sniff.

Potential owners should be aware that Chiwinnies can sometimes be prone to back issues due to their Dachshund heritage. Maintaining a healthy weight and preventing excessive jumping can help reduce stress on their spine. Regular veterinary

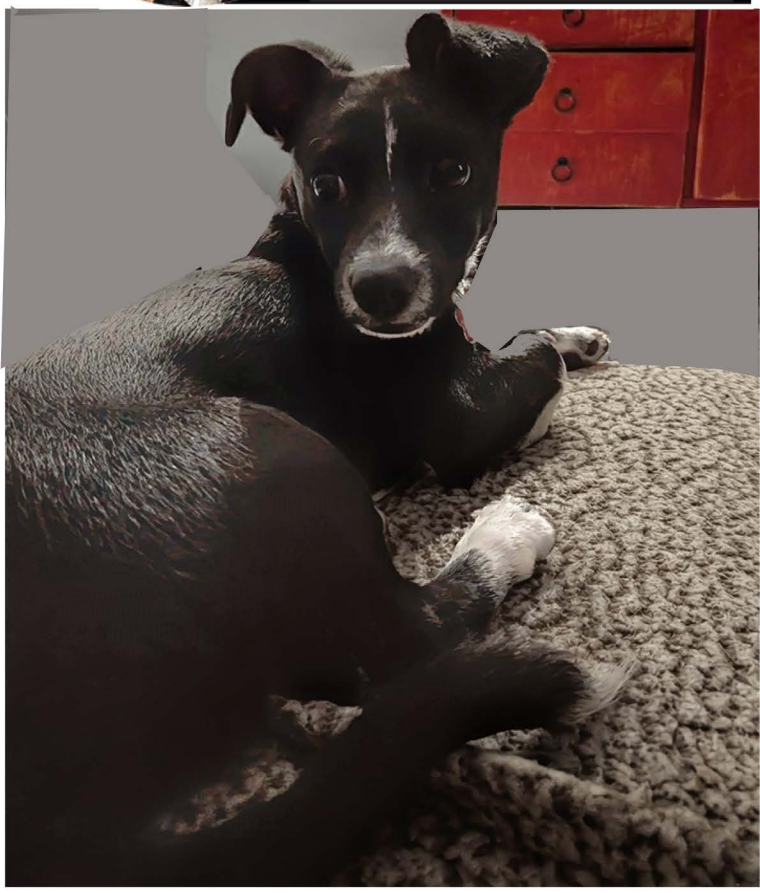
care, quality nutrition, and routine exercise contribute greatly to their overall well-being.

Families, singles, seniors, and apartment dwellers often find Chiwinnies to be excellent companions. Their combination of loyalty, intelligence, and affectionate nature makes them a favorite among small-dog enthusiasts. While they may not be the largest dogs at the park, they often have the biggest personalities.

For anyone seeking a spirited, loving companion with plenty of charm packed into a small package, the Chiwinnie may be the perfect fit. These delightful little dogs prove every day that great things truly do come in small sizes.



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Luxury Jet Skis for Summer Pleasure

The Ultimate Way to Ride the Water

By Lia Hart

For those who love life on the water, few summer thrills compare to the freedom of riding a luxury jet ski. Today's premium personal watercraft combine speed, comfort, advanced technology, and sleek styling to create an experience that rivals luxury automobiles. Whether cruising along the Malibu coastline, exploring coves around Catalina Island, or enjoying a weekend at Lake Pyramid, luxury jet skis have become one of the hottest summer indulgences.

Unlike the noisy, rough-riding models of decades past, modern luxury jet skis are designed with comfort and sophistication in mind. Advanced suspension systems, plush seating, touchscreen displays, Bluetooth connectivity, and powerful engines have transformed personal watercraft into high-performance recreational machines.

Among the most popular luxury models is the Sea-Doo GTX Limited. Widely regarded as one of the most refined jet skis on the

market, it offers a smooth ride, premium sound system, GPS capabilities, and ample storage for day trips. Its spacious three-person seating makes it ideal for couples and families seeking both adventure and comfort.

