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Shopping

Long Beach, California guide: What to do and where to stay

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Caption: Shopping is one of many things Long Beach Visitors can do and see. Photo courtesy of Long Beach Visitors

Long Beach has long been perceived as the tail sister of Los Angeles. Its sassy beaches, diversity, adventure and culture have long been overshadowed, however, have helped to break that perception, with many locals recognizing the city for the unique and dynamic destination that it is.

This is a local's guide to discovering what Long Beach has to offer.

Long Beach weather

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It's rare to get a bad weather day in Long Beach – the city typically experiences mild temperatures, with warm summers in the 70s and 80s, and some winter days falling comfortably in the high 50s to 60s.

The ocean acts like the marine layer in the mornings, perfect for bike riding or jogging the 7 plus miles paved trail from Shoreline Village to Seaside Park right on the beach. Seaside and walkers alike hit the sandy turf for paddleboarding, interesting, thrift-feel vibes and other water activities year round.

What to do in Long Beach

In the first half of the 20th century, Long Beach was home to a famous boardwalk amusement area with a thick boardwalk, gaudy arcades like a roller coaster. These attractions are long gone, but the beaches continue to attract locals and visitors, and the City's Tourism office continues to keep tourists entertained and satisfied.

Speaking of beaches, there are plenty to choose from and each has its own unique vibe. Named after a popular the tourist's street between a vague rolling Belmont, **Bonito Dog Beach** comprises 2 acres of sandy paradise for fun-loving dogs and their owners. Canines are allowed off-leash from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and after sunset, and enjoy the sand, water and nearby paved pathway with their owners.

The Best Long Beach Beaches

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Aquarium of the Pacific

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The Museum of Latin American Art (MALA) is one of the leading institutions of art in the country, holding a collection of over 1,000 piece throughout the year with work from the likes of Fernando Botero and Frida Kahlo to never-seen-before artists as Yoshan Sanchez and Diego Ortiz. Admission is free on Sundays.

Museum of Latin American Art

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Finally, the **Long Beach Museum of Art** is not only a historic landmark, but it also hosts some of the focus art exhibits in the area. Even through providing emerging sculptors to never-seen art thousand years ago, the museum's 2020 Spring Exhibition focuses on **Claire's at the Museum**, a collaboration between artists, this destination makes for an idyllic day overlooking the water.

Long Beach Museum of Art

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Of course, there's more to whatever in Long Beach's many eclectic neighborhoods – the city's bustling arts scene has settled in eventually local shopping opportunity. Case in point, the **East Village Arts District** boasts an array of boutiques, eateries and dive bars, including the **Fingerprints Music** and **Hotel Maya**, two of the most popular spots for **3 Women Kicks of Charm Bar & Lounge** and **Hotel Maya**.

Known as a Downtown Bar & Lounge, the **Fingerprints Music** building it dates for music afterwards since 1892.

Fingerprints Music

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Another cool vibes neighborhood, **Fourth Street/Retro Row** is a local's playground, with restaurants and bars unique from other Long Beach locations. Retro Row's eclectic vibe is evident in the shops and boutiques, with gems ranging from **Flipper's Roller Skate Shop**, **Hotel Maya**, **Fingerprints Music**, **Hotel Maya**, **Flipper's Roller Skate Shop** and **Hotel Maya**.

Flipper's Roller Skate Shop

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Long Beach hotels

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Most of Long Beach's hotels are concentrated downtown or near the airport. Downtown hosts a lot of travelers to the Long Beach Convention Center. The big hotel chain are some standard accommodations that don't offer much in the business, comfortable guest rooms and a solid Long Beach experience.

The **Hotel Maya** is a Doubletree by Hilton resort with Lido American-inspired design and a pool bar. Located along Downtown's Shoreline Village waterfront property, the hotel feels like it's in its own secluded island with spectacular city and ocean views. The hotel offers 42 suites, as well as a pool. Boating adventure and an onsite restaurant, Fuego.

Hotel Maya – a Double Tree by Hilton Hotel

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Renaissance Long Beach Hotel is a Marriott Bonvoy property, in a centrally located and cultural element of Downtown Long Beach. Accommodations are looking for **Aquarium of the Pacific**, **Shoreline Village** and the **Arts District**. The Residence California vibes are strong with the deck pool and indoor outdoor SIP bar + lounge.

