



Oceanside

BY SARAH TENAGLIA ■ PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHANIE HAGER

The casual and unassuming coastal town of Oceanside, located just south of Camp Pendleton, is in the midst of a transformation. With a revitalization effort underway, new shops, restaurants, and breweries have been popping up in the area over the past few years. As the culinary landscape expands, it's attracting talented chefs, many of whom are SoCal locals keen on introducing upscale dining while preserving the city's funky, low-key vibe. And with the recent opening of Cyclops Farms, organic-farm chefs are having produce grown specifically for them in their own backyard.

BY THE NUMBERS



1798

Year the **Old Mission San Luis Rey de Francia** in Oceanside was founded

1991

Year that Oceanside's **California Surf Museum** opened

1,942

Length in feet of the **Oceanside Pier**, the longest over-water wooden pier in Southern California





APOTHEQUE LIFESTYLE SPA AND SUCCULENT CAFÉ

Folks can create personal oil fragrances, shop the on-site boutique, and hang out on the patio of the adjacent Succulent Café. Order the dirty chai latte, which is topped with an espresso shot. 322 N. Cleveland Street. (760) 967-7727; apothequspa.com.

CALIFORNIA SURF MUSEUM

Learn about the evolution of surfboards—from wooden plank boards to fiberglass boards to the short-board revolution. Browse surfboard wax collected from the past 50 years, see Bethany Hamilton's shark-bitten board, and shop the surf-themed gift shop. 312 Pier View Way. (760) 721-6876; californiasurfmuseum.com.

SUNSET MARKET

Located a few blocks from the pier, this farmers market draws both tourists and locals for its specialty foods, shopping, and live music. Pick up a colorful handwoven basket from Ghana or sample treats such as Polish pierogi, Maine lobster rolls, German-style plank-roasted salmon, Brazilian stuffed hash browns, and house-made fudge. Thursday evenings. Pier View Way and Tremont Street. (760) 754-4512; mainstreetoceanside.com.



HARBOR VILLAGE

Take a two-hour whale-watching excursion on Oceanside Adventure's new 50-foot catamaran while tour operators share their extensive knowledge of whales and the whales' migration habits. 315 Harbor Drive S. (888) 507-1130; oceansidewhalewatching.com.



PETITE MADELINE BAKERY AND BISTRO

Some of the flakiest croissants, *chocolatines*, and cinnamon buns are made here. For a leisurely breakfast, dig into specials such as French toast, cheese omelets, and strawberry-banana crepes. 223 N. Coast Highway. (760) 231-7300; petitemadelinebakery.com.

MASTERS KITCHEN AND COCKTAIL

Housed in a former dragster shop, this restaurant features black truffle mac-and-cheese, house-made potato gnocchi, and more. 208 S. Coast Highway. (760) 231-6278; mastrosoceanside.com.



WRENCH AND RODENT SEABASTROPUB

This eclectic spot is noted for its innovative sushi offerings. Try the ceviche flight or the Wet Brain roll, a deep-fried shiitake mushroom stuffed with imitation crab, spicy tuna, avocado, and teriyaki. 1815 S. Coast Highway. (760) 271-0531; sebastropub.com.

Call to confirm hours and availability of businesses, attractions, and events before you visit. Be sure to designate a driver if you plan to drink alcohol.

1928

Year **101 Café**, the oldest continuously operating restaurant on historic Highway 101, was built



3,000

Approximate number of miles bicyclists ride in the annual **Race Across America**, which begins in Oceanside and ends in Annapolis, Maryland



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