



Surfline's  
**SF-San Mateo County**  
Surf Guide

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***Surfline***  
**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

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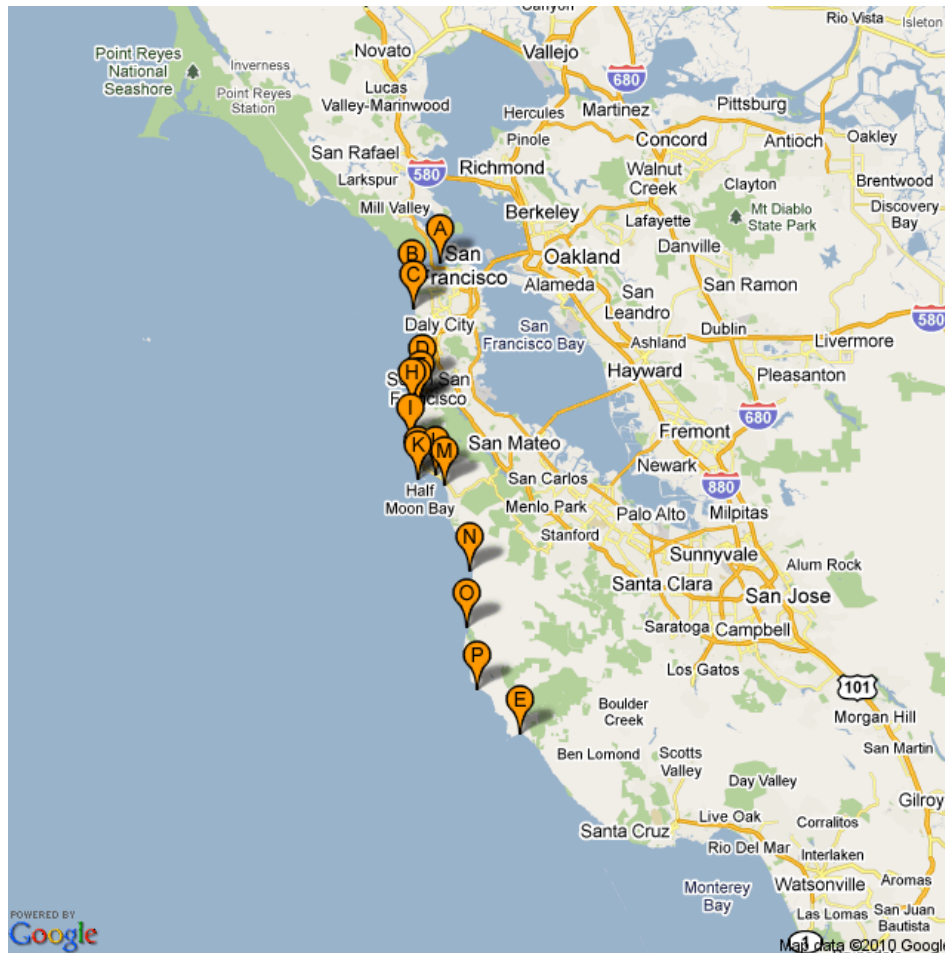
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## SF-San Mateo County Map



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## Fort Point



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

The first surf spot in North Central California, and one of the most unusual places to go surfing on the planet, Fort Point is a left that breaks directly under the Golden Gate Bridge. On the best days, the wave starts around the point, directly under the bridge and wraps nearly 90 degrees into the cove on the inside.

Fort Point is an experience: safe and dangerous, beautiful and eerie, exposed and protected, easy and hard. All of these things at the same time.

Fort Point is safe because when the big, bad ocean outside the bay is closed out, blown out or otherwise unsurfable, Fort Point can be 4 to 6 feet, hot and glassy. During the winter, Fort Point is usually offshore and rarely blows out, even in the strongest northwest winds.

Fort Point is dangerous for a few reasons. When the ocean is pouring in and the tide is pouring out, there's a lot of water going every which way under the bridge. Outgoing tides rip through here like the Colorado River. On the strongest tides in the winter, the current flows out as fast as seven knots, too strong to paddle against. Another danger is that the break is lined with rocks, and there is a big rock in the middle of the break, marking the inside lineup. A wipeout on a big day here could be harmful or fatal if you get swallowed by the rocks. A lot of Fort Point locals wear helmets and those nasty rocks are why. Finally, it can be tricky getting in and out through the rocks that line the break. And then there's always the possibility of some nutcase jumping off the bridge and landing on your head.

Fort Point is beautiful because the view from the water at the Point is overwhelming: the Bridge overhead, the Marin Headlands to the northwest, Tiburon and Belvedere to the northeast and all of San Francisco straight inland. On a windy weekend, the Bay is a field of sails and boats, with container ships and freighters weaving through the chaos.

Fort Point is spooky because it's like surfing in the Land of the Giants. Everything around you is grotesquely out of scale: the bridge towers above you and the container ships are immense and close. And all that out-of-scale-ness makes you think of submarine-size great whites, but don't worry...too much. There's never been an attack at Fort Point, but in 1959, a man was killed by a shark at Baker Beach, less than a mile away.

Fort Point can be a pretty good wave. With the right angle on the swell and the right tide and the right wind, it's a decent left point: sometimes hollow, sometimes fun, sometimes blown and ragged and

**Best Tide:**

low and incoming

**Best Swell Direction:**

Medium period W, NW

**Best Size:**

chest-high to a few feet overhead

**Best Wind:**

E, light NW

**Perfect-O-Meter:**

5 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

**Bottom:**

death boulders, abandoned Chevrolets

**Ability Level:**

intermediate to advanced

**Bring Your:**

shortboard, booties, safety net, bungee cord, anchor

**Best Season:**

winter

**Access:**

look for the bridge, follow the signs to Fort Point and park virtually on top of the break

**Crowd Factor:**

Stifling

**Local Vibe:**

Fee fi fo fum, I smell the blood of a Souther-man.

**Bicep Burn:**

8, during an outgoing tide (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

**Poo Patrol:**

5 plus. This is San Francisco Bay emptying, after all. (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

**Hazards:**

flying bodies, grouchy locals, foot-slicing boulders, errant container ships and getting sucked out to Potato Patch with the outgoing tide.

gnarly and challenging. This wave is the definition of fickle: tide sensitive, wind sensitive. Not the hollowest wave in California or the longest-walled or the fastest, but definitely in the top five for being an unusual experience.

More Fort Point Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

## Ocean Beach



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

It's a nice drive from Fort Point to Ocean Beach: along Baker Beach (no surf), past the ritzy Seacliff neighborhood (Robin Williams lives in here somewhere) through the Presidio, along a nice golf course with a million-dollar view of the Golden Gate and the Marin Headlands, left at the Palace of the Legion of Honor and out into the civilized world. Down Geary Street to Cliff House, the civilized world ends and the natural world begins, dramatically. Turn a corner and --pow! -- there's the Pacific Ocean in all its glory.

That turn at Ocean Beach is always dramatic because, to steal a phrase from Forrest Gump, Ocean Beach is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. Ocean Beach is the most emotional stretch of beach in all of California, and perhaps the world, because it's located dead center in the middle of California, and it's open to every burble and bellow from the north and the south. The winds are dynamic, but the real factor is the tide. All that water moving in and out of the Golden Gate sweeps up and down Ocean Beach with enough force to dislocate swell and shift sandbars from hour to hour. Ocean Beach has many, many moods, from the manic ecstasy of clear, blue offshore fall days to the gloom and doom of stormy winter, windy spring and gray summer. There is no stretch of ocean in California that changes as much from hour to hour, day to day and season to season as Ocean Beach.

When Ocean Beach is on, you will see three miles of shifting, meaty, dark-green offshore peaks, from head-high to triple-overhead, cannonading the surf zone from south, west and north. A perfect day at Ocean Beach can be a mind-boggling sight, a mile after mile of perfect surf, with scattered humans doing their best to paddle through the impact zone, make it out the back and catch one of the buggers.

On a lot of days at Ocean Beach, just getting out can be a major accomplishment. Depending on swell and tide and sandbar, on many days there is a 200-yard "zone of death" in between the beach and the lineup. It can be as hard to get off the beach and out to sea for a surfer as it was for a marine to get from sea to shore on the beaches of Normandy. It takes knowledge, skill, strength and courage, but the deciding factor on a lot of days is still dumb luck.

Make it outside, and there are rewards, but your troubles aren't necessarily over. A good day at Ocean Beach is as good as any beachbreak in the world, but the good peaks here have a maddening quality of always being 50 yards away from where you're sitting. Even good surfers who surf the place all the time will get skunked, catching maybe one or two waves an hour, while paddling back and forth, trying to hunt down the big, shifting beasts.

#### Best Tide:

varies with swell and sandbar and part of the beach

#### Best Swell Direction:

NW, W, SW

#### Best Size:

waist-high to triple overhead

#### Best Wind:

E

#### Perfect-O-Meter:

1 to 10 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

#### Bottom:

sand

#### Ability Level:

intermediate to iron man

#### Bring Your:

shortboard to rhino chaser

#### Best Season:

fall and winter

#### Access:

Public parking on the north and south ends. Parking in the avenues for the rest of it.

#### Crowd Factor:

Despite a long 3 mile beach, crowds are steadily increasing.

#### Local Vibe:

Small days see some attitude

#### Bicep Burn:

10, if it's solid overhead (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

#### Poo Patrol:

3 (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

#### Hazards:

Frozen foreheads, noodle arm, broken boards, clean-up sets, and the current

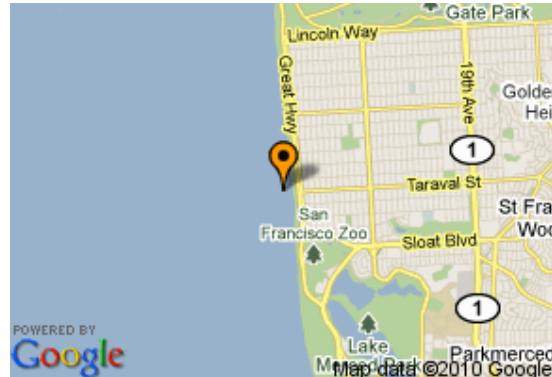
Ocean Beach is bordered by Kelly's Cove on the north end and Sloat Street on the south end. In between are three miles of beachbreaks, which become emptier and lonelier from north to south. There is lots parking from Kelly's Cove down to VFW's in front of Golden Gate Park. At Lincoln Avenue, the parking lot ends, the dunes begin and the streets become alphabetical, beginning at Irving and running all the way to Wawona. You have to park along La Playa or Great Highway the Lesser to walk across Great Highway the Greater to get to the beach. Remember to look both ways as you cross Great Highway because traffic goes by fast.

More Ocean Beach Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)



## South Ocean Beach



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

It's a nice drive from Fort Point to Ocean Beach: along Baker Beach (no surf), past the ritzy Seacliff neighborhood (Robin Williams lives in here somewhere) through the Presidio, along a nice golf course with a million-dollar view of the Golden Gate and the Marin Headlands, left at the Palace of the Legion of Honor and out into the civilized world. Down Geary Street to Cliff House, the civilized world ends and the natural world begins, dramatically. Turn a corner and --pow! -- there's the Pacific Ocean in all its glory.

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### Best Tide:

varies with swell and sandbar and part of the beach

### Best Swell Direction:

NW, W, SW

### Best Size:

waist-high to triple overhead

### Best Wind:

E

### Perfect-O-Meter:

1 to 10 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

### Bottom:

sand

### Ability Level:

intermediate to iron man

### Bring Your:

shortboard to rhino chaser

### Best Season:

fall and winter

### Access:

Public parking on the north and south ends. Parking in the avenues for the rest of it.

