

# VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

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## FACT SHEET VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

### **LOCATION**

Situated along the picturesque California Central Coast, endowed with breathtaking views, Ventura County's Ventura Harbor Village is bordered by a scenic boat harbor and three marinas to the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. Ventura Harbor Village marina is the site of one of the largest squid offloading harbors in North America. Its Marina has more than 1,359 slips, 35 unique shops and dockside restaurants, two waterfront hotels, beaches, green spaces, water sports, and boating and cruising options, all part of an affordable, multigenerational vacation destination. Ventura Harbor Village is located in the City of Ventura, is 25 miles from Santa Barbara, 44 from Malibu, and is 67 miles from Los Angeles International Airport. It is accessible in just minutes from scenic US Highway 1 & 101. Complimentary Village and beach parking.

### **ANNUAL VISITOR COUNT**

The annual visitor count to Ventura Harbor Village is over 100,000.

### **LAND AREA**

Other than the 2.74-acre site owned by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, the Ventura Port District manages the land within this multiple use harbor, with current property holdings of approximately 152 acres of land and 122 acres of water area. The site was initially developed in the 1960s, and approximately 23 acres of land area is still available for development.

### **CLIMATE**

Ventura Harbor Village enjoys a year-round balmy climate with fresh sea breezes and frequent sunny skies. Average winter temperatures are 43°F (6°C) to 69°F (21°C), while summertime highs often reach and rarely exceed 83°F.

## **THE MARINA**

From 6-foot dinghies to 88-foot commercial fishing seiner boats, scores of pleasure boats call Ventura Harbor home. Ventura Harbor Village marina is one of the top off-loading squid harbor on the Pacific Coast and is in the top 10 of offloading fish harbors in the nation. Ventura Harbor Village marina is home to some of the largest fishery companies. Ventura's Marina has two yacht clubs, two boat yards, and numerous boat rental and charter companies. In addition, ever-popular electric boats can be rented, as can kayaks, paddleboats, paddleboards, stand up kayaks and surf bikes. Boating instruction at all levels is readily available, through the Ventura Power Squadron, the City of Ventura, and private companies. Other boats docked at the Ventura Harbor include Dive Boats, 64' Catamarans (concessioner for the Channel Islands), National Park Service Vessels, and two oil recovery vessels.

## **BEACHES**

Sun worshippers can enjoy Ventura Harbor's Harbor Cove Beach locally nicknamed "Mother's Beach," a jetty-protected surf-free lagoon that invites solo sunning or a day with the family. Village restaurants and a scenic bicycle path are located nearby. In the interest of safety, the Ventura Port District has funded summer lifeguards, and for the convenience of those with limited mobility, a wheelchair aisle is available seasonally. Surfer's Knoll Beach is located one eighth-mile (.2 km) south of Harbor Cove Beach. Adjacent Harbor Wetlands Ecological Reserve has a bird sanctuary, wide sandy beaches on the Pacific Ocean, and mountain views in the background.

## **ANNUAL EVENTS**

Ventura Harbor Village is home to some of the most popular annual events in Southern California. They include such favorites such as the **Ventura Harbor Pirate Days, Rock on the Dock, Ventura Motorsports Car Show, Ponies by the Sea Car Show, Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest, Ventura Comedy Festival, Winter Wonderland & Holiday Marketplace,** and the **Parade of Lights Boat Parade and Fireworks**. Bursts of brilliant holiday fireworks color the skies over the Harbor's public boat launch ramp; the best views of the Parade can be had from Village restaurants. Visitors return early each year to visit the **Tall Ships -- Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain**. During July and August the harbor resounds with **Steel Drum Saturdays and Sunday Seaside LIVE**, both free outdoor live music as well as **Seaside Kids Club** for families & **Wet Wednesdays** with specials and offers all day. A Calendar of Events can be found at [Venturaharborvillage.com](http://Venturaharborvillage.com) and a weekly Entertainment Calendar is located on [Venturaharborvillage.com](http://Venturaharborvillage.com).

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Harborside hotels are a few minute walk along a scenic promenade to Ventura Harbor Village and are accessible via the Downtown-Harbor Trolley Wednesday – Sundays.

