



[THINGS TO DO](#)

An Hour-By-Hour Guide to a Day (or Two!) in Half Moon Bay

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Sitting in an office day after day and even walking through the hilly streets of San Francisco, it's easy to forget that we live on one of the most picturesque coastlines in the country. A quick drive south, and you'll soon be reminded of the stunning scenery our state has to offer. A mere 45 minutes will bring you to the quaint seaside hamlet of Half Moon Bay, where you can enjoy fresh seafood straight off the boat, horseback rides on the beach, Instagram-worthy sunsets, and an ocean perfect for kayaking, surfing, or simply admiring. Who says you have to hop on an airplane to enjoy a relaxing beach vacation? We've put together a guide for your 24(ish)-hours in Half Moon Bay.



The adventurous surfers will love the waters at Half Moon Bay (Courtesy of Visit Half Moon Bay).

DAY ONE

11 a.m.

Unfortunately for public transportation-savvy San Franciscans, traveling to Half Moon Bay requires a car. Borrow or rent one, or splurge for a pricey Uber down the coast. It'll take about 45 minutes on the scenic route down CA-1.

11:45 a.m.

Arrive at [Half Moon Bay Brewing Co.](#) for a beer-fueled lunch. Take a seat on their outdoor patio around a massive fire pit — even in the colder months, it's the perfect cozy setting for lunch al fresco. Enjoy beer-friendly bites (don't miss the local artichokes, which are plentiful in this area, and Avo's Portuguese Fisherman's Stew, which is brimming with fresh seafood) along with one of HMB's signature brews.

1 p.m.

After lunch, sneak around back and take a quick tour of Half Moon Bay's brewing facilities.

1:30 p.m.

Head to [La Nebbia Winery](#), where you can taste a few of their wines before popping into your [Glass Blowing Class](#). Skilled glass artist, Douglass Brown, will give you a one-on-one lesson in hot glass. Choose a solid paperweight, pumpkin, heart, or terrarium, and leave class with your finished product. Use code NEWCLIENT40 for a discount on your first lesson.

3 p.m.

Explore historic Main Street featuring award-winning restaurants and locally owned artisan shops and galleries.



The Beach House sits right on the water with out-of-this-world views! (Courtesy of Visit Half Moon Bay).

4:30 p.m.

Check into [The Beach House](#), where you'll be staying tonight. The 54 junior suites sit right on the water and are the perfect place for a romantic getaway. With a spa, swimming pool, hot tub, and fitness center, you could stay inside all day — but after you drop your bags, we recommend heading back outside.

5 p.m.

Make your way to [The Ritz Carlton](#), where you can set off on a scenic coastline hike. A paved walkway (open to the public) that borders the hotel will take you along the ocean and down to the water. The hike can last anywhere from one to four miles, so plan the time you start accordingly so you don't get stuck in the dark.

6 p.m.

After you've worked up an appetite, enjoy a Sommelier-selected wine flight at [Cork Wine Bar](#) in The Ritz Carlton with views out to sea.

7 p.m.

Feeling a little tipsy after your wine flight? Don't worry — you don't have far to go for dinner. [Navio](#) at The Ritz Carlton is your splurge for this trip, but well worth it. Sumptuous

seafood dishes like lobster and sturgeon, mouthwatering pastas, and hefty steaks will be the perfect cap to your evening.

Not in the mood for a fancy dinner? Pop into the casual bar and restaurant [Sam's Chowder House](#). This classic eatery (you may have seen Sam's ChowderMobile parked at a food truck event or driving around the city) serves up famous lobster rolls, cioppino, fried and grilled fish, and, you guessed it, clam chowder. The proximity to your hotel (it's a quick walk down the street) means you're in easy stumbling distance of bed.

10 p.m.

Head back to your hotel and enjoy a fire in front of your room's fireplace. Tomorrow's an active one, so hit the hay early tonight.

DAY TWO

8 a.m.

Rise and shine and enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast in the lobby.



The perfect view of the Half Moon Bay coastline can be found on the back of a horse (Courtesy of Visit Half Moon Bay).

8:45 a.m.

Bundle up and head to [Sea Horse Ranch](#), where you'll embark on a guided horseback ride along the coast. Travel along coastal trails, bluffs, and the beach and take in the beauty of the California coastline.

11 a.m.

Stop into [Fitzgerald Marine Reserve](#) and catch a glimpse of the spectacular tide pools full of Coastside aquatic life. If it's low tide, you'll be able to see starfish, small crabs, and sea urchins.



Reward yourself with an authentic pizza and glass of wine for lunch (Courtesy of Visit Half Moon Bay).

1 p.m.

Sit down to lunch at [Via Uno](#), Half Moon Bay's authentic Southern Italian eatery. With fresh seafood (do you catch the theme here?), a pizza oven straight from Naples, and classic pasta dishes, Via Uno tastes every bit as good as the restaurants you'd find in the city.

2:30 p.m.

Explore [Pillar Point Harbor](#) before making the drive back to San Francisco. A walk along the docks will take you past local fishermen selling fresh seafood straight off their boats with views of sportfishing, whale watching, and surfers. After you've gotten your fill, you can head back home — maybe with a fish in tow to cook for dinner!

- Half Moon Bay Brewing Co.
- La Nebbia Winery
- The Beach House
- The Ritz Carlton
- Cork Wine Bar
- Navio
- Sam's Chowder House
- Sea Horse Ranch

- Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
- Via Uno
- Pillar Point Harbor