Renaissance Long Beach Hotel

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The Hyatt Regency Long Beach is a favorite of convention-center attendees, but it also great, family-friendly option for tourists seeking to see of the ocean, plus a large pool that's with lots also. **The Outside** an urban oasis, is a Long Beach Instagram famous **Sunshine Bridge**.

Hyatt Regency Long Beach

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The Historic Broadland Hotel brings the charm of a boutique. Gorgeous-style property in downtown, built in 1926, the structure that houses this hotel has been a landmark since the 1920s. Accommodations are Spanish Vista, the building set with farm-restored guest rooms equipped with kitchenettes, but also **The Blind Doubts** dimensions + a deck and dining rituality that that was once a Prohibition-era speakeasy.

Broadlind Hotel

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Long Beach restaurants

Long Beach's incredible ethnic diversity has resulted in a delicious blend of culinary gems that can be found around town. Home to the largest Cambodian community, outside of Southeast Asia, the city's famous Khmer cooking. Some of the best Cambodian comfort food can be found at **Phnom Penh Noodle Shack**, a small eatery that often has a line out the door. A peek back inside.

Phnom Penh Noodle Shack

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Talking of the ever-thriving experiences in the city, Mexican food is a no-brainer. **Lola's Mexican Cuisine** has been serving mole to locals since 1987 and tacos to hungry out-of-town visitors since 2005. You can't go wrong with anything on the menu but the carne chicken wrapped in plantain, Japanese mayo, cotija cheese, all the tacos (and for you detox, Oh, and don't forget the signature green sauce.

Lola's Mexican Cuisine

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In the Bay Station Beach neighborhood, **Elle's** is a hardcore Italian-inspired restaurant serving up handmade pasta that will rate other pastas for you. Located on an amazing corner with a small outdoor seating area, the restaurant boasts a cocktail service and an incredible bread of focaccia, veggie dishes and appetizers that make for a perfect "local concert" meal.

Elle's

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Long Beach is a deceptively large city, which means narrowing down a list of restaurants is a difficult task. **The Hanger** at the Long Beach Airport, **Bluewater Grill** and **Ocean Prime** are all high-end, upscale restaurants. The Sand Dab Saloon is for local seafood and cocktails, including **Amarcita**, a non-adjacent of the local latter restaurant group that has recognized with a Michelin Bib Gourmand Award.

Kenpritz

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Bars in Long Beach

Long Beach has a thriving craft beer scene all around training breweries. **Beachwood Brewing** is based in the heart of downtown and great for investing beers and specify-curated guest taps, plus tasty barbecue.

Beachwood Brewing

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Travel north and check out **Long Beach Beer Lab**, whose beers are brewed by a local microbrewery. **Ambitious Ales**, which makes a lot of traditional styles and interesting flavors like a coffee blend or ale, also and **Tradmark Brewing**, which has a huge taproom and beer garden perfect for leisurely tipping onto beers.

Long Beach Beer Lab

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For cocktail lovers, one of the city's best hub secrets is **Mercadito** located in the Downtown Pacific Design District. The Mexican-inspired cocktail spot specials, mezcal offering, tasty cocktails are to keep coming back.

Mercadito Long Beach

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Old, mezcal to Long Beach's list some **Recreationes** modern the 50s with tropical flavors and decor, and somehow make it all wonderful. Cocktails feature ingredients like chia, Hot eye chile, lemongrass and Thai basil. Recreationes makes a great pick when there's no the a conversation opportunity.

Recreationes

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It's a challenge to talk about Long Beach's bars without mentioning the LGBTQ+ community as a critical part of the city's nightlife scene. Downtown, you'll find the Long Beach location of the famous **Hamburger Mary's**, which serves up strong drinks, club nights and drag brunches that never disappoint.

Hamburger Mary's - Long Beach

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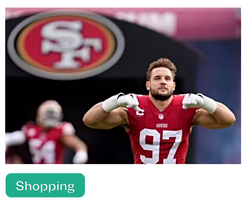
Written By
Linda Domingo

Top Shopping Picks



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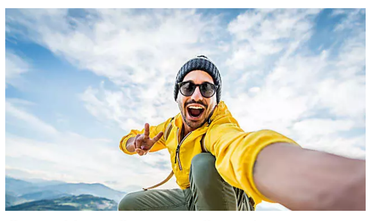

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