**Four Points by Sheraton, Ventura Harbor Resort** (106 rooms),  
1050 Schooner Dr.  
Ventura, CA 93001  
(805) 658-1212 Reservation Line: 800-368-7764 [www.fourpoints.com/venturaharbor](http://www.fourpoints.com/venturaharbor)

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites** (69 rooms)  
1080 Navigator Dr.  
Ventura, CA 93001  
(805) 856-9533  
Reservation Line: 877-834-3613  
[www.holidayinnexpress.com/venturaca](http://www.holidayinnexpress.com/venturaca)

## **EVENT FACILITIES**

Ventura Harbor Village's **Harbor Cove Beach** and **Surfers Knoll Beach** are perfect venues for wedding ceremonies as are **Four Points by Sheraton** and **Ventura Harbor Resort**, which also offer facilities for meetings, and receptions.. Ideal for executive meetings is **The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood**, which accommodates up to 250 guests with indoor and outdoor harbor side seating. **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club** is an ideal event venue. It sits in a pristine resort location, with a spectacular view of Ventura Harbor and can accommodate up to 200 people. Many of the restaurants in the Village offer event space, and they fit almost every personal preference.

## **DINING**

The epicenter of waterfront dining and savory seafood in Ventura, Ventura Harbor boasts **16 restaurants and cafés** many with harbor views and all serving a range of deliciously prepared cuisines from French, Italian, Greek, Mexican, Sushi, American, and popular seafood dishes. The **French Le Petit Café & Bakery** offers irresistible delights from its pastry showcase, and people travel miles to line up for **Andria's Seafood Restaurant & Market** famous Fish N' Chips. Fish tacos are the surfers delight at **Baja Bay Fish N' Taco**. **Boatyard Pub** is a popular spot for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and craft beer on tap with large screens and live music weekly. For great views and seafood, **Water's Edge** is a sure bet. Grilled cheese comfort food is prepared in exciting varieties at **805 Bar & Grilled Cheese** along with stunning views and refreshing beverages. **Copa Cubana** is situated on the waterfront and offers Cuban-American fusion cuisine, full bar, and live weekend entertainment. Warm days or after dinner is not complete without a homemade waffle cone ice cream from **Coastal Cone**. Delicious coffee and tea drinks and smoothies can be had from **Coffee Dock & Post**. Meanwhile, harbor dinner cruises with **Island Packers** add an element of sophistication to an evening out.

## **NIGHTLIFE**

After viewing a brilliant sunset, light up the night with stellar happy hour menus and live entertainment ranging from traditional Greek Belly Dancing at **The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood** to stand-up comics, or up and coming new bands that show the Harbor to be part of the thriving Ventura music scene. On any given weekend, multiple bands play originals and sing-along favorites at one of the Harbor's many restaurants or at the center Carousel Stage. **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club** features celebrity stand-up comedians and is producer of the annual Fall Ventura Comedy Festival. The Comedy Club Green Room offers karaoke, upon request. Top picks are **Brophy Brother's Restaurant & Clam Bar**, **Margarita Villa Mexican Restaurant**, **805 Bar & Grilled Cheese**, and **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club and Green Room**.

## **SHOPPING**

Boutique shopping is found seaside with Ventura Harbor Village's more than 18 shops, boutiques, and art galleries. Visitors can pay a visit to the **Ventura County Potters' Guild** for hand-made pottery, tiles and fine art, or visit the Mermaid Gallery, a local artisan's display of mermaid and beach inspired scenes, plus mermaid themed gifts and décor. Shop for jewelry, artisan glass, sculpture pieces and fine gifts at **Treasure Cove**, or pick up Ventura wear and a souvenir at **Casa de Regalos**. Boutiques, such as **Barefoot Boutique**, **Ventura Swimwear**, and **Beach Break Surf Shop**, offer trendy clothing that speaks to the California lifestyle. **Ventura Dive & Sport** has everything for dive and underwater adventures along with instruction. **Lost in Socks** is a singularly unique shop in that it stocks the craziest selection of socks in Southern California for every occasion and commemoration. **Hats Unlimited Shades Shack** stocks over 1,000 styles, making it nearly impossible to leave the store without the perfect hat; **Harbor Village Gallery Gifts** has an enchanting array of original jewelry, greeting cards, fabric arts, and unframed originals and prints. Visitor services include a **Village Harbor Market & Liquor**, and **Silhouettes Salon**. Two of the most distinctive shops in the Village and Harbor are **Island Packers Gift Shop**, the perfect outfitter for a trip to the Channel Islands and the **Channel Islands National Park Gift Store**. **Wild Local Seafood** offers wild local fish that is sustainable and delicious, without adverse consequences to the environment.

