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# Southern California's L'Auberge Del Mar

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Written by **Stacie Standifer**

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With so few of us having stretches of time for vacations, sometimes a long weekend is the answer. While a quick road trip does suffice at times, to really feel a true escape, I often want to go to the West Coast for a change of pace. Southern California in particular calls my name this time of year and into the fall—as ocean breezes and milder temperatures are a welcome change from the weather here. I've been to the region almost too many times to count and it never gets tiresome, as I have so many favorite stops, and there's always something new to experience. One of my most recent jaunts led me to discover the

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completely transformed L' Auberge Del Mar, that in my opinion may be the best long weekend resort on the planet.

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Travel to Del Mar

For starters, they've invested \$26 million dollars in the property—on the site of the original Stratford Inn that eventually became Hotel Del Mar and one of biggest hot spots for Old Hollywood film stars. Since the renovations and improvements, it's attracting a well-heeled crowd of visitors from not only Los Angeles, but all over the world.

The location is easy to get to from San Diego—with multiple flights from Nashville daily, it's an easier arrival destination than LAX. Rent a car at the airport, as the actual route to Del Mar is one of the most gorgeous drives along the coastline. Surfers are parked along the highway, making their way down the cliffs for superior waves. Stopping to watch is customary practice and a great way to soak up a bit of California's laid-back vibe.

Enjoy

Del Mar is like a charming sea side village and much less crowded and overrun with tourists than larger locales—which is all the reason to enjoy it more. L'Auberge is located in the heart of this quaint town. Once you check into the hotel, pretty much everything is within a block or two: Charming shops and eclectic dining options on one side and a lovely landscaped path to the beach on the other. On the side streets are charming villas and breathtaking homes, with very little traffic.

One of the best experiences is walking all around the winding residential blocks to take in the architecture. Although nothing is quite as stunning as the hotel, as careful attention to design is a part of the entire place. From plush well-appointed guest rooms to an expansive lobby area with multiple cozy spots for conversation—the entire place raises the bar for casual elegance. The central portion of the property with it's pool deck and outdoor tables with the ocean as a backdrop are the perfect place to waste and afternoon. At night, this space truly comes alive with romantic fire pits and fountains with cocktail service and beautiful people gathering to celebrate the evening.

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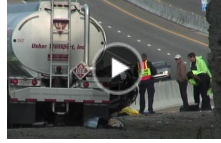
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