

# 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. Marinas have 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 within 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 1 Million

### **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.

### **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 80°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 numbers in the top 10 offloading fish harbors in the nation. Ventura Harbor is home to some of the largest fishery companies, including two gas docks, two boat yards, two yacht clubs, 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, Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest, Kids Trick or Treat 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 and celebrate all things Mermaid with March is Mermaid Month**. 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 & **Waterfront Wednesdays** with specials and offers all day. A Calendar of Events, as well as weekly Entertainment Calendar, can be found at [www.VenturaHarborVillage.com](http://www.VenturaHarborVillage.com)

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Harborside hotels are a few minute's walk along a scenic promenade to Ventura Harbor Village.

**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** (109 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 Ventura Harbor Resort**, which also offer facilities for meetings, and receptions. Ideal for executive meetings and celebratory events is **The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood**, which accommodates up to 250 guests with indoor and outdoor harbor side seating. **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club** is also the ultimate event center. It sits in a pristine resort location, with a spectacular view of Ventura Harbor and can accommodate up to 200 people. Several restaurants in the Harbor offer diverse event space.

## **DINING**

The epicenter of waterfront dining and savory seafood in Ventura, Ventura Harbor Village boasts **16 restaurants and cafés** many with harbor views and all serving a range of deliciously prepared cuisines from French, Italian, Greek, Mexican, 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 for Fish N' Chips and **Brophy Bros. Restaurant & Clam Bar**, where seafood lovers savor fresh sustainable seafood, famous clam chowder and delicious crusty sourdough bread in a fun, lively atmosphere with a full-length bar that faces the Marina with great views. 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. **Fratelli's Brothers Pizza and Brew** serves up delicious pizza and beer, while 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**. 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 seaside promenade stage. **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club** features celebrity stand-up comedians and is producer of the annual Ventura Comedy Festival. The Comedy Club BLUE Room offers karaoke, upon request. Top picks are **Margarita Villa Mexican Restaurant, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar, 805 Bar & Grilled Cheese**, and **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club**.

## **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, Anja's**, and **Ventura Swimwear** 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 **Harbor Market & Liquor**, and **Silhouette's 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 and **Ventura Fresh Fish** manages a dockside Fisherman's market.

## **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. **Ventura Boat Rentals** (805) 642-7753, [venturaboatrentals.com](http://venturaboatrentals.com)

**Ventura Jet Ski Rentals** is the newest water attraction on the California coast! Once visitors leave the docks in beautiful Ventura Harbor, 30 minutes South of Santa Barbara, they'll head out into the open ocean and cruise the Pacific, often with dolphins or sea lions in tow. This is a truly an exhilarating adventure to knock off of one's bucket list! **Ventura Jet Ski Rentals**, (805) 214-8118, [venturajetskirentals.com](http://venturajetskirentals.com)

**YOGAqua** LA's premier stand up paddleboard yoga studio gives yogis a reason to jump-start their summer day, with yoga now offered at Harbor Cove Beach adjacent to Ventura Harbor Village. Classes are open to "all levels." Students are taken through a Vinyasa Yoga flow with customized and detailed instruction on stand up paddleboards. The YOGAqua class is 90 minutes, including instruction and peacefully paddle around the harbor with the remaining hour dedicated to yoga on the calm water. **YogAqua**, [yogaqua.com](http://yogaqua.com)

**The Ultimate Escape Rooms**. 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. **The Ultimate Escape Rooms**, (805) 256-6600, [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, saltwater taffy, and more. Kid party packages are available. **The Village Carousel & Arcade**, (805) 644-3234, <https://www.venturaharborvillage.com/directory/village-carousel/>

**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

**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 **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

**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

**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 international restaurants, water activities and boutiques. It features a host of attractions, including a 32-animal carousel at the **Village Carousel & Arcade**, 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 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, open seven days a week, is free to the public and features new interactive displays and a tidal pool exhibit with lobsters and sand sharks. **Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center**, (805) 658-5730, Nps.gov/chis

**Additional Waterfront Dining**

**Harbor Cove Café** - Casual dining with indoor & outdoor patio, mouth-watering buckets of seafood, salads, burgers, clam chowder, enhanced by the view of the boats in the Marina. Located across from Harbor Cove Beach & next to Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (805) 658-1639, <https://www.venturaharborvillage.com/directory/harbor-cove-cafe/>

**Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar** – Voted by Open Table Diners as among the Top 100 Scenic View Restaurants, features steak, seafood, salads and a popular Happy Hour. Located on Anchors Way Drive by the public boat launch ramp with gorgeous nightly sunsets. (805) 642-1200, [watersedgeventura.com](http://watersedgeventura.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.

**Ventura Boat Rentals Harbor Cruise.** 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. See website for details and price list.

**Ventura Boat Rentals Harbor Cruise**, (805) 642-7753, [venturaboatrentals.com](http://venturaboatrentals.com)

**Peace Dive Boat**

Single & multi-day scuba diving trips to Channel Islands. Food available. 3000lb. air fills & hot tubs. Peace Dive Boat, (805) 650-3483, [Peaceboat.com](http://Peaceboat.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. Spectre Dive Boat, (805) 483-6612, [calboatdiving.com](http://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 boaters get. Raptor Dive Boat, (805) 650-7700, [raptordive.com](http://raptordive.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:

**Rodela Farmers Market** 4550 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura. Located up the road from the Ventura Harbor where Telephone Rd. ends at Olivas Park Dr. Fresh produce year-round.

**Santiago Produce** 4542 Olivas Park Dr. Ventura. Located on the corner of Telephone Road and Olivas Park Drive. Features some of the best avocado prices in town.

**Fernando’s Produce**, 4800 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura Just down the road from Ventura Harbor, this produce stand features delectable fruits and vegetables.

**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.

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 <https://visitventuraca.com>.