### Crowd Factor:

Despite a long 3 mile beach, crowds are steadily increasing.

### Local Vibe:

Small days see some attitude

### Bicep Burn:

10, if it's solid overhead (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

### Poo Patrol:

3 (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

### Hazards:

Frozen foreheads, noodle arm, broken boards, clean-up sets, and the current



Ocean Beach is bordered by Kelly's Cove on the north end and Sloat Street on the south end. In between are three miles of beachbreaks, which become emptier and lonelier from north to south. There is lots parking from Kelly's Cove down to VFW's in front of Golden Gate Park. At Lincoln Avenue, the parking lot ends, the dunes begin and the streets become alphabetical, beginning at Irving and running all the way to Wawona. You have to park along La Playa or Great Highway the Lesser to walk across Great Highway the Greater to get to the beach. Remember to look both ways as you cross Great Highway because traffic goes by fast.

More South Ocean Beach Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

## Sharp Park



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

There is a long stretch of open beach running south from Sloat Street and along the Daly City headland. There is surf all along there but few surfers, as access takes a bit of effort.

Pacifica begins at Mussel Rock, which is near the Daly City/Pacifica border. You can get there by taking the Manor Drive exit, and weaving north through the residential streets. There is a parking lot which has a view north to all that inaccessible coast below the Daly City cliffs.

From Mussel Rock all the way south to Mori's Point, there are around three miles of beach and reefbreaks, fronting the lovely coastal hamlet of Pacifica.

Did we say "lovely?" Well, that's going a little far. Pacifica can be lovely on the right clear, blue offshore day in fall, winter or spring. But generally, Pacifica is most often associated with gray gloominess, onshore winds and crummy surf.

Think of northern Pacifica as the NorCal version of Oceanside: miles of ungroomed beach, beachbreaks and reefbreaks overlooked by apartments, mobile homes and RV parks. There's a concrete pier down at the south end, like Oceanside, then the road ends at the Sharp Park Golf Course.

Pacifica is mostly a local scene, as the conditions are fickle and you have to be on top of it to get it. If you're driving north to south, you'll get an overview of the whole beach from up on top of the hill. If it looks like something is happening down there, take one of the exits and check it out.

More Sharp Park Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

**Best Tide:**

Varies. Depends on bottom contour.

**Best Swell Direction:**

N, NW, W

**Best Size:**

waist-high to double overhead

**Best Wind:**

E

**Perfect-O-Meter:**

4 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

**Bottom:**

mostly sand, some reef

**Ability Level:**

intermediate to experienced

**Bring Your:**

shortboard to semi-gun

**Best Season:**

fall or spring

**Access:**

Easy. Several exits off Highway 1, parking along most of the beach.

**Crowd Factor:**

Usually empty, occasionally crowded

**Local Vibe:**

Very little, unless you happen upon a reef or sandbar where all 10 of the locals are surfing that day.

**Bicep Burn:**

5. Moderate. (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

**Poo Patrol:**

3. High potential, although we can't prove it. (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

**Hazards:**

depression from the summer fog, nursing gray whales in the spring, nasty shorebreak on big winter days

## Ano Nuevo



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

Renowned soul man Stone Parker has claimed to surf the reefs north of Ano Nuevo. You can see them off in the distance across a field as you approach Ano Nuevo from the north. This is a place that absolutely vibrates with the theme from *Jaws*. There are lots of reefs out there, but you have to ask yourself a question: "How much fun do you want to have?"

There also is a big left that breaks off the north side of Ano Nuevo Island. If anyone has surfed this spot, they aren't talking about it, most likely because they are dead.

A lot of people surf the small right that breaks on the south side of Ano Nuevo Point. This is a state park and a place that is very popular with Santa Cruz guys, particularly in the summer, as Ano Nuevo faces south and it can be the only rideable wave on the coast. There is a right that wedges off the stone walls, and it can be very hollow and very good. The northwest winds blow offshore here, which is good, but the northwest winds also keep the place in a constant state of upwelling, which is bad. Ano Nuevo is infamous for having the coldest damn water in Northern California.

Ano Nuevo is the southernmost points on the Red Triangle, but there has never been an attack there on a surfer, for some reason, although a kayaker named Ken Kelton had his kayak bit there in November of 1992.

Shark story number three and a half: a Santa Cruz surfer named Jack Kennon was surfing at Ano Nuevo when a seal pup crawled up his back, tearing his wetsuit. Kennon took that as a sign and got out of the water just as a buddy was yelling "Shark!" They saw a big whitey cruising just offshore. Kennon had to buy a new wetsuit.

More Ano Nuevo Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

**Best Tide:**

incoming to high, for the bounce

**Best Swell Direction:**

S, NW, N

**Best Size:**

small to overhead

**Best Wind:**

E, NW winds are offshore here

**Perfect-O-Meter:**

8 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

**Bottom:**

sand and rock

**Ability Level:**

intermediate to expert

**Bring Your:**

hiking boots, anti-shark beeper, camera, good wetsuit

**Best Season:**

year-round

**Access:**

It's a State Park. Pay fee, leave car in parking lot and walk in.

**Crowd Factor:**

Sometimes high. Tight area.

**Local Vibe:**

Sometimes high. Tight area.

**Bicep Burn:**

2 (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

**Poo Patrol:**

1. Only seagull and seal poo. (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

**Hazards:**

Shark bite and frost bite. Rip-offs in the parking lot.

## Rockaway



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

Back in the '80s, one of the surf magazines ran a black and white Don Montgomery photo of an unidentified hellman bottom-turning on an unidentified hellwave, somewhere in Northern California. This was all pre-Maverick's, but that wave gave some indication of what was to come in this neck of the woods.

The surfer, it turns out, was a guy from the Delta named Brian Zelles. And the wave was at Rockaway Beach. This rocky little cove is the first accessible stretch of coast after Sharp Park. The main break at Rockaway is a right that breaks on the south end of a beach, into a deep channel along the point. That channel makes it possible to get out on the biggest days, and Rockaway Beach definitely has some big days.

On west and southwest swells there is also a left at the south end of the beach. There are beachbreaks from the south point to the north point and then that big right at the north end. This is a bit of a mysto spot that doesn't get surfed much. When it's big enough for this place to be breaking, there are other places to go.

When the ocean is moving, Rockaway fills up with a lot of moving water, all of it looking for somewhere to escape. This place can be treacherous on a big swell and an outgoing tide, so use caution.

There are lots of places to eat down here, and Rockaway is always worth a look, but only sometimes worth a surf.

More Rockaway Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

#### **Best Tide:**

low and incoming to medium

#### **Best Swell Direction:**

NW, W, SW

#### **Best Size:**

small to double overhead

#### **Best Wind:**

E

#### **Perfect-O-Meter:**

4 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

#### **Bottom:**

sand and reef

#### **Ability Level:**

intermediate to hellman

#### **Bring Your:**

paddling gloves, good wetsuit, EPIRB for outgoing tides

#### **Best Season:**

fall, winter, spring

#### **Access:**

Easy turn off freeway at Rockaway Ave.  
Parking at the end.

#### **Crowd Factor:**

Minimal, most of the time. Crowded when it's good.

#### **Local Vibe:**

Yes, when it's on. Mean surfers with mean looks.

#### **Bicep Burn:**

2 to 10 (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

#### **Poo Patrol:**

5 (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

#### **Hazards:**

Heavy currents, shorebreak on rocks and big swells are gnarly in here

## Pacifica/Lindamar



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

Ever see the movie *Harold and Maude*? At the end, when Harold drives his hearse off the cliff, that's the north end of Linda Mar. Cool little factoid.

Linda Mar is a mile-long stretch of beach between the north point and Pedro Point. Because this place is somewhat protected from swell and wind, it is a mostly beginner to intermediate wave that has become staggeringly popular with the gentry.

Pedro Point has had a thriving surf scene since the '40s, but things have changed since the balsa days. There was a time when the only surfers in the parking lot at Linda Mar were a couple of guys in cut-off Levis with their boards strapped the wrong way to the roof of a GTO or a Camaro, or going further back, to the roof of a Woody. These days, the parking lot at Linda Mar seems to be full of SUVs and people with surfboards. Many of those people are women. Linda Mar has its epic days, but for the most part, the surf ranges from poor to so-so, and the water is crowded with beginners and intermediate surfers. "It's the poor man's Cowell's," as one local surfer described it.

Linda Mar has a reputation for being gray and gloomy, but even in the thick of the region's summer fog season, there's often an inexplicable donut of sunshine beating down on the place. In the fall and winter and into the spring, it can be a very pretty place: green hills, offshore winds, blue water, nice surf. Linda Mar is at the end of a big valley that funnels south and southwest winds into offshores, and the surf can be cranking there during the winter, when the rest of the coast is blown out. The same condition can exist in the summer, when that valley will turn the onshore fog winds into offshores. Linda Mar can be sunny and nice when Ocean Beach is like Moscow in winter.

From north to south, the first spot at Linda Mar is called Round House. Next is Wander Inn, named for a bar that thrived in the '60s and introduced a lot of young surfers to the evils of drink. South of Wander Inn, there is a parking lot and showers and some of the funkiest toilets in California. This area is called State Park or the Pump House. South of that is the best-looking Taco Bell you'll ever find, then The Creek, where a small, possibly toxic creek comes out to sea. At the south end of Linda Mar, The Boatdocks are lefts that break along the point in front of Dick Keating's house.

More Pacifica/Lindamar Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

#### **Best Tide:**

High and incoming

#### **Best Swell Direction:**

W, NW, N

#### **Best Size:**

small to double overhead

#### **Best Wind:**

S or E (good place to go when the south winds blow)

#### **Perfect-O-Meter:**

6 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

#### **Bottom:**

sand

#### **Ability Level:**

beginner to board to advanced

#### **Bring Your:**

surfboard and wetsuit and best pick-up line

#### **Best Season:**

fall, winter, spring

#### **Access:**

easy parking in the lot

#### **Crowd Factor:**

crowded sometimes, but mostly beginner to intermediate surfers

#### **Local Vibe:**

pleasant, mostly

#### **Bicep Burn:**

4 (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

#### **Poo Patrol:**

8 in front of the creek, 5 over the rest of the beach. (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

#### **Hazards:**

crummy weather, boredom, poundings possible on big days.



## Pedro Point



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

At the south end of Linda Mar, Pedro Point is a cool little beach community built into the side of a hill, overlooking all of Linda Mar and off toward San Francisco. This is the Palos Verdes of Pacifica, where an ostrich and llama ranch stands next to million-dollar Silicon Valley homes overlooking \$50 fishing shacks. Pedro Point is a former fishing community that is slowly being yupified, but the soul of the place is still there.

Doc Ball's first edition of *Surfing in California* listed four surf spots: Windansea, San Onofre, Malibu and Pedro Point. The Keating brothers and some other Ocean Beach guys started surfing Pedro Point in the late '30s and early '40s after Dick Keating got turned on to surfing by the Kahanamoku brothers while in the Islands for a swimming contest. Talking about Ocean Beach back in the '40s, Fred Van Dyke said that most of the real board surfing was done at Pedro Point and Santa Cruz because those places were less exposed than Ocean Beach and easier to handle on clunky equipment.

Standing on the cliffs at Pedro Point during the winter and spring, looking north, you'd swear you were in Cornwall, England or Ireland. The rugged hills and cliffs look exactly like southwest England, and the fishing shacks on docks on the water are closer to Ireland or Scotland.

