



A short flight from Salt Lake City lands you in Santa Barbara, where the sea meets the mountains and days unfold with waves, wine and just the right amount of wander

BY BRAD MEE

OMETIMES THE BEST ADVENTURE IS THE ONE THAT FEELS ALMOST EFFORTLESS—a quick trip that whisks you away to a world of ocean breezes, sun-drenched hillsides and timeless coastal charm. Just a short, direct flight from Salt Lake City, Santa Barbara offers exactly that kind of easy escape. Framed by the Santa Ynez Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, the American Riviera sets the stage with its iconic white stucco walls, red-tiled rooftops and palm-lined promenades.

It's the perfect base for exploring nearby gems: the relaxed, shopping vibe of Summerland, the discreet luxury of Montecito and the creative energy of Santa Barbara's Arts District and Funk Zone, where galleries, eateries and local makers bring the city's vibrant soul to life. And if you're in the mood for a countryside detour, the rolling vineyards of the Santa Ynez Valley are just a short scenic drive away. Whether you're craving beachside serenity, boutique shopping or a dash of cultural discovery, this

stretch of California coast delivers—and it's closer than you think. Here's how to make the most of your getaway.

Waterfront

Santa Barbara's waterfront is where the city's coastal soul truly shines—it's a breezy blend of sophistication and laid-back charm. Begin your stroll in the Funk Zone, a vibrant neighborhood of former warehouses now brimming with art galleries, wine-tasting rooms and buzzworthy eateries, all just steps from the sea. Across the street, the hip Hotel Californian anchors the scene with its striking Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, modern luxury accommodations and standout dining. Nearby, the Harbor View Inn offers a home base with ocean views and a front-row seat to the coastal rhythm. Wander Stearns Wharf, where sailboats glide by and spots like the recently opened Oyster Bar at Moby Dick Restaurant serve up fresh seafood with sweeping views of the harbor. The waterfront delights with dockside sips at Dart Coffee













Co.'s new harbor outpost and Santa Barbara Whale Watching and Sunset Cruises that whisk you out to sea. Further along the coast, Ellwood at Goleta Beach is a fresh addition to the dining scene, where coastal cuisine meets casual elegance right on the water. Whether you're biking along Cabrillo Boulevard or sunning on the beach, the waterfront invites you to soak it all in—quintessential California with a Santa Barbara twist.

Summerland

A short drive from Santa Barbara, the seaside village of Summerland is a haven for design lovers drawn to its blend of coastal calm and curated charm. Along Lillie Avenue, a delightful mix of home, garden and lifestyle boutiques turns shopping into a carefree, slow-paced treasure hunt. At Shane Brown's The Well, spirited and expertly selected home and garden offerings fill sun-drenched gardens and storybook cottages that embody the shop's signature rustic elegance. Down the road, Godmothers—an independent bookstore and community hub named by Oprah Winfrey-offers over 12,000 curated titles and hosts artist and author events in a chic restored 1920s barn. Across the street, Botanik offers a lush mix of garden accents, décor and inspiration, blending indoor-outdoor style with ease. Nearby, Porch channels relaxed, coastal-inspired style in a two-story dwelling brimming with design pieces for indoors and out. And further along, Field + Fort invites you to linger, whether browsing its broad selection of bespoke furnishings and

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

A young woman rides her bike down Stearns Wharf.

Porch, one of many Summerland home & garden boutiques, welcomes with its relaxed coastal style.

An open door and outdoor table at Gala reflect the restaurant's casual, welcoming vibe.

A fun-loving couple cruises down Cabrillo Boulevard, enjoying the breeze and waterfront views.

The Well in Summerland is a treasure trove of spirited offerings, filling a sun-drenched garden area and cute cottages stocked with antiques and unique finds.

The Hotel Californian's chic lounge showcases Martyn Lawrence Bullard's daring, Moroccan-inspired design.

Kayakers glide through the clear blue waters, taking in views of the scenic waterfront.

