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### Water Recreation

Newport Beach offers a rare coastal combination for the visitor: an eco-friendly estuary teeming with life, a world-renowned luxury yacht harbor and on either side of the harbor are miles of classic California beaches. There are stretches of smooth sand that are bastions of beach culture, surf breaks that draw wave riders from around the world and pristine rocky coves sheltering lush undersea environments.

### Beaches

To orient the reader, picture Newport Harbor in the middle, with miles of beaches up and down the coast on either side of the harbor. With the exception of private residential islands in the harbor and a few coves in Corona del Mar, all of the city's beaches are accessible to the public.

#### Balboa Peninsula

Some of the most popular beaches are on the Balboa Peninsula, which stretches for 3 miles with the Pacific Ocean on one side and Newport Harbor on the other. The Peninsula includes the Newport Pier, with nearby beaches like Blackies, and the Balboa Pier at Balboa Village.

#### The Wedge (located on Balboa Peninsula)

The tip of the peninsula is the end of the sand, and features The Wedge. The famous body surfing spot draws experienced wave-riders from around the world when the break gets big as waves hit the harbor jetty and rise to 20 feet or higher.

#### Corona del Mar State Beach

On the other side of the channel that connects Newport Harbor to the ocean is Corona del Mar State Beach. Called Big Corona, it's one of Newport



Beach's most family-friendly and well-visited beaches. Sailboats, yachts, sea lions and often dolphin can be seen cruising in and out of the harbor from the walkway along the jetty, and stairs nearby provide access down to Pirate's Cove, a small beach with caves and rocks that was seen in Gilligan's Island, among other TV shows and movies. The adjacent Little Corona beach is smaller and more secluded, with tide pools and rocky coves to explore.

### Crystal Cove State Park

For those wanting a classic (and generally less crowded) coastal experience, Crystal Cove State Beach is the place. Walking along the sandy paths between the restored cabins and cottages at the Crystal Cove Historic District is like being transported to California's past. And the shoreline on either side includes a series of rocky coves beneath coastal bluffs, with broad beaches between and hiking trails along the coast and into the hills behind.

### Newport Harbor

The waterfront along Newport Harbor is lined with beautiful homes, marinas, yacht clubs, restaurants and a resort, and the harbor is afloat with yachts, electric Duffy boats, standup paddleboards and sailboats, large and small. One of the best ways for visitors to experience the beauty and variety of the nautical wonder is to get on the water. Options include a short ride on the charming Balboa auto ferry, joining a harbor cruise or gondola, renting a Duffy Electric Boat, pontoon, kayak or standup paddleboard. Many of the restaurants have public moorings for a Dock & Dine experience. Balboa Island, Inspiration Point and Balboa Village are among the best places to view the harbor life from dry land.

### Dock & Dine

Newport Beach offers a unique foodie experience, the Dock & Dine! Newport Harbor is home to several harbor-front restaurants offering everything from international fare, to casual family-friendly menus to world-class seafood and steak cuisine. Restaurants have public dock space available for boaters to dock their vessels and enjoy a meal inside or grab an order to savour on board. If you don't have boating experience, don't



worry! Anyone can rent and cruise around Newport Harbor in an easy-to-manuever Duffy Electric Boat, invented in Newport Beach. Before or after your dining adventure, cruise around Newport Harbor and take in the charming homes that line the waterfront promenades, while listening to barking sea lions, and wave to fellow boaters and kayak paddlers. And boating often turns to dining in one form or another. Only visitors to Newport Beach can experience this unique foodie experience, sure to delight travellers or all ages.

### Nautical Lineage

Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall kept a boat berthed at a dock in Newport Harbor, and often sailed around the bay and up and down the coast. Bogie served in the Coast Guard, and Bacall would often come down from Hollywood to meet him in Balboa as he disembarked. Newport Beach has a rich nautical history, from the glamour of private yacht clubs and world-class sailboat races to a waterfront that was once home to shipbuilders, fishing fleets, and canneries. Glimpses of the nautical past of Newport Beach can be seen in Lido Village and Cannery Village neighborhoods, where warehouses and docks have been converted into restaurants and residential lofts, while still maintaining a connection to the area's waterfront history. A cruise around Newport Harbor reveals that the homes on the water almost all have private docks with boats large and small berthed there. At the Balboa Bay Resort, guests can enjoy dining while watching grand yachts and local kids in sailboats cruising by. The Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade features boats of all sizes decorated and lit in holiday themes, sailing the harbor as crowds of visitors and locals gather to watch the colorful spectacle. In spring, the Newport to Ensenada International Yacht Race draws top sailors, fun-loving locals and thousands of spectators for the 125-mile race from the waters off Newport Beach to Baja, Mexico. And year around, visitors can cruise the harbor on charter boats, join harbor tours or rent their own electric Duffy boat for a Dock & Dine experience at a variety of waterfront restaurants. Take a harbor tour or sailing lessons at Newport Beach Sailing School, The School of Sailing and Seamanship, Marina Sailing, or other schools on the harbor.

### Upper Newport Bay (Back Bay)



Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve is one of the largest wild wetlands and most important nature preserves in California, and it's an oasis for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. There is a 10.5-mile Back Bay Loop Trail for walking, hiking and biking that circles through the area. To get a fuller understanding, check out Muth Interpretive Center where readers learn about the variety of species that live at the bay. Scenic and nature tours, guided and self-guided, are available via kayaks and paddleboards, and there are rentals and lessons available, too. Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina features calm water with sandy beaches and plenty of activities for all, including rentals of kayaks, paddleboards, bikes, Duffy Electric Boats, Segways and more. The Newport Dunes Water Park features inflatable slides, trampolines and climbing walls, all floating in the bay for kids and young-at-heart adults.