## **RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

**Ventura Harbor Boat Rentals** offers the largest fleet of pedal boats in Central California –from which passengers often see seals and wildlife in the placid waters of the Harbor. Rent kayaks, stand up paddle boats, pedal boats, and captain your own electric boats to explore the Harbor and the homes along the canals of the Ventura Keys. Harbor seals, sea lions and birds can be spotted throughout the Harbor.

**The Ultimate Escape Rooms** Ventura Harbor Village's newest addition. What is an escape room? The fun comes in the form of teamwork. The challenge is to use what is in the room in order to solve puzzles. The answers to the puzzles lead you to the code your

team needs to unlock the door, allowing you to “escape”. The Ultimate Escape Rooms does offer private parties, and team building corporate events. [theultimateescaperooms.com](http://theultimateescaperooms.com)

**The Village Carousel & Arcade** in Ventura Harbor Village offers a fun, family experience that showcases an indoor Carousel, and an arcade with video and ticket redemption games for all ages, including Zoltar to tell your future as featured in the iconic movie “BIG”. Snack bar and candy station with homemade fudge in a multitude of flavors, caramel apples, chocolates, salt water taffy, and more. Kid party packages available.

Check out the **Channel Islands Visitor Center** complete with its an aquarium tank, viewing tower exhibit and stunning views of Ventura Harbor, a walking garden, the Islands and Ventura, a wonderful gift shop and bookshop, and a theater for viewing the iconic A Treasure in the Sea, narrated by Actor Kevin Costner. Kids can complete a Jr. Ranger program and purchase Jr. Ranger gear. Information, exhibits, and topographical maps can be viewed. Ranger talks and tidepool talks.

**Channel Island Excursion:** The five islands of the Channel Islands National Park are nicknamed “the North American Galapagos” because of the unique wildlife, which has evolved on the uninhabited island. Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara welcome visitors through Island Packers catamaran boats out of the Ventura Harbor. Island Packers, the national concessionaire to the islands, runs half day, all day and overnight trips to the islands. The Channel Islands and surrounding waters are home to over 2,000 plants and animals, including the island fox, of which 145 are found nowhere else in the world. Experience crystal clear waters, ancient kelp beds, and tide pools, while enjoying world class diving, hiking, kayaking, sea cave exploration, photography, snorkeling, camping, wildlife and wildflower viewing. **Island Packers**, 805-642-1393, [islandpackers.com](http://islandpackers.com)

**Dive & Sport Fishing:** Ventura Harbor offers several dive charters with great amenities, from **Peace and Spectre Dive Boats** (both with hot tubs onboard), to the **Raptor Dive Boat**. The Raptor is the charter boat for **Ventura Dive and Sport** in Ventura Harbor Village. Ventura Dive and Sport is the only dive shop in the state of California to offer all levels of diver-training (from beginner to instructor), an on-site heated pool and the added bonus of a state-of-the-art dive boat docked right outside the shop and pool, standing by for divers to load up. **Ventura Dive & Sport**, 805-650-6500, [www.venturadive.com](http://www.venturadive.com) **Ventura Sport Fishing** has three boats, Pacific Dawn, Pacific Eagle, and the Island Spirit, and charters ½ day to full day (with bunks) events. Ventura Sport Fishing, 805-676-3474, [venturasportfishing.com](http://venturasportfishing.com)

**Whale Watching:** Sighting of the magnificent marine mammals is an experience of a lifetime as gray whales migrate annually through the Santa Barbara Channel off the coast of Ventura. The Channel, also flush with wildlife and food resources, has large numbers of blue and humpback whales returning to feed. **Island Packers**, 805-642-1393, [islandpackers.com](http://islandpackers.com)

**Wildlife Cruises:** Visitors can discover the natural environment of the island shores during non-landing trips to the Channel Islands aboard Island Packers 64’ Catamarans.