Another standout is the Yamaha FX Cruiser SVHO. Featuring a supercharged engine capable of exhilarating speeds, the FX Cruiser combines luxury touring features with sports-car-like performance. Riders appreciate its ergonomic seating, intuitive controls, and exceptional fuel efficiency for longer excursions.

For thrill-seekers who refuse to compromise on luxury, the Kawasaki Jet Ski Ultra 310LX delivers breathtaking acceleration and top-tier amenities. With one of the most powerful engines in the industry, premium seating, integrated audio, and advanced rider-assistance technology, it is often considered the flagship of the luxury jet ski world.

Luxury jet skis are also increasingly popular among yacht owners. Many large

yachts now carry personal watercraft as onboard toys, allowing guests to explore coastlines, secluded beaches, and hidden coves inaccessible by larger vessels. Their versatility makes them equally appealing for day trips, watersports, fishing excursions, and sightseeing adventures.

FINER THINGS

Rentals are available at many locations for those who want to experience luxury jet skiing before purchasing their own craft.

Prices for luxury jet skis typically range from \$15,000 to more than \$25,000,



Safety technology has advanced dramatically as well. Modern luxury models feature intelligent braking systems, cruise control, stability management, reverse assistance, and sophisticated navigation tools. These innovations make riding easier and more enjoyable for both experienced operators and newcomers.

Summer destinations across Southern California offer endless opportunities to enjoy these high-end watercraft. Popular launch locations include Marina del Rey, Newport Harbor, Channel Islands Harbor, and the waters surrounding Catalina Island.

depending on features and performance levels. While the investment can be significant, owners often compare the experience to owning a sports car—except with the added excitement of open water and ocean breezes.

As summer arrives, luxury jet skis continue to represent the perfect blend of adventure, technology, and relaxation. For water enthusiasts seeking an unforgettable way to enjoy the season, few recreational purchases deliver as much excitement per ride as a premium personal watercraft gliding across sparkling blue water.

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Piccola Tiny Homes

Big Living in a Smaller Footprint

By Otis Dufrann

As housing prices continue to climb throughout California, many people are searching for creative and affordable alternatives to traditional homeownership. One company helping to redefine modern living is Piccola Tiny

Homes, which can be built in approximately 13 to 14 weeks, allowing homeowners to move into their new space much sooner. Piccola offers several home models designed to suit different lifestyles. Among its most popular offerings are the



Homes, a Southern California builder specializing in beautifully designed tiny homes on wheels that combine style, comfort, and flexibility. Based in Simi Valley, California, Piccola Tiny Homes has built a reputation for creating movable tiny homes that feel less like temporary housing and more like thoughtfully crafted residences. The company's mission is centered on helping people thrive at every stage of life through efficient, high-quality housing solutions. Rather than compromising on comfort, Piccola focuses on maximizing space while maintaining the aesthetics and functionality of a traditional home. One of the biggest advantages of a tiny home on wheels is speed. Traditional accessory dwelling units (ADUs) can take well over a year to complete due to permitting, design work, and construction schedules. Piccola's homes are typically complet-

ed in approximately 13 to 14 weeks, allowing homeowners to move into their new space much sooner. Piccola offers several home models designed to suit different lifestyles. Among its most popular offerings are the Adagio and Minuet models. These homes feature modern kitchens, spacious bathrooms, abundant natural light, efficient storage solutions, and attractive finishes that make small-space living feel surprisingly luxurious. Many designs incorporate large windows and open layouts that help create a sense of spaciousness despite their compact footprint. The Adagio model is particularly notable for its accessibility-focused design. Featuring a single-story layout, wider doorways, and easy-to-navigate living spaces, it appeals to homeowners seeking comfort, convenience, and aging-in-place flexibility. The model demonstrates how tiny homes can provide practical housing solutions for retirees, downsizers, caregivers, and those seeking independent living options.

