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JULY 2011

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Surf Safari

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Montauk, New York

✈ John F. Kennedy (JFK)

📅 May–September

🍴 Air and Speed Surf Shop

→ On the very tip of Long Island is Montauk, a sleepy fishing town that comes alive once summer rolls around. It's a hike, but the remoteness is an advantage, because the perma-tan plastic surgeons with Hamptons rentals and lobsters on their chinos generally don't venture this far east. The seafood is pulled straight from the Atlantic, and the waves are more consistent than anywhere else on the East Coast.

You're here to surf, which takes the guesswork out of your hotel search and lands you at



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the **Surf Lodge**. Every room looks out over Fort Pond, the lobby lounge has classic surf films on loop, and there's a welcome contrast between the bar's sun-scorched surf-shack aesthetic and the freshness of the cocktails. Chef Sam Talbot is behind the stoves at the excellent in-house restaurant—assuming he's not butchering a just-caught tuna behind the kitchen or surfing **Ditch Plains**.

The hotel isn't on the beach, hence the vintage Pinzgauer military-transporter-cum-shuttle-bus in the parking lot.

If Ditch Plains inspires déjà vu, it's because the sprawling beach—complete with rolling dunes and distant lighthouse—looks like a 3-D postcard. This is a beginner's paradise, and you should be in the water when you're not eating or unconscious. Stop off at **Naturally Good** en route to your first session. "Good" is an understatement when it comes to the breakfast burritos, and think of their made-fresh wholesomeness as preemptive penance for your lunch at **John's Drive-In**. It's not a drive-in anymore, but a long day in the water is a good excuse for a dripping double cheeseburger and the kind of shake

1 **Montauk's mellow, manageable waves.**

2 **Duryea's doesn't skimp on the drawn butter.**

3 **The outdoor shower at the Surf Lodge.**

4 **Throwback drive-in looks to match the classic burgers.**

you need a spoon to eat. That thing your mom told you about swimming on a full stomach doesn't apply to surfing.

Watch the sun set from **Duryea's Lobster Deck**, where the menu reads like a local-seafood best-of list and the lobster roll is stuffed to the bursting point. Bring a bottle of rosé, because, miraculously, Duryea's is still BYO and—better yet—walking distance from your bed.—S.P.

Only Kooks Wear Neon

There's no shortage of wet suits and board shorts out there, but these are the only two you'll need



Quiksilver Biarritz Stripe Boardshorts

• These are performance trunks that look like something you picked up at some downtown boutique. You'll appreciate the stretchy, anti-chafing fabric after straddling your board all day, and the double-snap closure won't give up, no matter how hard you get tumbled.

\$60 | Quiksilver.com



Matuse Hopleite 4/3/2mm Fullsuit

• Made from limestone-derived Geoprene, Matuse wet suits absorb so little water that *wet suit* is almost the wrong term. This means less icy seawater clinging to your skin, more flexibility, and a drastically reduced drying time. You'll never pull on a cold and soggy suit for dawn patrol again.

\$500 | matuse.com

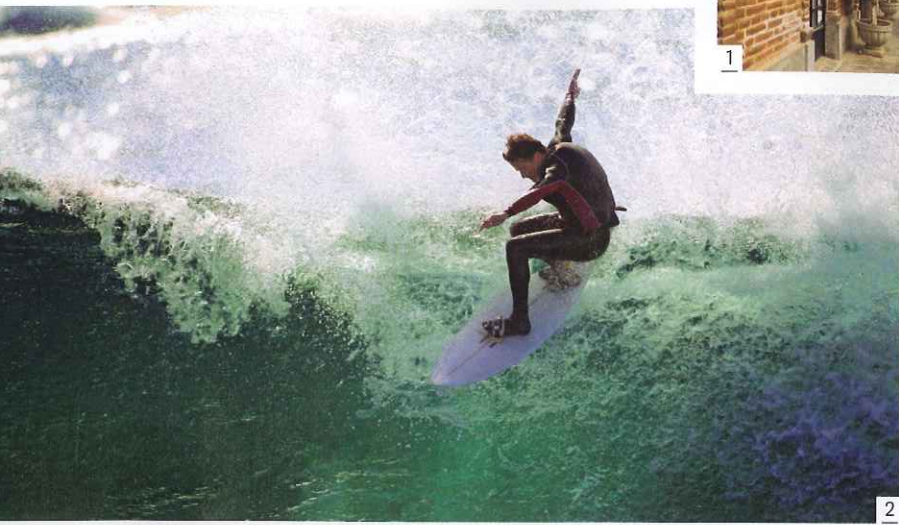


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Surf Safari

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- 1 Sip wine and sleep late at the Todos Santos Inn.
- 2 Another clean and pristine day in Baja.
- 3 The locals are as laid-back as they come.
- 4 The pool at Rancho Pescadero is walking distance from a surf break.

Todos Santos, Mexico

✈ Los Cabos (SJD)

📅 Year-round

🏖 Pescadero Surf Camp

→ It's only an hour's drive north of Cabo San Show-Me-Your-Tits, but Todos Santos *feels* like it's a million miles from southern Baja's year-round spring-break culture. It's a seaside outpost packed with laid-back dudes who want to eat well, sip cerveza, and surf on days that end in y. And while it's recently become a boutique destination, the



town hasn't lost the salt-sprayed charm that extends to the water. **Cerritos**, the best-known spot, is a low-key, longboard-friendly break on a pristine stretch of beach. **San Pedrito** has a bigger, faster wave, but no one will look at you funny if you're slightly in over your head, because it's not that kind of party.

You're more likely to hear "Don't I know you from Rincon?" than "Locals only." Just over the dunes from San Pedrito—and minutes from Cerritos—is **Rancho Pescadero**, a dressed-up "dude ranch" with canopied lounge chairs emerging from the pool. You'll be tempted not to leave the grounds,

but do. Todos Santos is a surf spot masquerading as an art town, or maybe it's an art town that just happens to have world-class waves. At the epicenter of the art scene is **Galeria de Todos Santos**, which showcases a mix of abstract beachy landscapes (buy one for Mom) and vivid canvases that are worth dragging home.

And since a surf trip to Mexico doesn't count without spicy fish tacos, head to the corner of Del Huerto and Degollado and look for **Parquito's**, the stand with a surfboard for a sign. If you're willing to put on a shirt, dine outside at **Café Santa Fé**, which, despite its name, serves astonishingly authentic Northern Italian food, including



A Word on Boards



"When you get good, you'll want a whole quiver of custom-shaped fiberglass boards to suit your every need. But for the first year, you should ride a soft-top foam board. It won't ding like fiberglass, and it won't dent any heads when you wipe out and your board goes flying. And don't listen to anyone who gives you shit about using one—I rode a soft-top on a head-high day at Waikiki and had a blast."

—ROB MCKINLEY, OWNER OF THE SURF LODGE

INT Softboards | \$340 | intsoftboards.com

a spot-on Margherita pizza. The **Art & Beer Bar** mixes Bloody Marys that could constitute a meal, while **La Copa Wine Bar** at **The Todos Santos Inn** offers generous pours and richly upholstered

seating to enjoy them. The inn itself is a refined and decidedly un-sandy place to stay, because screw spending a week at a glorified campground; you're here to surf, not suffer.

—DANIELLE PERGAMENT

