

# Long Beach ahoy!

The ideal southern California playground, Long Beach has a lot to offer to its visitors...

EVERY archetypical Californian high can be found at Long Beach. From its alluring waters to deep sea adventures, from historical sites to colorful kitschy corners, Long Beach is one giant playground where there's a bit for everyone in every age.

Shopping is an absolute delight with a quirky mix of gadgets, art, curios and fashion thrown in. Choose from specialty shops, colorful bazaars, trendy fashion stores and hip furniture stops. From the downtown menagerie to Fourth Street's funky flair and Second Street's boutique shops in Belmont Shore to serious outdoor shopping destinations all over the city, Long Beach offers everything under the sun.

A must-visit during a trip to the city is the Aquarium of the Pacific. Nearly 12,500 animals from the sunny waters of South California and Baja to the frigid waters of the Northern Pacific can be seen here. The colorful reefs are a delight as is coming face-to-face with the ocean's ultimate predators in Shark Lagoon.



**Animal friendly:** The Dog Beach Zone

Then there's the RMS Queen Mary, a 1936 art deco ocean liner permanently docked at Long Beach. Roughly twice the size of the Titanic, the liner is famous for being the fastest and largest ship in the world from 1936 to 1952, and for her rare and fine woods used in her paneling and artwork. The Queen Mary is now a hotel and museum.

If you're looking to catch up on some family time, try one of Long Beach's 92 parks spread throughout the city, including the El Dorado Regional Park, which features fishing lakes, an archery range, youth campground, bike trails, and picnic areas.

The city is also extremely pet friendly. The Long Beach Dog Beach Zone is the only legal off-leash area on the beach for dogs in all of Los Angeles County. This 3-acre area is situated in Belmont Shore between Roycroft and Argonne avenues. Even if you're canine free, do give this unique beach



**Thriving city:** Long Beach offers something for everyone

a stroll.

Art lovers will find tons to watch and absorb in Long Beach. There's the Long Beach Museum of Art that is the only museum in the western US that exclusively features Latin American art. Other notables include the Long Beach State campus that is littered with unique sculptures. The city is also known for its street art. On the exterior of the Long Beach Sports Arena is one of the artist Wyland's Whaling Walls. At 116,000sq ft, it is the world's largest mural (according to the Guinness Book of Records).

Long Beach has a rich anthropological history. Beautifully preserved community buildings and sites from the 1800s offer an insight into American culture of a bygone era. Try the Rancho Los Alamitos historical site that includes five agricultural buildings, four acres of gardens, and an adobe ranch house dating from the 19th century.

## Things to do

Events that are on in Long Beach during the convention weekend...

• **Sports:** The Southern California Golf Show is a must for all golfing enthusiasts. Test your skills and win prizes at the Short Game Central, Long Drive Competition and 50-foot Putting Challenge. Pros and experts on hand give free one-on-one lessons. You could also pick the latest equipment with top manufacturers setting up shop at the Demo Zone.

**At:** Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

**Timing:** Saturday, March 1: 9am to 5pm/  
 Sunday, March 2: 9am to 4pm

**Tickets:** Adults: \$10, Seniors/Students (13-17): \$8 Children under 12: free

**For more information call:** 562/436-3661 or 888/367-6420 x1209

• **Entertainment:** There's nothing like music to relax and there's nothing like a circus to keep the kids happy. Symphony Pops! Cirque Du Symphonie brings together both the thrill of performing cirque artists and the incredible musical experience of a full symphony for a must watch performance.

**Date:** March 1, 2008

**At:** Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, 110 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 22

**For tickets and information call:** 562/436-3203

## ✓ Must check out

A Season for Nonviolence is a national 64-day educational, media, and grassroots campaign inspired by the \_\_\_\_\_ memorial anniversaries \_\_\_\_\_ of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. The Season runs from January 30 to April 4, and is dedicated to demonstrating how nonviolence can powerfully heal, transform and empower lives and communities. Visit [www.nonviolence.longbeach.gov](http://www.nonviolence.longbeach.gov) to get involved.

A SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE



LONG BEACH