There are fun waves breaking along the Boatdock and onto the beach. Outside, there is a big left that breaks off Little Pedro Point, mostly in the winter. This is one of the bigger rideable waves on the North Central California coast. Approach with caution.

There is a thriving surf community here, and they protect their spot. When a surfing web site installed one of its surf reporting cameras overlooking Linda Mar (perish the thought!), the locals took it to City Hall and convinced the city council to have the cameras taken down. The cameras came down. There is a bit of a local hillbilly vibe up in Pedro Point. This place is in danger of being overrun by outsiders, and the locals don't like their parking spots taken up by strangers, or people cutting through their property. Check it from up here, but park down below if you're going surfing.

More Pedro Point Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

**Best Tide:**  
incoming

**Best Swell Direction:**  
W, NW, N

**Best Size:**  
Double overhead plus

**Best Wind:**  
E or SE

**Perfect-O-Meter:**  
5 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

**Bottom:**  
rock reef

**Ability Level:**  
advanced

**Bring Your:**  
Rhino chaser and hood

**Best Season:**  
Winter

**Access:**  
Limited parking up in Pedro Point. Be polite

**Crowd Factor:**  
Occasionally, when it's on.

**Local Vibe:**  
On the big left, plenty.

**Bicep Burn:**  
5 to 10 (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

**Poo Patrol:**  
5 (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

**Hazards:**  
Drowning on the big left. Waxed windows if you park in the wrong place.

## Montara



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

After Pedro Point, Highway 1 goes up into the hills and then along the ocean at Devil's Slide. Toward the south end, there is beach access at a place called Gray Whale Cove. Kind of a novelty spot, but worth a look. It costs \$7.50 to get in.

Off of Devil's Slide, PCH comes back down to earth at Montara Beach, which is less than a mile of open beach that faces directly into the Gulf of Alaska and takes a constant hammering from swell, wind, tide, fog and everything else the Pacific Ocean can throw. The good news is that the south winds that accompany fog and/or rain in this region blow straight offshore at Montara, so on those summer days when San Francisco's beachbreaks are gray, blown-out and infinitely uninviting, Montara can be smooth and sweet, albeit a little chilly.

During the winter, Montara is constantly shape-shifting and the bottom always in a state of flux from the swell and tide. Montara on a big swell can be as spectacular as closed-out Pipeline and just as deadly. (You should have seen it October 28, 1999.) When the ocean mellows a bit, Montara ranges from deadly to excellent, depending on the bottom contour and swell direction.

Montara is surfed mostly by beginners and intermediate surfers on the smaller windswell days. Montara can be a pleasant beach on a sunny day in the fall or winter, and sometimes the surf can be epic.

In the summer, south and west swells dribble in at a point on the south end and along the beach. There's usually something to ride at Montara, another surf spot that used to be ignored but is becoming more and more popular. On most weekends, the parking lots are full of surfers, and sometimes the surf lives up to all the attention.

There was a shark attack here. On January 12, 1990, Sean Sullivan was surfing Montara when a whitey tried to bite him. Whitey missed.

More Montara Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

#### **Best Tide:**

depends on sandbars. On small days, low is best.

#### **Best Swell Direction:**

W, NW, W, SW

#### **Best Size:**

small to overhead

#### **Best Wind:**

E, SE, S

#### **Perfect-O-Meter:**

5 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

#### **Bottom:**

shifting sand

#### **Ability Level:**

beginner to advanced

#### **Bring Your:**

kids, beach blanket, whale-watching binoculars

#### **Best Season:**

year-round

#### **Access:**

There's parking in the dirt on the north end and in the parking lot on the south end. For some reason, it's legal for beach-goers to park in the big Chart House lot, just north of the restaurant.

#### **Crowd Factor:**

When it's small and South winds, packed

#### **Local Vibe:**

On the best peaks, sure

#### **Bicep Burn:**

4 to 8: the paddle can be a lot harder than it looks, even on small days. (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

#### **Poo Patrol:**

2, minimal (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

#### **Hazards:**

Major poundings when it's big. The occasional headless sea lion washed up on the beach suggests other hazards.



## Ross' Cove



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

On the north side of Pillar Point, there is a left point named for a bodyboarder named Ross. Ross' Cove can be a pretty good wave, a left that breaks along the point and moves outside as the swell increases in size. Ross' Cove has been regularly surfed since the '50s. Maverick's is clearly visible from the outside lineup, and must have been seen by hundreds of surfers, which makes you wonder how Maverick's managed to stay so empty until 1990.

Shark story number one: Joel Roberts is the owner of *The Deeper Blue*, a 27-foot Radon he uses for abalone diving and as an occasional photo boat at Maverick's. Roberts has had a lot of experience with sharks; he's seen more than a dozen of them while diving out at the Farallons. In 1996, Joel and a friend motored up to Ross' Cove in *The Deeper Blue*. As his buddy paddled in, Roberts anchored the boat outside in the kelp. By the time he got to the lineup, his buddy and three other guys were gone. "I wondered where everyone had gone, and then I could barely hear people on the beach screaming, 'Come in!' I paddled in and those guys were all freaked out. My buddy has seen almost as many sharks as me, and he said he was buzzed by a legitimate 20-footer. Just a huge white shark. We hitchhiked back to the harbor and got another boat to pick up my boat in the kelp."

More Ross' Cove Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

#### Best Tide:

Incoming. High when it's big.

#### Best Swell Direction:

W, NW, N

#### Best Size:

waist-high to double overhead

#### Best Wind:

E

#### Perfect-O-Meter:

5 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

#### Bottom:

rock and sand

#### Ability Level:

intermediate to advanced

#### Bring Your:

whale-watching binoculars (for whales and Maverick's), paddling gloves

#### Best Season:

fall, winter, spring

#### Access:

same as Maverick's

#### Crowd Factor:

Sometimes crowded. Local spot.

#### Local Vibe:

Strangers will be eye-balled. Acceptance contingent on behavior.

#### Bicep Burn:

8, when it's big (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

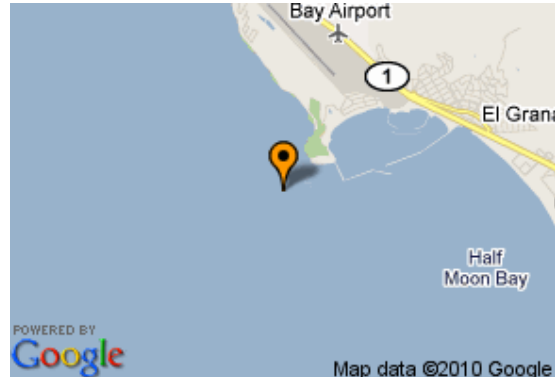
#### Poo Patrol:

2 (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

#### Hazards:

See shark story above. Ross' Cove can get heavy when it's big.

## Maverick's



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

One of the seven natural wonders of the world, a phenomenon somewhere between Tommy Lee's manhood and Angel Falls, Maverick's is that rarest of things: not just a perfect wave and not just a giant wave but a perfect, giant wave. It's rare when a person or place lives up to the hype, but Maverick's really does. To surf it or see it from the channel or the cliffs on a perfect, giant day is to be held in awe of one of the most amazing waves on Earth. Maverick's is, in one overused word, awesome.

The peak at Maverick's lies a little less than a half-mile off of Pillar Point and is marked by a clump of Stonehenge-like boulders lining the inside (two of these boulders have even been christened: Mushroom Rock on the south end and Sail Rock on the north). Climb up the cliffs lining the Air Force facility that overlooks the break, and you'll get a hint of what Maverick's is about: massive swells looming out of the deep, approaching a shelf (about 20 feet under, made up of black, ungodly reef and boulders) at breakneck speeds. From there, Maverick's becomes a 20-foot version of Stockton Avenue: a perfect, jacking AAA-frame breaking both ways, the right going forever and the left a short-lived explosion of hell and spitfire. Watch a nutcase take off on one of these behemoths, and you'll see why Darryl Virostko isn't the only surfer who should be called "Flea."

But this is only the view from the bleachers. Anyone who's gone so far as to check the place from the sidelines (not to mention make an attempt at the peak him or herself) will tell you, with a straight face, that it's a life-changing experience.

Just paddling out can be a test in endurance and, at times, bravery. Besides hitching a ride on a Jet Ski or a boat, there are generally two paths to take: the long road and, you guessed it, the short road. Although it's much more time-consuming (as long as 25 minutes from the beach to the peak), the long road tends to involve the least risk. Paddle out through the lagoon just in front of the Pillar Point Harbor breakwall, let the current pull you past Mushroom Rock, turn turtle under a few 4- to 6-foot insiders and make the long pull toward the peak. As soon as you see a house-sized tube explode onto the reef, you'll know where you need to be or need to avoid, depending on your mission.

The short road -- which cuts the paddle by about half -- is a little more tricky, and we don't recommend it unless you're following a NorCal Sherpa who's done the rock dance 1,000 times. The entry is on the north side of the break, and you have to brave a minefield of submerged rocks and a horrendous shorebreak before it's smooth sailing out to the peak. Many an experienced big-wave rider has been denied attempting this entrance and the last thing you want to do is

### Best Tide:

Maverick's can handle all tides, but as for most of the spots along here, low and incoming to medium are best.

### Best Swell Direction:

W is bowly, but dangerous and pushes into the rocks. NW is lined up and safer.

### Best Size:

triple-overhead to 80 foot faces before it closes out

### Best Wind:

E, but not too strong. Some guys like a slight onshore.

### Perfect-O-Meter:

10 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

### Bottom:

You don't want to know

### Ability Level:

Nothing short of Flea, Laird, or Neptune

### Bring Your:

Paddling muscles. Favorite 10-foot pintail. Personal PWC lifeguard. Oh, and some balls.

### Best Season:

winter, fall, spring

### Access:

Parking in the lot, maybe, if you're lucky. Also, Wave Runners out of Pillar Point Harbor.

### Crowd Factor:

It's getting crowded out there, but there are a lot of lookie-loos. Real takers are the minority.

### Local Vibe:

It exists. Do something stupid and you'll hear about it.

### Bicep Burn:

10, maximum (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

### Poo Patrol:

1. Only inside your wetsuit. (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

### Hazards:

death by drowning, sharks, run over by a

series attempting the entrance, and the last thing you want to do is lose a fin on your \$700 rhino chaser before you even make it through the shorebreak.

The risk level evens out once you make it to the lineup: no matter where you take off, you're rolling the dice. The hot spots on the Maverick's playing field are as follows:

### OUTER BOWL

On the biggest of days (20 feet at 20 seconds and beyond on the Half Moon Bay buoy), there's a takeoff spot about 100 yards out beyond Maverick's proper. Few waves have been caught here, but all of them have been memorable. Richard Schmidt's disaster wave in 1992 was a Second Reef bomb and just about every wave ridden on October 28, 1999, started in this zone (albeit with the help of a Jet Ski). Unless you plan on being the first paddle-in surfer to conquer Jaws, it's not recommended that you attempt Maverick's when this section's cracking.

### THE CORNER

The best surfers at Maverick's know the Corner like the back of their guns. This is the peak on the extreme north end of the break that, if you time it right and choose the right one, allows you to get into the wave and down the face before you become another wipeout statistic. Maverick's pioneer Jeff Clark went left (a shorter, intense wave with a psycho drop and a quick shoulder) off this spot for years, and few have followed his lead since then. Since it's the deepest point you can take off from for the rights, it's often regarded as the triple diamond takeoff zone. Watch masters like Peter Mel, Flea Virostko and Ken "Skindog" Collins surf the place, though, and you'll see that the correctly chosen wave from the Corner is actually an easier takeoff than launching into it farther down the line. Note the emphasis on the words, "correctly chosen." Pick a bad one at the Corner and you'll follow Jay Moriarity and a host of others into Horrendous Wipeout infamy.

