

WHY GO: Calm waters, good eats, laid-back vibes

Marina del Rey

Marina del Rey has long been overshadowed by its funky famous neighbor Venice, but this seaside community boasts myriad opportunities for water sports, gourmet dining, and hip hotel stays. So, while L.A.'s better-known locales might draw more crowds, those in the know fancy this breezy waterfront 'hood as well.

By Ashley Burnett | Illustration by Virginia Vallely

Start things off at **Café Buna** 1, where crepes, pancakes, waffles, and other breakfast options are served all day. Gluten-free items round out the menu. The whimsical latte art will have you whipping out your phone for a pic. 3105 Washington Boulevard. (310) 823-2430; cafe-buna.business.site.

The **Marina del Rey Farmers' Market** 7 is a must-do on Saturdays. Shop for organic vegetables, fresh chips and dip, handicrafts, and specialty coffee. Via Marina and Panay Way. (805) 845-6100; [facebook.com/mdrfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/mdrfarmersmarket).

Mother's Beach 2, with its calm, protected waters, is popular with families. Even on perfect-weather days, you can find a spot to lay down your towel. 4135 Admiralty Way. (424) 526-7777; beaches.lacounty.gov/marina-beach.

Tour the marina and nearby piers while enjoying charcuterie and chardonnay aboard **The Duchess Yacht Charters** 3. 63-foot motor yacht. 14120 Tahiti Way. (800) 676-1470; theduchessyacht.com.

Take in the brightly painted, New England-themed storefronts of **Fisherman's Village** 4. Enjoy live music on weekends. 13755 Fiji Way. Visitors center: (424) 526-7900.

Gently soar to new heights with **Marina del Rey Parasailing** 5 (check-in is at Fisherman's Village). There's nothing quite as uplifting as taking in Santa Monica Pier, Venice Beach, and other area landmarks from either 500 or 800 feet above the water. 13717 Fiji Way. (310) 306-2222; marinadelreyparasailing.com.

Salt 6 restaurant, located at the Marina del Rey Hotel, offers a seasonal menu and inviting, contemporary decor. Opt for a seat outside to drink in the sunset and specialty cocktails. 13534 Bali Way. (424) 289-8223; marinadelreymotel.com.

Got More Time?

Keep your car where it is and use The Free Ride app (thefreeride.com) to summon a shuttle to **Abbott Kinney Boulevard** in ever-popular Venice. The mile-long shopping district is home to Huset (Scandinavian fashions and decor), Vardagen (edgy screen-printed tees), and other boutiques sure to cement your hipster cred.



Local favorite **Killer Shrimp** 8 (4211 Admiralty Way; 310-578-2293) specializes in the Cajun-inspired shrimp dish that's served with French bread to mop up the sauce. **Killer Café** 9, its sister restaurant next door (4213 Admiralty Way; 310-578-2250), serves New American diner fare 24-7. killershrimp.com.

Add to your beachwear collection at laid-back **VB Surf** 10 shop, where you also can rent bicycles, surfboards, and bodyboards. 38 Washington Boulevard. (310) 488-8986; vbsurf.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. **Free Los Angeles Central & Western Area maps** are available at an Auto Club branch.