

# Sunset

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# Southern California weekend

**Inside** Spend a day in a sporty beach town » A tropical escape in San Diego » Best spots for summer BBQ »



## 1. On the pier

For nearly 90 years, the Manhattan Beach Pier has stretched 928 feet into the ocean, with coastal views all the way north to Malibu. The red-roofed **Roundhouse Marine Studies Lab and Aquarium** sits at the pier's end, with a 3,500-gallon shark tank holding species native to Santa Monica Bay—leopard, swell, and horn sharks. 3 p.m.–sunset Fri, 10 a.m.–sunset Sat–Sun; \$2–\$4 donation suggested; [roundhouseaquarium.org](http://roundhouseaquarium.org)

BY JENNIE NUNN | PHOTOGRAPHS BY GINA SABATELLA

## Day trip Manhattan Beach

**Why go now:** This is the summer spot for big waves, white-sand beaches, pro surfers, and volleyball fanatics. **Event not to miss:** International Surf Festival (Jul 31–Aug 2; *Manhattan Beach Pier*; [surffestival.org](http://surffestival.org)). **Orientation:** MB is one of three major South Bay beach towns, along with Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach. **Dress code:** Board shorts and flip-flops. **Flip a coin:** According to town history, developer John Merrill named the beach for his New York hometown after winning a coin toss in 1902. **More local lore:** Waikiki Beach is made up of white sand shipped over from MB's sand dunes. **For beachy style:** A Summer Place (1401 *Highland Ave.*; 310/545-7080), for scented soaps and linen place-mats. **Afternoon snack:** Crispy asparagus tempura at Sashi sushi and sake lounge (\$\$; 451 *Manhattan Beach Blvd.*; 310/545-0400). **Walk it off:** The Strand is a 20-mile paved path along the beach. For a challenge, try walking the 100-foot-high sandy slope at Sand Dune Park (members of the L.A. Kings sometimes train here).

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