

## **BATTLE FOR THE COAST VISITOR'S GUIDE**

### ***About Ventura***

Ventura has some of the best surfing in Southern California, especially Surfer's Point at Ventura County Fairgrounds. Downtown Ventura is home to the Mission San Buenaventura, museums, galleries, dining, and shopping. Primary areas of activity include California Street and Main Street between Ventura Avenue and Fir Street. Located in downtown is the historic Ortega Adobe, home to the Ortega family, now famous for their chile products. Numerous thrift stores contrast with high-end shops and restaurants. Downtown Ventura is also home to the Ventura's ornate city hall building with its signature statue of Junipero Serra. Downtown now features numerous restaurants, winebars and the Internationally acclaimed Rubicon Theatre Company. For shopping and nightlife, downtown is the place to go. A 4,300-square-foot Ventura Visitors Center is located at 101 S. California Street, in downtown and features exhibits on the Heritage Valley, Channel Islands National park, local arts scene and maps and guide books on the area.

One of the most recognizable land marks in Ventura is a site known as two trees. These are two lone trees that stand on a hill and can be seen from most of Ventura.

In Plaza Park (Chestnut and Santa Clara Streets, downtown) one of the nations largest Moreton Bay Fig Trees is marked with an historic plaque. Across the street is the main post office with WPA murals on its interior walls.

The Ventura Harbor is home to fishing industry, seafood restaurants and a shopping village at Ventura Harbor Village; it is famous for it's shops and restaurants. The Channel Islands National Park Headquarters is also located in this harbor, home to the Channel Islands museum. Boats to the Channel Islands depart from there daily, with whale watching tours during the months of October through May.

The Ventura County Fairgrounds is the home of the annual Ventura County Fair, and over the years has hosted such acts as Jimi Hendrix, The Grateful Dead, and Smokey Robinson. The Derby Club at the Ventura County Fairgrounds offers Horse Racing Live via Satellite, and full service bars and restaurants. The Ventura County Fairgrounds is also the home of Ventura Raceway, "The best little dirt track in America". The Vans Warped Tour also stops yearly at the Ventura County Fairgrounds with line ups including bands such as Yellowcard, Pepper and Avenged Sevenfold.

The Olivas Adobe, one of the early California Rancho homes, is operated today as a museum and performing arts venue. Located adjacent to the Olivas Park Golf Course, the home is one of the most visited historic sites on the central coast. Living history reenactments, demonstrations of Rancho life, and wonderful ghost stories abound. A summer music series of performances held in the old home's courtyard feature an eclectic assortment of artists from blues to jazz to country.

Perry Mason creator Erle Stanley Gardner had a law practice and did much of his early writing in Downtown Ventura. Many films including Swordfish, Little Miss Sunshine, Chinatown, Erin Brockovich, The Aviator, and The Rock were partly filmed in Ventura. Downtown Ventura also hosts the Majestic Ventura Theater, a beautiful early century theatre, which is situated about two blocks away from city hall. It serves as a venue for concerts. The theater has seen many bands such as The Doors, Van Halen, X, Pennywise, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Social Distortion, Bad Religion, Fugazi, Incubus, They Might Be Giants, and Modest Mouse, as well as local artists such as Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

The headquarters for Patagonia is located downtown, and there is an organic clothing retailer on Main Street called Korazon Organics and the eco-designer Stewart+Brown has their factory just a few blocks from the ocean.

Now that you know a little about our community, we will get down to the basics of your visit.

**Where are the best places to stay while in Ventura?**

**Full Service Hotels:**

Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach  
450 E. Harbor Blvd.  
Less than 1/2 mile from the fairgrounds  
(805) 648-2100 or (800) 842-0800

Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor  
1050 Schooner Drive  
Approximately 3 1/2 miles from the fairgrounds  
(805) 658-2000

**Affordable motels:**

Best Western Inn Ventura  
708 E. Thompson Blvd.  
0.7 miles from the fairgrounds  
(805) 648-3101

Comfort Inn Ventura Beach  
2094 E. Harbor Blvd.  
Approximately 1 1/2 miles from the fairgrounds  
(805) 653-5000

**What if I want to rough it?**

Ventura Beach RV Resort  
800 West Main Street  
(805) 643-9137  
<http://www.venturabeachrvpark.com>

**What about food? Where do the locals eat?**

**Breakfast:**

Golden Egg Cafe  
2009 E. Main Street  
(805) 641-2866

Pete's Breakfast House Restaurant  
2055 E. Main Street  
(805) 648-1130

**Lunch/Dinner/Bar:**

Natures Grill  
566 E. Main Street  
(805) 643-7855  
<http://www.naturesgrillventura.com/>

Anacapa Brewing Company  
472 E. Main Street  
(805) 643-2337  
<http://www.anacapabrewing.com/>

Cafe Nouveau  
1497 E. Thompson Blvd.  
(805) 648-1422

Sportsman  
53 S. California  
(805) 643-2851

Zoey's Cafe  
451 E. Main Street  
(805) 652-1137  
<http://www.zoeyscafe.com/>

Eric Ericsson's on the Pier  
668 Harbor Blvd.  
(805) 643-4783  
<http://www.ericericssons.com>

Capriccio  
298 E. Main Street  
(805) 643-7115

El Rey Cantina  
294 E. Main Street  
(805) 653-1111  
<http://www.elreycantina.com>

Bernadette's on Main  
701 E. Main Street  
(805) 643-6749  
<http://www.bernadettesonmain.com/>

Jimmy's Slice  
586 E. Main Street  
(805) 648-6133  
<http://jimmyslice.com/>