

HOW TO DO OXNARD

LIKE A LOCAL

Here's our guide to the best spots frequented by Oxnard's own.
So sit back, relax and live like a local.

by brittney hendricks



Find Insta-worthy murals
at Silver Strand Beach.

BRITNEY HENDRICKS



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SILVER STRAND BEACH

Named after the silver screen, Silver Strand Beach is the southernmost beach in Oxnard, hugged by a colorful neighborhood of stunning homes, corner stores and **The Yoga Channel**, a boutique yoga studio.

Head toward the beach's southern point to check out the historic La Jennelle shipwreck that forms Silver Strand's jetty. Along the way, you'll catch sight of striking murals adorning the walls of **Port Hueneme Naval Base**.

Located along the harbor inlet, the fun environs of **Kiddy Beach Park** make the perfect spot for a family-friendly excursion.

After your beach-time fun, fill up at **Jetty Surf Café**, which offers a delicious menu of chicken shawarma, lamb gyros and kabob plates to match Oxnard's Mediterranean climate. Hungry for barbecue? **Quincy Street** can fix you right up with a rack of ribs that are finger-lickin' good. Finish the day

with a pint at **Beachcomber Tavern** — but not before paying a visit to **Miscellaneous Treasures**, a veritable treasure trove of antique finds and thrifty goods.

1: Take in spectacular sunsets at Silver Strand Beach; **2:** Explore the tranquil neighborhoods that once housed Hollywood's A-list stars; **3:** Enjoy family fun at Kiddy Beach Park.



HOLLYWOOD BEACH

Pedal up to the counter of **Palm & Boy Coffee and Acai** in the centermost neighborhood along Oxnard's coast. Grab a complimentary Mexican blanket, find a seat at a picnic bench beneath a stylish tasseled umbrella and await your selection from a menu that includes sandwiches, avocado toast, yogurt bowls and more.

For a true local hangout, round the corner to find the best dive bar in town, **The Rudder Room**. Guests can sit with their toes in the sand, drinking cocktails and playing beach volleyball while enjoying clear views of the Channel Islands. Up the street, **Hollywood Beach Café** serves up fried chicken and waffles, short stacks and classic burgers just a short walk from the beach.

1: Palm & Boy Coffee and Acai; **2:** Bring along the pooch for fun at the beach. **3:** Retro lifeguard stations at Hollywood Beach.

1: STEEL CUT; 2: STOCKSY.COM



3: BLAKE BRONSTAD; COURTESY OF THE USC LIBRARIES - DICK WHITTINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION



Hollywood By the Sea

Once dubbed "Hollywood by the Sea," the stretch of coastline that would make up Hollywood Beach and Silver Strand Beach first came into the spotlight in the 1920s as a faux Arabian desert in the 1921 blockbust-

er, *The Sheikh*. A few years later, the land was developed into beachfront property, with streets named after famous Hollywood thoroughfares: Sunset Drive, La Brea Street, Laurel Court and more. The community also catered to golden-era entertainers, with several A-list

stars such as Greta Garbo, Clark Gable and Rudolph Valentino owning vacation homes here. In the 1960s, the Channel Islands Harbor was constructed, splitting Hollywood by the Sea into two separate beachfront communities.

CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR

Opposite Hollywood Beach, Channel Islands Harbor's **Marine Emporium Landing** is home to several of the best restaurants in town: **Moqueca Brazilian Cuisine, Waterside Restaurant, Honey Cup Coffee & Kitchen** and **Sea Fresh**. But fine dining is only half the fun at the harbor. The horseshoe-shaped waterway is the fifth largest in California for small-craft recreation, making it a bona fide boater's utopia.

Nine-time national surf champ and owner of **Channel Islands Kayak Center** Mike Lamm leads family-friendly kayaking tours from the docks below. More aquatic entertainment can be found at **SoCal Jet Ski, Channel Islands Parasail, Wild Blue Adventures, A&M Yacht Charters and Cruises, Doug's Channel Islands Tours** and **Island Packers**, the exclusive concessionaire to **Channel Islands National Park**. Discover historical paintings, model ships

and naval nonpareils at **Channel Islands Maritime Museum**. On the harbor, locals bike, skate and stroll the boardwalk of the harbor's nine full-service marinas, where water taxis drop diners and shoppers off at various docks.

1: The sun sets over the sailboats at Channel Islands Harbor's Marine Emporium Landing; 2: A local surfer carves up the waves.



TAMMI SKIBA



DAVE CASTRO

OXNARD SHORES

Although it's the most popular beach in Oxnard, there's still plenty of room to stretch out and relax. At **Oxnard Beach Park**, 62 acres of recreation space serves as a regular host for local events, including the **Oxnard Jazz Festival** and the **Native American Peoples Intertribal Powwow**. A paved boardwalk lined with towering palms and rolling lawns leads the way to **Mandalay State Beach**, which is overlooked by the luxurious **Embassy Suites by Hilton Mandalay Beach Hotel & Resort**, a popular venue for weddings.

Weekly yoga sessions are held on the grass and the sand, culminating in this year's 10th anniversary of **Yoga by the Sea**. Walk a block inland to **The Shores Bar & Restaurant**, where you can play shuffleboard with friends while sipping on a selection of signature cocktails and beers on tap, plus delectable bar-style appetizers and main courses as well as fine dining options such as scallops and pappardelle sugo. A few doors down, enjoy local craft beer from **Red Tandem Brewery**, a microbrewery that's big on flavor and style. 🍷

Surf Breaks

Surf breaks are seasonal in Oxnard. Beginner-level waves (soft-breaking) are found to the north of Oxnard; two beaches ideal for newbies are Ventura's Mondos along Pacific Coast Highway or the beach at Ventura Harbor. For intermediate-level waves throughout the year, head to **Mandalay State Beach/Oxnard Shores**, where the waves are easiest to tame in the summertime as swells bypass Oxnard's beaches through the Santa Barbara Channel.

If you're ready for the big surf, chase powerful, expert-level waves at **Silver Strand Beach**, a world-class surfer's paradise. In the winter, intense swells produce breaks like the Banzai Pipeline in Hawaii that are perfect for tube riding. Catch a barrel at one of the surfing world's best-kept secrets.