

AloHA USA

SANTA MONICA

TABS ON
**TRAVEL
TODAY**

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Discovering Coastal Southern California



Los Angeles is the key entry point for US-bound Kiwi travellers—and with cheaper fares and increased awareness New Zealanders are now discovering that there's a lot more to see and do in the region.

Located close to Los Angeles airport and home to iconic coastal landmarks, Santa Monica has long been a popular day trip option for people passing through LA or with an extended transit. But the destination is also emerging as an increasingly popular LA base for Kiwi travellers.

Santa Monica itself is just under 13km² made up of eight neighbourhoods, easily accessed on foot and by bike—and is located some 13km to LAX and Beverly Hills and 21 kms from Hollywood and Downtown L.A. The area is renowned for being 'Hollywood Hip and Malibu Mellow', says

Arrive Like A Local

Passengers flying into LAX on Hawaiian Airlines will arrive as close to a local as possible—because they will have cleared customs and immigration in Honolulu. HA's domestic flights ex HNL to LAX means clients arrive into LAX's Terminal 5, as a domestic traveller.

Hawaiian Airlines country manager Rusty Williss. "You can't really beat that combination when looking for a quintessential L.A. vibe. We're all familiar with the iconic Santa Monica Pier images, and with it's perfectly coast orientation, clients will love being immersed in the post-card views." In addition to the famed Santa Monica pier, the area is home to shopping, from department stores to quirky boutiques; there's 400-plus restaurants and bars; more than 40 hotels; museums, galleries, street art—and 33kms of easy riding oceanfront bike path.

HA Connections

HA offers several daily flights ex HNL to LAX—and flight HA4, which departs in the evening, allows clients to land at 0630 local time, allowing them to make the most of their day. The carrier urges agents to book clients in its Extra Comfort cabin for more space and legroom on the five hour-25 minute HNL-LAX leg. "At just \$70 USD per sector, it's well worth the add-on," says HA country manager Rusty Williss. "Another tip, advise clients to retain their complimentary headphones from the AKL-HNL leg for the onward domestic sector."

Farmers Markets

Visiting one of the area's markets is a quintessential Southern California experience. There's a number of markets on each week, including the Downtown Santa Monica Farmer Market on Arizona Ave (Wed 0830-1330 and Sat 0800-1300). In addition there's a market featuring live music and family-friendly activities on Main Street's Heritage Square on a Sat 0830-1330. For more details [CLICK HERE](#)

Beachside Yoga

The Santa Monica Pier remains a hugely popular attraction, along with biking along the coast. But for clients looking for something a little different, suggest beachfront yoga. Classes are offered at the water's edge and allows clients to connect with their surroundings.

All Bases Covered



Santa Monica boasts more than 400 restaurants, a number with ocean views, and there's something for all budgets and tastes. Pono Burger is a Hawaii-inspired cheap and cheerful option. Hawaiian chef Makani Carzino offers organic, local ingredients in the restaurant styled as a WWII bunker. Burgers range USD11-14. For the health conscious, Flower Child too offers local organic produce, and a menu that accommodates all dietary requirements including vegan. Clients looking for a memorable dining experience can try the two-Michelin-starred Melisse. The traditional French restaurant, created by chef Josiah Citrin, is known for its 'Ten' tasting menu paired with wines.



Oh The Shopping

If clients can pull themselves away from the beachfront Southern California experiences—the shopping in Santa Monica is also a highlight. The open air mall Santa Monica Place is home to all the main chain stores as well as department stores Nordstrom and Bloomingdales and designer brands. Plus, for USD12 clients can drop off their shopping at the mall concierge who will get it delivered to their hotel.

The nearby Third Street Promenade (pictured above) is a must-see, offering shopping with a side of people watching and street entertainers. The precinct has an eclectic mix of around 200 shopping and dining outlets.

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