Piccola's homes are certified to ANSI A119.5 standards and typically range between approximately 190 and 399 square feet. Despite their size, they include essential living spaces such as kitchens, sleeping areas, bathrooms, and storage solutions. Their mobility also gives owners flexibility that traditional housing often cannot provide. Homes can be relocated, resold, or used as guest accommodations, backyard ADUs, vacation properties, or full-time residences. Beyond affordability and efficiency, tiny homes appeal to environmentally conscious homeowners looking to reduce their footprint. Smaller living spaces generally require fewer building materials,

consume less energy, and encourage a simpler lifestyle focused on experiences rather than excess possessions. For Southern California residents interested in exploring the tiny-home movement, Piccola Tiny Homes offers factory tours and consultations at its Simi Valley facility. As housing needs continue to evolve, companies like Piccola are demonstrating that smaller homes can still deliver comfort, beauty, and long-term value. Whether used as a backyard retreat, guest house, rental property, or primary residence, these tiny homes prove that great things really can come in small packages. Piccola Tiny Homes
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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Florida

A Florida woman who feared she heard someone breaking into her house was met with a bigger surprise -- two alligators duking it out on her screened-in lanai. According to UPI on May 3, Kayla Burress of Ave Maria was home with a sleeping baby when she heard the clamor. The gators tore through the mesh, and Burress filmed one of them biting the other's tail. "It definitely looked like they were fighting over territory or something," she said. "It wasn't like a mating ritual that I had seen, because there was blood and it had its hindquarters, like, in its jaws through the door." A licensed trapper captured the alligators and relocated them. "It was scary," Burress said. "And I just warned everybody else in the neighborhood, like, watch your kids. Watch the dogs. Because it was fast and they were powerful."

The Tech Revolution

Residents of a Toronto neighborhood banded together after a Google Maps glitch had drivers heading the wrong way down a one-way road for several days. UPI reported on May 6 that as early as April 29, Google Maps had mistakenly listed the southbound-only Winona Drive as a northbound street. "[The drivers] come up here with such gusto," resident J.P. Timmerman said. "The crossing guard seems ready to keel over." Residents put up a sign: "GPS is wrong." They appealed to local police and even to Google. The city even had to install a temporary "do not enter" sign before Google Maps corrected the error. "I will be following up with Google Maps to understand what went wrong and what improvements can be made to prevent this situation in the future," City Councilor Josh Matlow said in a social media post. "These sorts of Google glitches cause real and immediate safety impacts on our streets. Google Maps needs to be far more responsive to residents' complaints, and far more transparent about the processes in place

A Wisconsin driver found out the hard way that "road closed" signs are there for a reason. According to UPI -- and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's May 22 social media post -- a Milwaukee County driver not only encountered a "road closed" sign, but got out of their pickup truck, removed the sign and drove straight into freshly poured concrete. WDOT shared a photo of the truck's submerged tires and noted that the driver "cemented their inability to adhere to signs." Police and road crews had to employ heavy machinery to haul the truck out.

Benjamin Fragale, 23, of Palm Harbor, Florida was arrested for felony criminal mischief on May 24, after vandalizing a local marquee sign known for its puns, The Smoking Gun reported. According to the police report, Fragale used bricks and branches to "smash the sign, damaging the letters, message board and interior lights." The sign belongs to a local chiropractic office and memorable phrases include: "We never crack under pressure," "We won't stop until everyone is cracked up," and "Our Easter adjustments are eggsellent." The message that made Fragale crack? "Licensed Crack Dealer." The arrest report indicates that Fragale thought the statement was illegal, but court records do not corroborate the claim. Fragale remains detained while he awaits a court hearing.

On May 15, Daniel Christian Pettit, 49, of Minnesota, was charged with second-degree assault and intentional discharge of a firearm after shooting at a firefighting airplane, Fox 9 reported. The pilot reported hearing popping sounds as it went on its final run to bring water from a lake to battle a nearby wildfire. The plane landed safely with no pilot injuries, and investigators determined that the damage in the rudder was caused by a bullet. After pinpointing the location where the shots were fired, law enforcement suspected Pettit, who had made complaints in 2024 about aircraft near his home.