### LATES BOWL

While the wolf pack scrambles for the choice cuts at the corner, the Lates Bowl is an overflow section on the south end that occasionally serves up the rogue monster. When a big set shifts wide of the Corner, it usually breaks on Lates Bowl. The drop tends to be a little easier and the wave a bit fatter, but we're still talking about Maverick's: it's no bunny slope.

### THE CAULDRON

Just inside the Corner, there's a wicked set of boils that you want to avoid at all costs. This is the focal point for the majority of Maverick's wrath and is the spot where you'll be experiencing your two-wave hold-down if you choose unwisely. Strange phenomena --whirlpools, undertows that suck you into the abyss, etc. -- have been known to take place at the cauldron. Proceed with caution.

Since the early 90s, Maverick's has risen to the forefront on the big-wave-riding frontier, where best hellmen charge the bowl for huge props and the occasional giant prize purse. But unlike Maverick's overnight notoriety, don't think that your path to big-wave glory can be as immediate: Maverick's should not even be attempted unless you've logged some serious hours at Waimea or Todos Santos. Then, and only then, are you worthy of gracing Maverick's with your presence.

More Maverick's Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

whale, run over by a PWC, a trip through the rocks, hypothermia, broken boards, ego deflation.

## Princeton Jetty



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

It's a little funny that one of California's less distinguished surf spots is only a mile or so from one of the most famous waves on the planet. At the very end of Princeton Harbor, well protected from the 20-foot surf booming at Maverick's, on most days there are small- to head-high waves bouncing off the jetty at Princeton Harbor, and then beachbreaks extending off to the south. Princeton Harbor is usually bad, sometimes good and very popular, as the roadside access is as easy as the surf. On the right southwest swell, though, a very attractive little right wedge bubbles up next to the jetty and rockets down the beach. It's a rare sight, though, and there are a lot of hot young rippers who live for those days and don't take kindly to poachers.

More Princeton Jetty Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

#### Best Tide:

incoming to high, for the bounce

#### Best Swell Direction:

SW, W, windswell

#### Best Size:

small to overhead

#### Best Wind:

E, NE, and protected from most NW winds

#### Perfect-O-Meter:

5 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

#### Bottom:

sand and some rocks

#### Ability Level:

beginner to intermediate

#### Bring Your:

shortboard

#### Best Season:

year-round

#### Access:

Easy parking by the highway. Look both ways.

#### Crowd Factor:

Everyone and their dogs are here

#### Local Vibe:

Even here, on the right day, there's a pack of hot locals who can make things unpleasant. Plus, the takeoff zone is dinky, so be prepared for some elbow-bumping.

#### Bicep Burn:

2, minimal. (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

#### Poo Patrol:

3. Near a harbor, so there's always a little muck (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

#### Hazards:

Like nursery school compared to what's going on out at Maverick's

## Half Moon Bay



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

From Princeton Harbor south, there are four miles of beach that form the crescent of Half Moon Bay. The coast curves from facing southwest at El Granada to northwest at Kelly Avenue, so at any time of day or year, some part of this beach is picking up whatever signals are being sent from north or south.

Most of the time, the surf along here is junk, as it is too exposed, and the bottom is usually flat and not really surf-conducive. But with the right combo of conditions, these beachbreaks can be mind-boggling good.

On the official maps, these beaches are, from north to south, El Granada Beach, Vallejo Beach, Miramar Beach, Naples Beach, Dunes Beach, Venice Beach, Elmar Beach and Francis Beach. There is access to these beaches all along Highway 1.

Like most places at the northern top of North Central California, all of the Half Moon Bay beaches are almost impossible to predict. The weather is in a constant state of flux year-around, and the bottom contours are constantly changing. As a general rule, 90 percent of the time you check these beaches, they're bad. But if the winds are offshore or glassy, and the swell is small to midsize, preferably from the west, take the road less traveled, get lucky and you may happen on the hottest hundred yards with no one around.

More Half Moon Bay Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

#### **Best Tide:**

variable, depends on sandbars

#### **Best Swell Direction:**

W, NW, SW

#### **Best Size:**

small to overhead

#### **Best Wind:**

E or glassy

#### **Perfect-O-Meter:**

potential for 9, but rare (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

#### **Bottom:**

sand, some rock.

#### **Ability Level:**

beginner to advanced

#### **Bring Your:**

good tube riding board, sense of adventure, friends

#### **Best Season:**

year-round

#### **Access:**

Most of the roads off Highway 1 lead to the beach. Some end in State Parks, some end in dirt parking lots.

#### **Crowd Factor:**

easily avoidable

#### **Local Vibe:**

easily avoidable

#### **Bicep Burn:**

5. Moderate. (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

#### **Poo Patrol:**

3 a few creeks flow into the water from nearby farms. (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

#### **Hazards:**

Loneliness, Currents, Shorebreak poundings. Angry farmers.



## Tunitas Creek



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

South of Martin's Beach are eight miles of empty, unseen and inaccessible coast until Highway 1 dips down and crosses the bridge at Tunitas Creek. Glancing to your right, you'll see a long stretch of beach, with what looks to be a promising right point on the north end.

Tunitas Creek is the first in a number of faux surf spots you'll find heading south from Half Moon Bay toward Santa Cruz. What looks to be a perfect right point on the north end of the beach, isn't. Tunitas Creek is mostly beachbreaks through the middle. Much of the time, these beachbreaks are too big, too windy or something else is wrong with them. Occasionally, though, you'll catch a glimpse of a perfect A-frame in the middle of the beach. Then you have to figure out how to get down there.

Shark story number two: The local kids don't call this place "Don't Eat Us Creek" for nothing. In August of 1987, Santa Cruz surfer Craig Rogers had just paddled out at Tunitas Creek at seven in the morning and was rocking back and forth on his surfboard, when all of a sudden his board stopped rocking. He looked down and saw a big, black eye looking back at him. A white shark had clamped down on his board. Rogers spent a few terrified seconds absolutely convinced he was going to die. He spent the next few moments paddling like mad for shore. Rogers got out of all this with just a scratch on his hand. Don't Eat Us Creek, indeed.

More Tunitas Creek Travel Info:  
[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

**Best Tide:**  
beachbreak, so it varies

**Best Swell Direction:**  
W, NW, SW

**Best Size:**  
small to double overhead

**Best Wind:**  
E

**Perfect-O-Meter:**  
4 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

**Bottom:**  
sand and rock

**Ability Level:**  
intermediate to advanced

**Bring Your:**  
anti-shark device, friends, hiking boots, rappelling rope

**Best Season:**  
fall, winter, spring

**Access:**  
not exactly sure

**Crowd Factor:**  
Bring your own. You will want to have some people around to increase the odds

**Local Vibe:**  
theme from *Jaws*

**Bicep Burn:**  
5. Moderate. (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

**Poo Patrol:**  
3. Minimal. Although any creek along here is a little suspect. (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

**Hazards:**  
loneliness, sharks, long walks in for nothing

## Pescadero



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

There is parking on the north end of Pescadero State Beach and sometimes you'll see guys farting around in the beachbreaks there. There also is parking on the south end of the beach, near the bridge and the river. If there's no surf, just take a minute to appreciate how natural and beautiful this place is. You can thank the Coastal Commission and the lack of water for the lack of development. Past the bridge, there are rocky reefs all along Pescadero Point, and sometimes there will be perfect waves there. Jeff Clark reportedly has his eye on a few bomboras in the area, but we've yet to hear whether he's found another Maverick's. Not a great place to surf, just convenient.

The sign at Pescadero says "Next Gas, 33 Miles," but that's not exactly right, so don't panic.

More Pescadero Travel Info:

[Places To Eat](#), [Places To Stay](#), [Things To Do](#)

**Best Tide:**

incoming to high

**Best Swell Direction:**

W, windswell, NW, SW

**Best Size:**

small to overhead

**Best Wind:**

E or glassy

**Perfect-O-Meter:**

4 (1=Lake Erie; 10=Jeffreys Bay)

**Bottom:**

sand along the beach, rock a little farther south

**Ability Level:**

intermediate to experienced

**Bring Your:**

Bird-watching telescope. Fishing pole in steelhead season.

**Best Season:**

year-round

**Access:**

parking all along

**Crowd Factor:**

none

**Local Vibe:**

only from underneath

**Bicep Burn:**

5. Moderate. (1=1ft Waikiki; 10=15ft Ocean Beach)

**Poo Patrol:**

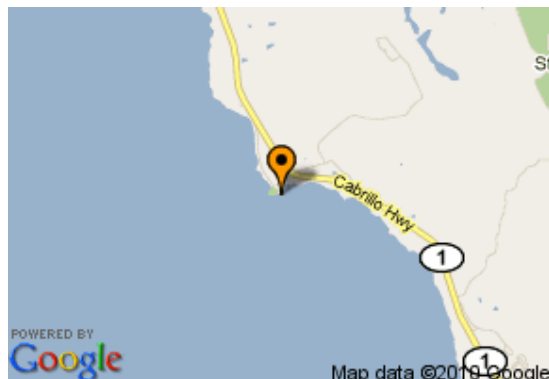
2. Maybe a little at the rivermouth, but it's steelhead poo. (1=clean; 10=turds in the lineup)

**Hazards:**

loneliness, sharks, drowning with no witnesses.



## Pigeon Point



Need more detail? [View this map online](#)

### Description

Pigeon Point looks like a surf spot, smells like a surf spot, and thanks to the way the coast bends, it's offshore when everything north is blown out. But Pigeon isn't really a surf spot. Some people claim that there is a right there on big south swells, but big south swells around here are less common than shark attacks. Others say there is a giant right that breaks outside the point on Maverick's days. But there are no takers yet. Some guys will surf the little reefs along the cliffs on the south side of the point, but they may just be suicidal. Jeff Clark says this is about the sharkiest spot on the coast, and he should know.

Shark story number three: Back in the '80s, Santa Cruz surfers Steve Guzzetta and Ernie Morgan were ab diving about a mile north of Pigeon Point when they were shouted out of the water by another diver. After jumping up on a rock, they came to shore to find Omar Conger dead and floating. The diver had been attacked by a white shark, which ripped open his femoral artery and bled him to death. Guzzetta and Morgan had to pull Conger's bloodless body out of the water. This was one of the few fatal shark attacks along here, and Guzz and Ernie got an eyeful of it.

## SF-San Mateo County Forecast

\* This forecast was created on 11/06/10.

Hey, this is **Chris** with your **SF-San Mateo County Forecast** effective Saturday afternoon .

### FORECAST RECAP:

CENTRAL CA on SATURDAY: Mid-period WNW groundswell kept exposed spots in shoulder high to overhead surf.

BRIEF OUTLOOK: Mid-period WNW swell fades on Sunday. New NW swell shows for the start of the new week while southern hemi energy remains in the background. **Extreme tide swings prevail over the next few days.** Check the forecast for further details and the long-range outlook!

### FORECAST OUTLOOK:

SUNDAY: Mid-period WNW swell fades into the chest-head high plus zone with some bigger sets on the right tides. **Watch for the deep high tide to slow many breaks down through the mid-morning/early afternoon.**

WIND/WEATHER: Steady S winds early, shift W in the afternoon. Rain due.

