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CALIFORNIA'S MIDSIZE CITIES
PACK A PUNCH



Zachari Dunes on Mandalay Beach, Curio Collection by Hilton provides a gorgeous setting both indoor and out.



OCEANSIDE

Oceanside, as its name indicates, sits along the Pacific Ocean—so it’s no surprise that the city’s landmark feature reaches out into the sea. “The historic Oceanside Pier has served as a gathering place for visitors and the community for over 130 years,” says Leslee Gaul, CEO of Visit Oceanside. “It has the special distinction of being the longest over-water wooden pier on the West Coast, and is an ideal spot for viewing sea life, fishing, taking a leisurely stroll, watching surfers, and, of course, catching a breathtaking sunset.”

What makes Oceanside unique is its Spanish and military heritage—with the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton neighboring the city. Off-base, the military theme can be experienced around town at places such as the Top Gun House at the Mission Pacific Hotel, which boasts memorabilia from the 1986 blockbuster, and Arcade Tattoo, a tattoo parlor that doubles as a museum of military tattoo art over the decades.

For those seeking adventure, catch a wave with surfing lessons at Oceanside Harbor. The small swells and lack of riptides make it a great place to learn. The Oceanside Museum of Art focuses on the contemporary art of Southern California and can be rented for groups of up to 250. The historic wing is an Irving Gill-designed Mission Revival National Historic Landmark.

The Rooftop Bar at Mission Pacific Hotel is a great place for an afternoon libation and provides gorgeous views of the Pacific Ocean and Oceanside Pier. For a more upscale dining experience, 333 Pacific offers an elegant setting for steak and seafood with panoramic ocean views. And for Italian cuisine and outdoor seating, Blade 1936 is a quirky spot with a rich history as the former residence of the Blade Tribune newspaper.



OXNARD

Oxnard is a gem of a beach town, known for its postcard-perfect harbor, Victorian architecture, and some of the best taquerias in the state. Oxnard recently expanded the Oxnard Taco Trail, comprised of dozens of local taquerias, restaurants, and taco trucks. Julie Mino Buffo, president and CEO of Visit Oxnard, says, “Oxnard is a vibrant city full of rich culture and history, with so much to offer groups—from delicious food and drink to engaging activities—all in a picturesque destination.”

Groups can hold events on the Scarlett Belle Paddlewheel Riverboat or check out classic and exotic automobiles at two of SoCal’s premier auto museums: Mullin Automotive Museum and The Murphy Auto Museum. For outdoor enthusiasts, there are bike and surrey rentals along the beach path, and Jet Skiing or kayaking through the Channel Islands Harbor. Ride in a Venetian gondola through the Seabridge Marina or rent a Duffy Electric Boat to explore the harbor.

A unique lodging option for groups is the new Zachari Dunes on Mandalay Beach, a Curio Collection by Hilton. As Southern California’s only all-suite beachfront resort, it provides 23,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space and sweeping ocean views.