

Beach Guide

Balboa Peninsula and Piers

Balboa Peninsula encompasses Newport Pier, Balboa Pier, Balboa Village home of the FunZone, and the world famous body surfing spot the Wedge. Be sure to check out the shops and eateries for beach gear and delicious treats!

When you're on the sand, it's hard to tell that you're on a long peninsula with the Pacific Ocean to one side and Newport Harbor to the other. But this stretch of sand is among the most popular in Newport Beach, stretching from the south jetty, past the Balboa and Newport Piers and ending in what locals call West Newport. Most beaches are known by the number of the street nearby (28th St. and etc.), though surfers and other insiders often give the beaches and surf breaks names like Blackies the River Jetties.

Local Tip: Surfers tend to be early risers (they call it the dawn patrol!), so if you want to get a touch of authentic beach culture, come find a spot on the pier or grab breakfast nearby and catch wave riders in action.

Parking: Spots running Balboa Blvd are available along the outside and inside lanes. Most are metered with machines that accept credit cards and quarters, but a few are free. Parking lots are located off Balboa Blvd. on 22nd Street at the Newport Pier and Palm at the Balboa Pier. Other smaller lots are available and can be found on the parking map ([link](#)). Parking can be difficult to find during peak summer months, so give yourself plenty of time and you may have to walk a few blocks to reach your destination.

Public Restrooms (North to South): West Newport Park (Seashore Dr. and Prospect St. one block in from the sand), Newport Pier, 15th Street, Balboa Pier at Peninsula Park, FunZone

Other Info: Fire pits and barbecues are available at the base of the Balboa Pier. Be advised that charcoal must be used in fire pits- wood is prohibited. Additional barbecues can be found at West Newport Park.

Corona Del Mar

Corona del Mar State Beach consists Big Corona and Little Corona. They are one of Newport Beach's most diverse and well-visited beaches in the summer and a jewel for locals the rest of the year. Easy access for families via the parking lot means that there's lots of gear on the sand, and the jetty that forms one side of the entrance to Newport Harbor keeps the waves generally calm in Big Corona. Little Corona is one

of the few secluded coves on the O.C. coast that doesn't require descending stairs down to the beach. The beach is very well protected from swells and surf, making it great for families. The tide pools make for excellent exploring, but please don't take any sea creatures with you! The coves along this stretch of coast are marine reserves.

Local Tip: Gallo's Deli nearby across PCH has great pre- or post-beach sandwiches, salads and drinks.

Parking: A parking lot is located at the entrance to the park at 3001 Ocean Blvd. Parking costs \$15 for the day.

Restroom: Little Corona (summer months only), Corona del Mar State Beach entrance

Other Info: Fire pits and barbeques are available in Big Corona. Be advised that charcoal must be used in fire pits- wood is prohibited.

Crystal Cove State Park

The Crystal Cove State Park's shore includes a series of rocky coves beneath coastal bluffs, with broad beaches between and hiking trails along the coast and into the hills behind. Crystal Cove State Park provides some of the most varied recreation in Southern California, from snorkelling and surfing to biking, hiking and running on rugged terrain. With support from the non-profit Crystal Cove Alliance, the 46 cottages in the cove are being meticulously restored to their 1930s-'50s-era origins, though with modern amenities. Walking along the sandy paths between the rough-hewn cabins and cottages at the Crystal Cove Historic District is like being transported to a bucolic bastion of California's past. If you're experiencing a bit of déjà vu while walking along the sand, perhaps you've seen the Bette Midler movie *Beaches*, which was filmed in Crystal Cove.

Local Tip: Ruby's Shake Shack on the bluff above Crystal Cove offers take out burgers, breakfast and of course tasty shakes, with one of the best views in all of California.

Parking: To reach the historic district, park in the Los Trancos Lot located off Pacific Coast Highway. Parking is \$15 or free with validation from Beachcomber. To access the park, you can pay \$1 each way for a shuttle ride or take the 10 minute walking path under PCH for free.

Restrooms: Los Trancos Parking Lot, Crystal Cove Historic District, other locations throughout park

Other Info: Beach rentals and items for purchase are available next to the Beachcomber Cafe at their rental stand from mid-June to Labor Day. For guests needing accessibility, beach wheelchairs are available on a first come first serve basis at the Crystal Cove Historic District and Moro Beach

Getting Here

From Los Angeles (50 miles) – Take the 5 or 405 freeways south to the 55 freeway south towards Newport Beach. Take the 55 freeway all the way down until the freeway ends at Newport Blvd.

From San Diego (85 miles) – Take the 5 freeway north to the 405 freeway north. Take the 55 freeway south towards Newport Beach until the freeway ends at Newport Blvd.

From Inland Empire (Temecula, Riverside, San Bernardino) – Take the 15 freeway north to the 91 freeway west. Keep left towards the 55 freeway south towards Newport Beach until the freeway ends at Newport Blvd.

For Balboa Peninsula: Keep going straight ahead on Balboa Blvd. Turn right onto 22nd Street to park at the Newport Pier or continue and turn right on Palm to park at the Balboa Pier. Look for signs to guide you, or just park at any meter along Balboa Blvd.

For Corona Del Mar: Take the Coast Highway exit off Newport Blvd. south toward Laguna Beach. Turn right onto Marguerite Ave. then right onto Ocean Ave, and the parking lot will be on your left

For Crystal Cove State Park: Take the Coast Highway exit off Newport Blvd. and head south toward Laguna Beach. Continue down Pacific Coast Highway, then turn left on Los Trancos to reach the parking lot