Crossword by Myles Mellor

Across

- 1. Stock exchange index
- 4. F 150 makers
- 8. "I knew it!"
- 11. __ Baba and the Forty Thieves
- 12. Muscle woe
- 13. Band booking
- 14. Free from, with "of"
- 15. Goulash
- 16. Centers of attention
- 17. Apple picker
- 18. Oolong and Black
- 19. Circle parts
- 20. End ____
- 22. Lacking slack
- 23. Layers
- 25. Toot
- 26. Give of ____
- 28. XY chromosome
- 30. Imitation
- 33. Round building
- 34. Ball game
- 36. Rugged rock
- 37. Furnished with footwear
- 39. Vehicle
- 40. Breezy
- 41. Pout
- 42. Degrees
- 43. One of TV's Ewings
- 44. Cold war antagonist
- 45. Losing come-out roll in craps
- 46. Ambulance workers
- 47. Duffer's driving points
- 48. One easily taken in

Down

- 1. Challenger
- 2. Peace branches
- 3. Most expansive
- 4. Leadfoot's likely locale
- 5. Eight singers
- 6. Flightless bird
- 7. Condensations
- 8. Ancient meeting places
- 9. Setback
- 10. Discriminator. in a way
- 16. Disastrous

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1	2	3		4	5	6	7			8	9	10
11				12						13		
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46					47					48		

- 21. Medical branch
- 24. Snake
- 25. Ground balls that pass through infielders
- 27. Marry
- 28. Sister of Moses
- 29. Warnings
- 31. Has suspicions
- 32. Canada's capital
- 33. Suffix with sea or moon
- 35. Noted fabulist
- 37. Blue material
- 38. Garden water conveyor

Bad Dad Jokes

Neighbor: We're having a yard sale
Me: How much is it?



Previous Puzzle

1	A	2	M	3	Y			4	E	5	B	6	B			7	V	8	O	9	L
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36	O	R	C	A						37	S	L	O	E			38	A	T	M	
39	I	N	K	Y						40	A	L	O	T			41	R	I	M	
42	S	E	E	S						43	K	E	N	S			44	B	R	A	
45	T	R	Y							46	I	T	S				47	Y	E	N	



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GET READY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER AT GRANADA PREPARATORY SCHOOL!

By Kathryn Andrew

Summer is a time for discovery, adventure, friendship, and fun—and Granada Preparatory School (GPS) is ready to make this summer one to remember. Families looking for a safe, engaging, and educational summer experience for their children will find an exciting lineup of opportunities through the Granada Preparatory Preschool Summer Camp and the Granada Preparatory Summer Academy. Designed for children from preschool through 8th grade, GPS offers programs that blend learning,

creativity, social development, and confidence-building while creating lasting summer memories. Families have flexible scheduling options, including 3-day or 5-day programs, as well as half-day and full-day sessions. Parents can register for a single week or enjoy the entire summer experience.

For older students, the Granada Preparatory Summer Academy is open to children entering Kindergarten through 8th grade, including students from schools throughout

nities for adventure, teamwork, and personal achievement.

Located in Northridge, Granada Preparatory School provides families with a trusted and welcoming setting for summer enrichment. With flexible schedules, engaging programs, and dedicated teachers, GPS continues to be a favorite destination

for summer learning and fun.

Registration is now available, and spaces are expected to fill quickly. Give your child a summer filled with exploration, friendship, creativity, and unforgettable memories at Granada Preparatory School.

Granada Preparatory School Summer Camp & Summer Academy, 10400 Zelzah Avenue, Northridge
(818) 368-7254
office@gpsschool.org
www.gpschool.org



Students can explore a wide variety of subjects, including science, math, art, technology, language arts, cooking, chess, sports, Spanish, drama, and pre-robotics. These programs are designed to inspire curiosity, strengthen skills, and encourage students to discover new interests while having fun.

What sets GPS apart is its commitment to creating an environment where learning and enjoyment go hand in hand. Campers build friendships, develop confidence, and gain valuable experiences that help them grow both academically and socially. Every day brings new opportu-



creativity, exploration, and recreation. Whether your child loves science, art, sports, technology, or simply making new friends, there is something for everyone.