Surflin's **RATING OF SURF HEIGHTS AND QUALITY**

SATURDAY 11/06 POOR TO FAIR	SUNDAY 11/07 POOR	MONDAY 11/08 POOR TO FAIR	TUESDAY 11/09 POOR TO FAIR	WEDNESDAY 11/10 POOR TO FAIR
SURF: <b>5-8 ft</b> head high to 3 ft overhead  Mid-period WNW swell holds; light onshore winds	SURF: <b>3-5 ft</b> waist to head high occ. 6 ft  Mid-period WNW swell eases, biggest early; unstable weather with onshore winds	SURF: <b>5-8 ft</b> head high to 3 ft overhead  New NW swell fills in, biggest late; rising NW flow, lightest early	SURF: <b>5-8 ft</b> head high to 3 ft overhead  NW swell holds; conditions possibly an issue; small SSW swell fills in	SURF: <b>5-7 ft</b> head high to 2 ft overhead  NW swell eases then gets reinforcements late; small SSW swell; better winds/conditions possible






### WINDS:

02AM 3 kts 248° WSW	08AM 2 kts 185° S	02PM 6 kts 250° WSW	08PM 4 kts 208° SSW	01AM 7 kts 176° S	07AM 10 kts 190° S	01PM 7 kts 274° W	07PM 6 kts 279° W	01AM 6 kts 307° WNW	07AM 4 kts 351° N	01PM 4 kts 309° WNW	07PM 5 kts 299° WNW	01AM 4 kts 337° NNW	07AM 3 kts 4° N	01PM 6 kts 257° WSW	07PM 4 kts 189° S	01AM 4 kts 268° W	07AM 5 kts 334° NNW	01PM 3 kts 344° NNW	07PM 5 kts 325° NNW
05AM 2 kts 307° WNW	11AM 3 kts 215° SW	05PM 6 kts 214° SW	11PM 6 kts 184° S	04AM 11 kts 164° SSE	10AM 5 kts 233° WSW	04PM 7 kts 281° WNW	10PM 6 kts 278° W	04AM 6 kts 321° NNW	10AM 4 kts 344° NNW	04PM 5 kts 287° WNW	10PM 5 kts 328° NNW	04AM 3 kts 351° N	10AM 1 kts 256° WSW	04PM 4 kts 263° W	10PM 7 kts 180° S	04AM 5 kts 293° WNW	10AM 4 kts 26° NNE	04PM 4 kts 320° NNW	10PM 3 kts 355° N

### TIDES:

5:14ft 4:42AM: 2.26ft Low: 4:42AM : 2.26 feet High: 10:54AM : 6.95 feet Low: 5:39PM : -1.25 feet	10:54AM: 6.95ft 5:39PM: -1.25ft High: 12:47AM : 5.13 feet Low: 4:28AM : 2.65 feet High: 10:34AM : 6.88 feet Low: 5:25PM : -1.16 feet	12:47AM: 5.13ft 4:28AM: 2.65ft High: 12:42AM : 5.07 feet Low: 5:17AM : 2.98 feet High: 11:17AM : 6.67 feet Low: 6:12PM : -0.90 feet	12:42AM: 5.07ft 5:17AM: 2.98ft High: 1:37AM : 4.98 feet Low: 6:10AM : 3.24 feet High: 12:01PM : 6.34 feet Low: 7:01PM : -0.54 feet	11:17AM: 6.67ft 6:12PM: -0.9ft High: 1:37AM : 4.98 feet Low: 6:10AM : 3.24 feet High: 12:01PM : 6.34 feet Low: 7:01PM : -0.54 feet	1:37AM: 4.98ft 6:10AM: 3.24ft High: 2:34AM : 4.90 feet Low: 7:11AM : 3.41 feet High: 12:47PM : 5.92 feet Low: 7:51PM : -0.13 feet	12:01PM: 6.34ft 7:01PM: -0.54ft High: 2:34AM : 4.90 feet Low: 7:11AM : 3.41 feet High: 12:47PM : 5.92 feet Low: 7:51PM : -0.13 feet	2:34AM: 4.9ft 7:11AM: 3.41ft High: 12:47PM : 5.92 feet Low: 7:51PM : -0.13 feet
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### WEATHER:

 PARTLY CLOUDY 56 - 70°F	 RAINY 45 - 61°F	 MOSTLY SUNNY 42 - 61°F	 SCATTERED SHOWERS 45 - 60°F	 PARTLY CLOUDY 43 - 63°F
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### LONG RANGE FORECAST OUTLOOK

**WIND/WEATHER SYNOPSIS:** A cold front will sweep through the region on Sunday setting up rising SW-WSW veering WNW winds through the day with rain showers likely. High pressure will then build along the coast on Monday with clearing skies and rising NW-WNW winds. Another storm system could effect the region on Tuesday with NW winds possibly returning on Wednesday as that storm moves out. Stay tuned.

**TIDES:** Deep 6'+ high tides through the later mornings/early afternoons will slow many breaks down during that time.

## Surflines SF-San Mateo County Surf Guide

Those drop to negative lows in the afternoons. Be sure to keep these large tidal swings in mind when planning your session.

**NORTH PACIFIC SWELL/SURF ACTIVITY:** A storm moving under the Alaskan Gulf set up the mid-period NW-WNW swell which has been rolling in lately. That swell is fading now and it will continue to drop through the rest of the weekend. On Sunday most exposures see waist-shoulder zone waves, while top spots hit head high plus in the morning.

Another storm is now tracking through the Gulf of Alaska and setting up a good fetch for Central CA. Therefore, another solid shot of NW (290-310) groundswell will build in on Monday, top out late in the day and into early Tuesday of next week with more head high+ surf and 2-3'+ overhead sets at top NW exposed spots. Those waves drop out on Wednesday, but a new NW swell is due to fill in right on its heels over Wednesday afternoon as a small storm is forecast to sweep across the NPAC over the weekend and early next week sending in more NW swell over the 11th-12th. Stay tuned for updates on that storm/swell system as it develops.

**TROPICAL SWELL/SURF ACTIVITY:** All is quiet in the tropics at this time for CA. You can follow the latest tropical updates by checking out Surflines [HURRICANETRACK](#).

**SOUTH PACIFIC SWELL/SURF ACTIVITY:** Very limited Southern Hemi swell will be in the water through the weekend and the first half of next week.

Beyond that, fresh storm activity in the central SPAC looks good for another small to modest run of SSW to South (180-200) groundswell over the middle to end of next week, Nov. 9th-13th but even top breaks look like they will struggle to see anything over waist high from that. Longer range charts show a small storm tracking away from New Zealand early next week with potential to send another weak SSW swell our way over the 17th-18th. We will keep you posted on that.

### 7-DAY LOLA OFFSHORE SWELL & REGIONAL SURF HEIGHTS

SAT 11/06	MON 11/08	MON 11/08	WED 11/10	THU 11/11	THU 11/11	Surf:
Surf: <b>6-7ft</b>	Surf: <b>8-9ft</b>	Surf: <b>8-9ft</b>	Surf: <b>8-9ft</b>	Surf: <b>7-9ft</b>	Surf: <b>6-7ft</b>	
Swell: 6ft at 12s from WNW/283° 1.3ft at 7s from WSW/237° 1.1ft at 12s from WSW/237°	Swell: 8ft at 12s from WNW/285° 1.3ft at 14s from SW/211° 0.6ft at 16s from SW/211°	Swell: 8ft at 12s from WNW/285° 1.3ft at 14s from SW/212° 0.7ft at 16s from SW/212°	Swell: 8ft at 11s from WNW/287° 1.3ft at 14s from SW/214° 0.9ft at 16s from SW/214°	Swell: 7ft at 12s from WNW/287° 1.6ft at 14s from SSW/207° 0.2ft at 3s from SSW/207°	Swell: 6ft at 12s from WNW/287° 1.5ft at 14s from SSW/208° 0.4ft at 18s from SSW/208°	

### OFFSHORE SWELL FORECAST LOCATION



The location for Surflines LOLA 7-Day Swell Model for this region is displayed on this map. LOLA will analyze all of the various wave and swell energy merging at this offshore location and will then identify each separate swell with its specific direction, height, and swell period. Only then can we accurately forecast the surf. LOLA will then calculate the surf heights from each swell, and will display the surf height of the single dominant swell at the top. This surf height will be a good representation of the typical surf heights throughout this region over the next 7 days. There will always be surf spots with smaller surf due to less exposure to the dominant swell, and other surf spots with larger surf due to greater exposure to the dominant swell. Local underwater bathymetry may also play a strong role in affecting surf heights throughout the region. Most important is to know what swells and potential surf is running so surfers can use their local knowledge and to explore to find the best surf in a region.

## SF-San Mateo County Travel Info

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### Fort Point

#### Places To Eat:

Places to eat in San Francisco? Endless. Blindfold yourself, stagger 50 yards and most likely you will walk into a restaurant. We don't want to ruin it by suggesting anywhere, although we will suggest looking up [www.SFGate.com](http://www.SFGate.com).

#### Places To Stay:

From the bottom to the top, there are no shortages of places to stay in San Francisco. If you're one of those big-shot Internet ding-a-lings with all the money in the world, you can spend \$400 a night for a Premier room at the Fairmont Hotel. But you don't have to.

At the other end of the price scale, there are two youth hostels in San Francisco. The Fort Mason hostel is on the water, only a few miles from Fort Point. They charge \$19 to \$21 a night and who knows, you might meet some hot Norwegian chicks in lederhosen and backpacks. They say super markets and Laundromats are the place to meet chicks? Uh, uh. Youth hostels, baby. You heard it here first. Fort Mason, Building 240, San Francisco, CA 94123. Phone: 415-771-7277. E-mail: [sfhostel@dnai.com](mailto:sfhostel@dnai.com). Web: [www.norcalhostels.org](http://www.norcalhostels.org).

There is another youth hostel on the north side of the Golden Gate Bridge, at Fort Cronkite, about 15 minutes from the city and a mile from a decent little surf spot. This is a nice location, quiet, green, no traffic and far from the madding crowd. They charge \$12 for adults, \$6 for children and \$26 for a couple. For more info, call 415-771-3645.

#### Things To Do:

Here's a statistic. In 2009, 15.4 million tourists spent a grand total of \$7.8 billion dollars. Kind of unbelievable, no? What were they spending all that money on? In San Francisco, there are a lot of cable cars and Fisherman's Wharves and Alcatrazes and Bay Cruises and other goofy things for tourists to do. But what can you, a cool surfer, not a tourist, do in San Francisco when you're not surfing?

One of the best things to do in San Francisco is relatively cheap. Just get in your car and drive around, checking out all the different areas and views and scenics from up high and down low. It's fun to get lost in San Francisco, but you never get that lost. No matter how deep you are in the city, you're never far from the ocean. Just head east or west and you'll run into it, eventually.

For general sightseeing, drive across the Golden Gate Bridge, take the Alexander Avenue exit and check out the view of San Francisco from Hawk's Point in the Marin Headlands. You can see Fort Point, Ocean Beach and all the way to Pedro Point from up there. If the surf is huge, drive all the way out to the end of Point Bonita and take a look at The Potato Patch. It's quite a sight when the surf is giant. There's decent surf down at Fort Cronkite, and Sausalito is a nice place to cruise around and get a bite to eat when there isn't any surf.

If you want to get out on the bay, call Sausalito Bay Adventures and ask about renting a Boston Whaler. It's really fun to go cruise around Alcatraz and Angel Island: 415-331-0444.

If you're a sailboarder or a kite-surfer and the northwest winds are blowing, have a blast. The wind blows free.

If you're a golfer and you brought your sticks, we recommend the Presidio Golf Course, a beautiful course close enough to the ocean to let you keep an eye on the wind and the tides as you hit a few holes. For reservations call 415561-GOLF.