A highlight of the three-hour narrated tour is the opportunity to spot sea lions, seals, and marine and island birds in their habitats. A variety of marine animals and birds can often be spotted as they cross the channel. **Island Packers**, 805-642-1393, islandpackers.com

### ***POINTS OF INTEREST***

**Ventura Harbor Village**, offering free parking, is a sun-kissed seaside playground with more than 30 international restaurants, water activities and boutiques. It features a host of attractions, including Village Carousel & Arcade, with a 32-animal carousel, fudge and candy counter, and Coastal Cone Ice Cream with homemade waffle cones and the popular flavors of "Thrifty" ice cream and famous Dole Whips.

A scenic walk-able promenade links two harbor side hotels with the Ventura Harbor Village and continues to the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center, open 7 days; admission is free. The Village is a vibrant destination with live music most weekends at various eateries, many with pet friendly patios, and beach access across Spinnaker Drive. Enjoy outdoor activities, including kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, piloting one's own electric boat, peddle boats, harbor cruising, and more.

The **Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center** at Ventura Harbor has knowledgeable rangers and volunteers to educate visitors about the five-island chain off the Ventura Coast. Features include relief maps of the islands, a marine aquatic pool, bookstore, and "A Treasure in the Sea," a 25-minute reel narrated by well-known actor Kevin Costner. Just a 10-minute walk to the Village, visitors can also see the storefront for the national concessionaire to the Channel Islands National Park, Island Packers. Tourists can stop in for island bookings, view the "Marine Sightings" daily counts of whale and dolphin encounters, and explore the Island Packers Gift Shop. The Center features new interactive displays and a tidal pool exhibit with lobsters and sand sharks. Nps.gov/chis.

**Harbor Cove Café** is located just outside the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center offering inside and patio casual dining with mouth-watering buckets of seafood, burgers, handcrafted chowder, and breakfast entrees. Open for breakfast and lunch, it's the perfect spot to take in the view of the boats in the Harbor. Pet friendly, with a kid menu. Across the street from Harbor Cove Café.

**Water's Edge** voted by Open Table Diners as among the Top 100 Scenic View Restaurants; it has an extensive menu featuring steak, seafood, salads, and gourmet burgers enhanced by a view of the Pacific Ocean and golden sunsets near the scenic entrance to the Ventura Harbor. Enjoy daily Happy Hours, Wine Wednesday and a weekend brunch. Rhumblineventura.com

### ***PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BOAT CHARTERS, CRUISES & RENTAL***

Rentals are available from kayaks to surf bikes, as are aquatic adventures such as sunset cruises, snorkeling, scuba and fishing expeditions and harbor tours, Ventura Harbor is a Central Coast destination for water activities.

**Explorer Dive Boat** offers single and multi-day scuba diving trips to the Channel Islands, with food available. 3,000lb. air fills and hot tubs.

2419 Harbor Blvd., 131

805-650-3483

peaceboat.com

**Harbor Tours** 805.642.7753 Cruise the beautiful Ventura Harbor on a 40-minute narrated harbor tour, and get up close and personal with some of our local sea life. Saturdays, Sundays, and select holidays. Cost \$12 and under. See website for details and price list.

1575 Spinnaker Dr., 105B

805-642-7753

venturaboatrentals.com

**Spectre Dive Boat**

Single and multi-day scuba diving trips to Channel Islands, with food available. 3,000 lb. air fills and hot tubs.

1567 Spinnaker Dr.

805-483-6612

calboatdiving.com

**Raptor Dive Boat**

Fast, comfortable and spacious, the Raptor is only 40 minutes from Ventura Harbor to spectacular Channel Island dive sites. The Raptor is built from the keel up specifically as a dive charter boat, for the Eastern Pacific Coastal Waters. Come out and get the resort experience right here at home. Diving is supposed to be fun and convenient and that's what it is on the Raptor.

1559 Spinnaker Dr., 108

805-650-7700

raptordive.com

**Island Packers**

Cruising the California Channel Islands for education, recreation, and research since 1968.

Let your island adventure begin with the experienced crew from Island Packers, which provide first-rate transportation services for island hiking, camping, kayaking, whale watching, school field trips, sightseeing and harbor cruises. Island Packers takes visitors to all five islands in the Channel Islands National Park.

1691 Spinnaker Dr.

805-642-1393

islandpackers.com

**Pacific Sailing Lessons & Charters**

Established in 1997, Pacific Sailing's goal is to offer sailing value without the expense and worry of boat ownership. In addition to the bare-boat sailing club they also offer private sailing lessons and skippered charters.