OPPOSITE: The Old Mission Santa Barbara, a short drive from the Arts District, offers a serene self-guided tour through historic courtyards, a grand church, an engaging interior and a small museum.







collectibles, or savoring a seasonal meal at its on-site Mediterraneaninspired café, Feast. Don't miss the transportive oasis that is The Sacred Space, where global artifacts and serene gardens blur the line between shopping and spiritual retreat.

Montecito

Tucked between the mountains and the sea, Montecito feels like a hidden enclave of understated luxury, where leafy lanes, elegant estates and a breezy village vibe draw locals, discerning travelers and a quiet contingent of celebrities who appreciate its blend of seclusion and style. Stroll through the Upper Village or along Coast Village Road, where boutiques, jewelers and chic lifestyle shops invite leisurely browsing and shopping. When hunger calls, Bettina is a must, beloved for its wood-fired sourdough pizzas, seasonal small plates and relaxed European charm. Just minutes away, discover the otherworldly beauty of Lotusland, a 37-acre botanical wonderland tucked into the hills. Once the private estate of the eccentric opera singer and garden visionary Madame Ganna

Walska, it's now one of the most breathtaking gardens in the world (reservations required).

Arts District

In the heart of downtown, Santa Barbara's Arts District pulses with culture, flavor and local character. Anchored by the red-tiled rooftops and graceful arches of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, this walkable neighborhood blends historic beauty with creative energy. Start your morning at the Saturday Farmers Market, where chefs and locals mingle over just-picked produce and vibrant blooms. Nearby, the extensively renovated Santa Barbara Museum of Art offers an impressive collection spanning centuries and continents. For dining, the Arts District delivers: Gala charms with its intimate setting and seasonal, locally-sourced menu, while Bouchon offers refined California-French cuisine with a strong nod to the Central Coast's wine country. Before or after dinner, duck into The Good Lion, a moody cocktail bar overlooking State Street and known for expertly crafted drinks and a cozy, elevated vibe. Tucked just a few blocks away, The Canary hotel crowns the district with its rooftop views, boutique sophistication and Finch & Fork, its restaurant serving elevated California comfort food in a welcoming, relaxed setting.

Wine Scene

Santa Barbara is a dream for wine lovers, whether you prefer to sip your way through downtown or venture out to the wine country. Start with the Urban Wine Trail, a collection of relaxed, walkable tasting rooms tucked into neighborhoods like the Funk Zone, the Presidio and State Street, where you can sample everything from crisp Albariños to velvety Syrahs—all without leaving town. For a deeper dive, a scenic 45-minute drive inland leads to the Santa Ynez Valley, home to some of California's most celebrated vineyards. Tour exceptional estates like Sunstone, with its Provençal-style villa. Cap it off with lunch in Los Olivos at Nella Kitchen & Bar, where house-made pastas and seasonal small plates pair perfectly with a local Pinot

LEFT (TOP TO BOTTOM):

On a hillside in Montecito, Lotusland is a breathtaking expanse of exotic gardens and stunning architecture.

A majestic whale breaches the waters off Santa Barbara.

A young family makes lasting memories on their sunny Santa Barbara vacation.

SOURCES

GOING PLACES

PAGES 42-44 AMERICAN RIVIERA

Plan: Visit Santa Barbara, SantaBarbaraCA.com, @VisitSantaBarbara; Stay: Hotel Californian, hotelcalifornian.com; Harbor View Inn, harborviewinnsh.com: The Canary. thecanarysantabarbara.com: Dine: Bouchon. bouchonsantabarbara.com; Ovster Bar at Moby Dick Restaurant, mobydicksb.com; Gala, galasb.com; Finch & Fork, finchandfork.com; The Ellwood at Goleta Beach, ellwoodrestaurant.com; Field + Fort, fieldandfort.com; Bettina, bettinasb.com; Nella Kitchen & Bar, nellakitchen.com; Sip: The Society: State & Mason Tasting Room, hotelcalifornian.com; Dart Coffee Co., dartcoffeeco.com; The Good Lion, goodlioncocktails.com; Urban Wine Trail, urbanwinetrailsb.com Visit: Funk Zone, funkzone. net; Stearns Wharf, stearnswharf.com; Lotusland, lotusland.org; Santa Barbara Farmers' Market, sbfarmersmarket.org; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, sbma.net; Arts District Santa Barbara, artsdistrictsb. org; The Well, @thewellsummerland; Godmothers. godmothers.com; Botanik, botanikinc.com; Porch, porchsb.com; The Sacred Space, The Sacred Space. com; Field + Fort, fieldandfort.com; Santa Barbara County Courthouse, countyofsb.org; Sunstone, sunstonewinery.com