If you're a baseball fan, or even if you're not, you really should check out Pac Bell Park. They did a great job building this thing, and many consider it the best stadium in the United States. The Giants are up and down as much as the surf, and tickets can be hard to find sometimes, but go to the game and look for scalpers and you should be able to get in. Try to get seats in the Club section. Club gives you easy access to all the concessions, it's the best angle in the stadium and they even bring food to your seat. For info on the Giants, plug into [www.sfgiants.com](http://www.sfgiants.com).

Moviegoers will enjoy the Sony Metreon at Fourth and Mission (415-369-6000). It has a zillion screens and an IMAX. Matt Warshaw saw George Lucas going into the bathroom at the Sony Metreon during the winter of 1999.

Do you love the nightlife? Do you got to boogie? San Francisco and the Bay Area have a thriving music/nightlife scene, from Opera to Blues. No room to list it all here. If you want to get the scoop on everything that is going on in San Francisco, log on to [www.SFGate.com](http://www.SFGate.com).

The South of Market area has a thriving club scene, but be careful which door you walk through. If you want to know which door to enter or avoid, log on to [www.gaysf.com](http://www.gaysf.com) for a listing of all the gay bars. The titles of some of these establishments are pretty classic: Moby Dick, Hole in the Wall, Stud and Swallow.

To see a listing of clubs, check [www.sfclubs.com](http://www.sfclubs.com) and a Clubline number to call is 415-339-8686. We'd like to tell you more about these clubs, but we've been so busy putting this web site together, all we can do is listen to Christian music at our cubicles. We don't get out much.

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### Ocean Beach

#### Places To Eat:

To replenish calories after three hard hours in the briny, there's a Burger King and a small store that sells gyros behind Kelly's Cove. There is also a Safeway hidden away back there.

Back in the day, The Beach Chalet was a wild biker and surfer bar leased out by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Now it's a sedate but popular breakfast place, with a view of the surf. The Beach Chalet: 415-386-8439.

Java Beach (415-665-5282) is a good place for a cup of joe and the *Chronicle* and some sun on your face as you watch the characters go by. It's one of the few businesses along Ocean Beach at Judah Street.

For breakfast and lunch, the guys at SF Surf Shop recommend The Sea Biscuit on Noriega.

Golden Gate Pizza and Indian Cuisine (415-564-5514) at 1388 46th Ave. Everything is very authentic. They also have other stuff like pizza and burgers if you don't feel like Indian.

There are some Chinese and pizza places up Taraval and, if you have a cast-iron stomach, you can risk the Doggie Diner on Ocean Avenue. Matt Warshaw recommends the Bangkok House (415-566-6143) for Thai food. It's at Taraval and 28th.

#### Places To Stay:

To be close to the action, there are a couple of motels along Ocean Beach. Right along the beach, the Great Highway Inn is a little steep at \$110 to \$125 a night, but it's easy walking distance from a long, hard paddle. Check out [www.greathwy.com](http://www.greathwy.com). Phone is 415-731-6644.

The Ocean View Motel at Great Highway has rooms with a view starting at \$45 a night. Contact it at 415-661-2300 or plug into [www.oceanviewmotel.com](http://www.oceanviewmotel.com).

At the other end of Ocean Beach, the Ocean Park Motel allows you to "hear foghorns from our hot tub by the beach." Call 415-566-7020 or plug into [www.oceanparkmotel.citysearch.com](http://www.oceanparkmotel.citysearch.com).

The **Queen Anne** B and B in Pacific Heights is a popular choice if you're with a significant other.

There are hundreds of other places to stay in the city, but these are closest to the beach. Farther on down the coast, there are a number of youth hostels in scenic places. Even if you're not low-rolling it, these hostels are still a good deal, located in places you could never put a bed and breakfast or a hotel.

#### Things To Do:

There isn't much to do around Ocean Beach except surf. The Fleishacker Zoo is down on the south end if you want to go monkey around. Hang out along the avenues long enough, and you might catch a glimpse of renowned high-falsetto crooner Chris Isaak, cruising in his surf buggy, putting white shit on his face and paddling out. Avoid the bathrooms at the end of Taraval, they are an infamous trysting spot for homosexuals -- not that there's anything wrong with that.

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### South Ocean Beach

#### Places To Eat:

To replenish calories after three hard hours in the briny, there's a Burger King and a small store that sells gyros behind Kelly's Cove. There is also a Safeway hidden away back there.

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### Things To Do:

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## Sharp Park

### Places To Eat:

There are some scary-looking bars and eateries around Sharp Park. We recommend heading south to Rockaway, home to about a dozen restaurants and cafes. For the adventurous, there is the Sea Bowl Lanes Cafe.

### Places To Stay:

Most likely you'll be passing by Pacifica between San Francisco and Santa Cruz, but if you like the place, you have a choice between staying along Pacifica or at Rockaway Beach.

The Sea View Motor Lodge is located about a mile north of Rockaway Beach on Francisco Boulevard. The famous Pacifica Pier is a short two-block stroll from the Motor Lodge. After visiting the pier, continue your walk south down Sharp Park Beach to the Mori Point Headlands, where you can enjoy views of the golf course, beaches to the north and the Marin Headlands more than 30 miles away. For reservations, call 650-359-9494.

The Marine View Motel is located just north of the Sea View Motor Lodge. This hotel offers weekly and monthly rates and is usually occupied by visitors with extended stays. Even though there are often no vacancies for overnight stays, it is always worth a try in the event of an opening. For reservations, call 650-355-2543.

The Days Inn at Rockaway Beach is only half of a block from the beach. It currently has 31 rooms and will be completing construction of 12 more rooms by the spring of 1999. Some of its rooms have views of the Pacifica Ocean, Rockaway Beach and Quarry Cove. For reservations, call 650-359-7700.

The Seabreeze Motel at Rockaway Beach has only 20 rooms and no phones, but has ocean views. There is complimentary coffee and tea in the mornings with its famous sugar cookies. For reservations, call 650-359-3903.

### Things To Do:

Watch the fog, or flee to San Francisco.

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## Ano Nuevo

### Places To Eat:

Head south to Davenport.

### Places To Stay:

Nada. Go south to the Davenport Inn Bed and Breakfast, a B and B with a nice view of the ocean. Rates vary from \$78 to \$140 for one or two. Call 831-425-1818 or 800-870-1817. E-mail Inn@swanton.com.

### Things To Do:

In spring, you can take a guided tour north of the main surf spot in Ano Nuevo, to a beach that's filled with giant, loud elephant seals. See one of those up-close, and realize that they're basically snacks for white sharks, and you'll understand why there are so few surfers in this zone.

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## Rockaway

### Places To Eat:

There are about a dozen restaurants and cafes at Rockaway. For the adventurous, there is the Sea Bowl Lanes Cafe.

### Places To Stay:

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The Seabreeze Motel at Rockaway Beach has only 20 rooms and no phones, but has ocean views. There is complimentary coffee and tea in the mornings with its famous sugar cookies. For reservations, call 650-359-3903.

### Things To Do:

Go bowling at the Sea Bowl just up from Rockaway. Go fishing for leopard shark and striper and salmon off the Sharp Park Pier.

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## Pacifica/Lindamar

### Places To Eat:

The fast food place just south of the parking lot at Linda Mar used to be an A and W and it was probably a few other things before its current incarnation as a Taco Bell. If you're hungry after a few hours in the water along here, this is a scenic place to get a bite. Kerry's Coffee Shop and the coffee bar and deli next to the NorCal Shop are local food hangouts. La Playa Mexican food (650-738-2247) next to NorCal is also good.

### Places To Stay:

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The Sea View Motor Lodge is located about a mile north of Rockaway Beach on Francisco Boulevard. The famous Pacifica Pier is a short two-block stroll from the Motor Lodge. After visiting the pier, continue your walk south down Sharp Park Beach to the Mori Point Headlands, where you can enjoy views of the golf course, beaches to the north and the Marin Headlands more than 30 miles away. For reservations, call 650- 359-9494.

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The Seabreeze Motel at Rockaway Beach has only 20 rooms and no phones, but has ocean views. There is



complimentary coffee and tea in the mornings with its famous sugar cookies. For reservations, call 650-359-3903.

### Things To Do:

Go bowling at the Sea Bowl up Rockaway. Go fishing for leopard shark and striper and salmon off the Sharp Park Pier. Hang in the Linda Mar parking lot and try to chat up females.

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## Pedro Point

### Places To Eat:

The fast food place just south of the parking lot at Linda Mar used to be an A and W and it was probably a few other things before its current incarnation as a Taco Bell. If you're hungry after a few hours in the water along here, this is a scenic place to get a bite. Kerry's Coffee Shop and the coffee bar and deli next to the NorCal Shop are local food hangouts. La Playa Mexican food (650-738-2247) next to NorCal is also good.

### Places To Stay:

See Rockaway or Pacifica. If you're in this area and looking for a place to stay, you might want to keep going over Devil's Slide and stay at the youth hostel in Montara.

### Things To Do:

Go bowling at the Sea Bowl up Rockaway. Go fishing for leopard shark and striper and salmon off the Sharp Park Pier. Hang in the Linda Mar parking lot and try to chat up females.

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## Montara

### Places To Eat:

Chart House (650-728-7366) is overpriced, perhaps, but it was started by surfers and is now mostly staffed by surfers. It's right there at the south end of Montara, with surf pictures on the walls and a nice view of the ocean.

### Places To Stay:

The Montara Point Youth Hostel is on the grounds of the Point Montara Fog Signal and Light Station (est. 1875). There are 45 beds and five private rooms, and you definitely get your \$13 to \$15 worth. This is a nice, scenic place to stay, a good place to stop if you're going to do the Maverick's thing, with lots of whales going by in the fall and spring. Access hours are 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. For reservations, call 650-728-7177.

### Things To Do:

Watch Maverick's, go tidepooling at the James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve or have coffee at the Maverick's Roadhouse Cafe.

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## Ross' Cove

### Places To Eat:

The Maverick's Roadhouse Cafe is co-owned by Jeff Clark and his wife Katherine Graham-Clark, and it's the place where the elite meet to eat, before and after Maverick's sessions. On the left side of the cafe, Katherine serves tasty breakfasts and lunches and swimming pools of coffee. On the right side of the cafe, there's a boutique selling all kinds of stylish Quiksilver wear. This is a pretty dang cool place to hang out, especially when Maverick's is breaking. Get there after a big session when all the boys are hanging out, jacked on adrenaline, and be entertained. Check in at 650-728-0503.

If you want to eat in peace and quiet and don't want to listen to big-wave surfers heckling each other, the Three Zero One Cafe at the Half Moon Bay Airport serves a lovely breakfast.

You like smoked salmon? Located in Princeton, across the freeway from Pillar Point Harbor, the Creekside Smokehouse sells smoked salmon, trout and albacore, and it's the best smoked salmon you'll ever eat. Try the kippered salmon or the pepper jerky and you'll be hooked. The Creekside Smokehouse is closed September, January and February, but the rest of the time, it's epic. To get there, go across the freeway from the Pillar Point Harbor exit and turn right on Avenida Alhambra. It's three or four blocks up and it's worth the drive.

The Moss Beach Distillery is a Chart House sort of place with a view of the Marine Reserve. Look for the sign on the highway just before the airport, a few miles north of Maverick's.

Downtown you'll find the Half Moon Bay Bakery (650-726-4841) and M. Coffee to satisfy your caffeine and sugar craving.

