

Southern California weekend

Inside An all-alfresco day on the coast » Santa Barbara, hold the crowds » Let the beach butler do the work »



1. Hang out with the dolphins

Rent a sit-on-top kayak at **Malibu Surf Shack**, and get a seafarer's view of the coast. You'll glide past the hang-10 mecca Surfrider Beach, Carbon (aka Billionaire's) Beach, and the star-studded Malibu Colony. *Single kayaks \$20/hour, \$35/day; 22935 Pacific Coast Hwy.; malibusurfshack.com or 310/456-8508.*

BY JENNY PRICE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREA M. GÓMEZ

Day trip Malibu

Why go now: Summer weather, no summer crowds. **Get into the great outdoors:** Spend a whole day outside, and you'll understand why the stars (the movie ones) are here—for the sea, mountains, sun, and sky. **Number of coastal miles:** 27 **Number of beaches:** About 30 **Locals call it:** The 'Bu. **Unofficial town square:** The Malibu Country Mart outdoor mall (malibucountrymart.com) and its new neighbor, the Malibu Lumber Yard (thelibulumberyard.com). **Best place to pick up a picnic:** John's Garden takeout deli (\$; 3835 Cross Creek Rd.; 310/456-8377). **Best catch:** Malibu Seafood (\$\$; 25653 Pacific Coast Hwy.; 310/456-3430), a local fave with long outdoor picnic tables overlooking the ocean. **A shake with a view:** Ruby's Shake Shack (\$; 23000 Pacific Coast Hwy.; 310/456-3443), at the end of Malibu Pier, offers a view of world-famous Surfrider Beach. **Best-kept lunch secret:** The Godmother of Malibu (\$\$; closed Sun; 23847 Stuart Ranch Rd.; 310/456-3254) at the private Malibu Racquet Club is open to the public, serving fresh eats and lemonade courtside.

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