ENTERTAINING

PAGES 48-50 SET FOR SUMMER

Photographer: Sparkle Photography, sparklephoto. com; Planning & Design: Irene + Co Events, irenecoevents.com: Florals: Sweet Afton Floral. sweetaftonfloral.com; Venue: Siempre, siempreutah. com; Rentals: Indigo Event Rentals, indigoutah.com; Draping: Wasatch Audio Visual & Productions, wasatchav.com; Signage: Confettiology, confettiology.com; Linens: BBJ La Tavola, bbjlatavola.com; Catering: Magleby's, maglebys. com; HMUA: Beauty by Reese, beautybyreese.com

PAGES 58-63 DESIGN TAKES ROOT

Photographer: Grey Giraffe Photography, greygiraffe.com; Landscape and Architectural Services: Landform Design Group (LFDG), SLC, landformdesigngroup.com; Landscape Contractor: Ground Level, groundlevelutah.com

PAGES 68-73 JUNIOR SUITE

Photographer: Shelby Bourne, shelbybourne.com; Interior Design: The Fox Group, Holladay, thefoxgroup.com; Lighting: The Bright Group, thebrightgroup.com; Tile: Arto, arto.com; Wallpaper: The Fox Shop, Holladay, thefoxshop.co; Pillow and Chair Upholstery: Pierre Frey, pierrefrey.com; Canopy Bed Fabric: Schumacher, schumacher.com;

PAGES 76-85 MODERN OASIS

Photographer: Jesse Garrett and Steve Swenson, Any Space Media, @steve_swenson_any_space_media; Interior Design: Julia Roberts, HüGA Home, Santa Clara, hugahomedesign.com; Builder: Wayne Anderson, Anderson Custom Homes, St. George, andersoncustomhomesinc.com: Architect: Rob McQuay, McQuay Architects, St. George, mcquayarchitects.com; Appliances & BBQ: Thermador supplied by Mountainland Design, SLC, mld.com; Cabinetry, custom bunks and interior $doors: Riverwoods\,Mill,\,St.\,George, {\it riverwoodsmill}.$ com; Closets, Gun Safe and Laundries: Closet Creations, St. George, closetcreationsut.com; Countertops and slab work: Renaissance Fabrication, St. George, renfabstg.com; Flooring and tile materials: HB Flooring Solutions, St. George, hbflooringsolutions.com; Tile Installation: Band of Brothers Construction; Visual Comfort and Hubbardton Forge light fixtures: Wilkinson's House of Lighting, St. George, shopwilkinsons.com; Pool and Landscape: Cutting Edge Pools and Landscape, St. George, cuttingedgepools.com; Decorative metal work and entry door: Funder Welding & Design, Enoch, fundercustoms.com; Plumbing fixtures: Delta, Brizo, and MTI via Ferguson Kitchen and Bath, SLC, fergusonshowrooms.com; Pavers: Strong Rock Pavers, Provo, strongrockpavers.com; Interior Glass & Mirrors: Mark Singleton of Desert Star Glass, St. George, desertstarglass.com