1575 Spinnaker Dr., 105B-131

805-658-6508

pacsail.com

**Ventura County Stand Up Paddle Board School**

Ventura County Standup Paddleboard School offers guided group and private lessons, rentals, demos, kids' camps and boot camp / workout, and SUP classes at the beautiful Harbor Cove beach, within the Ventura Harbor. To schedule your paddleboard experiences, call or visit the official site.

805-415-7674

paddlesurfoutlet.com

**NEARBY ATTRACTIONS**

**Olivas Adobe Historical Park**

**4200 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura, CA**

Ventura County's only remaining Monterey-style adobe home from the Rancho era - California Historical Landmark No. 115 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. It celebrates Ventura's Rancho and Latino heritage through weekend tours, seasonal school educational outreach programs and year-round special events. Visitors may experience the expansive adobe home and courtyard built between 1847-49, Grounds are open daily, free to the public, and the home is open for tours Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am-4 pm or by arrangement. \$5/adult, \$3/child/senior.

**Olivas Links** is an award-winning 18-hole championship golf facility, owned by the City of Ventura that offers a natural golf experience unique to the County. It is a stunningly scenic course with beautiful views of Ventura Harbor, the Ventura hillside, and Channel Islands. It provides golfers with the opportunity to play in a temperate climate with coastal beauty on four distinct sets of tees. Olivas Links, voted by *Golfweek* in 2013 as one of the best municipal courses, challenges players of all abilities. [Olivaslinks.com](http://Olivaslinks.com)

**Farm Fresh Produce Stands**

The colorful display and tantalizing smell of California's most famous and delectable fruits and vegetables emanate from Ventura's farm fresh produce stands that practically beg visitors to take juicy bites right there on the spot. They include:

**A & F Country Market** 4550 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura, CA 93003. 805-644-5470.

Located up the road from the Ventura Harbor where Telephone Rd. ends at Olivas Park Dr., brothers Anthony and Frank keep fresh produce year-round. 8:30am-6:30pm daily.

**Aguila Produce** 4542 Olivas Park Dr. Ventura, CA 93003, features some of the best Avocado prices in town.



**Fernando's Produce**, a diminutive, sign-less produce stand, is located catty-corner from A&F Market, and along with other delectable fruits and vegetables it, too, has some of the best Avocado prices in town. 4800 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura, CA 93003.

## **ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION**

### **NEAREST AIRPORTS**

**Los Angeles International Airport** is 67 miles (107.83 km) south of the Marina, and is served by national and international airlines. Contact the airport at 310-646-5252. Other airports include **Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport**, and **Santa Barbara Airport**. **Oxnard Airport** is 6 miles (10.19 km) from Ventura and is classified as a non-hub commercial service airport.

**Airporter Shuttle Service** runs daily round trips between the Holiday Inn Express, Ventura Harbor, the Oxnard Airport, and Los Angeles International Airport. In addition, Taxis, Limousines, Uber, and other shuttle services from LAX are available.

Train transportation is available via **Amtrak** downtown Ventura platform, where the FREE **Downtown Harbor Trolley** picks up and travels loops with additional stops at waterfront hotels before the Ventura Harbor stop. The trolley is available Wednesdays – Sundays and holidays 11 am – 11 pm.

The **Ventura Port District** has made it easy for motorists to “go green” with two **electric vehicle charging stations** at the Ventura Harbor, located in parking stalls at 1691 Spinnaker Drive, by Island Packers.

There is a dedicated bike lane on Spinnaker Drive and **bike racks** available in the Ventura Harbor Village.

The Ventura Harbor Village address for Uber or Lyft is 1583 Spinnaker Drive.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

**For visitor information**, visit [www.VenturaHarborVillage.com](http://www.VenturaHarborVillage.com) or contact the Ventura Harbor Marketing Department at 805-477-0470. For event information/listings: 805-477-0470, ext. 5 or Facebook Ventura Harbor Village, Marketing Contact: Jennifer Talt-Lundin via e-mail at [jtaltlundin@venturaharbor.com](mailto:jtaltlundin@venturaharbor.com), via fax at 805-644-1684. For general Ventura information stop by the Ventura Visitor & Convention Bureau Visitor Center, 101 S. California Street, Ventura, CA 93001, Open Daily or visit [www.Ventura-USA.com](http://www.Ventura-USA.com).

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