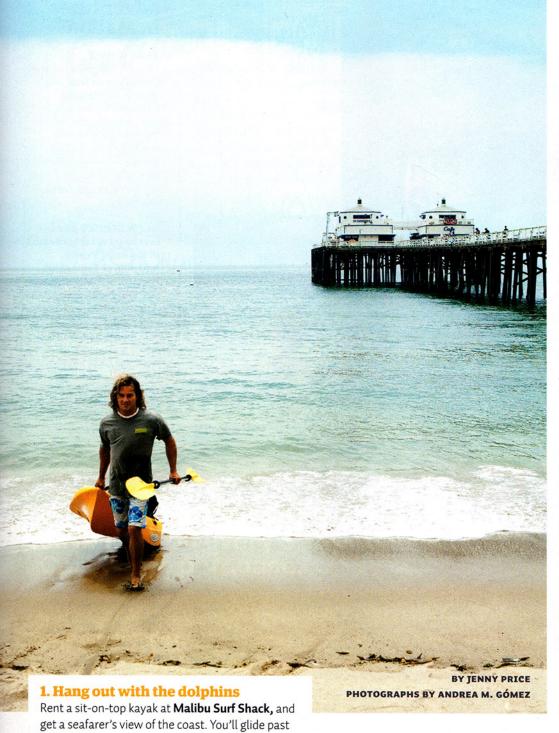
Southern California Weekend Inside An all-alfresco day on the coast » Santa Barbara, hold the crowds » Let the beach butler do the work »



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.

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 (themalibulumber yard.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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From La Jolla to Honolulu, the unforgettable escapes to take this fall

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