PAGES 86-95 MOUNTAINS MEET MANHATTAN

Photographer: Lindsay Salazar, lindsaysalazar.com; Interior Design: Bond Design Company, bonddesigncompany.com; Builder: Bailey Construction, Park City, baileyconstructionpc.com; Cabinetry: Pepper Tree Kitchen & Bath, West Jordan, peppertreekitchen.com; Stone Slabs: Italia Granite, Murray, igsmontana.com/home-slc; Slab Fabrication: Granite Kings, SLC, utahgranitekings.com; Window Treatments: Intrigue Window Fashions, instagram. com/intriguewindowfashions; Artwork: Jordan Daines, jordan-daines.com; Plumbing: Waterworks via MLD, SLC, mld.com; Lighting: Visual Comfort, visualcomfort.com, and Lightology, lightology.com; Wallcoverings: Holly Hunt, hollyhunt.com, Holland & Sherry, hollandandsherry.com, Winfield Thybony, winfieldthybony.com, and Phillip Jeffries, phillipjeffries.com; Tile Mosaics: Tile Bar, tilebar.com, Soho Studio, sohostudiocorp.com, New Ravenna, newravenna.com, and Ann Sacks, annsacks, kohler. com; Sofa: Rene Cazares, renecazares.com; Coffee Table: Interlude Home, interludehome.com; Dining Table: Shine by Sho, shomodern.com; Banquette, Chairs and Bedframe: Hickory Chair, hickorychair. com; Range: La Cornue, lacornueusa.com; Cabinet Hardware: Rocky Mountain Hardware, Idaho, rockymountainhardware.com; Ping Pong Table: Eleven Ravens, 11ravens.com;

PAGES 96-105 PARADISE FOUND

Photographer: Lindsay Salazar, lindsaysalazar.com; Building Design: Derek Mecham Design, Ogden, dmechamdesign@gmail.com; General Contractor: Ogden Valley Homes, Ogden, ogdenvalleyhomes@ gmail.com; Interior Design: Iris and Emily, Ogden, irisandemily.com, and Lauren Oviatt Inc., Ogden, laurenoviatt.com; Landscape Design: Io LandArch, Ogden, iolandarch.com; iCLT Timber and Engineering: Euclid Timber Frames, Heber, euclidtf. com; Cabinet Design: Christopher Scott Cabinetry and Design Inc., SLC, christopherscottcabinetry. com; Stone Mason: Evensong Masonry, Plain City, @evensongmasonryart; Circle Sawn Floorboards: Robinson Sawmill, Mountain Green; Mill Work: Ellis Planing Mill, Ogden, ellisplaning mill.com; Custom Furniture: Jock Jones, Springfield,

PAGES 106-113 WHERE ARTISTRY MEETS ELEVATION

Photographer: Rebekah Westover, rebekahwestover. com; Interior Design: The Flairhunter, Park City, theflairhunter.com, and Hughen House, Park City, hughenhouse.com; Builder: J. Ford Construction, Park City, jfordhomes.com; Architect: JSARC Architects, Park City, jsarc.net; Styling: Noelle Wright, @noellewrightstyles; Hardwoods: Signature Floors, SLC, signaturefloors.com; Cabinetry: Swirl Woodcraft, SLC, swirlwoodcraft.com; Stone: European Marble & Granite, SLC, europeanmarbleandgranite.com; Plaster: Marrwall, marrwall.com; Steelwork: Lightning Forge, Murray, lightning-forge.com; Fireplaces: Alpine Fireplaces, Lehi, alpine fireplaces.com; Entry Door: Vision Makers, Sandy, visionmakersintl.com; Elevator: A+ Elevators, SLC, apluselevators.com; Elevator Shaft Graffiti: Champ Styles, Tempe, champstylesarts.com; Butcher Block Counters: John Boos, johnboos.com; Stairwell Art: Nicholas Wilton via Julie Nester Gallery, Park City, julienestergallery.com; Lighting: Allied Maker, alliedmaker.com, CU29, cu-29company.com, John Pomp via John Brooks, Inc., SLC, johnbrooksinc.com, Giopato & Coombes, giopatocoombes.com, and Seimon & Salazar, seimonandsalazar.com; Tile: New Ravenna via Bella Tile, Park City, bellatileandstone.com, Cement Tile Shop, cementtileshop.com, and Opustone via Earth ${\bf Elements, Park\,City, \it earthelements.com}$

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