

# LONG BEACH, CA



With the Pacific at its doorstep, along with numerous hotels and attractions, Long Beach, CA is a great location for a reunion. Located in southern Los Angeles County about 20 miles south of downtown Los Angeles on San Pedro Bay, it is the 5th-largest city in California, with a population of nearly 500,000. The area was first settled by Europeans in 1784 as part of a large land grant given to Spanish soldier Manuel Nieto. The land later was divided into two ranchos, Rancho Los Alamitos and Rancho Los Cerrito. The city of Long Beach was first developed as a beachside resort in the 1880s, the city was incorporated in 1888. Long Beach is the second busiest sea port in the United States and is a center of commerce and industry. Companies like Boeing, Raytheon and Gulfstream call Long Beach home. The city also has the largest municipally owned marina in the country with 3,400 slips. Catalina Island is just off the coast, so cruises to this popular spot depart everyday. With 81 miles of beaches, Long Beach's top recreational attraction is of course water sports—swimming, boating, jet skiing and kayaking. Land lubbers can use the 5½ mile paved trail along the beach for walking, jogging or rollerblading. With 92 city-owned parks, there is never a lack of something to do.

## ATTRACTIONS

### QUEEN MARY:



Since 1967, the luxury liner Queen Mary has been the centerpiece of Long Beach Harbor. Built on the Clyde, Scotland in 1937, the Queen Mary boasted the fastest ever crossing of the Atlantic. For three years the Queen Mary served as an elegant ocean-liner to the rich and famous, but in 1939, as World War II approached, she blacked out her portholes and refitted as a troop ship. She carried troops to the war and Winston Churchill to war conferences for the next six years. She survived a collision at sea, carried the most people ever on a floating vessel (16,683) and participated in the D-Day invasion. After victory in Japan, Queen Mary carried war brides and children to the United States and Canada, then resumed her glamorous life as a cruise ship. As air travel became the preferred method of travel across the Atlantic, transatlantic cruise ships fell out of fashion.

In 1967 Queen Mary was sold for \$3.45 million and made her final voyage to Long Beach, CA on December 9, 1967. Today Queen Mary has been turned into a hotel, featuring several restaurants, shops and a wedding chapel. Visitors may take either a self-guided tour or a guided tour of the great luxury liner.

Moored just below the Queen Mary's bow is **The Scorpion, a Foxtrot class Russian submarine** which was decommissioned by the Russian Navy in 1994. The Soviet sub was built in 1972 in Leningrad and used to search for and track enemy forces during the Cold War. Tours of the sub are available with voice recordings, since there is no room for a guide in the cramped quarters. See where 78 crew members spent up to three months at a time in this 300-foot nickel steel tube, living and working.

### THE PIKE AT RAINBOW HARBOR:

The Pike at Rainbow Harbor is a vibrant dining, retail and entertainment development on 18 acres on downtown Long Beach waterfront. Known as the inspiration for Disneyland, The Pike had its beginnings as a beach and bath house resort in 1902 and was known as the "Walk of a Thousand Lights." Crowds from all over the country came to enjoy the beautiful beaches and bath house and pool. The area gradually grew into a real old-fashioned amusement park with games and rides. As the years passed, the park evolved along with the times and added modern rides including a brand-new cyclone racer. The legendary roller coaster was demolished in 1969, but The Pike has been revitalized with a more modern flair. It has a 14-screen theater, one of the largest GameWorks entertainment complexes in the region and a turn-of-the-century



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Carousel and classic Ferris wheel. Dozens of popular restaurants and trendy retail shops are also located here.

### AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC:



The Aquarium of the Pacific is one of the largest aquariums in the United States and is home to more than 12,500 ocean animals, representing nearly 1,000 species. The aquarium features 19 major habitats that showcase the sea life in sunny Southern California and Baja, the frigid waters of the North Pacific and the colorful reefs of the Tropical Pacific. Major exhibitions include Shark Lagoon and the Lorikeet Forest aviary located in Explorer's Cove. Temporary exhibits are also part of the aquarium's gallery. A Behind-the-Scenes tour is also available that lets visitors look at how ocean life is collected and kept for viewing. A film called AnimalVision3-D provides entertainment and important environmental messages for its audience.

### TOUR OF DOWNTOWN LONG BEACH:

On a tour of downtown Long Beach you can experience world cultures in a four block area of **Pine Avenue**. Restored art deco buildings, fine dining, shopping and entertainment make the city a magical mix of cultures. Here you can celebrate world culture and ethnicity at one of the many cafes or restaurants along the avenue.

**Shoreline Village** is a colorful collection of buildings reminiscent of an early California seaport and houses an eclectic array of retail shops. Restaurants for every taste are found along the wooden boardwalk overlooking Rainbow Harbor.

**Belmont Shore** is another section of the city known for its unique shopping, with a "blend of fun and flash, art and architecture, galleries and gluttony." Here you'll find everything from Christmas ornaments to crystal, old time hardware stores to hand painted furniture and fast food restaurants to ethnic cuisine.

**Long Beach Marina**, operated by the City of Long Beach, is the largest municipal marina system in the nation. It has over 3,800 slips where the boats are protected by a series of off shore breakwaters and a natural bay. A bevy of activity at all times, this is a site you won't want to miss in Long Beach!



### CRUISE TO CATALINA ISLAND:



Long Beach also offers cruises to Catalina Island, where restaurants, nightclubs, promenade development and festivals offer entertainment. Whether you want to scuba dive, snorkel, kayak, fish, or frolick in the crystal-clear waters, Catalina Island is an island paradise. Or maybe you choose horseback riding, para-sailing or world-class golf—it's all there. Of course, let's not forget shopping! Charming shops and galleries offer unique shopping experiences for everyone. And if you don't want to do anything, Catalina Island is still the place to go. Just sit and enjoy the beautiful ocean scenery or people-watch to your heart's content!

### RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS (Ranch of the Little Cottonwoods):

The old ranch house and its four acres of tranquil gardens stand as a vibrant reminder of Southern California's rich historical legacy. Five agricultural buildings and gardens designed by the preeminent landscape architects of the 1920-1940s and the sprawling adobe ranch house dating from c. 1800 give you a glimpse of life in the early days of California's history.



### RANCHO LOS CERRITOS:



This adobe home was built in 1844 and echoes the rich history of Spanish, Mexican and American California. The two-story Monterey-style adobe is primarily furnished to reflect the occupants and lifestyles from the 1860'-1880s. The site includes historic gardens, a research library and archives.