

## Downtown Santa Monica

Venturing out from the Ocean View and the other hotels near Santa Monica Pier & 3rd Street Promenade will take you into the heart of the beach community. Located on the bluffs overlooking the bay, [downtown Santa Monica](#) is composed of 30 city blocks of exclusive retail stores, first-rate entertainment venues and casual & fine dining establishments.

With [Santa Monica Mall](#), the golden beach and various parks scattered about the city, Santa Monica is a dreamlike coastal town you may find yourself never wanting to leave.

## Santa Monica Pier

The World-Famous [Santa Monica Pier](#) is 2 blocks east. A Southern California landmark since 1909, the historic pier is open year-round with no admission charge. Featuring a Ferris wheel, roller-coaster, arcade, aquarium, fishing areas, 5 restaurants, various food vendors and a fully restored vintage carousel, the pier is an ideal place to spend a lively evening or a relaxing day.

Over the years this aesthetically rich site has also been the setting for countless film and television projects. With its boardwalk and wide sandy beach lined by the picturesque cliffs that border Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica Pier is as strikingly beautiful as it is entertaining. The pier's landmark entrance is the west coast spot where [Tom Hanks](#) ran to in [Forest Gump](#), and its carousel was the site where [Paul Newman](#) and [Robert Redford](#) put the final touches on their con in [The Sting](#).

In addition to its main attractions, Santa Monica Pier hosts a wide variety of special events throughout the year. From outdoor movie screenings and children's concerts to wine tastings and cooking demonstrations, the pier provides the perfect combination of entertainment and culture.

## Third Street Promenade

The fashionable [Third Street Promenade](#) is only 2 short blocks north. Featuring over 200 of the area's finest shops, restaurants, cafés, nightclubs, theaters and art galleries, Third Street Promenade is quite simply a shopper's paradise.

From the latest in high-fashion to virtually anything you can imagine, Third Street Promenade is where the chic come to shop. Whether it's [Zara](#), [Bebe](#), [Victoria's Secret](#), [Abercrombie & Fitch](#), [Urban Outfitters](#) or the [Rip Curl](#) Pro Store that you prefer, shopping at the promenade is a whirlwind of sophisticated style.

Entertainment at the promenade is as varied as it is cultivated. Catch the latest in acclaimed independent Hollywood films at the [Santa Monica Laemmle](#), or see your favorite author promoting their latest work at [Barnes & Noble](#). If you're in the mood for a live theatre performance the [Promenade Playhouse](#) puts on various shows throughout the year, or you can simply watch a sidewalk show featuring some of the most interesting street performers in the world.

For those seeking more of a down to earth outing, [Farmers' Market](#) brings a wide selection of fresh California-grown organic produce to the city's streets. Every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday morning you can pick up your favorite familiar or exotic fruits and vegetables while enjoying the warm sunshine and cool ocean breeze.

For the best in affordable Santa Monica, CA, hotels the Ocean View puts you right in the center of all this excitingly glamorous city has to offer.