### Places To Stay:

Half Moon Bay has done a good job of transforming itself from a sleepy one-horse town to a tourist destination. There are a lot of places to stay in Half Moon Bay, from the Youth Hostel in the north to the state campgrounds in the south and everything in between. For all lodging listings, check out [www.coastsidelive.com](http://www.coastsidelive.com).

The closest B and B to Maverick's is the Pillar Point Inn. It charges from \$150 to \$170 a night, including breakfast, board-waxing and free wetsuit repair (kidding). For info, call 800-400-8281 or log onto [www.PillarPointInn.com](http://www.PillarPointInn.com).

### Things To Do:

Other things to do? In Half Moon Bay? Umm. The downtown area is worth a stroll and there's the Pumpkin Festival in the fall and the Half Moon Bay Air Show in the spring. And there are some great hikes in the hills just south and east of town. Beyond that, umm, we'll get back to you.

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## Maverick's

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## Princeton Jetty

### Places To Eat:

The Maverick's Roadhouse Cafe is co-owned by Jeff Clark and his wife Katherine Graham-Clark, and it's the place where the elite meet to eat, before and after Maverick's sessions. On the left side of the cafe, Katherine serves tasty breakfasts and lunches and swimming pools of coffee. On the right side of the cafe, there's a boutique selling all kinds of stylish Quiksilver wear. This is a pretty dang cool place to hang out, especially when Maverick's is breaking. Get there after a big session when all the boys are hanging out, jacked on adrenaline, and be entertained. Check in at 650-728-0503.

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### Things To Do:

Bring your 10 speed and ride the long, flat, coastal bike trail from Princeton Harbor to Half Moon Bay and beyond. The best way to get a feel for the beach in this region, and to realize why it'd be a prime zone for a well-positioned artificial reef.

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## Half Moon Bay

### Places To Eat:

There's a great Mexican food place on PCH and Kelly Avenue called Tres Amigos (650-726-6080). Go there for the bomber burrito. For after-surf latte, a good bagel and friendly service, try La Di Da coffee house. It's on Kelly, about three blocks inland of PCH.

### Places To Stay:

There is camping at Half Moon Bay State Park, toward the south end of the crescent. Turn right at Kelly Avenue to get to the entrance to the State Park. There are 51 sites, available on a first-come, first-served basis. You can check the website at <http://parks.ca.gov> or call 650-726-8819.

### Things To Do:

Did you bring your sticks? Just south of Half Moon Bay, a number of roads turn off the freeway and pass through the Half Moon Bay Golf Links, a public course, built near the beach. Some of the roads that pass through the course make it to the beach and some of these beaches seem to have reefbreaks at the end. Worth a look. You never know. It's a nice golf course, anyway.

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## Tunitas Creek

### Places To Eat:

Head north to Half Moon Bay or south to Pescadero, or eat that Powerbar that's been sitting in your glove box for the past six months.

### Places To Stay:

Head back to Half Moon Bay

### Things To Do:

If you're not into beachcombing, you're outta luck.

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## Pescadero

### Places To Eat:

One of the best places to eat on this coast is hidden away in Pescadero. Take Pescadero Creek Road into beautiful downtown Pescadero to find Duarte's (pronounced DOO-arts), 650-879-0464. It makes a world-class artichoke soup and its homemade pies are legendary. Pescadero is kind of a cool little town. It's close to the coast highway and worth a look. There are places to stay there, and you just might want to.

### Places To Stay:

There is camping at nearby Butano State Park, 3,200 acres of secluded redwood-filled canyon. The park features miles of hiking trails, 21 drive-in campsites and 18 walk-in campsites. Restrooms with running water are provided. There are no showers. Telephone is 650-879-2040.

### Things To Do:

Visit the lighthouse at Pigeon Point, a few miles south.

### Pigeon Point

#### Places To Eat:

The best thing about Pigeon Point is the youth hostel set up in the lighthouse. It charges \$13 to \$16 a night, with an additional \$12 charge for the private couples room. You won't find a more scenic place and who knows, maybe one of those rare south swells will fill in overnight. For reservations, call 650-879-0633. There is also a bed and breakfast at Pigeon Point, but it probably charges a lot more than \$16 a night.

The Costanoa Coastal Resort is a new development between Pigeon Point and Ano Nuevo. It offers everything from luxury, \$200 a night accommodation in the lodge to cabins, tent bungalows and RV and tent sites at \$35 a night. Some people are grumbling about the yuppiness of this place ("Camping in Ralph Lauren sheets!"), but it looks like a nice development, hidden from the road, in a nice area. For information and reservations, call 877-262-7848 or log on to [www.CostaNoa.com](http://www.CostaNoa.com).

#### Places To Stay:

Bring a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, park along the dirt road north of the lighthouse, sit on the rocks and snack on the sandwich while you watch whiteys snack on sea lions. Yum!

#### Things To Do:

Sit on the rocks and watch the seals and otters. If you get lucky, you might see one become a whitey's meal. Or maybe that's not such a lucky thing to see, if you ever want to surf around here again.

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## Local Surf Shops And Schools

### Surf Shops

#### Billabong Camps Adventure Out Surf School in Pacifica

Pacifica, CA 94044  
Phone: 650.208.8113  
Email: [surfing@adventureout.com](mailto:surfing@adventureout.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Adrenaline Zone

124 Calistoga Road  
Santa Rosa , CA 95409  
Phone: 707-538-7538

#### Advanced Surf Designs

546 Palm Street  
Santa Cruz , CA 95060  
Phone: (831) 458-2151

#### Advanced Surf Designs

1603 Coyote Point Dr  
San Mateo , CA 94401  
Phone: 650-348-8485

#### Arrow Surf & Sport

2320 Mission Street  
Santa cruz , CA 95060  
Phone: 831-423-8286  
Email: [info@arrowsurfshop.com](mailto:info@arrowsurfshop.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Azul Surf Camp - Costa Rica

3315 Fillmore Street #202  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
Phone: 415-699-3102  
Email: [anamarieburke@hotmail.com](mailto:anamarieburke@hotmail.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Boardsports Surf Wind Snow

2936 Lyon Street  
San francisco , CA 94123

#### Club Ed International Surf School and Camps

2350 Paul Minnie Ave  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062  
Phone: 831-464-0177  
Email: [clubed@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clubed@sbcglobal.net)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### College Of Marin: Surfing 101

835 College Ave.  
Kentfield , CA 94904  
Phone: 415-485-9372  
Email: [gudlydoright@hotmail.com](mailto:gudlydoright@hotmail.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Cowboy Surf Shop

2830 Cabrillo Highway N.  
Half moon bay , CA 94019  
Phone: 650-726-6968  
Email: [mavricks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mavricks@sbcglobal.net)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Mainland Skate & Surf (San Jose)

925 Blossom Hill Rd #1371  
San Jose, CA 95123  
Phone: (408) 972-1007  
Email: [internetsales@mainlandshops.com](mailto:internetsales@mainlandshops.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Making The Drop

910 Mesa Grande Rd  
Aptos, CA 95003  
Phone: 831-297-3029  
Email: [info@makingthedrop.com](mailto:info@makingthedrop.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Nor Cal Surf Shop

5460 Coast Hwy  
Pacifica,, CA 94044  
Phone: 650-738-9283  
Email: [norcalss@yahoo.com](mailto:norcalss@yahoo.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Northern Light

17191 Bodega Highway  
Bodega , CA 94922  
Phone: 707-876-3032  
Email: [northernnick@sonic.net](mailto:northernnick@sonic.net)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Ohana Board Shop

3575 Stevens Creek Blvd  
San Jose, ca 95117  
Phone: 408-244-0700  
Email: [info@ohanaboardshop.com](mailto:info@ohanaboardshop.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### O'Neill, Inc.

1071 41st Ave.  
Santa Cruz , CA 95060  
Phone: 831-475-7500

#### Pacific Wave Surf Shop

1502 Pacific Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: (831) 458-9283  
Email: [www.pwave.com/](http://www.pwave.com/)

#### Santa Cruz Skate and Surf Shop

912 41st Ave  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062  
Phone: 8314623120  
Email: [dk@scbrand.com](mailto:dk@scbrand.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Shoreline Surf Shop

125 Beach Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: 831-459-7330  
Email: [surfcitysantacruz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:surfcitysantacruz@sbcglobal.net)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

#### Solaz Adventures

245 Upper Terrace

**Fat Kat Surf Shop**

1908 Sir Francis Drake  
Fairfax , CA 94978  
Phone: 415-453-9167

**Hightide Surf Shop**

9 Fourth Street  
Petaluma , CA 94955  
Phone: 707-763-3860

**Hotline Wetsuits Show Room**

719 Swift Street, Suite 100  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: 831.425.5920  
Email: [info@hotlineonline.com](mailto:info@hotlineonline.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**Log Shop Surf shop**

640 Crespi dr  
Pacifica , CA 94044  
Phone: 650 738 5664  
Email: [info@TaitsBoardshop.com](mailto:info@TaitsBoardshop.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**Mainland Skate & Surf (Concord)**

120B Sunvalley Mall  
Concord, CA 94520  
Phone: (925) 680-1190  
Email: [internetsales@mainlandshops.com](mailto:internetsales@mainlandshops.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**Mainland Skate & Surf (Pleasanton)**

2317 Stoneridge Mall Rd  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
Phone: (925) 227-0220  
Email: [internetsales@mainlandshops.com](mailto:internetsales@mainlandshops.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

San Francisco, CA 94117

Phone: 415.397.7678  
Email: [info@solazadventures.com](mailto:info@solazadventures.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**Sonlight Surf Shop**

575 Crespi Dr. Ste #1  
Pacifica , CA 94045  
Phone: (650) 359 5471  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**Surf 101**

Pacifica, CA 94044  
Phone: 650-438-0412  
Email: [surflessons04@yahoo.com](mailto:surflessons04@yahoo.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**Surf Camp Pacifica**

P.O. Box 1244  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
Email: [surfcamp@bobcooney.com](mailto:surfcamp@bobcooney.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**University of Surfing**

491 Firecrest Ave  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
Phone: 650.359.1425  
Email: [mattcolesurfs@hotmail.com](mailto:mattcolesurfs@hotmail.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**Wise Surf Shop**

800 Great Highway  
San Francisco , CA 94123  
Phone: 415-750-9473  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

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**Arrow Surf & Sport**

2320 Mission Street

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925 Blossom Hill Rd #1371  
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**Nor Cal Surf Shop**

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Pacifica,, CA 94044  
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Bodega , CA 94922  
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3315 Fillmore Street #202  
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Phone: 415-699-3102  
Email: [anamarieburke@hotmail.com](mailto:anamarieburke@hotmail.com)  
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2936 Lyon Street  
San francisco , CA 94123

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835 College Ave.  
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Phone: 415-453-9167

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Petaluma , CA 94955  
Phone: 707-763-3860

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Phone: 831.425.5920  
Email: [info@headlineonline.com](mailto:info@headlineonline.com)  
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Email: [northernnick@sonic.net](mailto:northernnick@sonic.net)  
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Phone: (831) 458-9283  
Email: [www.pwave.com/](http://www.pwave.com/)

**Santa Cruz Skate and Surf Shop**  
912 41st Ave  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062  
Phone: 8314623120  
Email: [dk@scbrand.com](mailto:dk@scbrand.com)  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

**Shoreline Surf Shop**  
125 Beach Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: 831-459-7330  
Email: [surfcitysantacruz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:surfcitysantacruz@sbcglobal.net)  
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Email: [internetsales@mainlandshops.com](mailto:internetsales@mainlandshops.com)  
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800 Great Highway  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
Phone: 415-750-9473  
Web: [Go To Web Site](#)

# Surflines Tips And Tricks

## What is LOLA anyway?

**LOLA is Surflines computer modeling software** that is the engine behind all of the great forecasting products on Surflines. With the growth of the Internet, users have many choices for surf and weather information but most swell models and ocean related products are tailored for boating and marine interests - not for surfers. Surflines decided to build our own custom swell models and other forecasting products to be specifically tailored for surfers.