The Preschool Summer Camp welcomes children ages 2 to 5 and provides a nurturing environment where young learners can explore, play, and grow. Campers participate in age-appropriate activities that encourage

the community. The Academy combines academic enrichment with exciting hands-on experiences that keep students engaged throughout the summer months. Morning sessions feature STEM-focused learning and enrichment classes led by qualified educators, while afternoon Fun Clubs provide opportunities for social interaction, arts and crafts, sports, drama, and creative activities.

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SUMMER AT LEONIS Adobe

STEP BACK INTO CALIFORNIA'S RANCHING PAST

By Jeff Aymee

Nestled in the heart of Calabasas, the historic Leonis Adobe offers visitors a unique opportunity to experience California's rich ranching heritage during the summer months. As one of the oldest surviving buildings in Los Angeles County

often called the "King of Calabasas" because of his vast land holdings across the western San Fernando Valley and portions of Ventura County. Over the years, the property evolved into a thriving ranch and remains one of the most significant historic



sites in Southern California. Today, the restored adobe operates as a living history museum, preserving the lifestyle and traditions of California's rancho era.

Summer is one of the best times to visit the museum. The sprawling grounds come alive

and the first designated Historic-Cultural Monument in the City of Los Angeles, the Leonis Adobe Museum provides an engaging blend of history, culture, education, and family-friendly fun.

Originally built in 1844, the adobe became the home of rancher Miguel Leonis,

with educational programs, demonstrations, and opportunities to interact with farm animals. Children especially enjoy meeting sheep, goats, horses, chickens, ducks, and other animals that help recreate the atmosphere of a working 19th-century ranch. The museum's hands-on approach allows young visitors to gain a

deeper appreciation for how Californians lived more than a century ago.

A walk through the adobe reveals beautifully restored rooms filled with period furnishings and artifacts. Visitors can explore the kitchen, parlor, bedrooms, and workspaces



es while learning about the daily routines of ranch families during the late 1800s. Knowledgeable docents share stories about Miguel Leonis, his family, and the colorful history of early California settlement.

The grounds also include the historic Plummer House, originally built in 1874 and relocated to the museum property in the 1980s. Once known as the oldest house in Hollywood, it now serves as a visitor center and offers additional exhibits that help bring local history to life.

Throughout the summer, families can enjoy special living-history programs,

traditional crafts, gardening demonstrations, and seasonal celebrations. The peaceful setting offers a refreshing contrast to modern Southern California life, encouraging visitors to slow down and experience a simpler era. Shaded pathways, heritage gardens, and rustic ranch structures make the property especially photogenic for history enthusiasts and photographers.

For residents of Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills, and the San Fernando Valley, Leonis Adobe is a local treasure that provides an educational and entertaining day trip without leaving the region. School groups, families, history buffs, and tourists alike discover something new with every visit.

More than just a museum, Leonis Adobe serves as a living reminder of the people, cultures, and traditions that shaped early Southern California. This summer, visitors can step through its historic doors and experience firsthand the ranching lifestyle that helped define California's past while creating memories that will last long after the season ends.

For more information, visit www.leonisadobemuseum.org

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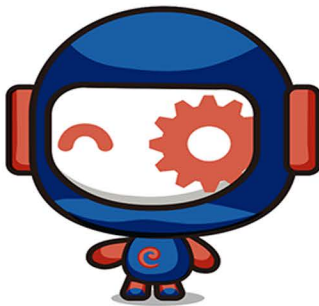
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FASHION



By Lesley Adams

POP-UP CHANGING TENTS

The Beach Essential You Never Knew You Needed

A perfect beach day often includes sunshine, ocean breezes, swimming, surfing, paddleboarding, and plenty of family fun. However, one challenge many beachgoers face is finding a private place to change clothes. Public restrooms can be crowded, distant, or unavailable, and changing under a towel can be awkward. That's where pop-up changing tents come to the rescue.

Pop-up changing tents have become one of the fastest-growing beach accessories in recent years. Lightweight, portable, and incredibly easy to set up, these privacy shelters provide a convenient place to change clothes, put on a swimsuit, shower off sand, or even store personal belongings while spending a day by the water.