Our LOLA Global Swell Model uses the NOAA's Wavewatch III software, and we run these models in-house after inputting our own blend of wind information and other data to create LOLA's unique wave information. Running our own models at Surflines allows us to monitor the details of all swells at the highest possible resolution everywhere in the world, and allows LOLA to analyze each swell independently for the most accurate surf forecasting.

LOLA's Nearshore Model also calculates nearshore wave heights all along the coast after the affects of local bathymetry and other variables that can greatly modify the offshore swell transitioning into nearshore swell. Other great LOLA products include Custom Surf Alerts, real-time buoy analysis, special swell tracking charts, and much more. Additional information about LOLA products and services are below.

**KNOW YOUR SPOTS** - Before we even consider using the Surflines forecast or other LOLA tools to score good surf, we need to know what to look for. We need to understand what kinds of swells and conditions favor the spots we want to surf. Every single surf spot has a "sweet zone" for swell-what it likes to create really good waves. It may be a specific swell direction within a few degrees, it may be a certain size or it may be a specific swell period interacting with the ocean floor bathymetry-but it's usually a combination of all of the above. Add to that the variation of tide and wind, and we literally have hundreds of different variables to calculate. But that's part of the magic of surfing and why good waves are so fleeting and hard to find. And it keeps us passionate about finding them.

For us to identify the Perfect Swell for our spot in the future, we need to learn everything we can about our spot on a "good" day to use as a reference. That "good" day might be today, a special day last week or even an epic day last year. When we happen to roll up on a "good" day, we need to do a little research. We need to observe the swell direction and best wave size, use a watch to time the swell period between successive waves at the spot, look at the tide, the wind, any additional swell directions that might be combining to create special waves and anything else that might be a contributing factor to the good surf.

Next, go to Surflines.com and review the current forecast information to learn all we can about the swell and the originating storm. Especially important information to consider is the LOLA swell model and buoy information for the local area to note the swell direction, size, and the swell period. Another good tip is to look at the past Surflines charts to try to identify the exact location of the storm that generated the swell. If the "good" day we're researching isn't today, but actually sometime over the last year, we can also go to the LOLA Archives on Surflines.com to retrieve the past swell and buoy information for that specific day. And then we write it all down. Now we know what to look for. And by monitoring the Surflines forecasts and LOLA, or by setting up a custom Surf Alerts, we'll know exactly when to expect another Perfect Swell.

## WANT A FORECAST OF SURF AND CONDITIONS FOR TODAY, TOMORROW, OR NEXT WEEK?

**The Surflines Forecast** - Tell me when the swell is coming, how big it will be, and where the best waves will be. That's all most surfers want to know. The Surflines forecast does exactly that, but only after our forecast team analyzes a huge amount of information and then condenses it into a simple and easy to understand format. This is a detailed 7-10 Day regional surf forecast after reviewing all of the data, models, and information relative to the surfing conditions for the local region, developed by the most experienced surf forecast team in the world.

**3-Day LOLA Surf Spot Forecasts** - LOLA model surf forecasts for each surf spot within the region with calculated surf heights, swell directions and periods, and wind information over the next three days.

**4-Day Nearshore model** - Surflines unique local wave model that calculates the nearshore wave heights everywhere along the coast after the interaction of the incoming swell with the ocean floor, local points of land, and offshore islands. Depending on the swell direction, period, and local bathymetry, wave heights can have huge local variations along the coast.

**7-Day LOLA Dashboard** - Surflines regional LOLA swell model forecast that displays very detailed information about the surf heights and every independent swell due to arrive in the specific region over the next 7 days, as well as the local winds, tides, and weather. This 7-Day forecast will be the most up-to-date product in some areas where we may not have a Surflines forecast.

**14-Day LOLA Forecast** - Surflines "forward looking" LOLA product that uses current and extended prognosis data to compile a virtual forecast for a specific region that extends out 14 days. This information is often based on

## Surfline's SF-San Mateo County Surf Guide

forecasted wind information in a future storm, which may not have even happened at the time of the forecast and is a great tool to follow and plan your calendar around future swells.

### **WANT TO BE ALERTED WHEN SURF AND CONDITIONS ARE FORECASTED TO MEET YOUR SET CRITERIA FOR YOUR FAVORITE BREAK?**

**Custom Surf Alerts** - Set up your own Surf Alerts for any of the thousands of surf spots throughout the world on Surfline. Users can develop their own custom criteria for LOLA forecasted surf and swell heights, swell directions, periods, wind speed and directions, etc. Set it up to email or text you daily or up to 5 days in advance when your criteria is met.

### **WANT ADVANCED FORECASTING TOOLS TO FIND MORE INFORMATION OR TO CREATE YOUR OWN FORECASTS?**

**LOLA Real-Time Buoys** - A unique buoy analysis software that monitors the real-time data from NOAA, CDIP, and other buoys. This product offers a higher resolution look inside of the typical significant wave height (SWH) report and analyzes all of the separate swells at the buoy location, into independent swell heights, directions, and swell periods. This is a Surfline proprietary product that is mandatory when using the buoys to accurately forecast the amount of swell that will reach the coast. Other buoy products typically only report a single significant wave height (SWH) at the buoy so we can't see all the different swells. A regional buoy summary with all of the swell breakdowns for each buoy is also available.

**LOLA Virtual Buoys** - Virtual Buoys (not real buoys) in 25,000 fixed coastal locations around the world using the LOLA Global Swell Model offering a detailed 7-Day surf, swell, and wind forecast for that location. Many other additional products are linked to each Virtual Buoy location like swell tracking charts, weather and wind information, water temperatures, and much more.

**Custom Forecasts (Global Swell Tracker)** - Using a Google Map interface a user can click on any point on Earth to develop a detailed 7-Day surf, swell, and wind forecast for that location. All of the additional Virtual Buoy products above will also be available for your custom location. A great tool for your secret out of the way locations.

**LOLA Surfline Charts** - These are swell tracking charts for specific local regions around the world that monitor storm and swell activity aimed for that specific location. These charts are an advanced forecasting product that many surfers like to use to formulate their own personal swell calculations to compare with the other forecasting products.

**HurricaneTrak** - The ultimate hurricane tracking tool for surfers using the power of LOLA within a Google map interface. You can zoom in and out of storms, display various layers of forecast information, and use rulers to see precisely where the storm is going and when the waves will arrive. Remember a great swell from a past hurricane? HurricaneTrak archives also allow users to compare hurricane tracks all the way back to the 1800's!

### **A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT FORECASTS, MODELS, AND SMOOTHIES**

Models are similar to blenders. If we want to make a smoothie, we add all kinds of fruit, juice, and other great things into the blender to create our smoothie. If we add something that is rotten, we'll get a rotten smoothie. The same goes for models. Bad data in, bad data out, and we'll get a rotten forecast. As we know, wave generation is entirely dependent on the winds, and calculating the exact wind velocities, directions, and durations everywhere across the ocean is still an advancing science. Sometimes the wind data is wrong, and if we always had perfect winds the models would probably never miss a forecast.

One advantage of surf forecasting versus other types of forecasting is the final result will always be the true measure of a forecast's accuracy. The final swell size, direction, and swell period will all be clues to backtrack and confirm how accurate the original storm wind data was that was entered into the model. This method of validation allows us to tweak our LOLA models for better accuracy going forward. Also using real-time data from satellites and buoys, we can adjust the LOLA models on the fly to correct the forecasts immediately and long before the swell arrives.

But models can still be wrong from time to time, or they can produce conflicting information between models. And sometimes there are simply things that we as forecasters can see in the charts or other data that can't be clearly expressed in a model. As a result, the Surfline Forecast should always be viewed as the final word because it takes into account all of the variables, including the times when the models may be spitting out something that looks a little rotten.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more info about waves, swell and wind, check out our **SURFOLOGY 101** section online.

## SF-San Mateo County Related Content

### USER GENERATED LOCAL PHOTOS



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### USER GENERATED LOCAL VIDEO



Surfing at Linda Mar



Jordy Smith (ZAF)  
Coldwater Classic  
Santa Cruz 102110  
Heat 1 - 3.AVI



O'Neill Coldwater  
Classic California  
102110 (Heat 12-  
Part 1)

[More Local Videos](#) | [Upload Your Own YouTube](#) or [Vimeo](#) Videos

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### LOCAL EVENTS

- 11/12/10 - [Save The Waves Film Festival](#)
- 11/17/10 - [Save Our Shores presents: Bag It](#)

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### RELATED SURFLINE SURF NEWS

#### COMBO-NATION

(10/29) A myriad of swells, along with flawless conditions, send fun, peaky, all-day surf to California

#### INTERVIEW: MATT WARSHAW

(10/26) Surfing's greatest historian on his newest book, The History of Surfing

[More Surf News](#)

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### RELATED SURFLINE VIDEO

#### DEREK DUNFEE

(08/22) San Diego charger survives impact of Maverick's lip after sliding backwards down the face

#### SHANE DORIAN

(05/09) Dorian takes a two-wave hold-down at Maverick's and lives to talk about it

[More Videos](#)

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Whether you're heading here for the first time on a trip or are a longtime local, below you'll find some other useful Surflines content on this surf zone. We're always stoked when users upload regional photos and videos -- and you're also encouraged to submit a [Tripwire](#) from the road or when you make it back home.

# Surflines Etiquette: The Bill Of Lefts And Rights

## 10 Rules to Travel and Surf By

1. Pick the right surfing spots for your ability and attitude. We need to be honest with ourselves about our ability, and our intentions.
2. Don't drop in on or snake your fellow surfer. In other words, do not catch a wave once another surfer has caught it by being in a deeper or more effective position at takeoff than you.
3. When paddling out to or within a break, it's your responsibility to stay out of the way of riders on waves. Once a rider has selected and caught a wave, all other surfers should do their best not to interfere with his or her enjoyment of the wave.
4. Learn to take turns. We all want it for ourselves. But we're not alone, which means sharing the wave-catching opportunities. Give someone a wave and help to create a positive vibe in the lineup.
5. In any surf session, respect the pre-existing vibe in the lineup. This holds true no matter your status, equipment or ability level. Take your time and let a few waves go by to ease into the rotation and the mindset of the other surfers.
6. Always aid another surfer in trouble. But don't put yourself in a situation over your head. Two surfers in need of help are in much worse a state than one.
7. When traveling, always respect the local surfers and their rights and customs, without forfeiting your own right to a wave. Take your time. Avoid traveling in large numbers and try to time your sessions when the crowd may lighten up. Let the locals set the pace.
8. Do not use your surfing advantages to abuse fellow surfers. This includes advantages such as surfboard length, surfing fitness and skill, local knowledge and authority, and (lamest of all) physical aggression and strength.
9. At all times be responsible for your equipment and respectful of others'. A surfboard can be very dangerous to its owner and other surfers, so take care anytime you bail your board.
10. Relax and enjoy your surfing and that of your fellow surfer. The presence of others in the water is an ongoing fact of life in lineups worldwide. Accepting this is the key to a healthy, flexible attitude in the water. More than anything else, crowd tensions in the surf can be eased by our individual ability to flow through situations and react positively when it's needed. Above all else, smile...

For the complete Bill of Rights and Lefts, go to [surflines.com/surfology](https://surflines.com/surfology)