Most models use flexible steel frames that instantly spring into shape when removed from their carrying bags. Setup often takes less than a minute, making them ideal for families with

children or anyone who wants to maximize their beach time. When the day is over, the tents fold back into a compact carrying case that can easily fit in a car trunk or beach wagon.

One of the biggest advantages of pop-up changing tents is privacy. Whether you're changing out of a wetsuit after surfing in Malibu, putting on a swimsuit before a day at the beach, or helping young children get dressed, the enclosed design offers a comfortable and secure space. Many tents feature zippered doors, mesh ventilation panels, and weather-resistant materials designed to withstand coastal conditions.

Beyond changing clothes, these versatile tents have several additional uses. Some beachgoers use them as portable shower stations, especially at beaches where public rinse-off facilities are available. Others use them as temporary shade structures for children or as private spaces for nursing mothers. Camp-

ers, hikers, and outdoor sports enthusiasts have also embraced these tents for their convenience during road trips and outdoor adventures.

Modern designs have improved significantly over the years. Premium models now include interior storage pockets, towel hooks, waterproof flooring, and even solar-powered LED lighting for evening use. Some larger versions offer enough room for multiple family members or can double as portable restroom enclosures when camping.

For Southern California beach lovers, portability is particularly important. Beaches from Zuma Beach to Leo Carrillo State Beach often require carrying gear across sand, making lightweight equipment essential. Most pop-up changing tents weigh

between 4 and 8 pounds, striking an ideal balance between durability and convenience.

Prices vary widely, with basic models starting around \$30 and premium versions reaching \$150 or more.

For most families, a mid-range model provides excellent value and years of use.

As beach gear continues to evolve, pop-up changing tents are quickly becoming as common as umbrellas and beach chairs. They offer privacy, convenience, and comfort while helping visitors spend less time worrying about

logistics and more time enjoying the ocean.

Whether you're surfing, swimming, paddleboarding, or simply relaxing by the shore, a pop-up changing tent may be the smartest beach accessory you'll add to your summer lineup.



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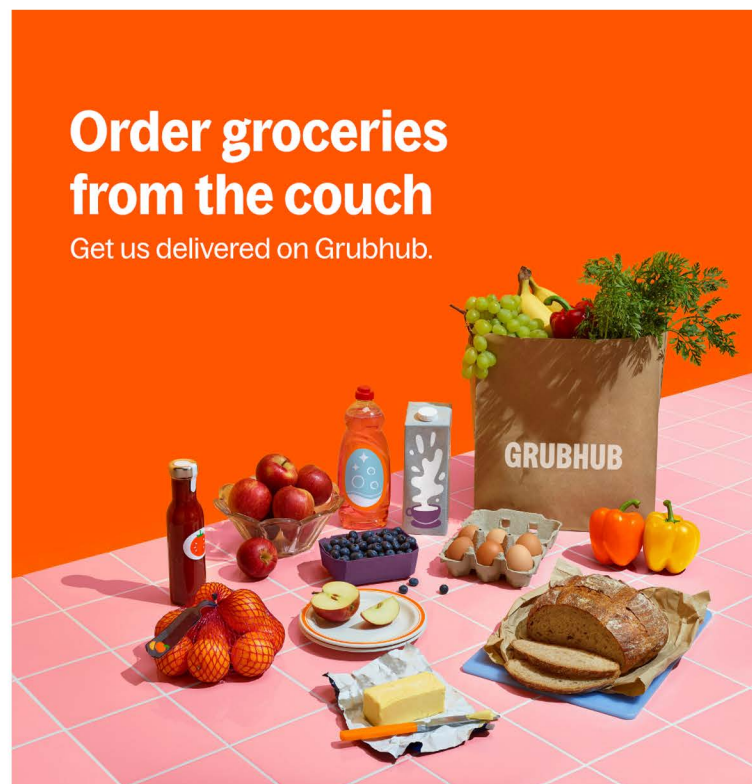
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